

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN

Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA

Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8-10

2013 Arctic Energy Summit • Akureyri, Iceland • <http://arcticenergysummit.institutenorth.org>

October 12-14

Arctic Circle Forum • Reykjavik, Iceland • <http://arcticcircle.org>

October 16-17

2013 Arctic Futures Symposium • Brussels, Belgium • <http://www.polarfoundation.org>

October 19-20

SDWG Working Group Meeting • Whitehorse, Canada • <http://www.sdwg.org>

October 21-23

Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting • Whitehorse, Canada • <http://www.arctic-council.org>

October 24-25

International Oceans Conference 2013 • Washington DC • <http://www.state.gov/e/oes/ocns/opa/2013conf/index.htm>

October 24-26

Alaska Federation of Natives • Fairbanks, Alaska • www.nativedefederation.org

October 29-30

Arctic Council CBMP Marine Expert Monitoring Group Meeting • Akureyri, Iceland • <http://www.caff.is/marine>

November 4-5

ICC Alaska Board of Directors

November 7

Inuit Day!

November 7-8

Community Oil Spill Response in Bering and Anadyr Straits Workshop • Anchorage, Alaska • <http://www.wcsnorthamerica.org/WildPlaces/ArcticAlaska.aspx>

November 13-14

ICC Alaska North Slope Food Security Workshop • Barrow, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org

November 19-24

Arctic Peoples' Conference 1973-2013 • Copenhagen, Denmark •



Villages visited for the food security research project.

Food Security Research Project Update

Building a Conceptual Framework on How to Assess Food Security from an Inuit Perspective

By Carolina Behe, Traditional Knowledge/Science Advisor

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) receives its mandate every four years from the General Assembly. The current mandate is the Nuuk Declaration, where ICC is directed to promote Inuit hunting and food security rights. The ICC Alaska board of directors confirmed Inuit hunting and food security as the number one priority. In devising ways to address food security, it became clear that Inuit hold a different perspective on what food security is; that of the approximately 800 food security definitions, none derived from an Arctic indigenous perspective; and that the first challenge lies in explaining what the Inuit perspective is to people outside of this culture.

Like the term, subsistence, food security is a phrase that stems from a culture far removed from the lives of the Inuit. Inuit have adopted this phrase from the English language, however the concept of food security through an Inuit lens, allows for a holistic description of the Arctic; allows for the knowledge and values of the Inuit to explain the interconnections that lie between all of life and the physical world, one which includes culture as part of the ecosystem; and describes the importance of maintaining these connections. Food security is increasingly the topic of discussion within and outside of indigenous communities. It is important Inuit set the research agendas and assist in implementing best practices when it comes to determining food security.

With this understanding, ICC Alaska commenced building a conceptual framework on how to assess food security from an Inuit perspective. The project is indigenous-led and based on Traditional Knowledge (TK), bringing forward a greater representation of Inuit concerns and knowledge. The project began with visiting 14 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bering Strait, Northwest Arctic and North Slope regions, in July 2012. The goal is to visit a total of 16 villages by the end of this winter. While visiting the villages, ICC Alaska has explored and identified ways in which Inuit communities define

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President's Message

James Stotts

"The Arctic Circle" – A New Initiative

This statement comes directly from the Arctic Circle website. "The mission of the Arctic Circle is to facilitate dialogue and build relationships to address rapid changes in the Arctic. With sea ice levels at their lowest point in recorded history, the world is waking up to the challenges and opportunities


this presents for all of us. We aim to strengthen the decision-making process by bringing together as many international partners as possible to interact under one large open tent."

There is much interest within Alaska in this initiative which grew out of the Arctic Imperative Summits championed by the Alaska Dispatch. Alice Rogoff, publisher of the Dispatch, is the Chair of Arctic Circle's Advisory Board. The announcement creating the Arctic Circle was made last spring by Iceland President Grimsson. Several Alaskan organizations plan to participate. Attendance at the Arctic Circle has become a hot ticket, and Alaskans will be well represented at the inaugural assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland October 12-14.

