

# JM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 22-23

Alaska Chinook Salmon Symposium • Anchorage, Alaska • http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/ index.cfm?adfg=chinook\_efforts\_symposium. information

#### October 23-24

Pre Meeting re: World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014 • Nuuk, Greenland • http://social. un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/tabid/70/ articleType/ArticleView/articleId/74/World-Conference-on-Indigenous-Peoples-to-be-held-in-2014.aspx

October 24-28

18th Inuit Studies Conference • Washington, DC • http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/ISC18/

November 7 Inuit Day!

November 7 -8 ICC-Alaska Board Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska

November 11 Veteran's Day Holiday

November 13-15 Senior Arctic Officials Meeting • Haparanda, Sweden • http://www.arctic-council.org/index. php/en/

November 22-23 **Thanksgiving Holiday** 

November 26- December 7

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP18/CMP 8 • Doha, Qatar • http://unfccc.int/ meetings/doha\_nov\_2012/meeting/6815.php

December 13-14 Indigenous Peoples Council for Marine Mammals Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska • www.ipcommalaska.org

December 24 - 25 Christmas Holiday



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Anadyr, Chukotka. Photo by ICC Alaska.

# **Impressions of Chukotka**

# By ICC Alaska Staff

During July ICC traveled to Anadyr to celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary of ICC Chukotka. Included in our group were the executive council members and staff from Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. For Alaska, this was our first time to the Russian Far East and we weren't quite sure what to expect. The early accounts that we had heard from others that had visited the region were often unflattering and grim. Over the past two decades the stories we heard were about a region where conditions were slowly getting better for indigenous people living there. Much of this issue of DRUM is dedicated to impressions from our journey.

In addition to attending the celebrations we had the dual business purposes of: convening an Executive Council meeting, and; amending the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the Chukotka, the ICC, and the Government of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug. Both goals were accomplished and are reported on in this issue of DRUM.

When we left Nome July 24th there were low clouds, fog, rain, and blustery winds. We weren't sure if the airlines would fly that day. When we touched down two hours later in Anadyr; the weather and country side had not changed. The Bering Strait is only 55 miles wide at its narrowest and the surroundings made it seem as though we hadn't left the Seward Peninsula. It felt like we were still at home in Alaska.

The new airport terminal is across Anadyr Bay from the city. We crossed the bay on an old, small, and overcrowded ferry. During the 30 minute ride, we were surprised to see seals and belugas cavorting everywhere. They were feeding on the silver salmon that were being caught in nets along the beach by local fishermen. Several rivers flow into Anadyr Bay, including the mighty Anadyr. The sea and surrounding country is rich in traditional food resources. Reindeer herding is also prevalent in the region.

Anadyr is the largest city in Chukotka and their infrastructure has been renovated on the outside, with brightly painted buildings and many with beautiful murals. Public facilities are nice, clean and well maintained, not

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# President's Message

Jim Stotts

# Chukotka – Renewing Our Commitment

During our recent trip to Anadyr to celebrate ICC Chukotka's Twentieth Anniversary, ICC signed a Protocol (amendment) to its Memorandum of Cooperation with the Government of Chukotka and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka. We did this to reflect changes to organization names

and to recognize that conditions have improved considerably for indigenous peoples in Chukotka since the Memorandum was signed eleven years ago.

In the early days of ICC we used a symbolic empty chair to show solidarity with our missing members from Russia. Fifteen years passed before they were able to attend our 1992 General Assembly in Inuvik. We still struggle at times to have Chukotkan Inuit attend ICC meetings; however, it's getting better.

The parties to the Memorandum have agreed to cooperate on:

- Sustainable development of indigenous villages in Chukotka with a long range strategy of economic, social and cultural development;
- Support for sustainable use of renewable resources by indigenous peoples of the Arctic;
- Activities in capacity building and developing the potential of the Chukotka Indigenous Peoples Association including ICC Chukotka;
- Economic development of indigenous villages in Chukotka including support for indigenous enterprises and joint ventures;
- Support for training of indigenous peoples in business, management, science and other sectors to meet their needs;
- Support for ICC Chukotka participation in Arctic Council working groups and UN forums.

The parties to the Memorandum will cooperate through:

- · Joint projects and consultations;
- · Co-organizing seminars and conferences;
- Exchange of information;
- · Other jointly agreed forms of cooperation.

