VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2, JUNE 2015



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Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 6-7

2015 North Pacific Arctic Conference (NPAC) • Honolulu, Hawaii • http://www.eastwestcenter. org/events/2015-north-pacific-arctic-conference-npac-the-arctic-in-the-wider-world

August 18-19 ICC Executive Council Meeting • Bethel, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org

August 23-24 Alaska Summit on Shipping • Anchorage, Alaska • www.arcticcircle.org

August 25-27

ShipArc 2015 International Conference Malmo, Sweden • http://wmu.se/events Sweden • http://wmu.se/events/ shiparc-2015

September 14-18

Arctic Council Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Board Meeting • Tromso, Norway • www.caff.is

September 14-17

Arctic Council Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Group Meeting • Tromso, Norway • www.pame.is

September 28-30 Arctic Energy Summit • Fairbanks, Alaska • https://arcticenergysummit.institutenorth.org/

October 1-2

Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) Meeting, Chena Hot Springs Resort, Fairbanks, Alaska • www. sdwg.org

October 21-22

Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting • Fairbanks, Alaska • www.sdwg.org





The ICC delegation at the Iqaluit Arctic Council Ministerial meeting pose for a photo with Secretary Kerry. L to R: Jim Stotts, ICC Alaska President; Okalik Egeesiak, ICC Chair; John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State; and Duane Smith, ICC Canada President. Photo provided by James Stotts.

U.S.A. Assumes Arctic Council Chair

By ICC Alaska Staff

Arctic Council Ministers met in Iqaluit, Nunavut April 24 to mark the end of the Canadian and the start of the American terms chairing the organization. This will be the second time the U.S. chairs the Council. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry assumes the mantle of chairman.

The Council is the most important forum concerned with Arctic issues. Despite criticism from some quarters the organization continues to make progress towards relevant policy for the future of the region. Amazingly, the Council has been able to keep geo-political differences between its members away from its deliberations. Most statements from Ministers and Permanent Participants (PP's) made reference to the hope that the Arctic remains a region of cooperation and peace.

Ministers adopted the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO's) Report and work plans from the different working groups. They also adopted the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan for 2015-2025. The Iqaluit Declaration 2015 was organized along three themes: Sustaining Arctic Communities; Protecting the Unique Arctic Environment; Building a Stronger Arctic Council. The Ministers deferred all observer membership applications with the goal of deciding them in 2017. Again the European Union must wait to receive its official observer status.

Outgoing Chair, Leona Aglukkaq, gave a presentation on the accomplishments of the Canadian chairmanship, while incoming Chair, John Kerry, gave a presentation on the U.S. program for its two-year term. The U.S. program was highlighted in the December 2014 issue of DRUM.

Arctic states and the PP's made brief five-minute interventions. ICC Chair, Okalik Eegeesiak, made the intervention on behalf of ICC. Unfortunately, there was no representation from RAIPON. RAIPON's sporadic participation continues to be a concern for the other Arctic indigenous organizations. And just like that the meeting was over; well scripted. Full coverage of the 2015 Ministerial can be found at www.arctic-council.org.

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ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ICC Executive Council

Jim Stotts, President Vera Metcalf, Vice President

North Slope Region

Charlotte Brower (North Slope Borough)

George Olemaun (Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope)

Richard Glenn (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation)

> Nichole Kanayurak (Youth Representative)

Northwest Arctic Region

Wayne Westlake (NANA Regional Corporation)

> Percy Ballot (Maniilaq Association)

Hendy Ballot (Northwest Arctic Borough)

Bering Straits Region

Denise Michels (Kawerak, Incorporated)

Roy Ashenfelter (Bering Straits Native Corporation)

Southwest Region

Vivian Korthuis (Association of Village Council Presidents)

> June McAttee (Calista Corporation) Edward Adams, Sr. (Elder Representative)



President's Message

Jim Stotts

Arctic Shipping...

In mid May the UN agency that regulates the world's oceans adopted rules aimed at preventing pollution from ships sailing in Arctic and Antarctic waters. The London-based International Maritime Organization (IMO) approved the socalled "Polar Code" that comes into effect in January 2017. These rules will be more restrictive

than current rules in other oceans.

Six years in the making, the new rules ban discharge of oily residue and noxious chemicals. Food waste and sewage dumping will be closely regulated and ships must stay clear of areas with concentrations of marine mammals such as whales, seals and walrus.

In November 2014 the IMO agreed to a set of rules on safety including requirements on ship design and equipment, crew training, and search and rescue operations. For now, the work to develop a Polar Code has drawn to a close. However, the U.S. contemplates future work with the IMO during its chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

Much of the credit for this effort stems from the Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME) that undertook the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) that made a number of significant recommendations including the work to create a Polar Code. The AMSA recommendations continue to be implemented, www.pame.is.

