



PRESS RELEASE

Inuit Circumpolar Council launches Inuit Youth Engagement Programme

Nuuk, 12. december 2024 – Over the next two years, 12 young Inuit from across the Arctic will work together to learn how to advocate for their communities in a new educational programme launched by the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC).

The Inuit Youth Engagement Programme focusses on “empowerment through collaboration” and began today at an online meeting. The participants, chosen from a pool of 179 applicants, were selected based on their backgrounds, experience and interest in the issues important to Inuit, and on which ICC has been advocating for nearly 50 years. Three participants each from Alaska and Canada, four from Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland) and two from Chukotka were at today’s inaugural meeting. They range in age from 23 to 34.

“Such a large pool of applicants shows a high level of enthusiasm by Inuit youth from across our homelands of Inuit Nunaat,” said ICC Chair Sara Olsvig, “I am warmed by my heart to see how they want to contribute in their own way to their communities, have a say in regional development and influence international work on behalf of Inuit and other Indigenous Peoples.”

“If we had unlimited funds, the ICC would have accepted all 179 applicants,” Olsvig said, “but budgetary limitations force us to make a choice, and this first round will focus on providing tools for this group of Inuit youth to engage directly in our international work.”

The program emphasizes collaboration among young Inuit from different regions, promoting a shared learning experience. Besides developing individual skills, it will create a network of empowered young people who are ready to guide their communities forward.

The participants will meet online and in person and work on different circumpolar and global issues with mentors from ICC’s national offices. They will also take part in an educational programme that will feature experienced leaders and speakers from different Inuit regions.

“This project is the beginning of a series of projects, and I hope that one day we will have the opportunity to involve many more Inuit youth in our work in ICC,” said Olsvig.

ICC wishes to thank the Danish Parliament and the U.S. Embassy in Denmark for their financial support to the Inuit Youth Engagement Programme.

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ICC is an international Indigenous Peoples' Organization, founded in 1977 to strengthen unity among Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka. ICC promotes Inuit rights and interests at the international level, develops and encourages long term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment, and seeks full and effective participation and meaningful engagement in the political, economic, and social development of the Arctic region.

ICC holds Consultative Status II at the United Nations Economic and Social Council, is a co-founder and Permanent Participant at the Arctic Council, an Observer at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and holds Provisional Consultative Status at the International Maritime Organization alongside other advisory and consultative roles across numerous international fora.