

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL CANADA

2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT



ACRONYMS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme [Arctic Council]
CASI	Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna [Arctic Council]
CAOFA	Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity [UNEP]
CBMP	Community Based Monitoring Program
CCG	Canadian Coast Guard
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	Conference of the Parties
EPPR	Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response [Arctic Council]
FJMC	Fisheries Joint Management Committee [ISR]
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
ICAP	Indigenous Climate Action Partnership
ICC	Inuit Circumpolar Council
KN	Kalaallit Nunaat
ICPC	Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee
IMO	International Maritime Organization [UN]
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution [UNEP]
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [UN]
IRC	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
ISR	Inuvialuit Settlement Region
ITK	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
ITO	Inuit Treaty Organization
IYEP	Inuit Youth Engagement Program [ICC]
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform [UN]
MEPC	Marine Environment Protection Committee [IMO]
Minamata	Minamata Convention on Mercury [UNEP]
NICoH	National Inuit Committee on Health
NIYC	National Inuit Youth Council
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NTI	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
PAME	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment [Arctic Council]
PBRs	Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears
PP	Permanent Participant [Arctic Council]
Stockholm POPs	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants [UNEP]
ROADS	Roadmap for Arctic Observing and Data Systems [SAON]
SAOC	Senior Arctic Officials Chair [Arctic Council]
SAON	Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks [Arctic Council]
SDWG	Sustainable Development Working Group [Arctic Council]
SCG	Scientific Coordinating Group [CAOFA]
UN	United Nations
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
QIA	Qikiqtani Inuit Association

CONTENTS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE	1
OUR AIMS & OBJECTIVES	3
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	5
INUIT PRIORITIES AROUND THE WORLD	7
OUR ARCTIC HOME	9
SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE & PROTECTING OUR OCEANS	15
CLIMATE CHANGE	23
WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT	31
OUR PEOPLE, OUR CULTURE	41
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	49
DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	52



PRESIDENT'S

I am proud to present this annual report featuring highlights of the work that ICC Canada did over the past year to bring Inuit Knowledge and priorities on international issues to diverse decision-making forums around the world.

We had much to celebrate this year. After many years of advocacy, ICC was granted permanent Consultative Status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), becoming the first and only Indigenous Peoples Organization to join this specialized UN agency. ICC Canada has been the ICC lead on the IMO since the beginning and it was wonderful to be at the meeting to see our success. Now that we have a permanent voice at the IMO, we can plan long-term work to ensure Inuit Knowledge and priorities are included in all Arctic shipping regulations. In our wildlife and environment work, the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity took place in October 2025 after years of advocacy. This formal body of the Convention provides a mechanism to ensure Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous rights, and Indigenous Peoples' contributions are included in the global biodiversity agenda.

At home in Inuit Nunangat, ICC Canada celebrated the appointment of Inuk leader Virginia Mearns as Canada's Arctic Ambassador. As Ambassador and Senior Arctic Official for Canada at the Arctic Council, we look forward

to working closely with Ambassador Mearns and the Government of Canada to implement Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy in ways that support Inuit needs and aspirations. In late 2025/early 2026, our Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative (CASI) achieved a key goal: Inuit Treaty Organizations, ITK, ICC Canada, and Memorial University signed the formal partnership agreement. This agreement provides a model for how Inuit self-determination in research can be done in full cooperation with academic partners. We are looking forward to the advancement of more than a dozen research projects under CASI this coming year.

Though we enjoyed much success this year, there remain significant challenges to ensuring international actors engage meaningfully with Inuit and uphold our rights. With rapidly shifting Arctic geopolitical dynamics, the work of ICC is more important than ever: with our fellow Arctic Indigenous Peoples, we have cared for the Arctic in harmony since time immemorial. ICC remains united in our goals, regardless of State borders.

Though not featured in this Annual Report, much time and energy this year has gone to planning our upcoming 15th ICC General Assembly. We are so excited to host this large gathering in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. in Iqaluit in July 2026. Held every four years, our General Assembly brings Inuit from across the circumpolar world together to discuss critical Arctic issues, plan ICC's work

MESSAGE

for the next four years, and celebrate our culture.

On the final day of the General Assembly, our delegates from across the circumpolar Arctic will elect a new international ICC Chair. For the 2026-2030 term ICC's international leader will be an Inuk from Canada. We are excited to welcome and work closely with the new ICC Chair over the next four years to advance Inuit priorities, goals, and rights at the international level.

We anticipate a well-attended General Assembly, with insightful discussions, delicious country food, inspiring performances from our talented artists, and an issue-focused workplan for the 2026-2030 ICC term. We hope to see you in Iqaluit!

A sincere thank you to our funders and donors – your support enables us to raise our Inuit voices around the world for the benefit of all Inuit.

Quyanainni,



HERB ANGIK NAKIMAYAK
ICC CANADA
INTERIM PRESIDENT



PHOTO CREDIT: DANIELLE BAIKIE

OUR AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada (ICC Canada) is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing the interests of Inuit in Canada on matters of international importance. We bring Inuit concerns on transnational issues to international forums where high-level decisions are made on issues that impact our Inuit homeland. We promote, advocate, and celebrate the totality of our Inuit culture: our knowledge, our language, our art, our beliefs, and our stories.

ICC Canada is one of four offices of the international Inuit Circumpolar Council. ICC was founded in 1977, when Iñupiaq leader Eben Hopson Sr. invited Inuit leaders from Alaska, Canada, and Kalaallit Nunaat to come together and develop united, consistent responses to the growing challenges facing Inuit ways of life. Thanks to the dedication of Inuit leaders from across the circumpolar world, ICC is now a major international Indigenous Peoples' Organization. Led by an elected Executive Council, ICC is dedicated to advocating for Inuit rights and priorities at the international level.

Central to ICC's work is the General Assembly, convened every four years in a different community in Inuit Nunaat. During the Assembly, delegates from across the circumpolar region elect a new Chair, honour and celebrate Inuit culture, formulate policies, and adopt a declaration that shapes ICC's activities for the next term. Coinciding with the General Assembly, hosting the position of ICC Chair – the international leader – rotates from one region to the next. Canada is hosting the 15th ICC General Assembly in Iqaluit, Nunavut, from July 22 to 25, 2026 and we look forward to assuming the international chairship on the final day of the Assembly.



Promote collaboration between Inuit in Canada and Inuit in Alaska, Chukotka, and Kalaallit Nunaat.



Act as the international mechanism through which Inuit in Canada can voice concerns to world bodies, international conventions, intergovernmental forums, international non-governmental organizations, and global Indigenous movements.



Promote, protect, and celebrate Inuit rights and culture on the international level.



Coordinate with Inuit Treaty Organizations in Canada on international matters.



Represent the views of Inuit in Canada on the Executive Council of ICC and implement the resolutions and declarations of the ICC General Assemblies in Canada.



Cooperate with permanent participants on our Board (ITK, Pauktuutit, and NIYC) to maintain ongoing dialogues with the Government of Canada on issues of international importance to Inuit.

ORGANIZATIONAL

ICC CANADA BOARD AS OF MARCH 31, 2026

BOARD EXECUTIVE	BOARD MEMBERS	PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS (NON-VOTING)
HERBERT NAKIMAYAK Interim President NATAN OBED Vice-President National Affairs VACANT UNTIL JULY 2026 Vice-President International Affairs PITA AATAMI Secretary - Treasurer	PAUL IRNGAUT President Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. PITA AATAMI President Makivvik JOHANNES LAMPE President Nunatsiavut Government ERWIN ELIAS Chair & CEO Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	LAISA AUDLALUK-WATSKO Interim Board Chair Pauktuutit GWEN NATSIQ President National Inuit Youth Council

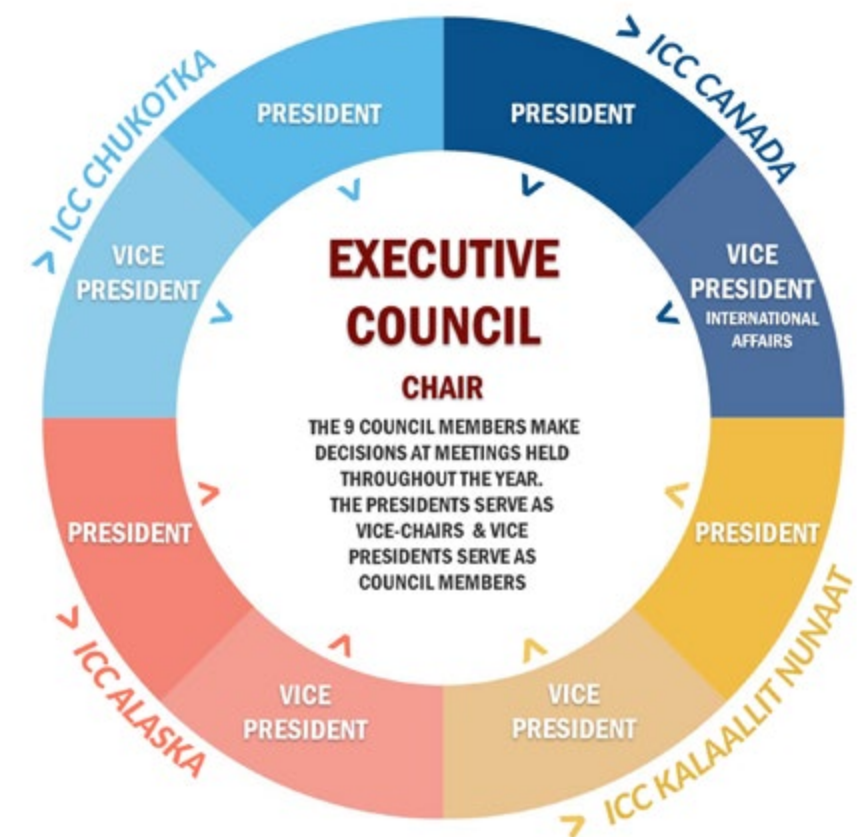
ACKNOWLEDGING COMMITMENT AND LEADERSHIP

We would like to thank Natan Obed for serving as Acting ICC Canada President from February 2025 to September 2025. We also thank Duane Smith, former Chair & CEO of the IRC, for his decade-long service as an ICC Canada Board member, from January 2016 to January 2026.