I believe the Arctic Circle grew out of a frustration from the business community that the Arctic Council wasn't paying enough attention to Arctic economic development. Several new organizations have been established for the purpose of promoting business development in the Arctic. These organizations include: Arctic Business Roundtable (2013); Arctic Business Leadership Council (2010); Arctic Business Forum (2010); World Arctic Forum (2013); and the Arctic Circle (2013).

I believe all of them hope to be able to influence policy development at the Arctic Council. Again from the Arctic Circle website: "The Arctic Circle aims to support, complement and extend the reach of the work of the Arctic Council by facilitating a broad exchange of ideas and information at an open gathering held in mid-October of each year.

The Arctic Council has changed its focus over the years. For a long time it was focused on climate change and environmental concerns. Now the focus has shifted more to economic development. This is reflected in the themes promoted by Canada's chairmanship. The Council sanctioned a Task Force to create a Circumpolar Business Forum (CBF) at the recent Minister's Meeting. The Task Force has set the ambitious goal of having the CBF up and running by early 2014. I believe the CBF is a reaction to the clamor raised by the business community.

The Arctic Circle is different from other organizations promoting business. It has a loose approach to its membership and its agendas for discussion. The Circle is open to organizations and individuals from all sectors, and they will decide their own agendas and meetings, maintaining independence and decision making capabilities. I see potential chaos on the horizon. It will be hard to manage such a diverse group. Perhaps the intent is to not manage but just see where things flow. It will be interesting and I wish the Arctic Circle best of luck in their endeavors. 

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Youth to Document Indigenous Movement

By Jacqui Lambert, Youth Trainee Representing the Arctic Region

The 1977 International NGO Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas was a monumental event for the global recognition of indigenous nations and peoples' rights. Some of the most important indigenous leaders from across the world were speaking and fighting for our visibility. 36 years later, they met at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland again to discuss the event, the lessons learned, and the actions necessary to keep the movement pushing forward. I attended this Historical Symposium representing the Arctic Region as a youth trainee in a program organized by the Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information (doCip).

A total of seven international indigenous youth trainees attended the Historical Symposium to film the 4-day conference and collect personal interviews. We were there to serve as a bridging connection between the advice of the important elders and the minds of today's youth. A documentary film will be created surrounding this event, telling the stories of bravery, perseverance, and strength. It will illustrate the unity across many nations and empower the younger generations. This film will be distributed to local communities beginning next year and presented at a conference of Indigenous peoples in New York next September.

Coming from across the world including Costa Rica, Bolivia, Kenya, the Philippines, Australia, North America, and the Arctic, the seven of us youth trainees will spend the next three years collecting the oral histories of the indigenous movement. We will be working on our own projects in our home communities where workshops and video presentations will be carried out for educational and motivational purposes. Our group is planning to have a yearly meeting in order to cover our accomplishments and continue to plan the future internship duties.

To put it simply, this was a life changing opportunity for me. Making these global connections and discussing indigenous topics left and right had shown me perspectives I hadn't acquired beforehand. Learning about and sharing the cultural differences and similarities between each of my fellow interns was eye opening. This busy week consisted of 15-hour days that were as challenging as they were liberating. There are many conversations, speeches, and opportunities I will be taking away with me for the rest of my life.

The trip began with a wrap-up summary of the synopsis from my group, as I was contacted on a weeks notice to attend and arrived two days late. When we presented our plans to the organization committee that evening, we realized the kind of balance the group was bringing to the table. The youth trainees were mainly girls but most of the first delegates were men. We had managed to create a meeting of roughly half



Youth Trainees at the Historical Symposium. Jacqui is standing on the far right hand side. Photo by Stephane Pecorini.

men, half women as well as half elders, half youth. This kind of visual to the progress we've made since the 70s of both involving more youth and women was the best I had seen yet.

