

# DRUM

*Inupiaq: QILAUN*

*Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA*

*Central Yupik: CAUYAQ*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 14-17

Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission • Fairbanks, Alaska • <http://www.aewc-alaska.com>

July 20

ICC Health Steering Committee Meeting • Inuvik, Canada •

July 21-25

ICC General Assembly • Inuvik, Canada • [http://www.iccalaska.org/servlet/content/general\\_assembly.html](http://www.iccalaska.org/servlet/content/general_assembly.html)

July 29-30

Northwest Arctic Leadership Team - Education Summit • Kotzebue, Alaska • <http://www.nwarticleadershipteam.com/about-nwslt>

August 7-9

Alaskan Plants as Food and Medicine Symposium • Anchorage, Alaska • <http://www.alaskanplants.org>

August 25-29

Arctic Council Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Board Meeting • Cambridge Bay, Canada • <http://www.caff.is>

August 26-27

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission • Kotzebue/ Nome, Alaska • <http://www.akarctic.com>

September 2-3

Arctic Economic Council Meeting • Iqaliut, Nunavut • <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/arctic-economic-council>

September 16-18

Arctic Council Protection of Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group Meeting • Whitehorse Canada • <http://www.pame.is>



*Delegates and ICC Alaska staff pose for a photo at the ICC Alaska Education Workshop in Nome. Photo by ICC Alaska.*

## Education Workshop a Success

By ICC Alaska Staff

Inuit education experts gathered in Nome in April, delegated by ICC-Alaska member organizations to develop a list of recommendations for improving Inuit education in Alaska. In addition to delegates, the workshop drew in a good handful of interested observers from throughout the state, including University of Alaska representatives, school district administrators, leaders and interested local parents.

Jim Stotts, ICC-Alaska President opened the workshop by providing background to the project and explaining ICC-Alaska's role in the overall effort. He also encouraged delegates to look at education from the Inuit perspective; "We have the ability and the responsibility to find solutions that work for our communities... We need to look at the topics of education holistically, in other words, from the Inuit point of view, from our own cultural perspective."

In her welcoming remarks, Melanie Bahnke, Kawerak President, who was one of the ICC-Alaska Board members who strongly pushed to have education as a priority for the organization, talked about how she would like to see news headlines about Inuit change from focusing on negative social ills. She said, "I want these headlines to change. I want them not to reflect the disparities of Inuit, but to read 'Inuit achieving record successes.'" She then went on to describe her hopes for Inuit education: "...education will be changed to fit us... My ideal school would have a calendar based around the subsistence seasons. Bilingualism would be the norm."

As previously reported in DRUM, the Alaskan workshop was to serve two purposes, for Inuit education experts to develop a set of recommendations to serve as the backbone for the Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy and to prepare for the ICC mandated International Inuit Education Summit, which would bring Inuit education experts from Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka together to share best practices, explore partnerships and network. Because the Summit was postponed, ICC Alaska still wanted to ensure that there was an international piece to the Alaskan specific workshop and invited two Inuit speakers from Greenland and Canada to share their education efforts.

Aviaja Egede Lynge, who works at the Institute of Learning Processes at the University of Greenland in Nuuk, presented on the Greenlandic effort in school

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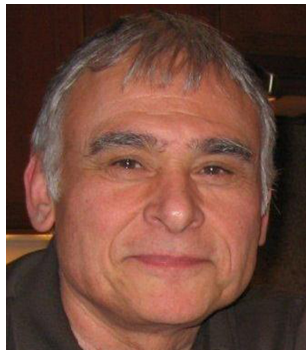
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## President's Message

James Stotts

### *The Height of Hypocrisy...*

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body recently determined that the European Union's ban on imported seal products is justified under the right to protect public morals, specifically on the grounds of protecting animal welfare.

This from cultures that killed off their wild animals years ago, replacing them with domesticated animals that exist under some of the most inhumane conditions anywhere in the world. Of course this does not include their cute little pet dogs that live better lives than many people in the third world. Something's wrong with this picture from an Inuit perspective.


Whose moral compass are we talking about anyway - Europe's? This leaves out the vast majority of people on the planet. What about our sense of morality? What about our sense of nature? To hear this colonial arrogance from cultures that hunted the whales to near extinction for the sake of profits is the height of hypocrisy.

