

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL CANADA



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ICC Canada continues to seek opportunities to enable capacity sharing between Inuit regions and communities and allow for more involvement of Inuit expertise and Inuit knowledge holders in the international work.



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Cover Photo: Canadian Delegation at ICC Delegates Meeting, Ilulissat, Greenland, July 2023. Front Row (Left-Right): Herb Nakimayak, ICC Canada Vice-President (International); Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk, ICC Canada President; Johannes Lampe, President Nunatsiavut Government; Natan Obed, President Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; Duane Smith, Chair and CEO Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; Aluki Kotierk, President Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.; Evelyn Storr, Executive Director Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; Dean Arey, Chair Inuvialuit Game Council; Pita Aatami, President Makivvik. Back Row (Left-Right): Levi Barnabus, Vice-President Qikiqtaaluk Inuit Association; Olayuk Akesuk, President Qikiqtaaluk Inuit Association; Melva Williams, First Minister Nunatsiavut Government; Gerald Asivak, Minister of Health and Social Development Nunatsiavut Government; Gerri Sharpe, President Pauktuutit; Robert Greenley, President Kitikmeot Inuit Association; George Berthe, Treasurer Makivvik; Adamie Delisle-Alaku, Vice-President Department of Wildlife, Environment and Research, Makivvik. © ICC Canada / Carson Tagoona

As humans, we had to cope with a universal event we have not experienced collectively for over a century. It forced us to take stock of what really matters — our personal health, our families and kinship network, our communities, our nations, and on a grander scale, our planet.

ICC Canada President Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk (left), and ICC Chair Sara Olsvig at ICC Executive Council Meeting in Ottawa, November 2023.

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President's Message

The last four years have provided a lot of fertile ground for reflection. In March 2020 the world came to a standstill as the global coronavirus pandemic locked down entire countries, and cancelled most air travel. Collectively we shifted to survival mode, whatever our circumstances — whether it be in remote Arctic, or urban settings.

As humans, we had to cope with a universal event we have not experienced collectively for over a century. It forced us to take stock of what really matters — our personal health, our families and kinship network, our communities, our nations, and on a grander scale, our planet.

One would hope that the time for reflection could focus attention on perhaps the biggest issue facing us all — an existential one — climate change. But despite the increasingly dire warnings from hundreds of scientists working together on the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), some nations have chosen to go to war, rather than fight climate change. And so, we must adapt to achieve our targets, such as limiting global warming to “1.5°C” with one hand tied behind our backs. And yet we keep on trying.

We were there, once again, at the Climate Change COP28 meeting in Dubai in November and December 2023 bringing our voice to the table. The Arctic is warming four times faster than the rest of the planet. Our ice is disappearing. The Greenland ice cap is melting five times faster than it did 20 years ago, and is contributing to a rise in sea levels.

These are messages we included in a video launched at an ICC side-event at the COP28 meeting last December 4th, while in Dubai. We emerged from that meeting with the feeling that we moved one step forward and two steps backwards. We felt that the inclusion of Indigenous rights, achieved in previous COPs was diminished. We remain hopeful, but cautious, going into COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024.



Lisa Qilugqi Koperqualuk, ICC Canada President.

The pandemic also affected our ability as Inuit to meet in person. Thus our 14th ICC General Assembly was held as a virtual meeting in July 2022. We pledged at that shortened session to honour our commitment to meet in person in Ilulissat, Greenland. I'm happy to report that we held that remarkable and historic gathering July 18-23, 2023.

ICC delegates from Alaska, Canada, Greenland gathered together for our first in-person meeting in five years. There was still a small hybrid component as the two Inuit delegates from Chukotka could not travel from Russia due to the war in Ukraine.

The meeting was structured differently, as it was not a general assembly. Instead we addressed some key issues, notably

Important progress has been made on the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping initiative. It is a joint project with Memorial University thanks to \$91.6-million in funding from the federal Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) program.



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ICC Canada Board members and senior staff en-route to AGM in Nain, Nunatsiavut, September 2023.

marine governance, language, hunting and food security, infrastructure, and ICC governance. I was pleased to be a keynote speaker for the session on marine governance, and facilitate the ensuing discussion.

It was historic because we also co-hosted the 50th anniversary of the Arctic Peoples' Conference, along with the Saami Council. It brought together some of the original

participants who attended the 1973 conference in Copenhagen, as well as Indigenous leaders of organizations that have evolved and developed since then.

One of them was former ICC Chair Aqqaluk Lynge, who reminded us all about working on these issues over the decades, "It's not a job, it's a calling. You can never retire from working on Indigenous rights."

Our weeklong gathering in Ilulissat went well beyond our discussions during the day. As we always do when we travel great distances to be together, we recharge our "advocacy batteries" so to speak. We strengthen our Inuit pride and emerge more united, and more determined to carry on with our goals and our mission to bring our Inuit voice to the international arena.

We did just that for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York in 2023, with one of the strongest ICC delegations ever.

We did so at the Arctic Council, as best as we could, considering the ongoing war in Ukraine. The Chair was transferred from Russia to Norway for the next two years (2023-2025). Arctic Council business continued but without meetings, using written procedures. There was also activity in the background, notably with the numerous Arctic Council working groups, which have moved ahead as much as possible.

We tackled challenges at the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) over the past year. Our request for permanent consultative status was deferred to 2025. In the meantime, we have provisional consultative status, and will continue to work towards achieving full status in 2025.

At the IMO, we are working to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), reduce pollution and disturbance from ships, promoting an Equitable Transition while decarbonizing the global fleet, and ensuring ships that transit the Arctic do so safely and sustainably.

We have a thorough report on the work ICC has been conducting on the issue of contaminants over the past year. The issue of plastic pollution is at the top of the agenda as the global community develops an international treaty on reducing plastic pollution including in the marine region. During this fiscal year we brought our voice to the second and third negotiating sessions which took place in Paris, France in May;



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ICC Delegation at Arctic Circle Assembly, Reykjavik, Iceland, October 2023.



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ICC Executive Council Meeting in Ottawa, November 2023. (Left-Right): Marie Green, ICC Alaska President; Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk, ICC Canada President; Nicole Wojciechowski, ICC Alaska Vice-President; Hjalmar Dahl, ICC Greenland President; Sara Olsvig, ICC Chair; Kathrine Bødker ICC Greenland Vice-President; Herb Nakimayak, ICC Canada Vice-President (International). (On screen): Egor Vereshagin, ICC Chukotka Vice-President.

and in Nairobi, Kenya in November. We also planned for the fourth session, which was held in Ottawa, Canada at the end of April, 2024.

On the health front I'm pleased to report that the Taking Charge of Our Own Health 2023-2027 strategic work plan was approved by the ICC Executive Council in November 2023. ICC Canada was honoured to host that meeting, held at the Royal Canadian Geographic Society headquarters November 15-16, 2023. We hosted a full week of activities for the ICC Executive, providing a complete tour of our offices, fellow Inuit organizations in Ottawa, and the Canadian Museum of History.

Important progress has been made on the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative. It is a joint project with Memorial University thanks to \$91.6-million in funding from the federal Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) program. Since it was announced on April 28, 2023 we have worked diligently during the year to create the foundations for this seven-year project. We put in place the foundations to get research going, and hold our first board meeting on May 27, 2024.

A highlight during the year was the first ever ICC Canada Inuit Writers' Festival — Titiraqtat — held in Iqaluit, Nunavut October 13-15, 2023. I'm very pleased we were able to bring together our talented Inuit writers for a unique event, and provide support for their literary endeavours.

The Audited Financial Statement Summary is included in this report. It reflects the 2023-2024 budget, Operational Plan and funding strategies presented to the ICC Canada Board of Directors, approved on June 29, 2023. ICC Canada held its Annual General Meeting, on September 28, 2023 in person in Nain, Nunatsiavut. We thank the Nunatsiavut Government for hosting us.

