

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN

Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA

Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 21-26

2018 Arctic Frontiers: Connecting the Arctic • Tromso, Norway • www.arcticfrontiers.com

January 22-26

2018 Alaska Marine Science Symposium • Anchorage, AK • www.alaskamarinescience.org

January 25-26

Arctic Council SAO Meeting • London, U.K. • www.arctic-council.org

January 29-31

AMAP SLCP Expert Group • Helsinki, Finland • www.amap.no

February 6-8

CAFF Board Meeting • Fairbanks, Alaska • www.caff.is

February 7-9

AMAP Meeting • Quebec City, Canada • www.amap.no

February 12-14

PAME Meeting • Quebec City, Canada • www.pame.is

February 12-16

Alaska Forum on the Environment • Anchorage, Alaska • www.akforum.org/afe

February 13-15

Circumpolar Inuit Education Summit • Nuuk, Greenland • www.inuit.org

February 15-16

Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation • Quebec City, Canada • www.arctic-council.org

February 16-18

ICC Executive Council Meeting • Nuuk, Greenland • www.inuitcircumpolar.com

March 6-8

AMAP SWIPA Workshop • Helsinki, Finland • www.amap.no

March 19-20

SDWG Meeting • Levintie, Finland • www.sdwg.org



Alaskan Inuit Delegation. Photo Courtesy of Vernae Angnaboogok

Circumpolar Inuit Address Cross-Border Wildlife Management

By Vernae Angnaboogok

The Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Summit brought together 40 Inuit from Alaska, Chukotka, Canada, and Greenland to examine the influences that policies, environmental change, public perceptions, and changing social and economic conditions in the Arctic have on Arctic wildlife and food security.

The summit was hosted by ICC Canada November 6-8, 2017 at the Albert at Bay Hotel in Ottawa, Canada to deliver on the commitment made under the Kitigaaryuit Declaration, which directs ICC to plan and host a summit on wildlife management. We deliberated over three days on the state of Arctic wildlife management, challenges and opportunities, a path forward to create a strategy and implementation plan for wildlife management across Inuit Nunaat.

The summit opened with each country leader outlining their challenges, successes, and gaps in regulation, recognition of rights, and knowledge with regard to wildlife management within their jurisdictions.

A simplified overview was given on the state of indigenous land claim settlements across our four countries. In Alaska, land claims were settled in 1971 under a settlement imposed on our people by an Act of Congress. Greenland secured the right to self-govern by achieving Home Rule in 1979 and Self-Rule in 2008, enacting self-governance as an independent nation with the right to govern hunting and fishing and ownership of mineral resources. Canadian land claims were settled with the James Bay Agreement (Nunavik) in 1974, Inuvialuit Final Agreement in 1984, the Nunavut Final Agreement in 1993, and the Nunatsiavut Final Agreement in 2005. In Chukotka, their situation is improving, but any indigenous settlement is unforeseeable at this time.

ICC Alaska President, Jim Stotts, opened by addressing the state of Alaska Inuit food security expressing that, "In village Alaska, we are becoming criminals in our own homeland. Elements of our culture are being outlawed or severely curtailed through regulation and legislation. Many of these onerous laws

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President's Message

By James Stotts

Arctic Fishing Agreement Finalized...

ICC has been involved in the negotiations leading up to the recent Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean. We reported on the progress of these discussions as they occurred in the DRUM.

We first reported on commercial fisheries in the Arctic Ocean in June 2009, when we reported on the February 2009 decision of the North Pacific

Fishery Management Council to create an Arctic Fishery Management Council in U.S. waters from the Bering Strait to the Canadian Border. The Council then voted to ban Arctic commercial fishing pending further scientific research. The Canadian government soon followed suit. ICC was supportive of both of these Arctic nation decisions.

December 2009, we reported on the first International Arctic Fisheries Symposium held in Anchorage, Alaska where ICC Canada President Duane Smith reflected, "I think it was timely and needed. It was a very good beginning to what should take place more often and on a consistent basis. I would like to see the scope of the symposium broadened from fisheries to the entire Arctic ecosystem to ensure protection of the fragile Arctic environment and resources that Inuit depend on."

March 2014, we provide an update in DRUM on scientific meetings held in Anchorage, Alaska (summer 2011) and Tromso, Norway (fall 2013). We also reported on diplomatic discussions between the five Arctic coastal states held in Oslo, Norway (2010), Washington, D.C. (spring 2013) and Nuuk, Greenland (spring 2014). ICC attended these two scientific meetings and the Nuuk diplomatic meeting.