Alaskan Inuit organizations are involved in shipping activities including: the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee which considers protection of hunter subsistence activities and other issues, www.arcticwaterways.org; the North Slope Borough's effort on a Port Authority to plan and fund for ports and other transportation infrastructure, www.northslopeportauthority.com; Regional Corporations are advocating for sites for an Arctic deep water port; Inuit have numerous consultations with the U.S. Coast Guard on issues related to shipping.

ICC Alaska continues to be active in the Arctic Council and PAME where Arctic marine policy is being promoted. ICC was active in the development of the new ten-year Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) adopted by the Ministers in Iqaluit.

Despite the adoption of the Polar Code there are a number of issues that remain unresolved. Heavy fuel oil was not banned in the Arctic although it's banned in Antarctic waters. Heavy fuel oil is responsible for the creation of black carbon (soot) that accelerates snow and ice melt. The issues of underwater noise and introduction of invasive species was not considered. Finally, how the states will enforce the new rules needs more to be determined. The Code does not spell out specifically what should happen in the event of an oil spill.

Recent statistics seem to indicate that the rate at which Arctic marine shipping is growing is not as rapid as earlier predicted. This is good since it gives more time for Inuit and others concerned to get ahead of the curve. Everyone should remain informed and engaged.

Inuit Education Improvement Strategy Released

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy was released in May. ICC Alaska coordinated development of the strategy through a steering committee with representatives from our four regions and a youth representative. The steering committee developed the strategy following the direction of regional delegates at the Education Workshop held in Nome in April 2014.

There are six individual strategies with identified objectives and suggested action steps for each.

- 1. Promote the indigenization of education frameworks to more clearly align with Inuit ideologies.
- 2. Suggest, advocate for, and influence policies related to Inuit education.
- 3. Research, advocate for, and promote the development, implementation and sharing of culture-based curriculum that focuses on students' identity as Inuit.
- 4. Promote Inuit language education.
- 5. Foster educational leadership capacity among Alaskan Inuit.
- 6. Revitalize and reclaim traditional Inuit parenting skills.

The overall strategy is intended to serve as an advocacy tool to improve Inuit education in Alaska. ICC Alaska hopes that the strategy will provide support for the initiatives and activities of local, regional and statewide efforts. The strategy represents a collective call to action and no one agency, organization or group can or should feel responsibility for achieving every identified outcome. Only by combining efforts will we achieve a common desired outcome and improvement of education, in its very broadest sense, for Alaskan Inuit children.

Less than two months later, SAO's held their first meeting under the new U.S. chairmanship. The executive session was held June 16-17 in Washington D.C. This is a break from tradition as the first SAO meeting is usually held in the fall. The reason for the early meeting was to get a head start and pick up about four months worth of early effort. The closed session included the chairs of the working groups.

Topics at the meeting on the first day included: how to make SAO meetings more efficient and run more smoothly; how to relate and interact with other Arctic groups; how to implement recommendations to enhance PP capacity; how to implement the relocation of the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat from Copenhagen, Denmark to Tromso, Norway.



The Strategy would not have been possible without financial contributions from ConocoPhillips Alaska and the Rasmuson Foundation.

You can find the complete strategy online on our website: www.iccalaska.org. Or you can request a printed copy by contacting ICC Alaska at 907-274-9058 or icc@iccalaska.org.

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First day discussions were primarily on administrative issues.

Second day discussions began with an update on the U.S. program and agenda. The need for more coordination and cooperation between the working groups on crosscutting projects was emphasized. The need to set up the new task forces and expert groups was also highlighted. The concerns and needs of the working groups were also considered. The day concluded with a discussion on how best to involve observers in the Council's work.

The U.S. has an ambitious program and the next two years should prove to be challenging. We will continue to provide reports on the Arctic Council's progress.

Tribute to Charles Edwardsen Jr. (Etok)

ICC was saddened to learn of the passing of a great Inupiaq leader with the news of the death of Etok. Etok was instrumental in the creation of ICC and his spirit is embodied in our organization. There have been many articles and tributes written about him since he passed on May 8th. We choose to print the following tribute made by his uncle, Percy Nusunginya.

"My name is Percy Nusunginya, Kunannauraq. I am the sole surviving uncle from both sides of the family of Charles Edwardsen Jr., Etok. Etok was the oldest grandson of Anton and Dora Inuuraq Edwardsen and the late Reverend Ned and Faye Kimmialuk Nusunginya, the son of Charles and Mary Edwardsen.

