

# Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit

## “Our Food Forever”

“Akarpagmun Neqkaput”

“Niqivut Taimuᅇa”

“Neqevut Tazimavek”

“Neqkarkaput Akwarpak”



© Photo by Brian Adams



INUIT

## Program & Agenda

September 10 - 12, 2019

Nome, Alaska





Dear Summit Participants,

It's my honor to welcome you to this Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit. This Summit is the result of the persistent hard work of many of our people, working to secure the right to manage fish and game, working to obtain management control over our food resources on our lands and waters.

The Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative is a 3-year effort led by Inuit and facilitated by Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska. It aims to unify and organize our people to advance food sovereignty across our four regions to collectively develop an Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan. This Initiative builds off ICC Alaska's earlier work and is carried out in response to a direct call from our people. Food security and sovereignty have been the top priority of ICC Alaska for the past decade.

This Initiative was controlled from start to finish by our people. We believe this was the only logical approach to take. This approach should be utilized more often when assessing topics and issues important to us. The Inuit worldview is evident throughout this Initiative, as it should be.

Hunting and fishing is the basis for our culture and economy. It defines who we are as a people. Without guaranteed rights to access and manage our food resources, our culture and the Arctic overall are at jeopardy. It's really that simple. It goes without saying that we will do everything in our power to make sure that doesn't happen. As the first inhabitants and stewards of the Arctic, we have the right and responsibility to protect our environment and culture. We accept this responsibility on behalf of all people.

I want to recognize Vernae Angnaboogok, our Cultural Sustainability Advisor who has managed this project with the assistance of our Steering Committee. Without their involvement, this project would not have been possible.

Quyanaqpak!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James F. Stotts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent.

James Stotts,  
ICC Alaska President



© Photo By Jacki Cleveland

## Purpose and Goal of the Summit

The Summit is the centerpiece of the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative. The Initiative seeks a unified stance amongst Inuit from across the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait, and Yukon-Kuskokwim regions of Alaska, and the Summit provides an opportunity to hear directly from community members as we collectively figure out a way forward to secure consistent access and management authority and rights over our traditional food resources. Through this Initiative, we hope to create long-term and systematic policy changes that will advance our food sovereignty and benefit our people and communities. The ultimate goal of this Initiative is to unify and organize ourselves collectively to determine how best to both directly and meaningfully engage in the management of the food resources that we depend upon. The Summit will set the framework to achieve an Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan.

## Background and History of the Summit and Initiative

The Initiative is a three-year effort being facilitated by ICC Alaska. ICC Alaska member organizations and co-management organizations are leading this effort. The Initiative was a direct call to action from Alaskan Inuit and follows up on ICC Alaska's earlier work affirmed by and reflected in the final report of Alaska Native Review Commission and published in VILLAGE JOURNEY; the Alaskan Inuit Food Security Conceptual Framework; the Food Sovereignty and Self-Governance project, and the ICC Wildlife Management Summit.

The ICC Wildlife Management Summit brought together Inuit from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland in November 2017 and resulted in the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Strategy, which seeks to ensure a sustainable future for Inuit use of wildlife through the establishment of the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Committee and the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Network. The Committee is the interface between Inuit wildlife management experts, groups, committees, and organizations and will work to recognize and build onto existing bi-lateral and multi-lateral relationships, mechanisms, and agreements at the international level to advance Inuit food sovereignty. The Committee and Network aims to unify Inuit to collectively promote, develop, and maintain our rights to self-determination, culture, food sovereignty, and sustainable use of our food resources across national and international borders throughout Inuit Nunaat (homelands).

We hope to gain recognition of and respect for our rights to access and manage our wildlife and other resources in Alaska to ensure that we can progress towards this collective aspiration for international collaboration of wildlife management across Inuit Nunaat.

## Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative Steering Committee

The Initiative is led by a 17-member Steering Committee, comprised of ICC Alaska Member Organizations, collaborating co-management organizations, as well as an elder, youth, and hunter representative.

Doreen Fog-Leavitt, **Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope**

Willie Goodwin, **Maniilaq Association**

Mary David, **Kawerak, Incorporated**

Jennifer Hooper, **Association of Village Council Presidents**

Nicole Kanayurak, **North Slope Borough**

Nathan Hadley, Jr., **Northwest Arctic Borough**

Marvin Okitkun, **Alaska Beluga Whale Committee**

Arnold Brower, Jr., **Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission**

Taqulik Hepa, **Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council**

Millie Hawley, **Alaska Nannut Co-Management Council**

Vera Metcalf, **Eskimo Walrus Commission**

Billy Adams, **Ice Seal Committee**

James Nicori, **Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission**

James Stotts, **ICC Alaska President**

Merlin Koonooka, **ICC Alaska Elder Board Member**

Chris Apassingok, **Youth representative**

Thomas Napageak, Jr., **Hunter representative from the North Slope Region**



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Thank you to Kawerak, Inc., North Slope Borough, and Maniilaq Association for your contributions to the success of the Summit.

# Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit

## “Our Food Forever”

September 10 - 12, 2019

Nome Covenant Church

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Tuesday, September 10, 2019 Day 1 - Open

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8:00-9:00

### **Registration**

9:00

### **Opening Activities**

- a) Welcoming Remarks by the Bering Strait Region
- b) Invocation by Pastor Bertha Koweluk, Community United Methodist Church of Nome
- c) Welcoming Remarks by Dalee Sambo Dorrough, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
- d) Icebreaker led by Mary David

**Presentation:** Background and History of the Initiative, James Stotts, President, ICC Alaska

**Presentation:** Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management, Vera Metcalf and Taqulik Hepa, Alaskan Inuit Members of the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee

**Presentation:** A working co-management system in Canada: Fisheries Joint Management Committee, John Noksana, Jr. from Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvialuit Settlement Region

### **Break**

**Plenary Discussion-** Reflecting on Canadian Inuit management and co-management

- a) What works about the way it is set up?
- b) What are the challenges?
- c) What can we learn to inform our approach?

12:00-1:30

**Lunch Break-** On your own and networking

**Presentation:** Options for an Inuit-led approach to management, Vernae Angnaboogok, ICC Alaska

- a) Outcomes of the Utqiagvik & Bethel meetings
- b) Three options for an Inuit-led approach as determined by the Project Steering Committee

**Plenary Discussion-** Weighing the options (Pros and Cons) and determining the best option forward led by Jered Stewart

- a) What option do we collectively identify with the most?
- b) Is there another option we should consider?
- c) Table talk debrief

4:30

**Closing:** Day one closing

- a) Small groups debrief – What have we learned that impacted us most?
- b) Closing comments

- 9:00      **Opening Activities:**
- a) Welcoming Remarks by Arnold Brower, Jr., North Slope Region
  - b) Invocation by James Charles from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region
  - c) Icebreaker led by Arnold Brower, Jr. and Taqulik Hepa
- Youth panel:** Our Future: What do our youth want to see? - moderated by Nicole Kanayurak, Deputy Director, NSB Department of Wildlife Management
- a) How have our cultural values and relationship with our environment shaped your experience in hunting, fishing today?
  - b) How do you envision us being involved in management of our resources?
  - c) What are your top three priorities that we address in our Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan?
  - d) Table debrief
- Break**
- Workshop:** Inuit traditional management practices- Our culture and asserting our place within our environment, as its always been. Facilitated small group breakouts led by Jered Stewart
- a) What Inuit traditional management practices should be at the forefront of wildlife management?
  - b) What is different about the way Inuit manage vs. the system of management that has been imposed on us?
  - c) How could we strengthen and protect our culture and food security through true co-management?
- 12:00-1:30      **Lunch Break-** on your own and networking
- Breakout:** A vision for advancing food sovereignty led by Jered Stewart
- a) What is the benefit of moving in this direction? What needs to happen to get there?
  - b) What are the impediments? What can be done to overcome them?
  - c) What procedural changes are needed? What substantive changes are needed?
  - d) Who are the key actors?
  - e) How do we influence them?
- Breakout:** The Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan- how are we going to get there? What is needed to advance our food sovereignty? What are key steps forward?
- Break**
- 4:30      **Day two close:** Debrief- Why is this important to us?
- a) Small group discussions
  - b) Debrief and closing comments
- 5:30      **Community Potluck & Traditional Dancing:** Open to Everyone - Nome Recreation Center



9:00

**Opening Activities:**

- a) Welcoming Remarks by Willie Goodwin, Northwest Arctic
- b) Invocation by Popsy Kinneveauk
- c) Icebreaker by Jennifer Hooper

**Breakout:** Aligning our priorities for an Inuit-led approach and the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan led by Jered Stewart

- a) What areas of the current system do we need to start to shift and work on to push us in the direction of food sovereignty?
- b) What policies need to change?
- c) What partners do we need to align with?
- d) What are your top 3 recommendations for developing a clear Inuit food sovereignty plan?
- e) Report out

**Break**

**Workshop:** Implementation- committing to next steps led by Jered Stewart

- a) What dependencies do we need to strengthen, what dependencies do we need to break?
- b) What action needs to be taken next? Who will need to lead or own the activity? What is the outcome?
- c) Large group debrief

12:00

**Lunch Break-** on your own and networking

**Recap and Validation:** Strengthening our Ties- our pathway towards Inuit Food Sovereignty led by Jered Stewart

- a) Recap of our approach and the recommendations to inform the Action Plan
- b) Does this capture our collective vision forward?
- c) Next Steps
- d) Personal commitment

3:30

**Adjourn**

- a) Closing comments
- b) Send off prayer



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## ABOUT ICC ALASKA

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 memberships includes regional organizations that represent: Inupiat, Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and Saint Lawrence Island Yupik in the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Straits and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta regions in Alaska.

ICC Alaska is a national member of ICC International. ICC is an international, non-governmental organization founded by Eben Hopson, sr. from Barrow, Alaska in 1977. Its creation came out of the realization that Inuit need to speak with a united voice on issues of common concern. Today, ICC represents approximately 180,000 Inuit in Chukotka (Russia), Alaska (United States), Canada and Greenland. The organization holds Consultative Status II at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is a Permanent Participant at the Arctic Council.

ICC strives to strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar north; 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 the Circumpolar north. ICC receives its mandate from Alaskan, Canadian, Greenlandic and Chukotkan Inuit delegates, who gather in a General Assembly held every four years.

## ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Elizabeth Ferguson, **Youth Representative**



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