ICC attended all diplomatic meetings since the 2014 meeting in Nuuk, including in: Reykjavik, Iceland; Iqaluit, Nunavut; Thorshavn, Faroe Islands; and more meetings in Washington D.C. The meetings concluded November 30, 2017 in Washington where the agreement was finalized. The agreement is between the five Arctic coastal states: USA, Canada, Denmark, Norway and Russia along with Iceland, China, South Korea, Japan and the European Union. A signing ceremony is planned for this summer.

The signers agree to abide by existing international agreements including the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Convention.

These agreements call for all nations to cooperate on resource management beyond the 200-mile zone.

The agreement covers about 1.1 million square miles in the center of the Arctic Ocean. It features a robust scientific program and mandates the development of a comprehensive management plan, based



Participants at Arctic Fisheries Negotiations.

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Tungasuvvingat Inuit

Canada's Urban Inuit Strategy

By ICC Alaska Staff

Lately, there have been news articles and reports, complete with statistical analysis, on the topic of migration of

our people from small villages to larger towns and even to urban centers. There are many reasons given for this trend: lack of employment opportunities; lack of education, health, and social services; lack of infrastructure of all types; and the high costs of energy, housing, and food.

Whatever the reasons causing our people to relocate, there can be many problems associated with these moves. Often our people are not prepared for city life. Often there is a lack of support for those relocating. Life in the city can be hard if you don't know the ropes. Sometimes daily life can end up worse than what people were experiencing back home. Many of us have friends or family that had a tough time after moving to an urban setting.

A recent Canadian study indicates that about 30% of Inuit live outside of Inuit traditional lands. Similar statistics can be found in Alaska and Greenland with out-migration increasing. A recent news article claims Greenland is losing about 500 people annually to Denmark. This is substantial when one considers the small size of Greenland's population. A similar situation exists in Alaska.

There are two sides to this problem: first, how do we improve conditions so our people will not choose to move out of our communities; second, how can we support those that have already moved. It seems there is more being done to solve the first situation with less being done to solve the second. Addressing both sides of this problem is important, we are the same people. This article is about some steps being taken in Canada to support urban Inuit.

This is where Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) enters the picture. TI is an award winning multi-sector hub for Inuit of all ages, whether they have just started unraveling the challenges of urban living in the South, or staying connected to their culture in the North. TI is a registered, charitable, non-profit organization, offering more than 20 integrated front-line services, and is the only Inuit-specific service organization of its kind in urban Canada. TI celebrated its 30th anniversary this year.

With support from Canada's government, TI recently engaged Inuit in 6 cities: St. John's, NL; Montreal, QC; Ottawa, ON; Toronto, ON; Winnipeg, MB; and Edmonton, AB. TI's task was to increase Inuit capacity to engage and fully participate in the design and development of initiatives dealing with issues faced by urban Inuit. Funding came from the *Increasing Urban Inuit Participation in the Economy* project.

TI facilitated a dialogue with Inuit in the six cities on capacity building, and discussed how Inuit can be involved in identifying and addressing the challenges they face living in the cities. Two national meetings with delegates from each of the 6 cities were held to discuss how an Urban Inuit Network could work

towards improving the life of urban Inuit. There are plans to expand the network to include Halifax, NS and Vancouver, BC. The Urban Inuit Strategy (UIS) dialogue took 18 months to complete and its results and outcomes are captured below.

Project Aims:

- Contribute to development of a National UIS to increase Inuit participation in the economy;
- Identify priorities faced by Inuit to feed into Regional Strategic Plans; and,
- Develop partnerships with industry, federal and provincial partners and key stakeholders.

Vision: That all Inuit and their organizations be guided by Inuit Traditional Knowledge and create strong urban Inuit communities across Canada that gather to practice, celebrate, maintain and teach Inuit culture. That urban Inuit and their organizations support one another and participate in the design and upkeep of programs, services, tools, information, resources, and supports Inuit need to be healthy and safe.

