

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of tall, thin grasses. The grasses are a mix of green and golden-brown, suggesting they are in a late stage of growth or beginning to dry. The lighting is soft, creating a gentle, natural feel. A semi-transparent, light-colored rectangular area is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

2014-2015

*ANNUAL REPORT*

ICC Canada

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### The Inuit Voice: Being Heard and Moving Forward



Any year that ICC hosts a General Assembly is extraordinary and this year was no exception. This year ICC Canada, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and my home community of Inuvik welcomed the circumpolar world for the 12<sup>th</sup> ICC General Assembly. Hosting an ICC General Assembly requires a monumental effort on the part of the community, Inuit organizations, donors and ICC. The Inuvik ICC General Assembly was a huge success on many levels and it was a testament to the importance and commitment of Inuit to bring our communities from all four countries together every 4 years to greet, meet and re-acquaint with friends and family; to celebrate all things Inuit from sports, art, dance, music, language to country food; and, to articulate an Inuit vision and plan for our future. The ICC delegates

concluded the General Assembly with a strong mandate to address the multitude of pressing issues facing our communities. The Kitigaaryuit Declaration will direct our activities over the next four years as we support the International Office of the Chair and welcome Okalik Eegeesiak as the incoming ICC Chair for 2014-2018.

During the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, ICC worked to promote the value and use of traditional knowledge within the Arctic Council to bring Inuit issues, observations and knowledge to a collective understanding and to develop policies on shipping, oil and gas, tourism, health, contaminants, wildlife and language. We will support the transition of the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council from Canada to the United States – and we noted with pleasure that the US Chairmanship has used our Inuvik General Assembly theme of One Arctic One Future. ICC will work with the US Chairmanship team on a variety of initiatives in the Arctic Council working groups such as the three SDWG health initiatives: 1) Reducing Suicide in Arctic Communities (Rising Sun); 2) Improving Health in Arctic Communities through Safe and Affordable Access to Household Running Water and Sewer; Water, Sanitation and health (WASH) and 2) operationalizing One Health in the Arctic. This year also saw ICC host the Arctic Council sanctioned, Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium in Ottawa to address the value and needs required to support the preservation of indigenous languages in the Arctic.

We continue to hear how the Arctic is rapidly changing both through physical change and the speed or rate of change. Inuit and the scientists studying this change are observing and can report on the physical, social and cultural change they are seeing as a result of human activities – it is the age of Anthropocene (age of human induced change) at work.

In 2014 – 2015 as we continue to hear of a persistent warming trend that began over 30 years ago we learned that this “Arctic amplification” in the rate of warming is more than twice as fast as at lower latitudes. We have witnessed record low sea ice cover and snow pack and above average temperatures. We are witnessing changes in animal patterns of migration and timing - some positive, some negative.

Climate change continues to be a major driver of what is happening in the Arctic and ICC continues to receive more and more requests to take part in various activities, panels, as symposium speakers and in other activities to present our views on the changing Arctic. ICC is committed to partnering with governments, organizations, industry and institutions on any project that address Inuit priorities and issues and that are developed with us in a true partnership. We are receiving many more requests to take part in circumpolar and global activities, panels, symposiums, etc. to present our views on the changing arctic and how we see Inuit engaged. ICC will also continue to engage in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

We are engaged in major Arctic research programs such as ArcticNet and the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS). We continue to support and defend the rights of Inuit to hunt and we monitor international activities that may impact these rights within the IUCN, CITES, Polar Bear Range States meetings, IWC and other fora. We have engaged and presented Inuit views at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and have worked with the Government of Canada to affirm Inuit Access and Benefit Sharing as negotiated through the Nagoya Protocol. We have continued to work at the national and international level to reduce and where possible eliminate the contaminants in our environment, food and our bodies through the Northern Contaminants Program and on international delegations. ICC was an active participant on the United Nations negotiations for the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a toxic heavy metal, in the hope we can reduce the levels of mercury from the Arctic environment.

Inuit must continue to seek opportunities, and focus on activities that make a difference in our lives and in our communities. ICC has strategically engaged in activities that we hope will foster positive changes, as well as protects and promote our rights.

It is my goal and my mandate as President of ICC Canada to represent Canadian Inuit interests internationally and ensure your voice is heard. I want to work to make certain our people and our culture is strong, informed, influential and determined. As you read the activities we have engaged in during 2014-2015 I hope that you will see that even with tighter and tighter budgets we continue to participate in activities that have a value added effect and ones that foster strength and resilience of Inuit.



## ICC ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

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### 2014 General Assembly

Once every four years, Inuit leadership represented by the ICC come together at a General Assembly to chart a path forward for the peoples and cultures of the Arctic and for the Arctic environment. The very successful 12<sup>th</sup> ICC General Assembly was held in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada on July 21-25, 2014. It was chaired by Mr. Duane Smith and Mr. Aqqaluk Lynge with the support of ICC Alaska and ICC Chukotka. The 2014 GA had as its theme, *Ukiuqtaqtumi Hivuniptingnun – One Arctic One Future*. This theme encapsulated ICC’s broadest efforts to promote cooperation and unity among the world’s circumpolar peoples and was a celebration of today’s Inuit culture, knowledge, spirit and hope. ICC Canada worked closely with the ICC Executive Council, the ICC Board of Directors, the local host, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and the Town of Inuvik to plan and implement this successful event.

Of serious note amongst delegates at the time of the 2014 GA, decision makers on behalf of the Arctic – both public and private – are under great pressure in this era to meet external demands and interests, while balancing these with the concerns and needs of Arctic peoples and the environment. Likewise, decision making within the extensive Arctic regions has increasingly impacted on policy and practice across the globe. In the context of this extensive change process, a clearer and more unified Arctic voice has emerged. The voice of Arctic peoples has gained a significant presence on the world stage in part through the prominent work of the 8-country Arctic Council and through other major bodies such as the ICC, which itself has constituted a key representative voice at meetings of the Arctic Council.



Canadian Delegation - ICC General Assembly, Inuvik, NT – July 21-24, 2014

Outputs of the 2014 ICC General Assembly provided vital and timely outputs, including evidence, experience and wisdom, in support of national and international discourse and decision making on social, cultural, environmental and economic matters affecting the future of Arctic peoples and the physical world. This includes the need to carefully assess, plan and appropriately manage resource development over the long term using both traditional and contemporary tools and wisdom. As the GA observed, answers to myriad resource questions and other urgent questions arising in relation to the Arctic can be determined through a combination of modern research technologies and Inuit knowledge, wisdom and experience. The GA deliberations on these points demonstrated sound and credible analysis, information and direction, as well as a deep and widespread interest in prudent decision making that benefits the long-term health and well-being of the land and the peoples that populate it.

Deliberations at the Inuvik GA culminated in: (1) A thorough review by Inuit delegates from Russia, Alaska, Greenland, and Canada of work accomplished by ICC in the period 2010–2014; (2) A celebration of the unity of all Inuit (Final Agenda of the ICC Inuvik GA); and (3) The development of the *Kitigaaryuit Declaration*, a four-year plan to guide the ICC’s efforts in the period 2014–2018.



