

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN
Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA
Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8-9 2015
Senior Arctic Officials Executive Meeting •
Ottawa, ON, Canada • <http://www.arctic-council.org/>

April 14, 2015
ICC Alaska Food Security Steering Committee
Meeting • Bethel, Alaska, USA • www.iccalaska.org

April 15-17, 2015
8th Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science
Conference Forum • Bethel, Alaska, USA
• <https://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/waisc/2015/index.html>

April 17-19, 2015
Cama-I 2015 • Bethel, Alaska, USA • www.camai.org

April 23-24, 2015
Future Arctic Leaders Workshop • Ottawa, ON,
Canada •

April 24-25, 2015
9th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting •
Iqaluit, NU, Canada • <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/events/meetings-overview/ministerial-meeting-2015>

May 18-20, 2015
CAFF Freshwater Steering Group Annual
Meeting • Copenhagen, Denmark • www.caff.is

May 26-28
EPPR Working Group Meeting • Longyearbyen,
Svalbard and Jan Mayen • <http://www.arctic-council.org/eppr/>

June 1-4 2015
Kawerak Regional/Rural Providers Conference
• Nome, Alaska • <http://www.kawerak.org>



In addition to the Circumpolar Mental Wellness Symposium, Indigenous Youth participated in a youth forum in Iqaluit that allowed youth to express what wellbeing means, share experiences, and learn from each other. Photo by Michel Albert.


ICC Co-hosts Circumpolar Mental Wellness Symposium

By Nicole Kanayurak

On March 25-27, 2015 ICC co-hosted a symposium on Circumpolar Wellness in Iqaluit, Nunavut. This symposium was held as part of the Arctic Council initiative to promote resilience and well being in circumpolar communities. There was a diversity of participants and a strong youth presence at this symposium. Indigenous youth held a youth forum and were involved throughout a conference that fostered heartfelt discussions on how to move forward to promote mental health.

Suicide was discussed at the symposium, not just in terms of prevention programs and research, but many, including youth, shared personal stories and experiences. These stories communicated that this discussion is, as ICC Vice Chair Duane Smith describes it, about a "Loss of people, not just a statistic" in our communities. Although different communities may have different experiences, the importance of our culture and community responsibility to nurturing wellbeing was communicated.

There were reports on the "Resilience and Suicide Prevention Project" (RASP) and "The Evidence Based for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities" project. Dr. Pamela Collins of the United States also presented a proposal to continue this initiative with The "Rising Sun," or "Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups / Strengths United Through Networks" plan.

Addressing circumpolar mental wellness and suicide prevention is a holistic and multi-scale process that has multiple factors to consider and approaches to take and this symposium was an important action taken to collaborate and identify initiatives that are working and share why they are working. This symposium was special in that it encouraged a safe and welcoming space to deeply engage and share experiences with people who had a diversity of knowledge on the topic of mental wellness. 



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President's Message

Jim Stotts

In Alaska – It's March Madness...

When Inuit get together at ICC General Assemblies it's possible to see differences between us. Usually these differences are the result of acculturation from our different countries. Obvious differences such as second languages, political and economic systems, and patriotism are easy to spot. Other subtle differences take a little longer to recognize, but they do exist.

One area where acculturation shows itself is in team sports: in Chukotka, its soccer; in Greenland, its team handball; in Canada, its hockey; and in Alaska, its basketball. These sports are imports from down south. They are not traditional Inuit games. We love these sports.


In the United States there is a phenomena that comes every spring called *March Madness*. This refers to the annual high school and university basketball championships that occur all over the nation in March. The good people of Alaska succumb to this madness and that includes Inuit.

Once a year the statewide high school championships are held in the big city of Anchorage. There are four classes, which are determined by the enrollment size of the high school. So athletes, boys and girls, from all over the state come to Anchorage to compete for the state title. If a high school makes it to the state tourney this means they have already won their regional tournaments. Only the best teams get invited to state.

The weeklong event starts with the smaller 1A and 2A schools with championships played at the new University of Alaska Sports Complex. Later in the week the bigger 3A and 4A schools get going with championships played at the Sullivan Arena which seats 6000. What a thrill to be playing on the big stage where the audiences are larger than the populations of the small villages playing.

