

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 19-21 •International Arctic Fisheries Symposium • Anchorage, Alaska • www.nprb. org/iafs2009

October 21 • ICC Alaska Board of Directors Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org

October 22-24 • AFN Convention • Anchorage, Alaska • www.nativefederation.org

November 7-8 • Hope and Resilience in Suicide Prevention • Nuuk, Greenland • www. hopeandresilience.gl

November 10-11 • Arctic Council SDWG Working Group Meeting • Copenhagen, Denmark•www.arctic-council.org

November 12-13 • Arctic Council SAO Meeting • Copenhagen, Denmark • www.arctic-council.org

November 30 - December 4 • BIA Service Providers Conference • Anchorage, Alaska • www.doi.gov/bia

December 7-18 • UNFCCC COP 15 • Copenhagen, Denmark • www.un.org

December 12-13 • ICC Executive Council Meeting • Copenhagen, Denmark • www. iccalaska.org

January 29-30 • Arctic Governance Workshop • Tromso, Norway • www.arcticgovernance.org



Inuit Health Summit Report By Susan Schaeffer Beck



Inuit Health Summit Participants Meet in Yellowknife. Heather Dingman (Barrow), Susan Schaeffer-Beck (Kotzebue) and Gloria Simeon (Bethel) participated in the Summit from Alaska. Photo by Eva Kruemmel, ICC Canada

On July 9th and 10th, 2009, I had the privilege of attending the Inuit Health Summit in Yellowknife, NWT, Canada. It was my first trip to Yellowknife, but I found it similar to Alaska. I arrived at the Yellowknife airport on the morning of July 8, so I had a few hours to look around. The harbor at Slave Lake was a beautiful sight from up on "the Rock," a huge outcropping with a view of the harbor and surrounding area. It took a brisk hike to reach The Rock, but it was worth it. Yellowknife has about 10,000 residents, so I was able to walk to most of the places I wanted to see.

The first day of the summit was spent talking about health issues that participants felt were important to address and prioritize. Representatives from Alaska, Greenland, Canada and Siberia each area gave a presentation and answered questions. The Russians had translators. There was a consensus that many of our health issues were similar in all four regions.

On the second day we talked more about the issues and were then able to put together a proposal to the ICC Health Committee. We spent a lot of time discussing Siberian the clean-up efforts of military toxic wastes and containers. contamination their beautiful country is devastating to the land and people. It is clear that the government is not doing what it can to help with the clean up. We also discussed



Inuit Health Summit Participants Pose for a Photo. L to R: Lillian Elias, Inuit Elder from Canada and Heather Dingman, Assistant to the Director of the North Slope Borough Department of Health and Social Services from Barrow, Alaska. Photo Submitted by Heather Dingman.

ways in which the four regions could make efforts to promote health in our areas. We all agreed that there could be better communication between our regions to build some consistency in our efforts and to share what is working and what is not.



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Chuck Greene, Vice President

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Eugene Brower (North Slope Borough)

George Edwardson (Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope)

Richard Glenn (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation)

Northwest Arctic Region

Marie Greene (NANA Regional Corporation)

Jackie Hill (Maniilaq Association)

Martha Whiting (Northwest Arctic Borough)

Willie Goodwin Jr. (Elder Representative)

Bering Straits Region

Melanie Edwards (Kawerak, Incorporated)

Roy Ashenfelter (Bering Straits Native Corporation)

Lee Ryan (Youth Representative)

Southwest Region

Vivian Korthuis
(Association of Village Council Presidents)

A Message from ICC-AK President Edward Saggan Itta



Safety Must Come First in the Arctic

I recently joined a panel of experts in Anchorage at a hearing on the strategic importance of the Arctic. The U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security held the hearing and Senator Lisa Murkowski hosted it. Other panelists included Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard; Mead Treadwell, Chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission; and Alaska Governor Sean Parnell

My comments focused on America's responsibilities to the Arctic environment and its people. I spoke as a hunter and whaler with a lifetime of experience in observing the Arctic under the guidance of elders and other local experts.

"One thing is clear," I told the hearing, "the Arctic is under a lot of stress, and as residents, we are worried."

I offered a number of ideas for making sure that a warming Arctic is not thrown into deeper imbalance by commercial activity. These include a beefed up scientific research effort to monitor and measure environmental changes. I applauded Senator Murkowski for her legislation requiring any offshore oil and gas production to use pipelines to shore-based facilities instead of shipping the product by tankers across Arctic waters to some distant destination. This is a fundamental safety precaution, because the alternative is considerably riskier in terms of potential spills.

