



DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN

Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA

Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 7:

Inuit Day!

November 8-9:

Alaskan Inuit Education Alignment Summit • Anchorage, AK • <http://iccalaska.org/alaskan-inuit-education-alignment-summit/>

November 10-11:

ICC Alaska Board of Directors Regular Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska

November 15-16:

Eskimo Walrus Commission Board Meeting • Anchorage, AK • <http://www.kawerak.org/ewc.html>

December 6-7:

Arctic Safety Waterways Committee Meeting • Anchorage, AK • <http://www.arcticwaterways.org/>

December 7-8:

Arctic LCC Resilience Workshop • Kotzebue, Alaska • <http://arcticlcc.org/>

December 7-8:

Arctic Council Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group meeting • Copenhagen, Denmark • <http://arctic-council.org/eppr/>

November 28-December 1:

Arctic Council Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) Working Group Meeting • Helsinki, Finland • <http://www.amap.no/>

December 8-10:

Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska • <http://www.aewc-alaska.com/>

January 22-27:

Arctic Frontiers Conference • Tromso, Norway • <http://www.arcticfrontiers.com/>



ICC in Qaqortoq. L to R: James Stotts (Alaska), Hjalmer Dahl (Greenland), Rena Skifte (Greenland staff), Okalik Eegeesiak (Canada), Nancy Karetak-Lindell (Canada), Vera Metcalf (Alaska), Elena Kaminskaya (Chukotka), Nuka Kleeman (Greenland), Makkak Nielson and Lars Nielsen (Kangerluarsorujuk Sheep Farm owners). Photo by Mads Fægteborg.

Executive Council Meets in Qaqortoq

By ICC Alaska Staff

ICC held its Executive Council Meeting (ECM) in Qaqortoq, Greenland August 26-27. Herb Nakimayak from Canada was unable to attend due to a conflict with his role as a member of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. Tatiana Archigina from Chukotka was also unable to attend.

Nuka Kleeman from Greenland attended his first ECM, he replaces Martha Abelsen who resigned due to new job responsibilities. Nancy Karetak-Lindell also attended her first ECM, she replaces Duane Smith who resigned after being elected President of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. A big welcome to Nuka and Nancy.

ICC Chair, Okalik Eegeesiak invited Jorgen W. Johansen, Mayor of Kommune Kujalleq to make opening remarks. The Mayor gave a briefing on issues and concerns facing the Kommune. He stated that economic development was a priority and stressed the need for new economic initiatives including: mining, tourism and reindeer herding. He said traditional activities such as fishing and sheep ranching needed to become more efficient and profitable. He stressed the need for new infrastructure projects including completion of an airport. Qaqortoq is currently only serviced by helicopter. The Kommune currently has 6,800 inhabitants, a drop of 12 percent in the last decade. Johansen pointed out some of the sites to visit while in Qaqortoq. We thanked Mayor Johansen for his warm welcome and support for the ICC.

After dispensing with minutes and country reports we proceeded with a discussion on the United Nations.

United Nations: At the 15th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the Arctic Indigenous Caucus (ICC/Sami Council) focused on two articles from the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) Outcome Document: 1) Article 23 - enhancing the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP); 2) Article 33 - participation of indigenous peoples in the UN system. The UNPFII session was held May 9-20.

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ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President's Message

James Stotts

A Different Approach to Climate Change...

Over the past several months Inuit find themselves under increasing pressure on a number of fronts. We find ourselves, once again, having to pay the price for problems created by others. We are being asked to shoulder more than our fair share of the burden for environmental conservation and climate change mitigation. We are being asked to sacrifice our culture and future to help save the rest of the world from its mistakes. This is not acceptable. Our side of the story must be considered in this dialogue. Sometimes it feels like the southern world doesn't realize there are people living in the Arctic.

Recently in the U.S., there have been efforts to classify important Arctic animal species as threatened or endangered due to predictions of less ice in the Arctic Ocean brought on by global climate change. Clearly the ice is decreasing and nobody knows this better than us. Marine mammals being considered for classification include: polar bears, walrus, narwhales, and several species of ice-seals. It appears classification of important land mammals such as caribou and migratory birds is just around the corner.


What's troubling is not knowing how these classifications will impact our ability to continue utilizing these animals for nutritional and cultural survival. Several prominent Inuit organizations have raised their concerns and it appears they are being ignored. This is going on despite strong government commitments to meaningfully include us in all discussions on decisions affecting us.