On the first day of the conference, we listened to each delegate who's attended the 1977 event present a 4-minute speech on their thoughts of the progress. A Mohawk Indian had gone up to put his two cents in and it's something I will always keep planted in the back of my head. He said, "In my language, the word that takes place of 'warrior' has nothing to do with warrior but a responsibility to protect the people in my land," he said. "I still live in my land. It's called by another name today but it is still my land. I have never been conquered and I have never sold mother Earth that I was placed on. And I never will. So I still have the rights, my children still have the rights, my grand-children will still have the rights as long as I am still standing here to protect them. It is the responsibility of everyone in this forum to go home to teach to stand for the right thing. Not because of personalities but because it is the right thing to do."

Our Inupiat Ilitqusiat teaches us that we must live by our responsibility to tribe. This can mean many different things and it varies across each individual in our communities. The teacher has to guide the student through to graduation. The coach is responsible for the balance of physical and mental abilities in the athlete. The parents and adults provide support for the active children. My responsibility as a college student with opportunities such as this internship is to provide my peers with the inspiration and guidance through their realm of possibilities. I must serve as an educational cheerleader, communicating the excitement of the game of

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Kotzebue Executive Council Meeting

By ICC Alaska Staff

The ICC Executive Council met in a regular meeting in Kotzebue, August 13-14. Regular Council meetings are held twice a year and the location of meetings rotates to each country. The Chair opened the meeting by mentioning the last time ICC held a meeting in Kotzebue was during the General Assembly in 1986. He said that ICC finally honored the invitation to hold a meeting in Kotzebue by former Council member Chuck Greene.

NANA Regional Corporation staff planned a wonderful program outside of the meeting and the Council had the chance to visit and experience the community. On the night the Council arrived, they were welcomed at a dinner with the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team. This proved to be a wonderful, casual opportunity for the Council to interact with the region leaders while enjoying local foods including salmon and king crab that Chuck Greene shared with the group. Other group activities included Inupiaq dancing lessons from the Northern Lights dancers, and a local community tour where Council members saw the south tent city beach area where locals harvest, dry and smoke fish and oogrük (bearded seal). The weather cooperated and the group also had the chance to step out on the tundra and pick some blueberries during the tour. After the meeting, the Council traveled to the Red Dog Mine to tour the facility and learn more about the operations and agreement between

NANA Regional Corporation (land owner) and Teck Alaska (mine operator). Duane Smith, ICC Canada President wrote about the experience in this issue of DRUM.

After introductions, including from several leaders from ICC Alaska member organizations and other local entities that attended the meeting as observers, the meeting began as usual, with approval of the agenda and previous meeting minutes. Below are summaries of meeting agenda items.

Chair's Report: In his report, Aqqaluk Lyngé mentioned various meetings he had been invited to including one organized by the NorForsk, which is an organization that funds scientific cooperation and is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers. At this meeting he spoke about Arctic

indigenous needs and perspectives regarding research and cooperation with scientific researchers. He also spoke at "The Arctic Summit" organized by the Economist. The summit was focused on mining and Aqqaluk talked about the Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles. During his report, there was discussion on how to better engage the Greenland Government in ICC's work after Aqqaluk reported that the Greenland Government notified ICC Greenland of proposed funding cuts over the next couple of years.

Greenland Report: Carl Christian "Puju" Olsen began by mentioning that there was a change in the Greenland Government and Aleqa Hammond from the Siumut Party was elected as Premier. Hjalmer Dahl was also chosen as Chair of the newly established Greenland Human Rights Council. Hjalmer has also been involved in the coordinating group for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014 and was busy with organizing for the Global Indigenous

Preparatory Conference that was held in June in Alta Norway. Puju updated the Council on the court case against the European Union's seal ban. ICC Greenland is a party in the case as well as other Inuit groups in Greenland and Canada. The case was dismissed by the EU courts and will now be appealed by some of the parties involved in the case.

