

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL
11TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
June 28 – July 2, 2010
PROCEEDINGS



Inoqatigiinneq -- Sharing Life

Assembly Honourary Patron:
H. R. H. Frederik, Crown Prince of Denmark

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MONDAY, 28 JUNE 2010

Call to Order

Jim Stotts, Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), called to order the 11th General Assembly held in Nuuk Greenland and formally commenced the event. The Assembly brought together delegates from Russia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland to discuss issues of mutual concern, celebrate Inuit culture and exchange knowledge, reflective of the theme of the 2010 Assembly, *Inoqatigiinneq -- Sharing Life*.



Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm

Opening Prayer

The Opening Prayer was conducted by Sofie Petersen, Bishop of Kalaallit Nunaat.

Host Welcome

Aqqaluk Lynge, ICC Vice-Chair



Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm

In welcoming delegates, Mr. Lynge highlighted the achievements of ICC over the past four years. He made special mention of ICC's voice on the issues of contaminants and sustainable use of wildlife. He declared that the meeting would be an opportunity to look at the next four years and together, find ways to work collaboratively on issues of concern to all Inuit. He also noted there would be a number of political matters to cover over the next several days. Mr. Lynge also recognized that the General Assembly was an opportunity for delegates to come together and celebrate Inuit culture.

Mr. Lynge affirmed "we are here because we care about our children and building a solid foundation for the future" and further acknowledged the theme of the 2010 General Assembly *Inoqatigiinneq -- Sharing Life*.

He also reminded delegates that it was thirty years ago since the memorable ICC Charter had been signed in Nuuk, which in turn followed the first ever Inuit circumpolar assembly in Barrow, Alaska three years before that. He recognized the fitting nature of celebrating 30 years of ICC solidarity in Nuuk once again. He also joked that the ICC Charter had been signed back "when my hair wasn't so grey".

Welcoming remarks

Jim Stotts, ICC Chair

In his welcoming remarks Mr. Stotts also recognized the historic 30 year anniversary of the signing of the ICC Charter in Nuuk. He acknowledged that it was a challenge to be an Inuit leader today and went on to thank various distinguished leaders for their commitment. Mr. Stotts thanked the current ICC executive council members "for their solid support" over the period he served as ICC Chair. He then requested that the General Assembly honour the first council members, asking those present to stand and be recognized, Mary Simon and John Amagoalik from Canada, Aqqaluk Lynge and Hans Pavia Rosing from Greenland and Jim Stotts from Alaska. The other first council members were Oscar Kawagley from Alaska who was unable to attend the assembly and



Lars Chemnitz of Greenland who had since passed away. Many of those present had been witness to the life of ICC over the past three decades.

Asii Chemnitz Narup, Mayor of Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq



Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm

Host Mayor Asii C. Narup followed Mr. Stotts with welcoming remarks of her own. She told delegates that it was through ICC that the Inuit had acquired strength and clout across the Arctic. She went on to sketch out the challenges confronting her municipality, whose borders had recently been expanded, along with a Greenland-wide municipal reform. As such, it now, stretches, she said, from one side of Greenland to the other. She pointed out the unequal conditions between the eastern part of her municipality, which includes eastern Greenland, as well as the former capital of Nuuk. She noted that East Greenlanders were determined, however, to achieve and had taken on the task of achieving a high level sustainable economic independence.

Ms. Narup spoke of the Inuit way of life being based on the knowledge that everything was interconnected. She took a particular focus on climate change and how it was a very real and significant challenge facing Inuit today and into the future. She spoke of the Inuit's adaptability and how, for many generations, they have managed to live and survive in the Arctic. However today, significant threats outside of Inuit control were posing new and considerable challenges that would impact their communities and require further adaptation.

This led to Ms. Narup to address one of the greatest concerns, that of pollution. Pollutants from around the world were of great concern and more importantly, how they were ending up in the Arctic environment and inevitably impacting Inuit negatively.

She went on to state that it was essential to have a process of change to ensure Greenland's social prosperity, and more importantly, that it must be sustainable. She addressed the rising concern of oil and gas exploration as follows: "we expect attempts to find oil and minerals will be successful. The political challenge for Inuit will be to ensure that the mineral resources contribute to freedom and independence, while at the same time respecting the balance of nature."

She stated that across the circumpolar region Inuit share a common past, a common future and common challenges. She continued by saying that all Inuit societies have felt negative human costs of acculturation. Over the past 25 years, taboos have been broken and now efforts are under way to mend them.

In close, Ms. Narup proposed that there should be a future pan-Inuit mayoral network and discussed the current approach they have on children's rights through the use of an advisory board.

Welcoming speech

Kuupik Kleist, Premier, Kalaallit Nunaat



Premier Kleist began his speech by highlighting some of ICC's significant achievements. This included various noteworthy human rights advances for indigenous peoples through the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. He went on to speak more specifically on the right to self-determination, right to defend identity, language and culture and the right to exploit our natural resources.

The Premier also detailed the latest developments relevant to self government. He added that any expansion of self-determination for Greenland, and eventual secession, illustrated the need to develop their economy. He approached the decision by Greenland's government to approve two offshore drilling licenses. Premier Kleist stated the government was aware of the sensitivities surrounding this decision, particularly in light of the Gulf of Mexico disaster. However, he went on to state that the decision was based on requirements for very strict safety precautions. The Premier affirmed these were "decisive moments in which we live and we will be making decisions which are not necessarily shared, but we would want to respect the self-determination of each of us".

Premier Kleist spoke of Greenland's expectations for the future and reaffirmed his hopes for an agreement to work towards developing maximum standards in oil and mineral exploitation in the Arctic. He clarified that this would include appropriate technologies when and if pollution occurred. He also affirmed that profits should be shared with the whole of society.

Premier Kleist stated that the Greenland Government was hopeful that it could work collaboratively with ICC, stating that he looked forward to seeing the agreed upon pan-Inuit agenda which will be implemented over the next four years.

Opening remarks

Lars Møller, Ambassador and Chair of Arctic Council, Government of Denmark

Mr. Møller spoke of the risks of oil pollution as important and pressing issues for the Arctic region. He stated that the Arctic was fast becoming the new frontier and recognized that it was imperative to have proper regulations in place.

Mr. Møller affirmed that the Arctic Council should be the preeminent forum for co-operation in the Arctic, which has a population of 4 million.

**Dr. Kerri Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary of State
Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs, USA**

Dr. Kerri Ann Jones stated that for the US, the Arctic remains a region of co-operation not conflict. She pointed out that the changes taking place in the region offer opportunities to strengthen that spirit of co-operation.

She highlighted the work on improved Search and Rescue procedures and the work with International Maritime Organization on a mandatory Arctic shipping code as examples of co-operation.

She went on to outline President Obama's directive to involve indigenous peoples in issues that affect them as an important initiative of the current administration. She continued by recognizing the cross-cutting nature of Arctic issues including political, economic, health and wellbeing, and environmental among others.

**Harald Finkler, Director of Circumpolar Liaison Directorate, Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada**

Mr. Finkler highlighted the ongoing partnership with ICC as consistent with the Canadian Government's Northern Strategy and acknowledged the significant work carried out by ICC in the Arctic Council. He focused specifically on ICC's work and achievements concerning Arctic languages and health. Overall, the presentation was a tour d'horizon of the government's collaboration with ICC in which Mr. Finkler recognized and congratulated ICC for their achievements.

Alexey Rogov, Minister-Counselor, Russian Embassy, Denmark

Alexey Rogov stated that the Government of Russia, together with the Association of the Indigenous People of the North, Siberia and Far East RAIPON, developed and adopted a concept of sustainable development of the indigenous people of Russia which absorbed the best international practices and related regulatory materials. The main objectives of this concept, which will be implemented in Russia from now until 2025, is the preservation of the cultural heritage, development, and modernization of traditional hand crafts, self-promoting and self-governance, improving access to education, and, most importantly, reducing child mortality, an overall significant improvement of the quality of life. He also noted that the Russian experts agree that the climate change in the Arctic region will have the greatest impact on reindeer herding, agriculture, water resource balance and health

Throughout Mr. Rogov's presentation, he congratulated ICC for 30 years of success and collaboration, and recognized the importance of having ICC represent Inuit interests.

Eva Aariak, Premier, Nunavut

Premier Aariak affirmed that community development and wellbeing was Nunavut's priority. She also stated that economic development was highly important; however, she also recognized that livelihoods had to be sustainable, taking into consideration the environment and the animals. She affirmed that in responding to climate change, mechanisms had to be developed.

She further spoke of the importance of protecting Inuktitut while at the same time recognizing and honoring the differences in dialects. The Premier continued by stating the Nunavut Government was making efforts to encourage education, and explained that children had to be educated in two or more languages (English, French or Inuktitut). Moreover, she acknowledged that it was crucial to have enough teachers, as currently, fifty-two per cent of Nunavut's youth were under the age of twenty-four.

On the issue of governance, she stated that it was important to have a northern voice and acknowledged that since 2007 the Canadian Federal Government had become more inclusive. She also spoke of the importance of stressing Inuit concerns internationally and identified that ICC was playing a very important role in the Arctic Council.

Overall, the Premier recognized that in order for the north to achieve the same quality of life enjoyed in the south, significant work remained to be done.



Photo courtesy: Harald Finkler

Premier Aariak also spoke of mapping projects in Nunavut. These projects had shown that Nunavut had an abundance of resources. However, she stated that the decision to exploit these resources still rested with the Federal Government, despite the fact that Nunavummiut were in a much better position to determine where and how such resources should be used.

Finally, she addressed self-determination as a means of Inuit regaining self-reliance. However, she warned that in the new era it will have to take on a new form.

Valentina Keulkut, Chukotka Government

Ms. Keulkut began her speech detailing that currently there are twenty-one different indigenous groups living in Chukotka, of which nine per cent are Inuit. She further explained how the Chukotkan Government was taking a strategic aim at preserving traditional economies with a five year plan (2010-2015) focused on developing and supporting a sustainable economy. She also pointed out that 2011 will mark the 10th anniversary of the Memorandum that had been developed between the government and the indigenous peoples of Chukotka.

Carl Weisner, Vice President, Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly, Alaska

Mr. Weisner took the opportunity to explain how the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly has been working to take over the management of the affairs that affect Inuit's well being. He went on to illustrate this with an example of the North West Arctic Leadership Team, which had proved to be an effective way in pursuing their goals. He also spoke of appropriate mining and resource extraction activities, as exemplified by the Red Dog Mine. Mr. Weisner stated that such activities were bringing real benefits to the community, for instance, the community was able to invest in the development of seven new schools.

Mr. Weisner also reflected back to the initial aims of ICC and how the General Assembly provided the opportunity for Inuit from all regions to come together and share experiences, celebrate community and establish collaborative means to protect the environment, all of which were still very relevant goals for ICC to mandate.

Joe Linklater, Chief, Gwich'in Council International, Canada

Chief Linklater acknowledged the lead that ICC had taken on indigenous rights for Arctic peoples. He asserted that it was essential that Gwich'in and Inuit work together to protect the environment and recognized the need for Arctic indigenous peoples to act collectively in advocating for sustainable use of resources. He stated that there were common issues impacting both Inuit and Gwich'in communities, two of the most pressing being climate change and Arctic contaminants. Chief Linklater warned that the process to influence policy change would be slow. However, Inuit and Gwich'in should not be deterred by such policy challenges but rather find ways to work collaboratively.

He also spoke of that challenge facing the Arctic due to climate change and accelerated melting of the sea ice. He stated that the opening up of the Arctic was bringing new challenges for indigenous peoples. This was another reason to advocate for a collective approach in order to confront such challenges united. He raised the point that "a lot of multi-nationals will come to get a quick profit and then leave us to clean up the environment and the socio-economic mess left behind."

Chief Linklater spoke of the importance of culture. He pointed out that culture must be acknowledged by governments and furthermore, protected by indigenous peoples. He closed his speech advocating for culture and education, and urged ICC to endorse the Munich Declaration on children's education.

**Lars Anders Baer, Arctic and Europe Seat
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Saami Council, Sweden**

Mr. Anders Baer, representative of the UNPFII, focused on the issues surrounding indigenous peoples' human rights. He detailed the importance of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and congratulated ICC for their enduring effort and their key role in getting the Declaration endorsed.

Chair's Report

Jim Stotts, ICC Chair

Mr. Stotts urged attendees to familiarize themselves with ICC's activities report 2006 – 2010, stating it gives a very good overview of ICC's achievements since the Barrow Assembly. He stated that there had been many highlights over the course of this period. Various climate change initiatives were implemented, including the Global Indigenous Summit on Climate Change held in Alaska in April 2009, the ICC Call to Action, released during COP 15 and Sila-Inuk, an ICC Greenland-based research project.

Mr. Stott's spoke of the effort ICC had devoted to the management of food resources. This was particularly noteworthy as they battled against governments, animal rights groups and international organizations to affirm their rights to hunt and gather traditional food sources.

He also highlighted the health and wellbeing initiatives that had been undertaken by ICC in response to the Uqiaġvik Declaration and lastly, he recognized the work on indigenous languages and traditional knowledge, most notably through the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium in 2008, for which ICC took the lead role.

He went on to highlight a major achievement in the area of human rights through the adoption of the Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2009 after 24 years of negotiations. ICC's turn in the Arctic/Europe seat at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will begin again in 2011, giving Inuit the opportunity to bring a unified indigenous voice to the table.



Photo courtesy: Harald Finkler

Unfortunately, one of the directives from the Barrow Assembly that has not advanced is that related to the state of Inuit rights and self-determination, regrettably due to a lack of resources. However, on a happier note, he congratulated Greenland for their successful referendum which has led to strong self government for the people of Greenland.

Contaminants in the Arctic are of great concern. Mr. Stott's stated that this has been a priority area for ICC for over a decade. As such, ICC continues to work with member states on the ratification of the Stockholm Convention with ICC Canada taking the lead.