Goals:

- **A place for Inuit** – ensuring there is an investment in Inuit community infrastructure and that urban Inuit have a place to call their own.
- **Knowledge and Expertise** – expanding knowledge and expertise on the urban Inuit population across the country through Inuit-led research and analysis.
- **Culture and Traditional Knowledge** – Inuit culture and traditional knowledge is at the core of the National Urban Inuit Strategy.
- **Justice** – Ensuring Inuit have access to necessary supports within the justice system.
- **Safety** – Ensuring the safety of Inuit within the urban environment.
- **Health and Wellness** – Ensuring Inuit are healthy, well, and have access to health services.
- **Education** – Supporting Inuit in the pursuit of life-long learning goals and objectives.
- **Family Supports** – Supporting the family unit through Inuit-specific programs and services.
- **Housing** – Ensuring Inuit in urban centers are able to access appropriate and safe housing.

Priorities:

- **Infrastructure and Local Capacity Development** – Ensuring urban Inuit have a voice in urban centers across Canada, helping Inuit transition to urban centers from the north and ensuring Inuit have a place to call their own and gather.

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The Last DRUM

By ICC Alaska Staff

We have really enjoyed bringing you the DRUM on a quarterly basis for the past ten years. Wow, those ten years passed by in a rush! It just doesn't seem that long ago that we thought a newsletter would be a great way to connect with our members and other interested parties. We believe we did a credible job in our reporting and hope that you found the DRUM useful. It's a ten-year slice of ICC history.

A year and a half ago we hired a consultant to help us develop a strategy to better communicate to our stakeholders, both within and outside the organization. What we found was interesting. We found that despite our pride in the DRUM, it was not that effective in reaching our targeted audiences. The old methods of communication have passed us by. Social media is where it's at. So, we decided to change with the times. In particular, we wanted to connect better with our future, the youth.

We will continue to communicate through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media channels. You can always visit our website. We will be posting news and press releases more often and on a timelier basis moving forward. We will keep the back issues of DRUM on our website for the time being for those of you feeling a little nostalgic. 



ICC Alaska Staff

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- **Language, Tradition and Culture** – The ability to speak Inuktitut, share country food, share and pass on Traditional Knowledge to Inuit within the urban environment is a key component.
- **Educational Supports** – Providing necessary supports for educational success of urban Inuit.
- **Continuum of Care and Support** – Providing consistent funding to support Inuit-specific programming and services for urban Inuit.
- **Urban Inuit Research and Knowledge Transfer Network** – Supporting urban Inuit-specific research initiatives that benefit urban Inuit across the country.
- **Urban Inuit-Specific Policy development and Programming** – For governments, partners and stakeholders to use the Strategy as a tool to start discussions on how and where to invest and support urban Inuit in Canada.
- **Engaging Urban Inuit in Other Urban Centers** – The Strategy should not exclude or limit the participation of Inuit residing in other urban centers that were not involved in the project engagement process.

Tungasuvvingat Inuit has crafted a strategy that could be a model for other Inuit countries to use in tackling the issues faced by Inuit moving south to the cities. For more on this excellent strategy, please visit: www.tungassuvvingatinuit.ca 



Jim Stotts addressing TI gathering during Inuit Day celebrations. Photo by Nunatsiaq News



Nunavut Sivuniksavut students perform throat singing at TI gathering. Photo by Nunatsiaq News

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on extensive research, prior to allowing any commercial fishing activity. The agreement takes a strong proactive and precautionary approach and recognizes the value of Indigenous Knowledge and the inclusion of Arctic indigenous peoples in the process moving forward.

ICC was represented through their respective national delegations. First Duane Smith and then Herb Nakimayak

represented ICC Canada, Alfred Jakobsen represented ICC Greenland and Jim Stotts represented ICC Alaska. ICC would like to congratulate all that were involved in this process and especially thank U.S. Ambassador David Balton for his leadership in shepherding the agreement to its conclusion. The agreement has been widely reported on in the international press. 



Chair's Message

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

Inuuqatigiittiarniq - Living in Peace and Harmony

Happy New Year!

Some would say time keeps marching on. People and cultures have different notions of time – mostly measured through what we have done during a fixed period.

For Inuit, time was measured

according to natural cycles – through the seasons and changes in the environment. We have passed the winter solstice and now wait for the sun to come back in January – time is marching on.

So it is time to take stock of what we have achieved and to fully engage you in the lead-up to our next General Assembly in July 2018, “Inuit - The Arctic We Want”. We have achieved much over the past 40 years, but we still have much more to do to realize self-determination, to accept reconciliation, to rebuild for stronger communities – to create the Arctic Inuit Want. The Arctic you want.

There were some highlights as we approached the end of 2017. The Pikialasorsuaq Commission Report was released on November 23 and is available on the website <http://pikialasorsuaq.org/en/>. The recommendations support the concept of the Arctic We Want. They also move the notion of conservation from protection of the Arctic environment - to conservation through the management of the environment by Inuit for Inuit, once again.