Each year we include a full list of our staff and consultants who help us advocate for all Inuit. I want to thank every one of you for taking on this battle. International work takes stamina. It can take years to make progress on certain issues, and so with that in mind, I commend our staff for sticking with the struggles over the years, and in some cases, decades. Also I want to highlight through the hard work of our executive in successfully obtaining funding, ICC Canada is growing.

In closing, thank you to our funders, who believe in the work that we do, and to our growing list of donors. Your support helps us raise our Inuit voice in an increasingly complex global environment. The 15th ICC General Assembly will be hosted by ICC Canada in Iqaluit, Nunavut in July 2026, in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. We are planning for it now!

Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk
President

There is broad consensus on the importance of the Arctic Council and its work, and ICC will continue to support this forum as a key multilateral mechanism for Arctic cooperation.

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Maximizing Permanent Participant Status at the Arctic Council

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, now in its third year, has had a dramatic effect on Arctic cooperation in general and the work of the Arctic Council in particular. These effects continue to be felt at all levels of the Arctic Council, including the Working Groups. One of the major achievements in the last year was the successful handover of the Arctic Council Chair from the Russian Federation to Norway in May 2023.

There was no Ministerial meeting in May 2023, and the handover occurred at a scaled-down online meeting. Rather than a formal Declaration, all parties including ICC were involved in the release of a one-page final statement released after the meeting.

There is broad consensus on the importance of the Arctic Council and its work, and ICC will continue to support this forum as a key multilateral mechanism for Arctic cooperation. Steps have been taken towards a resumption of activities at the Working Group level: first by starting with written procedures, and subsequently in February 2024, a decision for Working Groups to resume virtual meetings. Business is slowly resuming, although formal senior level meetings of the Council remain on pause.

ICC held a workshop on engaging with Inuit and incorporating Indigenous Knowledge at an informal spring gathering and will organize a follow-up workshop through the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPPR) now that activities have resumed. ICC also drafted a chapter in a report on the Central Arctic Ocean focusing on its work in the Central Arctic Ocean treaty process.

With working groups resuming communications and trying to take a uniform approach on how to move forward, there are concerted efforts in place for activities to conclude before the Norwegian Chair's term ends in May 2025. ICC remains engaged in Arctic Council work, and will look to identify what priorities and actions can be carried out during the remainder of Norway's

Chair, with an eye to the Kingdom of Denmark's chair which is fast approaching.

Arctic Council Working Groups Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

As noted above, due to the war in Ukraine and the gradual resumption in the Arctic Council's work, only limited activities took place.

A peer reviewed publication of the Human Health assessment is currently in preparation for the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health*, including the risk communication chapter, which was led by ICC. Currently, the co-authors are working to address reviewers' comments, it is expected that the papers for the various chapters will be published throughout this year of 2024.

Overall, ICC continues to seek opportunities to enable capacity sharing between Inuit regions and communities and allow for more involvement of Inuit expertise and Inuit Knowledge holders in the international work. This includes participation in AMAP expert groups and general contributions to upcoming papers or assessments.

One example is the work of scientists working on an assessment of long-range vs local sources of persistent organic pollutants. The topics include local contamination resulting from infrastructure (including military sites, dump sites, airports, etc.), wastewater, impacts from climate change, and contaminant transport by air

ICC has worked towards and will continue to build up a common understanding across Arctic Council Working Groups on the topic of Indigenous Knowledge and how Arctic Indigenous Peoples can be meaningfully engaged in the work of the Council.

(also from long-range sources). These topics are of great concern to Inuit, and ICC Canada continues to seek ways to capture regional concerns and input.

AMAP's climate change work has been slow to restart. An AMAP Climate Update Report was circulated for review and ICC has provided comments. There has also been work to move forward a report on the societal implications of climate change, where ICC wants to co-lead a chapter. ICC is looking forward to this work continuing and to the report being a good example of Permanent Participant involvement in AMAP work.

AMAP launched a series of informal webinars — first for mercury work only, then for AMAP's general work. These webinars are for information only and only allow for very limited questions and little interaction. Heads of Delegations (HOD) started having teleconferences again. ICC participated in webinars, and will participate in HOD teleconferences.

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

The Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council focuses especially on the human dimension of impacts in the Arctic. ICC Canada's President acts as Head of Delegation for the SDWG. It remains one of the key working

groups for ICC to bring issues affecting Inuit to international attention and create space for Inuit youth, elders, and others to lead problem-solving and solutions. Our focus is on advancing projects related to mental health and suicide prevention.

In that vein, ICC used Local2Global (L2G) project funding from Canada to host an international Inuit Counsellors' Gathering at the end of March 2024, and will report back to the project partners on best practices and share back with other Arctic Indigenous Peoples. ICC will strive to incorporate this back into the Arctic Council work now that there is a resumption of activities and virtual meetings.

The Gathering's success was attributed to the central role of Inuit culture. Counsellors have requested continued support from ICC to facilitate bi-monthly virtual meetings with interpreters, ensuring that each participant can express themselves in their most natural language.

Local2Global (L2G) engages Arctic youth and frontline workers in circumpolar suicide prevention and mental well-being. ICC co-leads L2G alongside Canada, Finland, Sweden, Kingdom of Denmark and Saami Council.

During this period, Canada established the SDWG Secretariat at the Université Laval in Québec City. Although this is the first Arctic Council working group secretariat that is not hosted in the Arctic, ICC will look to work strategically with all partners to ensure it is reflective of the unique realities of Inuit and Arctic Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

The activities of this working group have been affected by the Arctic Council pause. ICC's Head of Delegation (HOD) on PAME is Nicole Kanayurak from the North Slope Borough in Alaska and is supported by ICC Canada staff.

The 2021-2023 PAME work plan approved at the 2021 Reykjavik Ministerial meeting includes several projects for which Canada is providing a leadership role and ICC Canada has an active interest in. ICC has been co-authoring, along with other





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Permanent Participants, a chapter on Indigenous sustainable management practices that will be part of an OECM (Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures) report. ICC has also been contributing to a PAME *Marine Connectivity Info Brief* and a report on *Updates to the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs*. Regional engagement would be welcome in all PAME forums.

Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

ICC Canada Vice-President (International) Herb Nakimayak is ICC's Head of Delegation to the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group of the Arctic Council.

After hosting the Indigenous Knowledge Mobilization Workshop in March 2023 in Ottawa, ICC produced a report with

best practices that can support our ongoing planning for the next iteration of this project. ICC has worked towards and will continue to build up a common understanding across Arctic Council Working Groups on the topic of Indigenous Knowledge and how Arctic Indigenous Peoples can be meaningfully engaged in the work of the Council. Specifically, this project under EPPR aims to highlight how Indigenous Knowledge can be brought into emergency management contexts.

The Senior Arctic Official Chair from Norway launched a "Chair's initiative" project on wildland fires co-led with Gwich'in Council International. ICC has been supportive of this project, with Herb participating in events linked to this initiative. Specifically, he brought awareness to and called for action in response to the devastating fires in the Northwest Territories in Canada.

ICC brought a delegation of fifteen to the 28th Conference of Parties in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), including representatives from Alaska, Canada, and Greenland, as well as elders and youth, in November/December of 2023.

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Maximizing ICC's International Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Status

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Throughout 2023-2024, ICC worked across platforms and borders to bring the Inuit voice to climate change discussions in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process.

Through the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) work plan, the Saami Council and ICC hosted the Joint Arctic Regional Gathering in Sápmi, in Kierken, Norway in October of last year. Since then, ICC and the Saami Council have been working on a summary report to be published on the LCIPP website. This is a unique opportunity to provide insight to Parties of the UNFCCC on how things like loss and damage, adaptation, and mitigation are led by and/or experienced by Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic.

In June 2023, ICC Canada's President and staff participated in the Subsidiary Body meeting in Bonn, Germany. These meetings set the stage for the priorities going into the Conference of the Party, or COP28, in Dubai.