STRUCTURE

ICC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AS OF MARCH 31, 2026

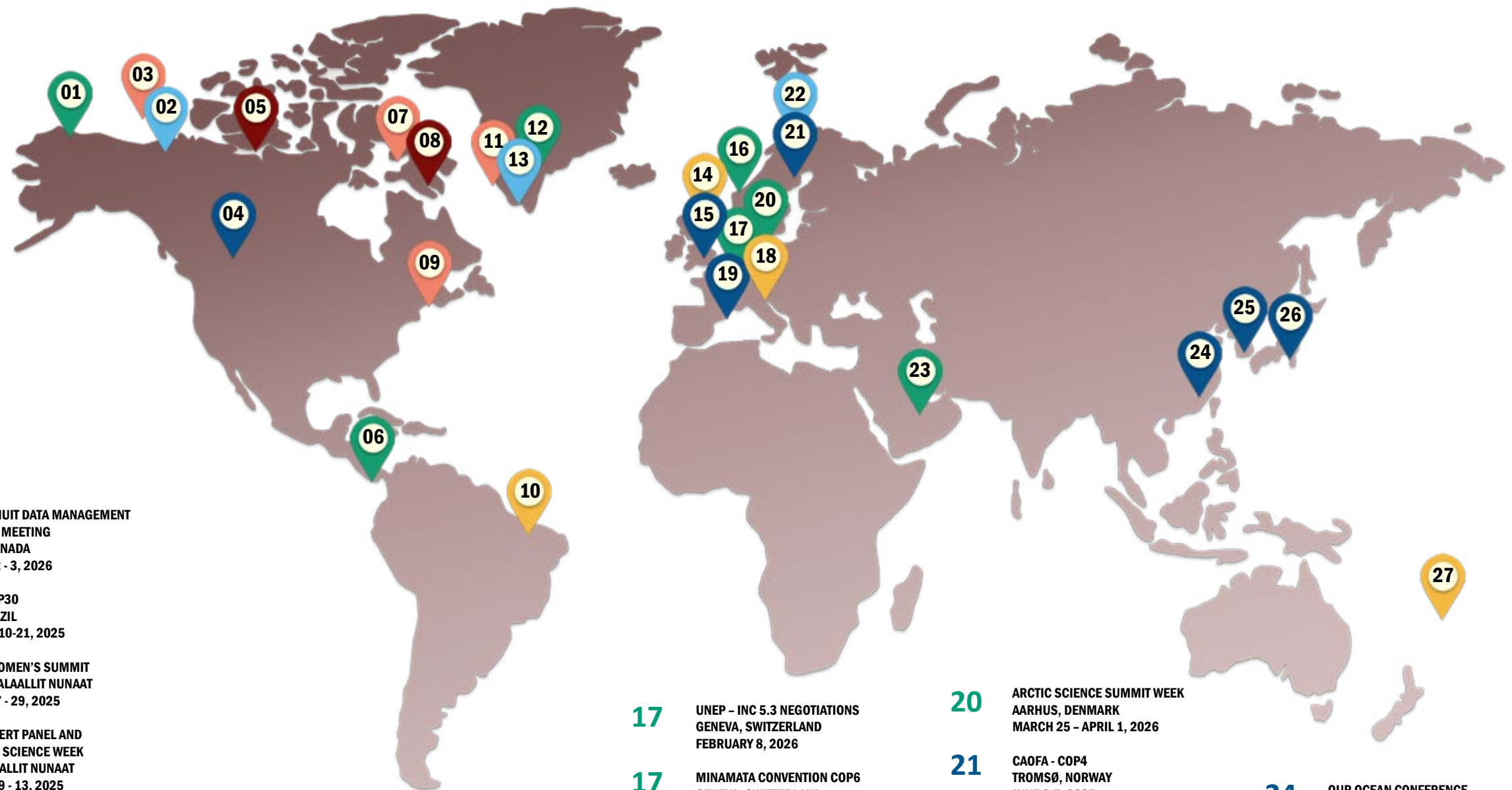
SARA OLSVIG ICC Chair			
KALAALLIT NUNAAT	CANADA	CHUKOTKA	ALASKA
HJALMAR DAHL ICC Kalaallit Nunaat President and ICC Vice-Chair KATHRINE BØDKER Council Member	HERBERT NAKIMAYAK ICC Canada Interim President and ICC Vice-Chair NATAN OBED Council Member	VALENTINA LEONOVA ICC Chukotka President and ICC Vice-Chair EGOR VERESHAGIN Council Member	MARIE GREENE ICC Alaska President and ICC Vice-Chair NICOLE KANAYURAK WOJCIECHOWSKI Council Member



INUIT PRIORITIES AROUND THE WORLD

ICC Canada's priorities are determined by our Board of Directors. We also get input from our participation in national committees, and our participation on ICC Committees and Commissions, which always include regional representatives from Canada. In partnership with our ICC offices in Alaska, Kalaallit Nunaat, and Chukotka, we ensure Inuit voices are heard where our Arctic homeland is discussed. In 2025-2026, ICC Canada participated in events in 15 different countries, on 5 continents, in addition to numerous virtual meetings with international participants.

The details and outcomes related to each of these meetings are available throughout the report. The colours correspond to the related section in this report.



- | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| 01 INUPIAQ AND INUVIALUIT BELUGA AND POLAR BEAR MANAGEMENT MEETINGS
UTQIAĠVIK, UNITED STATES
AUGUST 12-22, 2025 | 09 NATIONAL INUIT DATA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HALIFAX, CANADA
FEBRUARY 2 - 3, 2026 | | | | |
| 02 ICPC LEADERS MEETING
INUVIK, CANADA
JULY 24, 2025 | 10 UNFCCC COP30
BELEM, BRAZIL
NOVEMBER 10-21, 2025 | | | | |
| 03 ICPC INUIT FOOD SECURITY WORKING GROUP MEETINGS
INUVIK, CANADA
DECEMBER 2 - 4, 2025 | 11 ICC INUIT WOMEN'S SUMMIT
SISIMIUT, KALAALLIT NUNAAT
OCTOBER 27 - 29, 2025 | | | | |
| 04 CASI MEETINGS
CALGARY, CANADA
DECEMBER 15 - 17, 2025 | 12 SEA ICE EXPERT PANEL AND GREENLAND SCIENCE WEEK
NUUK, KALAALLIT NUNAAT
NOVEMBER 9 - 13, 2025 | | | | |
| 05 BOARD AND AGM
CAMBRIDGE BAY, CANADA
SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 | 13 OPENING OF CANADIAN CONSULATE
NUUK, KALAALLIT NUNAAT
FEBRUARY 6 - 7, 2026 | 15 IMO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LONDON, UK
NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 4, 2025 | | | |
| 06 CBD SB 8(J)
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
OCTOBER 27 - 30, 2025 | 14 IPCC WORKSHOPS
READING, UK
FEBRUARY 10 - 12, 2026 | 16 CBD SECRETARIAT EXPERT GROUP WORKSHOP
BERGEN, NORWAY
DECEMBER 2 - 5, 2025 | | | |
| 07 NICOH
IQUALUIT, CANADA
MAY 27 - 30, 2025 | 15 IMO MEPC
LONDON, UK
APRIL 7 - 11, 2025 | 17 STOCKHOLM CONVENTION COP-12
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
APRIL 28 - MAY 2, 2025 | 17 UNEP - INC 5.3 NEGOTIATIONS
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
FEBRUARY 8, 2026 | 20 ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK
AARHUS, DENMARK
MARCH 25 - APRIL 1, 2026 | |
| 08 ICC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
IQUALUIT, CANADA
MAY 21 - 23, 2025 | 15 IMO COUNCIL MEETING
LONDON, UK
JULY 7 - 11, 2025 | 17 UNEP - INC 5.2 NEGOTIATIONS
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
AUGUST 5 - 14, 2025 | 17 MINAMATA CONVENTION COP6
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
NOVEMBER 3 - 7, 2025 | 21 CAOFA - COP4
TROMSØ, NORWAY
JUNE 3-5, 2025 | |
| | | | 18 LCIPP
BONN, GERMANY
JUNE 10 - 13, 2025 | 22 ARCTIC COUNCIL SAOC-PP MEETINGS
TROMSØ, NORWAY
JUNE 16 - 17, 2025 | 24 OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE
BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA
APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2025 |
| | | | 18 UNFCCC SUBSIDIARY BODY 62
BONN, GERMANY
JUNE 16 - 26, 2025 | 22 ARCTIC COUNCIL SAOC-PP MEETING
TROMSØ, NORWAY
FEBRUARY 2, 2026 | 25 CAOFA 4TH SCG MEETING
HANGZHOU, CHINA
MARCH 24 - 27, 2026 |
| | | | 19 UN OCEAN CONFERENCE
NICE, FRANCE
JUNE 9 - 13, 2025 | 22 2026 ARCTIC FRONTIERS
TROMSØ, NORWAY
FEBRUARY 3 - 5, 2026 | 26 CAOFA EXPLORATORY FISHING WORKING GROUP MEETING
TOKYO, JAPAN
FEBRUARY 3-5, 2026 |
| | | | | 23 IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS
ABU DHABI, UAE
OCTOBER 9 - 13, 2025 | 27 ICAP MEETINGS
NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA
JANUARY 26 - 30, 2026 |

OUR ARCTIC HOME

The Arctic is our home since time immemorial. Through the Arctic Council and other international forums, ICC advances Inuit leadership to shape the future of our shared homeland.