I have to call out the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of State as major culprits in all of this. Inuit rights are being trampled in the rush to tackle the complicated issue of climate change. We need assurances that our concerns will not be forgotten, that our culture will be respected. The right to access food is a basic human right.

I also have to call out some environmental NGOs as major culprits in this, they know who they are. Despite assuring us that they understand and support our food security, they have been surprisingly silent. It seems to me that they could do more to support us. They support the government but don't speak out on the rights of Inuit to live their culture. At times, it seems like they are just using us to advance their conservation goals.

On another but related issue, whatever happened to the promise of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other negotiated settlements in Canada and Greenland? We had hoped to develop resources on our lands and waters in order to be self-sufficient. We have no desire to become dependent on others for survival. Today, we are being asked to stop development within our territory because its harmful to the environment and climate change. Pollution and negative impacts of climate change were brought to the Arctic from outside. For the Arctic, sustainable development seems to mean no development. Where is the justice in this?

Recently the Greenland Self-rule government stated it was seeking exemptions to the UN Climate Change Agreement because it created a situation where Greenland cannot develop its resources which would eventually allow Greenland to proceed towards independence. Other similar stories are being played out all over the indigenous world. The right to develop an economy is a basic human right.

We realize global climate change is the single most important problem facing the planet today. We realize we are being called upon to be part of the solution. However, the collapse and demise of our culture is too high a price to pay. Our nations need to sit down with us to develop solutions that will work for all of us. There has to be a better way than the current approach where we are being ignored and trampled over. 

My ICC Internship

By Ashley Johnson

Hello my name is Ashley Johnson and my parents are Donald and Regina Johnson. I am the oldest of four children and my family and I live in Bethel, Alaska. I embrace my Yup'ik culture the most because I grew up around the culture in Pitka's Point and Emmonak, Alaska. This 2016 summer was a learning experience for me in numerous ways. Before this First Alaskans Institute Internship with Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska, I did not know ICC. When I told my aunt, Vivian Korhuis, about my internship and whom I was placed with, she could not believe it and was very excited for me as she actually sits on the ICC Alaska board.

I was a little scared in the beginning of the internship because I felt that I should have done research about ICC Alaska before my first day. However, I found that I did not have to because Kelly Eningowuk, my supervisor, gave me all the reading materials necessary on my first day. I learned how the non-profit organization started, what countries they serve, and what current projects they are working on. Because Inuit is an Inupiaq word, I had trouble understanding who the organization worked for, so, I had asked my aunt if I am Inuit and she said yes. That was funny and interesting to find out, I then started telling my other family members that they too are Inuit. Additionally, Kelly and James, the ICC Alaska president, helped me understand how the word became the organization's name.

Since I have never stayed in Anchorage for more than a week and a half before, I had to find an apartment for the internship, in addition to finding out how I will get around in town. Luckily, my cousin Malorie Johnson from Unakleet was also looking for an apartment. We became roommates for the summer and she offered to bring and pick me up from work. Although, as the summer went on, I found that I had to learn how to take the bus because I did not want to rely on her nor bug her about rides to and from work all summer. I have never taken the bus system in Anchorage before. So, the day I took my first bus ride was huge for me because I had to pay attention to the roads to get off on the right stop. Also, not that it was too big of a deal, it was raining that morning I took my first bus ride. However, I got to work safely and on time. I am now more comfortable taking the bus, however, I feel that I still need more experience if I were to rely on the bus system for every transportation reason.

As I read the materials about current and past projects, I was definitely moved by the Food Security Report and the framework image of a traditional drum representing food sovereignty. I understood and agreed completely that our

cultural food is one way that we connect to our ancestors and that our cultural food affects our everyday lifestyles. As I read, "Alaskan Inuit food security is the natural right of all Inuit to be part of the ecosystem, to access food and to care-take, protect and respect all of life, land, water and air," I had to ask my supervisor if it was a real right Inuit have on cultural food.



A drawing intern Ashley Johnson did to provide a visual in her project report on community potlucks and food security.

She then informed me that ICC Alaska tries to incorporate it as a right to try and get people motivated to claim their natural rights as indigenous people. Although, it does make sense that we, as indigenous people and as the Inuit of the Arctic, should take care of our food, land, and water sources because we were the first to inhabit the land, not people from the lower 48.

Then I realized how complicated policies, laws, and regulations are on our people who only want to live freely to gather, hunt and fish for our cultural food. I then started to question the State of Alaska because

they should be protecting and working for us, not we working for them. Maybe because of how much it negatively affects our lifestyles by the decisions they make without being heard from every community in Alaska, I cannot work with the policy side of issues.