When these little schools come to play, sizeable numbers of family and fans from their villages travel to Anchorage to be a part of the event. These people are loud and raucous. This all adds to an atmosphere of pride and good clean fun. People in Alaska take their basketball seriously.

It's also a great time to see old friends that you don't get a chance to see very often. In some ways it reminds me of the annual meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives. This tournament is an annual celebration of youth and sport. This is one acculturation that Alaskan Inuit support whole-heartedly.

Congratulations to all the teams that played. In my opinion there were no losers. In particular: congratulations to the 1A Girls team from Wainwright High School (Huskies) for winning their second state title; and congratulations to the 3A Boys team from Barrow High School (Whalers) for winning their first state title. 



Executive Council Meets in Nuuk

By ICC Alaska Staff



Vera Metcalf, Member (Alaska); Kim Kielsen, Greenland Premier; and Duane Smith, Vice Chair (Canada). Photo by Mads Fægteborg.

The newly elected ICC Executive Council (Council) held its first business meeting in Nuuk, Greenland January 13-15. The first day was spent reviewing information on a wide range of issues. The following two days were spent in formal session.

After approving the agenda and minutes, the Council proceeded to Chair and country reports.

Chair's Report: Okalik Egeesiak summarized her activities, reporting on meetings attended including: Arctic Economic Council (Iqaluit); UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (New York); Arctic Council "Passing the Torch" Symposium (Washington DC); Arctic Circle (Reykjavik); Indigenous Peoples Secretariat Anniversary (Copenhagen); Arctic Biodiversity Congress (Trondheim). She discussed her meeting with the Arctic Council (AC) Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) Chair.

Greenland Report: Hjalmar Dahl reported on recent Greenland elections and how results will affect ICC Greenland. He briefed the Council on a planned meeting between the Council and the newly elected Greenland Premier. He also reported on the reorganization of ICC Greenland and their current financial condition. There was a review of different projects ICC Greenland has undertaken and plans for the establishment of a human rights center in Nuuk. He reported that news has just been received that Greenland west coast oil exploration has been suspended indefinitely.

Chukotka Report: Tatiana Achirgina summarized her activities. There were discussions on Greenpeace activities in Chukotka; walrus issues on Wrangel Island; and the

possibility for ICC Chukotka to attend the upcoming Ottawa Indigenous Languages Symposium in February.

Alaska Report: Jim Stotts reported on recent Alaska elections and how results will affect ICC Alaska. He also reported on Alaska's strategic plan for 2014-18. He stated that two ICC Alaska projects were nearing completion and final reports will be completed soon. The two projects are on food security and education. Vera Metcalf reported on the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee, which was created to protect hunters from ship traffic. She also reported on efforts of the North Slope Borough to create a Port Authority to gain control over shipping activity. Vera presented an Eskimo Walrus Commission Resolution on CO2 emissions. The Council decided to pass an ICC Resolution supporting the Walrus Commission's Resolution.

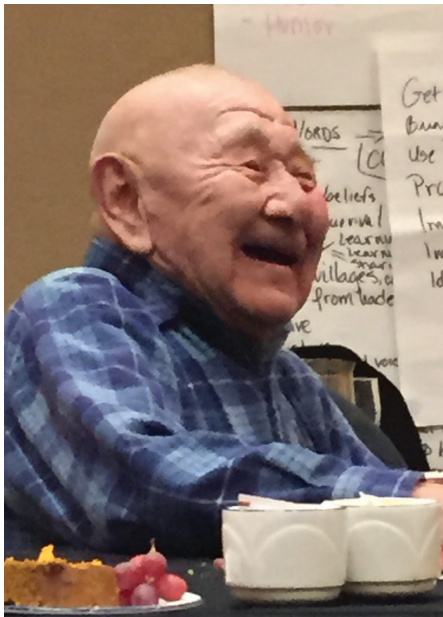
Canada Report: Duane Smith presented Canada's report. A copy of Canada's strategic plan was handed out. He stated that funding support for the Chair's office was being sought and that general support from all regions in Canada would be needed to support implementation of Canada's strategic plan. Herb Nakimayak spoke about a distance learning origins project for his home community of Paulatuk.