## Office of the ICC Chair 2014-2018

Ms. Okalik Egeesiak of Nunavut assumed the ICC Chairmanship during the Inuvik General Assembly in July 2014. The Office of the Chair will operate under the auspices of ICC Canada for the term 2014-2018. Since her election, Ms. Egeesiak has represented circumpolar Inuit at international meetings and has developed a strategic plan based on the *Kitigaaryuit Declaration*. The Chair's Office has four strategic priorities:

**Priority 1** – Work in cooperation with all ICC offices (Canada, Greenland, Alaska and Chukotka) to implement the priorities set out in the *Kitigaaryuit Declaration* (2014); **Priority 2** – Strengthen the role and the meaningful engagement of ICC within the Arctic Council and other international fora and advance the priorities of Inuit within these fora. Advocate on behalf of Inuit globally; **Priority 3** – Advance a better understanding Inuit Mental Health and support Inuit access to mental health services; **Priority 4** – Support the regional seas initiative proposed by the U.S. to promote and protect the role of Inuit in management arrangements in relation to Arctic marine areas, including in relation to harvesting and resource development planning and decision-making.

International engagement by the Chair has included leading the ICC Delegation at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in New York, and participating in the Arctic Circle Conference in Iceland and the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat 20th Anniversary in Denmark. At the circumpolar level, the ICC Chair attended the Arctic Council Biodiversity Congress in Norway; the Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium in Ottawa; and the Mental Wellness Symposium in Iqaluit.

ICC Canada, through its board and staff, will continue to provide support to the Chair throughout her four-year term of office.



ICC Executive Council: Herb Nakimayak, Jim Stotts, Vera Metcalf, Duane Smith, Tatiana Achirgina, Hjalmar Dahl, Okalik Egeesiak, Martha Abelsen (missing in photo: Elena Kaminskaya)

## Arctic Council

ICC Canada continues to play a strong leadership role within the Arctic Council. The work undertaken by ICC Canada on behalf of Canadian Inuit and in collaboration with other ICC offices in the 8-state Arctic Council is at both the technical and political levels. The issues of international importance to Inuit that form the Councils work programme and political direction are broad in scope, from contaminants, environmental security, language and resource development to health and wellness, food security and sovereignty. ICC takes great care in focusing on the issues that impact Inuit the most and where ICC can best contribute.

The structure of the Arctic Council is unique among global organizations in that ICC and five other indigenous peoples organizations are able to directly address the Chair and sit at the same table as ministers, senior bureaucrats, and state heads of delegation at the working group levels. These indigenous peoples' organizations have the status of "Permanent Participant" (PP), whereas states have the status of "Member". While there are other states and organizations that have been granted Observer status, they do not sit at the same table as Members or Permanent Participants.

In 2014-2015 ICC Canada, along with the other ICC offices, undertook activities in support of the Canadian Chairmanship well as ongoing projects and activities of the five Arctic Council working groups which are:

- ❖ Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Programme (AMAP)
- ❖ Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna (CAFF)
- ❖ Emergency Prevention, Preparedness & Response (EPPR)
- ❖ Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
- ❖ Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

Through the Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Programme (AMAP) ICC Canada worked closely with ICC Alaska on the *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)*, especially in preparation for the large ABA Congress that was held in Trondheim, Norway in early December 2014. ICC Canada was head of Delegation for the "Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment" and the "Sustainable Development Working Group" (SDWG). As co-chair of the SDWG and Co-chair of the Arctic Human Health Expert Working Group, ICC worked to make this working group more relevant to the people that live in the Arctic and strengthening the "human dimension" of the Arctic Council.

Many projects and deliverables were approved for delivery to the Iqaluit ministerial, including several that were either led or co-led, or in which ICC had a strong role to play. ICC Canada worked hard on a number of initiatives leading up to the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting. These include; 1) *Assessing, Monitoring, & Promoting the Vitality of Arctic Indigenous Languages symposium*; 2) *The Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness & Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities*; 3) *Review of Cancer among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples*; 4) *A Circumpolar Inuit Response to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment*; and 5) leading a chapter on risk communication for the AMAP Human Health Assessment.



ICC Canada remains involved on the Sustained Arctic Observing Network (SAON) work, is part of the SAON board, and a member of its executive committee. ICC Canada co-chaired the organizing committee of the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) and co-chaired a session on stakeholder involvement at the conference.

Making traditional knowledge more integrated in the Council working groups was a priority of the Canadian Chairmanship. ICC Canada worked closely with the other ICC and took the lead in developing a paper titled, *A Meaningful & Principled Approach for Inuit Engaging Arctic Council Observers*. In April 2015, Canada's Minister for the Arctic Council, Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, hosted the seven Arctic ministers of foreign affairs from Norway, Sweden, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Russia, and USA, along with the Chairs of the six Permanent Participants, including ICC Chair, Okalik Egeesiak, ICC Canada President, Duane Smith, and ICC Alaska President, Jim Stotts.

The Arctic Council will be chaired by the USA from 2015-2017. The initiatives in the USA programme complement the on-going work of the Arctic Council and ICC Canada is committed to remaining actively engaged with implementation of the Iqaluit Declaration.

### Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium

In 2012 the Arctic Council and SAOs approved the SDWG languages project, *Assessing, Monitoring, & Promoting the Vitality of Arctic Indigenous Languages*. ICC led the project, which had its roots in the recommendations of the 2008 ICC-led and SDWG- endorsed Arctic Council symposium held in Tromsø, Norway. The project had 18 components split across academic research activities and community focused activities.



Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium Youth Delegates

In June 2012, linguists as well as representatives nominated by the Permanent Participants met in Ottawa at a research development workshop where the recommendations from the Tromsø symposium and from a subsequent scoping project were translated into an action plan. The action plan provided for three assessment committees that would engage three functions respectively: 1) assessing the vitality of indigenous languages in the Arctic; b) assessing indigenous languages policies across the circumpolar world; and c) assessing language acquisition tools in the Arctic. In addition to the action plan, a website and social media plan were launched and implemented.

Since then, ICC Canada has engaged in various other community-focused activities, including working with Canada's national Inuit youth organization and hosting a regional youth-elder languages workshop in Iqaluit January 2015, which enabled in part the collection of data for the three committees identified through the 2012 action plan, and also served as a pilot to help design and implement additional similar

youth-elder workshops across the Arctic. More information on the overall project, including its objectives, collaborators, social media, and language resources gathered can be found at [www.arcticlanguages.com](http://www.arcticlanguages.com).

In February 2015, the Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium was launched in Ottawa following a keynote address given by Arctic Council Chair Hon. Leona Aglukkaq. The Symposium was successful on several fronts: The three committees presented their progress to date in advancing their mandated functions; the Symposium enabled youth to present their concerns and provide an update of their accomplishments through the youth-elder process; and other linguists and other interested indigenous participants contributed their views on the appropriate direction for the project. Recommendations from the Symposium were forwarded to the incoming U.S. Chair.