Canada Report: Duane Smith reported that his office has been very busy with Canada assuming the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. He

mentioned that Leona Aglukkaq was named as the Minister of Environment (from Minister of Health position) and while serving as the Chair of the Arctic Council; she will also be responsible for northern development issues. Duane noted that circumpolar health and food security continue to be crucial matters for ICC Canada. His office continues to lead the implementation activities of the 2010-2014 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy and has been involved at various related meetings including the Arctic Council's Arctic Human Health Expert Group. ICC Canada was successful in obtaining funding to work on implementing the Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles from a Canadian perspective. One of the objectives in this effort



ICC Executive Council and regional and local leaders attending the Council meeting take a break to pose for a photo along Kotzebue's shore. Photo by Kirt Ejesiak.

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Chair's Message

Aqqaluk Lyngé

Indigenous Peoples as Partners in Development


Salekhard Meeting with Russian President Putin

On the delta of the enormous Ob River, which runs through western Siberia, lives many of the indigenous peoples of the Russian Arctic. Most of them are reindeer herders and in that area alone; the Yamal Nenets Autonomous District, there are 704,000 reindeer. The people there maintain their livelihood as they have for thousand of years. But as many other Arctic indigenous peoples, oil and gas development in the area has given them new opportunities, as well as new challenges.

The biggest city in that area is Salekhard with a population of more than 40,000 mostly Russian migrants from further South. It reminds me of what we saw during the seventies and eighties when the Alaska pipeline was changing Fairbanks. The nature around it is very much like the Northern parts of Alaska. The weather patterns are much the same. In the city you can sense that Big Oil is here.

That is why Salekhard was the center of an international meeting at the end of September. The theme of the meeting was Environmental Safety in the Arctic. I had been invited to give a keynote speech at the opening on the first day. The meeting was arranged by the Russian Geographical Society, who's First Vice-President Arthur Chilingarov opened the meeting. Mr. Chilingarov was made famous when he planted the Russian flag onto the bottom of the North Pole.

In my speech I could not help commenting on that event since he was there. I reminded the group about the fact that many Arctic explorers used dog sleds and the Inuit expertise to go to the North Pole since the 19th century and said, "Russia is the only nation that planted it's flag on the bottom of the Pole, but Greenlandic Inuit were the first to get on top of it!" Although I spoke mostly about the indigenous peoples of the Arctic and our legitimate interest in the development, that remark was the only topic of that afternoon and numerous media persons had therefore reason to ask questions about Inuit and the ICC.

The next day the Russian President Vladimir Putin presided over the plenary session with several heads of state. Olavur Ragnar Grimsson, Iceland President and Sauli Niinistö, Finland President spoke about the Arctic cooperation and highlighted the special place the Arctic indigenous peoples have in the Arctic Council. This prompted President Putin in his closing comments to mention the Arctic indigenous peoples as loyal partners, maybe compared to the Greenpeace activists, who were a detained a few days before this meeting after trying to enter a Russian oil rig. When talking to my Russian colleagues after Putin's speech, they said that in Russian, his remarks on indigenous participation showed strong support. 



Russian President Putin at the podium at the Russian Geographical Society conference in Salekhard. Seated are the Russian Minister for Defense, Presidents of Finland and Iceland, and the Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Official Chair Patrick Borbéy. Photo by Erik Gant.


2014 GA Venue Moves to Inuvik!

By ICC Alaska Staff

At the Executive Council meeting in Kotzebue, the Council accepted the proposal from ICC Canada to hold the next General Assembly (GA) in Inuvik, NWT Canada. This was after receiving notice from Nain, Labrador who was forced to withdraw its proposal to host the GA citing delayed construction of the facilities planned to accommodate the event.

