

# Strategic Plan

2018-2022



**INUIT**  
CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL ALASKA

Photo: Luciana Whitaker



**This document** includes the strategic goals for Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska, a national member of ICC International. ICC was founded in 1977 and ICC Alaska is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

### **ICC Alaska**

ICC Alaska exists as 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 Iñupiat, Central Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and Saint Lawrence Island Yupik in the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Straits, and Southwest regions of Alaska.

**James Stotts** ICC Executive Council Vice Chair, ICC Alaska President

**Vera Metcalf** ICC Executive Council Member, ICC Alaska Vice President

**Wayne Westlake** NANA Regional Corporation

**Vivian Korthuis** Association of Village Council Presidents, ICC Alaska Treasurer & Secretary

**Harry Brower, Jr.** North Slope Borough

**Richard Glenn** Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

**George Edwardson** Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope

**Miles Cleveland, Sr.** Northwest Arctic Borough

**Percy Ballot** Maniilaq Association

**Roy Ashenfelter** Bering Straits Native Corporation

**Mary David** Kawerak, Incorporated

**Merlin Koonooka** Elder Representative

**Elizabeth Ferguson** Youth Representative



## The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)

ICC is an international non-governmental organization which represents the interests of Inuit in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka and holds an office in each country. ICC was founded in 1977 and holds Consultative Status II at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is a Permanent Participant at the Arctic Council.

ICC receives its mandate from a General Assembly held every four years. Between Assemblies, the Chair and an Executive Council consisting of two members from each country, oversee the work of the organization.

For the term of 2018–2022, **ICC Executive Council** members are:

**Dalee Sambo Dorough** Chair

**Monica Ell-Kanayuk** Vice-Chair (Canada)

**Lisa Koperqualuk** Member (Canada)

**Liubov Taian** Vice-Chair (Chukotka)

**Elena Kaminskaya** Member (Chukotka)

**Hjalmar Dahl** ICC Vice-Chair (Greenland)

**Nuka Kleemann** Member (Greenland)

**James Stotts** Vice-Chair (Alaska)

**Vera Metcalf** Member (Alaska)



## ICC Purpose and Principles

Founded in 1977 by the late Eben Hopson, Sr. of Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), Alaska, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has flourished and grown into a major international non-government organization representing approximately 165,000 Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka.

To thrive in our circumpolar homeland, we had the vision to realize that we must speak with a united voice on issues of common concern and combine our energies and talents towards protecting and promoting our way of life. The principal goals of ICC are, therefore, 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



Photo: Jacki Cleveland

**"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."**

**– Eben Hopson, Sr.**





Photo: Brian Adams



Photo: Brian Adams



Photo: Jacki Cleveland



Photo: Brian Adams



Photo: Brian Adams



Photo: Jacki Cleveland



## Utqiagvik Declaration

### "Inuit - The Arctic we want"

The Utqiagvik Declaration gives ICC the foundation, direction and boundaries for the work they do to carry out the mission of ICC as described in the above principles. ICC holds a General Assembly every four years at which delegates from across the circumpolar region elect a new Chair and an executive council, develop policies, and adopt resolutions that will guide the activities of the organization for the coming term. The General Assembly is the heart of the organization, providing an opportunity for sharing information, discussing common concerns, debating issues, and strengthening the bonds between all Inuit. It is the privilege and honor of Alaska to host the ICC Chair until the next General Assembly in 2022.

ICC Alaska uses the Declaration document as the mandate to drive its strategy and set its priorities for the term. The major priority areas that arose from the 2018 General Assembly are as follows, each area is outlined in detail with mandates and instructions in the Utqiagvik Declaration.

- International Indigenous Human Rights and International Partnerships
- Food Security
- Families and Youth
- Health and Wellness
- Education and Language
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Sustainable Wildlife Management
- Environment
- Sustainable Development
- Communication and Capacity Building



Photo: Jacki Cleveland





Photo: Brian Adams



Photo: Brian Adams

## ICC Alaska Strategic Plan Overview

ICC Alaska's Board and staff recognize the need to have a plan to proactively position the organization to address the challenges of today and tomorrow. The ICC Alaska strategic plan was developed with careful consideration of the Utqiagvik Declaration as well as the ICC Alaska member priorities. The following sections of this Strategic Plan address the values, vision and mission of ICC Alaska and lays out the organization's priorities 2018 - 2022 term.

## ICC Alaska Values

ICC Alaska's core value is our Inuit identity and worldview. This identity is the driving force behind the values and work of ICC Alaska. It is also what makes the organization unique and different from other organizations and allows it to be the only one of its kind to represent the Inuit of Alaska on the global stage.

Inuit culture, languages, and way of life are at the heart of ICC Alaska's beliefs and values. These beliefs and values serve as the foundation for everything ICC Alaska does and stands for from its day to day tasks to its engagement at the international level, these values are our guide.



Photo: Brian Adams

## ICC Alaska Vision

ICC Alaska's vision of the future is what gives it hope and energy to persevere in the work that it does to advocate for and represent Inuit of Alaska. ICC was founded on the vision that Inuit around the globe would join together in unity to give a powerful voice to Inuit concerns, protect Inuit rights, and ensure that Inuit everywhere could enjoy their cultural rights freely.

ICC Alaska's vision is that of a world where Inuit Leadership is making a positive impact globally and at home as well as leading the way in setting government policy. It is a vision where the Inuit youth of Alaska are actively engaged in the mission of ICC Alaska and all Inuit from youth to elders work together to uphold language, culture, community and way of life to keep them thriving. This vision encompasses leadership in overall Inuit health and well-being, and Inuit business and economic strength. A place where Inuit hold full sovereignty, are equitably part of management of wildlife and hold food security. Lastly, where Indigenous Knowledge and laws are commonly used and documented. ICC Alaska's vision is one of a world where Inuit are leading the way in every facet to create and sustain a future we can be proud to be a part of.