As I met with Carolina Behe, the lady who works closely with ICC Alaska's food security project, we talked about many projects I can do that relates to our cultural food. At first, I was hesitant about potentially working under the food security project ideas because the subject is close to my heart in terms of having high cultural values. However, I then came up with a food security project that is based in my tribal membership community.

With growing up in Emmonak and Pitka's Point, I can identify one difference between the communities. Emmonak holds more community events and activities than Pitka's Point. Also knowing that there are many benefits that come from gathering as a community, I wanted to know why Pitka's Point does not hold such gatherings like a community potluck. As I remembered that mental well-being is one of the six dimensions discussed in the framework of food sovereignty, I wanted to connect the food system of fish to community potlucks to mental well-being. When I was describing the food system of fish, I realized that there were so many steps and components within the process that I myself did not know because it is our lifestyle. Some, if not all, people do not think twice of gathering, hunting, fishing, and processing their cultural foods because it is tradition connecting back to our ancestors.

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Article 23 refers to enhancing and expanding indigenous participation within EMRIP. Article 33 refers to removing obstacles for the participation of indigenous peoples in meetings of UN bodies. There is a call for permanent observer status for indigenous peoples within the UN system.

At the 9th session of EMRIP, held July 11-15, the Arctic Indigenous Caucus again focused on the two articles from the WCIP Outcome Document.

The next meeting of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or COP22 will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco November 7-8. COP22 is expected to be an 'implementation and action COP.' Under 'implementation' negotiations are expected to focus on loss and damage, as well as discussing finance. Under 'action' there is a call to engage with non-state actors in climate change. As of August 10th all four ICC countries have signed but not ratified the Paris Agreement. It was decided the ICC Chair would attend COP22 with a small contingent.

ICC Canada manages our membership to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). They gave reports on upcoming meetings of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii September 1-10; the CITES COP17 in Johannesburg, South Africa September 25–October 5; the CBD COP13 in Cancun, Mexico in December. ICC Canada works closely with the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) on these files. Inuit face contentious issues at IUCN concerning the use of walrus ivory and at CITES on attempts to up-list the polar bear to endangered status.

Arctic Council: Most of the Arctic Council (AC) working groups are focused on completing projects under the U.S. chairmanship and preparing for the Ministers meeting to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska in May 2017. The Task Forces are also busy winding up their efforts prior to the Ministers meeting. Simultaneously there's a strong effort to develop work plans for the upcoming Finnish chairmanship, again in advance of the Ministers meeting.

With two new Executive Council members and changes in key staff positions, there is a need to reassess how we are engaged at the AC. There is a need for better balance between our offices and to improve and expand participation. We also discussed involving Chukotka more in this effort.

ICC Greenland gave an update on activities of the AC Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS). We had a lengthy discussion on IPS efforts to create a Permanent Participant Funding Mechanism. There were a number of questions raised and we decided to resolve these issues before committing to it.

ICC Summits: The Inuit Economic Summit will be held in Anchorage, Alaska in February 2017. The Inuit Wildlife Management Summit will be held in Arctic Canada in the fall 2017. Finally, the Inuit Education Summit will be held in Greenland in 2018. Our discussion focused on planning and funding.



Qaortoq, Greenland. Photo by Jim Stotts.

Pikialasorsuaq Commission: The Chair reported on progress of the Commission which aims to explore options for international/regional management and conservation of the North Water Polynya. The polynya is located in northern Davis Strait between Canada and Greenland and is critical habitat for species that Inuit hunters depend on for food. The polynya is the largest in the northern hemisphere and the most biologically productive ecosystem north of the Arctic Circle.

Commissioners are Okalik Egeesiak; Eva Areak, former Premier of Nunavut; and Kuupik Kleist, former Premier of Greenland. The Commission conducted hearings in northern Nunavut in April and is planning hearings in northern Greenland in September. The Commission will make a report from its hearings, including the potential for community driven management, to be presented to communities in October and finalized in November.

Uranium: At the last ECM it was requested each country prepare brief reports on uranium and uranium mining in their respective country. The reports were reviewed and discussed and no conclusions were made except to acknowledge that uranium mining is a contentious issue among Inuit. This is an issue that will likely be discussed more in the future.

White House Arctic Science Ministerial: The Chair has been invited to this Minister-level meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to bring together Science Ministers, Chief Science Advisors, and other high-level officials together with Arctic Indigenous representatives to collaborate on Arctic science, research, observations, monitoring, and data-sharing. The goal is to advance promising near-term science initiatives and create a context for increased international science collaboration on the Arctic over the longer term.