Achievements in work related to biodiversity initiatives have been significant. Violet Ford has been very active on behalf of ICC, participating in the meetings and negotiations relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the proposed international regime on access and benefit sharing.

In regards to Arctic Sovereignty, the Oceans 5 meeting in May 2008 and subsequent Ilulissat Declaration warrants attention. This meeting, which consisted of the Heads of Arctic States and the Declaration that ensued, blatantly ignored Inuit rights that had been gained through international law, land claims agreements and self-government processes.

In response, Inuit leaders gathered to discuss their stance on Arctic sovereignty. At the Inuit Leaders Summit in November 2008 leaders came together and developed the pan-Inuit statement on sovereignty. This statement, developed through six months of consultation with Inuit leaders, resulted in ICC adopting the Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic on April 28, 2009.

Mr. Stott's reiterated that these achievements have been realized over the last four years reminding attendees that thirty years ago, the situation was different. Thirty years ago there had been no Arctic Council, no Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, no ICC NGO status, no diamond mines, no uranium mines, no offshore drilling and very little concern for climate change. At that time, the three biggest concerns had been resource development and its effect on our clean environment, the right to self determination and the quality of life for Inuit people.

Fast forward 30 years to the new Arctic.

The Greenland government has matured into a responsible institution which is often held up as perhaps the best model of successful indigenous self-determination in the world. In Canada, all Inuit regions have settled their land and self government claims.

In Alaska, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, now nearly 40 years old has produced mixed results. The Prudhoe Bay oil boom is on the decline and many believe that the only way to keep it going is to access oil from the ocean. In Chukotka, rights to land and self determination still have a ways to go.

ICC's three concerns today are still resource development and a clean environment, the right to self determination and a high quality of life for Inuit people.

However, as Mr. Stott's outlined, other events have had a significant impact on ICC's work over the past 30 years. One such event was obtaining NGO status at the United Nations. Another was the creation of the Arctic Council which has served as the single most important forum for ICC today. Lastly, one of the most significant and pressing events on Inuit has been global climate change and the array of associated challenges associated with it.

In addition, Mr. Stott's spoke of an Arctic that is today in the middle of a major debate. On one side of the debate, there would be no resource activities, a moratorium on development and all animals would find themselves on the endangered species list. However on the other side of the debate one can find those that can hardly wait to start developing resources.

However, both sides forget that there are people living in the Arctic with ideas of their own on what to do and how to proceed.

The single most significant event has been the evolution of our Inuit organizations and the development of strong Inuit leadership. ICC has done its part over the past 3 decades, but increasingly it will be the regional and national organizations that will be responsible for success of Inuit in the new Arctic.

The next 30 years will be much more intense and even more challenging than the last 30 years have been. However, Inuit are better prepared to manage these times than we were 30 years ago.

This leads to the question, as posed by Mr. Stotts, what can Inuit expect in the new Arctic? In sum, more of the same but with greater speed and intensity, increasing resource development and hopefully, development that's balanced, safe and environmentally sound.

In close, Mr. Stott's stated that Inuit must benefit from any resource development in their territories and warned that development without benefit is a form of colonialism. The BP oil spill raises serious concerns. He stated that Inuit should sit down and talk amongst themselves, affirming the importance of sharing information and staying informed between regions.

28 June 2010: Political Developments

Chaired by Jim Stotts

Session 1: Political Developments

Speaker: Reggie Joule (in place of Edward Itta, ICC Vice-Chair, Alaska)

Mr. Joule began his speech asserting that the Inuit are a people of their environment; a people of land, sky and water. He stated that Inuit must take responsibility for themselves and the teaching of their ways to their children. In doing so, it will ensure that, as we move forward, Inuit will set the example that our children will follow; that of being able to walk two worlds with one spirit.

Mr. Joule spoke of being a provider and how we are all interconnected. He said being a provider is how one is responsible and respectful in those acts of providing. Unfortunately, being an Inuit in Alaska continues to be a challenge in this day and age. Currently the State of Alaska declares everyone should have equal access and that indigenous peoples shall not receive any special privileges.

Although Inuit are trying to influence the Alaskan government, Inuit find themselves turning to the Federal Government. This is purely due to the fact that we find better support from them than the State Government.

Mr. Joule affirmed that the Arctic does have resources but the Gulf of Mexico accident is a daily reminder of the catastrophe that could occur in Arctic waters. Inuit are well aware of how close Alaska came to experiencing drilling on the outer continental shelf. When President Obama put a halt to that drilling, most Inuit were relieved. It is apparent that self regulation is not working.

Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm



However, there are some examples of successful development. Oil and gas developments on land in Prudhoe Bay, mineral development such as the Red Dog Mine and commercial fishing along the coast have had their benefits. These activities can happen in meaningful ways when input is granted to local people. It allows that people can help embrace those changes and developments as they come our way. We must not be shut out of those processes. Moreover, he further explained that development and protection can coexist and work very well.

In the area of governance, Mr. Joule spoke more about the current situation in Alaska. He explained that, in the State, there are varying classes of cities and boroughs. He mentioned that a few years ago, the federal government recognized the existence of 231 tribes in Alaska, however, the state has not yet recognized them.

In sum, the relationship continues to be awkward and strained. As it stands now, these tribes are landless.

He further went on to discuss education and its influence on Inuit's quality of life. Furthermore, in regards to Inuit health, there must be focus on mental, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being, with Inuit taking responsibility and leadership in such things.

Mr. Joule closed with the statement "we have this relationship where two thirds of who we are is held at an arm's length and one third of who we are is kept tucked pretty close. I call that a frigid embrace."

Speaker: Mary Simon, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Canada

Mary Simon began by stating that ICC serves as a reminder to Inuit and those who follow our politics that the circumpolar regions are quite unique in this world. Inuit bonds have always reached across enormous distances and changing jurisdictional boundaries to unite Inuit. ICC provides Inuit with an opportunity to talk about our vision as a people and also to think of what our future is going to look like.

Ms. Simon continued, recognizing that since the last time ICC and Inuit leaders met, ICC has been at the forefront of various issues. For instance, ICC played a pivotal role leading to DRIP. On the issue of sovereignty, in 2009 ICC authored a circumpolar declaration on sovereignty in the Arctic. She went on to explain that sovereignty must be balanced against the rights of Inuit to self-determination.

The past few years we have seen some hopeful policy shifts by our federal government. For instance in June 2008 we were witness to the apology to Aboriginal Canadians victimized at residential schools. Additionally in 2010, there was another shift in the Speech from the Throne, which signaled a commitment by the Canadian Government to endorse the Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Mary Simon continued to speak of important events affecting Inuit. She acknowledged that Inuit have received support from the government and the Governor General on defending their right to harvest wildlife. Inuit have also witnessed an unprecedented level of attention given to the Arctic by the Canadian government. For the first time an Inuk has been appointed a minister in Cabinet. Additionally, a new Northern Economic Development Agenda has been established and headquartered in Iqaluit, which guarantees a strong and exclusive role for Inuit in the environmental assessment of development proposals.

However, Ms. Simon went on to state that Land Claims Agreement, once in place, will not solve all problems. The Agreements must be interpreted and put into practice, and in many cases, there are challenges on the implementation side.

Ms Simon further urged Inuit to direct their attention and expertise to the issue of perhaps the greatest challenge: the need to improve the well-being of families. She stated that it is very troubling to think that Canadian Inuit, living in one of the most prosperous countries in the world, experience

socioeconomic conditions that approximate countries of the developing world. For instance, currently seventy-five per cent of children are not completing high school.

The time has come for Inuit to join in improving their health and well-being. Inuit have survived by sharing their knowledge, expertise and technologies. The duty now falls on Inuit. As leaders, our purpose is to insure that Inuit children are healthier, better educated and more equipped to face the challenge of the 21st century. Ms. Simon recognized that the strength of ICC has always been the manner in which they work collectively on issues of shared concern, as opposed to working in isolation.

ICC can be an international advocate for change. Ms. Simon stated that she would be calling upon ICC to support a resolution that brings to the forefront the need for concerted action by governments and Inuit to improve health and educational outcomes. Secondly, she advocated that ICC can be a strong voice in facilitating research that is directed at improving Inuit health and education indicators. She went on to state that Inuit must actively facilitate the transfer of knowledge by building on knowledge networks. She believed that ICC could facilitate the development of these networks. She explained the need this shared body of information as a way to bring attention to the critical health and education issues and to equip governments with the knowledge in order to promote a change in such conditions.

She urged for an era dedicated to ensuring that Inuit children enjoy better health and better education than any generation prior.

She concluded her speech, stating that it was her hope that the 2014 assembly will reflect upon 2010 and at the week of events in Nuuk as the beginning of a renewed emphasis and effort towards positive social change for Inuit. In close, she emphasized the need to look at the health and education of Inuit as a measure of the entire country's well being.

Speaker: Tatiana Achirgina, ICC Vice Chair, Chukotka

Ms. Achirgina began her speech identifying that Russia had 12 delegates in attendance, representing eight Inuit communities. She began her discussion, stating the last few years have been difficult. Inuit in Russia have also been witness to problems associated with a changing global climate. She also spoke of the financial economic crisis worldwide and the impact it has taken on rural and indigenous communities. In Russia, she explained, it tested the social and economic system of the Governments and their ability to respond to the serious challenges. More specifically, in Chukotka the government has attempted to implement crisis measures and provide the population with the social guarantees.

Under these conditions, ICC tries to increase its profile in shaping policies and in providing assistance to the local and regional governments. Ms. Achirgina elucidated that ICC is looked upon by the government of Chukotka as a dignified association and, as such, receive all kinds of support.

She further drew upon some economic development examples in Chukotka, which has included the involvement of a Canadian company. The company has worked towards organizing a charity fund, which aims to finance various projects and is currently valued at a quarter million dollars. She explained that this has been their first experience in dealing with the private sector in the region.

Ms. Achirgina also spoke of Modern Hunters Association, established in 2009. She stated that the new union has had a very good rapport with the Chukotka regional government and, hence, receives some funding support. Additionally, marine hunters have been supported with special clothing and other items to sustain them such as warehouses, boats, small power plants, radio stations, engines for the boats, ammunition. Moreover, the marine observers' school was established.



Photo courtesy: ITK

Inuit in Chukotka are now making new steps towards liberalizing the local government and strengthening aboriginal self government. In the last two years, there was a focus on strengthening the work related to community and family land use. There have been small steps towards free enterprise economy and ICC has been an active participant in this democratic process. In the ICC Chukotka office, everyone works on a volunteer basis. We have also recognized the importance of

having youth involved and as such, have set up a youth organization.

However, Inuit are concerned about things in Chukotka. The controversial decision by the government to implement rural settlements policies within the boundaries of the district centers have been of great concern. Furthermore, there is apprehension that the mayors may not have enough time or money to do enough for these rural settlements.

What's more, the Legislative Assembly and the state Douma of the Russian Federation, adopted a very unfortunate law on hunting last year. Basically, the Russian Government adopted a decision that one must pay for hunting grounds. However, indigenous people in Chukotka do not have the financial means as others do within the country. Therefore it is quite possible that those with money will become the owners of those lands that indigenous peoples have used historically.

Moreover, there is also concern about a decision by the Russian government to suspend subsidies from the federal government to sea hunting. ICC Chukotka has sent a letter of protest to the chairman of government, Mr. Putin. Ms. Achirgina illustrated her concern for the indigenous peoples in Chukotka, stating, “There are not that many of us, sometimes we feel quite unprotected. We sometimes feel the pressures of the larger peoples and the world.”

In close Ms. Achirgina urged ICC to include assistance aimed at strengthening ties among Inuit at the community level, at the village to village level. She drew upon the fact that Inuit had gathered to talk about sharing life, sharing experiences, sharing to enrich our lives. She advocated that ICC continue to do so.

She closed, with the statement “These memories are not as many as you have but we want to thank you for everything that you are doing for us.”

Speaker: Josef Motzfeldt, Greenland Parliament

Mr. Motzfeldt began his discussion focusing on the election of 2 June 2009. He recognized that it was a special and significant moment for Greenland due to the landslide victory of the Inuit Party, which changed the country's political landscape. With the act on Greenland self government in 2009, the people of Greenland finally achieved the ownership of the subsoil.

Mr. Motzfeldt went on to give a detailed explanation of the self-government agreement between Greenland and Denmark.



Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm

He explained that, alongside the changes in political status, changes in climatic conditions had also attracted much attention from around the world. The climate changes have long been known in Greenland and were likely observed by Greenlanders well before the international world began to focus on this area.

Mr. Motzfeldt, like many others, also voiced his concerns about climate change. He stated that such changes have made the living conditions for the traditional hunting society very difficult. This was in addition to the new challenges faced due the European Union's ban on seal skin.

He further recognized that climate change has no borders stating “research shows the need for major studies across national borders if we are to understand the climate system” and find ways

to collaboratively address those challenges. He mentioned that Canada is building a major new climate research center and has partnered with the climate research center in Nuuk.

He acknowledged that both the EU and the US have put a political focus on the Arctic. He further stated that new policies are being developed concerning the Arctic region, even from countries that traditionally have not had the Arctic as a policy area.

Mr. Motzfeldt also addressed The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples stating that it should not have been necessary to have a separate declaration for indigenous peoples as the UN Charter affirms faith in fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person and so on.

Lastly, he stated that Inuit are also experiencing the very unfortunate decision by the EU to put a ban on trade in seal skin, although it does except the Inuit fur trade. He closed stating that such It is a decision that has consequences for Greenland at the same time as the EU is stepping up its interests in the Arctic.

29 June 2010: Economic Development and Environment

Chaired by Aqqaluk Lynge

Session 2: Economic development

Keynote Speaker: Marie Greene, President, NANA Regional Corporation, Alaska

Marie Greene opened her speech stating that subsistence resources are at the basis of Inuit existence. Using their cultural resources, art stories and dance is vital to strengthen and guide the next generation. She stated that it is critical to develop the economies of villages so that people do not have to choose between feeding their families and staying in their ancestral home. She spoke of responsible resource development as a means to an end and furthermore, that responsible resource development requires constant vigilance.

