



Open Call for Nominations to the Bill Edmunds Award

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) invites nominations of Inuit individuals from across Inuit homelands in the Arctic for The Bill Edmunds Award.

The award honors Inuit whose leadership, dedication, and long-standing contributions have strengthened Inuit rights, governance and international cooperation, reflecting the values and legacy of Bill Edmunds.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be Inuit from an Inuit homeland within the ICC regions.
- Nominations may be submitted by individuals, organizations, institutions or community groups.

How to Submit a Nomination

Nominators must complete the official nomination form and submit the required supporting information, including:

- A short biography of the nominee
- A statement outlining the nominee's contributions and how they meet the award criteria

Detailed criteria and nomination forms are provided in the attached documents.

Additional Information

The Bill Edmunds Award is a non-monetary award.

Purpose

The Bill Edmunds Award was established by the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) in 1986 to honor Inuit who have made selfless contributions to advancing Inuit rights and interests, particularly at the international level. Named after Bill Edmunds of Nunatsiavut, Canada, the award recognizes his leadership and participation in the inaugural Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska, in 1977. The award is presented every four years at the ICC General Assembly.

The 2026 Bill Edmunds Award will be announced and presented at the ICC 15th General Assembly in Iqaluit in July 2026.

Selection Process

ICC will establish a selection panel comprised of previous award recipients and others as necessary to review nominations submitted by each country.

Past recipients:

1986 Eben Hopson, Alaska	2002 Aqqaluk Lynge, Greenland
1989 Dalee Sambo, Alaska	2006 Jose Kusugak, Canada
1992 Rosemarie Kuptana, Canada	2010 Mary May Simon, Canada
1995 Robert Petersen, Greenland	2014 Carl Christian Olsen (Puju), Greenland
1995 Andy Carpenter, Canada	2018 Tatiana Archirgina, Chukotka
1998 Ludmilla Ainana, Chukotka	2026

Criteria

- Applicants and nominees must be Inuit from an Inuit homeland within ICC regions, if from Canada, you must specify which Inuit Treaty Organization you are enrolled in when submitting the form.

- Nominations are not restricted to individuals residing in the country of the nominator.
- Specific categories for evaluating nominations are detailed in the nomination form.

Nomination Process & Deadline

Each country shall solicit and submit nominations from its members to the Bill Edmunds Panel by May 15, 2026. Please complete the following application and submit it to the office of the international Chair of the ICC by the deadline. Submissions can be made via email or by submitting through Microsoft Form or by sending an email to icc-ga@inuit.org

All submissions will be reviewed by the selection committee, which will notify the ICC Chair of the selected recipient by July 2026.

Biography of William (Bill) Edmunds

William (Bill) Solomon Edmunds (1932–1983) was born in Lake Harbour, Baffin Island (now Nunavut). As a child, he moved with his family to Labrador and attended the Moravian Mission School in Makkovik. In 1951, he began working as a heavy equipment operator at the American Air Force Base in Happy Valley–Goose Bay, where he later married and raised four children.

In 1973, Bill returned to Makkovik and became a key grassroots advocate for Inuit human rights. He was a founding member of the Labrador Inuit Association (LIA), serving as vice president in its first election in 1973 and as president from 1975 to 1981.

In 1977, he was selected as a Labrador delegate to the inaugural Inuit Circumpolar Conference (now the Inuit Circumpolar Council) in Barrow, Alaska, where he worked closely with ICC founder Eben Hopson to advance circumpolar Inuit cooperation. Bill also served on the Board of Directors of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (now Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami) and represented Canada on the national delegation when Greenland achieved Home Rule in 1979.

William (Bill) Edmunds passed away on July 6, 1983. He is remembered as a leader who embodied Inuit unity at the community, regional, national, and circumpolar levels. In his honor, the Bill Edmunds Award is presented at each ICC General Assembly to an Inuk who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to Inuit unity and human rights.

Nomination Form

Date	
Name of Nominee	
Nominated By	
Country	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Please complete the questions below, providing detailed responses and specific examples where possible. Before completing this nomination form, review the attached Award information sheet and the brief biography of Bill Edmunds for background and context.

Please submit via email or by submitting through Microsoft Forms. The email address is icc-ga@inuit.org by **May 15, 2026**.

1. How has the nominee shown dedication to promoting Inuit rights and interests at the international level? Please provide concrete examples and detail the resulting impact for Inuit.
2. Please outline how the nominee has demonstrated that he/she has made an impact at the community, regional and national levels.

3. Please discuss, using specific examples how the nominee has shown through their actions the importance of both individual and collective rights.

4. Outline how the nominee has demonstrated that he/she leads by example.