Inuvik is located in the Northwest Territories, Canada on the Mackenzie River Delta, It is the main hub for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. More information on Inuvik can be found at www.inuvik.ca. This will be the second time Inuvik will host the GA. The theme proposed by Inuvik was "One Arctic, One Future." This was the theme of the Inuvik GA in 1992.

The GA is the forum where Inuit from all four countries come together to debate issues, address developments taking place in the Inuit world and celebrate their rich cultural heritage and bonds. The GA is held every four years and rotates to each country with the exception of Chukotka. In Summer 2012, the Council met with local officials in Anadyr, Chukotka and proposed the community consider submitting a proposal to host the 2018 GA in Anadyr, Chukotka. If the GA is not hosted by Chukotka, Alaska will have its turn at the GA in 2018.

ICC Alaska will begin preparing for the GA by organizing the planning committee and fundraising. Look for more information on the 2014 General Assembly on our website, Facebook/Twitter or in future issues of the DRUM. 

is to develop a “users manual” on how Canadian Inuit organizations can use the Declaration in a practical manner.

Alaska Report: Jim Stotts reported that ICC Alaska has settled into the new office that was purchased at the end of June. He said that the food security research project is still underway with the majority of fieldwork completed. ICC Alaska also plans to move forward with an Alaskan specific education project to convene Alaskan Inuit educational leaders and experts to develop an education strategy. Jim mentioned that his office continues to focus the majority of its work within the Arctic Council and will continue to be involved in and attend meetings of the Ministerial, Senior Arctic Officials, Protection of Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) working group, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group and the Task Force on Creating a Circumpolar Business Forum. He mentioned that although his office will not attend Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) meetings, they would continue to be involved by monitoring the file and submitting Alaskan specific comments through the ICC representatives attending meetings. Vera Metcalf added that she was appointed Commissioner under the Beringia Visa Free Agreement between Alaska and Chukotka.



Kotzebue's Northern Lights Dancers performed during an evening event. Meeting attendees had the chance to learn Inupiaq dancing. Photo by ICC Alaska.

Chukotka Report: Tatiana reported that ICC Chukotka continues to remain active with Yupik language and cultural preservation efforts. She said that work began on the project “Naukan village and Naukan people” being led by former Council member Valentina Leonova. The project is funded by the Government of Chukotka and will result in a book about the cultural and historical heritage of the former village. In addition, Tatiana reported that ICC Chukotka has been

engaged with the Government of Chukotka and the City of Anadyr and most recently had meetings related to salmon fishing in the area. She was glad to say that ICC Chukotka has received increased attention from authorities that are more willing to cooperate since the ICC Executive Council meetings in Anadyr last summer.

United Nations: Hjalmer Dahl took the lead on reporting UN activities. Representatives from Greenland and Canada attended the May UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues meeting. It is a review year for the Permanent Forum and recommendations are being reviewed on issues of health, education and culture. The Arctic Caucus (ICC and Saami Council) made statements on health, culture, implementation of the UNDRIP and the future work of the Permanent Forum, and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014. Dalee Sambo Dorough, Arctic member of the Permanent Forum was reelected for another term. There was also a report and discussion on implementation of Alta Outcome Declaration that resulted from the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference of the World Conference on Indigenous Issues 2014 held in June in Alta. A report on the Alta conference was made in the last DRUM issue. Another important file under the UN is the Intergovernmental negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on Mercury (INC-5) and discussions at this meeting surrounded preparations for and representation at the upcoming Minamata Convention on Mercury in Japan in October. ICC's efforts have included collaborating with other indigenous organizations to promote acknowledgement and inclusion of indigenous peoples rights in the conventions text. ICC also has highlighted Inuit concerns over the last three years of negotiations and has focused on strengthening the provisions on atmospheric mercury emissions.