I attended the United Nation Climate talks in Bonn, Germany in November to support urgent positive action to mitigate human-induced climate change and address its widespread and profound consequences. We see a need and an opportunity to bring Inuit knowledge and values forward to build on commitments in the Paris Agreement.

We were hopeful for much more ambition focused on a practical outcome associated with the local communities and indigenous peoples' platform. The main purpose of the platform is the exchange of experiences and the sharing of best practices for mitigation and adaptation among indigenous peoples, to strengthen our ability to address and respond to climate change. This also builds on the recognition in the Paris Agreement that adaptation should be guided by science and other knowledge systems, including Indigenous Knowledge, and the acknowledgement in the preamble that climate change adaptation efforts have implications for human and indigenous rights. Nevertheless, the platform was successfully launched and that is a good first step. Now, we must continue to work on meaningfully including indigenous peoples in the implementation of the platform.

Climate change is the monumental collective challenge of our time – it is the most pressing global health issue that we face. It requires inuuqatigiittiarniq, living together in peace and harmony – protecting our shared world – respecting our collective challenges. We have demonstrated our leadership, our knowledge, and our capacity to innovate in the most challenging situations. When it comes to climate change adaptation in Inuit Nunaat, there is no question that Inuit must be front and center based on our sovereignty, knowledge, and rights.

Inuit participation and leadership in the governance and decision-making for the Arctic is essential. When it comes to management and monitoring, we have a pretty good track record and are the subject matter experts. We hold ourselves and others to a standard of sustainable use that means ensuring, first and foremost, the wildlife and environment is protected such that we can continue to live off our land for another thousand years. ICC held the first ICC Wildlife Management Summit in November, to deliver on the commitment made in Article 40 of the Kitigaaryuit Declaration.

The summit was an international gathering of Inuit who made great efforts to be together for this important occasion. The enthusiasm and commitment was evident, demonstrated by the passion of the 45 Inuit from across the four Inuit countries to discuss wildlife management, which is central to Inuit identity, way of life, culture and food security. The Summit committed to work together for the future of Inuit continued use of the Arctic's living resources.

As we all continue to navigate the unprecedented and unpredictable waters of change in the Arctic, organizations that are planning or already undertaking activities in the Arctic must be aware of and consider the necessity for Inuit self-determination. 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. In the Arctic today, there is a great need to better develop and support opportunities for circumpolar collaboration for sustainable economies. By building strong Inuit companies and partnerships we are rebuilding self-determination, social justice and economic re-empowerment for our communities and villages. Lastly, Inuit knowledge must be integrated both into regional and global actions.

What happens in the Arctic is important to all people around the world. From Inuit, by Inuit, to Inuit, for Inuit, in Inuit Nunaat for the benefit of the global community. 

Aingai.

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concern fish and game resources and our ability to harvest them to feed our families. In Alaska, our right to provide food for our families is under assault. Our hunting and fishing activities have become politicized, and we feel we have to win this battle if our societies are going to survive. We need to make the commitment collectively to fight for our food security.”

A 14-member delegation represented Alaska at the summit, with ICC staff and delegates from our four regions: the Inupiat of the North Slope, Northwest, and Bering Straits; the St. Lawrence Island Yupik; and the Central Yup'ik and Cup'ik of the Yukon/Kuskokwim Region. The delegation represented the four regional non-profit corporations: Association of Village Council Presidents, Kawerak, Inc., Maniilaq Association, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope; the two boroughs: North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough; and the seven co-management bodies: the Alaskan Eskimo Whaling Commission, Alaska Beluga Whaling Commission, Eskimo Walrus Commission, the Ice Seal Committee, Alaska Polar Bear Commission, Alaska Migratory Birds Co-management Council, and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

We brought together a strong delegation we knew would carry this important work forward. It is time to settle this issue concerning our hunting and fishing rights. We are subject to an outside imposed, single species wildlife management system that contradicts our indigenous heritage, cultural identity, that threatens our cultural survival.

At the summit, Alaskans were inspired by the Canadian co-management models, which motivated our delegation to learn more about the Canadian settlements. Canadian models of true co-management shed light on what needs to happen in Alaska in order for Inuit to have an equitable role in sharing the decision making power and responsibility over resource management with our governments.