Implementing the Kitigaaryuit Declaration: The Council then addressed implementation of the Declaration, which was highlighted in the September issue of DRUM. Each country said what they are doing to implement this document during a round table session. Since each country plans differently, this discussion was helpful to better understand each office's planning process.

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A Tribute to Kangrilnguq Paul John

By ICC Alaska Staff



People across the State of Alaska were saddened to hear of the passing of Paul John, revered Yup'ik elder and leader. Paul died March 6 of health complications. He was 85. He leaves behind his wife Martina, 10 children, 35 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren.

Amazingly he lived his whole life speaking Yup'ik, using translators to impart knowledge about his language and traditions. Paul shared his knowledge by contributing to several books on Yup'ik culture, traditions, masks and stories. He was an advisor to museums, national and international, on his culture. Paul composed Yuarutet (Yup'ik dance songs) and was active with the Toksook Bay Dance Group. He fished commercially in Bristol Bay for many years.

Paul was the First Traditional Chief and an Executive Board Member of the Association of Village Council Presidents, a lifetime Honorary Board Member of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, and a Board Member of the Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska. He held an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Alaska.

At ICC, we will miss his wisdom. He always had a story that would shed light on any topic we were discussing, a rare and special skill. He was a passionate leader of his people.

Paul was laid to rest March 14 in Toksook Bay. [Q](#)

Arctic Council Ministers to Meet in Iqaluit

By ICC Alaska Staff



ARCTIC COUNCIL

The Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) met in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory on March 2-5 to prepare for the upcoming Ministers meeting to be held in Iqaluit, Nunavut April 23. In the last issue of DRUM we reported on the U.S. program for its upcoming chairmanship. Some elements of the program were still being negotiated in Whitehorse.

During the Whitehorse meeting substantial progress was

made finalizing reports, work plans, and documents for the Ministerial. The few outstanding issues will be addressed in a SAO meeting on April 8-9 in Ottawa, Canada. In theory everything should be completed at this meeting.

Originally Canada had planned to host a Show Case Event in Ottawa prior to the Iqaluit meeting. Unfortunately this event was cancelled due to security concerns. Much of the work from the past two years and several side events highlighting Canada's chairmanship had to be scrapped as a result.

Now all eyes are on the Minister's meeting where the Foreign Minister's will gather to set the agenda for the next two years. DRUM will feature the results from this meeting in its next issue. [Q](#)

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Chairs Message

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

Ullukkut.

Inuit, Aleut, Athabaskan, Gwich'in, Saami and indigenous representatives from Russia recently met in Ottawa on 10-12 February 2015 to conduct the *Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium*. Linguists, policy

specialists, and other indigenous languages experts also attended to contribute to the work.

This event was part of a major Arctic Council initiative called the *Arctic Indigenous Languages Vitality Initiative* sponsored by the Council's Sustainable Development Working Group. It was generously supported by several Arctic Council states including Canada, the USA and Sweden, as well as the USA's National Science Foundation and the Gordon Foundation.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) was a key organizer and host of this important 3-day symposium which provided a platform for both the indigenous groups and researchers to review pan-Arctic assessments of indigenous languages, and to share experiences and tools in promoting the vitality of indigenous languages spoken across the Arctic.

It was a proud moment for me when I was able to give opening comments to the symposium and to welcome participants on behalf of the ICC. Although we examined academic research findings during the symposium, this is mainly an indigenous-driven project that focuses on issues important to our indigenous communities.

Our languages reflect who we are – our culture, our heritage and our future. We use our languages to interpret our unique world and to translate what our environment is telling us. Language is a legacy we hand down to our children, and they to their children. The symposium had a strong youth

presence from across the Arctic and youth participated actively in the discussions with presentations, questions and comments.

The symposium reminded me of the diversity of the language situations for all of us whether we are Inuit, Saami, Gwich'in, Aleut, Athabaskan or one of the indigenous peoples of Russia. This diversity is reflected in all the ways in which we acquire and keep our indigenous languages whether it is through our families, our communities, through schools, technology, supporting policies or even the Internet.