It was obvious to me there was great enthusiasm and good cheer flowing in the meeting room when the Protocol to the Memorandum was signed by: Leonid Gorenshteyn, Vice Governor of Chukotka on behalf of Governor Roman Kopin; Anna Otke, President of Chukotka Indigenous Peoples Association; and Aqqaluk Lynge, Chairman of ICC. Now we can continue the hard work needed to achieve our commitment to Chukotka.



ICC meeting with Chukotka Regional Autonomous Okrug and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka on the Protocol to the Memorandum of Cooperation. Photo by ICC Alaska

the grim grey concrete structures that once represented old Anadyr. Clearly the city is thriving and you see prosperity with modern vehicles and well dressed people on the streets. The traffic in and out of the grocery stores was constant. On the surface life seems good. But what about the Inuit, is their daily life improving?

The Yupigit Inuit of Chukotka number about 1,529 and represent about 3% of the total population. The Chukchi are the largest indigenous group in the region representing about 27% with the Russians representing 53%. The best way to gauge changes in the life of the Yupigit is to talk to them directly. It seems their problems are the same as those faced by indigenous peoples all across the north. The problems often caused by neglect and negative impacts from the dominant society. More recently problems are caused by rapid change brought on by resource development and a warming climate. Often our people are left behind or left out of any benefits which often flow to society in the south. This is a familiar story across the Arctic. Fortunately it's getting better as the world learns to appreciate indigenous rights and cultures.

Although we had translators with us almost constantly, the biggest barrier was language. All the Chukotkans spoke Russian and all of our group spoke English. These were the main languages for interpretation. We did share one language and that was Inuit. Language and culture are the one bond that had not been lost when our families were split up by political entities. This is the bond that unites all Inuit of ICC.

Two events provided an opportunity to learn what their current situation is. The first was a meeting between ICC and Chukotkan non-governmental organizations (NGO) including: ICC Chukotka, Yupigit Elder's Council, Marine Mammal Hunter's Association, Reindeer Herders Association, Red Cross, and Chukotka Association of Indigenous Peoples. The second was a reception hosted by ICC Chukotka for all participants.



ICC Meeting with various Chukotkan NGOs including Yupigit Elder's Council, Marine Mammal Hunter's Association, Reindeer Herders Association, Red Cross and the Chukotka Association of Indigenous Peoples. Photo by ICC Alaska.

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At the NGO meeting discussions centered on familiar topics: hunting and food security; specific species including whales, seals, walrus and polar bears; indigenous language and culture usage and preservation; ocean resource development including oil and gas, marine shipping and commercial fishing; social and health issues including alcoholism and youth suicide; education and training opportunities for youth. The people were eager for information on how they could work closer with ICC and participate in Arctic Council and UN forums. For those in our group who had visited Anadyr previously, it was obvious that their life has greatly improved since the last time ICC visited Chukotka.

The second opportunity was on the last night, when we were hosted to a gathering at the finest restaurant in Anadyr to celebrate "Twenty Years with ICC." Here, everyone relaxed and enjoyed this rare opportunity to socialize and visit. The food was great and we learned they love to dance to live music. Gifts were exchanged, awards given, speeches made, and everyone laughed. Especially fun were the friendly competition between countries in the stick pull and Inupiaq/ Yupik counting contest.



Inuit Stick Pull Event, Chukotka v. Canada . Photo by ICC Alaska.

During our visit we met with three different levels of government: the Chukotka regional government's administration, where we signed the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Vice Governor; the Duma, which is the legislative body for the Chukotka government, and; the Anadyr city administration, where ICC Chairman Lynge surprised everyone by suggesting that the 2018 ICC General Assembly be held in Anadyr. At all three levels ICC, was well received and felt genuinely welcome.

After the Memorandum of Cooperation signing ceremony, the Vice Governor gave a speech outlining several examples of ways the government and indigenous peoples were working together to create a better economic and social life while preserving indigenous cultures and languages.

On our visit to the Duma, the First Deputy explained how they were responsible for legislation within their territory including: social, economic, security, and infrastructure *continued on page 5* 

# **Inuit Health Steering Committee Meet in Fairbanks**

By Leanna Ellsworth, ICC Canada Staff

The Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee met in Fairbanks, Alaska on August 5, 2012 in conjunction with the 15th International Congress on Circumpolar Health.