## United Nations Human Rights

Inuit human rights as well as the rights of all other indigenous peoples lie at the heart of ICC Canada's aims and objectives. The United Nations (UN) represents a key venue in which ICC promotes the human rights of Inuit and, along with other bodies, works to improve the lives of all indigenous peoples globally. Accordingly, ICC's participation in relevant UN meetings and workshops where policy, knowledge and expertise can be shared and honed at a global level, represents one of ICC's core multilateral engagement efforts.

Apart from its vital participatory activities, the ICC continues to contribute human and financial resources to the work of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. The current Chair of the Forum is Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough of Alaska. Attendance at the UNPFII raises awareness and promotes the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the UN system, as well as preparing and disseminating information on indigenous issues.

In September 2014, an Inuit delegation led by the ICC Chair attended the World Congress on Indigenous Peoples in New York City. ICC also continued to engage over the past year with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); participated in the UN Environment Program (UNEP)/CAFF meeting which was held in Washington, DC in October; and monitored outcomes of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)/World Health Organization (WHO)'s International meeting on Nutrition held in Rome, Italy in November. ICC's continuing partnership with GRID-Arendal through the Many Strong Voices program also allows Inuit/Arctic voices to be heard internationally. These activities ensure that Canadian Inuit perspectives contribute to the global human rights discourse and enable ICC Canada to seek greater integration of science and policy decisions in support of its circumpolar priorities.

## 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Ms. Okalik Eegeesiak attended the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22-23 September 2014, on behalf of the ICC.

The meeting was an opportunity to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, endorsed by Canada in November 2010. The Conference was opened with a traditional indigenous ceremony and the adoption of the World Conference outcome document. Opening statements were made by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, heads of state and other high-level state representatives, the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and three representatives of indigenous peoples. Round tables and panel discussions were held on the United Nations system-wide action plan to implement the rights of indigenous peoples; on implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples at the national and local levels; and on indigenous peoples' lands, territories and resources. The ICC International Chair also made an intervention on behalf of the Arctic Caucus.

## Environment and Sustainable Development

ICC has been engaged in developing the mandate and the research process and workplan of the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) and Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR). ICC Canada is articulating and defining its Arctic science and research identity as it pursues the development of an Arctic science and research agenda through CHARS which is intended to serve both “Canada and the world”. As had already been studied and was again acknowledged at the time of the 2014 General Assembly, the Arctic science “niche” relates most appropriately to the peoples of the Arctic – that is, those who have relied on and occupied the Arctic region for millennia and who possess extensive temporal knowledge on wildlife and the social, cultural, human health and economic realities of the transforming Arctic environment.<sup>1</sup> As such, the peoples of the Arctic and those who call the Arctic home are important partners in undertaking the objectives and goals of CHARS, in defining the research agenda and directing research that “serves Canada and the world”, and in encouraging research that will lead to real and tangible improvements to their lives.

The health and social well-being challenges experienced by Arctic indigenous peoples and identified through the study referenced above, as well as through the Inuit Health Strategy, other indigenous health surveys and many other papers and documents that have been authored in recent years, point to immediate and critical needs. CHARS has the opportunity to ensure that Inuit and other Indigenous peoples in Canada contribute to and benefit from Arctic science and research, and to act as part of the research team rather than as its subjects. To achieve their utmost participation, communities must be strong; a pillar of the evolving CHARS science and research program must, therefore, robustly prioritize the research needs that will advance the health and social well-being of Inuit and other indigenous peoples of Canada. ICC has drafted and circulated two conceptual frameworks that provide clear guidance to the CHARS Advisory Committee and to the Science and Technology Taskforce on Health and Wellness and on Traditional Knowledge.

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<sup>1</sup> Paper by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the ICC, commissioned by the Canadian government: *Identifying Canada's global science advantage in addressing the grand challenges facing the Canadian Arctic: An Inuit Perspective* (authored by Nickels (ITK) and Meakin (ICC)).

## Climate Change

The present context of ongoing, unpredictable and extensive impacts of climate change in relation to the Arctic environment, wildlife and Inuit communities remains a major and urgent priority issue and is central to many of ICC's efforts. The effects of climate change are increasingly observed throughout the Arctic beginning with changes in the physical environment, and resulting in wide-ranging effects to economic development, culture, wildlife, health and wellness. Each and every file that ICC is engaged in is influenced by climate change. A vital role for ICC, then, is to ensure, on behalf of Inuit peoples, that Inuit wisdom, experience, perspectives and concerns on climate change are incorporated into national, circumpolar and global decision making. ICC fully recognizes the ongoing need for Inuit to engage with circumpolar and international processes. Through Observer Status in relation to UN ECOSOC and by engaging with the UNFCCC and other international agencies, ICC continues to ensure the message of climate change impacts is not lost. ICC has partnered with the Saami Council to represent the Arctic Region within the Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IPFCC): The two bodies have submitted a proposal to the Global Steering Committee to allow Inuit and Saami to meet with regional representatives and ultimately to develop a regional workplan for climate change activities that can be presented at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) in Paris in 2015.

ICC continues to remind the national and international community of the urgency and importance of a national and global response to climate change. ICC's Permanent Participant designation at the Arctic Council also provides opportunities for Inuit to engage and share information, knowledge and expertise on the extensive and intricate links between climate change and environmental health, sustainable use, cultural identity, and the health and well-being of Inuit. Inuit priorities in the context of climate change range from health, economic development, housing and infrastructure, food security and the overall the importance of gathering and using the best available information for decision-making, so as to address the challenges of adapting to environmental change and to improve the well-being of Inuit communities.

## Wildlife and Sustainable Utilization

ICC continues to view the issue of sustainable use of living resources as a critical matter for Inuit and one which is intimately related to all other Inuit concerns. ICC Canada is developing a sustainable use strategy to better coordinate information needs, transfer of knowledge, and fundraising, so as to support efforts relating to wildlife protection and otherwise to promote sustainable use practices. ICC continues to monitor various related fora including the Arctic Council CAFF working group, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the IUCN, CITES, the International Whaling Commission, and the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Conservation Organization.

Monitoring activities include participating in discussions of the Environment Canada consulting group on polar bears; participating along with ITK in IUCN's Working Group on Tribal and Indigenous Peoples (WGTIP) that was established to implement IUCN's resolution on establishing a special membership category for Indigenous Peoples; and exploring opportunities to engage with IUCN's newly established Arctic Ecosystems working group.

ICC Canada will explore and investigate further funding partnerships to support work on sustainable utilization issues and to enable ICC to host a meeting to review the development of a United Nations World Heritage Site in the Last Ice Area with the WWF Global Arctic Programme. These aims are seen as the natural outcome of a relationship building process that has come about over the last several years in relation to WWF's Last Ice Area project and which seeks to establish a managed and/or protected polar bear habitat in an area between Nunavut and Greenland, with the full participation of Inuit.

### Biodiversity: Access and Benefit Sharing

ICC Canada continued to bring to the attention of the international community many issues of concern to Inuit with regard to the Arctic biodiversity, environment and sustainable development. The global community continues to address these challenges to biodiversity in different ways. A partnership with Environment Canada this year allowed ICC to participate on the Canadian Delegation to the *United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)* SBSTTA meetings in Montreal in July 2014 and the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) of the UN CBD in Seoul, Korea October 2014. ICC Canada was involved in policy dialogue with Environment Canada on the Article 8(j) working group and related provisions, and on Article 10(c) on customary sustainable use within the UN CBD.

