



Press Release: Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska to launch Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative

October 4, 2018 – Anchorage, Alaska –Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska, in collaboration with co-management organizations, will launch a three year Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative, which seeks reform and justice propelled by self-determination and Indigenous rights and is centered on empowering Alaskan Inuit to collectively develop a plan to work towards securing access and management rights over our traditional food resources, to create long-term systematic and policy change that will benefit Inuit communities throughout the North Slope, Northwest, Bering Strait, and Yukon-Kuskokwim regions of Alaska.

This Initiative follows up on the ICC Alaska’s earlier work of the Alaskan Native Review Commission: Village Journey, the Alaskan Inuit Food Security Conceptual Framework Project, the Food Sovereignty and Self-governance project, and is a direct follow-up to the outcomes and next steps of the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Summit. The Summit was held in November 2017 and unified Inuit from Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka and resulted in the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Strategy that seeks to ensure a sustainable future for wildlife management across the national and international borders in Inuit Nunaat (homelands).

This Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative carries our collective efforts forward and is intended to create a movement to unify and organize Alaskan Inuit through three meetings and one statewide Summit with the ultimate goal of developing an Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan to advance food sovereignty across our four Alaskan Inuit regions.

“In Greenland, our people self-govern hunting, fishing, and the ownership of mineral resources. In Canada, our people have achieved a true level of co-management over land and water use, wildlife, and environmental assessment. If Alaska can get to the same level of co-mangement, we can collectively move towards food sovereignty. Inuit must be able to collaborate on wildlife resource management across national borders. This Initiative helps moves us in that direction,” said James Stotts, ICC Alaska President.

The meetings will begin in **Utqiagvik, Alaska** to kick off the Initiative and to discuss information brought back from the Circumpolar Summit. The second meeting will be held in **Bethel, Alaska** to prepare for the Alaska Summit. The third and largest meeting and the centerpiece of the Initiative, the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit, will be held in **Nome, Alaska** and will bring Inuit together from communities throughout our four regions to set the framework for the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan. The fourth and final meeting will be held in **Kotzebue, Alaska** to go over the results of the Alaska Summit and to draft the Action Plan to advance Alaskan Inuit food sovereignty. This initiative is made possible through a Social and Economic Development (SEDS) grant from the Administration for Native Americans.

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:

Vernae Angnaboogok, Cultural Sustainability Advisor

Phone: (907) 274-9058 Email: vernae@iccalaska.org

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