As a whaling family, we have a qargi – we are the Ualiñaaġmiut. Our family has been a whaling family since time immemorial and ours is the only surviving qargi out of the four original qargis of Uqpiagvik. When I was jailed for standing up for our whaling culture Etok told me that this was not a matter for the Department of Justice; it was a matter that belonged with the Department of State because we are a sovereign people. He said it was our duty to enforce our cultural right to continue our whaling traditions in the manner in which they have been passed down to us.

Etok passed away while he was out on the ice with his whaling crew. He was there because as the eldest grandson on both sides of the family, it was his duty to be there. Etok understood his duty, and this understanding informed his entire political career. Etok stood up for the rights of our people beginning with whaling and continuing on through all of the tribal issues

Russians Visit With Indigenous Leaders

By ICC Alaska Staff

In April ICC was invited by the U.S. State Department to meet with a small group of indigenous people and academics from Russia. The State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program organized the meeting. The topic was "Indigenous Peoples: Economic Opportunities and Arctic Policy Formulation."

There was strong interest in understanding how Alaskan native peoples related to their state and federal governments. Another interest was how the Arctic Council was structured and how the indigenous permanent participants (PP's) were involved.

Three of the four Alaskan PP organizations attended: Aleut International Association (AIA), Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC) and the ICC. Craig Fleener, Senior Advisor to Governor Bill Walker on Arctic Policy and Climate Change also attended. Craig is Gwit'chin from Fort Yukon.

There was also great interest in recent developments in Russia concerning the Russian Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON). RAIPON is a PP with the Arctic Council and battles that we have been involved in as a people. We did not understand the paperwork of the western world until Etok came along and explained it to us.

Etok, even though I am your uncle, you educated me in the western ways. You were adamant about the importance of utilizing our educated people and giving them their due. It is our job to give educated people like Etok the freedom they need to do their job. Etok dedicated his life and his education to strengthening the rights of our people and I am proud to call him nephew.

On behalf of the Ualiñaaġmiut Qargi: job well done, Nephew." O



Billy Neakok and Etok at the first ICC meeting in 1977 at Barrow, Alaska. Photo taken from ICC archives.

and appears to have troubles attending Arctic Council and United Nations meetings since its reorganization a couple of years ago. Recent changes to Russian law make it harder for non-governmental organizations to operate within Russia. From the perspective of the other Arctic PP's it's important to have Russia's indigenous voice at the table.

The Russian visitors were able to meet with other organizations during their brief stay in Alaska. *O*



Russian and Alaskan indigenous peoples meet. Photo provided by Jim Stotts



Chair's Message

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

Our Voices Heard...

Ullukkut

The past few months has seen significant activities in the Arctic that will shape and define the direction of ICC's work for the next year. Inuit visions for their homeland or Nunaat are being heard. Inuit are being

heard from small communities like Clyde River, Nunavut whose 850 people are demanding a voice in how they see their future -- to the Inuit voice guiding the processes within the United Nations and the Arctic Council.

These David and Goliath relationships are not new to Inuit. There are 160,000 Inuit among the 3.5 billion people represented by the eight Arctic Council countries and its observers. Some would wonder how could our voice ever be heard? But through the hard work of individuals, communities, regional Inuit organizations and governments, and Inuit corporations and NGOs, Inuit visions for their future in the Arctic are being heard. Large corporations, Arctic research programs, conservation groups and governments are listening and we welcome those partnerships that help to achieve Inuit goals. Inuit want the very best future for our children, we want a strong Arctic economy that provides opportunities for our youth, and we want a healthy environment and wildlife that we can continue to use to nourish our minds, souls and bodies.

In April, I attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York and spoke on behalf of the Arctic Caucus consisting of the Saami Council and the Inuit Circumpolar Council. Our statement addresses the urgency of the many health challenges facing Arctic Peoples from environmental contaminants and climate change due to industrial activities. These influences are altering the landscape, the weather patterns, and changing the migration of animals and hunting grounds, waters and ice, that have been used for generations. These, in addition to the issues of the scarcity of education and employment in large parts of the Arctic as well as access to safe housing, social programs and strong health care systems. We have some of the fastest growing populations and the youth represent a large percentage. Many of our youth and young adults, fall victim to suicide and self-harm. At the circumpolar level, the Inuit Circumpolar Council co-led with other Arctic States, an Arctic Council initiative aimed at best practices for promoting resilience and prevention of suicides. UNPFII and all forums have to remember that for indigenous peoples around the world our traditional knowledge, culture, wildlife, and environment remain at the core of our societies and are vital to the existence of our peoples and that mental health and well being continues to be a major priority for our present and future generations. We need state governments in circumpolar regions to also remember they have a duty and responsibility to guarantee access to health and social services to their Arctic Peoples. The Arctic caucus recommended to the UNPFII to initiate a comprehensive report on youth, selfharm and suicide with a focus on indigenous peoples health and engage the World Health Organization (WHO) on this important initiative.