A Yupik friend of mine likes to say, "indigenous peoples are carrying too much of the burden for environmental conservation." He's right; I don't see much evidence that western culture is carrying their fair share of the load. What sacrifices are they making for the sake of the planet? It seems to us that they are passing on the burden to others.

After all, western culture created most of the planet's environmental problems in the first place. It seems to us they should shoulder their share of the burden by cleaning up the messes they've left all over the world. It seems to us they should get serious and do something about global climate change, instead of salivating over the prospect of getting at resources under the ice. Perhaps Inuit would listen if they did; the burden of proof is on them, not us.

Inuit leaders have spoken out against the seal ban. "The EU has no authority to speak on what is best for Inuit. We Inuit have been telling the EU all along that the ban is not good for us," stated Terry Audla, Canada's national Inuit leader. "But their colonial, holier-than-thou attitude toward us and their self-serving interests have not resulted in a fair or just process for Inuit."

Recently, Peter Taptuna, Premier of Nunavut, traveled to Greenland to visit with Aleqa Hammond, Premier of Greenland, to discuss the EU seal ban and other common issues. "I, together with Peter Taptuna, will participate at the Inuit Circumpolar Council's General Assembly in Inuvik later this month, and there we will discuss the EU ban on import of seal products again," Hammond said.

The EU seal ban is just the latest in a long history of western culture disrespecting Inuit culture. Western culture arrogantly presumes its superiority over other cultures. Inuit have no interest in this and will resist any attempts to be coerced. Until the EU reverses itself on its seal ban it should not be granted observer status at the Arctic Council. Its time for western culture to learn how to respect other cultures and put an end to centuries of colonialism. 



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**[www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org)**

"DRUM" is now online!

# Community-Based Monitoring

By ICC Alaska Staff

*Who determines what we monitor and what information is important?*

Lets start with what is community-based monitoring (CBM). The online tool developed by ICC, *Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic*, defines CBM as:

*...a process of routine observing of environmental and/or social phenomena that is led and undertaken by community members and can involve external collaboration and support of visiting researchers, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations.*

There are many different types of monitoring programs going on today. Some are based purely on science, gathering scientific measurements of snow levels or numbers of species passing a certain location. At times these programs are based on citizen science, relying on people in villages to document scientific measurements.


While these types of monitoring programs play a significant role in environmental management, it is important that the world recognizes that Inuit communities have been using their Traditional Knowledge (TK) to make observations and use this information to make daily and long-term decisions throughout their cultural history. Taking in information about your environment and being aware of changes occurring across space and time are crucial skills to maintaining food security and overall Inuit survival. Throughout Inuit history, methods of monitoring and taking in information have been established. Within Inuit TK, we see that monitoring and decision-making is focused on relationships and interactions between parts of the environment as opposed to single aspects.

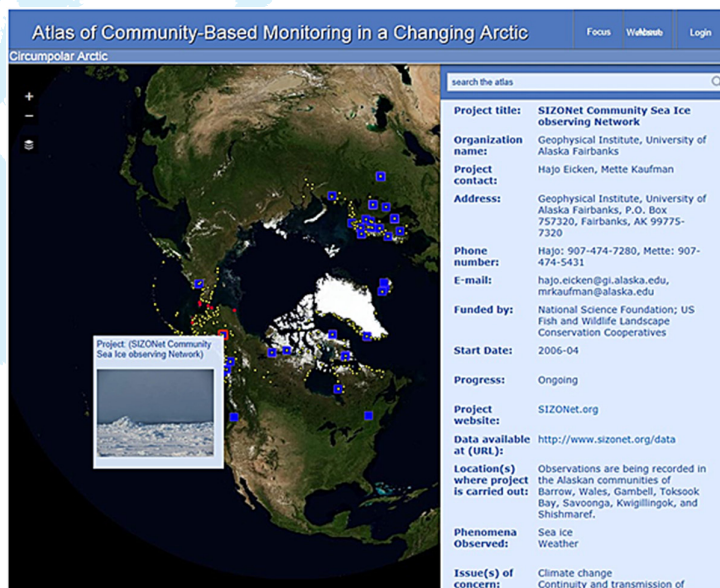
The ICC-Alaska food security project further reinforces this concept, showing that monitoring is not isolated within single species or abiotic systems, but instead identifies multiple connections within each observation. For example, when discussing walrus observations, there will also be a discussion about ice thickness, currents, salinity levels, walrus stomach contents, the social aspects of collecting or not obtaining walrus, etc.