Ms. Greene turned her attention to the UNPFII and stated that its focus this year had been on the management of natural resources. She noted that development projects must be the results of having obtained the free, prior, informed consent of global people and that indigenous development must be based on environmental and cultural sustainability that safeguards the need of future generations.

She stated that NANA supports the recommendations of Aqqaluk that UNECOSOC allocate funding for a summit on resource development decision making by indigenous peoples. She noted that “We know the importance of holding the scales as we balance our traditional way of life with responsible resource development”.

Ms. Greene acknowledged that NANA has been blessed to have leadership that brought Inupiaq values to the table when developing the Red Dog nickel mine. However, the path to develop Red

Dog was not easy. Going down the road to development, NANA and Cominco worked hard to ensure consultation with key stakeholders was thorough. Consulting Inupiaq people was the single most important step in the process in order to have a unified decision to move forward. She noted that the process took ten years prior to development but it was worth the wait. Ms. Greene noted that the Inupiaq now have a mine that allows for the maintenance of traditional livelihoods while allowing for the participation in the modern American economy. She further explained that, there is continued consultation with Inupiaq people.

Ms. Greene went on to state that in the region, Inupiaq are being pulled by the politics of global warming, development and conservation. NGOs and people from all sides of the political spectrum are coming to the region with a similar message; Outsiders believe that they know what is best for the region and the Inupiaq people that live there.

Ms. Greene noted her concern that the environmental and conservation groups are working to create a political and economic environment where Inupiaq must turn to them for permission, approval or partnership. An environment in which they insist that Inupiaq need to be protected from themselves and the concern is that they may divide the Inupiaq people. She urged Inuit to remember that they are all tied together by a common bond and that Inuit must work together. She stated that, in working together, we will remind the rest of the world of our strength, resilience and adaptability. Furthermore, she noted that Inuit must act to remind the rest of the world that they are original environmentalists and resource developers. Together, Inuit must determine how to use the land to benefit the people and to protect their subsistence resources and cultures.

Speaker: Chris Krentz, North Pacific Project Manager, Communications Arctic Commercial Fishing

Mr. Krentz acknowledged that there is much to be learned from listening and more to be lost from ignoring the wisdom of the Inuit. He noted that the Inuit, having lived in harmony as a part of the Arctic ecosystems, have the knowledge to help the world find its way in the Arctic and elsewhere

He stated that the US Arctic Fisheries Management Plan (US Arctic FMP) was a proactive effort to address important management issues, and highlighted that commercial fishing would likely expand into the US Arctic Ocean where it had not occurred previously. He further explained that the FMP provides a precautionary science based ecosystem approach to management. He also noted that, in regards to commercial fishing the FMP has initially closed offshore waters of the US Arctic Ocean.

Mr. Krentz further spoke of Arctic ecosystems having traits that make them particularly susceptible to disruption and over-exploitation. Most of the Arctic's top predators are long lived species with low reproductive rates and, as a result, impacts to one species will cascade through the ecosystem with potentially devastating effects. One of the impacts of Arctic change is the dramatic loss of sea ice which opens the Arctic to fishing. This brings the potential of economic opportunities as well as potential impacts to the ecosystem's health. Industrial fishing could impact Arctic marine ecosystems in several ways. Some types of fishing like bottom trawling are

destructive. It reduces the complexity, productivity and biodiversity of the ecosystem. It could remove large amounts of productivity from a region. Commercial fishing is also often dirty and includes by-catches composed of fish alien to the locality.

Mr. Krentz went on to further discuss the FMP, stating there were three key aspects. First, it was proactive. Local people, fishing industry and conservationists all recognize the potential for unregulated commercial fishing to merge in the Arctic. They addressed the issue before it could disrupt the ecosystem recognizing that fixing a problem is more painful than getting it right from the start.

Second, the FMP process succeeded because it was supported by the local communities which expanded outwards, or rather, took a bottom-up approach. Local support increased confidence of regional, state and federal policy organizations until the US Congress and Bush adopted FMP.

Third, the FMP succeeded because it was neither a green light nor a red light. Instead, it offered a pathway to help insure commercial fishing does no harm. The region has been closed because not enough is known about fish populations or the role they play in Arctic ecosystems. This is a precautionary, science based ecosystem approach to management. It establishes a pathway to sustainable use in the Arctic. He noted that last October eight nations met to discuss fisheries management and ICC was included to provide indigenous perspectives.

He explained that the FMP covers the US Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea marine ecosystems. These are shared seas with Canada and Russia. He posed the question whether there was interest in building conservation measures in the Canadian Beaufort and Chukchi seas. More importantly, he mentioned that sustainable living is the question at hand and again noted the precautionary approach.

In sum, the FMP is an attempt to learn from knowledge that the Inuit have understood for thousands of years.

Speaker: William Barbour, Minister for Lands and Natural Resources. Nunatsiavut Government

Mr. Barbour introduced his presentation with an overview of Nunatsiavut's strategic plan. He explained that the plan is based on striking a balance between protecting the environment and creating an economic climate that insures long-term economic growth and stability.

Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm



He spoke of the ban that Nunatsiavut has placed on the mining of uranium in April 2008. He stated that it was important to have the time to develop the necessary regulatory and administrative capacity to deal with proposals such as uranium development on Labrador Inuit lands. He mentioned that the decision will be revisited sometime after March 31 2011; however, it takes patience when it comes to major developments such as a uranium mine in our land. He noted that the

decision to impose the ban has not made us very popular with the mining industry. Nevertheless mineral exploration companies still continue to do business within Labrador Inuit land and confirmed that there is support for mineral exploration. He drew on the example of Voysey's Bay Nickel, which has provided many benefits for the people and communities of Nunatsiavut. He further explained the employment objective, noting that initially there was a 25 per cent minimum employment rate for Inuit of Nunatsiavut, but stated that today 40 per cent of the workforce is Inuit. He closed, stating that investment through partnership is the way of the future to ensure social economic growth and stability.

Speaker: Henry Huntington, Pew Environmental Group, Marine Shipping in the Arctic

Mr. Huntington stated that shipping is already happening in the Arctic. Minerals are being developed, as is tourism, fisheries and oil and gas exploration. Coastal communities are resupplied during summer and scientists are busy on ships he continued.

Mr. Huntington stated that the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment has been the most definitive work on the subject to date. He made special mention of ICC Canada's report, *"The Sea Ice is our Highway"* as a central part of the chapter on human dimensions of Arctic marine shipping. He drew special attention to the recommendation to carry out such a study across the Inuit world and perhaps all around the Arctic and determine how people are using the marine environment.

AMSA establishes a baseline for monitoring shipping in the Arctic. Balance is the key to shipping. A cruise ship with 1,000 passengers is a disaster waiting to happen since there are few places in the Arctic that could rescue that many people from a sinking ship.

Mr. Huntington spoke of the seventeen recommendations coming from AMSA and recognized that Inuit can play a major role. They can do so by encouraging governments to fulfill the AMSA recommendations and through working closely with international organizations. He spoke more specifically of additional recommendations such as the need to develop communication strategies so that Arctic communities are advised and better prepared when ships visit their coastlines and communities.

Furthermore, he stated that Inuit should decide how they want to be informed about shipping and work with industry and governments to set up a system that works for them. Environmental protection is also essential. In close, he stated that the lessons learned from past developments confirm that one must plan in order to make the most of an opportunity.

Speaker: Jens Frederiksen, Minister for Infrastructure, Greenland Government

Mr. Frederiksen spoke of sustainable economic development in the Arctic and its associated challenges. He stated that one of the challenges facing Arctic communities was the construction and maintenance of reliable infrastructure.

He also spoke of making energy efficiency profitable as a major issue. He stated that it is possible to make progress through reducing one's own consumption and eco-saving and

acknowledged that we all have common but differentiated responsibilities. This led to the topic of climate change and how it is creating new opportunities for transport routes through the Northwest Passage and energy exploration at sea.

He recognized that Greenland is unique as its infrastructure is island based with towns connected only by plane or ship. This led Mr. Frederiksen to speak of the issue of supply and cargo delivery, in addition to passenger transport and energy supply. As with many Arctic communities, transport is one of the big challenges facing Greenland. As such, Greenland has a special interest in technological and infrastructural development to support capacity building and knowledge exchange.

Speaker: Floyd Roland, Premier, North West Territories, Canada

Premier Roland identified that there is much commonality between ICC and the territorial governments in how they view their place in the north. However, there is a sense of urgency to the situation. Northerners are facing challenges of global proportions and global challenges require the collective effort of a global community to address them collectively. Therefore, Premier Roland recognized the importance of ICC in continuing to hold meetings that bring Inuit together, providing a forum to listen and share firsthand accounts.

Session 3: Environment

Keynote speaker: Dr. Minik Rosing, Professor, Geological Museum, University of Copenhagen

Dr. Rosing opened the session on the environment, with the statement “The environment provides our commodities and inspires our poetry and literature, it supports all the arts, and it is a great value to us all.”

He spoke of when Rasmussen heard the stories from the igloos and tents from the Arctic. He stated that Rasmussen was hearing ancient stories, but that they were also stories about the people who told them and changed them according to their own observations. He stated that today, there is a new story building; a story about the earth and its fundamental role in our survival. He noted that much of the knowledge on how the planet works has come from the Arctic and the people of the region. He stated that this knowledge has been instrumental in better understanding our planet.

Dr. Rosing explained that Nuuk has been built on rocks that are 3.8 million years old. He stated that in east Greenland, one can find some of the oldest remains of the first animals ever to come onto land. That is to say, the Arctic is not only a story about the Arctic but a story on how everything in the world came about. It is important that Greenlanders start telling such stories to other parts of the world.

Dr. Rosing then turned his attention to climate change. He stated that the first time the world realized that there was something wrong it was in the Arctic. He said that the ice cap has acted as an archive of how the climate has changed.

He also noted that there are problems in getting an Arctic voice out to the world. He said that, in the previous year forty environment ministers visited the ice to discuss how they should fight the change within the atmosphere.

In their discussion, they called in a local hunter who told them of the melting sea ice and changing permafrost. He explained to the Ministers that the sun had actually returned, after winter darkness, one day earlier than in previous years. However, none of them confronted his testimony. Instead, they swallowed it and politely said yes, good, but all his testimony was discredited in their eyes as this contradicted the laws of astronomy. However, if they had queried him, they would have found merit in his knowledge. They would have discovered that in fact, the ice had melted so much that the sun was appearing over the mound that earlier, had blocked its light. Hence, what the hunter had stated was correct, only that it was stated in terms that were not understood by the visiting Ministers.

Speaker: Violet Ford, Vice-President, ICC Canada

Speaking on biodiversity, Violet Ford recognized that the Inuit's way of life is dependent on the biological diversity that Inuit have managed for millennium. She spoke of colonization and imposed western structures having interfered with traditional structures in environmental management. She continued, stating that various high level nongovernmental organizations have influenced the international environmental governance and imposed their own values and beliefs and affected the international framework. Ms. Ford drew on the example of the IWC's insistence on a worldwide ban on whaling. Due to a lack of participation of Inuit in 1977, an outright ban of bowhead hunting came into place. Inuit were subsequently able to rescue this with a fixed aboriginal quota. Developments of this type were without consideration of Inuit rights and it affected access to the resources which we have depended on for centuries.

These impacts triggered a powerful and forceful response by Inuit and political change came about. State practice within Arctic regions has been progressing through lands claims agreements, home rule, other national laws and regional processes. These arrangements have all provided for enhanced participation of Inuit in environmental decision making.

Developments also occurring at the UN have allowed for more participation by indigenous peoples. CBD is one of them through Article 8. Ms. Ford posed the question "If this is happening what is the big deal?"

Firstly, she stated, Arctic biodiversity is increasingly interesting for researchers and pharmaceuticals who want to examine the components of Arctic plants.

Secondly, explained Ms. Ford, the environmental treaties have significance for Inuit as it recognizes our role in sustainable development. However, it is still a battle for us who participate in the negotiations of these international processes. International treaty organizations make use of NGOs as advisers. These advisers hold western science as the tool for their advice. At the international level, we are categorized as an NGO and so the rules of procedure and participation are limited for us compared to States. Many NGOs do not have the same

relationship to the biodiversity and neither do companies such as pharmaceutical companies. Therefore traditional knowledge gets overlooked and not integrated into decision making.

Lastly, there is concern about the ongoing negotiations on access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and the related traditional knowledge. The international treaties that we have chosen to be part of will be of no use at the community level unless we are involved in the design and the implementation of these treaties, asserted Ms. Ford.

Ms. Ford closed her speech stating that despite international boundaries, Inuit remain one people, one culture, one nation who depend on the same biodiversity across state borders.

**Speaker: Nicholas Hanley, Head of Unit, International Relations and Enlargement
European Commission**
European Union Legislation on Arctic Marine Mammals

Mr. Hanley opened his speech, stating that there are two very critical challenges that are facing all societies. The first challenge is how to achieve sustainable development. The second challenge is how find balance between the sustainable use of resources while also considering conservation and environmental protection.

He reflected upon Marie Green's words and the importance of taking time to contemplate and study development, something which he felt people often fail to do enough of today.

Mr. Hanley then turned to discuss Europe's environmental policy. He stated that environmental policy in Europe has grown from the recognition that common solutions require collective action from multiple countries. That is because one country on its own cannot resolve an environmental problem, as such problems do not recognize international boundaries.

Working from that basis, the EU has become a major player in a lot of the international environment conventions. When we look at the Arctic and the problems the environment is facing, the solutions to those problems lies as much in the developed world as they do in the Arctic. Mr. Hanley noted that in the Arctic, Inuit have their own issues to resolve regarding resource management. However, he highlighted the fact that many of the problems facing the region have their origins in emission of greenhouse gases, chemicals and pollutants from well beyond the Arctic region.