Jim Stotts stated, “We need both state and federal government in Alaska to recognize our indigenous rights to hunt, fish, and gather our traditional foods. We need state and federal government to enter into co-management agreements with Inuit as equal partners for management of our food resources. These agreements must be structured in a way that makes them safe from changes in the political landscape. This is something we have been trying to accomplish since statehood, over 50 years ago. We know it can be done because it has been done already...We realize this would require changes to both state and federal law and the buildup of new management processes and structures. We know it will be a lot of hard work; we know it will take our collective political will.”

Over the three-day summit, Inuit strengthened in solidarity to ensure that no one is left behind. We reaffirmed that Inuit will stand together for our collective right to our hunting culture and to protect and uphold our cultural identity for future generations. Summit delegates committed to form a Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Coalition Network to collaboratively and inclusively promote, sustain and strengthen Inuit rights to food sovereignty that further aims to unify and organize our people to carry this initiative forward.

Leadership from each country spoke in support of one another and remembered our origins; where our past leaders and the last four decades have taken us. Inuit leadership at the Summit reaffirmed the vision of ICC's founding leader Eben Hopson and his testimony that, “We [Inuit] are an international community sharing common language, culture, and a common land along the Arctic coast of Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Although not a nation-state, as a people, we do constitute a nation.”

Duane Smith, Chair and CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council's Wildlife Management Summit affirmed, “Rights to harvest the Arctic living resources are embedded in the United



Wildlife Summit Delegation

Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Inuit rights are being eroded by environmental change and public perceptions. Inuit are “One People” living in four countries with very different political realities and experiences in exercising our harvesting rights and we are committed to support and learn from each other”.

Amalie Jessen, Head of Division, of the Greenland Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting advised that, “Inuit must work together from the community, state, regional, circumpolar and international levels to exert and strengthen Inuit hunting rights or Inuit will have no access to arctic living resources in the future.”

The Alaska delegation left empowered by the support strongly expressed by our circumpolar Inuit family. We left

determined that in Alaska, we can get to the same level of co-management that is currently practiced in Canada. Only then can we begin to collectively move our efforts towards our real vision, Pan-Arctic collaboration of wildlife management. Then, we can move into a strengthened ecosystem approach to management of our environment and move the conversation from food security to food sovereignty.

As we envision the “Arctic We Want”, ICC’s General Assembly in July of 2018, we look forward to the presentation of our Wildlife Management strategy and implementation plan. Our intent is to keep the momentum going for advancing our rights and responsibility to protect our environment and our culture, which includes the centerpiece of it all- our hunting, fishing, and gathering way of life. 

Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska is Seeking Two Executive Council Members



Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska elects two Executive Council members every four years at the organization’s General Assembly (Assembly). The next Assembly will take place in Utqiagvik, Alaska during July 16-19, 2018.

The Executive Council members are elected positions. Per the ICC Charter and Bylaws, any adult Alaskan Inuk (Inupiaq, Yup’ik, Cup’ik or St. Lawrence Island Yupik) are eligible to serve on the Executive Council. The term of office is four years, from the last day of the 2018 General Assembly to the last day of the 2022 General Assembly. The positions of ICC Alaska President and ICC Alaska Vice President shall be selected from the two newly elected Executive Council Members. For further details, please visit: <http://iccalaska.org/about/icc-international/ga>

Interested applicants must submit a current resume along with a letter explaining their interest and qualifications in the position. Please also indicate whether you are interested in the ICC Alaska President or Vice President positions and why. Please submit by email to icc@iccalaska.org or by fax to 907-274-3861. They may also mail the application to: Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska, 3900 Arctic Blvd., Ste. 203, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

The deadline for submitting an application is February 28, 2018.



**INUIT
CIRCUMPOLAR
COUNCIL**

ALASKA OFFICE

**3900 ARCTIC BLVD,
SUITE 203
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503**

**PHONE: (907) 274-9058
FAX: (907) 274-3861
www.iccalaska.org**

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Quyanaq! Quyanna! Taikuu!

Thank you for Supporting Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska's efforts in 2017!

Our efforts would not be successful without the generous support received from our contributors. Special thanks for the grants, cash and in-kind contributions made in this year.

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- World Wildlife Fund

You too can support our efforts! We are participating in the Pick.Click.Give. Program again this year. When you go online to apply for the State of Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, you will see an option to Pick.Click.Give. and donate to a portion of your dividend to Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska. Donations can also be made anytime and as a charitable organization, your donations are tax-deductible! Please visit our website for more information at www.iccalaska.org