As Canada moves towards action on implementing the 2010 *Nagoya Protocol*, Environment Canada provided an opportunity to Inuit representatives to comment on a draft of a discussion document entitled "Discussion document for the further development of the federal access and benefit sharing policy". While not intended to be viewed as government policy, this document reflects aspects of the *Nagoya Protocol* that may be considered by Canada in the development of a plan to implement the *Protocol*. The objective of the document and ICC analysis was to further the dialogue on the development of a policy and ensure the explicit integration of Inuit interests in planning. ICC prepared a document entitled "Analysis of the Federal Government Discussion Document for Regional Consideration and Comment," with a view to providing an analysis of the federal discussion document which could assist regional Inuit interests in reviewing and commenting on what Environment Canada has presented. This document was circulated for comment in March 2014 to all four Inuit regions, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Pauktuutit.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) has been involved in the work of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* since 1996. The *Convention* contains many relevant provisions for Inuit regarding conservation of biodiversity and issues of sustainable use – a priority issue for Inuit as identified in the Barrow (2006) and Nuuk (2010) ICC General Assembly Declarations. ICC Canada was also an integral part of the negotiations of the *Nagoya Protocol* in Japan and worked diligently to ensure Inuit interests were considered in the final text. Background documentation from this process was distributed at the 2014 ICC General Assembly. In December 2014 ICC was able to bring together regional representatives to meet with Environment Canada representatives to discuss how to implement the access and benefit sharing provisions as negotiated through the *Nagoya Protocol* and developed a number of suggested next steps to assist EC in moving forward with the necessary actions to ratify the *Protocol*.

The issues of sustainable use, access and benefit sharing are complex and could significantly impact Inuit rights under the land claim agreements.

Regional representatives agreed on the need to ensure effective implementation of any obligations that may be incurred with ratification of the *Nagoya Protocol*. ICC concluded that Inuit peoples support a clear domestic policy on access and benefit sharing for genetic resources and for traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, with a focus on federal roles and Inuit regional responsibilities as described under the land claim agreements. Inuit peoples continue to support ratification of the *Nagoya Protocol*, assuming Inuit concerns are addressed and the obligation to ensure full and prior informed consent is met. Inuit regional representatives stressed that the federal government has a fiduciary obligation towards Inuit on this matter through the land claim agreements. They noted a need for capacity building in Inuit regions so as to address compliance issues. They also noted that there would be questions regarding jurisdiction between Inuit lands and federal lands, that larger proprietorship questions remain to be addressed, and that there is a strong argument to be made for "genetic resources owned by the collective".

## ArcticNet

ArcticNet is a network of centres of excellence studying the impacts of climate change and modernization in the coastal Canadian Arctic. The network is in its final phase of funding (2014-2018). As an Inuit partner organization of ArcticNet, ICC Canada has participated in the program and promoted the partnership as a model of Inuit involvement in research and communication of research findings.

ICC continued its work to improve coordination between ArcticNet research projects and other Arctic



initiatives with overlapping interests, such as the Sustained Arctic Observing Networks, Northern Contaminants Program, United Nations Environment Program, as well as the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP), Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), and Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) project.

## ICC Canada/Arctic Net Coordination

Staff and leadership regularly participate in ArcticNet meetings including the Inuit Advisory Committee, the Research Management Committee, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee.

### Inuit Research Advisors

The engagement activities of Inuit Research Advisors include attending in-person and remote meetings to coordinate Inuit partner efforts; supporting Inuit regional representatives during ArcticNet activities; and ensuring that the research programme benefits Inuit more generally through the Inuit Advisory Committee and the work of the Advisors themselves.

### Contaminants

For over fifty years, Arctic regions have been depositories, analogous to sinks for many pollutants emanating from around the world, resulting in high contamination levels in some Inuit populations compared to populations residing in temperate and tropical regions. Over the past year, ICC Canada has continued to be a respected, constructive and informed voice within fora dedicated to discussion of major contaminants, Arctic and human health, in Canada and internationally.

Canadian Inuit are particularly concerned with contaminants that undergo long-range transport and bioaccumulation in the Arctic ecosystem and which can lead to very high concentrations in some Inuit populations, potentially impacting Inuit health and well-being.

ICC Canada continues to engage in advocacy and research efforts nationally and internationally to address the issue of contamination. We have drawn international attention to research generated by the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) of the Arctic Council so as to contribute to international policies on the regulation of chemicals that are of concern to Inuit in the Arctic.



Over the past year, ICC Canada worked actively to support NCP by inputting into Management Committee and technical Subcommittee efforts as well as the Canadian Arctic Contaminants Assessment III Highlights and Summary reports.

ICC Canada continued to actively contribute to a wide spectrum of Arctic Council activities in 2014-15 including AMAP Working Group meetings, webinars for the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) Integration Team, and the Sustaining the Arctic Observing Networks (SAON). Through its active involvement in SAON, ICC Canada is working to ensure that community-based monitoring (CBM) and Traditional Knowledge (TK) are better utilized in monitoring activities. ICC Canada continues to lead a SAON task on community-based monitoring and with its partners launched the online Atlas of Community Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic ([www.arcticcbm.org](http://www.arcticcbm.org)). The second part of ICC's SAON task proposal, a compilation of an in-depth review of CBM in the circumpolar Arctic, is currently being finalized. Related to this work, a paper was published earlier in 2015 on the contribution of CBM and TK to Arctic observing networks<sup>1</sup> and several presentations have been given by ICC and partners of the CBM Atlas at workshops and conferences, such as the Arctic Change Conference December 2014 in Ottawa.

In addition to playing an active role in the SAON Board and Executive Committee, ICC Canada is on the organizing committee for the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) and in April 2014, organized a stakeholder panel at the AOS in Helsinki which included perspectives from the local community, Arctic government representatives, indigenous peoples' organizations, science and industry.

ICC Canada's staff scientist has been leading development of a chapter on risk communication for the upcoming AMAP Health Assessment (to be published in fall 2015) and has been named a Canadian national expert for the AMAP POPs expert group, which is currently working on the next POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) assessment.

ICC Canada also pursued activities related to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Work on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is ongoing, with ICC Canada attending the 10th POP Review Committee (POPRC) in October 2014 and providing input into POPRC working group documents on contaminants such as pentachlorophenol (PCP), short-chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs), and dicofol. ICC Canada attended the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Stockholm Convention on POPs in May 2015 and made an intervention to support the listing of PCP. The COP-7 succeeded in listing three new contaminants in the Stockholm Convention's Annex A of elimination: PCP, hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd) and polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs).

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<sup>1</sup> Johnson et al. 2015. *The contributions of community-based monitoring and traditional knowledge to Arctic observing networks: Reflections on the state of the field*. Online at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14430/arctic4447>.