Within today's Arctic ecosystems, we are at a point that decisions need to be based on both TK and science, and methods for obtaining information within both sources of knowing need to be used. Discovering new ways of documenting information from long existing Inuit CBM programs; documenting the interpretation and meaning of this information; and sharing crucial aspects with scientists and decision makers may support a larger role for Inuit in regional and global knowledge and governance processes.

There are many questions for Inuit communities to address in determining if and how they want to share information; how to ensure ownership and accessibility of the information gathered; how to ensure TK holders are involved in the analysis of the information gathered through monitoring and shared with scientists; and how to use this information to affect decision making and research priorities.

Addressing these questions will be an important focus as we continue to move into a new era for the Arctic. With this goal in mind, it seems logical to begin this conversation by pointing out the role of TK and CBM programs that currently exist within the Arctic.

The Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic is a web-based tool developed by ICC in collaboration with the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic and the Inuit Knowledge Centre. The atlas offers an inventory of CBM projects occurring around the Arctic. It also includes TK projects that offer information that could be used as a baseline for future monitoring initiatives. The atlas will help the world become aware of the many activities already taking place within the Arctic and aid CBM projects in connecting with each other. You are all welcome and encouraged to add your projects to this map. Visit [www.arcticcbm.org](http://www.arcticcbm.org) to check out the tool or feel free to contact our office. 



The screenshot shows the 'Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic' website. On the left is a map of the Arctic region with various project locations marked. A pop-up window for the 'SIZONet Community Sea Ice observing Network' is visible. On the right is a detailed project record for SIZONet, including organization, contact information, funding, and project details.

Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic		Focus	Webinars	Login
Search the atlas				
<b>Project title:</b> SIZONet Community Sea Ice observing Network				
<b>Organization name:</b> Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks				
<b>Project contact:</b> Hajo Eicken, Mette Kaufman				
<b>Address:</b> Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, P.O. Box 757320, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7320				
<b>Phone number:</b> Hajo: 907-474-7280, Mette: 907-474-5431				
<b>E-mail:</b> hajo.eicken@gi.alaska.edu, mkaufman@alaska.edu				
<b>Funded by:</b> National Science Foundation; US Fish and Wildlife Landscape Conservation Cooperatives				
<b>Start Date:</b> 2006-04				
<b>Progress:</b> Ongoing				
<b>Project website:</b> SIZONet.org				
<b>Data available at (URL):</b> <a href="http://www.sizonet.org/data">http://www.sizonet.org/data</a>				
<b>Location(s) where project is carried out:</b> Observations are being recorded in the Alaskan communities of Barrow, Wales, Gambell, Toksook Bay, Savoonga, Kwigillingok, and Shishmaref.				
<b>Phenomena Observed:</b> Sea Ice Weather				
<b>Issue(s) of concern:</b> Climate change Continuity and transmission of				

A screen shot from the online atlas shows the project record for SIZONet, a project that records community observations of sea ice in Alaska communities. Communities involved are highlighted in red on the map. Please visit [www.arcticcbm.org](http://www.arcticcbm.org) to learn more about this and other community-based monitoring projects!

## Intern Studies Relationship Between Food Security and Health

By ICC Alaska Staff

ICC Alaska is pleased to have Malorie Johnson join the office again this summer as an intern through the Caleb Scholars internship program. She was an intern through the First Alaskans internship program last summer. Malorie is originally from Unalakleet, Alaska. She is a senior at the University of Alaska Fairbanks pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Rural Development and will graduate in May 2015.

Malorie wrote the following about herself, the internship and her project: "I was raised to respect the land, water, animals



Malorie at the 2014 UAF Rural Development Legislative Seminar in Juneau.

