



**People of the ice bridge:  
The future of the Pikialasorsuaq**  
Kuupik Kleist,  
ICC General Assembly

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**July 18, 2018**

**FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS  
FROM THE PIKIALASORSUAQ COMMISSION**



Map of Pikialasorsuaq between Nunavut, Canada and Greenland

# PIKIALASORSUAQ COMMISSION

- Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) initiated the Inuit-led Pikialasorsuaq Commission



Commissioners Kuupik Kleist,  
Okalik Egeesiak, Eva Aariak

# PIKIALASORSUAQ COMMISSION

- **Meetings in Canada:** Ajuittuq (Grise Fiord), Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay), Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay), Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet) & Kangiqtugaapik (Clyde River)
- **Meetings in Greenland:** Siorapaluk, Qaanaaq, Savissivik, Kullorsuaq, Nuussuaq & Upernavik



Meeting in Savissivik, Greenland

# WHAT THE COMMISSION HEARD

- Interdependence and intimate relationship with the land & specifically with the polynya

*[Going out on the land] depends on the weather and the conditions of the ice. And, a lot of that will be dictated by the condition of the polynya.*

–Marty Kulluguktuq, Ajuittuq (Grise Fiord)

*Pikialasorsuaq as the provider has been known since time immemorial.*

–Mads Ole Kristiansen, Qaanaaq



# WHAT THE COMMISSION HEARD

## FOOD SECURITY

- Importance for food security and physical and mental well-being



# RECOMMENDATION #1: INUIT-LED MANAGEMENT REGIME

Establishment of a management regime with an Inuit Management Authority (IMA):

- IMA membership from communities near Pikialasorsuaq
- Would oversee monitoring, research, & promote protection of living resources & related community wellbeing



Photo credit: Byarne Lyberth

Community meeting participants in Kullorsuaq

# RECOMMENDATION #2: ESTABLISHMENT OF MANAGEMENT ZONE

## MECHANISMS

- International law instruments:
  - Current state rights under UN Convention on Law of the Sea
  - Adoption of Particularly Sensitive Sea Area designation (International Maritime Organization)
- Bilateral agreements (e.g. Joint Development Agreement) and regional initiatives
- Domestic legal instruments
- Indigenous Protected Areas



# RECOMMENDATION #3: ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE TRAVEL ZONE

- Establishment of a free travel zone for Inuit across Pikialasorsuaq region



# UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- Supports the Commission's recommendations
- Canada & Denmark are signatories and have responsibilities to uphold these rights

*Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen distinctive spiritual relationship with traditionally owned and used lands, waters, coastal seas & to uphold responsibilities to future generations in this regard*

# THE PIKIALASORSUAQ Nuuk Outcomes

Three Breakout Groups:

**Inuit management Authority:** Workshop developed a Conceptual Governance Structure – It can be done!

**Inuit Monitoring Regime:** Government and academic research community onboard – community monitoring HUBS, Guardians, building on existing projects (Inuit marine Monitors)

**Mobility:** GoC is looking at Instruments