He further went on to discuss that there is a developing policy dialogue with indigenous peoples. Many of the companies looking to the Arctic as potential sources of natural resources are companies from Europe. He then stated that Arctic peoples need to play a role in global governments.

The big issues he explained, includes pollutants, contaminants, threats to biodiversity, impacts of climate change, among others. He reiterated his concern that it is vital to get the balance right between the exploitation of resources and the continuation of the ecosystem services based on the best knowledge available. As such the EU is collaborating with the institutes and

organizations operating in the Arctic. He hoped that this is not “characterized as a branch of science that is not listening and learning from your Inuit knowledge and experience”.

Mr. Hanley then addressed the topic of the Arctic Council, stating that the EU was contributing in a number of ways to the work of the AC and therefore seeks to achieve permanent observer status at the Arctic Council. However, he also noted that the EU understood that there exist some concerns and resistance.

Mr. Hanley explained that much of the EU’s work focuses on analyzing multilateral agreements which EU-member countries have committed to and have an interest in, the most notable perhaps being the UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC). He further explained that the EU’s focus was to develop and acquire reliable knowledge. This was to ensure that future decision making was based upon sound science and monitoring. He elucidated one such study being an examination of the EU’s Arctic footprint along with contributions to a number of additional research projects.

In close, Mr. Lynge presented Mr. Hanley with a gift of red seal skin, to illuminate the pending ban on seal skin imposed by the European Union. In response to Mr. Lynge’s gift, Mr. Hanley explained that the EU had exempted seal skins from seals hunted by the Inuit. He then posed the question as to why the Canadian government was taking the EU to the WTO when there had been a seal ban in the US for 40 years. Unfortunately, for Mr. Hanley, this comment only drew the ire of the assembly. Many were to address Mr. Hanley in future commentaries.

**Speaker: Lene Kielsen Holm, Director of Environmental and Sustainable Development
ICC Greenland
*Inuit witnessing Climate Change***

Ms. Kielsen Holm spoke of the Sila Inuk project undertaken by ICC Greenland since 2005. She explained that it is a study that focuses on Greenland hunters, fishermen, seafarers and other Inuit experts asking them about what changes they have seen over their lives and what information then have learned from their grandparents.

She confirmed that they are the right people to tell us what kinds of changes are happening.

She explained that, through the study, there is evidence of changing ocean currents, animal behavior and humidity of the air. She stated that through the Sila Inuk study, they have gathered data documenting observations of receding glaciers, thinning and disappearing sea ice and significant changes over years coming from the eastern coast. Importantly, the study has enabled Inuit to look at how all these changes are having an impact on the natural resources that local people depend on.

Through this study, Ms. Kielsen Holm shared, Inuit knowledge is combined with the observations of western scientists. This allows us to compare current environmental observations with observations from the past. She clarified that they are not trying to predict what will happen in the future rather, document some of the wisdom that Inuit culture is based on. She noted that with the melting of the sea ice, important knowledge will also cease to exist.

Therefore, Inuit have to tell future generations about the foundation and roots of their culture. She also explained that the Sila Inuk project demonstrated the need that the interviewer must be local.

Ms. Kielsen Holm stated that hunters have spoken of many fascinating and, in some cases, frightening things. One such change is the thinning of the sea ice. She explained that, as the floe edge is one of the best places to find game, thinning sea ice makes what is already a dangerous occupation even more dangerous. She spoke of other results from the study as well. She mentioned that the traditionally hunted seal and fish species are shifting north and new, southern species are taking their place. She drew the example of the ring seal, which has virtually disappeared from the south and the Disko Bay area, being replaced with an increasing harp seal population. She further noted that finding show there are more herring living in places where they were once never found. Changes in permafrost are altering spring runoff patterns. She noted that, while our planet earth is warming, change happens in different ways. Hunters are worried about the weather continuing to change. They are concerned about their safety because of stronger storms that are harder to predict. She also stated that traditional knowledge, passed down through the generations, seems to be becoming less reliable in such a rapidly changing environment.

However, she affirmed that hunters are determined to do everything they can to adapt to the changing conditions.

She stated that Inuit are the ones living in the middle of the changing world and that they must encourage scientists to involve the human dimension in their research. As evidence shows, that will be the only way to mutual benefit.

Speaker: Per Bakken, Chemicals branch Division of Technology, Industry and Economics UNEP
Contaminants

Mr. Bakken spoke of contaminants in the Arctic, stating that the main increase in the use of synthetic chemicals started back in the early 1920s saying that over the past 50 years people have been participant to a vast and uncontrolled worldwide chemistry experiment. The chemicals have contributed to human well being in some cases, but once released, many also produce toxic reactions.

Today they are everywhere including in human tissue. Mr. Bakken stated that the Arctic indigenous peoples are the most exposed of any other population due to their diet and explained that this was due to the fact that all currents, whether wind or ocean are leading to the Arctic. Additionally, there are significant releases through the major rivers into the Arctic Sea.

As a response to this he explained, the Stockholm Convention was developed and initially focused on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The original number was 12 - the dirty dozen – however it is now up to 21, with more being considered. Mr. Bakken noted that there is now international willingness to get rid of them. He then addressed the issue of mercury, confirming that UNEP has been addressing it for the 10 years. He explained that this was due to the fact that

mercury has many of the same characteristics as some of the POPs. However, he also stated that it was much more difficult to deal with because it is an element. That means it cannot be destroyed and it cannot be burned. Nevertheless, it behaves like a POP and ultimately ends up in human tissue. Unfortunately, it is used globally.

Against this background, UNEP's governing council decided to develop an instrument on mercury. Storage of an element creates a unique feature when dealing with mercury because unlike POPs, it cannot be destroyed. So we must have safe storage for millions of years. He stated that they want to target the demand of mercury thereby reducing supply. Moreover, Compliance has to be included as a key part of the framework.

Mr. Bakken explained that the first meeting of the negotiating committee started in Stockholm in June 2010. He explained that there will be four additional negotiating sessions and noted that the treaty is supposed to be finalized in time for the governing council in February 2013.

He stated that the council has requested a parallel approach to the negotiations, for instance concentrating on the immediate action. He closed by saying “There is no reason why you should stop implementing immediate action and take measures to reduce it while you are negotiating the treaty.”

Speaker: Duane Smith, President, ICC Canada
Traditional knowledge in Policy Development

Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm



Mr. Smith began his speech drawing on an example of the need for traditional knowledge. He stated that in April this year, scientists realized that they had underestimated the number of Narwhal in Baffin Bay. Instead of 20,000 to 30,000, the number is more likely to be 60,000. He confirmed that the scientists weren't taking into account the hunters' traditional knowledge which has been accumulated and handed down over generations.

He further drew light on an example from 2008, when Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans acknowledged that they had been out by 300 per cent in their estimate of the number of Bowheads in the Eastern Arctic. Again, the earlier wrong under-estimates had ignored advice from local Inuit.

But western scientists are realizing that it is foolish not to incorporate our traditional knowledge into their work. There are some very good models of collaboration where governments and western science are turning to Inuit and asking for our advice based on our traditional knowledge.

The first one is the work that is being done under the Circumpolar Flaw Lead study which is the biggest initiative funded by the Canadian Government under the International Polar Year program.

The aim of the project is to examine how physical changes affect biological processes within the flaw lead and so get a better idea of the effects of global warming. With Inuit involved at every stage of the project, it is a best practice model of how traditional knowledge is playing a major role in complementing western scientific research, which in turn is shaping policy. ICC Canada is leading one of the study's ten teams in partnership with the Inuvialuit Settlement Region's communities and organizations, researchers from the other flaw lead teams, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. This team has been at the centre of some major events highlighting the impact of climate change. For example, in April 2008, ICC's CFL team organized the Circumpolar Inuit Climate Change Policy Workshop aboard the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Amundsen to put together an Inuit roadmap for climate change policy and development.

Closely linked to the flaw lead project is ArcticNet which is a network of Canadian and international Arctic specialists along with Inuit organizations and northern communities as well as government representatives to look at the impact of climate change on the Canadian Arctic coast.

Mr. Smith noted another significant effort in the international negotiations relevant to the sharing of access and benefits of Arctic genetic material. Violet Ford, ICC Canada's vice-president, has been working hard on this issue for a number of years, and is an official member of the Canadian delegation negotiating the proposed international regime on access and benefits sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Her role on the delegation is in recognition of the importance of including indigenous representatives in the development and negotiation of this regime.

Mr. Smith made special mention that many view traditional knowledge as fixed and unaffected by changes around us. However, he noted that it is affected— and the changes that climate change is forcing on the Arctic – are also forcing Inuit to take stock. Knowledge is never static. To survive, it must take on new findings, adapt to change and consider the implications. He confirmed that just because it is called traditional knowledge doesn't mean it is not dynamic.

Mr. Smith focused on another good example of how Inuit are adapting. He mentioned that it was summed up well in a report conducted for the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment a couple of years ago. Entitled, *The Sea Ice is our Highway*, this report was a significant contribution to that assessment and framed the human dimension of shipping in the Arctic from the Inuit perspective.

He noted that Inuit still have some way to go in making sure their voice is always included at the policy table. While the Inuit voice is direct, meaningful, and wanted at the 8-nation Arctic Council ministers' table, it wasn't so welcome at two meetings of the 5-nation Arctic ocean states that met in Canada this year and in Greenland two years earlier. While Inuit had a vocal supporter this year in USA Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, when she called for their inclusion, it still did not happen.

As Inuit we need to develop our own policies on these issues have them adopted and implemented locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

30 June 2010: Health and Well-being & Hunting and Food Security

Chaired by Edward S. Itta

Session 4: Health and Well-being

Keynote speaker: Maliina Abelsen, Minister for Social Affairs, Greenland

Ms. Abelsen began, stating that together Inuit are stronger and need not stand alone. She spoke of the importance in incorporating their indigenous languages and culture into all social initiatives. Many other indigenous peoples around the world are looking for the same opportunities as Inuit enjoy, such as using their own language in society. She stated that she was proof that there was not enough priority placed on teaching the indigenous language in the 80s, when she was a student. As such, today she is struggling to learn her native tongue and pass it on to her own children.

She urged that learning one language should not stand in the way of other languages. This is important in order to give our children the best opportunities to navigate in a globalized world. It is equally important to say to the rest of the world that indigenous peoples are also part of a modern globalized world, and part of a living and dynamic culture.

Although it is true that right now Inuit are experiencing great changes in the Arctic, if anyone has found themselves in the middle of changes over the past 100 years, it must be us. We have been on the threshold of change for many years now.

For a few decades we have seen a wave of changes which has left a social footprint both positive and negative. Suicide rates, sexual abuse, alcohol abuse and more. We recognize these conditions in other Inuit societies. It is vital to involve Greenlanders in our social efforts. Like other Inuit societies we have some geographical and educational challenges. We lack qualified people within the social sector and hard to attract educated labor to the small towns.

The modernization process has shown that growth in material wealth does not always go hand in hand with improved welfare. People are most vulnerable in the face of the winds of change and it almost inevitably leads to social imbalance and alienation. Our fishermen and hunters are experiencing poorer living conditions because of the financial crisis, climate change and other circumstances. There will be negative consequences for the social area if more and more people lose their livelihood and have to supplement small earnings with transfer incomes. But other groups in society benefit from climate change (i.e. in southern Greenland and fisherman who can fish for longer periods each year).

We cannot be afraid of change and development. We need solid democratic public involvement. We need the best possible knowledge to be able to make the best decisions. It is as if the Arctic and Inuit are no longer at the periphery but rather in the center of the world politics. We can use this development to create growth and welfare in our society. But we must also take the measures

necessary to preserve a sustainable society. It will not benefit the people of Greenland if we don't have a socially healthy society. Social sustainability is a fundamental value in Greenland's policy making because we believe that an increase in the social capital of our society is the key to creating positive change.

One of our primary challenges is to enhance social initiatives in the society and it's important that we think beyond the little world of Nuuk. We need a network to involve all society across the municipalities and organizations and businesses.

It is important to form a community to understand the issues together with the people and the international community.

Speaker: Minnie Grey, ICC Health Steering Committee, Canada
Presentation of the Draft Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan

Minnie Grey opened stating that “health and wellbeing is more than just our physical wellness.” She explained that it is about how one is experiencing their whole life. For ICC it's a top priority. At the last general assembly in Barrow, Alaska, delegates recognized the importance of Inuit health and wellbeing. They instructed ICC to look at what needed to be done to address the hurdles which are hindering better Inuit health. Since then, ICC – through ICC Canada which has been the lead office on health – has been very active in carrying out those instructions.



Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm

She made special mention of the circumpolar steering committee, which was formed in 2008 and brought together representatives from each of the four ICC countries; Canada, Alaska, Greenland and Russia. She noted that the committee had played a major role in the development of a health strategy.

This was followed last year by the Circumpolar Inuit Health Summit which was held in Yellowknife, Canada last July. Again, ICC brought together the steering committee members as well as other Inuit representatives from across the Arctic to identify key issues. The recommendations coming out of that summit have played a major role in shaping the strategy before you today.

Ms. Grey stated that over the past 100 years, Inuit have seen some good improvements in their health but stark differences still remain in the health indicators for Inuit across the Arctic compared to broader national populations. She went on to list a range of different indicators including life expectancy, infant mortality, rates of lung cancer and smoking, all of which were set out in the strategy.

She further explained that other major health challenges facing Inuit communities include the very high rates of tuberculosis (TB). Ms. Grey also explained that the highest number of deaths in young males, under the age of 35, is due to injuries incurred, which is often due to the difficult

terrain and environment that these men live in and a major contributing factor to young male deaths.

Unfortunately, she explained, alcohol and substance abuse is also a major contributor to this high rate. Linked to the substance abuse is the increase in sexual and domestic violence. Sexually transmitted infections are another area of concern as the rates for some diseases are very high compared to southern rates. Often, it appears, one factor perpetrates another and the cycle continues.