We bring generations of wisdom and lived experience, ensuring that decisions made in and about the Arctic reflect the needs and aspirations of those who live here.

“

The Arctic is our homeland. We continue to reject the premise that our lands or peoples are commodities that can be bought or sold. We call on cooperation based on dialogue, with respect for Inuit rights. The Arctic is our home since time immemorial... It is about standing firm on human rights, on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and on international cooperation based on international law. It is about standing firm on a world order meant to prevent - not repeat - wrongdoings, especially against Indigenous Peoples.”

ICC CHAIR SARA OLSVIG, 27 FEBRUARY 2026

ARCTIC COUNCIL

“

The Arctic Council was born from a vision of peace, partnership, and respect for the rights of Arctic Indigenous Peoples – principles that must not only endure but be fortified. As co-founders, Inuit are founding architects of it. The Council’s future must address the accelerating impacts of climate change, uphold human rights, and center Indigenous Knowledge in shaping responsible Arctic governance.”

ICC COUNCIL MEMBER NATAN OBED, 12 MAY 2025

ICC is one of the founding organizations of the Arctic Council and one of its six Permanent Participants. The Council is a key multilateral mechanism for international Arctic cooperation among States, Arctic Indigenous Peoples, and observers. However, geopolitical realities continue to impact the Council, including Russia’s war in Ukraine. The Senior Arctic Officials do not meet and continue to operate through written procedures only, while the 6 Working Groups have resumed virtual meetings. ICC Canada attends multiple expert groups and Head of Delegation meetings for these Working Groups to advance Inuit priorities and projects.

THIS YEAR’S MILESTONES



JUNE 2025: Kingdom of Denmark Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials and PPs meeting, Tromsø, Norway. The meeting focused on strategic priorities for Kingdom of Denmark’s chairship of the Council (2025-2027) and meeting with Working Group Chairs to ensure coordination. ICC advocated for an Arctic Council-wide Indigenous Knowledge workshop and received support on this initiative. ICC called for greater coordination in Arctic Council-supported research work.



JUNE 2025: ICC Canada welcomed visits to our Ottawa offices by the SDWG Chair Camilla Aviaja Olsen (Kalaallit Nunaat) and staff from the SDWG Secretariat to identify shared goals and discuss project plans for the next two years. AMAP Chair Sarah Kalhok Bourque (Canada) also visited our offices to discuss a potential project to better utilize Indigenous Knowledge in AMAP’s work, including in its assessments. Both groups toured the Archives, looking at records from our participation in AMAP, SDWG and broader Arctic Council work.



SEPTEMBER 2025: ICC completed the draft final report on our Indigenous Knowledge Mobilization Session held at the EPPR conference in March 2025; the report was approved by EPPR at its plenary session.



FEBRUARY 2026: SAOC and Permanent Participants meeting, Tromsø, Norway. ICC Canada, alongside other ICC offices, participated in these strategic planning meetings with the Kingdom of Denmark’s SAOC and fellow Permanent Participants to advance work and identify areas of improvement within the Council.



ICC Canada was part of the drafting and reviewing teams for AMAP’s *Social Implications of Climate Change Assessment* (publication in 2027). This report covers a range of topics, most of which are linked to Inuit priorities, including food systems, infrastructure, and health and wellbeing. This is one of several AMAP reports that we contributed to this year, with the others focused on AMAP contaminants assessments and reports.

ICC and QIA co-authored an article on the Pikialasorsuaq in the May 2025 issue of the Arctic Council’s *Pathways* magazine, drawing attention to the environmental and cultural roles of this important polynya.



Past ICC President and Canada’s Governor General Mary Simon with the Permanent Participant representatives at the SAOC-PP meeting in Tromsø, Norway, June 2025.



PHOTO CREDIT: ARCTIC COUNCIL



ICC looks forward to a continued productive relationship with the Kingdom of Denmark’s chairship. We are excited to work on several projects in AMAP, EPPR, CAFF, and PAME to ensure Inuit perspectives inform circumpolar initiatives. In SDWG, we will continue to contribute to the Arctic Human Health Expert Group and the Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group; ICC is pleased to be a co-chair (with Sweden) of SDWG for 2025-2027.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



ICC Canada works with Inuit Treaty Organizations to advance Inuit priorities with the Canadian federal government and with the governments of other nations. We continue to play an active role in the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, established in 2017, where priorities are co-developed between Inuit and government departments for approval by Inuit leaders, the Prime Minister, and Cabinet Ministers. ICC Canada continues to co-chair the International Inuit Issues Priority Area, focusing on international shipping and on the implementation of Canada’s 2024 Arctic Foreign Policy.

ICC Canada Vice-President National Affairs Natan Obed (left) and ICC Canada Interim President Herb Nakimayak (right) at our Annual General Meeting, Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, September 2025.



PHOTO CREDIT: ITK

THIS YEAR’S MILESTONES



JULY 2025: ICPC Leaders’ Meeting, Inuvik, ISR. Prime Minister Mark Carney and ITK President Natan Obed co-chaired this meeting, where Inuit leaders discussed the Government of Canada’s December 2024 Arctic Foreign Policy, including the role of the Arctic Ambassador, the importance of collaboration on Arctic priorities like the creation of the consulates in Anchorage and Nuuk, and the development of international positions from Canada that include Inuit perspectives. Herb Nakimayak, who was our Vice-President at the time, represented ICC Canada at this meeting.



NOVEMBER 2025: ICPC Senior Officials Meeting and ICPC Leaders Meeting, Ottawa, Canada. These meetings discussed implementation of the workplan for the international shipping and cost mitigation framework subgroup. We were excited to have our first meeting with Arctic Ambassador Virginia Mearns and Global Affairs Canada.



FEBRUARY 2026: Arctic Frontiers, Tromsø, Norway. ICC Canada presented our work on a panel on Indigenous Knowledge, attended other panels including those featuring ICC leaders, and supported overall ICC participation.



FEBRUARY 2026: Opening of the Canadian Consulate in Nuuk, Kalaallit Nunaat. Inuit leaders from across Inuit Nunaat, including ICC Council Member Natan Obed and ICC Chair Sara Olsvig, and senior government officials from Canada and Kalaallit Nunaat celebrated the opening of the Consulate. In partnership with ICC KN and ITK, ICC Canada organized a reception for Inuit leaders from Canada and Kalaallit Nunaat to meet and discuss common issues. Governor General Mary Simon, who served as ICC President from 1986 to 1992, officially opened the Consulate alongside Minister for Foreign Affairs Anita Anand. Over 80 Inuit from Canada made the trip to Nuuk to show solidarity and make new connections in a challenging geopolitical reality.

Inuit from across Inuit Nunangat joined Canada’s Governor General Mary Simon, Minister for Foreign Affairs Anita Anand, and Arctic Ambassador Virginia Mearns for the opening of the Canadian Consulate in Nuuk, Kalaallit Nunaat, February 6, 2026.



We look forward to working with the ITOs and the federal government to build workplans on significant issues in Canada’s Arctic Foreign Policy and to coordinate Inuit input into Ambassador Mearns’ mandate on behalf of Inuit in Canada. We are excited to welcome government leaders from across Inuit Nunaat to our General Assembly in Iqaluit in July 2026.

PHOTO CREDIT: ITK



The ocean is central to our way of life, providing food, transportation, and cultural identity. We work to ensure Inuit-led research and Inuit Knowledge are included in all decisions of international policy making. Through partnerships and project collaborations grounded in Inuit priorities and self-determination, ICC Canada works to shape marine policy, advance Inuit-led research, and safeguard the health of our waters.

“*Inuit are a marine people; we call the Arctic home and live in close connection with our coasts, ice and waters. We understand the ecosystem, its vulnerabilities, and how critical our waters are to our way of life.*”

ICC VICE-CHAIR HERB NAKIMAYAK, JUNE 2025

SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE & PROTECTING OUR OCEANS



CENTRAL ARCTIC OCEAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT



ICC offices work with and as part of their respective national delegations to bring Inuit priorities to CAOFA. The Agreement was signed in 2018 to prevent unregulated fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean and safeguard a healthy marine ecosystem. It is also the first multilateral, legally-binding international agreement that recognizes the importance of Indigenous Knowledge and Arctic Indigenous Peoples in its work. We collaborate across ICC to ensure strong and united Inuit participation in CAOFA activities to make sure Inuit Knowledge and lived experience are respected. In all CAOFA work, ICC Canada co-develops positions, priorities, and input with the Canadian delegation.

