



**Press Release:**  
**Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska to host first ever  
Alaskan Inuit Education Alignment Summit**

**November 1, 2016 – Anchorage, Alaska** - Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska will host the first-ever Alaskan Inuit Education Alignment Summit, November 8-9 in Anchorage, Alaska. The Summit will bring together over 100 Alaskan Inuit delegates and other invitees from throughout the State to discuss and strengthen the movement to improve education for Alaskan Inuit.

“The aim of the Alaskan Inuit Education Alignment Summit is to strengthen the movement to reclaim our own ways, including how we impart knowledge and advance an education agenda that stems from our collective worldview. Drawing inspiration from our ancestors, we will reignite those concepts and beliefs that originate from those who came before and will result in the articulation of ideas for improving education for our people today. We will share with each other and learn together in a way that promotes and will nurture meaningful change and builds momentum for those who are to come.”

Delegates will hear from other indigenous leaders in education, including Distinguished Professor Dr. Graham Hingangaroa Smith who is an internationally renowned Māori educationalist who has been at the forefront of the Māori initiatives in the education field and beyond; and Dr. Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a who is the director of Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, which is the first indigenous language college in the United States.

The Summit is a directive in the 2015 Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy. The Strategy was developed from recommendations by the Alaskan Inuit education community who met in Nome in 2014. Overall, the strategy “is a call for a collaborative effort to make Alaskan Inuit education meaningful for individuals, impactful for communities and sustainable for Inuit culture.” The Strategy can be found online at [www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org).

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that exists to be the unified voice and collective spirit of Alaskan Inuit, to promote, protect, and advance Inuit culture and society. ICC Alaska membership includes regional organizations that represent Inupiat, Central Yup’ik, Cup’ik and Saint Lawrence Island Yupik in the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Straits and Southwest regions in Alaska.

For more information:

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