## Mercury

Mercury contamination has important implications for Inuit in the circumpolar Arctic because it undergoes long-range transport via the atmosphere and oceanic currents and is deposited in the Arctic environment. The metals' most toxic form, methylmercury, accumulates in the food web and reaches very high concentrations in top predators such as marine mammals and subsequently in Inuit, who rely on these animals as a food source. As a result, high mercury concentrations have been found in Inuit populations in the circumpolar Arctic. Health studies and consumption advisories add to the mounting evidence that mercury contamination is a real threat to Inuit that requires urgent action.



ICC was strongly engaged in United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) negotiations that led to the adoption of a global, legally-binding agreement on mercury (the *Minamata Convention*) aimed at the elimination of further anthropogenic mercury releases into the environment. In 2014-15, ICC Canada continued to promote the use of sound science in efforts to develop policies aimed at reducing and, if possible, eliminating contaminants (including mercury) in the Arctic environment. We continued to review literature and to conduct research on mercury to assist with policy development, and prepared reports and briefing notes on the subject for Inuit regions. We continued work (with partners from the University of Ottawa, Uppsala University and Trent University) on data analysis for our study on mercury pathways and sources to the Canadian Arctic. Two scientific papers have been published in international journals as a result of this work.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Zdanowicz, C. et al. 2014. Pre-industrial and recent (1970-2010) atmospheric deposition of sulfate and mercury in snow on southern Baffin Island, Arctic Canada. *Science of the Total Environment*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2014.04.092>

Zdanowicz C. et al. 2013. Accumulation, storage and release of atmospheric mercury in a glaciated Arctic catchment, Baffin Island, Canada. *Geochimica Cosmochimica Acta* 107:316-335.

## Circumpolar Health

In this reporting year, ICC Canada continued to play a leading role in circumpolar health on behalf of the other ICC offices by contributing to a wide range of current initiatives and ensuring that Inuit perspectives frame and inform future ones. Through its multiple leadership roles, ICC Canada continued to liaise closely with Inuit communities and their representative organizations to provide updates on AHHEG and SDWG health initiatives, which included briefings to the Circumpolar and National Inuit Committees on Health.

ICC Canada hosted the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee just prior to the ICC General Assembly in July. In addition, the ICC Health Committee members met to discuss outcomes of the 2010-2014 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy and health priorities to address over the next four years.

Inuit health and well-being continues to be a major priority for Canadian Inuit. As such, ICC Canada along with its partners from ELOKA and Brown University



created an Inuit mental health and wellness map: [www.arcticcbm.org/wellness](http://www.arcticcbm.org/wellness). This unique website allows Inuit and others to share and learn more about Inuit communities and health and wellness initiatives across Inuit Nunaat. This project was presented at an ICC General Assembly health side event in July and at the Arctic Change conference in December. It was also presented at the 16th International Congress on Circumpolar Health (ICCH16) in Oulu, Finland in June, 2015.

ICC Canada has played an active role on the Arctic Council's Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) since 2008 and was co-chair of the AHHEG during the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. ICC played a strong co-

leading role of the *Review of Cancer among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples* report and the Circumpolar mental wellness project, as international and project steering committee members. ICC Canada attended and presented at the mental wellness workshop in Tromsø in May 2014 and co-hosted along with the project leads, the Circumpolar Mental Wellness Symposium that was held in Iqaluit in

March 2015. A report followed from this work: *Sharing Hope: Circumpolar perspectives on promising practices for promoting mental wellness and resilience.*<sup>1</sup>

Food Security remains an issue of vital importance to Canadian Inuit. ICC Canada is a member of the National Inuit Food Security Working Group (NIFSWG) and contributes to Inuit efforts to develop a National Inuit Food Security Strategy. ICC Canada was part of the international planning committee for the Arctic Change Conference in December and as co-facilitator and co-moderator of the panel sessions, ensured that food security concerns were integrated into panel discussions.



Circumpolar Health Committee: Natan Obed, Gert Mulvad, Galina Zagoruiko, Minnie Grey, Percy Ballot, Leanna Ellsworth, Heather Dingman

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<sup>1</sup> Reports referenced here are available on the Arctic Council website or by contacting the ICC Canada office.

## Summary Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014 (in dollars)

	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 453,957	\$ 633,557
Accounts receivable	286,039	365,036
Prepaid expenses	13,209	12,521
	753,205	1,011,114
Tangible capital and intangible assets	8,829	15,279
	\$ 762,034	\$ 1,026,393
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 595,398	\$ 843,574
Deferred revenue	136,571	149,280
Current portion of capital lease obligation	5,001	4,886
	736,970	997,740
Capital lease obligation	6,418	11,419
Net assets:		
Invested in tangible capital and intangible assets	(2,590)	(1,026)
Unrestricted	21,236	18,260
	18,646	17,234
<b>Total Liabilities and Assets</b>	<b>\$ 762,034</b>	<b>\$ 1,026,393</b>

## Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014 (in dollars)

	2015	2014
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada	\$ 1,203,100	\$ 923,840
Administration income from projects	217,941	113,029
Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development	171,828	312,494
Environment Canada	175,303	88,000
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (re: Health Canada)	152,000	150,000
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	134,850	75,000
I.C.C. Foundation (re: Air Inuit + Makivik)	132,906	75,000
Laval University	121,453	126,126
Nunatsiavut Government (+ Vale)	97,000	75,000
Government of Nunavut	75,000	75,000
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	75,000	225,000
ICC Greenland	36,470	–
ICC Alaska	35,076	34,832
Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat	28,936	–
Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation	25,000	–
Health Canada	24,915	30,319
World Wildlife Fund Canada	22,860	16,140
Miscellaneous - travel and other	17,086	17,146
PAIL and Mokami travel	7,500	–
	2,754,224	2,336,926
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Salaries and benefits	969,585	787,282
Professional fees	719,584	662,844
Travel expenses	486,562	273,606
Administration fees on projects	217,941	193,029
Communications	133,085	64,321
Rent, equipment and facilities	96,647	154,349
Contribution to General Assembly	84,500	150,000
Operating costs	38,458	40,547
Amortization of tangible capital and intangible assets	6,450	7,845
	2,752,812	2,333,823
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	1,412	3,103
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	17,234	14,131
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	\$ 18,646	\$ 17,234

The complete audited financial statements of  
Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) are available on our website.

[www.inuitcircumpolar.com](http://www.inuitcircumpolar.com)

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc.

The accompanying summary financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc., which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015 and the summary statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. as at and for the year ended March 31, 2015.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 26, 2015.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations applied in the preparation of the audited financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc.

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. as at and for the year ended March 31, 2015 are a fair summary of those financial statements.

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

June 26, 2015

Ottawa, Canada

## DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ICC Canada is very grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and is pleased to acknowledge the following contributors for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada:

Air Inuit

Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat

Canada Council for the Arts / Makivik

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development

Environment Canada

Government of Nunavut

Health Canada

ICC Alaska

ICC Greenland

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami – Taste of the Arctic Fundraising

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Makivik Corporation

Mokami Travel

Nunatsiavut Government

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc

Pan Arctic Inuit Logistics Corporation

University of Laval – ArcticNet

Vale Community Investment

Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation

World Wildlife Fund Canada

In-kind contributors to the July 2014 General Assembly in Inuvik:

Canadian North

Public Works and Government Services Canada



### Inuit Circumpolar Council

Since 1977, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has flourished and grown into a major international nongovernment organization representing approximately 155,000 Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka (Russia). The organization holds Consultative Status II at the United Nations.