I believe that strict regulation must be the first line of defense if oil and gas activity, increased shipping, expanded tourism and other commercial activities are going to be allowed in waters that traditionally have been reserved for Inupiat whaling and subsistence hunting.

Industry support groups are fond of citing estimates that the Arctic may contain \$70 billion in resource wealth. My response is that if these estimates are even remotely accurate, then the huge potential profits justify the very best safety precautions in the world. These safety measures should be seen as a really good investment that pays dividends by avoiding the costs of a spill.

In my comments, I also urged the Coast Guard to establish a year-round presence in the High Arctic. Other provisions that will be needed in commercialized Arctic waters include state-licensed marine pilots on certain types of ships crossing the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, and a robust investment in research on cumulative impacts.

I concluded by reminding the senators that people who live in the Arctic have the most to lose from any mistakes made in Arctic waters. We can't just relocate if things go wrong, because the Arctic is our home. It defines us as a people, and its fate is our fate. O

The Arctic Governance Project By ICC Alaska Staff

Today the Arctic Ocean is under siege. As the climate warms and causes sea ice to disappear, commercial interests are eager to exploit previously inaccessible resources. New opportunities in offshore oil and gas development, eco-tourism, marine shipping and commercial fishing have attracted global attention.



Are adequate mechanisms for responsible governance in place to balance development and environment while ensuring interests of Inuit and other Arctic residents are protected? Are existing standards and regulations sufficient to support and guide development? Is there a need for a new comprehensive governance regime for the Arctic, a regime that allows all stakeholders a share in decision making?

A new initiative called The Arctic Governance Project will attempt to answer these and other questions. Sponsored by six large North American foundations, the Arctic Governance Project will collect and analyze the views of interested parties on governance options. Resulting conclusions will be communicated to policymakers to aid in the creation of a governance regime that works in this era of rapid change.

The participating foundations are the Kaplan Fund, Oak Foundation, 444S Foundation, Packard Foundation, Gordon Foundation and Wilburforce Foundation. The project will progress in three stages during 2009 and 2010.

Stage one is the creation of an Arctic Governance Compendium which features an electronic searchable collection of applicable governance systems organized by: a.) governance type (e.g. international treaty, regional agreement, national law, local ordinance); b.) subject matter (e.g. fish, shipping, pollution); c.) source (e.g. governments, indigenous organizations, environmental NGOs).

The compendium will explore questions like: Should there be a legally binding governance treaty that covers the whole Arctic? How do multi-level governance systems integrate with each other? How do we incorporate traditional knowledge and modern science into governance? What are the merits between eco-system based management and issue specific management? How do we incorporate non-traditional governance systems such as the Greenland Self Rule, the Finnmark Estate, Canadian Indigenous co-management, and Alaska's regional tribal organizations? How does one go about implementing an Arctic governance regime?

Stage two is a Synthesis Workshop planned for January 2010 where a diverse group of stakeholders will evaluate existing governance systems on their capacity to deliver positive results and consider proposals for new or restructured arrangements where existing systems fail to deliver. The goal of the workshop is to find common ground in identifying critical questions about governance and formulating principles that can guide discussions on the merits of specific proposals.

Stage three is a series of actions to communicate workshop findings to policymakers and interested public through the Arctic Governance Compendium Synthesis Workshop Report, articles in newspapers and journals, and a series of briefings to policymakers.

The project is under the direction of Executive Secretary Else Grete Broderstad, from the Center for Sami Studies at the University of Tromso, Norway. More information is available at www.arcticgovernance.org. \bigcirc

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I am very grateful to ICC for allowing me to participate in this effort. As a RN with a Bachelors degree in Health Administration, I am very interested in promoting health in my region as well as our neighbor regions. I am proud to represent Alaska in our efforts to address and unite in our efforts towards having healthier people. Thank you, ICC Alaska, for allowing me this wonderful experience.



General Assemblies – Celebrating Our Culture By ICC Alaska Staff

Every four years, ICC holds a General Assembly of delegates from across the circumpolar north to elect a new Chair and Executive Council, develop policies and adopt resolutions that guide the organization's activities for the coming four-year term. These General Assemblies are at the heart of the organization, providing opportunities for information sharing and discussion of common concerns throughout the Inuit homeland.