Much work has been done to preserve and strengthen our Arctic languages but the symposium also gave us a deeper understanding of the challenges we face. I am confident these challenges will reinforce our determination, especially among youth.

We are looking to build on what we have achieved. The recommendations put forward during the symposium will be shared with our communities so we can shape our future work in a way that responds to our communities' needs and aspirations. We will then pass them on to the Arctic Council before the Ministers meet in April 2015 in Iqaluit.

I am very pleased that the USA has indicated it will continue this initiative when it takes on the chairmanship of the Arctic Council in April. ICC looks forward to working with the USA as it provides strong leadership for the Council over the next 2 years.

The Nunavut-driven languages symposium, held the following week in Iqaluit, reinforced what had been shared at the international event. Indicative of our common language, culture, and vision.

Aingai.

For additional information see www.arcticlanguages.com 

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Upcoming Session of the Permanent Forum

By Hjalmar Dahl, ICC Greenland



The fourteenth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) will be held at UN Headquarters in New York City, April 20 to May 1, 2015.

The main issues to be considered during the two-week session will include: follow up issues on the outcome resolution of the high-level plenary meeting also known as the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; the post 2015 development agenda; and youth, self-harm and suicide issues. It is expected there will be considerable youth participation during this session of the UNPFII because of special youth issues.

Besides discussions on the process of the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, participants at the session will be able to have a dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and with the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Future work of the UNPFII will be considered including emerging issues related to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Mandate of the Forum

The UNPFII is an advisory body to the ECOSOC with a

mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health, and human rights.

The UNPFII will provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the ECOSOC including programs, funds and agencies of ECOSOC. The UNPFII will also raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the larger UN system to prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.

The UNPFII with sixteen members is one of three UN bodies mandated to deal specifically with indigenous peoples' issues. Half of the members are appointed by indigenous peoples; with the other half appointed by governments. The President of ECOSOC endorses the members. The current chair of the UNPFII is Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough from Alaska.

The other two bodies are the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The UNPFII holds annual two-week sessions. The first meeting of the UNPFII was held in May 2002, and sessions take place at UN Headquarters in New York City. [O](#)

Strong Youth Presence at Language Workshop

By ICC Alaska Staff

Youth from throughout the Arctic made a strong showing at the recent workshop as a part of the major Arctic Council effort to promote the vitality of Arctic's indigenous languages. A special youth forum was held as a part of the workshop and Madelyn Alvanna-Stimpfle, former ICC-Alaska intern through the First Alaskan Institute's internship program, attended as Alaska's youth representative.

In her written report, Madelyn was impressed by Linguist Lenore Grenoble, when she talked about how language revitalization is community wellness, community rebuilding, community well being, "Language revitalization brings people together, brings the community together, to work together and in the end not only are people speaking their indigenous languages but it supports the community and gives each individual a strong foundation to move forward."

Reflecting on the indigenous youth forum, Madelyn mentioned in her meeting report that the phrase "Youth are not only the future, we are right **now**," was a reoccurring theme during their discussions. She also shared some quotes from fellow youth representatives Anguti Johnston (Canadian Inuit) and Helena Omma (Saami). Anguti Johnston said, "We (youth) are the last generation to be able to speak to our elders who know the most traditional forms of our languages and way of life." Helena Omma, called upon her fellow youth during

her presentation. She encouraged youth to learn from elders by asking, "Our elders hold so much knowledge, what will our Arctic world come to when that knowledge is lost and not passed down?" Madelyn concluded her report by saying that Arctic indigenous youth who attended the workshop would like to have more opportunities to continue to meet, support and learn from each other to take back to our home communities. [O](#)



Youth take a quick selfie during the Language Workshop. Photo by Madelyn Alvanna-Stimpfle.