To thrive in our circumpolar homeland, Inuit have the vision to speak with a united voice on issues of common concern and to combine our energies and talents towards protecting and promoting the Inuit way of life. The principle 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;
- ❖ Seek full and active partnerships in political, economic and social development in the circumpolar region.

ICC holds a General Assembly every four years at which time delegates from across the circumpolar region elect a new Chair and 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 common bond between all Inuit. Representatives from the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council (ICYC) and the International Elders Council participate, thereby improving communication and creating synergy with these important affiliated organizations.

The ICC international office is housed with the Chair. Each member country maintains a national office under the political guidance of a President.

### Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada)

The ICC in Canada is a non-profit organization led by a Board of Directors comprising the elected leaders of the four land claim settlement regions: Nunakput, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut (Labrador). The land claims settlement regions provide some core funding; however, raising additional resources to adequately pursue the objectives of ICC Canada and to effectively implement its initiatives remain a necessary and ongoing responsibility of the executive and staff. ICC Canada greatly appreciates the generous donor support received for without which the accomplishments of the past year would not have been possible.



## ICC Canada Aims and Objectives

The activities of ICC Canada are directed towards the following general aims and objectives:

- ❖ To preserve and promote the unity of Inuit as a single people within the circumpolar Arctic and to assist Canadian Inuit in speaking collectively with Inuit in Russia, Alaska and Greenland on international matters;
- ❖ To represent Canadian Inuit views on the Executive Council of the Inuit Circumpolar Council and to implement, in Canada, the resolutions emanating from the General Assemblies of the Inuit Circumpolar Council;
- ❖ To represent the interests of Canadian Inuit through our national organization, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and through our settlement claims organizations on matters of an international nature;
- ❖ To cooperate with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in presenting the position of Canadian Inuit on international matters;
- ❖ To coordinate and facilitate cooperation among the Inuit settlement claim organizations on international matters;
- ❖ To serve as a facilitator, in coordination with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, for promoting cooperation between Canadian Inuit and Inuit from Russia, Alaska and Greenland;
- ❖ To take measures to further enable Canadian Inuit to fully exercise our international rights and interests as indigenous peoples within Canada and globally;
- ❖ To act as the international vehicle through which all Canadian Inuit can voice concerns to world bodies, international conventions, intergovernmental forums, international non-governmental organizations and global indigenous movements; and to take measures at the international level to protect the Arctic environment and its renewable resources so that present and future generations of Canadian Inuit can fully benefit from the land and marine environment and its flora and fauna;
- ❖ To take measures at the international level to protect and promote Inuit rights related to health, culture, language, values, human rights and any other matters that impact on the ability of Inuit to shape the future of our society within the circumpolar Arctic and the world at large;
- ❖ To take measures at the international level to foster trade and economic development for Canadian Inuit and to assist in the development of successful business endeavours abroad;
- ❖ To bring to the attention of Canadian Inuit the ongoing issues and concerns of Inuit in Russia, Alaska and Greenland and to solicit Canadian Inuit assistance when required;
- ❖ To maintain an ongoing dialogue with ministries of the Canadian government on issues of importance to Inuit in Russia, Alaska and Greenland and to promote rights and interests within Canada.

## ICC Canada Legal Status and Board Membership

The Canadian branch of ICC was incorporated as a non-profit organization under the Canada Corporations Act in 1984. The Board of Directors is comprised of the ICC Canada President, a Vice-President responsible for International Affairs/Council Member, a Vice-President for National Affairs, and the elected heads of the four land claims settlement regions in Canada. The National Inuit Youth Council and Pauktuutit each hold ex-officio seats on the Board. On January 7, 2007, Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada) underwent a legal name change and is now registered as *Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada)*.



## ICC Canada Board of Directors

**Duane Smith**  
President  
Inuit Circumpolar Council  
Canada

**Herb Nakimayak**  
Vice-President, International  
Affairs  
Inuit Circumpolar Council  
Canada

**Terry Audla**  
Vice-President, National  
Affairs  
Inuit Circumpolar Council  
Canada  
President, Inuit Tapiriit  
Kanatami

**Cathy Towtongie**  
President  
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

**Jobie Tukkiapik**  
President  
Makivik Corporation

**Sarah Leo**  
President  
Nunatsiavut Government

**Nellie Cournoyea**  
Chair & Chief Executive  
Officer  
Inuvialuit Regional  
Corporation

**Rebecca Kudloo**  
President  
Pauktuutit

**Maatalii Okalik**  
President  
National Inuit Youth Council

## ICC Executive Council

### Chair

Okalik Eegeesiak (Canada)

### Canada

*Vice-Chair*  
Duane Smith

*Executive Council  
Member*  
Herb Nakimayak

### Greenland

*Vice-Chair*  
Hjalmar Dahl

*Executive Council  
Member*  
Martha Abelsen

### Alaska

*Vice-Chair*  
James Stotts

*Executive Council  
Member* Vera Metcalf

### Russia

*Vice-Chair*  
Tatiana Achirgina

*Executive Council  
Member*  
Elena Kaminskaya

## ICC Canada Staff

**Corinne Gray**  
Executive Director

**Jocelyne Durocher**  
Financial Manager

**Carole Simon**  
Executive Assistant

**Pitseolalaq Moss-Davies**  
Research Coordinator

**Eva Krümmel, Ph.D.**  
Senior Health Research  
Officer

**Leanna Ellsworth**  
Health Officer

**Natasha Latreille**  
Office and Project Assistant

**Stephanie Meakin**  
Science Advisor



## INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL OFFICES

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Website: [www.inuit.org](http://www.inuit.org)





## Kitigaaryuit Declaration

**As declared by the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka, on the occasion of the 12th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) from 21-24 July 2014 in Inuvik, Canada, and in the context of the Assembly theme,**

### *Ukiuqta'qtumi Hivuniptingnun – One Arctic, One Future*

**Reaffirming** that Inuit are one people living in our shared Arctic homeland of *Inuit Nunaat* since time immemorial, as declared in the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*;

**Celebrating** the rich Inuit culture that we developed through millennia of living in our Arctic homeland, in which we have subsisted and thrived, continually finding resources to adapt to environmental changes, reinforcing our identity as a strong and resilient people;

**Inspired by** the spirit and power of Kitigaaryuit, a traditional whaling village and meeting site that served to bring together and sustain Inuit, reminding us of the connection between past, present and future;

**Recalling** the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference held in Alaska in 1977 at which Eben Hopson, Sr. invited Inuit from across the Arctic to work together to share regional experiences, celebrate the strength and unity of Inuit, and pursue and coordinate collective international action;

**Envisioning** a future in which Inuit create successful economic, social and environmental conditions which reflect the original and central place of Inuit, Inuit culture and Inuit values throughout Inuit Nunaat;

**Recognizing** that Inuit children and youth are the fastest growing demographic and that healthy Inuit children and families are the foundation of healthy communities in Inuit Nunaat;

**Expressing Gratitude** for the rich cultural heritage passed on by our ancestors through the Inuit language, with its regional variations and dialects, and affirming our commitment to maintain, strengthen and revitalize the Inuit language in our communities;

**Encouraging** the development of communications across Inuit Nunaat over multiple media platforms in order to support the development and promotion of Inuit language, culture and political, social, and economic advancement.