Photo by Todd Paris.

and others. At every chance, my parents and grandparents took my family gathering, fishing, and berry picking. During this internship, I will gather concepts and arguments that support the relationship between food security and overall Inuit health and well being for the ICC Alaska Food Security Project and to support my own work. This project is close to my heart because of my upbringing and personal experiences. Shortly after my college career began, I found it very difficult to conceptualize subsistence-related issues within the constraints of the scientific process. Thus, there is not a lot of research on the actual correlation between food security and indigenous health. There are issue-specific studies that focus on social problems such as alcohol abuse, suicide, sovereignty, and education. However, these studies do injustice to the seriousness of insufficient food security rights, partially due to the isolation of the issue, but mostly because of the relative definition of food security. I intend to work with ICC Alaska to advance the Food Security project and ultimately to work towards positive change towards Inuit food security rights."

Since her internship with ICC Alaska last summer, Malorie has been steering all of her academic research to food security-related projects. She wrote an academic paper titled, "Global, State, and Cultural Perspectives: Subsistence and Suicide," in which she argued that insufficient food security rights and high suicides rates are inherently connected. In the fall, she

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Photo By: Bill Hickey/US Fish and Wildlife Service. This photo was pulled from the following web address:

<http://rceezwhatnext.blogspot.com/2012/02/walrus-disease-investigation-seals.html>

## Pacific Walrus UME Closed!

On May 12, 2014 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Fish & Wildlife Service put out a joint news release stating that the Unusual Mortality Event (UME), for Pacific Walrus is closed due to lack of new cases. As the press release communicates, in 2011 hunters reported a large number of sick or dead ice seals. Shortly afterwards there were reports of skin lesions on walrus carcasses. NOAA declared an UME for Pacific Walrus and Northern Pinnipeds (ringed seals, ribbon seals, bearded seals, and spotted seals). The UME investigation team has rigorously tested for multiple potential origins of the lesions and has been unable to determine the cause. Though the situation has been closely monitored over the pass two years, very few new reports of walrus skin lesions have been reported. The Northern Pinnipeds will remain under the UME with continued investigation into causes. For additional information view the press release at the following address: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/newsreleases/2014/ume051214.pdf>

Additional information can also be found on the North Slope Borough web page: <http://www.north-slope.org/departments/wildlife-management/studies-and-research-projects/ice-seals/2011-ringd-seal-and-walrus-ume> 

# GAO Recommends Improved Arctic Council Engagement


By ICC Alaska Staff

The General Accounting Office (GAO), an independent government agency that works for Congress, recently released a report on the United States' participation in the Arctic Council. The GAO was directed to specifically look at "(1) the Council's organization and how it addresses environmental and economic development issues; (2) how key U.S. agencies participate in the Council and any challenges; and (3) agencies' actions to implement and manage voluntary Council recommendations and any challenges."

The report, titled "Better Direction and Management of Voluntary Recommendations Could Enhance U.S. Arctic Council Participation," recommended that the State Department "work with relevant agencies to develop a strategy identifying


direction for agency Council participation and resource needs; develop a process to review and track progress and recommendations; and work with other Arctic States to develop guidelines for clear and prioritized recommendations."

Permanent participants, including ICC Alaska, were interviewed as a part of the study. Barrow, Wainwright, Kotzebue and Kivilina were also included as community site visits. Although it was not mentioned prominently in the report, ICC Alaska stressed the need for increased federal funding for meaningful involvement of Permanent Participants.

ICC Alaska looks forward to working with the U.S. government in its role as a Permanent Participant. The full report can be found online at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/663245.pdf>. 

## UNPFII focuses on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Much of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues regular two week session in New York, NY in May focused on preparations for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP). The objective of the WCIP is "to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples and to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."

WCIP will be held September 22-23, 2014 at the UN Headquarters. ICC efforts continue, in close cooperation with the Saami Council, to ensure Inuit and Saami perspective and concerns contained in the Alta Declaration, are considered. Go to [www.wcip2014.org](http://www.wcip2014.org) to obtain more detailed information on WCIP. A delegation from Alaska will attend the WCIP. Look out for a report in a future issue of DRUM. 




UNPFII Members and other indigenous leaders pose for a photo with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Photo by Eskinder Debebe.

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was elected to the First Alaskans Elders and Youth Council as a representative of the Bering Straits region. She was also one of three students selected at UAF to present posters on subsistence at the National Congress for American Indians Mid-Year Conference this summer.