ICC brought a delegation of fifteen to the 28th Conference of Parties in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), including representatives from Alaska, Canada, and Greenland, as well as elders and youth, in November/December of 2023. ICC and delegates actively participated in LCIPP mandated events, official UN side events, and events within various pavilions to bring Inuit experiences and priorities. This included an event held at the Canadian Pavilion that officially launched ICC's new climate change video, *Silavut Asijiliqtuq — The Weather is Changing*, during Indigenous Climate Leadership Day at COP28.

Through the Indigenous Caucus and the Arctic Caucus, ICC contributed to unified positions and interventions and delivered statements on behalf of the Indigenous Caucus on key issues such as the conflation of Indigenous Peoples with the term 'local communities' and the global stocktake. ICC is now looking forward to the Subsidiary Body meetings again in Bonn, which will include key negotiations on items such as the new work plan of the LCIPP.

ICC will take on the LCIPP seat on behalf of the Arctic as a socio-cultural region within the UN system, as it rotates from the Saami Council to ICC at the Subsidiary Body



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ICC Canada President Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk at IPCC conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

meetings in 2025. ICC is working on a plan for this transition. This position was previously held by the ICC Chair out of Alaska.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

As ICC is the first Indigenous Peoples Organization to be granted official observer status to the IPCC, ICC is looking at ways to better influence this process to ensure Inuit Knowledge, rights and interests are included in the IPCC reports.

The ICC Canada President attended the first session of the 7th Assessment Cycle in January of this year in Istanbul, Turkey. ICC made interventions and spread key messages on the need for the 7th Assessment Cycle to include the Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and encouraged the IPCC to strike an Indigenous Advisory Body or Task Group to support this work. ICC saw some movement and openness, and a commitment for contributions from diverse voices and Indigenous Knowledge holders and scholars during the assessment cycle, but no decisions or meaningful action on an Advisory Body yet.

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

The 22nd Session of the UNPFII took place April 17 – 28, 2023. The theme was "Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach".

ICC is the first Indigenous Peoples organization to have been granted provisional consultative status to the IMO, and the recommendation from the working group allows ICC to lay the groundwork in 2023 to continue for a permanent status bid in 2025.



Inuit on the ground included ICC Chair Sara Olsvig (Head of Delegation), ICC Canada President Lisa Koperqualuk, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) President Aluki Kotierk who is a UN Permanent Forum Member, Siksik Melodie Lavallee (NTI, ICC Delegate), April Pigalak (ICC Delegate), Inuk Knowledge Holder Alexina Kublu (ICC delegate), and youth representative Nicole Amagoalik (ICC Delegate).



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ICC Delegation at UNPFII. (Left-Right): Betina Berthelsen, Tove Søvndahl Gant, Aluki Kotierk, Sara Olsvig, Eelai Uniuqsaraq, Alexina Kublu, Siksik Melodie Lavallee, Nicole Amagoalik, Piita Irniq.

It was a very lively and engaging gathering. Inuit made substantial interventions, and participated in side events during the 22nd UNPFII session.

ICC Chair Sara Olsvig spoke in support of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) General Recommendation 39 to be adopted and implemented. It states, “Indigenous women and girls should have effective, real, and meaningful participation in the development of future international law concerning the respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights. Both the gender and Indigenous dimension of their rights should be taken into consideration.”

Inuk Knowledge holder Alexina Kublu made a statement on the unique rights of Indigenous Peoples: “Climate change work needs to include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous science, and Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Climate change does not distinguish between borders. The animals, the plants — all living in our bountiful homelands — know nothing of state borders.”

NTI President Aluki Kotierk spoke at an event hosted by the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names. She stated, “As Indigenous Peoples, reasserting our names for geographic places is very empowering. Inuit place names transmits language, culture, world views, values and beliefs.”

Siksik Melodie Lavallee, NTI Inuktitut Policy Advisor, presented on behalf of ICC. She spoke in support of the rights of children to remain within the Inuit homeland. “We are deeply concerned with the disproportionately high number of Inuit children removed from their parents and placed in families with no cultural or linguistic ties to Inuit.”

ICC made two recommendations specifically related to this year’s theme. First, the recommendation for the Loss and Damage Fund established by UNFCCC to be accessible by all Indigenous Peoples. Second, for IPCC to dedicate a special report in its Seventh Assessment Report led by Indigenous academics, scientists, and knowledge holders.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

In June 2023, an International Maritime Organization (IMO) intersessional working group recommended the IMO Council continue ICC’s consultative status on a provisional basis for two years. The implication of the decision means that ICC’s provisional



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ICC delegation at the IMO in London.
(Left-Right): Kuluk Lyberth, Andrew Dumbrille,
Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk, Elissama Menezes.

status won't change for the next two years, and ICC will continue to be able to engage on a wide set of important marine governance and shipping discussions, regulatory amendments, and promoting Inuit rights and the human element at the IMO.

ICC is the first Indigenous Peoples organization to have been granted provisional consultative status to the IMO, and the recommendation from the working group allows ICC to lay the groundwork in 2023 to continue for a permanent status bid in 2025.

At the IMO, ICC is collaborating with the global maritime community to concretely implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), reduce pollution and disturbance from vessels, promoting an Equitable Transition while decarbonizing the global fleet, and ensuring ships that transit the Arctic and Inuit Nunaat do so safely and sustainably.

At the November 2023 ICC Executive Council Meeting, an ICC IMO position paper was approved. The paper outlines the

IMO's role in global shipping regulation, emphasizing the importance of integrating Inuit rights and perspectives into these regulations. The paper also includes ICC's overarching goals at the IMO: full consultative status by 2025, the integration of Indigenous Knowledge into IMO's operations, and the implementation of UNDRIP at the IMO.

The paper also highlights key areas such as:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Eliminating pollution sources like underwater noise and black carbon
- Ships avoiding areas significant to Inuit
- Equitable transition frameworks in climate strategies
- Putting Indigenous Peoples at the forefront

In preparation for 2024 IMO meeting on black carbon, underwater radiated noise and scrubbers, ICC submitted three documents that reflect the positions in the new position paper agreed at the Executive Council Meetings.

In March 2024, the IMO approved Canada's proposal for an Arctic Emission Control Area (ECA). All other ocean areas in Canada below 60 degrees latitude have been protected by an ECA since 2013. We welcome this initiative by Canada and are encouraged by its ongoing dialogue with the Inuit Treaty Organizations regarding mitigation costs and a just transition in support of protecting the marine environment in our Inuit homeland. Black carbon emissions from shipping, in the IMO-defined Arctic waters alone, have doubled between 2015 to 2021. Canada should be commended for their efforts to reverse course on this trend and begin to bring emissions down by establishing an ECA in the Canadian Arctic.



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This year saw close work between Transport Canada and Inuit regions on the development of a cost mitigation work plan that is tied to the March 2024 approval at the IMO of the Canadian Arctic Emission Control Area (ECA).

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Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC)



ICPC meeting in Nain, Nunatsiavut, May 2023. (Left-Right): Marc Miller, Minister Crown-Indigenous Relations; Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs; Gerri Sharpe, President Pauktuutit; Mona Fortier, President Treasury Board; Brian Pottle, President National Inuit Youth Council; Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk, President ICC Canada; Johannes Lampe, President Nunatsiavut Government; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Natan Obed, President Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; David Lametti, Minister of Justice; Aluki Kotierk, President Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.; Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services; Duane Smith, Chair and CEO Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

The Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) was established in 2017 with a mandate to transform the relationship between Inuit and the federal government. Its agenda covers the development of a unified approach to policy making in Inuit Nunangat, legislative priorities, reconciliation measures, education, Inuktitut revitalization, health and wellness, housing, infrastructure, economic development, sovereignty, defense and security, international issues, land claims implementation, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning. Work plans are co-developed between Inuit and government departments for discussion and approval by the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Inuit Leaders.