A major milestone in late April was the Arctic Council Ministerial hosted by Canada in Igaluit. ICC was committed to work towards the Canadian Chairmanship theme of Development for the People of the North and to promote and incorporate traditional knowledge more effectively into the Council's ongoing work as the Arctic Council is a central pillar of the work of ICC. The United States now holds the Chairmanship and ICC will support the US mandate. ICC Alaska will be a central partner in support of its program as announced by Secretary of State John Kerry. The US has identified three priority areas which are reflective of Inuit concerns: Improving Economic & Living Conditions for Arctic Communities; Arctic Ocean Safety, Security & Stewardship; and, Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change. ICC urged the Secretary of State to also focus on food security and housing as part of its important mandate.

In August I will attend the North Pacific Arctic Conference, "The Arctic in the Wider World," where I will address Arctic experts and leaders from stakeholder groups, including businesses, indigenous peoples, scientists, and policymakers, to discuss and develop practical solutions critical to the Arctic. It is through these partnerships that the Inuit voice will be heard. Your voices will be heard.

My summer will end in August in beautiful Bethel, Alaska for the next Executive Council meeting and I look forward to continuing the work of implementing the Kitigaaryuit Declaration.

Aingai. 🔎



Check Out Our Website **www.iccalaska.org** "DRUM" is now online!

Inuit Health Committee Meets in Finland

By Heather Dingman

The ICC Circumpolar Inuit Health Committee met at the 16th International Congress on Circumpolar Health that took place in Oulu, Finland from June 8-12, 2015. Minnie Grey -Health Committee Chair and representative from Canada;



Heather Dingham (front) takes a fun selfie with members of the Inuit Health Steering Committee and others on their way to the Arctic Human Health Expert Group meeting while in Oulu, Findland. Behind Heather, L to R: Doreen Leavitt, Alaska; Minnie Grey, Canada; Galina Tatapiya, Chukotka; Alona Yefimenko, Russian Interpreter; and Gert Mulvad, Greenland. Photo provided by Heather Dingman.

Eva Kruemmel – ICC Canada; Gert Mulvad - representative from Greenland; Galina Zagoruyko Tatapiya - representative from Chukotka; Alona Yefimenko - translator; Doreen Leavitt - North Slope Borough Health Director; and myself - representative from Alaska attended the ICC Circumpolar Inuit Health Committee meeting on June 8th. We deliberated over our last meeting and the ICC General Assembly in 2014, and quickly made our way over to the Arctic Human Health Expert Group meeting to observe and listen in to upcoming projects, partnerships and emerging issues in the circumpolar north.

The conference started on June 9th with an update on the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) 2015 Human Health Assessment Report. There were presentations in the areas of Indigenous Health Status, Accidents and Injuries, Women's Health and Wellbeing, Environmental Contaminants, Infectious Diseases, Mental Wellbeing and Educational Programs. Our very own Minnie Grey gave a presentation on the ICC and gave an update of the activities that the Circumpolar Inuit Health Committee has been involved in.

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Summer Interns Join ICC-Alaska

By ICC Alaska Staff

ICC-Alaska has a full house this summer with three interns in our office!

Michael Henry comes to the ICC through our partnership with the Program in International and Comparative Studies at the University of Michigan. Michael is working towards a dual bachelor's degree in Economics and Environmental Studies. He is interested in sustainable economic development in the Arctic. He is working on a project involving the Alaska Native Regional Corporations and exploring partnerships for the upcoming Inuit Economic Development Summit.

Nuyalran Andrew joins us through our partnership with First Alaskans Institute's Summer Internship Program. She is half Yup'ik and half Cup'ig. Her father is Willie Andrew from Kwethluk and her mother is Barbara Amos from Mekoryuk. Her grandparents are Nicolai and Katherine (Jackson) Andrew, and Walter and Nona (Mike) Amos. Nuyalran grew up in Kwethluk and often spent summers in Mekoryuk helping with fish camp and spending time with family. Nuyalran is a junior attending the University of Alaska Anchorage pursuing her Bachelors of Science in Mathematics with a minor in Alaska Native Studies. She is working closely with Carolina Behe on the Inuit food security project.