THIS YEAR’S MILESTONES



PRESS RELEASE:

Inuit Circumpolar Council Advance Precautionary Governance Through National Delegations at Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement Negotiations

27 FEBRUARY 2026



ICC Canada worked with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to co-develop a National Action Plan on Canada’s work under CAOFA. We are committed to ensuring ITOs, Inuit priorities and Inuit Knowledge are instrumental in Canada’s work in the Central Arctic Ocean.



APRIL-MAY 2025: ICC attended two CAOFA-adjacent conferences: Marine Resources Cooperation and Governance: A Roundtable Discussion on Further Cooperation in the Central Arctic Ocean in Shanghai, China, and Our Ocean Conference, in Busan, South Korea. ICC Vice-Chair Herb Nakimayak attended the meeting in China, highlighting how Indigenous Knowledge and science work together in the Central Arctic Ocean. In South Korea, We gave a presentation, with ICC Alaska and ICC KN, “Implementing Commitments for Science and Indigenous Knowledge.” Our attendance at these two events was to foster increased connections between the countries that are party to the CAOFA.



JUNE 2025: COP4, Tromsø, Norway. Over the three days of meetings, the ICC delegation, led by ICC Vice-Chair Herb Nakimayak, stressed that Indigenous Knowledge must remain central to the Agreement’s implementation. ICC is particularly focused on the management of sea ice and vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Central Arctic Ocean.



FEBRUARY 2026: Exploratory Fishing Working Group, Tokyo, Japan. ICC Canada attended this meeting, along with ICC Alaska and ICC KN, where we advocated for the continued inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge as fundamental to the Agreement, with explicit language in the draft Conservation and Management Measures. ICC pressed for strong sea ice avoidance and encounter protocols to mitigate impacts on ecosystems and Inuit communities, and drew attention to the potential impacts of research in the Central Arctic Ocean on Inuit.



MARCH 2026: 4th Scientific Coordinating Group meeting, Hangzhou, China. Led by ICC Vice-Chair Herb Nakimayak, ICC shared our positions on avoiding conflation of Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge, presented on Inuit-led research across the Arctic, and provided an update on Inuit data and research strategies. We recommended the convening of a dedicated meeting on the co-production of Indigenous Knowledge and science at the next SCG meeting, which was approved by the parties.

PHOTO CREDIT: ICC CANADA



ICC at the Exploratory Fishing Workshop in Tokyo, Japan, February 2026. From left to right: Benjamin McTaggart, ICC Canada; Vernae Angnaboogok, ICC Alaska; Aviaja Tindbæk Jørgensen, ICC KN; and Herb Nakimayak, ICC Vice-Chair.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

ICC anticipates a productive 5th Conference of the Parties in Brussels in June 2026. We will work with the other ICC offices, Oceans North, and Oceans Conservancy to plan and host a 1-day symposium about CAOFA processes and our experiences with the Agreement the day before COP5 begins. We are also looking forward to planning a session on Indigenous Knowledge and science during the Spring 2027 SCG meeting.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION



The IMO is a specialized agency of the UN, responsible for the safety and security of international shipping and the prevention of pollution by ships. Unlike other UN agencies, the IMO works closely with private sector industry organizations, NGOs, and States to regulate shipping. With our Consultative Status, ICC continues to ensure Inuit Knowledge and Inuit priorities are present in all discussions about regulations and their implementation in our Arctic waters.

THIS YEAR’S MILESTONES



APRIL 2025: 83rd Marine Environment Protection Committee, London, UK. ICC Canada and ICC KN attended to monitor discussions on Arctic-specific issues, including establishing a Northeast Atlantic Emission Control Area (ECA), black carbon emissions, underwater radiated noise, and marine pollution.



JUNE 2025: UN Ocean Conference, Nice, France. The ICC delegation to this event was led by ICC Vice-Chair Herb Nakimayak and included ICC Canada and ICC KN. Vice-Chair Nakimayak presented at the “Heart of the Arctic” panel and met with high-level international governmental officials. We made connections with national representatives and other international organizations to support our application for permanent Consultative Status.



JULY 2025: 134th session of the IMO Council, London, UK. ICC Canada and ICC KN were in attendance when the 40 member states that make up the IMO Council voted in favour of converting our provisional Consultative Status to full permanent Consultative Status!



OCTOBER 2025: 2nd extraordinary session of the MEPC, London, UK. ICC Canada attended this meeting where the only issue for discussion was the implementation of a Net-Zero Framework (NZF) for the decarbonization of international shipping. Member States that do not comply with reducing greenhouse gas emissions are required to pay into the NZF fund, and developing countries may draw on these funds to assist in greener shipping. However, NZF implementation was delayed due to a voting block of oil-producing States.



DECEMBER 2025: 34th session of the IMO Assembly, London, UK. At this meeting of the highest decision-making body of the IMO, ICC’s permanent Consultative Status was ratified. ICC Vice-Chair Herb Nakimayak and ICC KN were present to acknowledge this historic occasion, which comes after years of dedicated advocacy.

PHOTO CREDIT: ICC CANADA



HERB NAKIMAYAK, ICC VICE-CHAIR AND LEAD ICC REPRESENTATIVE AT THE IMO, ON OUR PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE STATUS

At the IMO Assembly, in London, UK, December 2025. Left to right: Aviaja Tindbæk Jørgensen, ICC KN; Arsenio Domínguez, IMO Secretary-General; and Herb Nakimayak, ICC Vice-Chair.



ICC Canada looks forward to an impactful 84th MEPC meeting in 2026. We are eager to coordinate and develop a multi-year IMO-specific workplan with ITOs and the other ICC offices to advance Inuit priorities around shipping and marine pollution policy in our Arctic waters. We look forward to hearing from delegates at our upcoming 15th ICC General Assembly on how we can maximize our Consultative Status in this key international forum.

“ This milestone affirms the critical role Inuit play as ship owners, operators, coastal residents, and Knowledge Holders in shaping international shipping decisions. Becoming the first Indigenous Peoples Organization to gain Permanent Status at the IMO is not only a step forward for Inuit, but also a meaningful step forward for all Indigenous Peoples.”

CLEAN ARCTIC SHIPPING INITIATIVE



OUR RESEARCH THEMES:

Sustainable shipping operations and coastal/community infrastructure

Responsible ship design

Governance of Arctic shipping

The Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative is a \$93 million dollar initiative co-led by ICC Canada and Memorial University. This ambitious multi-year initiative addresses and responds to the increase in Arctic shipping and the related environmental impacts to Inuit lands, waters, and communities through a wide range of research projects and policy work. Funded by the Canada First Research Excellence Fund for 2023-2030, CASI is the largest research grant ever awarded to either organization.

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES



MAY 2025: CASI Partnership Workshop, Ottawa, Canada. Hosted by ICC Canada, these meetings discussed high-level governance and dispute resolution. Memorial University and ICC Canada agreed to an overall governance structure for the initiative, consisting of a CASI Governance Board and a CASI Research Council, where Inuit hold a majority of seats on each; the third body is the all-Inuit CASI Inuit Council. We also discussed accountability mechanisms for ensuring Inuit benefits, research approvals process, and the roles and responsibilities of all parties.



DECEMBER 2025: CASI Research Committee Meeting, Calgary, Canada. Held on the margins of ArcticNet, this three-day meeting gathered Inuit Treaty Organizations with academic research project leads to plan potential engagement activities. The meetings also provided an opportunity for research teams to discuss the draft Partnership Agreement. An information session on Inuit culture, identity and values was also provided for non-Inuit researchers.



FEBRUARY 2026: CASI Partnership Agreement was signed by all parties: Inuit Treaty Organizations, ITK, Memorial University, and ICC Canada. The Partnership Agreement defines how CASI's activities are conducted in Inuit Nunangat and sets a new standard for Inuit self-determination in research. The Partnership Agreement reflects the principles of the National Inuit Strategy on Research.



FEBRUARY-MARCH 2026: CASI Research Committee, CASI Inuit Council, and the CASI Governance Board Executive Committee all held their first meetings (virtual) since the signing of the Partnership Agreement. Nineteen research projects were approved provisionally. These approved projects will now develop detailed Inuit Engagement and Inuit Data Governance plans. The ITOs also submitted Inuit Research Fund proposals for consideration.



ICC Canada, including CASI project staff, attended the Nunavut Shipping Symposium in Iqaluit. Co-hosted by NTI and CCG, this 3-day event enabled Nunavut Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) to speak directly with federal and territorial government departments that work on shipping issues; it also enabled ICC to share its ongoing work in international shipping and marine policy, research, and advocacy. ICC Canada learned directly from NTI and Nunavut HTOs about ongoing issues which will contribute to shaping CASI and other ICC shipping and marine work.

Tana Allen, Memorial University Vice-President Research and Innovation, with Natan Obed, ICC Canada Vice-President, National Affairs, and ICC Canada Interim President Herb Nakimayak in May 2026.