The ICPC remains one of the primary methods for Inuit leaders to engage with the Crown on a regular basis, including

three leaders' meetings with ministers per year, and one with the Prime Minister; several Senior Official Meetings; and regular working group meetings of the priority tables throughout the year.

ICC Canada continued to co-lead the international priorities table with Transport Canada, which currently is focused on shipping and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

This year saw close work between Transport Canada and Inuit regions on the development of a cost mitigation work plan that is tied to the March 2024 approval at the IMO of the Canadian Arctic Emission Control Area (ECA). Now that the ECA has been approved at the IMO, the task of developing and implementing cost mitigation measures for the ECA and the heavy fuel oil ban begins.

ICC Canada continues to reinforce the need for tracking and evaluation of this work, as well as strengthening connections between domestic and international elements of the framework, especially as it affects Inuit.

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Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (ANPF)



The Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (ANPF) is the Government of Canada's Arctic policy guiding its engagement and priorities through 2030. It was released in 2019 and ICC Canada participated in the development of the international chapter of the ANPF, which is one chapter of a larger strategy. The ANPF international chapter goals include ensuring Canadian Arctic and Northern Indigenous Peoples are resilient and healthy, and that knowledge and understanding—including Indigenous Knowledge—guides decision-making, among others.

Inuit matter globally and support from the Global Arctic Leadership Initiative (GALI) has allowed us to continue to bring this message forward and center Inuit messages at the Arctic

Council and beyond. Advancing the international commitments in the ANPF helps inform decisions that impact the Arctic, and Inuit will continue to be involved in this space.

As we approach the five-year mark since the launch of the ANPF, ICC Canada continues to reinforce the need for tracking and evaluation of this work, as well as strengthening connections between domestic and international elements of the framework, especially as it affects Inuit. ICC Canada will continue to work alongside Inuit Treaty Organizations and advocate for co-developed processes in the future, especially using guidance coming out of Inuit-specific forums like the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC).

Through our involvement with SAON, ICC Canada is now part of a Sea Ice working group aiming to develop a Sea Ice Expert Panel that will include Indigenous Knowledge holders and result in recommendations for sea ice monitoring that is connected and relevant to Inuit communities.

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Advocating and Promoting Inuit Knowledge in Environment and Health Through Research

ICC Canada's activities in Arctic research are focused on promoting the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge holders in a variety of fora. We play a significant role in the Arctic Council as a Permanent Participant and as a Board and Executive Council member within the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON).

Through our involvement with SAON, ICC Canada is now part of a sea ice working group aiming to develop a Sea Ice Expert Panel that will include Indigenous Knowledge holders and result in recommendations for sea ice monitoring that is connected and relevant to Inuit communities. ICC Canada also contributes to work to increase Indigenous involvement at research initiatives such as ArcticNet and through our affiliation with Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR).

At the Arctic Council, ICC promotes the utilization of Indigenous Knowledge and involvement of Indigenous Knowledge holders at the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR), and Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) and their associated projects.

ICC also participates in many international bodies promoting Inuit priorities, Inuit self-determination and Inuit Knowledge in research activities and international initiatives. These include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Minamata Convention on Mercury, UN negotiations to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Polar Bear Range States.

ICC Canada presented at the Arctic Science Summit Week Science Day in Edinburgh, Scotland, March 26, 2024, on “‘Nothing about us without us’: Inuit Knowledge in a connected Arctic.” ICC Canada also co-chaired a workgroup session at the Arctic Observing Summit, March 27-29, 2024 on local to global observing, and presented “Co-creating species habitat models with Indigenous Knowledge and statistics.”

Circumpolar Health

This year marked a major milestone with the development and implementation of a strategic work plan. *The ICC Strategic Work Plan in Health 2023-2027 — Taking Charge of Our Own Health* was drafted in the spring, reviewed in the late summer and approved in the fall of 2023 by the ICC Executive Council. The work plan places an importance on mental wellbeing as the foundation required to be a whole person, and emphasizes that Inuit must lead on these five priorities of the work plan:

1. Building Up Our Tools and Approaches
2. Workforce Development and Training
3. Our Care for the Whole Family
4. Leverage Our Networks and Communications for Impact
5. Sharpening Our Advocacy

Inuit counsellors communicated their need to fill the isolation they feel in their work as healers and frontline community responders. ICC Canada held the first Inuit Counsellors'

The importance of Inuit-led marine conservation was also the focus in the Arctic Observing Summit where ICC co-chaired a workshop focused on the importance of local, Indigenous-led monitoring in global policy.

Gathering the week of March 25, 2024, thanks to funding from the Government of Canada under the Local 2 Global project of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). Inuit counsellors gathered in Ottawa, Canada at the Mamisarvik Healing Centre.

Counsellors learned from one another's methodologies, discussed their practices of self-care, networked and brainstormed a counsellors guide for Inuit counsellors. This successful event highlighted the importance of Inuit culture, lived experience, and knowledge that is most helpful for both counsellors and their clients. This event also marked a major step in the implementation of the ICC strategic work plan in health.

The Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee (CIHSC) has been meeting regularly to provide their expert advice, meet with external organizations, and share across countries on health matters affecting Inuit internationally. Both the work of the CIHSC, and the implementation activities of the ICC strategic work plan on health are to promote and advance Inuit health and wellness across Inuit Nunaat and to achieve the health deliverables found in ICC's 2022 Ilulissat Declaration.

Marine Conservation

International and national interest and focus on Indigenous-led conservation and the role it can play in reconciliation, self-determination, conservation and the protection of biodiversity continues to increase. Nationally, ICC Canada participated in a review of Canada's draft 2030 National Biodiversity Strategy, organized by ITK. The National Biodiversity Strategy is part of Government of Canada's commitment to conserve 30% of Canada's land and waters by 2030, and reflects Canada's commitments to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which can only be successful with Inuit involvement and Inuit-led conservation.

Pikialasorsuaq is a prime example of how Inuit-led conservation, across international borders, can help meet national and international biological diversity conservation targets, and more importantly advance Inuit priorities. ICC was extremely pleased to be present at the signing of the Letter of Intent between Canada and Kalaallit Nunaat, on October 19, 2023 in Reykjavik, Iceland. This will advance the recommendations from the 2017 ICC-led Pikialasorsuaq Commission report. The signing was witnessed by Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) President Olayuk Akesuk. President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Aluki Kotierk and several ICC Executive Council members were also in attendance.

Marine conservation activities by ICC are varied and also overlap with activities in two of the Arctic Council Working Groups: Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) and Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME). The importance of Inuit-led marine conservation was also the focus in the Arctic Observing Summit where ICC co-chaired a workshop focused on the importance of local, Indigenous-led monitoring in global policy.

ICC Canada also participated in the Polar Bear Range States Meeting of the Parties, held virtually from October 30 to November 2, 2023. Prior to and after the meeting ICC Canada chaired meetings with ICC Alaska, Inuit representatives from Alaska, and ICC Greenland to discuss coordination on polar bear issues across Inuit Nunaat.



© ICC CANADA

ICC Canada's Senior Science Policy Advisor Rowenna Gryba at CBD meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative

Memorial University and ICC Canada are co-leading a global partnership to address and respond to the increase in Arctic shipping, and related environmental impacts affecting Arctic communities and support Inuit communities' needs for safe and cost-efficient resupply. ICC Canada and Memorial were successful through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) to support the creation of the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative. This investment of \$91.6 million over seven years is the largest research grant ever awarded to either Memorial or ICC Canada.

The initiative has the shared objective of creating an inclusive and internationally-relevant Inuit-driven research project. The Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative will see Inuit communities and leaders partner with national and international academic institutions, governments and industry to develop robust and innovative ship design and operation technologies, contribute to policy, see the increase of capacity in communities on shipping and maritime issues and enhancing Inuit leadership in the future of Arctic shipping and marine governance.

The Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative is co-developed with Inuit organizations and input from Inuit Knowledge holders in the Arctic, and will support research involving various academic experts and teams based at Canadian post-secondary institutions in addition to Memorial including the University of Ottawa, Dalhousie University, Université de Montréal and the University of British Columbia. Inuit partners include the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nunatsiavut Government, Makivik, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the National Inuit Youth Council.

The Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative will be based at the St. John's Campus of Memorial University and ICC Canada in Ottawa, Ontario. Additional information is available at the qanittaq.ca website.

Over the past year, Memorial University and ICC Canada have been building the governance foundation for the project through the co-development of a Terms of Reference, drafting funding agreements, and distributing first-year funding. The year ahead will focus on initiating research.

Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement (CAOFA)

The *Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean* was signed and ratified June 2021 by ten Parties: Canada, China, The Kingdom of Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faroe Islands), the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russia, South Korea, and the United States of America. This agreement created a moratorium for 16 years to allow Parties to work together to study and understand the complex Arctic ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean before potentially establishing any commercial fisheries.

The precautionary approach is embodied in this landmark treaty. It is the first of its kind as a multilateral legally binding international agreement that recognizes both Indigenous Knowledge and the importance of Arctic Indigenous Peoples who use and occupy the surrounding area.

The Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement had two major meetings during this past year: the 2nd Conference of the Parties (COP2) in Incheon, South Korea in June 2023 for the senior governance of the work, as well as a virtual Scientific Coordinating Group (SCG) meeting held online.

The first COP in 2022 saw ICC move from the negotiation tables to the strategic planning and implementation discussions, with a focus on how we can maximize our engagement moving forward. During this reporting period, the second COP in 2023 took place, and approved a framework for the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring (JPSRM). ICC was involved in working group meetings at both the scientific and diplomatic levels this past year to produce an implementation plan for the JPSRM that will be up for approval at the 3rd COP in June 2024.

ICC continues to create space for Indigenous Knowledge alongside scientific knowledge to bring a more robust understanding of the central Arctic Ocean ecosystem and better inform decision-making, through close work with our national delegations.

ICC continues its participation through the working group meetings and the 2nd Scientific Coordinating Group (SCG2) meeting hosted by Canada in April 2024, and COP3 in South Korea, June 10-12, 2024.

ICC Canada has been continuing to advocate for Inuit and Inuit Knowledge to be included in IUCN forums such as in the Species Survival Commission (SSC), the Red List, and continues to be an active voting member within the IUCN under the Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) membership category.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

ICC continues to represent Inuit at the CBD through a variety of forums including at the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Subsidiary Body on the Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), the Working Group (WG) on Article 8(j) — and related provisions, and through participation in the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

ICC Canada attended the 25th SBSTTA meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, Oct. 15-19, 2023, as part of the Canadian Delegation. ICC Canada also presented at the side event “Community-Based Monitoring and Information Systems (CBMIS) by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Contributing to the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)” organized by the IIFB. This side event was well attended by delegates from many of the Parties to CBD as well as other Indigenous Peoples representatives.

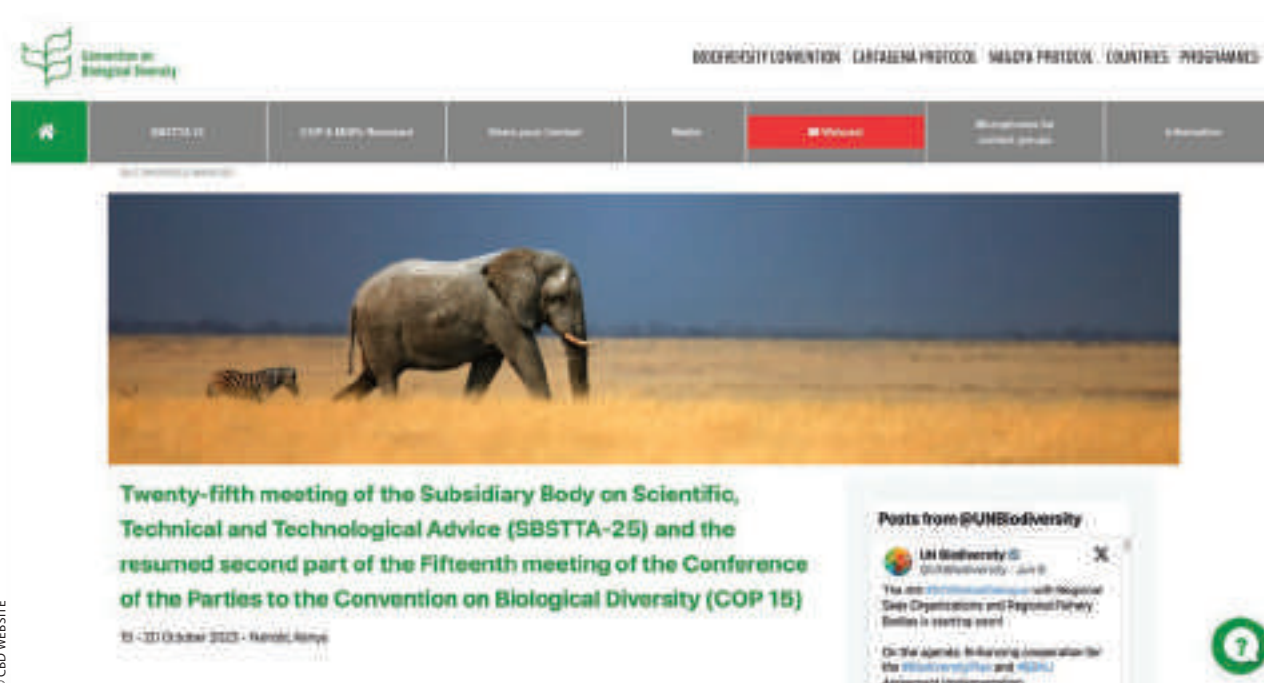
ICC Canada also attended the Twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the First meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on

Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources in Geneva, Switzerland, November 12-24, 2023. ICC Canada coordinated with representatives from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the International Indian Treaty Council, the Metis National Council, and Tulalip Tribes to share strategies and recommendations. Additionally, ICC Canada shared recommendations with the Canadian delegation.

ICC Canada continues to work with Saami Council as part of the Arctic Caucus for CBD as well as with North American Indigenous organizations to further Inuit priorities, as well as shared priorities on Indigenous rights as they apply to the CBD. Regional engagement is welcome in all CBD forums, and we look forward to those opportunities.

Convention on Illegal Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

ICC Canada attended the 77th Standing Committee Meeting (SC77) as an Observer, Nov. 6-10, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to attending CITES SC77, ICC Canada worked closely with the National Inuit Wildlife Committee (NIWC) to track potential emerging issues. This collaboration between the Inuit regions in





77th CITES meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Canada, via the NIWC, and ICC Canada has ensured that issues that are specific to each region and to Inuit across Inuit Nunangat are closely monitored and ensures that Inuit priorities through these means are promoted at CITES.

During CITES SC77, ICC Canada also met several times with the Canadian delegation, gathered updates on emerging discussions

related to Inuit, and communicated Inuit priorities. ICC Canada also met with other Indigenous delegates during the meeting to support Indigenous Rights and positions at CITES. Although no species directly linked to Inuit were up for debate at SC77 it was beneficial to continue to meet with the Canadian delegation and other observers to raise Inuit priorities and work towards an increased role for Indigenous Peoples at CITES.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

ICC Canada has been continuing to advocate for Inuit and Inuit Knowledge to be included in IUCN forums such as in the Species Survival Commission (SSC), the Red List, and continues to be an active voting member within the IUCN under the Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) membership category.