Steering Committee members including Natan Obed (Canada), Percy Ballot (Alaska), Gert Mulvad (Greenland) with support from ICC Canada staff Leanna Ellsworth attended the meeting. Evon Peters attended as an observer. Unfortunately, committee members Minnie Grey (Canada), Alexander Ivanov (Chukotka) and Raisa Zootova (Chuktoka) were unable to attend the meeting. Alaska's second seat on the Committee is yet to be filled.

The Committee was formed in 2008 to guide ICC's work in the development of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy and its implementation. The Committee also provides information on challenges, emerging trends and best practices on circumpolar Inuit health issues.

The Committee and the development of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy are in response to the directions coming out of the 2006 Utqiagvik Declaration. The Strategy was developed to identify health issues, and ways in which Inuit health priorities can be advanced. The Strategy also aims to encourage Arctic governments to support healthy community initiatives.

At the meeting, the Committee reviewed the goals within the strategy and reported on completed work including:

- · Circumpolar Inuit Health Systems,
- · Circumpolar Inuit Best Health Practices, and
- Food Security Across the Arctic.

In addition, each representative reported on Inuit health work and other challenges within their respective country. Inuit health and well-being continues to be a priority not only within the Committee, but also within Inuit Nunaat. Some of the additional themes/topics discussed at the Fairbanks meeting for further awareness included:

- What influence large scale development projects have on health and societies;
- · Mental health and suicide;
- Traditional knowledge interaction and transmission from Elders to youth;
- Capacity building in communities in health and research professions; and
- Challenges with everyday life in the communities (housing, food security, financial and other disparities and social ills).

The Committee agreed that challenges listed within the Strategy still remain and are similar in each country. The Committee further agreed to continue to move forward with the Strategy and its implementation.

Also agreed upon was the development of a communications strategy tool to help ICC share its work on health at international forums like, the Arctic Council, World Health Organization and the United Nations. The next committee meeting is scheduled to be held in Nuuk, Greenland in conjunction with the PhD Summer School Program held in September 2013. More information on the PhD Summer School Program go to <u>http://www.nasivvik.</u> <u>f5sitedesign.com/posts/post/195/upcoming:-phd-summerschool-in-nuuk/</u>.

In addition to the committee meeting, ICC representatives also attended the International Circumpolar Conference on Health (ICCH15) and presented on the Circumpolar Inuit Health Systems and ICC-Alaska's Framework on how to assess food security from an Inuit perspective. For more information about ICC's work on health and the Inuit Health Steering Committee, please visit ICC Canada's website: <u>www.inuitcircumpolar.com</u>.



Inuit Health Steering Committee Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. L to R: Natan Obed (Canada), Gert Mulvad (Greenland), Percy Ballot (Alaska), and ICC Canada Staff Leanna Ellsworth. Photo provided by Leanna Ellsworth



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matters. They are also responsible for health, schools, transport, environment and indigenous issues. He stated that there are two new laws that promote the traditional way of life of indigenous peoples; one law concerns marine mammal hunting and another concerns reindeer herding. The Duma finances and subsidizes both of these activities.



Touring the College of Multidisciplinary Education where students learn skin sewing and ivory carving. Photo by ICC Alaska.

At our visit to the city administration, the Vice-Mayor told us that Anadyr was 123 years old, had 13,000 inhabitants and 66 nationalities. He said Anadyr was increasingly open to visitors and open to the idea of hosting ICC in 2018 with the prior approval and support of the regional government. Perhaps we will realize the dream of having a General Assembly in Russia.

The trip was not all business and meeting government officials. We toured several facilities around Anadyr. At the Museum we enjoyed a beautiful exhibit, "Chukotka Heritage", which portrayed the cultures of the seven distinct indigenous groups within Chukotka and housed many artifacts like those found in our back yards. We were very impressed with the College of Multidisciplinary Education where we met students, and saw beautiful works completed in the skin sewing and ivory carving classrooms. Our hearts were stolen at the Children's



Alaska Delegation in Chukotka. L to R: Vera Metcalf (ICC Alaska Vice President), Jim Stotts (ICC Alaska President), Kelly Eningowuk (ICC Alaska Executive Director), Beverly Eliason (ICC Alaska Administrative Director). Photo by ICC Alaska.