Arctic Council: Reports and discussion on the Arctic Council began with the Chair's report on the Arctic Environmental Ministers meeting in February. The focus of the meeting was on black carbon. The Chair's message in the last issue of DRUM highlighted this meeting. The Council also reviewed the Kiruna Ministerial meeting and the Canadian Chairmanship Program 2013-2015, which were also reported on in the last issue of DRUM. Before discussion on where ICC will focus its efforts and divide the work among offices, the Council reviewed reports from all of the working groups and the initial meeting of the Task Force on Creating a Circumpolar Business Forum. There was also discussion on specific projects underway or being developed. ICC Canada leads the Arctic Indigenous Language Project under the SDWG. The latest development is that a funding proposal has been submitted to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada for ICC Canada to continue with the management of the project. The project is follow up to the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium. The Council

Council Visits Red Dog Mine


By Duane Smith, ICC Canada President

After the ICC Executive Council meeting in Kotzebue, the Council went on a day trip tour of the Red Dog Mine courtesy of the NANA Regional Corporation. The Red Dog Mine, operated since 1989 by Teck Alaska, is one of the world's largest producers of zinc and lead. The NANA Regional Corporation owns the land in which the mine is located. The tour was very well organized, informative and contributed to a better understanding of the mining industry's approach and relationship with the Inupiaq of the Northwest Arctic region.

The Council had the opportunity to ask questions and gained a lot of insight into the agreement the past and present Inupiaq leaders envisioned and negotiated with the Red Dog mine operators. Education, training, long term employment and benefits were obvious during the tour as we met with and discussed the operations with a lot of the Inupiaq beneficiaries working on the site itself. Opportunity is not restricted to Inupiaq of the region as others may also seek employment opportunities there as well. It was mentioned that new reserves have been found and will extend the operation life and continue to contribute to the wellbeing and culture of the Inupiaq of that region for years to come.

The impact on the area was not as extensive as I would have thought based on the number of years it has been in operation. The fact that remediation and reclamation of the mine site are key components of the agreement and operations is comforting.

The standards under which the mine is operated and relationship between NANA Regional Corporation and Teck Alaska is an excellent example of how Inuit welcome development based on terms they can negotiate which benefit all parties involved.

On behalf of ICC Canada I extend my gratitude to Marie Greene, Chuck Greene who went out of his way to tour the mine with us, and the NANA Regional Corporation and Teck Alaska for allowing us to tour this facility. Arigaa! 



Red Dog Mine from the air. Photo by Rena Skifte.



Red Dog Mine tour. Photo by Kirt Ejesiak.


Greenland Back in the Arctic Council

By ICC Alaska Staff

It was never clear why Greenland Premier, Aleqa Hammond, decided to boycott the Ministerial meeting in Sweden last May. She made a statement that Greenland should have voting rights at the Arctic Council rather than just being part of Denmark's delegation. This is not correct, only member nations have voting rights at the Council and Greenland is not a nation, at least not yet. Perhaps there was a misunderstanding.

Premier Hammond announced in mid-August that they were rejoining the Arctic Council and that Canada had a big hand in resolving the situation. This does not make much sense either since Canada has no authority to negotiate with Greenland on the issue of voting rights.

Hammond said, "Greenland will sit at the table when issues that fall under the jurisdiction of Greenland's government are discussed." She also said that Greenland, along with Denmark and the Faroe Islands, negotiated with Canada to end the boycott. There was nothing mentioned about Greenland receiving voting rights like those reserved for the eight Arctic nations.


Although many are left scratching their heads over this turn of events, ICC is glad to have Greenland back at the table. Premier Hammond got it right when she said, "...one cannot talk about the Arctic without Greenlandic participation." 

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discussed the draft proposal of how to integrate traditional knowledge into the Arctic Council's work. In preparation, staff developed a draft ICC white paper on the "Application of Traditional Knowledge in the Arctic Council." The project intends to bring Permanent Participants together to find a solution to the inconsistent application and use of traditional knowledge within the Arctic Council.