ICC Canada has participated in IUCN virtual meetings for the Podong Indigenous Initiative and the Urban Alliance. ICC Canada also contributed to the Guidelines for Disease, Pathogen, and Toxin Surveillance in Wildlife, which will be release by the IUCN in the summer of 2024.



Delegates, staff, and volunteers attending the
ICC Delegates Meeting in Ilulissat, Greenland, July
2023. © ICC Canada / Carson Tagoona



Herb Nakimayak gave an intervention during plenary, outlining how Inuit are still impacted by mercury, experiences in mercury monitoring, and ICC's interest to support Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon, where the highest mercury emissions are currently taking place due to gold-mining activities.

EVA KRUEMEL ICC CANADA



Contaminants

Northern Contaminants Program (NCP)

ICC Canada has been very active in the NCP. ICC Canada was part of the organizing committee for the NCP Results Workshop, and participated in person and virtually. The workshop took place February 27 - 29, 2024 in Ottawa at Algonquin College in their Indigenous spaces. ICC Canada's work was well featured during the workshop. We co-delivered presentations on the Stockholm Convention (the POPs review committee) together with Lucy Grey (NRBHSS), as well as on activities with regards to the Minamata Convention with Maria Jose Andrade Cerda (Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonía Ecuatoriana) from Ecuador.

Crystal Mitchell, the Arctic College student who attended the third meeting of the plastics negotiations (INC-3) with ICC, gave a presentation about her experiences during the INC-3 in Nairobi, Kenya. Noor Johnson from Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA) gave a presentation about the Community Based Monitoring Atlas, which ELOKA and ICC are currently updating, together with content partners (e.g., Northern Connections in Alaska).

ICC Canada has submitted a new three-year NCP proposal, with the final decision on funding still pending.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

ICC attended the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) May 1-5, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. At that meeting, the COP decided to add three chemicals to the Stockholm Convention annexes. ICC actively participated, followed plenary discussions, gave an intervention, attended contact group discussions on the listing of the chemicals, as well as side events.

ICC — represented by Eva Kruemmel and Lucy Grey (Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services — NRBHSS) — attended the 19th meeting of the technical

POP Review Committee (POPRC-19) of the Stockholm Convention, which took place October 9 -13, 2023 in Rome, Italy. Both ICC and NRBHSS intervened during the meeting to call on committee members to recommend the listing of long-chained fluorinated chemicals (LC-PFCAs) to the Annex A of the Stockholm Convention.

These chemicals are found to be elevated in the blood of Inuit women in Nunavik. Lucy Grey also gave a presentation as part of a side event organized by Norway and Canada, which highlighted work done as part of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program of the Arctic Council to identify chemicals that undergo long-range environmental transport to the Arctic. Lucy Grey spoke about how Inuit in Nunavik are affected by long-range transported contaminants, and the importance of the traditional country foods for Inuit.

Her presentation was very well received and solicited many responses. At the end of the meeting, the committee decided to recommend that the contaminant LC-PFCAs be added to the Stockholm Convention annex (with several time-limited use exemptions). The decision on the listing will be made in 2025 at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

Minamata Convention on Mercury

ICC participated in teleconferences of the Open-ended Science Group (OESG) of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, where the framework for monitoring mercury levels in the environment



Lucy Grey presents on behalf of ICC at POPRC-19 in Rome, Italy, October 2023.

ICC continues to be actively engaged in the work of the United Nations Environment Program Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Lucy Grey bringing the Inuit voice on contaminants to POPRC-19 in Rome (top). Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk speaks at Plastics Negotiations in Paris (middle). Stockholm convention on POPs in Geneva (bottom).



and humans to inform the effectiveness of the treaty continue to be discussed.

ICC continues to work closely with technical advisors of Indigenous Peoples organizations in the Amazon, to ensure that references to equitable and ethical engagement of Indigenous Peoples in monitoring efforts and utilization of Indigenous Knowledge are included in the documents, and that Indigenous Knowledge holders and experts are part of the process.

ICC Canada has provided good monitoring examples of the Northern Contaminants Program and associated partnerships (for example the beluga monitoring program in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region), which Amazonian Indigenous Peoples are very interested in for their region, as well.

ICC participated in the Minamata Convention on Mercury COP-5, October 30 – November 3, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The ICC delegation consisted of Herb Nakimayak (ICC Canada Vice-President), Eva Kruemmel (Senior Policy Advisor for ICC Canada), Gerald Lennie Inglangasuk (Board Member of the Fisheries Joint Management Committee-FJMC of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region), and Shannon O'Hara (Resource Person and Community Liaison (FJMC).

ICC and technical advisors of Indigenous Peoples organizations in the Amazon co-organized an informal meeting on October



29th with Indigenous representatives and some government and research program representatives on mercury monitoring and partnership with Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic and the Amazon. The event was very well attended by over 40 people and was much appreciated by all participants.

On October 30th, Herb Nakimayak gave an intervention during plenary, outlining how Inuit are still impacted by mercury, experiences in mercury monitoring, and ICC's interest to support Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon, where the highest mercury emissions are currently taking place due to gold-mining activities.

The Arctic-Amazon Indigenous group also organized a well-attended side event ("Knowledge Lab") called "Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic and the Amazon: Monitoring experiences and the implementation and effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention."





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An outcome of the Minamata Convention COP-5 was a formal decision by the COP for better inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the Minamata Convention, as well as several bilateral discussions of the ICC and Amazonian Indigenous Peoples to work closer together and organize a partnership to build capacity on mercury monitoring in the Amazon. The Canadian delegation also voiced their support for this work.

Plastic Pollution

ICC continues to be actively engaged in the work of the United Nations Environment Program Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. We attended the second session (INC-2) which took place May 22-26, 2023 in Paris, France.

ICC's delegation included Lisa Koperqualuk (ICC Canada President), Liz Pijogge (Nunatsiavut Government, Northern Contaminants Researcher) and Eva Kruemmel (ICC Canada senior research and policy advisor).

Lisa Koperqualuk and Liz Pijogge both gave separate interventions during contact group discussions, and ICC had meetings with Canadian government representatives before and during the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to express Inuit priorities and concerns. ICC's interventions were very well received, the first one was supported by two member states (Canada and Mexico), and the second one was explicitly

requested to be sent to the secretariat. ICC also submitted an opening statement, available on the INC-2 website.

ICC attended the third Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3), which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, November 13-19, 2023. ICC's delegation comprised Crystal Mitchell (student, Nunavut Arctic College) and Eva Kruemmel (ICC Canada senior research and policy advisor). ICC's opening statement for INC-3 was posted on the INC-3 website.

ICC actively engaged and met several times with member state delegations (Canada, Antigua and Barbados, GRULAC), a representative of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as other Indigenous representatives, and provided text for input into the preamble for the convention text, which was partly taken up by several delegations (including GRULAC and Mexico). ICC worked to ensure references were included to human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Indigenous self-determination, Indigenous Peoples' full and effective participation, and highlighting the Arctic as a vulnerable ecosystem.

During the first quarter of 2024 ICC was actively preparing for INC-4 in Ottawa, Canada, and for the final session later this year in Busan, South Korea. ICC is hopeful that parties will agree to intersessional work that allows for direct and meaningful observer engagement.



© KIARA WORTH / IISD

ICC involves Inuit youth in international meetings, conferences, and other forums and continues to advocate for funding and support to increase capacity to help build future leaders.

Naja Parnuuna performing at ICC Delegates Meeting Cultural Showcase, Ilulissat, Greenland.

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Engaging Youth in International Affairs



Mary Angmarlik speaks on behalf of Inuit and Indigenous youth gathered in Ilulissat who participated in the 50th Anniversary of the Arctic Peoples' Conference.

ICC Canada takes a holistic view of the involvement of youth in its work, as it is a cross-cutting priority that carries through all our files. This means ICC Canada involves Inuit youth in international meetings, conferences, and other forums and continues to advocate for funding and support to increase capacity to help build future leaders.