PHOTO CREDIT: ICC CANADA



ICC Canada looks forward to CASI's continued partnerships and collaborative research between Inuit organizations and Memorial University and other university partners. We anticipate a productive first full Governance Board meeting in April 2026. We are excited for the start of 19 academic research projects that address multiple Inuit priorities around Arctic shipping. Equally important, ITOs will start four Inuit-initiated and -led research projects.

A photograph of a frozen lake in a mountainous region under a cloudy sky. The lake is covered in a layer of ice, reflecting the sky. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains and a valley. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

CLIMATE CHANGE

For more than two decades, ICC Canada has lead ICC's work on climate change. We advocate for the necessary inclusion of Inuit Knowledge and Knowledge Holders to manage and understand the impacts of climate change in the Arctic. Only by working collaboratively with other Indigenous Peoples, governments, and non-governmental organizations will we reduce and mitigate the environmental impacts brought about by climate change for our generations to come.

“Global climate action is far off track. The Arctic is warming almost four times faster than the global average, causing extreme and irreversible changes to Inuit lands, waters, and ice. It is essential to address the root causes of the climate crisis to ensure Inuit safety and survival on our lands and territories, with our lives and livelihoods on the line.”

FROM ICC'S POSITION PAPER ON THE UNFCCC COP30
OCTOBER 2025

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP



ICAP aims to increase the climate resilience of Inuit and Indigenous Peoples in the Indo-Pacific region with Indigenous Knowledge exchanges and youth-focused training. On-the-land knowledge exchanges will enhance the integration of sustainable, nature and land-based solutions into communities' climate change and adaptation strategies for us and our partners. ICAP is part of the Government of Canada's Indigenous Peoples Partnering for Climate Change initiative, which was co-developed by ICC Canada, the Assembly of First Nations, and the Métis National Council. We received funding from GAC to run ICAP for two years.

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES



JUNE 2025: ICC Canada's ICAP Program Coordinator started work, joining our climate change, wildlife, and environment team.



SEPTEMBER 2025: ICC Canada partnered with Take the Lead (TTL) Tonga for its ICAP. TTL is a female-led, youth-focused Indigenous NGO dedicated to educating and empowering emerging leaders. TTL designs and delivers programs that support leadership development, civic education, and community engagement, with an emphasis on preparing aspiring leaders to address climate-related challenges and other complex social and economic issues.



JANUARY 2026: ICAP planning meeting, Nuku'alofa, Tonga. ICC Canada met with TTL for project planning and to co-develop a climate leadership program to give youth participants long-term advocacy and leadership skills. Highlights of the program will be immersive on-the-land, sea, and ice knowledge exchanges in Inuit Nunangat and Tonga with Elders.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

We are excited to welcome ICAP youth participants to Nain and Nuku'alofa for the exchanges and climate leadership training in August and September 2026!



MARCH 2026: Nain, Nunatsiavut and Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga are announced as the locations for the on-the-land programs. ITOs and NIYC will nominate 11 Inuit youth for the project, to ensure youth from all of Inuit Nunangat are represented.



PHOTO CREDIT: ADOBE STOCK

Youth from Inuit Nunangat will be visiting Tonga's largest island, Tongatapu, to participate in a cultural exchange and on the land program in September 2026.

ICC Canada meeting with TTL in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, in January 2026. From left to right: Kilisitina Moala, TTL Lead Facilitator; John Crump, ICC ICAP Consultant; Megan Dicker, ICC Canada, ICAP Coordinator; Elizabeth Kite, TTL Founder; and Emeline Kite, TTL Project Coordinator.

PHOTO CREDIT: ICC CANADA



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

ICC was the first Indigenous Peoples Organization to have official observer status to the IPCC. The 7th Assessment Cycle (AR7) started in July 2023, with reports scheduled for publication in 2027 and 2029. These IPCC Assessment reports are high-level scientific assessments of planetary changes due to climate change, and they directly inform policy and decisions at the UNFCCC. ICC Canada continues to influence and participate in the Assessment Cycle process to ensure Inuit Knowledge, rights, and priorities are included in these influential assessment processes and reports.

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES



MAY 2025: ICC Canada advocated for and secured a position on the IPCC Scientific Steering Committee which organized and selected participants for the Workshop on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems and the Workshop on Methods of Assessment, held in February 2026. We presented our work with IPCC to the National Inuit Climate Change Committee to gather feedback and ensure our IPCC work aligned with regional priorities and the National Inuit Climate Change Strategy.



SUMMER 2025: Inuit researchers nominated by ICC were selected as lead authors for several chapters of the upcoming 7th Assessment Cycle set of reports.



FEBRUARY 2026: IPCC Workshop on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems and IPCC Workshop on Methods of Assessment, Reading, United Kingdom. The Workshop on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems was focused on how the IPCC engages with different knowledge systems, including Indigenous Knowledge, and their inclusion in the assessments

within the framework of existing principles and procedures. The Workshop on Methods of Assessment focused on the methods for how such knowledge systems can be included in the assessments, including review of tools with the view to informing recommendations and guidance for IPCC report authors.

PHOTO CREDIT: CAROLYN HOOVER



The impacts of a warming climate are starting to be felt around the world. In Alaska, from Kwigillingok to Kotzebue, two storm systems hit the coast in quick succession in fall 2025, causing record flooding, extreme winds, and extensive damage. Homes and critical infrastructure were damaged and destroyed. ICC offices shared how to help support relief efforts on our social media.



We will continue to work on developing long-term accountability mechanisms for IPCC engagement with Indigenous Knowledge. We look forward to engaging in the upcoming 65th IPCC plenary sessions in Ethiopia in October and our continued engagement in the development of the AR7 reports.

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

With the ongoing and increasing impacts of climate change, strong international collaboration between a united ICC, global Indigenous Peoples, and States is even more important than before. ICC brings Inuit realities and priorities to the UNFCCC climate change treaty negotiations. We attended subsidiary body meetings of the UNFCCC as well as the political negotiations at the annual Conference of the Parties.

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES



JUNE 2025: 13th meeting of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform, Bonn, Germany. ICC holds the Arctic Region seat, with an ICC KN staff member as the Arctic representative and an ICC Canada staff member as the alternate. The conflation between local communities and Indigenous Peoples within the UNFCCC was a highly discussed topic. These meetings were dominated by tense dynamics between global Indigenous Peoples, State representatives, and local community representatives. ICC made clear that Indigenous rights must be respected, that ethical and equitable engagement protocols must be in place, and that Indigenous Peoples should not be included with local communities.



JUNE 2025: 62nd meeting of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body, Bonn, Germany. ICC Canada and ICC KN participated in formal negotiations at this meeting and side events as representatives of the Arctic UN Sociocultural Region. We contributed to the Action for Climate Empowerment roundtables on children and youth, and at the event on ethical and equitable protocols for engagement of Indigenous Peoples.



OCTOBER 2025: Publication of ICC's position paper, "From the Arctic to the Amazon: Inuit call on states to accelerate climate commitments at UNFCCC COP30." Click on the icon to read the paper.



NOVEMBER 2025: Publication of *30 Years of COP: Stories from Canadian Perspectives* by the University of Ottawa. ICC wrote a chapter in this collection of essays, which includes reflections by Inuit Elders, youth participants, and past ICC leaders. ICC Canada led the drafting of this essay.



NOVEMBER 2025: COP30, Belém, Brazil. ICC Canada attended virtually. We participated in negotiations and shared positions through the Canadian delegation, the ICC delegation on the ground (led by ICC Chair Sara Olsvig), and the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change. Negotiations were challenging at this COP, with States failing to address key issues related to the transition away from fossil fuels. ICC contributed to strong text that would uphold the rights and leadership of Indigenous Peoples in climate action - but much of this was not in the final approved text. One area of success was a stand-alone operative paragraph in the Just Transition Work Program text emphasizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right of self-determination.

PHOTO CREDIT: KIARA WORTH © UN
CLIMATE CHANGE



“

There can be no regression. The urgency of climate action cannot supersede the rights of Indigenous Peoples, who continue to be at the forefront of climate change impacts. Climate action – prevention, mitigation, and adaptation – must draw on Indigenous Knowledge and the leadership of Indigenous Peoples. Strategies to address climate change...must uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, and must secure the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples.”

ICC CHAIR SARA OLSVIG,
10 NOVEMBER 2025

ICC Chair Sara Olsvig (3rd from left) with fellow representatives of Indigenous Peoples Organizations at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, November 2025.

PRESS RELEASE:

Landmark
Achievements at
“Indigenous COP”,
Safeguards Omitted

27 NOVEMBER 2025



Equity between Indigenous Knowledge and ‘Western’ science is essential to guide Arctic knowledge production and policy, while upholding the individual and collective rights of Inuit. By supporting Inuit leadership in wildlife and environment activities, we influence the way non-Inuit scientists, academics, and research institutions work with Inuit, and reaffirm the necessity of including Arctic Peoples in Arctic research.

“*Holistic [environmental] monitoring that includes both Indigenous Knowledge and science ensures that we get the most accurate information to protect our way of life, harvesting, and our food security.*”

ICC VICE-CHAIR, HERB NAKIMAYAK
14 NOVEMBER 2025

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ICC Canada leads ICC engagement on the UN Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), which was signed in 1992 and is a key agreement in global wildlife and environment management. The three main goals of the Convention are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. As an observer to CBD, we participate through the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), which includes other observer Indigenous organizations.