## ICC Alaska Mission

ICC Alaska exists to be the unified voice and collective spirit of Alaskan Inuit, to promote, protect and advance Inuit culture and society.

ICC Alaska accomplishes its mission first and foremost by respecting and living our cultural values and through engaging with all Inuit generations, from youth to elders, in all elements of its work. As part of this mission, ICC Alaska also aims to create effective communication links with our members to connect each regions' villages to the international forum. In doing the work of this mission, we share our knowledge, traditions, language and culture. It is these important elements of work that allow ICC Alaska to connect past, present, and future in meaningful ways to accomplish its strategic objectives.



## ICC Alaska Value Proposition

ICC Alaska is a vital organization, that serves to unify its members, develop common goals, and carry out important work that its member organizations deem as priority. It carries out this work with an emphasis on maintaining the valuable connection to Inuit circumpolar-wide. As an organization it always strives to add value to its members, and to Inuit around the world by sharing Alaskan Inuit perspective, knowledge and culture. ICC Alaska serves as an agent for Inuit advocacy at the international level in organizations like the Arctic Council and United Nations. ICC Alaska also serves to communicate and carry out Declaration priorities and agreements that ICC develops every four years at the General Assembly.







Photo: Brian Adams

## ICC Alaska Priorities and Objectives 2018–2022

ICC Alaska board and staff have worked diligently to develop a unified voice for Alaskan Inuit, with careful consideration of the General Assembly and the Utqiagvik Declaration. Below you will find ICC Alaska's priorities and objectives for the 2018–2022 term in rank order.



# 1

## Priority One: Solidify Inuit food sovereignty and security in governing structures

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Ensure Inuit are represented in forums to develop policies and governance ensuring access, availability and health and safety of our traditional food resources
2. Develop an understanding of management practices across Inuit Nunaat; putting Inuit management on the forefront
3. Engage in the follow up to the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Plan
4. Develop an Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan

# 2

## Priority Two: Advocate for all aspects of community health and well-being rooted in Inuit values, knowledge, and leadership

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Strengthen Inuit led economic development to promote thriving communities and responsible development
2. Support the implementation of the Alaska Inuit education framework to members and regions
3. Continue leading relevant projects; engagement in international fora; engagement in Inuit health committee
4. Promote the health and wellness of people, plants, animals, water and land



Photo: Jacki Cleveland



Photo: Jacki Cleveland

# 3

## Priority Three: Focus on youth and building the leadership pipeline required to accomplish the ICC vision and mission

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Utilize existing communication platforms used by youth
2. Develop a feedback loop with youth to better engage youth with ICC
3. Develop a system for generating a youth leadership pipeline regarding the Arctic (i.e. internships and mentorship programs)
4. Develop a framework and clear policy for including and engaging youth (i.e. youth councils, international exchanges, etc.)
5. Explore youth summits where the youth set the agenda







# 4

## Priority Four: Foster meaningful communication and engagement between ICC Alaska, membership organizations, communities, and ICC international

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Increase communication between membership organizations and ICC Alaska office
  - a. Create a calendar of regional meetings, conferences, and other gatherings and partner with members to make space for ICC to engage with gathered groups
  - b. Map all membership activities as they relate to the priorities in partnership with ICC Alaska and also mapping ICC Alaska activities to further expand partnership
  - c. Facilitate a quarterly call among membership organizations for exchange of information to include updates on what the organizations are doing, current activities and concerns
2. Explore hiring a full time communications staff or work with member organizations to support the communications requirement and strategy
3. Utilize current communication platforms to support full engagement and active exchange of information



Photo: Jacki Cleveland

# 5

## Priority Five: Advocate for and educate about the ethical and equitable utilization and involvement of Indigenous Knowledge

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote Indigenous Knowledge (IK) at all levels
2. Increase networking capabilities across Inuit organizations to share Indigenous Knowledge, data, and information
3. Develop protocols/guidelines for ethical and equitable engagement of IK and Inuit Communities
4. Expand our leadership role in research activities
5. Promote information sovereignty; ownership of knowledge and information; and intellectual and proprietary rights

# 6

## Priority Six: Ensure that the collective Inuit worldview and voice is represented at international fora

### OBJECTIVES:

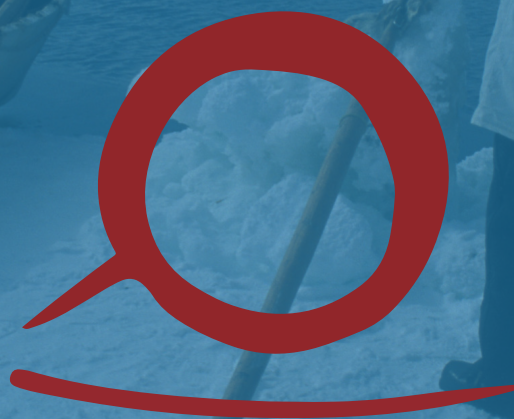
1. Create a strategy for advancing Inuit priorities and objectives at international fora (i.e. shipping, pollution, climate change, etc.) as well as, prioritize which fora to engage with
2. Build national relationships to aid in international efforts
3. Advocate for and promote Inuit priorities and interests through equitable and meaningful engagement





Photo: Brian Adams





INUIT

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[www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org)