This year, two major events stand out for youth engagement, out of the dozens more that took place.

ICC Canada brought three youth delegates to the Arctic Peoples' Conference in Ilulissat, Greenland, where they had the chance to work alongside other Arctic Indigenous youth from the circumpolar region to participate on panels and activities,

as well as in the drafting of the Statement of the Arctic Peoples' Conference 2023. Two other Inuit youth from Canada were unable to travel due to weather delays.

ICC also facilitated the participation of 5 Inuit youth delegates at the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai in November 2023. They participated in a range of climate change panels, meetings with senior government officials, and more as part of a jam-packed agenda. Their contributions reinforced a steady and consistent message that climate change continues to impact the next generation of Inuit and our way of life, as the Arctic warms four times faster than the rest of the planet.

Inuit can read, hear, and watch Inuit leaders tell their stories of their involvement with ICC in their own words. The database is fully functional in English and Inuktitut, in both syllabics and Qaliujaaqpait.

Assistant Archivist Laura Newcombe demonstrates the ICC Canada Archives web portal.

© ICC CANADA



ICC Canada Archives

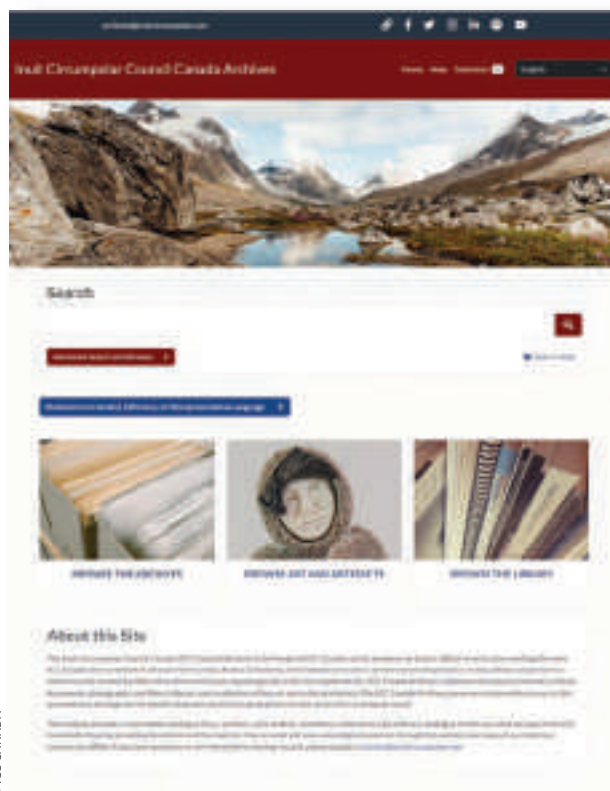
In July 2022, the ICC Canada Archives was created to preserve and promote our ICC history, which is part of Inuit history. Our collection consists of documents, photographs, videos, books, audio recordings, maps, posters, art work, and cultural artefacts that show our Inuit knowledge, participation, advocacy, and leadership on matters of international importance.

In early 2024, we launched our ICC Canada Archives web portal to the public! The portal contains a searchable database of our collections, a “Who’s Who” list of all Executive Council members and common acronyms, a tutorial video for using the database, and a digital story about ICC Canada’s humanitarian aid project in Chukotka from the 1990s.

Inuit can read, hear, and watch Inuit leaders tell their stories of their involvement with ICC in their own words. The database is fully functional in English and Inuktitut, in both syllabics and Qaliujaaqpait. At present, there is more content in English, however, we recently received two funding grants for translation and content creation in Inuktitut. The Archives is a work in progress — less than 10% of our archival holdings have been catalogued. We add new content every week.

Based on our web portal analytics, the ICC Canada Archives portal had over 300 viewers between January 1 - March 31, 2024, with the bulk of users in Canada, the USA, and Kalaallit Nunaat. To visit the Archives in person in Ottawa, please email archvies@inuitcircumpolar.com to schedule a visit or if you would like more information.

The Archives staff also supports records management. We now have a formal records management policy, ensuring our office is complying with federal and provincial law, and making sure valuable records get transferred to the Archives. All ICC Canada staff have been working on cleaning up our internal shared drive in preparation for our migration to Microsoft SharePoint. Switching our document management system from a shared drive to SharePoint will ensure more efficient



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information management and collaborative working, and improve data security.

The ICC Canada Archives web portal was made possible in part by Library and Archives Canada’s Documentary Heritage Communities Program, 2023-2024; some archival descriptions were made possible by Library and Archives Canada’s Listen, Hear Our Voices initiative, 2023-2024. ICC Canada Archives continue to benefit from the generosity of the Ottawa Public Library-Beaverbrook branch for use of their digitization lab and Makkivik’s in-kind donation of office space in Ottawa.

We supported the first ever Titiraqtat: Inuit Circumpolar Writers' Festival — held in Iqaluit, Nunavut October 13–15, 2023.

Participants in Titiraqtat: Inuit Circumpolar Writers' Festival. Front row (left-right): Lolly Annahatak, Annie Pitaulassie, Marianne Stenbaek, Juaaka Lyberth, Alexina Kublu, Papatsi Kublu-Hill, Dennis Allen. Back row (left-right): Feliks Gawor, Sylvia Cloutier, Pheobe Bentley, Alison Warden, Megan Butcher, Allison Akootchook Warden, Ryan Droulis-Lafon, Jessica Kotierk, Bill Flowers, Napatsi Folger, Bambi Amos, Lisa Mullins, Laura Newcombe, Lisa Smith, Brooke Lavalley, Michelle Gillis.

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Communications

We were pleased to provide communications support for the ICC Delegates Meeting and 50th Anniversary Arctic Leaders' Summit held in Ilulissat, Greenland in July, 2023. While the pandemic caused the 14th ICC General Assembly to be held virtually in 2022, there is nothing like an in-person meeting to reenergize spirits, and convey Inuit pride from across our four countries. We live-streamed the proceedings, posted generously on our social media platforms, and issued press releases from the event.

We filmed much of the ICC Delegates meeting and are producing an ICC video on the meeting and cultural celebrations, to be released in 2024.

In a similar fashion we supported the ICC delegation at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28 meeting in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, held November 30 – December 12, 2023. We launched our ICC climate change video — *Silavut Asijiliqtuq, Our Weather is Changing* — on December 4th, 2023 from a COP28 ICC side event. The video is on the ICC Canada YouTube page in Inuktitut and English.

Throughout the fiscal year we communicated developments at the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) meetings in London, UK, as well as other major events ICC participated in. We supported the first ever Titiraqtat: Inuit Circumpolar Writers' Festival — held in Iqaluit, Nunavut October 13-15, 2023.

On our podcast we featured 12 Inuit Artists of the Month. With funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage we recorded podcasts with artists across Inuit Nunangat. They aired on the first Thursday of each month in 2023, hosted by Madeleine Allakariallak. We also produced a special podcast with ICC Chair Sara Olsvig from Ilulissat. Our *Unikkaat/Circumpolar Waves* podcast is hosted on Buzzsprout and available on Apple podcasts, Google, and Spotify.



A scene from our climate change video available on YouTube.

The ICC 2024 wall calendar featured images from 17 photographers across Inuit Nunaat. The calendar focused on Inuit and the marine environment and included photos of Inuit out on the land and ocean. It was published with funding from the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative.

Our social media platforms — Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn — were powerful outreach tools for ICC over the past year. The top cities reached through Facebook were Ottawa, Iqaluit, Anchorage, Montreal, Kuujuaq, Nuuk, Inuvik, Yellowknife, Toronto, and Goose Bay. Our reach through Facebook was 127,300, up 73.2% from the previous year. ICC Canada followers increased across all platforms.