One of the biggest issues, noted Ms. Grey, is mental health. Today, there is a better understanding of the factors contributing to mental problems but there is still have a long way to go in addressing them. One of the most tragic consequences is suicide and sadly, this is a significant dilemma which Inuit share across the Arctic.

Ms. Grey then explained that factors affecting Inuit wellness and health, both positively and negatively, are culture, support and respect for one another, and lastly, traditional knowledge.

She made special mention of the role of the Arctic environment and its influence on Inuit health, stating that increasingly, this is being affected by climate change. The right diet and Inuit food security is being affected by the high cost of food and fuel and, of course, by the high concentration of contaminants in their traditional diet.

She mentioned that alcohol and substance abuse is one of the most acute problems facing many Inuit communities. It leaves in its wake abused families and children, babies born with Fetal Alcohol disorder and for the abuser, personal devastation. Access to health services remains a longstanding challenge particularly for smaller Inuit communities in remote parts of the Arctic.

This probably sounds all pretty grim. But on the positive side, she stated, Inuit have come a long way in improving the health situation for many communities.

At the Yellowknife Health Summit last year, the principles needed to support improvements to Inuit health and wellbeing were identify. In outlining those principles, Inuit drew out what they stood for and identifying what had sustained them for millennia. Ms. Grey stated the following points were recognized:

- selflessness, sharing and respect for each other
- fostering traditional values
- family values with children and youth being our priorities
- all of us taking responsibility for our health
- leaders taking charge of responding to community health needs

Furthermore, she explained, the Summit came up with a set of recommendations for ICC to represent Inuit human rights and interests at the international level.

The recommendations include:

- ICC to use its circumpolar position to push for changes to policies that are at odds with Inuit health and wellness

- Documentation of the different experiences in each region to serve as a reference for ICC in its advocacy work
- ICC to use its position in the Arctic Council to focus on pan-Inuit health
- ICC to push for Inuit-specific and culturally appropriate training for health professionals working in the Arctic

Taking all this into account, ICC (Canada) on behalf of ICC has developed a four year strategy to guide ICC's work in health. Its objective is to *improve Inuit health and wellness across the Arctic*.

Under this objective are four goals:

- Influence international, regional and national policies and programs that impact on Inuit health and wellbeing
- Improve awareness of Inuit health and wellness across the Arctic
- Encourage greater focus on Inuit health and wellness through ICC's representation at international fora
- support improved understanding by health professionals of Arctic/Inuit specific issues
- Promote research to improve Inuit health and wellness.

Ms. Grey mentioned that there are a number of ways ICC is moving forward to achieve these goals.

This includes ICC's work on the Arctic Council's health agenda and its significant work on access and benefit sharing in the Arctic through the Convention on Biological Diversity. Equally important, she explained, are the negotiations with the EU, the USA and Canadian governments on sustainable wildlife and major initiatives on contaminants, and more recently, mercury. Other ICC initiatives include its work with the UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and with the World Health Organization. All aforementioned initiatives have helped to highlight the specific health issues confronting Inuit and other indigenous peoples.

In short, ICC has an ambitious agenda to cover. This strategy provides a road map on how to reach its goals and meet the objectives. "I recommend it to you", closed Ms. Grey.

Speaker: Elvira Tyunikova, Chukotka
Social Challenges

Ms. Tyunikova spoke of social challenges facing remote villages in Chukotka. She stated that the problems of these villages are quite topical for all Inuit as they are one people.

She explained that a family's social status is of concern to the society because a stable family is so important. Currently in Russia, there are some government measures to support families. This program, called *Mother Capital* specifically aims to support poorer families with many children. She mentioned that sometimes the challenge is that people are too lazy to go and register in order to receive this assistance. She further stated that there are cases when a social worker takes on the job of registering poor families. Unfortunately, she stated, people get used to being poor and receiving government subsidies. This creates many challenges for our communities.

Analysis shows that incomplete families are the ones who need the most help. Sometimes these people become dependent on the help and have the mentality of the government owes me. In rural families, Ms. Tyunikova explained, the word family means more than it does in the city. However, there are special cases, she stated. Sometimes there's a situation where even though children's parents are alive they may still live in an orphanage as the parents fail to pick them up. We face many similar challenges, she declared. There aren't enough beds in nursing homes. There are a lot of single mothers. There is low income. There's alcoholism. There's bad education and bad behavior by children in school.

However, she pointed out, there are so few of us that we must fight for each and every one of us. She then turned to discuss the *Society of Sobriety*, saying that it has been functional for the last five years.

Speaking of education, she explained that there was a new system to enter secondary colleges. There is a standard exam and no more targeted admission for aboriginal peoples. She said that even if a child is successfully enrolled his family will often not have the money to pay for school.

Ms. Tyunikova spoke of some of their priorities in Russia. She explained that they were trying to teach their children subsistence land use and more importantly, strengthen families. Fighting unemployment has however, become the primary concern along with creating new jobs and economic opportunities.

She explained that a lot has to do with the relationship with local authorities and their elder's council. She stated the need to strive for a higher cultural life and to propagate national family traditions. She noted the importance of having the mother in the center of the family, a mother that is loved and that children should be patriotic. In close, it is important to make sure our people and children are self aware and respectful.

Speaker: Carl Christian Olsen, Vice President, ICC Greenland
Director of Greenland Language Secretariat;
Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium Results

2008 was designated the UN Year of Languages began Mr. Olsen. In the same year, ICC proposed and led the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium, which was successfully carried out in Tromsø, Norway. There was a wide range of participation at the symposium and it proved to be a great achievement, from which many important recommendations emanated. Moreover, the symposium was the first of its kind within the Arctic Council and the first to led by indigenous peoples. It exemplifies how cooperation is fully open between the indigenous and national states of the Arctic Council.

Mr. Olsen then proceeded to list the five objectives of the symposium.

He stated that from the beginning, there was a spirit of collaboration between the SDWG and the indigenous organizations responsible for the symposium. This also included positive support and collaboration from Canada's Circumpolar Liaison Directorate. He explained that, while speakers

focused on their perspectives on indigenous languages, there was also a visible growing development in the need to view this from an international perspective.

From the earlier expert group meeting at the UN, it had been pointed out that language is part of the self-determination and might not be restricted to cultural rights, but also overall human rights. In this context, it is crucial that vanishing indigenous languages in one nation state cannot be viewed passively but has to be acknowledged within legislation in the national state. It is necessary to build a strong relationship between governments and indigenous peoples regarding language policies. A language is more than knowledge, stated Mr. Olsen, it is also a mechanism that binds people together. It should be an issue concerning all of us. The questions of standardizing languages and writing systems are important issues to be dealt with through ICC and other indigenous organizations.

The issue of language has always been a political issue in Greenland noted Mr. Olsen. Civil institutions are now involved directly in the development of tools for use and education of indigenous languages including the Nordic countries. Several nations have always set different goals for development of languages. The seven nation states have also started the development across borders for language rights for minorities.

Speaker: Dr Edna MacLean, President Emeritus, Iisagvik College, Alaska
Education and Training

Traditionally the strength of a nation is founded on the quality of upbringing and education given by parents by the community, began Dr. MacLean. Inuit had their own education which worked well for them. Grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and older siblings were teachers, mentors and role models. One had to learn their lesson well if to survive in the Arctic. Each hunter became a scholar of the land and sea. It was a matter of survival.



Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm

Our traditional Inuit education was challenged in Greenland approximately 300 years ago and over 100 years ago in Alaska and Canada by the countries we are citizens of today. Diseases brought by newcomers killed many and deprived families and communities of their providers. Family members gathered around the settlements where churches, hospital and schools were established.

Education changed and became a weapon of subjugation.

Many parents believing they were doing the right thing watched as their children were taken away to schools. The role our parents and relatives played in our education decreased dramatically and abruptly, noted Dr. MacLean. Children could not use the language in the schools. Many were punished and humiliated. Learning, to say the least, was impaired. Some learned to read and write but those skills were not very useful in a hunting economy. The process of removing Inuit youth from community life and the denial of mother tongue language use in schools was enforced strongly for two generations. Some overcame this process. But

many have not. Some began to abuse drugs and alcohol, causing havoc in Inuit homes and communities.

She explained that, as parents become aware of what it takes to help their children do well academically without further eroding the Inuit culture and language, the numbers of Inuit youth successfully completing high school and college can only increase.

Dr. MacLean then provided examples of alternative learning programs in Barrow, Alaska.

First, there is a program operating in Barrow which provides opportunities for youth and adults to obtain their general equivalent (GED) or high school degree outside of the contemporary school system. That is to say, students are immersed in a learning environment outside a regular classroom setting. Importantly, this is a self-paced process. Second, there are colleges and training centers in each of the regions in Alaska, which provide training for those who want to continue with their education or employment training. This allows them to obtain jobs in Barrow or elsewhere. Third, there is a two-year program at the University of Alaska that provides support for those that are facing challenges. The rural students support program provides mentoring, tutoring and guidance services. Fourth, Dr. MacLean explained, our regional corporation provides scholarships and on the job training. The number of Inuit youth becoming professionals in their communities is increasing. This is finally occurring after two generations of western education in Inuit homeland. Those years were hard, she affirmed.

Dr. MacLean focused on the enormous losses to the traditional Inupiaq way of life, with traditional language being foremost.

Today, she explained, there are many youth who have given up in their schooling. One of the factors contributing to this is called village English. Children begin school competent in the language of their home. However, when they finally go to school, the question is whether they are proficient enough in English and, ultimately accepted by the school. When children realize that the language they speak and the way they talk is not accepted, appreciated, or understood, often do not become active learners.

Furthermore, she explained, as Inuit youth begin to realize that the school does not respect nor reinforce their cultural identity as a member of the Inuit community, they may begin to resist participation in school.

We need to encourage our people to become teachers in our schools, Dr. MacLean insisted. We need Inuit teachers who understand our children and will relate to their linguistic and cultural knowledge, who can teach them academic English and who share in the cultural and social life of Inuit communities.

She further stated that Inuit must ensure that their young people continue to learn their Inupiaq values. Inuit must strengthen their culture and language in order for youth to learn them well. There must be plans to insure that the culture and spiritual identity of Inuit youth will be strong and that the linguistic and cultural traditions are truly incorporated into the education of Inuit children.

Session 5: Hunting and Food security

Keynote speaker: **Ane Hansen, Minister of Health, Greenland**

Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm



Ms. Hansen enthusiastically announced to the audience and delegates that Greenland has been given a quota for hump backs. She stated that the last time Greenland was granted a quota for hump backs was in 1986. Thus, achieving a hump back whale quota was very important for all whaling nations. As a marine people, Inuit benefit from the use of such resources, stating that “our way of life would be very different if we did not have them.” She noted that these resources keep Inuit healthy as they are much healthier than imported food

brought into the country. She stated that there are increasing stocks of whales and seals which have become competitors to our hunters and fishermen. Non-utilization of whales will restrict sea products which will not be good for the hunters and fishermen.

Regarding the EU seal ban, the declaration of Inuit exception has ruined the seal skin market. She stated that their stockrooms are filled up with about 260,000 seal skins which are now difficult, if not impossible, to export. The solution, she stated, must be to find other markets outside Europe.

Scientists have recommended that Inuit should not stop eating our traditional food because it is healthier than imported food, Ms Hansen noted.

She also warned against emotional based decisions that are not based upon real facts. The EU decision has hit the Arctic people hard and could be described as racial discrimination, she stated. She noted her concern that the declaration of the UN will be violated if the EU and IWC deliberately restrict Inuit’s opportunities to use their own natural resources.

During the last years in Greenland there have been doubts about our membership of the IWC, Ms. Hansen commented. IWC has good intentions in its convention but conservation has become a main issue. It will be important to evaluate if the goals are real.

She closed stating that Greenland supported whaling that is sustainable.

Speaker: **Vera Metcalf, Executive Director, Alaska Eskimo Walrus Commission
Walrus Management**

Ms. Metcalf began, stating that her home sits in the middle of a large migration road for marine mammals, bowhead, whales, walrus, and all types of birds. She said the Arctic was home to cultures and people who have survived many changes through the millennia and who will

continue to be at home in the Arctic. Maintaining this strong fundamental link with the natural world will be the measure of how well we are taking care of the Arctic, she asserted.

Ms. Metcalf strongly recommended the integration of traditional knowledge and scientific studies as necessary in marine and other sustainable economic planning. She explained that it is not necessarily that Inuit had many names for different sea ice or walrus but rather that the distinctions are real and critical to know. The importance of this knowledge, she continued, is not in its translation but in using it to complement and form or confirm scientific research. She stated that this was what inspired her.

She said her family continues this tradition of hunting and resource management, environmental observation and descriptions.

**Speaker: Vasilli Dobriev, Head of the Department of Maintenance
Dhukotsky Municipality**

Mr. Dobriev spoke of reindeer herding in Russia. He explained that today people do not want to work in the tundra because the working conditions are very harsh. Thus the task of increasing the herds is being hampered by the lack of herders. He stated that the Moscow Agricultural Academy has developed a number of social training programs for herders. Numerous training centers have been established across the country with the aim to teach people practical skills. He mentioned that Putin visited the region in 2008 and focused much of his attention on improving the quality of the herds.

Nowadays, explained Mr. Dobriev, there is a new approach to reindeer herding in Chukotka where families get involved as an economic unit.

He then spoke of sea mammal harvesting and explained that people have joined together in territorial and localized, harvesting communities. He stated that these communities are self-governed and attempting to preserve their traditional environment, subsistence economies, traditional culture and language. At present there are over twenty such communities. Regardless of the challenges, Mr. Dobriev stated that reindeer herding and coastal marine mammal hunting, organized along municipal lines, continue to coexist in Chukotka.

**Speaker: Henning Sloth Pedersen, Greenland
*Our Food and Our Health***

“My message will be controversial if we want to survive as humans and as a culture,” began Mr. Pedersen.

He started his message with a fairy tale, in an attempt to illustrate the state of the earth and the health of its resources.