**Emphasizing** that Inuit health and well-being is a matter of ongoing priority in *Inuit Nunaat*;

**Recognizing** that supporting mental wellness among Inuit is central to addressing a wide range of health issues;

**Underscoring** the urgent need to support research and policies that effectively address unacceptable rates of food insecurity, the high cost of living, transportation and doing business in Inuit communities;

**Reaffirming** that healthy communities and households require both a healthy environment and a thriving economy, and that social and cultural development must go hand in hand with economic development;

**Recalling** the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat* adopted in 2011, and reiterating the principles set out in that Declaration;

**Taking into Account** the increase in ship traffic in the Arctic that impacts Inuit culture, security, health, and livelihoods;

**Observing with Concern** the serious and growing threat to water quality and quantity in and around many Inuit communities owing to exploration and development of resources, as well as atmospheric transmission of contaminants and pollutants which threaten the health of Inuit and the entire Arctic ecosystem;

**Mindful** that environmental pollution of the Arctic remains critical for Inuit and, in that regard, acknowledging the adoption of the *Minamata Convention on Mercury*;

**Appreciative** that ICC and its partners have established a *Community Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic* web atlas to share and exchange information on best practices;

**Knowing** that energy security, resulting from diverse sources and technologies are important to advance sustainable Inuit communities;

**Acknowledging** scientific collaboration amongst the Arctic States and Permanent Participants within the Arctic Council, and **Recognizing** that sound knowledge is required for research and policy decisions;

**Reaffirming** the need for Inuit knowledge, including traditional Inuit knowledge holders to participate in Arctic scientific platforms to ensure that our views are respected and reflected in decision making and research planning;

**Urging** the Arctic Council to focus on its demonstrated success and status as a high level forum for dialogue and cooperation between Arctic states and permanent participants, and **Trusting** that issues between Arctic states, arising from developments outside of the circumpolar world, do not detract from the Council's important work;

**Recognizing** ICC's leadership and important work in promoting and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples internationally, particularly through the implementation process of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other international fora;

**Recognizing** the important contributions made by ICC's outgoing Chair and members of its Executive Council since the eleventh General Assembly;

**Fully Supporting** the newly-elected ICC Chair and Executive Council, and thanking them for their commitment to promote energetically the rights and interests of Inuit as a people at the international level;

**We hereby:**

1. **Thank** the Town of Inuvik for hosting ICC's 12th General Assembly and congratulate all Inuvialuit on the thirty year anniversary of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the signing of which was an inspiration to Inuit everywhere;
2. **Welcome and Adopt** the ICC Report on Activities 2010 – 2014;
3. **Recognize** the value of the reports and presentations made, and discussions held, by Inuit at this 12th ICC General Assembly;

#### **Arctic Council and International Fora**

4. **Instruct** ICC leadership to continue to use the Arctic Council and other fora, to further the interests of Inuit and, while working cooperatively with others in the Council, be vigilant about maintaining and strengthening the unique role of ICC as a Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council;
5. **Instruct** ICC leadership to call upon Arctic member states to include Inuit in all bilateral and multilateral meetings of importance to Inuit, and do so with the same direct and meaningful voice as at the Arctic Council;
6. **Instruct** ICC leadership to advance the human rights of Inuit and to do so by promoting the UNDRIP and by urging member states to fully endorse and implement the UNDRIP among other declarations and instruments, and further instruct ICC to promote meaningful and effective Inuit participation in decision-making processes consistent with the minimum standards of the UNDRIP, including the right to free, prior and informed consent;

7. Instruct ICC to actively promote the *Alta Outcome Document* from the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the UN High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.
8. **Mandate** ICC leadership to continue its efforts to encourage states and Inuit self-governments to ratify and implement the International Labour Organization Convention 169 (ILO 169) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in independent countries, and to continue to promote and protect Inuit rights through direct participation and work in UN mechanisms and agencies focused on the rights, interests and well-being of indigenous peoples;
9. **Direct** the ICC executive council and members to strengthen networks between Inuit organizations, including information sharing, connecting community-based monitoring programs, and promoting Inuit rights;

### **Environmental Stewardship**

10. **Mandate** ICC leadership to continue addressing climate change, highlighting the human impact on Inuit, and to urgently press the international community to cooperate both on mitigation of climate change and in the development of adaptation strategies and mechanisms;
11. **Urge** members of the ICC Executive Council to retain environmental stewardship of the Inuit homeland as a key priority from 2014 – 2018 with the goal of promoting a healthy and abundant source of renewable resources for future generations of Inuit;
12. **Mandate** ICC leadership to participate in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other organizations (such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora);
13. **Direct** ICC leadership to promote and support Inuit rights to manage migratory birds and other migratory animals in the interests of Inuit food security and to protect all Inuit customary, traditional, spiritual, social and physical uses of migratory species;
14. **Instruct** ICC leadership to maintain its efforts to reduce the worldwide emissions of contaminants that end up in the Arctic and negatively affect Inuit, and to continue to work to advance and strengthen the provisions of international instruments such as the global Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
15. **Mandate** ICC leadership to advocate for regulatory policies that protect Arctic freshwater systems from unsustainable pollution and depletion, recognizing that clean water is a human right;
16. **Direct** the ICC leadership to continue the effort of ICC, together with local Inuit organizations, to promote those conservation measures that support the traditional culture and lifestyle of the ecologically, economically, and historically significant areas that support the traditional culture and lifestyle of Inuit;
17. **Instruct** the ICC leadership to call upon Arctic member states to strengthen efforts to include Inuit in all bilateral and multilateral meetings dealing with issues of interest across borders including environmental, economic, and social issues of importance to Inuit, and to do so with the same direct and meaningful voice as at the Arctic Council;

### **Safe Shipping and Fisheries**

18. **Instruct** ICC leadership to increase its knowledge about security and transportation safety developments to ensure that it can assert Inuit rights and responsibilities in relation to Inuit waters, seas and passages used from time immemorial, and to do so through active participation with appropriate Inuit experts in the shipping industry and in the work of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and other relevant bodies;
19. **Mandate** ICC leadership to present Inuit perspectives and knowledge about sea ice, behaviour of marine mammals, and Arctic navigation to international bodies facilitating negotiations related to Arctic shipping,



building upon the findings of *The Sea Ice Never Stops: Circumpolar Inuit Reflections on Sea Ice Use and Shipping in Inuit Nunaat*;