Report of the Independent Auditor on the Non-Consolidated Summary Financial Statements

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

Opinion

The non-consolidated summary financial statements, which comprise the non-consolidated summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024 and the non-consolidated summary statement of operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited non-consolidated financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. (hereafter “the Council”) for the year ended March 31, 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying non-consolidated summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited non-consolidated financial statements, in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Non-consolidated Summary Financial Statements

The non-consolidated summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the non-consolidated summary financial statements and the auditor’s report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Council’s audited non-consolidated financial statements and the auditor’s report thereon.

The non-consolidated summary financial statements and the audited non-consolidated financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited non-consolidated financial statements.

The Audited Non-consolidated Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited non-consolidated financial statements in our report dated August 19, 2024.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the non-consolidated summary financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the non-consolidated summary financial statements in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditors’ Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the non-consolidated summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited non-consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Audited Standard (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.



Chartered Professional Accountants,

Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Canada

August 19, 2024

Financial Statements

Non-consolidated Summary Statement of Financial Position

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Non-consolidated Summary Statement of Operations

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Notes to Non-consolidated Summary Financial Statements

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1. Governing statutes and purpose of the council

The Council is a not-for-profit organization incorporated with Letters Patent under the provisions of Part 2 of the *Canada Corporations Act* on November 5, 1984, which started its operations on April 1, 1985. Effective November 1, 2013, the Corporation continued its articles of incorporation from the *Canada Corporations Act* to the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. The Council is exempt from income tax.

The object of the Council is to promote Inuit culture in Canada and the circumpolar region and increase knowledge of its members in the areas of social, economic and cultural studies about and for Inuit.

2. Non-Consolidated Summary financial statements

The non-consolidated summary financial statements are derived from the complete audited non-consolidated financial statements, prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook – Accounting as at and for the year ended March 31, 2024.

The preparation of these non-consolidated summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in the non-consolidated summary financial statements so that they are consistent, in all material respects, with or represent a fair summary of the audited non-consolidated financial statements.

These non-consolidated summarized financial statements have been prepared by management using the following criteria:

- (a) whether information in the non-consolidated summarized financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete audited non-consolidated financial statements; and
- (b) whether, in all material respects, the non-consolidated summarized financial statements contain the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the related complete audited non-consolidated financial statements, including the notes thereto.

Management determined that the non-consolidated statement of changes in net assets and the non-consolidated statement of cash flows do not provide additional useful information and as such has not included them as part of the non-consolidated summary financial statements.

The complete audited non-consolidated financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. are available upon request by contacting the Council.

Preserve and promote the unity of Inuit as a single people within the Circumpolar Arctic and to assist Inuit in Canada in speaking collectively with Inuit in Russia, Alaska and Greenland on international matters.

Changing of the guards! Our Senior Policy Advisor John Crump retired this year. He passed the torch to our new Senior Policy Advisor Matthew Zammit-Maempel. (Left-Right): Matthew Zammit-Maempel, Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk, John Crump.

© ICC CANADA



ICC Canada Aims and Objectives

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

- To represent the interests of Inuit in Canada through their national organization (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami), and through their settlement claim organizations, on matters of an international nature;
- To preserve and promote the unity of Inuit as a single people within the Circumpolar Arctic and to assist Inuit in Canada in speaking collectively with Inuit in Russia, Alaska and Greenland on international matters;
- To cooperate with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in presenting the position of Inuit in Canada on international matters;
- To represent the views of Inuit in Canada on the Executive Council of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (International) and to implement, in Canada, the resolutions emanating from the general assemblies of the Inuit Circumpolar Council;
- 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 Inuit in Canada and Inuit in Chukotka, Alaska, and Greenland;
- To take measures to further enable Inuit in Canada to fully exercise their international rights and interests as Indigenous Peoples within Canada and globally;
- To act as the international vehicle through which all Inuit in Canada can voice concerns to world bodies, international conventions, intergovernmental forums, international non-governmental organizations, and global indigenous movements;
- To take measures at the international level to protect the Arctic environment and its renewable resources so that present and future generations of Inuit in Canada 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 their health, culture, language, values, human rights, or any other matters that impact on the ability of Inuit to shape the future of their society within the circumpolar Arctic and the world at large;
- To take measures at the international level to foster trade and economic development for Inuit in Canada and to assist in the development of successful business endeavors abroad;
- To bring to the attention of Inuit in Canada the ongoing issues and concerns of Inuit in Chukotka, Alaska, and Greenland and to solicit assistance when required;
- To maintain an on-going dialogue with ministries of the Canadian Government on issues of international importance to Inuit in Canada;
- To maintain an on-going dialogue with the ministries of the Canadian Government on issues of importance to Inuit in Russia, Alaska and Greenland and to promote their 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, a Vice-President for National Affairs, and the elected heads of the four Inuit Treaty Organizations 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) Inc.

ICC Canada Board of Directors

Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk

President
Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada

Herbert Nakimayak

Vice-President, International Affairs
Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada

Natan Obed

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

Aluki Kotierk

President
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Pita Aatami

President
Makivvik

Johannes Lampe

President
Nunatsiavut Government

Duane Smith

Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Nancy Etok

Interim President
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

Susie-Ann Kudluk

President
National Inuit Youth Council

ICC Executive Council

Chair

Sara Olsvig (Greenland)

Canada**Vice-Chair**

Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk
Executive Council Member
Herbert Nakimayak

Alaska**Vice-Chair**

Marie Greene
Executive Council Member
Nicole Kanayurak Wojciechowski

Greenland**Vice-Chair**

Hjalmar Dahl
Executive Council Member
Kathrine Bødker

Chukotka**Vice-Chair**

Valentina Leonova
Executive Council Member
Igor Vereshekin

ICC Canada Staff

Lisa Smith, Executive Director

Jocelyne Durocher, Financial and Human Resources Director

Daniel Aviugana, Executive Assistant Vacant

Vacant, Office and Project Coordinator

Michelle Gillis, Research Manager

Matthew Zammit-Maempel, Senior Policy Advisor

Rowenna Gryba, Senior Science Policy Advisor

Benjamin McTaggart, Policy Advisor

Anne Simpson, Policy Advisor, Climate Change

John Cheechoo, Policy Advisor, Wildlife & Environment

Cassandra Elliott, Communications Advisor

Malaya Bishop, Health Mobilization Specialist

Jeremy Ellsworth, Environment & Research Coordinator

Lisa Mullins, Archivist

Laura Newcombe, Assistant Archivist, Outreach & Communication

Alysha Try, Information Management Specialist

Consultants

Stephanie Meakin, Senior Policy & Science Consultant

Eva Kruemmel, Science Consultant – Contaminants

Andrew Dumbrille, Project Specific Consultant – IMO

Stephen Van Dine, Project Specific Consultant – Qanittaq

Stephen Hendrie, Communications Consultant

Donor Acknowledgements

ICC Canada is very grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and is pleased to acknowledge the following contributors for fiscal year 2023-2024:

Inuit Institutions/Organizations

Makivik — in-kind contribution
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Nunatsiavut Government
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
Nunavut Bilingual Education Society
Inhabit Media
ICC Greenland

Government

Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada
Indigenous Services Canada / FNIHB
Global Affairs Canada
Canadian Heritage
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Canada Council for the Arts
Library and Archives Canada — Listen, Hear our Voices Initiative
Library and Archives Canada — Documentary Heritage Communities Program
Government of Nunavut

Other

Memorial University
ArcticNet/Université Laval
World Wildlife Fund Canada
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Oceans North Conservation Society
Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
Canadian Council of Archives
Ottawa Public Library — Beaverbrook Branch
Ocean Conservancy*
Climate Justice Resilience Fund*
PEW Foundation*
Sall Family Foundation*
Oak Foundation*
MakeWay Foundation*
Monarch Foundation*
Canadian Parks Wilderness Society
I.C.C. Foundation — Peter Pulsifer donation

* Via I.C.C. Foundation







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