He began, addressing traditional food of the Inuit and claimed that it was healthy. He said that the food and way in which we eat has changed more during the last than over the course of the

last 1000 years. Humans are producing enormous amounts of waste, he noted. The impact of our activities will inevitably end up in the environment.

He then turned to his fairytale. He began the story explaining that Mother Nature has always been able to engulf all kinds of waste. Mother Nature is married to Sustainable and they have lived in harmony for many years. Sustainable's work was to look around to bring those breaking the law of nature to justice. One morning, he went on, Mother Nature could not find Sustainable. She looked everywhere but to no avail, sustainability was missing. Mother Nature got more and more pain, not only because she missed her husband, sustainability, but also because she was getting weak from vomiting and painful abdominal cramps. Every day she had to eat but what she ingested just stayed in her big body.

A monster on the earth succeeded to knock down sustainable and had made a poisonous cocktail that had given Mother Nature the pains, continued Mr. Pedersen. The cocktail was called POPS. Mother Nature was dying. The question is whether she will survive.

Breaking from the fairytale, Mr. Pedersen turned his attention to Persistent Organic Pollutants, stating that currently know of twenty one POPs that can affect people.

He then explained that due to POPs the recommendation is to refrain from eating sea mammals until after having children. He went on to explain how POPs attack the development of the nervous system and can have detrimental effects on an unborn child.

Mr. Pedersen then spoke about the issue of imported food into Greenland. He stated that today imports contribute to between 80 and 90 per cent of the total food intake on average. He went on to say that each individual should have the opportunity to make a free and qualified choice not to eat the most polluted species of traditional food. A qualified choice of food can only be taken when people have all the information gained from studies. He urged that the authorities should not tell you what to do but rather provide the best advice and allow that people make their own well-informed decisions.

An important issue for ICC is to fight for sustainability. The main risk for the Inuit culture is if they split up. ICC can keep politicians on track and support a green revolution from the bottom. ICC works without borders, and has a strong international reputation. A proud people make its own food. Global challenges can only be met by working together.

Speaker: Finn Lynge, Former Member of European Parliament
Responsive and Responsible Development – A Greenlandic Opinion

The basic question facing the ICC, Mr. Finn Lynge said, is how an indigenous people, spread over four nations, can hold onto its own values and practice when their leaders, at least in Greenland, build on advice taken from multi-nationals who are in it for the raw materials.

With climate change, no one can be in doubt about the predicament of Inuit – which has been and is still a question of a survival of a culture. On international stage, Inuit have consistently campaigned for the right of sustainable use of nature and the right to market products derived there from.

The ICC is spending energy contesting the anti-use philosophy of the “green wave” of the world around us. The mission of ICC is to foster constructive public attitudes in environmental policy. ICC previously enjoyed support in the IUCN – especially shaping the Inuit Regional Conservation Strategy – some parts of which found way into IUCN’s World Conservation Strategy No 2 of 1991: Caring for the Earth.

But the IUCN has not followed up on its own policies. They have a lot on their minds. Therefore ICC has to keep conversing with them, reminding them of the facts. Even though the polar bear has its own specialist group, the Arctic voice is mostly heard in the IUCN Headquarters as an outsiders’ protester’s input. The general stance of Arctic peoples towards nature conservation lobby is defensive. We have not given priority to any active involvement of our own in IUCN working groups. It would be useful to have a more proactive involvement, seeing to influence the membership of the various American and EU nature protection organizations. We need to infiltrate these organizations, join them, go over the barricade and initiate constructive dialogue – our message can be heard if we take the time needed and engage ourselves, not only in our own organizations but in others, as well.

With climate change, the whole world has come to realize that the Arctic is a place where people do live and thrive, and have done so since time immemorial. Inuit have proven to be uniquely equipped to join the international climate debate. The Inuit voice is heard loud and clear. It is time to enter alliances with environmental policy networks worldwide on a broader base, also knocking on the doors of those that mobilize ambivalent feelings on our part. It is sheer utopia to think that we can build our own world of Arctic policy principles and then expect those south of sixty to bow to our view simply because we live up here. Every part of the globe has become everybody’s concern, and nobody is going to change that in the time to come.



Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm

1 July 2010: Governance

Chaired by Edward S. Itta

Session 6: Governance

**Keynote speaker: Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough, Professor, University of Alaska
ICC Human Rights Advisory Committee Member**

Dr. Dorough focused on achieving one of the directives of the Utqiagvik Declaration through the adoption of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, commenting on the importance to press Canada and the USA to endorse the declaration. ICC should transmit such a request to both governments before the conclusion of this general assembly.

ICC made a major contribution to the debate, negotiation and finalization of this text, explained Dr. Dorough. The document contains a number of human rights standards that are critically important to Inuit and indigenous peoples as they face life changing moments and events across their homelands.

The foundational and prerequisite right of indigenous peoples to self-determination has been explicitly embraced by the declaration without any discriminatory double standards attached. Their rights to lands, territories, resources, hunting, fishing and gathering rights have been positively affirmed by the Declaration. It further addresses a range of rights concerning the spiritual relationship with lands and territories, as well as legal recognition and ownership rights to such lands, territories and resources.

The Declaration also speaks of a right to redress where lands have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without our free, prior and informed consent.

Furthermore, Dr. Dorough stated, it is important to recognize that the whole of the Declaration must be read in context consistent with the inter-related indivisible and interdependent nature of human rights.

Manifestation of self-determination, the question of who is the self, is highly relevant. It is the people concerned that are ultimately responsible for its realization. In the Russian far east it is painfully clear that more must be done in relation to not only self determination and self government but also with matters of land, territorial, and resource rights, including hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

In Alaska, the clarification of the legitimate role and status of tribal governments could be further examined in relation to public governments, including the state of Alaska and our various city and borough governments.

In Canada, continued Dr. Dorough, extraordinary gains have been made and flexibility has been shown with regard to some of these contemporary agreements, thereby allowing Inuit to visit

issues such as self-government. The Labrador Agreement represents one of the most comprehensive modern indigenous/state agreements ever realized by an indigenous people. This is largely due to the extent of title, ownership and control of lands and resources, harvesting and management rights and the offshore areas affirmed as part of the territorial rights of the Labrador Inuit.

In regards to Arctic Sovereignty, Dorrough explained, the declaration intersects with other important international instruments, such as UNCLOS. Canada's insistence on control over the High Arctic islands as well as moves by Russia to claim a continental shelf extending from the Russian shoreline trumpets the importance of Inuit rights to participate in any and all future debates, dialogues and decisions concerning their lands and territories.

Inuit and indigenous rights to direct participation are reinforced by the UN declaration.

It is important to note the significance of specific provisions within UNCLOS which goes beyond freedom of navigation and military and strategic interests responding to the absence of adequate environment protections and moves us closer to global security.

Dr. Dorrough noted the need to fully understand its content. This requires human rights education within Inuit communities. It also requires understanding the linkage between the declaration and our daily lives. This will help Inuit to become better advocates for their people, way of life and future generations.

It is important for governments to understand human rights standards in the declaration and their respective obligations. A key element is the equal application of the rule of law. In the past Inuit and indigenous peoples have experienced lawlessness or worse. They have experienced the active and intentional abuses of their human rights throughout their remote communities. States have little or no incentive to ensure institutions actively protect our rights. Implementation of the declaration will take political will. Inuit need to find ways to imbed the declaration standards into our local laws.

The real test will be how Inuit will breathe life into the document and work with states to improve relationships in a fashion that promotes the democratic principles that guide the UN and all of its members.

Speaker: Pita Aatami, President, Makivik Corporation
Self Government in Nunavik

Pita Aatami began by stating that Inuit are well aware of the obstacles and goals confronting ICC. There has not been enough time to debate all the issues at the General Assembly however.

He recognized that, at this special assembly, Inuit are celebrating the 30th anniversary of ICC collaboration. He acknowledged the leadership and was grateful for them taking Inuit this far.

He then made special mention of the role of Sheila Watt Cloutier and acknowledged her efforts on behalf of Inuit to which she received a standing ovation.

Mr. Aatami stated that Nunavik appears to have been forgotten since Nunavut received its territorial status. He claimed that Inuit have become reliant on the Europeans. He said that in Nunavik, they were getting closer to having their own government but they have had to deal with two governments in the process. This included the Quebec and Federal governments.

He explained that they are striving for the development of a public government. Therefore it will not be a real self government as it will be a compromise of all people living in Nunavik. This will include the Inuit, French or any other culture living in the region. He explained that the reason for this was because, in the constitution of Canada, Inuit have a right for Aboriginal Government. However the phrasing in the constitution states that is that within our own lands. Back in 1975, when the agreement was signed, Inuit were granted a portion of land. However, Aatami explained, Nunavik is a big territory, bigger than France and under the James Bay Agreement Inuit got a small parcel.

So, he explained, Inuit are in Nunavik are aiming to govern themselves once again as they have in the past. However, this time it will be with partners. Under the Agreement, he explained certain institutions were created. Many of them are fragmented right now so the aim is to amalgamate these existing institutions into one. Once we've succeeded in amalgamating them, the next step will be a Nunavik government. There will not be the same situation as in Greenland, explained Aatami, but through negotiations with the two governments we will achieve much of what we want. Once Nunavik has its own government, they will be able to engage in economic development, housing, construction, tourism and others.

Regarding offshore oil exploration by Greenland, Mr. Aatami stated that he did not oppose it provided that there are assurances that if there is drilling in the Arctic, there are also backup plans. He reminded delegates that all waters are all tied together; therefore it is important to act with caution and with full knowledge of development impacts.

He then stated that Inuit have had to be ingenious as they have lived and survived for generations in one of the harshest environments.

Mr. Aatami commented on Nicholas Hanley's presentation and stated like Mr. Stotts, he tried to stay quiet. He said that when Nicholas Hanley was talking he wanted to speak up.

Mr. Aatami then brought to the audience's attention the history of the fur trade. He stated Henry Hudson was one of the first explorers and outlined the wishes of early European explorers and impacts of the fur trade many years ago. Mr. Aatami stated that today, Europeans turn around, after depleting the whale, fish and wildlife stocks and demand that Inuit to stop harvesting. Europeans need to recognize they are the ones who should have stopped a couple of hundred years ago, he affirmed.

Mr. Aatami also took the opportunity to thank Minnie Grey for her enduring work as negotiator for Nunavik.

He closed saying there needs to be more debate and fewer presenters at the ICC conference. He thanked guest speakers for their participation and knowledge but claimed that there should be

much more dialogue among ICC delegates, as there are many items to discuss amongst themselves.

Speaker: Jakob Janussen, Political Science
Self-determination within the Danish realm

Mr. Janussen began with an explanation of the history of Greenland's self-government process.

He explained that it has not long been agreed that Greenlandic people are an indigenous people but it was only with the law of self government in 2009 that it was recognized that Greenlanders' right to self determination was in accordance with international law.

The decision of becoming independent cannot be made solely according to provisions of the law. Facts like the size of the country and its populations, its geographical position in the world and its possibilities of supporting itself must be taken into consideration.

From the point of view of security, Greenland is within the US sphere of interest, Mr. Janussen noted. The country can only defend itself in cooperation with other countries and the idea of establishing an independent defense is not a realistic one.

Whether Greenland can live on its resources is dependent on the size of the resources. It is also dependent on the world market prices, its competitive advantage and, of course, supply and demand.

It will also be important to consider the impact of the influence of environmental pressure groups, he explained. Influence of environmental organizations may be so strong that exploitation of sea mammals will be almost impossible.

Greenland is rich in non-living resources, continued Mr. Janussen. Mineral exploitation is not new to the country. What is new is the growing interest of influential industry in exploration for oil, gas and strategic minerals. The main obstacles are capital and manpower which are both scarce in Greenland. It has been necessary to base exploration on foreign companies. If Greenland is not careful, these may tie and bind the country and its population and make irreversible changes.

Speaker: John B. Henriksen, Member of Expert Mechanism
on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Indigenous Peoples and Governance

Mr. Henriksen started by saying that good governance and human rights mutually reinforce each other. This was because human rights standards inform good governance. Good governance and the advancement of indigenous peoples' human rights go hand in hand.

The participation and involvement of indigenous peoples in governance has been minimal due to historical discrimination and exclusion from political structures and processes. Unfortunately indigenous peoples continue to be marginalized from legal policy and decision making processes

and remain vulnerable to top down development, interventions that take little or no account of the cultural context.

Some progress, has been made, noted Mr. Henriksen. Nevertheless, there continues to be an urgent need to foster more inclusive participation in governance through capacity building initiatives. Such initiatives should strengthen the capacity of governments to be more responsive to indigenous peoples and their rights. Additional initiatives need to focus on developing the capacity of indigenous peoples to claim their rights.

The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has recently finalized the first part of a study on indigenous peoples' right to participate in decision making processes affecting them and their rights. The study is available on the website of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mr. Henriksen explained that the study is based on international human rights law. Saying that it focused specifically on those that address indigenous peoples rights including the ILO Convention 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Mr. Henriksen said that there are some that think the declaration is only aspirational. But the expert mechanism is of the view that although the declaration may not be binding in the same manner as a ratified treaty or convention it is fully coherent with legally binding human rights instruments.

Certain provisions of the declaration could also be seen as reflecting customary international law. The right to self determination is widely recognized as being based on customary law. The range of articles related to indigenous participation in decision making highlights the importance of the principle for indigenous rights.

The Declaration contains more than 20 provisions affirming indigenous peoples' rights to participate in decision making, detailed Mr. Henriksen. The provisions also articulate specific duties for member states including the duty for states to obtain indigenous peoples' prior and informed consent.

It distinguishes between internal and external decision making processes. It affirms indigenous people's right to develop and maintain their own decision making institutions and authority parallel to their right to participate in so-called external decision making processes.

There are no legal grounds to suggest that indigenous peoples have a more limited form for self determination than other peoples. In fact, he clarified, that would be discriminatory and against the international law of prohibition of discrimination.