Malorie said, "I attribute my accomplishments to the education and empowerment I gained at First Alaskans and ICC Alaska last summer. As the ICC General Assembly approaches, I am

getting really nervous and excited. It will be the first time attending the GA as well as my first time out of the country. I feel that this internship with ICC Alaska and the opportunity to attend the GA will allow me to build my academic and professional network. I am looking forward to discussing my project with others and hearing their perspectives because this issue spans not only Alaska, but also across the Arctic." 

## Our Ocean Conference

By ICC Alaska Staff

US Secretary of State, John Kerry, recently hosted a conference on the world's oceans. "Our Ocean" was held in Washington D.C., June 16-17 at the US State Department. The conference, attended by invitation only, included several state leaders, scientists and academics, as well as leaders from the environmental conservation community. The focus was primarily on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans with a small mention of the Arctic Ocean. There were several affiliated with the Arctic Council attending the conference.

The emphasis of the conference was clearly environmental, with three major topical areas: sustainable fisheries, ocean pollution, and ocean acidification. As the conference was proceeding there were financial pledges made by world leaders and foundations. The conference brought out the star power with celebrities such as Leonardo DiCaprio, who pledged \$10 million for ocean research from his foundation. Prince Albert II of Monaco and Philippe Cousteau also made presentations. President Obama, by video, announced his intention to establish the world's largest marine protected area near Hawaii while the conference was going on.

### *Sustainable Fisheries*

In the area of sustainable fisheries the major objectives discussed included: ending overfishing; stopping fisheries subsidies contributing to overcapacity of fishing fleets; stopping illegally caught fish from entering the market; using better gear to reduce by-catch; creating more marine protected areas; using market incentives to promote sustainable fisheries; and treating fisheries as part of the ocean ecosystem.

### *Ocean Pollution*

Under the topic of ocean pollution there were two major types of pollution highlighted: nutrient pollution and marine debris. Nutrient pollution comes from different sources such as sewage and wastewater discharge, or agriculture runoff. This creates high concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorous, and other nutrients, which can produce algal blooms that result in dead zones where fish and marine life cannot survive. Marine debris is composed of trash or other solid materials in the ocean. This threatens wildlife and marine habitats and poses health and safety problems for humans.

In the area of ocean pollution the major objectives discussed included: making the links between upstream sources and downstream impacts of pollution; monitoring nutrient pollution; managing products that contribute to marine debris, especially plastic products; reducing the loss of fishing gear; setting reduction targets for both types of ocean pollution; and restoring coastal ecosystems that buffer and filter pollution from coastal waters.

### *Ocean Acidification*


Under the topic of ocean acidification the major objectives discussed included: raising public awareness on the topic;



increasing international research cooperation; implementing the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network; finding partners in this work; protecting coastal habitats that sequester and store carbon; and reducing carbon dioxide emissions globally.


The three sessions were highlighted by presentations from experts, with a strong emphasis on conservation and protection of the environment. It would have been helpful to have more diversity of opinions present at the gathering. Another shortcoming of the conference was the small amount of time spent on issues concerning the Arctic Ocean.

After lunch on the second day participants broke out into four groups to discuss how the health of the oceans and coasts is linked to economic security, food security, human health and resilience of coastal communities. The breakout groups included: 1) Integrated Approach to Fisheries and Food Security, which promoted the role of fisheries and marine resource conservation in food security, including integration of fisheries and food security in international development; 2) Ocean Health and Science, which promoted ocean health through policies, research, conservation, and investment; 3) Power of the Marketplace in Promoting Ocean Stewardship, which looked at industry trends and best practices in using market forces to promote ocean stewardship; 4) Valuing Our Ocean, which assessed economic values of the ocean and coastal ecosystems and how to use economic forces to drive conservation and sustainable resource use.

Organizers proclaimed the conference a success and plan to hold another one in a year. The conference brought in \$1.8 billion in pledges from governments and foundations. More can be found on Our Ocean at [www.state.gov/ourocean](http://www.state.gov/ourocean). 