Home, which is home for kids without their own safe place to live. Chukotka has many master carvers and the Art Gallery displayed beautiful local handicraft and artwork. At the Northeast Interdisciplinary Scientific Research Institute we enjoyed a presentation on traditional knowledge of the hunters, efforts to preserve the sea-hunting language, and traditional usage of local wild plants for food and medicine. A nice touch during the tours was the impromptu dance performances at the different venues.

Important to all Inuit is the sharing of culture. One fantastic afternoon we gathered for dancing and cultural presentation. Everyone changed from their city fashion and business suits to their traditional clothing of atiqluks and dance regalia. After a video highlighting Chukotka, wonderful drumming and dancing were performed by groups from villages such as Providenya and Lavrentia. We were entertained by the graceful movements of the women, strong movements of the men and humor as a son beat his father in a duel dance. Dedicated to the Canadian Inuit, a pair of women performed throat singing and in the end, everyone was invited to dance during the fun, invitational dance and ended full of laughter and joy.

After the drumming and dancing, we were invited by various



Invitational fun dance at the ICC Chukotka 20th Anniversary Celebration Event. Photo by ICC Alaska.

families to visit their home and share food together. Our hosts were friendly and eager to talk about our life in the other ICC countries. One of the hosts was Victoria from the Language and Culture Preservation Association. She invited her mother, who is a master carver, and she presented beautiful tusks engraved with scenes from her heritage depicting her life and culture from childhood to present day Anadyr.

Overall, everyone agreed that the Chukotka visit was an excellent first hand experience for ICC to understand Chukotkan life today. It was the first time in a long time that we were able to engage with our Chukotkan colleagues in their homeland. It remains difficult to interact on a regular basis due to language differences and the high cost of travel to and from Chukotka. Despite those challenges, we continue to try to improve communications and involvement of Chukotkan Inuit. They are our people and we must continue to fight to include them in all we do. Almost too soon the trip was over and we were back in Nome. This was one trip we won't forget.



moving forward.

This summer the ICC Executive Council visited Anadyr, Chukotka to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of ICC Chukotka's official membership to the ICC and to discuss the proposed Protocol to the MoC with local officials. I felt that ICC got what we came for. Specifically, I felt that we received an assurance from Russian authorities work closely to with the ICC and

# Chair's Message Aqqaluk Lynge Chukotka Inuit Past, Present and Future

With the signing of the Protocol to the existing Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Governor of Chukotka, the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka and the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Inuit of Russia are average lifespan of especially men lowered dramatically. We met old acquaintances during this visit, but most of them have lost their men. My colleague, Carl Chr. Olsen (Puju) and I asked about the men that we met in 1988, and they told us that they passed away in the late nineties before the beginning of the new millennium, many of them due to the harsh social conditions, lack of treatment of alcoholism and bad alcohol. Today those problems have been put high on the political



agenda, and we must hope that the fight continues and the new generation has a chance to live a better life.

Like in many other Arctic indigenous communities the cost of products and transportation have had a tremendous influence on the food prices. This has resulted in living standards close to the developing countries. This is known well by many villagers

*Anna Otke, Leonid Gorenshteyn and Aqqaluk Lynge pose for a photo after signing the Protocol. Photo provided by Aqqaluk Lynge.* 

the acceptance from the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka as an important partner in the work of the Yupigiit and to improve the living standard for all in Chukotka after the fatal collapse of the Soviet system.

What we saw in Anadyr was a testament to the fact that the living standard has increased significantly. The old housing complexes have been renovated and the whole picture of the daily life, in the streets and inside the apartments that we visited, was a positive surprise. We did not have the budget to visit the Inuit villages such as Siriniki, Lavrentiya or Providinya further Northwest, but what I heard from the conversations, daily life in the villages are also better than it was when we first visited way back in 1988.

Throughout the Arctic, indigenous communities have suffered by the effects of alcohol abuse. That is unfortunately true in the Russia's Arctic and in Chukotka. During the nineties the across the Arctic. There are no roads to any urban area in the Far East Russia and cargo flights from Moscow are the only source of everyday products. Although the Government of Chukotka has a policy in place that supports local food production, like reindeer and salmon, the cost of living remains high. In addition, last year the government established a list of the "socially important foodstuff." The list contains twentysix items, which are sold at fixed prices, to lessen the burden on the family income. Through this, families are able to buy healthy food that they otherwise would not afford to buy.