ICC Executive Council 2014-2018. Back row L to R: Martha Abelsen (Member, Greenland), Hjalmer Dahl (Vice Chair, Greenland), James Stotts (Vice Chair, Alaska), Duane Smith (Vice Chair, Canada), Vera Metcalf (Member, Alaska), Herb Nakimayak (Member, Canada). Front row L to R: Okalik Egeesaiak (Chair), Tatiana Arhiringina (Vice Chair, Chukotka), Elena Kaminskaya (Member, Chukotka). Photo by Zoe Ho, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

Participating in Events: The Council talked about how to prioritize the many conferences and workshops that ICC is invited to. Four points were made: 1) develop a policy to consult with each office about events; 2) develop a common calendar of events; 3) develop a common Inuit message for events through regular consultation among leadership; 4) create communication plan to address these demands and issues.

Communicating ICC Message at Events: This discussion resulted in three points: 1) the need to develop a standard presentation for key messages adaptable to suit different audiences; 2) the need to speak with a common voice; 3) the need to develop an improved social media presence.

Roles and Responsibilities – Organizational Matrix: The Council reviewed the Declaration to assign responsibilities to offices and individuals to carry out the work. A matrix was developed to address the topics in the Declaration, including: Sustainable Economic Development; Health and Well Being; Food Security; Communications; Education and Language; Inuit Knowledge and Science. The three Inuit Summits referred to in the Declaration were discussed. The Wildlife Summit is planned for Canada in the fall of 2016. The Economic Summit is planned for Alaska in the spring or fall of 2017. The Education Summit still needs to be determined.

Arctic Council Activities: This focused around the transition of the chairmanship between Canada and the USA. Priority issues during Canada's term included: Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium; Mental Wellness and Suicide Symposium; Permanent Participant Funding and Capacity; documents for the upcoming Ministerial Meeting;

and the AC Gala Event scheduled prior to the Ministerial Meeting. This Event was subsequently cancelled due to security and geopolitical concerns.

Generally the Council is positive on the US chairmanship agenda. Priority issues during US's term included drafting a letter to US Secretary of State to continue projects on Indigenous Languages and Suicide Prevention. The letter will also request the US add two additional projects on Food Security and Community Housing.

The ICC is supportive of the US intention to further develop the IMO Polar Code and views this as unfinished business.

There was discussion on ICC relationships with AC observers. A document has been drafted to present to observers clarifying ICC's positions. This document will be circulated to all concerned.

There was a discussion on the Indigenous People's Secretariat (IPS) including: Gwich'in Council taking over the IPS Chair; IPS relocation to Tromsø, Norway; and changes to the IPS Terms of Reference and Procedural Guidelines.


Other Arctic Organizations: This discussion was on priorities, positions and strategies for attending other Arctic forums. Kuupik Kleist, Honorary Board Member of the Arctic Circle made a presentation on organization who holds an annual assembly in Iceland. He mentioned there are plans to hold an intercessional meeting in Nuuk in spring 2015. Kuupik was seeking close cooperation with ICC. The Council agreed to get the word out about the Nuuk meeting.

Other Arctic forums discussed included Arctic Change, Arctic Frontiers, and the Arctic Economic Council.

United Nations Activities: Under this item the Council talked about: UN Conference on Climate Change (November 20 – December 11) in Paris, France; Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April 20 – May 1) in New York; Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva, Switzerland. The UN Convention on Biodiversity needs to be focused on. The issue was who should take the lead between the ICC offices. It was agreed that ICC Greenland would take the lead on UN indigenous rights issues.

Other Business: ICC Chukotka tabled a proposal for funding to complete a film on indigenous peoples in Chukotka. The other countries were supportive of the project but will need to review budgets before making a final decision.

It was decided the next Executive Council meeting would be held late August in Bethel, Alaska.

During the time spent in Nuuk, the Council had the opportunity to meet with Kim Kielsen, the newly elected Greenland Premier. 

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Marie Greene at the 2014 Inuvik General Assembly. Photo by Bill Tracey.

Thank you Kasajnaaluk!

Marie Greene recently retired from her position as President and CEO of NANA Regional Corporation. Marie has been an inspiration to all Inuit during her long and distinguished career serving her people. She became involved with ICC at the beginning and has been a tireless supporter of ICC over the years. Marie has represented NANA on the ICC Alaska Board for the past thirteen years. ICC Alaska would like to join the long list of admirers wishing you a long and enjoyable retirement. 



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