The Chair has expanded on her participation at the Science Ministerial in her message in this issue of DRUM.

Eskimo Walrus Commission: We passed "A Resolution of Support for the Alaska Eskimo Walrus Commission's Opposition of Including Walrus, Mammoth, and Mastodon Ivory in African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws in the United States."

On August 28th we met informally with member of Kommune Kujalleq.

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Chair's Message

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

Achieving Equity in Arctic Science and Research...

Ullukkut

It is only October but it has been a busy fall with much to share with you. The ICC Executive Council met in Qaqortoq, Southern Greenland. It is here our Thule ancestors once lived. This region, as with other Inuit

communities, has great beauty and great challenges. Education, health care, resource development and employment remain issues of concern for all Inuit who wish to remain in our Nunaat. The ICC Executive Council discussed many issues from mental health to economic development, from shipping to broadband. During the discussions with the ICC leadership I always feel such pride at the level of commitment and the knowledge each one brings to the table – this collective commitment creates the unity that was the vision of Eben Hopson. Chukotka, Alaska, Greenland and Canada -- we are truly one people.

This was again demonstrated to me as the three Pikialasorsuaq Commissioners, myself, Kuupik Kleist, Eva Aariak and our staff travelled by boat to the most northern community in the world, Siorapaluk, Greenland to listen to Inuit in Northern Greenland about their relationship and future vision for the Pikialasorsuaq. The messages we heard echoed those we heard from Canadian Inuit in early April. Inuit from both Canada and Greenland wish to have free access to travel between their communities and lead in the management and monitoring of the area. The sustainability of this marine region and the food supply it provides is the ultimate vision for the future of Inuit who use the Pikialasorsuaq and any future use of these waters must recognize this.

In late September I was invited to the first White House Arctic Science Ministers meeting. Armed with the richness and generosity of the knowledge that the community members from both Canada and Greenland shared with the Commission, I went to Washington with such confidence in our indigenous knowledge, its value and the shared vision Inuit have for Arctic science and research in our Nunaat.

The Ministerial focused on several themes and was accompanied by a call-to-action for new steps to better understand, address and adapt to changing conditions in the Arctic. I called on the leaders to ensure research is conducted through equitable partnerships with Inuit, from inception to communication of results.

When I spoke of 'equity', I also spoke of re-empowerment of Inuit through a meaningful partnership in Arctic science and research and the value indigenous knowledge brings to the immense decisions that need to be made in our changing Arctic.

Equity is the foundation for the way forward if we are going to address changing conditions in the Arctic in a way that supports our people and communities. Equity in Arctic research and


science can only be realized once a meaningful partnership, built upon trust, is achieved between Inuit and others. The term 'equitable' is very different than inclusive and the typical phrase that we hear all too often – 'having a seat at the table.' The simple definition of equity is 'fairness or justice in the way people are treated.' Together, through an equitable partnership, building on our collective strengths, we will fill our blind spots with knowledge much more efficiently than we can today.

I believe that priority must be given to using research knowledge outcomes as a tool to reduce the social inequities that exist in Inuit communities across the Arctic. The time is now for Arctic science and research to fully encompass indigenous knowledge. It is central to setting and carrying out the research agendas across Inuit regions of the Arctic and to fully take into account all knowledge systems in the pursuit of truth in the Arctic.

The time for equity is now. Through equity, we can take a quantum leap forward rather than settling for 'incremental steps.' An equitable partnership in Arctic science will be the research equivalent of a disruptive technology...it will advance our collective ability to acquire knowledge in profound and unexpected ways. Equity begins with our indigenous knowledge. We want to work with scientists to co-produce knowledge, where we are involved from the inception of research ideas to communication of information – using our indigenous knowledge as science and other scientific disciplines – an approach that builds on the strengths of using different frames to see and understand the world. Inuit knowledge is vital to successfully understanding the Arctic, the changes it is experiencing, the riches it holds, and the future of its peoples.

I expressed that it is time to do research in partnership with Inuit that addresses community research priorities. Our communities are strengthened when we work in partnership to implement, for example, innovative energy solutions, explore alternative cost-effective housing models that address food security, our housing crisis, and identify how public policy can help improve the health and wellbeing of all our people and in particular the youth.

We are at a crossroads. The decisions we make today will shape the future of the Arctic and its peoples. I encourage all of us to pursue equity. To see how re-empowerment can contribute to a more robust understanding of the changes the Arctic is facing and the decisions that need to be made to ensure policies are in place so Inuit can rise to the challenges and benefit from the opportunities.