Speaker: Ove Karl Berthelsen, Minister for Industry and Mineral Resources
Environmental and Social Impact Assessments

Began with a description of the process the government followed in getting a cooperation agreement for the offshore oil drilling.

Mr. Berthelsen explained that there is a tripartite agreement which obliges the operator to involve Greenlandic labor and companies and to set up training schemes to secure competent development. This arrangement has been inspired by Canadian regulations. Carrying out public consultations, explained Berthelsen is an important element in which the cabinet processes applications for oil exploration licenses.

He made special mention that Greenland and Canada have established close cooperation on this venture. As well, he continued with a description of the precautions that Greenland has put in place to meet safety standards to ensure that the best and most up to date standards are in place.

In close, Mr. Berthelsen noted that it is important to have cooperation across the Arctic on developing standards and protocols to ensure that any oil disasters can be mitigated to the absolute minimum.

Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm



Inuit Arctic Policy

ICC undertook revision to the ICC Principles and Elements of a Comprehensive Arctic Policy.

The revised document now entitled Inuit Arctic Policy was adopted pending final approval by Canada by the end of September.

Amendments to ICC Charter

Aqqaluk read out the proposed amendments to the ICC Charter. Following a brief discussion the motion to amend the ICC Charter as presented was passed.

Amendments to ICC By-laws

Aqqaluk read out the proposed changes to the ICC By-Laws. Following a discussion and one additional amendment the motion to amend the by-laws was passed.

Nomination of ICC Chair

Aqqaluk Lynge received unanimous support to be the Chair of ICC for the next four years. In his acceptance speech he highlighted the need to recognize that the destiny of Inuit was in their hands.

With many self-government arrangements now negotiated, and with many other Inuit goals of greater autonomy moving forward, Inuit must collectively come to understand that it is increasingly their decisions that will dictate what their future holds. He concluded that their destiny was there for the making and to be shaped by them.



Photos courtesy: Harald Finkler

Nuuk 2010 Declaration

Following discussions and debates on each of the articles, the assembly delegates unanimously adopted the 2010 Nuuk declaration.

Presentation of new ICC executive Council

Chair: Aqqaluk Lyngø

Canada

Vice Chair: Duane Smith

Council Member: Kirt Ejesiak

Greenland

Vice Chair: Carl Christian Olsen

Council Member: Hjalmar Dahl

Alaska

Vice Chair: James Stotts

Council Member: Vera Metcalf

Chukotka

Vice Chair: Tatiana Achirgina

Council Member: Elvira Tyunikova



L-R: Kirt Ejesiak, Hjalmar Dahl, James Stotts, Vera Metcalf, Aqqaluk Lyngø, Tatiana Achirgina, Duane Smith, Carl Christian Olsen - Missing: Elvira Tyunikova

Photos courtesy: Carl Christian Olsen

Election of 2014 General Assembly Host

ICC Canada will host the 2014 General Assembly. The venue in Canada is yet to be decided.

2010 Bill Edmunds Award

The Bill Edmunds Award was established by ICC to honour those individuals who have made a selfless contribution to the promotion of Inuit rights and interests, with particular focus on international endeavors.

ICC Chair presented the award to Mary Simon and noted the significant role Mary has played in promoting Inuit international interests over her many years of service.

After a few words of acceptance and gratitude for the recognition Mary Simon in turn presented Jose Kusugak with a replacement of his 2006 Bill Edmunds award that went missing in transit.



Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm

Closing of the 11th ICC General Assembly



Photos courtesy: Harald Finkler



Photos courtesy: Harald Finkler

ANNEX A

NUUK DECLARATION



Nuuk Declaration

On 28 June – 2 July 2010 in Nuuk, Greenland, Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka, on the occasion of the 11th General Assembly and the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), and in the context of the Assembly theme,

Inoqatigiinneq -- Sharing Life

Remembering that the respectful sharing of resources, culture, and life itself with others is a fundamental principle of being Inuit, and is the fabric that holds us together as one people across four countries;

Recalling the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) in Alaska in 1977 in which Eben Hopson, Sr. invited Inuit from across the Arctic to share regional experiences, celebrate the unity of Inuit, and to commit to collective international action;

Remembering that the interim ICC executive committee members committed at that time to formulating the vision and drafting the ICC charter and by-laws, with the aim of formally adopting them, and **Looking Back** thirty years at the formal inauguration of ICC, which happened here in Nuuk in 1980;

Looking Forward to thirty more years of successful collaboration based upon the original guidance of Inuit gathered in previous Assemblies, and upon the lessons learned, experiences shared, and knowledge gained over the last three decades;

Understanding the unique status and reputation of ICC as an Indigenous Peoples' Organization (IPO) at home and abroad;

Recognizing the important contributions made by ICC's outgoing Chair and members of its Executive Council since the tenth General Assembly;

Giving Full Support to the newly-elected ICC Chair and Executive Council and **Thanking** them for their commitment to promote Inuit as one people internationally and promising to take on their roles diligently;

Knowing the importance of engaging Inuit children and youth directly in the work of ICC, as they are the key to a sustainable future;

Celebrating the historic adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* which, among other things, affirms that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, that indigenous peoples should be free from discrimination, have rights to self-determination, and are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing their right to be different and to be respected as such;

Recognizing that universal human rights instruments including the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide, including those of Inuit are still not fully acknowledged nor implemented and Inuit must continue to work alongside others to achieve the goal of full recognition of Inuit rights;

Noting the recent increased developments at the international level affecting Inuit, and the rapid and exponential growth of interest and external activity in the Arctic by powerful states, industry, researchers, and special interests over the past four years will undoubtedly continue and will require considerable attention and vigilance from ICC into the next four years;

Recognizing the disaster unfolding from off-shore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and further recognizing the fragility of the Arctic environment and how any significant oil spill would be catastrophic for Inuit and finally that resource extraction industries are increasingly aiming to exploit offshore and onshore resource development;

Observing Arctic change, including the melting of ice in the Inuit homeland, with significant concern and measured fear and **Knowing** that Inuit have a history of finding resources within their communities and elsewhere to adapt and meet challenges, created by change, successfully;

Observing that influential states, industry, and agencies are increasingly interested in the utilization of the Arctic marine environment and its associated resources;

Recognizing that Inuit, as a marine indigenous people living in vast areas of the Arctic, including Arctic coasts, have rights associated with managing the Arctic marine environment for present and future generations, with marine stewardship responsibilities for all humankind;

Recalling the launch of the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic* in April 2009, which Inuit leaders began to develop at the Inuit Leaders' Summit held in Kuujuaq in October 2008, and which in a spirit of collaboration and respect describes how the sovereign rights of Inuit are to be implemented;

Reminding ourselves that Inuit have generated much success by working collaboratively with others, including those with knowledge systems different from ours, and by contributing to the work of international and Arctic-wide research, as well as bodies such as the United Nations and the Arctic Council, while at the same time remaining true to our own knowledge systems and promoting our rights;

Noting that in spite of significantly increased activity in the Arctic, for Inuit there remains a woeful lack of north-to-north communications infrastructure and transportation connections between Inuit communities;

Mindful that challenges identified by Inuit who gathered together in the early ICC General Assemblies continue to have political, economic, environmental, social, and cultural dimensions and that ICC was mandated to put Inuit issues, concerns, and rights at the centre of Arctic policy and decision making;

Thanking the citizens of Nuuk and of all Greenland for being kind and gracious hosts of this 11th ICC General Assembly;

Hereby:

1. **Welcome and Adopt** the ICC Report on Activities 2006 – 2010;
2. **Recognize** the value of reports and presentations made, and discussions held, by Inuit at this 11th ICC General Assembly;

3. **Encourage** all Inuit, in the spirit of the theme of the 11th ICC General Assembly, to share their life's experiences and Inuit knowledge with each other and with those who live beyond the circumpolar region;
4. **Instruct** ICC to continue to use the Arctic Council as a key arena to further the interests of Inuit and, while working cooperatively with others in the Council, be vigilant about maintaining and strengthening the unique role of ICC as a permanent participant in the Arctic Council;
5. **Instruct** ICC to call upon members and permanent participants of the Arctic Council to restate their individual and collective commitment to the Arctic Council as the central forum for international cooperation in the Arctic; and that Arctic states include Inuit in all bi-lateral and multi-lateral meetings of importance to Inuit, and to do so with the same direct and meaningful manner as at the Arctic Council;
6. **Direct** the new executive council to analyze the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in the context of Inuit and their current respective situations, and to bring forward these findings to the international, national, regional, and local communities;
7. **Encourage** all Inuit to learn about the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and how it applies to them and their situation;
8. **Direct** ICC to strongly encourage all Arctic states to fully implement the provisions of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*;
9. **Direct** ICC to strongly encourage all Arctic states to fully implement the provisions of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*;
10. **Mandate** ICC to meaningfully engage children, youth and elders in the work of ICC;
11. **Mandate** ICC, in the context of the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*, to work diligently on promoting the interests, rights, and concerns of Inuit with respect to governance across the circumpolar region, and **Ask** ICC to insist that Arctic governments treat the Inuit homeland as an integral whole as it pertains to policies and programs targeting the Arctic;
12. **Instruct** ICC to engage in formal discussions on addressing key issues raised in the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic* with Russia, USA, Canada, and Denmark;
13. **Encourage** the ICC leadership to engage in discussions with UN member states that are interested in Arctic matters in order to educate them of our rights and interests and to engage in partnerships where merited;
14. **Strongly encourage** ICC to increasingly initiate consultations with regional state bodies and unions such as the European Union, the Organization of American States, and the G-20 countries so that they more fully take into account our rights and interests in their policy-making and activities;
15. **Instruct** ICC to speak out forcefully on Inuit rights to manage living resources and proactively inform others of our way of life and of our methods of practicing sustainable utilization and development;

16. **Support** Inuit hunters in their struggle to adapt to the new Arctic, and **Ask** ICC to fight unethical and unfair trade restrictions placed on our own products including the unjust European Union action to ban seal and other marine mammal products;
17. **Urge** ICC to enter into discussions with Inuit hunters through national Inuit organizations and, where appropriate, through their regional-level entities, on developing international sustainability covenants that both strengthen and promote the rights of Inuit to use resources in a wise and prudent manner;
18. **Instruct** ICC to promote the redefinition of hunting activities and use of renewable resources by Inuit as a profession within all international human rights fora;
19. **Urge** members of the ICC executive council to keep environmental stewardship of the Inuit homeland amongst their key priorities through 2010 – 2014 and especially with the goal of promoting a healthy and abundant source of renewable resources for Inuit of tomorrow;
20. **Instruct** ICC, as a matter of urgency, to plan and facilitate an Inuit leaders' summit on resource development with the aim of developing a common circumpolar Inuit position on environmental, economic, social and cultural assessment processes and, as a first order of business, raise funds for such a summit;
21. **Encourage** ICC to contribute to activities that incorporate Inuit knowledge and western science into action and decision-making in the Arctic, such as the 2012 International Polar Year conference, *From Knowledge to Action*, and others;
22. **Mandate** ICC to address the growing opportunity for Inuit to meaningfully engage in Arctic science and research, and at the same time play a role in promoting ethical and responsible research practices that stress the importance of bringing knowledge back to Inuit communities;
23. **Recognize** the efforts by ICC Greenland to establish an Inuit Center for International Understanding that will focus on human rights, in particular the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as fostering linkages to universities and centers of learning at home and abroad;
24. **Recognize** the efforts of Canadian Inuit having established the Inuit Knowledge Centre to support and encourage Inuit leadership of research being done in Inuit homelands from all sources in collaboration with all Canadian Inuit regions;
25. **Mandate** ICC to work with circumpolar and national partners towards the development of a strategy to implement the proper integration of community-based monitoring and research (CBM/R) into research activities in the Arctic;
26. **Recognize** that the Inuit language is a critical component of Inuit identity that must be promoted and **Mandate** ICC to strongly advocate for the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium held in 2008;
27. **Mandate** ICC to promote educational exchanges, sharing of best educational practices, and host a summit of experts and practitioners across the circumpolar Arctic to help each other develop and improve upon culturally-appropriate curriculum, and to develop further recommendations;

28. **Mandate** ICC to work with Inuit media companies and organizations to promote the sharing of information, the development of pan-Arctic and Inuit communications initiatives, and the existing and developing Inuit-specific television, radio, social media and Internet projects that promote increasing Inuit to Inuit communication and interaction;
29. **Mandate** ICC to continuously communicate its work and results of its activities to Inuit through media and other communications channels;
30. **Direct** ICC to use the findings, and build upon the work, of past Inuit land use and occupancy studies and similar research to effectively and proactively respond to the increasing use by others of Inuit sea ice, waters, and coastal zones;
31. **Mandate** the ICC executive council to begin an ICC archival initiative that will gather together important documents and records from each of the four ICC offices and other bodies and institutions, making them available to Inuit and other scholars in a responsible, professional, and state of the art fashion, thereby assisting in learning about, and highlighting achievements of, ICC and others dedicated to transnational Inuit unity and cooperative Inuit policy-making;
32. **Instruct** ICC to develop a clearinghouse that will help record and protect traditional knowledge of Inuit and facilitate information exchange between Inuit of the circumpolar region;
33. **Mandate** the ICC executive council to be actively involved in promoting the implementation of the recommendations of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), especially those provisions that aim to protect Inuit seas and coastal zones;
34. **Instruct** ICC to express its resolve that nation states recognize Inuit rights and responsibilities in relation to Inuit waters, seas and passages, that Inuit have used from time immemorial;
35. **Recognize** that Inuit well being is paramount, and **Instructs** ICC, to pursue a set of the highest environmental standards and controls that will prevent any type of damage on Inuit waters.
36. **Direct** ICC to advance Inuit health and well-being by implementing the 2010-2014 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy by promoting strategic initiatives throughout the Inuit world focusing on the well-being of Inuit families and other Inuit health priorities in partnership with national, circumpolar, and international partners;
37. **Instruct** ICC to increase its knowledge of Inuit health and well-being issues, and to promote these issues through relevant bodies such as the Arctic Council, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the World Health Organization, and the Food and Agricultural Organization;
38. **Address** the negative impact on Inuit food security brought on by the effects of contaminants, climate change, and regulatory decisions taken by others on polar bears, seals, and other mammals and **Urge** ICC to incorporate Inuit food security issues into its work on health, nutritious foods, sustainable utilization of wildlife, contaminants, biological diversity, and climate change;
39. **Mandate** ICC to continue to pursue all available avenues to combat human-induced climate change, and to develop ways to adapt to the new Arctic reality including insisting

on the inclusion of Arctic Inuit communities in the proposed 20 billion dollar international climate change adaptation fund;