All over you will see the influence of former Governor Abramovich who signed the first MoC in August 2001 with me. He now lives in London but remains as a leading member of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug Duma (Legislative Assembly), which we visited during this trip. I was asked to speak from the Duma's podium, which is a sign of great respect

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ICC Executive Council. L to R Elvira Tyunikova (Chukotka), Carl Chr. Puju Olsen (Greenland), Aqqaluk Lynge (Chair), Tatiana Achirgina (Chukotka), Kirt Ejesiak (Canada), Hjalmer Dahl (greenland), Vera Metcalf (Alaska), Duane Smith (Canada), Jim Stotts (Alaska). Photo by ICC Alaska

# **Executive Council Meets in Russia** By ICC Alaska Staff

For the first time since our General Assembly in 2010; the full Council was able to get together for a meeting on the afternoon of July 28 at City Hall in Anadyr. There were several observers attending from Chukotka Yupigit, the umbrella group for ICC Chukotka.

ICC Chair, Aqqaluk Lynge, congratulated everyone on the signing of the Amendments to the Memorandum of Cooperation between ICC, the Chukotka Government, and the Association of Chukotka Indigenous Peoples. The signing ceremony took place earlier in the day.

**Chair's Report:** The Chair reported on his recent activities: he will stop in Nome on his way home from Chukotka to spread Charlie Johnson's ashes at the Johnson family fish camp; he received an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Dartmouth University in June; and attended the 40th anniversary of the relocation of the people of Qullissat, Greenland in July.

The Chair reported that Parnuna Egede has moved to Copenhagen, but continues to work with ICC Greenland. Bjarne Lyberth has replaced her as the Scientific Advisor to the Chair's Office. He gave an update on funding efforts with WWF Denmark, the Oak Foundation, and the Danish government.

ICC Greenland is cooperating with Oceans North Canada on some projects including: a mini seminar on Greenland's oil spill contingency plan held in April; this cooperation aims to improve the environmental assessment process and ensure industry adopts stringent standards in offshore Greenland.

There was an update on meetings that have been held with the Greenland government on different issues. Greenland is in the final stages of producing a book, with others, on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Chair informed the board that he has proposed to the Greenland Premier to host a Summit on Education and Culture rather than a second Summit on Resource Development.

**Country Reports:** Greenland reported on Hjalmar Dahl's work to plan and prepare for the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014. There is a seven member Indigenous Global Coordinating Group and Hjalmar represents the Arctic on this body. An Arctic region preparatory meeting will be held in Nuuk, Greenland in October.

Canada reported on their recent Annual Meeting held in June. There will be two new board members to ICC Canada due to changes in leadership at ITK and Nunatsiavut. The board was especially interested in work on languages, Arctic resources, Arctic Council, health, and food security. Some board members asked about the Greenland Premier's invitation for a second Resource Development Summit.

Canada also reported on: the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food visit to Canada to meet with ICC, ITK and others; ArcticNet activities which focus on climate change *continued on page 9* 

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for our organization and our special place in Russia, even in times where other NGO's in Russia are being scrutinized.

Governor Roman Kopin was out of town and in his place the Vice-Governor Leonid Gorenshteyn showed us Chukotka's wonderful hospitality. At the meeting with the Anadyr City Mayor we proposed that they look into the possibility of Anadyr to host the 2018 ICC General Assembly (GA). At a dinner with the Vice-Governor, we were told that it would be the Governor who will have the final decision if Russia would host a GA. But now the seeds are sown. It will be a dream come true and the full circle will be completed, if that could happen during our lifetime.

The Association of the Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka arranged a seminar with ICC, various government and indigenous organization representatives where we had a discussion on international declarations regarding the rights of indigenous peoples; the work of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and ICC's cooperation with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) at the Arctic Council and it's working groups. It was my impression that the discussions of today are much more free and constructive than earlier times, and that Chukotka indigenous leaders are much more confident. At our first meeting in 1988 the only indigenous representative at government level was a Chukchi woman named Otke. A new generation of strong leaders has emerged, but still the same name dominates, the current President of the Association of the Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka is Anna Otke. ICC thanks her for her kind hospitality.

We enjoyed our stay in Anadyr very much and we are so happy to finally see the fruits of the excellent diplomacy of the President of ICC-Chukotka for many years, Tatiana Achirgina and Executive Council member Elvira Tyunikova. Our special thanks to Governor Kopin; and his Vice Governor Gorentshteyn on his behalf; and our very nice host Valentina Keulkut. It was a nice and unforgettable reunion for all of us!