Was our message heard? I am hopeful the Ministers did hear us and that we have the collective will to act. 

Aingai.

See: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/28/joint-statement-ministers>

Mary Simon Appointed Arctic Advisor

By ICC Alaska Staff

In August, former ICC President Mary Simon was appointed as a Minister's Special Representative by Carolyn Bennett, Canada's Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs. Mary is tasked with helping develop new policy for conservation and sustainable economic growth in Canada's Arctic. Mary said she views this as an opportunity to dig deep into the economic, social and environmental issues facing Inuit.

This new appointment is clearly a result of the recent USA/Canada Joint Statement on Climate, Energy, and Arctic Leadership. ICC reported extensively on the joint statement in the March 2016 issue of DRUM.

Under the section concerning Arctic Leadership, the joint communique calls for a new partnership with indigenous and northern partners following four objectives: 1) conserving arctic biodiversity through science-based decision making; 2) incorporating indigenous science and traditional knowledge into decision making; 3) building a sustainable Arctic economy; 4) supporting strong Arctic communities.

President Obama and Prime Minister Trudeau called the "Shared Arctic Leadership Model" a strategy that seeks to build a sustainable northern economy and reduce climate change emissions, with consideration for traditional knowledge.


Simon spoke with delegates to the ICC Canada Annual Meeting in Kuujuaq, Quebec in September. She said, "The way I interpret this is improving relationships with the federal government, and other governments, for Inuit. If we can't make



Nancy Karetak-Lindell, ICC Canada President and Mary Simon, Special Representative. Photo provided by ICC Canada.

it tangible, it really isn't going to mean a lot. I want to use this mechanism to support what areas you feel aren't fulfilled in the land claims agreements."

She mentioned two ideas that she hoped to pursue: 1) Inuit regions have settled land claims, but there is little in the way of a management regime in the oceans, creating an opportunity for Inuit; 2) creation of indigenous protected areas, to be identified and managed by indigenous groups.

Mary plans to meet with northern indigenous peoples, governments and industry to clarify issues around Inuit land claims which are often misunderstood outside of Inuit Nunangat. She will complete her final report by March 2017. We will report on further developments in future issues of the DRUM. 


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During my project, I learned more about my Yup'ik culture, how to write a report, how to conduct Indigenous methodology interviews, and what kind of work I would like to do after graduating from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). The Yup'ik culture has so many ways of harvesting fish, and unfortunately I knew I could not define and describe them all within the project. Nor do I know of all the current and past ways of harvesting fish. From this, I have more appreciation for my culture and am thankful that I can still participate in harvesting fish. During my three years attending UAF, I do not recall ever having to write a report. The writing assignments were all mostly either Modern Language Association or American Psychological Association style papers that included my position on topics. Also, the papers did not always require or ask to do interviews. If so, I used the western style of interviews where the questions were looking for a yes or no answer and the interview was directed by me.

With learning and following the Indigenous methodology of interviews, I was told by Carolina that I should not ask yes or no questions and allow for the interviewee to direct the interview. "We try to let them tell us what is important based on their knowledge" and "It is more of a conversation style

than western style interview." At first it was a little difficult to understand that concept because I grew up only knowing the western style interviews, however, after a few practices and my first interview, I got comfortable with it.

Lastly, I think that ICC works as facilitators and advocates for the people they serve. During this project, I have learned that I would like to work within the field of a situation or event, where I am doing the action within a community. I can do desk and paper work in an office, however, I would also like to be out putting on an event. I believe that there will be many job positions to choose from after graduating from UAF with my Rural Development degree.

The eight weeks working with ICC has been a great experience for me because I learned a lot about the organization, my culture, and myself. Before hand, I had no clue what ICC was or that it even existed, however, from now on I believe that I will always stay in touch with the organization, especially with the people who work under ICC Alaska. The only friendly suggestion I make is that the organization purchase a radio, so that it would not be so quiet on days where James, Kelly, or Carolina are out. Thank you ICC Alaska for having me intern with you this summer, the information I learned will not go to waste. 



Former NANA Chair Robert Aqqaluk Newlin, Sr., Former NANA President John Schaeffer and Levi Cleveland gather together in the early 1980's to discuss the future of Red Dog. Photo provided courtesy of NANA Regional Corporation.