The most recent General Assembly was held in June of 2006 in Barrow, Alaska, where Alaska assumed the ICC Chair. Between General Assemblies, the Chair and an Executive Council representing the four ICC nations oversee the work of the organization. In the summer of 2010, the Chair will rotate to Greenland for the next term.

The General Assembly also provides an opportunity to celebrate a rich cultural heritage and strengthen the cultural bonds between all Inuit. Cultural events and performances provide a much needed break from the serious discussions and an opportunity for the local community to celebrate with fellow Inuit from across the Arctic. O

Cultural performances during the ICC General Assembly held in Iqaluit in 1983. (Photos taken from Inuit Today, Inuit Circumpolar Conference Iqaluit '83 "The Arctic: Our Common Responsibility," Special Edition, February 1984.)



From Canada, the Mackenzie Delta Drummers and Dancers.



From Greenland, the Greenland Naip Dancers.



From Alaska, the Savoonga Comedy Players.

Report from ICC Chair, **Jim Stotts**



Arctic Solidarity

Last month I traveled to Kiruna, Sweden to attend the 20th anniversary of the Swedish Sámi Parliament (Samediggi). I was honored to represent our people at this momentous and happy occasion. Sámi hospitality legendary and they made me feel right at home. Their beautiful

countryside was reminiscent of the landscape upriver from Kotzebue, only with a few more trees that had already started to change to autumn colors. The air was cool, fresh and brisk. Clearly this is a country worth fighting for.



For more information Council, go to: www. saamicouncil.net

During my visit I was struck by how much they are like us. Their belief of living in harmony with nature is identical to ours. Sámi are a generous and peaceful people like we are. They love a good joke like we do and they love their country food just like us. about the Saami I was treated to delicious dinners of arctic char and reindeer roast, topped off with little pastry pies filled with

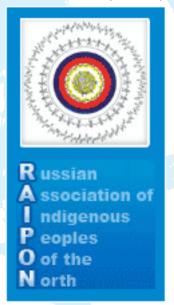
salmonberries and fresh cream. If there's one thing we love it's our great food. Life seems good for the Sámi.

There's another side to Sámi life that's eerily similar to ours. They are faced with many of the same concerns and problems that we are. They are striving for cultural autonomy and self determination like us. They are caught within the borders of four different distinct nations like we are. They have an organization similar to ICC called the Sámi Council. They're negotiating land claims to own, use and control land and natural resources like we are. They have the same issue of encroachment on their territory brought about by resource development made easier by a warming climate. This is a story repeated throughout the indigenous north.

Inuit and Sámi have a relationship that harkens back to the time they brought reindeer to Alaska and taught us how to be herders. There's Sámi blood mixed in with our people from those early days. We have cooperated with the Sámi since the earliest days of ICC. Lars Anders Bauer, a Sámi,

represents ICC and the Sámi Council at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) where he sits on the Arctic-Europe seat. Both organizations are permanent participants to the Arctic Council. The list goes on.

In Kiruna I was surprised find another colleague, Sergey Kharyuchi, President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), who was there to attend the Samediggi opening. ICC has a history of cooperation with RAIPON and Chukotka Inuit are members of both ICC and RAIPON. Their story is similar to ours. Sergey and I talked about an Arctic



For more information about RAIPON, go to: raipon.org

Leaders Summit being hosted by RAIPON next April in Moscow. ICC will be there.

On my last night there I sat with Lars Anders and Sergey, with his ever present interpreter, over dinner to discuss how we would work together for the benefit of our northland. It's good to remember sometimes that we're not all alone in our efforts to make a better life for our own. It's good to know there's solidarity in the Arctic. It's good to have friends.

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



What is the UNFCCC? By ICC Canada Staff

As climate change continues to challenge all of humanity, the consequences for Inuit are immediate and can be felt and seen throughout the Arctic. Climate change isn't something new to Inuit. We have been noticing changes in our environment for decades, and only recently have people started to listen. The media is filled with stories about climate change in the Arctic, but not enough about the people who live there.

POZNAM, Poland 1 – 12 December 2008

COP 14

UNFCCC COP14 – Poznań, Poland. Photo By ICC Canada

The speed of change in the Arctic is unprecedented. These changes are stressing the resilient capacity of Inuit communities to adapt to climate change challenges. A vital role for ICC on behalf of Inuit is to ensure that Inuit perspectives and concern on climate change are incorporated into

national, circumpolar and global decision making. ICC recognizes the ongoing need for Inuit to engage with circumpolar and international processes like the UNFCCC.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has 192 member parties, has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol has 184 member parties to date. Under the Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialized countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, have legally binding limitation and reduction commitments. The ultimate objective of both treaties is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.