Chukotka bone carving. Photo by ICC Alaska.



Russian Orthodox church in Chukotka. Photo by ICC Alaska.



Chukotka Inuit performing at the ICC Chukotka 20th Anniversary Celebration. Photo by ICC Alaska.



A view of the Anadyr boat harbor and Anadyr Bay looking towards the airport. Photo by ICC Alaska.

# Summer Interns

# By ICC Alaska Staff

Three interns filled our office this summer. In partnership with First Alaskans Institute, Madelynn Alvanna-Stimple joined our office. She worked with Beverly Eliason on the education initiative and Minnie Naylor on youth involvement. Madelynn is Inupiaq from Nome and a junior at the University of Alaska Anchorage studying Education. Jessica Thornton joined our office as a volunteer. She came to our office on her own initiative after learning more about ICC and Arctic issues in her college studies. She is currently studying Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. She worked closely with Carolina Behe on the food security research project. In partnership with the University of Michigan, Celine Smith joined our office. Celine is also studying Anthropology and International Studies and worked on United Nations issues and wrote a paper on the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Rights (UNDRIP) as it relates to Alaskan Inuit. We were glad to have all three bright and energetic young women join the office this summer. Good luck Madelynn, Jessica and Celine with your studies!



*L* to R: Madelynn Alvanna-Stimple, Celine Smith, Jessica Thornton. Photo by ICC Alaska.

in the coastal Arctic; attendance at the Global Mercury Negotiations with ICC Greenland; the Arctic Council supported project led by ICC Canada on the Assessment of Arctic Languages; work on Inuit circumpolar health issues also led by ICC Canada. There was a report about federal government budget cuts and the implications of that. Finally, there was a report on planning for the 2014 General Assembly in Nain, Labrador.

Alaska reported on administrative items including the decision to hire a grant writer; the three summer interns and their projects; current fundraising efforts and presented a financial report. There was a report on the visit of James Anaya, UNPFII Special Rapporteur, co-hosted by ICC Alaska in Anchorage. Alaska also gave updates on three initiatives: the education initiative in Alaska leading to the planned Inuit Education Summit to be held in Greenland; the food security research project; the Neqa/Neqi coalition, and a Sustainable Communities Conference planned for the University of Alaska Anchorage campus this winter. Finally, there were briefings on this summer's salmon fishing crisis and the statewide ballot initiative on Coastal Zone Management.

Chukotka reported on their efforts preparing for the ICC Chukotka 20th Anniversary celebrations; visits to all Yupik villages since the last Executive Council meeting; and a new radio show using the Yupik language. They also reported on efforts to help hunters harvest polar bears, apparently Premier Medvedev will not allow hunting for polar bears. In response to the report it was stated by several that ICC needs to continue assisting Chukotka efforts to establish a permanent office since the Chukotka region is becoming more visible in the Arctic.

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United Nations: There have been two major UN meetings on indigenous issues since the ICC meeting in Montreal; the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). Chairman Lynge and Hjalmar Dahl attended both sessions and made several interventions on behalf of ICC. They expressed gratitude to ICC Alaska and Canada for their help on the food security issue. Hjalmar reported on progress towards the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Arctic Council: There have been a few Arctic Council meetings since the last Executive Council meeting including: Deputy Minister's in Stockholm, Sweden during May; and Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in Helsinki, Finland during June. ICC Council members were briefed on issues important to ICC including: Task Force on Institutional Issues where restructuring and the creation of a permanent secretariat is underway; work on projects at the different working groups. The Arctic Council is about to go into a busy period of working group and task force meetings as the Swedish chairmanship winds down next spring. Canada will take its second turn as Chair of the Arctic Council in the next term.

**Other Business:** Issues discussed under this agenda item included: holding an Inuit Education Summit in Greenland in 2013; holding a second Inuit Leaders Summit on Resource Development in Greenland; and completing the ICC Arctic Policy revision. It was decided that these three topics need to be discussed further and no immediate decisions were made.

The next Executive Council meeting is planned for Nuuk, Greenland in early February. O.



Inuit Circumpolar Council

ALASKA OFFICE

3003 MINNESOTA DRIVE, SUITE 204 ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

PHONE: (907) 274-9058 FAX: (907) 274-3861 www.iccalaska.org

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) representing the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka. ICC Alaska, along with other members, strives to strengthen, protect, and develop Inuit rights in the circumpolar region.

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