Remembering John Schaeffer and Levi Cleveland

By ICC Alaska Staff

ICC regrets the passing of two long-time leaders from the NANA region, John Schaeffer Jr. and Levi Cleveland. Both men were tireless in their efforts to create a better life and future for their people in Northwest Alaska. Both made great contributions to the ICC.

also served on the borough assembly from 2000-2006. A leader of resolve, courage and vision, he worked to ensure the survival of the Inupiaq language, culture and traditions. He represented Alaska on the ICC Executive Council from 1992-1995. John is survived by his wife Mary, 10 children, 53 grandchildren, 100 great grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren.

Levi (Anaraaq) was born at camp just below Ambler in 1933. A selfless man, Levi dedicated his life to the service of others. He served in the Alaska National Guard for 41 years, retiring as Command Sergeant Major. During his life of service to his people he represented the village of Shungnak on the NANA Board, was a trustee for Wells Fargo Bank, committee member for the State of Alaska Fish and Game, and school board member for the Northwest Arctic School District. He sat on the city and tribal councils of Shungnak and served as mayor. To many, his most important role was an example of how to live the Inupiaq values. He led by example. With his heavy work load he still found time to serve as Chair of the ICC Elders Council. Levi and his wife Ruth raised 7 children, they had 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

We will miss their wisdom and advice. 

John (Qipqina) was born in Kotzebue in 1939. He served in the Alaska National Guard for 34 years rising to the rank of General (two-star), eventually serving as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. He was a founder of the Northwest Alaska Native Association (NANA) and was the first President and CEO for NANA Regional Corporation from 1972-1984. John was elected the first Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough in 1986 and




Photo by Photo by Mads Fægteborg.

ICC Greenland Selects New Council Member

Nuka Kleeman was elected to the ICC Executive Council in June. He replaces Martha Abelsen who resigned to accept a new position with the Greenland government.

Nuka was born and raised in Upernavik in northwestern Greenland. He graduated from Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland) as a teacher. He taught at Knud Rasmussen Folk High School for two years before becoming an Education Advisor to the Greenland Department of Education. He is currently on his 11th year working as the Head of the College of Social Education. Nuka served as Chairman of the ICC Greenland delegation from 2006 until his recent election to the Executive Council. He is also the President of the Sports Confederation of Greenland.

He quoted, "As the new member of the ICC Executive Council, I intend to do my part to carry out the goals of the Kitigaaryuit Declaration the next two years. Regarding education, ICC Greenland is currently working on the Education Summit to be held in Greenland. I intend to maintain and work on the good reputation ICC has obtained nationally and internationally." 



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Sculpture in Qaqortoq. Photo by Jim Stotts.



Kangerluarsorujuk Sheep Farm. Photo by Jim Stotts



ICC at the Upernaviarsuk Experimental Farm. Photo by Mads Fægteborg.



Okalik Eegeesiak and Jorgen W. Johansen, Mayor of Kommune Kujalleq welcomed ICC in Qaqortoq. Jorgen is also a former ICC Youth President. Photo by Mads Fægteborg.

Vice Mayor, Simon Simonsen, presented the municipality's resource development policy. Licenses are issued by the Greenland Self Rule government with input from the Kommune during the assessment process. He said mining activity is very important for the future of the Kommune. There are 23 current exploration licenses issued by the Self Rule government.

There was a discussion on the Kranefeld prospect which has rare earth minerals mixed with uranium. Mining for uranium is controversial and there is considerable political debate within Greenland on this issue and this prospect. The prospect is located close to the community of Narsaq which has concerns about potential pollution if the prospect is developed.

Mayor Simonsen said commercial fishing has rebounded with the return of cod and there is an increase in food production (sheep) and agriculture. The Kommune is working to develop three World Heritage Sites under UNESCO which could increase tourism. He also mentioned the need to complete the new airport in Qaqortoq.

Ole Christiansen, Consultant on Non-renewable Resources, led a lively discussion on the pros and cons of two mining prospects located in south Greenland with uranium. We had an opportunity to hear both sides of the issue.

On August 29th we took a boat trip to the Upernaviarsuk Experimental Farm located about 5 miles east of Qaqortoq. The farm conducts research and training in a sub-Arctic setting. In addition to agriculture, the farm focuses on the economically important area of sheep ranching.

We then traveled to the Kangerluarsorujuk Sheep Farm for lunch and a visit with Lars and Makkah Nielsen. They have developed their farm into a popular tourist destination, offering a gorgeous location with fantastic views where we enjoyed a great meal.

Next meeting: The next ECM will be held in Barrow, Alaska during February 2017. 