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES



OCTOBER 2025: 1st meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j), Panama City, Panama. ICC brought a delegation of 3 members to this inaugural meeting including Kiana Foster, a participant in the Inuit Youth Engagement Programme, from Canada. The focus of the meeting was to address key initial tasks under the Programme of Work and follow up discussions related to the conflation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The conflation is still outstanding and controversial, with ICC advocating for a distinctions-based approach to the Knowledge, rights, and participation of Indigenous Peoples in all CBD work.



DECEMBER 2025: CBD Secretariat Expert Group Workshop, Bergen, Norway. ICC Canada participated in this workshop on scientific and technical work related to marine biodiversity under CBD. We advocated for the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in all aspects of marine biodiversity, including the development of monitoring programs.



We are looking forward to Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) meetings and advancing workplans. We are eager to continue work on resolving the conflation between Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We anticipate a productive COP17 in October 2026, and will continue our close collaboration with the Saami Council and Saami Parliament to bring Arctic priorities to the negotiations.

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM SAMMURTOK



“Parties must respect Indigenous governance and self-determination within the CBD and the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j). Importantly, there must be a recognition and acknowledgement that Indigenous Peoples are not the same as local communities embodying traditional lifestyles. There is significant work ahead of [CBD] COP17 to ensure this Subsidiary Body is established in a good way, upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and respecting Indigenous Peoples’ governance.”

ICC VICE-CHAIR
HERB NAKIMAYAK,
18 NOVEMBER 2025S



PRESS RELEASE:

ICC Participates in Historic First Meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j)

18 NOVEMBER 2025



OTHER WILDLIFE CONVENTIONS

ICC Canada leads ICC engagement on two significant wildlife conventions: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. ICC Canada and ICC Alaska also participate as part of our respective national delegations in the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (known as the Polar Bear Range States). CITES and IUCN are large, while only those States with polar bears are party to the later. In all these forums, we bring Inuit Knowledge and our lived experience of sustainable use and management of our Arctic wildlife. We influence policy and regulation decisions and exchange knowledge with Indigenous Peoples Organizations and other international actors.

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES



OCTOBER 2025: IUCN World Congress, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This large gathering occurs every four years and brings members together to pass resolutions, influence wildlife policy, and shape IUCN's overarching workplans. ICC Canada attended this meeting on behalf of ICC; ICC is a longstanding voting member of the IUCN. An Indigenous Peoples Pavilion – a first for the IUCN – was set up by IPOs and the Indigenous Peoples Summit for the duration of the congress, with several panel discussions and presentations taking place. The IUCN released a 'style guide' on the usage of Indigenous Peoples and local communities which did not reflect ICC positions. We worked with the Saami Council to draft a response to this proposed 'style guide', but are still waiting for a response. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species was updated to include three Arctic seal species, however, there are no management implications for Inuit.



NOVEMBER 2025: CITES COP20, Samarkand, Uzbekistan. ICC Canada monitored these meetings virtually. Parties supported the development of studies on a labelling and certification system for products of CITES-listed species by Indigenous Peoples to explore implementation feasibility – this could have beneficial impacts for Inuit across Inuit Nunaat. There were no up-listing proposals for Arctic wildlife species on the CITES appendices that identify species of concern.



JANUARY 2026: Polar Bear Range States Meeting of the Parties, hosted virtually by the Government of Kalaallit Nunaat. ICC Canada and several ITOs participated in this biennial meeting as observers. States adopted a new 3-year workplan and presented updates all on their polar bear management activities, including hunting quotas, use of Inuit Knowledge, subpopulation estimates, and habitat conditions. It was also an opportunity for Inuit organizations across the Arctic to update/report their activities and concerns regarding the species in their regions.



JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2026: The IUCN Doctrine of Discovery Working Group met twice to discuss the workplan. This working group is part of the efforts at the IUCN towards renouncing the 15th-century Catholic Church's Doctrine and its continued ideological impacts on wildlife and environmental management. We provided input on the workplan and objectives, and will compile examples of successful co-stewardship in Inuit Nunaat to highlight how Inuit stewardship and ways of being contribute to the sustainable use and protection of nature.



Joseph Arey holding a package of dry fish. In December 2025, the ICPC Inuit Food Security Working Group meeting and Country Food Knowledge Exchange in Inuvik, ISR. Pictured here is an ICEDO Country Food Processing Plant staff member holding packaged piffi/pitsi prepared for distribution, highlighting community-led efforts to strengthen access to country food.

PHOTO CREDIT: ICC CANADA/MELYNDA EHALOAK



ICC will attend the next CITES Standing Committee meeting in Fall 2026. We look forward to working with other IUCN Indigenous Peoples Organizations to gather and share a resource library of IUCN Resolutions and guidelines as well as Indigenous protocols and case studies in relation to repealing the Doctrine of Discovery.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH

We work to ensure meaningful Inuit engagement in research that addresses Inuit priorities. We conduct research in partnership with Inuit organizations, advocate for change in research management policies, and share successful processes and results with other researchers. ICC Canada attends the National Inuit Wildlife Committee, where we share ongoing work, exchange ideas, receive input and guidance from the regions, and support the continued activities of the ICC Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee.

THIS YEAR’S MILESTONES



ICC Canada worked with international partners to update the Community Based Monitoring Web Atlas, a tool for the promotion of community-based and Indigenous-led Arctic monitoring and research.



JULY 2025: Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution Symposium, Sherbrooke, Canada. ICC Canada presented the final results of a project titled “Indigenous Knowledge habitat models of bearded seal (ugruk) in coastal Alaska waters” and participated in a panel discussion on bringing together different knowledge systems in wildlife-related research and management.



AUGUST 2025: 35th Annual Iñupiaq and Inuvialuit Beluga and Polar Bear Management Meeting, Utqiagvik, Alaska. ICC Canada supports the work of this management initiative by participating in the Southern and Northern Beaufort Indigenous Knowledge in Integrated Population Models Working Group.



NOVEMBER 2025: Sea Ice Expert Panel and Greenland Science Week, Nuuk, Kalaallit Nunaat. ICC Canada participated in the SAON ROADS Sea

Ice Expert Panel meeting, along with Knowledge holders from Canada and Kalaallit Nunaat, along with other experts in sea ice research and shipping. At Greenland Science Week, ICC Canada and ICC KN presented on CBMP, human rights-based approaches to research and ways of including Indigenous Knowledge and ‘Western’ scientific data equally in research. Science Week presented an opportunity for ICC to present on Indigenous Knowledge documentation and the importance of Indigenous Knowledge to understand wildlife and wildlife habitats and how it should inform management.



DECEMBER 2025: ArcticNet Science Conference, Calgary, Alberta. ICC Canada presented on a project we did in partnership with the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management and hunters in Utqiagvik, Alaska. The project focused on co-creating bearded seal habitat models fully based on Indigenous Knowledge, highlighting much needed information on important areas for bearded seals in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea. A publication on this project will come out in late 2026.

PHOTO CREDIT: NATALIE LANE



WHAT COMES NEXT?

ICC Canada looks forward to supporting community-based monitoring work across Inuit Nunaat and working to develop recommendations and guidance on Inuit data sovereignty and Inuit research governance with an international lens. We are also looking forward to future research activities that include co-developing approaches to include Indigenous Knowledge to better inform climate change modeling and understanding of species response.

CONTAMINANTS

Inuit have been directly and indirectly impacted by long-range transported contaminants. ICC Canada continues as the ICC head of delegation for all contaminants-related work. We are active in UN Environment Programme international conventions and negotiations on contaminants: the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution. We also participate in contaminants work at the Arctic Council. At the national level, ICC Canada is an active participant in the Northern Contaminants Program, which funds most of ICC Canada's contaminants work. At the NCP, ICC Canada is an Indigenous Partner and participates in its management committee and technical review committees, among other things. We work to reduce contaminants exposure and ensure that all contaminants-related work in the Arctic addresses Inuit needs, utilizes and respects Indigenous Knowledge, and respects Inuit rights.

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES



APRIL-MAY 2025: Stockholm POPs COP12, Geneva, Switzerland. The ICC delegation included ICC Canada and Lucy Grey from Nunavik. We followed plenary discussions, gave interventions, attended contact group discussions and side events. At this meeting, three chemicals were added to Annex A of the Convention for elimination, including long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, which are of particular concern for Inuit due to their elevated levels in some Inuit populations.



AUGUST 2025: INC 5.2, Geneva, Switzerland. The ICC delegation was led by ICC Chair Sara Olsvig, and ICC Canada attended as part of the Canadian delegation. We were active in the meeting, working with the Indigenous Peoples Caucus on interventions and meeting with several member State delegations. This was supposed to be the last negotiating session, but final text could not be agreed on.



OCTOBER 2025: Northern Contaminants Program Results Workshop, Ottawa, Canada and virtual. ICC Canada gave a virtual presentation on our international work with examples of how Indigenous engagement should and can and should influence contaminants-related policies.