40. **Instruct** ICC to maintain its international, national, and regional efforts to reduce the worldwide emissions of contaminants that end up in the Arctic and negatively affect Inuit, and engage in activities that advance and strengthen the provisions of international instruments such as the global Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the International Agreement on Mercury Pollution (currently under negotiation), the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter;
41. **Mandate** ICC to promote state of the art environmental and social impact assessment processes in each of the Inuit regions, especially with regard to project development in the resources sector, and to insist that civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations be given sufficient time, adequate resources, and full disclosure so they can provide essential input to these processes, and taking into account the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention 169;
42. **Instruct** ICC to promote economic development policies based on the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the principle of free, prior and informed consent, the right to fair, impartial and open processes, and the right of Inuit to participate in the decision-making process in regards to economic development and use of Inuit lands, seas, territories and resources;
43. **Remind** others that sound development of non-renewable resources in Arctic lands, territories and seas requires that Inuit be educated and trained to participate significantly in the ownership, management, and employment associated with those initiatives, and that royalties and other revenues derived from resource development be shared equitably with Inuit;
44. **Instruct** ICC to engage in activities that promote the protection of Inuit intellectual property and cultural heritage and do so in bodies such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), among others;
45. **Instruct** ICC to put Inuit concerns and rights front and centre in all work on biological diversity and related access and benefit sharing of resources of which Inuit own or have a right to use;
46. **Request** the ICC Executive Council to facilitate strengthening of ties between Chukotkan Inuit communities and Inuit communities in Alaska, Canada and Greenland;
47. **Mandate** ICC to remember the unique situation of the Inuit (Yupik) of Chukotka, and the difficulties with which they contend, and **Urge** ICC to plan practical projects with them that have lasting benefits and celebrate Inuit unity;
48. **Urge** ICC to continue to explore ways in which a strong ICC Chukotka office can be strengthened and maintained in a sustainable manner;
49. **Instruct** ICC to strongly advocate for the implementation of the *Moscow Declaration* emanating from the Arctic Leaders Summit held in Moscow, Russia during April 2010;
50. **Direct** ICC to continue to participate in international bodies such as the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the North Atlantic Marine Mammal

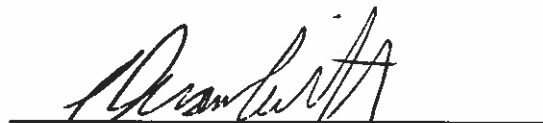
Commission (NAMMCO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to defend and promote the right of Inuit to harvest marine mammals and to trade their product on a sustainable basis;

51. **Instruct** each ICC office to be financially prudent and to share the work required to implement ICC mandates through regular inter-office communications and collective strategic planning;
52. **Instruct** each ICC office to re-new its efforts to secure additional financial support from public and private sources;
53. **Strongly Remind** ICC to engage in international efforts with the aim of making a locally-felt impact for the benefit of Inuit; and
54. **Instruct** ICC to plan and implement a pan-Arctic Inuit leaders' summit in 2012, the theme of which will be chosen by the incoming ICC executive council guided by both this Declaration and unforeseen issues of great importance to Inuit that may present themselves early in the new 4-year mandate of ICC.

The Chair and Executive Council of the Inuit Circumpolar Council hereby confirm that the Nuuk 2010 Declaration was unanimously passed by delegates at the 11th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council on 1 July 2010.


Jim Stotts, ICC Chair


Edward Itta
Vice-Chair, Alaska


Duane Smith
Vice-Chair, Canada


Willie Goodwin Jr.
Executive Council Member, Alaska


Violet Ford
Executive Council Member, Canada


Tatiana, Achirgina
Vice-Chair, Chukotka


Aqqaluk Lynge
Vice-Chair, Greenland


Elvira Tyunikova
Executive Council Member, Chukotka


Carl Christian Olsen
Executive Council Member, Greenland

ANNEX B

PARTICIPANTS

Participants

Canada

Delegates

Duane Smith
Violet Ford
Mary Simon
Elisapee Sheutiapik
Jesse Mike
Pita Aatami
Michael Gordon
Johnny Peters
William Barbour
Daniel Pottle
Kate Mitchell
Raymond Ningeochaek
Okalik Egeesiak
Charlie Evalik
Jose Amaujaq Kusugak
Carol Arey
Catherine Cockney
Charles Gruben

Speakers and Special Guests

Lillian Elias – Elder
Nancy Karetak-Lindell
Nellie Kusugak
Joseph Linklater
Premier Eva Aariak
Premier Floyd Roland
Wynter Kuliktana – Youth
Nathan Obed
Minnie Grey
John Amagoalik
Harald Finkler
Kirt Ejesiak
Ingira Appa Reimer
Chelsey Smith

Interpreters

Eileen Kilabuk-Weber
Maggie Putulik
Martha Flaherty
Julia Demcheson

Staff and Technical Support

Corinne Gray
Jocelyne Durocher
Carole Simon
Pitsey Moss-Davies
Yvonne Moorhouse
Stephanie Meakin
Eva Kruemmel
Shani Guerin
Chester Reimer
Annmarée O’Keeffe
Noor Jehan Johnson

Cultural Performers and Artists

Inuvialuit Drummers and Dancers

Gary Okheena
Shane Alikamik
Helen Kitekudlak
Lori-Anne Elanik
Philip Elanik
Lorna Elias
Keenan Carpenter
Janice Elanik

Artcirq

Guillaume Saladin D’Anglure
Terence Uyarak
Jacky Qrunngnut
Jude Inooya
Jimmy Awa Qamukaq
Joey Ammaq
Celina Kalluk

Throat Singers

Sylvia Cloutier
Akinisie Sivuarapik

Artists

Tanya Mesher
Victoria Okpik
Shirley Mary Moorhouse
Heather Melissa Campbell

Media

Jasen Kelly
Joanna Awa
Annie Ford
Jay Legere
Neville Crabbe
Kitty Gordon
Robert Mesher
Hans Ludwig Blohm

Observers

Elizabeth Roberts
Stephen Hendrie
James Richard Moore
Madeleine Allakariallak
Robert Carson
June Shappa
Kathleen Tagoona
Melissa Irwin
Aaju Peter
Karla Williamson
Miali Elise Coley
Bridget Larocque
Cynthia Dickson
Colleen Ann Henry

Alaska

Delegates

Roy Ashenfelter
Eugene Brower
Caroline Cannon
Levi Cleveland
George Edwardson
Willie Goodwin
Michael Hoffman
Robert Keith
Rex Rock
Harvey Vestal
Raymond Watson
Carl Weisner
Paul John
Merlin Koonooka
Deanna Latham
Lee Ryan

Speakers and Special Guests

Dalee Sambo Dorough
Henry Huntington
Edna MacLean
Vera Metcalf
Chris Krenz
Loretta Bullard
Representative Neal Foster
Representative Reggie Joule
Senator Donny Olson

Interpreters

Jill Hoffman
Freda Jimmie

Staff and Technical Support

Kelly Eningowak
Tim Andrew
Jason Bergersen
Ronald Brower
Carol Brown
Melanie Edwards
Beverly Eliason
Thomas Henry
Elizabeth Hensley
Clarence Itta
Sandi Mierop
Bridget McCleskey
Denise Michels
Sandi Mierop
Marie Itta
Vivian Korthuis
Minnie Naylor
Dominique Thomas
David Case
Linda Joule
Deborah Edwardson

Cultural Performers and Artists

Larae Ahmaogak
Jason Ahmaogak
Raquel Ahmaohak Nayakik
Frank Bester Jr.
Phillip Blanchett
Betty Bodfish
Alvin Bodfish
Annette Godfrey
Robert Gregory
Jack Hopstad
Jimmie Kagak
Phillip Kairaiuak
Sonya Kelliher Combs
Mike McIntyre
Karina Moeller
Nicole Nayakik
Ardyce Nayakik
Marietta Nayakik
McRidge Nayakik
Merle Panik
Rose Panik
Peter Panik
Anthony Shield

Observers

James Adams
Isabelle Booth
Charlotte Brower
Pearl Brower
Raychelle Daniel
Jason Evans
Aileen Frankson
Raymond Hawley
William Hensley
Nicole Johnston
Herbert Kinneeveauk
Eva Kinneeveauk
Tatiana Korthuis
Myrtle "Jacqui" Lambert
Tommy Nageak
Edith Nageak
Willow Olson
Hannah Onalik
Maligiaq Johnsen Padilla
Crawford Patkotak
Laura Patkotak
Molly Pederson
Cathleen Rexford
Rachel Riley
Ramona Rock
Dawn Salesky
Gretchen Schuerch
Alex Sheldon
Colleen Sheldon
Bridie Trainor
Vernita Vestal
Denali Whiting

Chukotka

Delegates

Tatiana Achirgina
Valentina Leonova
Gul'nara Rodionova
El'vira Tunikova
Galina Merculova
Irina Mumi
Maxim Agnagisyak
Elizaveta Dobrieva
Vasilii Dobriev
Anna Kochetegina
Anatolii Toolun
Vyacheslav

Speakers and Special Guests

Ludmila Ainana
Valentina Keulkut

Interpreters

Oleg Shakov
Olga Berg
Ann Mollon

Cultural Performers and Artists

Anatolii Akhsakhitak
Taisiya Suprunuk
Ol'ga Suprunuk
Daniil Marochkin
Nadejda Marochkina
Evgenii Tymnilin
Mariya Leita
Irina Apkan
Alexandr Einetegin
Alexei Vakhrushev
Lidiya Volovik



Greenland

Delegates

Lars Karl Jensen
Anna Eva Thomassen
Karl Elias Olsen
Leif Fontaine
Nuka Kleemann
Josef Therkildsen
Aili Liimakka Laue
Kaaliina Skifte
Hjalmar Dahl
Ib Uldum
Aleqa Hammond
Uusaqqak Qujaukitsoq
Enok Sandgren
Magnus Therkelsen
Dorthie Jakobsen
Esther Rosing
Aqqaluk Lynge
Carl Chr. Olsen

Speakers and Special Guests

Kuupik Kleist
Josef Motzfeldt
Asii Chemitz Narup
Ane Hansen
Maliina Abelsen
Dr. Minik Rosing
Jens Frederiksen
Finn Lynge
Hans Pavia Rosing
Dr. Gert Mulvad
Erna Lynge
Hans Jakob Helms

Interpreters

Nuka Møller
Alfred Jakobsen
Helena Risager
Kelly Berthelsen
Juana Petrussen
Hans Kreutzmann
Ole Heinrich
Tupaarnaq Rosing Olsen
Elisabeth R. Johansen

Staff and Technical Support

Rena Skifte
Lene Kielsen Holm
Sara Olsvig

Cultural Performers and Artists

Aavaat Choir
Greenland National Choir
Choir Nipe
Rasmus Lyberth
Liima Inui
Sume
John Olsen
Varna
Tupaarnaq
Lotte
Nuutit
Qulleq
Qeqquaq
Aasui-aa Project
Kleemann-ikkut
NAIP
Ida Heinrich
Josef L. Josefsen
Qissiat
Tuppi Sandgreen
Hanne & Leif
Tulugaq - Raven by
Pipaluk J. Kreutzmann
Student-organization:
Qivioq from Aasiaat
Elders-storytellers:
Adam Lynge, Ole Berthelsen and
Priscilla Absalonsen

Inuit Games

Leif Immanuelson
Robert Peary
Qaannat Kattuffiat
NAPP
Greenlandic Food Ambassador
Ane Sofie Hardenberg

Fashion-show:

Najannguaq Sværd
NUIF: Breakdancers

Contemporary Inuit Art

Aka Høegh
Inuuteq Storch
Julie Edel Hardenberg
Marie P. Kjærulf
Niels Motzfeldt
Living Settlement:
Anne Mette Olsvig

ANNEX C

GA DONORS AND SPONSORS

ICC GA Donors and Sponsors

Inuit Circumpolar Council wishes to thank the following:

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Makivik Corporation
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Natural Resources Canada
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Ducks Unlimited
Telus World of Science
Telesat
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada,
Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Circumpolar
Liaison Directorate
Public Works and Government Services Canada

Greenland

Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq
Namminersorlutik Oqartussat
Kultureqarnermut Tapiissutaat
Tipsernermit Lottomillu aningaasaliissutit
Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation
Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa TV-alu
Tele Greenland A/S
Nuuk Imeq
Great Greenland
Ilinniartut Ineqarfiisa Allaffeqarfia
Royal Greenland A/S
Royal Arctic Line A/S
Usisaat A/S
Nunani Avannarlerni Piorsarsimassutsikkut
Attaveqaat
NunaFonden
Arctic Green Food A/S
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ISS Grønland A/S
Kalaallit Nunaanni Brugseni
Kamik
Katuaq
Kommune Kujalleq
Lynge Andersen Malerfirma
Narajaq
Neqi A/S
Nuna Advokater
Pavia Lyberth
Piareersarfik
Polar Seafood
Qaasuitsup Kommunua
Saviminilerinermik Ilinniarfik
Sorlak
Stark

Chukotka

Government of Chukotka

Alaska

North Slope Borough
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
NANA Regional Corporation
Trust for Mutual Understanding (Chukotka
Funding)
Oceana
Pew Charitable Trust
Oak Foundation
Bering Air
Era Aviation
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Shell Alaska
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