Nicole Kanayurak, Youth Representative on the ICC Alaska Board of Directors, from Barrow, Alaska comes to our office through funding from the North Slope Borough. Nicole just finished up her first year at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA where she is pursuing a Master's Degree in Marine Affairs. At the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, Nicole is conducting thesis research on United States Fish and Wildlife and Alaska Native polar bear co-management. While at ICC-Alaska, Nicole will assist on a project archiving ICC documents, assist with the completion of the food security project, and work on an independent project on one of ICC-Alaska's priority areas.

We are glad for the excitement and energy that the three young people bring to our office.



2015 Summer Interns. L to R Michael Henry, Nuyalran Andrew, and Nicole Kanayurak. Photo by ICC Alaska.

Future Arctic Leaders Workshop

By Nicole Kanayurak, ICC Alaska Youth Representative

During the Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council the Government of Canada hosted a Future Arctic Leaders Workshop for youth participants across the circumpolar north on April 23-24, 2015. Preparation for this workshop began weeks before the workshop with each youth representative producing a brief policy analysis of a topic of interest related to the theme of the Canadian Chairmanship of "Development for the People of the North."

Jumping into the one day workshop in Ottawa, Ontario the youth delegates broke out into groups based on similarities of individual recommendations on what the



Future Arctic Leaders workshop attendees, L to R: Lena Fillvang, Norway; Nicole Kanayurak, ICC-Alaska; Janelle Huntington, Arctic Athabaskan Council-Alaska; and Per Jonas Partapuoli, Saami Council– Sweden.

Arctic Council may want to prioritize going into the United States Chairmanship. In these working groups, goals and recommendations were developed and presented and the youth decided as a whole on their top policy goals that were presented to the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) of the Arctic Council. Among these policy recommendations developed was the recommendation ranked first, to establish a network within the Arctic Council that focuses on youth involvement. The priority that the above working group developed was to develop a consensus model and redefine policies for indigenous and local communities to better partake in the governance of land, water, and resources. Other top priorities included recommendations to improve the knowledge infrastructure in the Arctic, address mental health in indigenous communities, and support ILO 169 as a tool to promote indigenous rights.

The Arctic Economic Council (AEC) who was meeting on the same day came in and briefly discussed their priorities and initiatives that resonated with the discussions in the youth workshop. On the second day in Ottawa the youth had the opportunity to attend a live stream of the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council. The youth delegates in the workshop did not only produce recommendations the Arctic Council may want to act upon, but the youth utilized this brief workshop to develop skills and professional relationships that will be fostered into the future.

Yup'ik Spelling Bee

By ICC Alaska Staff

During April the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School located in Anchorage held the fourth annual statewide Yup'ik language spelling bee. Three school districts competed in this event. The spelling bee was a wonderful success and a great number of morphemes and word/phrases were spelled correctly. You will notice the students holding ICC Alaska bags that we contributed. We were happy to contribute in a small way to this wonderful event! 🔘



Back row L-R: Tristen Mute, Deynese Pete, Shea Matthias, Jocelyn Katcheak, Geraldine Begay, Heidi Kim. Front row L-R: 1st place Taylor Kairaiuak, 2nd place William Alexie, 3rd place Emily Tunuchuk. Photo by Freda Dan.



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One important area of discussion that became a common theme at the conference was the need for common guidelines and ethics for the circumpolar north in indigenous research. To quote one of the AHHEG members, "studies should be done WITH our people, not ON our people, on issues we decide TOGETHER." Although Canada has developed their own guidelines on indigenous research and even has a "clearinghouse" for researchers, the rest of the Inuit circumpolar north does not, or it is not consistent. A group of members from the AHHEG group will begin looking at this issue from a circumpolar perspective in hopes of developing common guidelines for all countries.

Another important discussion among ICC Health Committee Members is the need to focus on family structure. Most strategies focus on the individual, but there should be a movement in health that focus on our strengths with our family. The 2014-2018 ICC Circumpolar Inuit Health Committee will keep family as a core of our initiatives. Gert Mulvad was the keynote speaker for the closing plenary and did an excellent job at making this point clear.

The conference was well attended by all circumpolar countries. A lot of work had been deliberated but there is much work to be done with our international partners. The ICCH conference is a great forum to share best practices, learn about how others are addressing emerging health issues and connect with health advocates.



CALISTA CORPORATION

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Welcome Back Calista!

We are happy to announce that the Calista Corporation has rejoined ICC-Alaska! The Board of Directors met at the end of June and approved a bylaw change that added the Calista as a member. June McAtee, Vice President of Land and Natural Resources has been named to the Board of Directors, representing Calista.