2014 General Assembly: The Council began preparations for the 2014 General Assembly after confirming the dates of July 21-24, 2014 in Inuvik, NWT Canada for the meeting. Unfortunately, the community of Nain, Labrador withdrew their offer to host the assembly citing the fact that they would not have the meeting facilities constructed in time for the meeting. The Council discussed preliminary plans for the assembly including the budget, logistics, Chukotka participation fundraising and document preparation plans.

Other Business: Other topics discussed at the ECM included: the United States' National Strategy for the Arctic Region; the Arctic Peoples' Conference +40, which will be a gathering of indigenous peoples and international partners and government to commemorate the first Arctic Peoples Conference in 1973 and discuss new developments and issues affecting Arctic peoples and is planned for November in Copenhagen; high Arctic fisheries and upcoming government meetings on the topic; and a resolution supporting the economic disaster declarations of the Villages of Savoonga and Gambell, Alaska due to low walrus harvest. The villages' resolutions called on federal and state governments for disaster relief funds for village residents reliant on walrus for food and ivory for art. The resolution passed unanimously.


The next ECM is tentatively planned for February in Nain, Labrador. There is also a working session of the Council planned for Copenhagen in November during the Arctic Peoples Conference +40. 

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the adult world to get the crowd of younger populations to join me.

Through out the next couple days, we listened to discussions covering the roles of women, spirituality, and environmental issues. A sense of community was filling the atmosphere and everywhere I turned, I found myself having another conversation that opened my eyes to the importance of the indigenous movement. It was between hearing the struggles of other tribes, meeting older women who remind me of myself, and telling stories of my own that I learned more about how to carry my responsibility. At the end of the conference, I had taken my first step by representing the youth trainee group at the Eynard Palace reception with the attendees

and the mayor of Geneva. I gave a speech on behalf of the group to thank doCip for the opportunity and to present our upcoming plans for the execution of the internship.

"Our message remains the same. If you do not understand the natural law, then you will bear the consequences of your conduct. There is no mercy in the natural world. None. There is only the law, the rule and if you don't abide, you suffer the consequence." Oren Lyons, one of the first delegates had said in his four-minute speech. "So I urge you all to think in terms of the future. Seven generations, we say. Very serious term, it's the children coming. That's our responsibility and when we're here and done it." 




A variety of food sources are needed to maintain food security. Collecting 'sea food' from the beach is part of achieving food security. Photo by Carolina Behe.



Cultural expression, such as dancing and drumming are a part of food security. Photo by Carolina Behe.

food security and identify the drivers of food insecurity through community meetings and one-on-one interviews.

We are now moving into our final phase of gathering information, in which regional workshops will be held in Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome and Bethel. Once funding is acquired, the workshops will bring together TK holder representatives from all villages within each region to discuss food security, provide feedback, and assist in the development of the food security framework. The project will be completed November 2014. We have a bit more work to do to share findings, but today we are able to share that in the Inuit environment we easily see that food security is synonymous with environmental health, an environment in which culture is part of the ecosystem. As one elder explained, the Arctic environment is like a puzzle, with all pieces having a place and needed to make up the entire puzzle, this includes native languages, retention of traditional knowledge, animal health, etc. With all the pieces put together, food security exists. 



Sharing systems, Education, and Language are all key parts to maintaining food security. In this picture, a bearded seal has been sent from a coastal village to one up river. A young man is being taught how to cut the seal, while the children are taught Yupik words for what is occurring and the importance of respecting the seal. Photo by Carolina Behe.



People in Kaktovik have a strong relationship and appreciation for the Nanuuq that they share an environment with. Here a Nanuuq is collecting scraps at a whale bone pile. Photo by Carolina Behe.




Suzanne is a youth member of the food security advisory committee and describes this photograph as food security, as her family prepares food for the winter. Photo by Suzanne Heckman.



Food Security Community Meeting. Photo by Jackie Levi.

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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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