NOVEMBER 2025: Minamata Convention COP6, Geneva, Switzerland. The ICC delegation was led by ICC Vice-Chair Herb Nakimayak and included two delegates from the FJMC (ISR). We participated in several side events and organized one with Indigenous partners from the Amazon. The Arctic-Amazon side event outlined the importance of Indigenous-led monitoring and explained how mercury emissions from gold mining in the Amazon are transported via air, river, and ocean currents to the Arctic and impact the Arctic ecosystem and Inuit. We made several interventions in plenary meetings and worked with other participants to form the International Indigenous Peoples Forum to advance Indigenous participation in the Minamata Convention. On the last day, the member States adopted a decision that references the rights of Indigenous Peoples as set out by UNDRIP and calls on the Convention secretariat to seek advice from Indigenous Peoples and formally establish the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Mercury.



FEBRUARY 2026: INC 5.3, Geneva, Switzerland. ICC Canada attended on behalf of ICC. As an observer, we were only allowed one delegate, without the right to interventions. In the day-long meeting, INC 5.3 elected a new INC Chair; we are waiting to hear when and how the negotiations process will continue.



FEBRUARY 2026: The Effectiveness Evaluation Group of the Minamata Convention, Geneva, Switzerland. This group was established in 2023 to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention and the international efforts against mercury pollution. It is made up of 25 members from Parties, as well as several observers. This Group is considering 36 indicators plus reports from the Open-Ended Science Group of the Convention, to develop the effectiveness evaluation report. ICC participated actively in the meeting to ensure that Indigenous concerns and work can be adequately reflected in this important report.



PRESS RELEASE:

ICC Advances Indigenous-Led Mercury Monitoring and Collaboration at Minamata Convention COP6

14 NOVEMBER 2025



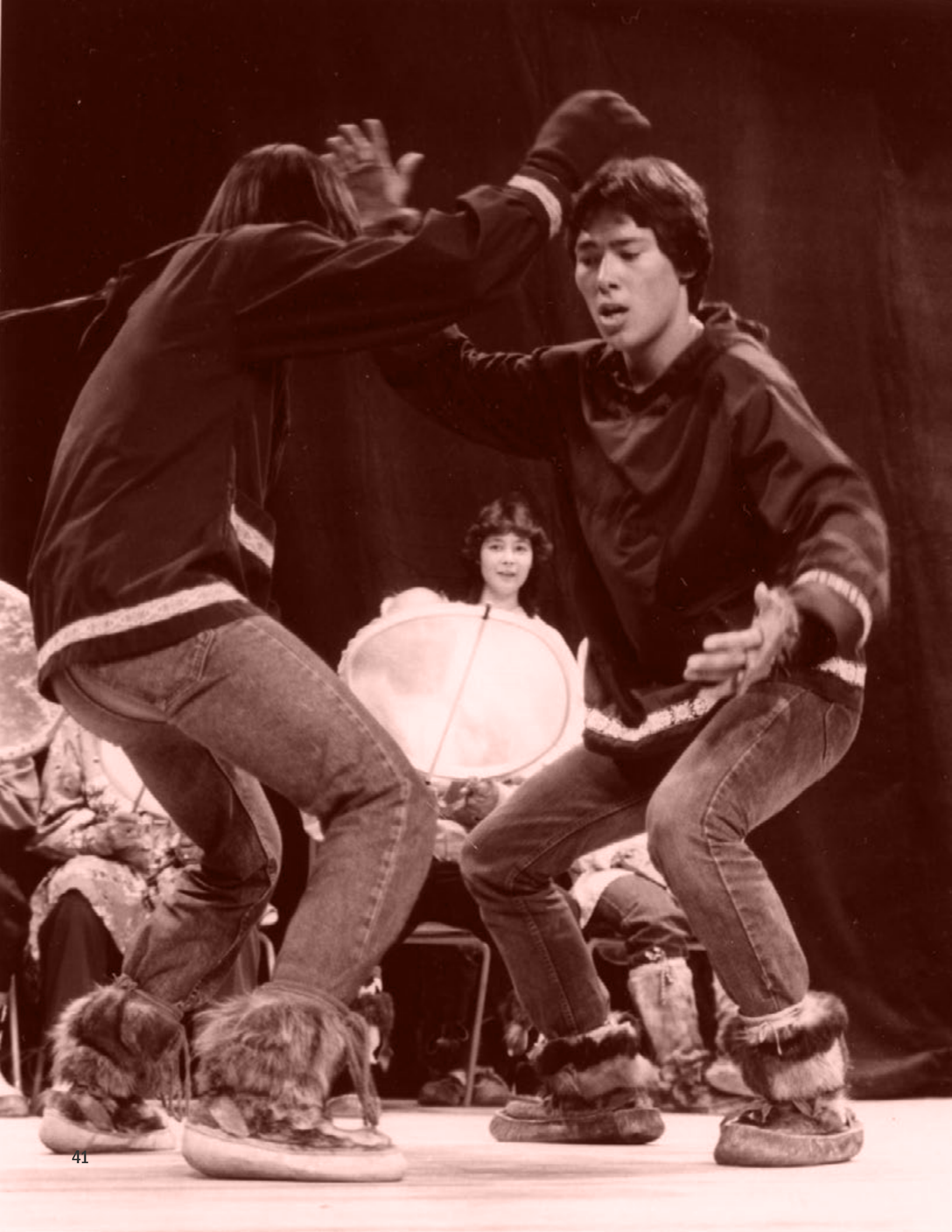
WHAT COMES NEXT?

ICC Canada is eager to contribute to greater Indigenous involvement in the Minamata Convention, and we are actively pursuing partnership opportunities with Indigenous organizations from the Amazon region and with active involvement from the FJMC. We remain hopeful that a strong, legally binding global treaty on plastics pollution will be adopted in the near future.

“

Overall, the very high persistence of these chemicals is of particular concern, because once in the environment, they are not breaking down. This means that as these compounds continue to be released into the environment, levels will continue to rise and further bioaccumulate and cause health concerns. This is a violation of our human right to a healthy environment, and calls for immediate global action, to ensure that further increases can be prevented.”

ICC INTERVENTION TO THE STOCKHOLM POPs COP12, 29 APRIL 2025



OUR PEOPLE, OUR CULTURE

Our culture is tied to the health and wellbeing of our people, our communities, and our Arctic environment: none can flourish without the others. Inuit health and wellbeing is at the heart of ICC Canada's work, informing all disciplines and initiatives. It is the strength of our shared Inuit culture that enables ICC Canada to succeed in our international work.

“

Culture, including all its creative, spiritual and material aspects, constitutes the foundation upon which a people thrive. Culture provides meaning and identity to community life... Inuit culture, like other cultures, is dynamic and not static. It is evolving and changing in response to stimuli from within and outside the Arctic. Inuit culture must be made an essential focal point when development decisions are taken concerning Arctic regions.”

FROM ICC'S PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE ARCTIC POLICY, PRESENTED AT THE 5TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1989

A performance by the Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers at the 3rd ICC General Assembly in Iqaluit, Nunavut, in July 1983.

HEALTH & WELLNESS



WEBINAR SERIES

- Setting Families Up for Success
- Promotion: Culturally grounded practices that promote wellness, resilience and identity
- Prevention: Programs aimed at reducing risks and strengthening protective factors
- Intervention: Community-based responses to emerging needs or challenges
- Protection: Systems and supports that ensure safety while promoting healing and family unity
- Reflection and visioning



Inuit health and wellness advocacy, policy, and research are a priority for ICC. Our work is grounded in the health and wellbeing of persons, families, and communities – we succeed when our people are healthy in mind and body. Alongside our international health and wellness work, ICC Canada participates in relevant national committees, including the National Inuit Committee on Health, to share knowledge and best practices and receive input on priorities directly from Inuit Treaty Organizations.

THIS YEAR’S MILESTONES



DECEMBER 2025: ICPC Inuit Food Security Work Group meetings, Inuvik, ISR. This event with ITOs, ITK, and federal partners, including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; focused on reciprocal learning, Inuit Knowledge, and equitable access to country foods. ICC Canada presented a photo essay on food security and on past projects in collaboration with the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee at the Country Food Project Knowledge Exchange. This event was important for strengthening relationships across Inuit Nunangat and with federal partners to help advance food security and sovereignty projects and policies.



JANUARY-MARCH 2026: ICC Webinar Speaker Series. ICC Canada led a six-week webinar series featuring Inuit speakers and representatives from Inuit organizations across Inuit Nunaat. The series highlighted innovative Inuit-led programs, services, and community-driven approaches that support the health and wellbeing of Inuit children and families. The webinar series received over 200 registrants; and each two-hour session was attended by 50-90 individuals from across the circumpolar Arctic.



MARCH 2026: Food Sovereignty Summit, Ottawa, Canada. Hosted by CIRNAC and Food Banks Canada, this event was attended by many Indigenous leaders, including Natan Obed, ITK President and ICC Canada Vice-President, National Affairs. The summit provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge, traditions, and data on food sovereignty and food security systems to influence the reforms to the federal Nutrition North Canada (NNC) program. The Inuit Food Security Working Group, which ICC Canada sits on, advocated for an Inuit-specific distinctions-based NNC framework, grounded in Inuit-led and Inuit-informed solutions.

PHOTO CREDIT: ICC CANADA



Birth is the ultimate ceremony... We need more to celebrate in Communities. We need more to look forward to.”