UNFCCC COP14 - Poznań, Poland. Photo By ICC Canada

The UNFCCC party members have met every year since 1995 in what is known as the Conference of the Parties (COP). The next COP meeting will be held in Copenhagen Denmark from December 7-18, 2009. This is the 15th COP meeting.

COP meetings are two weeks long; the first week emphasizes technical meetings, while the second week consists of the high-level sessions which world leaders attend to complete the negotiations. There are two types of events at COP – main events and parallel events. Main events are held in a secure area reserved for high-level diplomats and ministers. Parallel events are open to the public. ICC has been working to have more Inuit presence at both events, as was the case at the COP11 meeting in Montreal, at which the government of Canada and Inuit groups organized an "Arctic Day" to raise awareness.

In preparation for COP15, ICC has submitted a side event submission to the UNFCCC titled: "Using Traditional Knowledge in climate change decision making." Our intention with the side event is to have a panel discussion and present findings from several Inuit lead projects. These include our work with the International Polar Year and with select climate scientists to share a common understanding of the changes occurring in a variety of Arctic regions and to develop common strategies and positions on how national governments should respond to the challenge of climate change.

ICC is also planning an Inuit/Arctic Day to help raise more awareness of the importance of climate change and the effects on the Inuit. Watch for the next issue of DRUM for updates on this event. To learn more about COP and the UNFCCC you can go to these websites: www.Cop15.dk and www.unfccc.int.

European Union Bans Seal Products By ICC Alaska Staff

The European Union (EU) joined the United States in banning the importation of seal products on July 27, 2009. The US ban has been in effect since December 21, 1972 under the terms of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The US ban was amended in 1994 to allow the import of marine mammal products for cultural exchanges between Alaska natives and native inhabitants of Russia, Canada and Greenland. Import of marine mammal products for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited. Regulations governing imports for cultural purposes are complicated, cumbersome and often applied inconsistently.



Greenland seal skin products. Photo by ICC Alaska

The EU ban has a so-called Inuit exemption. At this time regulations regarding the Inuit exemption are not developed and it remains to be seen what the exemption really means. The EU recently began the process of discussing the implementation of regulations with Greenland. It remains to be seen if the EU will also discuss the seal products ban with Inuit from Russia, the US and Canada.

The EU ban was passed despite advice from its legal advisors that the ban would go against its own Charter and EU obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO). This raises the question if the US ban is also contrary to its WTO obligations.

The ban has little effect in Alaska where trade in seal products is virtually non-existent. However, the ban will cause great economic harm to Inuit from Canada and Greenland. Hunters sell seal skins as a byproduct of seals caught to feed their families to supplement their income. Inuit spokespersons throughout the circumpolar north have unanimously condemned the seal ban as a direct assault on Inuit culture. Canada and Greenland have already begun to feel the negative effects.



Greenland seal skin products. Photo by ICC Alaska

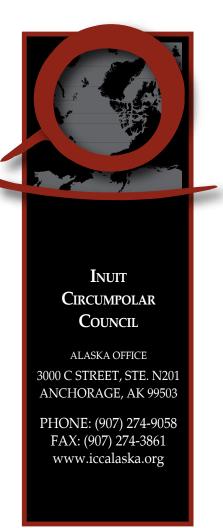


Greenland seal skin products. Photo by ICC Alaska

This is all the more surprising considering the 2008 EU communication, The European Union and the Arctic Region, which states that "hunting marine mammals has been critical for the ... Arctic populations since prehistoric times [and that] EU policies should continue to take all factors into account, seeking an open dialogue with the communities concerned." The EU is currently seeking Ad-hoc Observer status to the Arctic Council. ICC objected to the EU being admitted as an Ad-hoc Observer primarily over their stance on the seal ban.

The Canadian government and Greenland Self Rule have expressed opposition to the ban. The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) calls the ban "a huge step backwards for sustainable development." NAMMCO further states that "this decision raises serious concerns for the future of international cooperation on responsible management and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources in general."

ICC believes the ban was largely driven by extreme animal rights groups that know nothing about Inuit seal hunting. It's not the first time Inuit find themselves being used as pawns in someone else's battle. We will continue following this story in future issues as it evolves.





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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