## Bering Straits Region Food Security Workshop

On April 14-15 Traditional Knowledge (TK) Experts came together to evaluate and validate preliminary findings pulled from information gathered through previously conducted expert interviews and village visits, in the Bering Straits Region Food Security Workshop. The workshop is an important part of ICC Alaska's food security project, *How to Assess Food Security from an Inuit Perspective: Building a Conceptual Framework on How to Assess Food Security in the Alaskan Arctic*. Tribal Councils within the Bering Straits and regional organizations such as Kawerak Inc. and the Eskimo Walrus Commission selected the meeting participants and observers. We thank all

of the workshop participants, note takers, organizers, and our member organizations for working with us to create a great and successful workshop. We are grateful for the in-kind support provided by Kawerak Inc. and financial support provided by Hanson's Trading/Safeway, Bering Air, the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, and Conoco/Phillips. Quyanal! A similar workshop has been held in Barrow and Kotzebue. Before completing the project we need to hold one more workshop for the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. We will work toward holding the workshop in Bethel this coming fall. 



Bering Strait Region Food Security Participants. Photo by ICC Alaska.

*continued from page 1*

reform that began in 2002. She described the way in which Greenland obtained control over education from Denmark but are still working on "decolonizing" from Danish school system. She said, "We have to take the colonial school system and the human impact of it, and combine that with our ancestral knowledge and ways of knowing." She also stressed the need for the education systems to be culturally grounded in order for Inuit to be successful. She said, "Why is it that indigenous kids worldwide are failing in education? It's because they are

in a system that is not rooted in their ways. Collectivism is our culture; we are defined by our relatives and our background."

Jodie Lane from Makkovik, Nunatsiavut presented on the Canadian education self-determination efforts. She explained the process of the national education initiative lead by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) that resulted in the National Canadian Inuit Strategy. The National Committee on Inuit Education, in which Jodie serves as the Nunatsiavut representative, was established to develop and implement the strategy, which was released in 2011. The document is available on the ITK website: [www.itk.ca](http://www.itk.ca). Previous to her current position as Education Manager for the Nunatsiavut Government, she also worked as a school counselor and shared some of the successful regional efforts that resulted in reducing drop out rates.

Following the keynote presentations, Chris Simon, Rural Education Coordinator with the State of Alaska, Department of Education and Early Development, presented on the Current Status of Inuit Education in Alaska to give delegates the background and history that they would be working to address through the recommendations.

During lunch, a panel of youth talked about their personal aspirations and what kept them motivated to be successful in their educational pursuits. They attributed support from family and community, and strength in identity and culture as factors

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ICC Alaska Education Project Steering Committee. L to R: Maddy Alvanna-Stimpfle, Youth Representative, Renee Green, Southwest Region Representative, Pauline Harvey, Northwest Arctic Region Representative, Jana Harcharak, North Slope Region Representative, Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle, Bering Straits Region Representative. Photo by ICC Alaska.



## INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL

ALASKA OFFICE  
3900 ARCTIC BLVD,  
SUITE 203  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

PHONE: (907) 274-9058  
FAX: (907) 274-3861  
[www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org)

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that lead to their success. One youth member said, "I've always had my family there with me when I was going through times when I questioned what my goal was and what I needed to do to be successful." Panelists also talked about the importance of Inuit language and the wanting to learn, "Success to me is learning about my language and culture and being able to teach it to another generation so it doesn't die or go away."

Day one of the workshop continued with presentations made by delegates and other invited speakers on a variety of topics, including bridging to postsecondary education, parent involvement, early childhood education, teacher education and teaching Inuit languages. Participants also learned about the successes of the Inupiaq Learning Framework being implemented



Southwest region delegates at the Education Workshop. Photo by ICC Alaska.

in the North Slope Borough and the Yupik Immersion School in Bethel.

The second day of the workshop was a closed session where delegates discussed and deliberated issues surrounding Inuit education, defined educational success from the Inuit perspective and concluded with a set of broad recommendations. The recommendations are:

1. The creation/establishment of mechanisms by which to advance our decolonization agenda as well as our political agenda.
2. That cultural curriculum be developed and implemented to enhance our Inuit student's foundational studies.
3. Establishment of indigenous language schools with 100% support from all entities. Policies and procedures for language revitalization be developed and implemented in all Inuit school systems and community based organizations.
4. Putting indigenous people into positions that affect policy.
5. Traditional parenting skills to be revitalized and implemented by regional or local tribal entities.

In the coming months, the Project Steering Committee will meet and build the Alaskan Inuit Improvement Strategy from the workshop recommendations. The Strategy is due to be completed by the end of the summer and will be available on our website. Look for an announcement of its completion in a future issue of the DRUM. The workshop report is available online at [www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org).