20. **Advocate** for the inclusion of Inuit representatives on all councils, committees, and commissions formed to address Arctic fishing issues;
21. **Direct** ICC leadership to advocate for a precautionary approach in developing commercial fishing in the international waters of the central Arctic Ocean and support a moratorium until fish stocks have been adequately assessed and a sustainable management regime is in place that fully engages and involves Inuit;
22. **Recognize** that healthy and abundant fish stocks are essential to the cultural, nutritional and economic well-being and way of life of the Inuit villages and peoples who live along river drainages and coasts;
23. **Direct** the ICC leadership to advocate for the reduction or elimination of salmon by-catch in the trawl-fisheries industry;

### **Sustainable Economic Development**

24. **Instruct** ICC leadership to continue to build upon and implement the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*;
25. **Recognize** Inuit hunters in their ongoing struggle to adapt to the changing Arctic, and continue to speak forcefully for ethical and fair trade for our products, fight unnecessary attempts to limit use of our marine resources by listing them as endangered, and state our opposition to making the Arctic a wildlife preserve or any similar initiative that would undermine our wildlife economy;
26. **Direct** ICC leadership to continue to actively participate in meetings on oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response;
27. **Mandate** ICC leadership to plan and convene a Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit which would explore potential collaborations among Inuit businesses and facilitate Inuit businesses sharing experiences amongst themselves;
28. **Mandate** ICC leadership to urge Arctic member states submitting positions on the extent of their respective continental shelves to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf under UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to involve Inuit in those submissions so as to reflect the Inuit perspective and protect Inuit rights and interests;
29. **Instruct** ICC leadership to engage in the UNCLOS processes to monitor developments to equip Inuit to promote and protect Inuit sovereignty and Inuit rights to the offshore, and take steps to participate in the decision-making of the bodies formed under the UNCLOS whose work has the potential to affect Inuit rights in the Arctic.

### **Health and Well-Being**

30. **Instruct** ICC leadership to continue building its knowledge of Inuit health and well-being issues, and to advocate for Inuit on these issues through relevant bodies such as the Arctic Council, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization, and the Food and Agricultural Organization;
31. **Direct** ICC leadership to advance Inuit health and well-being by reviewing the progress of the 2010-2014 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy, continuing to identify emerging health issues and gaps, and promoting strategic initiatives through the 2014-2018 Implementation Plan for Inuit Nunaat in partnership with national, circumpolar, and international partners;
32. **Instruct** ICC leadership to advocate for the establishment, maintenance and improvement of core infrastructure that is necessary to sustain healthy Inuit communities, including housing, education, health care and social service delivery infrastructure, and core transportation and communication networks that facilitate both public sector activities and private sector entrepreneurship;

33. **Direct** ICC to advocate for a continuum of culturally relevant mental wellness and substance abuse programs and supports across Inuit Nunaat, including traditional/cultural and clinical approaches, which engage at the individual and community level;
34. **Direct** ICC to advocate approaches that address Inuit public health needs through the design, development and delivery of Inuit-specific policies, programs and services that foster, promote and protect Inuit health;
35. **Urge** ICC to encourage health research, education, and training for Inuit health care providers.

### **Food Security**

36. **Urge** ICC leadership to promote the development of circumpolar, community-based monitoring (CBM) programs and research activities that adopt a food security lens within the Arctic Council working groups, and to promote Inuit food security in all aspects of ICC's work, including community health and wellness, retention and transmission of Inuit traditional knowledge, use of Inuit management methodologies, improved co-management activities, sustainable utilization of wildlife, contaminants, biological diversity, climate change, and the availability of nutritious foods;
37. **Direct** ICC leadership to advocate for improved access to sufficient Inuit traditional food sources, communicating the impacts of the nutrition transition on Inuit food security resulting from changing economic and social conditions, contaminants, climate change, and regulatory decisions taken by others on polar bears, seals, and other marine and terrestrial mammals;
38. **Specifically Urge** ICC leadership to speak out about the implications of food insecurity on Inuit health;
39. **Direct** ICC leadership to advocate for the empowerment of Inuit in creating a political, social, and economic environment, grounded in Inuit way of life, that sets optimal conditions for Inuit food security;
40. **Direct** ICC to plan and host an Inuit summit on wildlife management;

### **Communication**

41. **Encourage** ICC to work with Inuit and other media companies and organizations to promote effective communications, sharing of information and the development of pan-Arctic and Inuit communications initiatives that promote increasing Inuit to Inuit communication and interaction;
42. **Mandate** ICC to continuously communicate its work and results of its activities between countries, ICC offices and to Inuit through media and other communications channels;

### **Education and Language**

43. **Mandate** ICC leadership to promote educational exchanges, share best educational practices, and host a summit of experts and practitioners from across the circumpolar Arctic to recommend ways to develop or enhance culturally-appropriate curriculum;
44. **Support** training, recruitment, and retention programs for Inuit in all professions;
45. **Mandate** ICC leadership to continue its promotion and leadership of projects and initiatives to strengthen the Inuit language, including the *Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages* project through the Arctic Council;

### **Traditional Knowledge and Science**

46. **Direct** ICC leadership to insist upon the utilization of Traditional Knowledge in scientific programs/reports and at all levels of relevant decision-making processes;
47. **Mandate** ICC leadership to direct, participate and engage effectively in all aspects of Arctic science and research, promoting and contributing to activities that reflect a participatory approach of both Inuit knowledge and scientific methodologies;

48. **Direct** ICC leadership to promote awareness of community-based monitoring activities rooted in Traditional Knowledge, and to work with its partners to develop a strategy and tools to implement the proper utilization of community-based monitoring and research;
49. **Direct** ICC leadership to work towards the creation of ethical and responsible research guidelines/policies that emphasize bringing knowledge back to Inuit communities;
50. **Instruct** ICC leadership to engage in activities that promote the protection of Inuit intellectual property and cultural heritage at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and other bodies;
51. **Promote** initiatives for sharing information/knowledge and data in/from the Arctic, and **Hold to Account** those responsible for the proper communication and dissemination of Inuit information/knowledge and data in accordance with Inuit governance structures and agreements.

The Chair and Executive Council of the Inuit Circumpolar Council hereby confirm that the **Kitigaaryuit 2014 Declaration** was unanimously passed by delegates at the 12th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council on 24 July 2014.

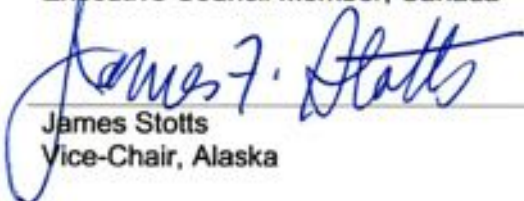
  
 Aqqaluk Lyngø  
 ICC Chair

  
 Duane Smith  
 Vice-Chair, Canada

  
 Carl Christian Olsen, Puju  
 Vice-Chair, Greenland

  
 Kirt Ejesiak  
 Executive Council Member, Canada

  
 Hjalmar Dahl  
 Executive Council Member, Greenland

  
 James Stotts  
 Vice-Chair, Alaska

  
 Tatiana Achirgina  
 Vice-Chair, Russia

  
 Vera Metcalf  
 Executive Council Member, Alaska

  
 Elvira Tyunikova  
 Executive Council Member, Russia