



Press Release: Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska Leadership Assert Self-Determination in Arctic Decision-making

March 28, 2025—Anchorage, Alaska – *Unity, Self-Determination, and Sovereignty* were central themes guiding discussions at the first ever ICC Alaska Leadership Summit.

Recognizing the need for Alaskan Inuit to define our own future for the Arctic and assert our leadership in regional and global Arctic policy, ICC Alaska convened this Summit as the first step in developing a unified Alaskan Inuit Arctic Strategy. The Summit brought together Inuit leadership from across the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta regions to identify shared priorities and shape a collective path forward.

The Summit fulfills a directive from the ICC Alaska Board of Directors, in response to the 2022–2026 ICC Alaska Strategic Plan, which prioritizes *Influencing Systematic Change*. This directive calls for building a shared understanding of our culture and people; elevating and implementing our current work; and influencing government policy and practices through engagement.

“Our people have lived in the Arctic for thousands of years. Yet, decisions continue to be made about us and our homeland, without us,” said Marie Greene, ICC Alaska President. “The Summit and the Strategy we are building together is a step toward reclaiming our rightful place in shaping Arctic governance—on our terms, grounded in our people, our culture, our values, our vision and ‘Nothing About Us, Without Us.’”

This Summit was spurred by the ICC Alaska Board’s review of the 2022 United States National Strategy for the Arctic Region. The Board noted that, despite good intentions and references to Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Knowledge, Alaskan Inuit were not engaged in its development, and the Strategy failed to reflect Inuit priorities and lived realities. Rather than merely responding to national policies, Alaskan Inuit are asserting our own Strategy—a bold and unified statement of the Arctic we want.

The outcomes of the Summit, the Alaskan Inuit Arctic Strategy, will inform ICC Alaska’s engagement at the next ICC General Assembly, to be held in July 2026 in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada. There, these discussions will contribute to shaping the next ICC Declaration, setting priorities for the 2026–2030 term.

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 represents Inupiat, Central Yup’ik, Cup’ik, and Saint Lawrence Island Yupik in the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait, and Southwest Alaska.

For more information, contact:

Samantha Wade, Inuit Strategy Specialist
samantha@iccalaska.org
Phone: (907) 274-9058