ABRA NUNGASAK
PATKOTAK, CO-CREATOR
AND CO-DIRECTOR OF
THE ALASKA NATIVE
BIRTHWORKERS
COMMUNITY AND ICC
SPEAKER SERIES GUEST,

ICC Canada Health Knowledge Transfer Specialist Melynda Ehaloak with Senator and former ICC Canada President Nancy Karetak-Lindell at the Food Sovereignty Summit, March 2026, Ottawa, Canada.



ICC looks forward to welcoming two new members from Canada to the ICC Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee, strengthening Inuit leadership and collaboration across regions. Building on this momentum, ICC will continue advancing health and wellbeing initiatives and respond to new priorities emerging from the upcoming 15th ICC General Assembly.

ARCHIVES & DATA MANAGEMENT



ACCESS THE
PORTAL HERE!



The ICC Canada Archives preserves and promotes the organization's records. ICC's history is part of Inuit history: our documents, videos, photographs, audio recordings, maps, and more tell stories of how Inuit success and determination on complex issues in the largest international arenas support and advance Inuit priorities. The ICC Canada Archives web portal, with a searchable database of holdings, is publicly available in English and Inuktitut. Cataloguing our archival holdings is a long-term project, with substantial progress made this year. Robust information and data management practices and access to archival records are key tools that support all aspects of ICC Canada's work.

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES



All records related to ICC General Assemblies have been catalogued, described, and added to the web portal (in English), including hundreds of digitized documents and thousands of photographs. Related to these records, the Archives team wrote over 400 short biographies of individuals and organizations who were involved in ICC General Assemblies from 1977 to now, and added them to the web portal.



Inuktitut descriptions of several records sets and the biographies associated with them were added to the web portal this year, including the Arctic Pilot Project (early 1980s) and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 9th General Assemblies.

Drum dancer Ego and the Nuummi Aliikkusersuisartut Isiginnaartitsisartut Peqatigiiffiat dance group from Kalaallit Nunaat perform at the 3rd ICC General Assembly in Iqaluit, Nunavut, July 1983.



Building off our work last fiscal year, we continued to enhance our SharePoint intranet site with new tools to improve our efficiency and cross-team/office collaboration, including automated travel request workflows.



APRIL 2025: Launch of our video tutorial in Inuktitut on how to use the Archives web portal. Available on the help page, this short video provides an introduction to archives and demonstrates different ways of finding information on our web portal.



FEBRUARY 2026: National Inuit Data Management Committee in-person meeting, Halifax, Canada. ICC Canada participated on this ITK-coordinated committee throughout the year, with substantial progress made at this in-person meeting toward a published national Inuit Data Strategy.



We are excited to start processing records relating to more than a dozen ICC summits and conferences. We also anticipate completing work on our Arctic Council records, one of our larger record sets. We continue to explore more ways for direct Inuit engagement in the archives.

WATCH THE
ARCHIVES
TUTORIAL IN
INUKTITUT HERE



50 YEARS

Fifty years ago, Inuit began organizing the first General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, which later became the Inuit Circumpolar Council as we know it today. Our Archives team is now working to organize and make accessible 50 years of history.

OUR RIGHTS & FUTURE



Since our founding in 1977, ICC has worked to advance Inuit human rights and Indigenous rights across our work. This year, ICC Canada continued working with the Inuit Youth Engagement Program, an initiative of the ICC Chair's Office, providing mentorship and opportunities for youth to learn what it means to advance Inuit rights on the international level.

THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES



Throughout the year, ICC Canada staff mentored and supported participants in the Inuit Youth Engagement Program, including three youth from Canada. We helped prepare youth from Alaska, Kalaallit Nunaat, and Canada for travel to and participation in high-level negotiations at diverse events.



AUGUST 2025: WAVES 2025 Global Indigenous Languages Summit, Ottawa, Canada. Hosted by the federal Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages, ICC Canada attended this to learn about innovative Inuktitut initiatives across Inuit Nunaat and to seek inspiration from Indigenous language projects around the world. Inuit Elders, leaders, and Knowledge holders hosted dozens of panels and presentations on everything from AI-powered

PHOTO CREDIT: ICC CANADA



ICC Canada President Herb Nakimayak and the UNPFII delegation in Ottawa, March 20 2026.



Inuktitut to land-based language programs; a highlight was the plenary keynote address by former ICC Canada and ICC President Siila Watt-Cloutier.

OCTOBER 2025: Inuit Women's Summit, Sisimiut, Kalaallit Nunaat. Hosted by the ICC Chair's Office, this international event brought Inuit health practitioners, changemakers, rights-holders, and leaders together to share knowledge and good practices in the promotion and protection of the rights of Inuit women and girls. 12 delegates from Canada representing all four regions of Inuit Nunangat joined delegates from Alaska, Kalaallit Nunaat, and Chukotka (virtual) to discuss and share priorities on the critical roles Inuit women play in shaping policy, culture, and future generations. ICC Canada supported the planning and moderated several sessions during the Summit.



MARCH 2026: ICC Canada welcomed a delegation from the UNPFII to our offices in Ottawa. ICC Canada President Herb Nakimayak spoke on our longstanding and ongoing work on behalf of Inuit at the UN. We were especially pleased to welcome UNPFII Chair Aluki Kotierk back to ICC Canada, as she served on our Board of Directors for many years.



Participants of the Inuit Women's Summit held in Sisimiut, Kalaallit Nunaat, October 27 – 29, 2025.

PHOTO CREDIT: ICC GREENLAND

“ Important bonds between Inuit women from across our homelands were strengthened. As we heard repeatedly during the Summit, women are pillars of strength in our societies, and leaders in every aspect of life. This Summit made it clear how important it is for all members of our societies that women gather to share their intergenerational wisdom and knowledge and uplift each other.”

ICC CHAIR SARA OLSVIG,
INUIT WOMEN'S SUMMIT,
OCTOBER 2025

WHAT COMES NEXT?

ICC Canada is excited to work with the other ICC offices to continue supporting greater youth involvement in our work. We will continue to collaborate with our ITOs and other Arctic Indigenous Peoples at several international forums to ensure Indigenous rights are respected and upheld.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.
NON-CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY STATEMENT OF
FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 8,064,318	\$ 4,251,462
Trade and other receivables	461,559	449,602
Prepaid expenses	21,705	30,684
	8,547,582	4,731,748
Long-term		
Tangible capital assets	9,993	8,860
	\$ 8,557,575	\$ 4,740,608
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current		
Trade payables and other operating liabilities	\$ 733,955	\$ 762,261
Deferred contributions	7,668,447	3,838,359
Current portion of obligation under a capital lease	1,899	1,772
	8,404,301	4,602,392
Obligation under a capital lease	4,218	6,527
	\$ 8,408,519	\$ 4,608,919
Net Assets		
Invested in tangible capital assets	3,876	561
Unrestricted	145,180	131,128
	\$ 149,056	\$131,689
	\$ 8,557,575	\$ 4,740,608

	2026	2025
CONTRIBUTION REVENUE		
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	\$ 729,822	\$551,050
Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada	45,872	93,964
Environment & Climate Change Canada	457,722	291,836
Global Affairs Canada	831,695	681,831
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	184,044	228,494
Government of Nunavut	150,000	150,000
I.C.C. Foundation	280,877	180,195
ICC Greenland	15,933	35,921
Indigenous Services Canada (FNIHB)	23,100	58,825
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	386,784	413,602
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	128,000	109,154
Makivvik	25,000	107,773
Memorial University (CFREF)	846,823	663,941
Miscellaneous	56,465	31,618
Nunatsiavut Government	100,000	79,858
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	175,000	203,485
Oceans North Conservation Society	190,505	-
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	170,000	-
Polar Knowledge Canada	104,650	-
Université Laval	60,891	61,299
Canada Council for the Arts	-	131,000
Canadian Council of Archives	-	28,071
Library and Archives Canada	-	66,998
Makivvik (in-kind)	-	26,780
University of Manitoba	-	53,900
University of Saskatchewan	-	25,311
	\$ 4,963,183	\$ 4,274,906
EXPENSES		
Salaries and employee benefits	2,602,050	2,257,327
Travel	580,117	693,094
Professional fees	942,599	850,408
Administration fees on projects	332,222	268,257
Communications	308,566	192,257
Rent, equipment and facilities	173,133	145,458
Operating costs	108,100	129,479
Recovery of administrative fees on projects	(332,222)	(268,257)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	3,251	3,934
Contributions to ICC Greenland	228,000	-
	\$ 4,945,816	\$ 4,271,957
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 17,367	\$ 2,949

**NOTES TO NON-CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**
Year ended March 31, 2026

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.

**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 2025-2026:

**INUIT ORGANIZATIONS/
GOVERNMENT**

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Makivvik
Nunatsiavut Government
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

GOVERNMENT

Canada First Research Excellence Fund (via
Memorial University)
Canadian Coast Guard
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
Affairs Canada
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Global Affairs Canada
Government of Nunavut
Indigenous Services Canada – First Nations
Inuit Health Branch
Polar Knowledge Canada

OTHER

ArcticNet/Université Laval
British Antarctic Survey
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
MakeWay Foundation
NordForsk / University of Ottawa
Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.
Oceans North Conservation Society
PEW Foundation (Lenfest)



INUIT

**INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL CANADA
75 ALBERT STREET, SUITE 1001
OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1P 5E7**

WWW.INUITCIRCUMPOLAR.COM