



Press Release:

Inuit Circumpolar Council to convene Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit in Anchorage

March 13, 2017 – Anchorage, Alaska – The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is hosting a Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit at the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel from March 28-30. The Summit theme is “Setting the Agenda for Our Future.”

According to Jim Stotts, President of ICC Alaska, “We are expecting approximately 75-80 participants from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. They represent Inuit owned business organizations from our four countries. We are meeting to explore potential cooperation and share experiences. We will explore the potential for creating an international Inuit business organization to promote collaborations across our respective national borders.”

ICC has hosted similar meetings before. In 1983, ICC hosted a conference in Anchorage, Alaska on: Trade and Travel; Strengthening Economic Ties; and Natural Resources and Economies. In 2011, ICC hosted a conference in Ottawa, Ontario to create the “Inuit Principles for Resource Development in Inuit Nunaat.” There have been numerous conferences within ICC’s four countries over the years on Inuit business and economic development.

Hjalmar Dahl, President of the ICC Greenland finds the summit as an very important initiative: “It is essential to focus on the economical development in the Arctic. There is a huge focus on the Arctic mainly on the climate issues, but it is important also to focus the human aspect of it including economical development. How can we work together and reach common interests? Lets talk about the challenges we have and cooperate to further the Inuit economic interests. I am also happy that the Nalakkersuisut (Government) of Greenland has announced their participation. It shows their interest to talk and find ways of cooperation.”

Okalik Egeesiak, Chair of ICC offered, “In 2014, Inuit from the four countries agreed to the Kitigaaryuit Declaration which called for three Summits to address pressing needs in our communities and villages. This Summit is the first of these and will discuss the emerging economic issues in the Arctic and the opportunities and challenges Inuit face. In the fall of 2017 we will meet in Canada for the Wildlife Management Summit to discuss the importance of our hunting culture to our food security and our future. The Education Summit will be the final Summit held in Greenland the following year.”

For further information on the Summit, go to the event webpage: <http://iccalaska.org/media-and-reports/circumpolar-inuit-economic-summit/>

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is a major international non-governmental Indigenous organization representing approximately 160,000 Inuit of Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. The organization holds Consultative Status II at the UN Economic and Social Council and is a Permanent Participant of the Arctic Council. The principle goals of ICC are to: Strengthen unity among Inuit of the Circumpolar region; promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level; develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment; and seek full and active partnership in the political, economic, and social development of Circumpolar regions.

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