



Q1 2026

JANUARY - MARCH

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INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL CANADA NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S COMING UP:

APR 11 - 15: Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program project workshop, Sanikiluaq, Nunavut.

APR 17: Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative Governance Board meeting, virtual.

APR 27 - MAY 1: International Maritime Organization Marine Environment Protection Committee meetings, London, United Kingdom.

MAY 6 - 8: Archives Association of Ontario Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario.

MAY 7 - 8 : Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative and Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat Site Visit to Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

MAY 12 - 14 : ICC Executive Council Meetings, virtual.

JUNE 2 -5: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Facilitative Working Group meetings, Bonn, Germany.

JUNE 6 -7: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity Caucus meetings, Bonn, Germany.

JUNE 8 - 18: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 64th Session of the Subsidiary Body, Bonn, Germany.

JUNE 15 - 19: Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement (CAOFA) 5th Conference of the Parties (COP5) , Brussels, Belgium.

ICC BUSINESS

In March 2026, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut (NS) second-year class visited the ICC Canada office to learn more about our work. Students heard presentations by our policy advisors on environment and wildlife, our Indigenous Climate Action Partnership program co-ordinator, and our archivist. The NS students also toured our offices and spent time exploring the Archives. They had interesting questions and shared some of their own thoughts and experiences with climate change, hunting, and history. They were enthusiastic about the opportunities to advocate for Inuit rights and interests on the international level. Congratulations to all the 2026 NS graduating students!

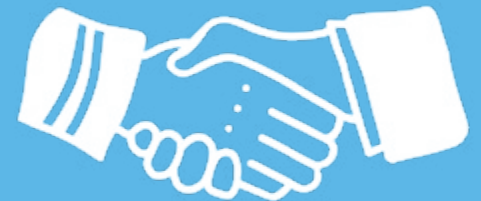
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ICC is planning for the 15th ICC General Assembly in Iqaluit, Nunavut in July 2026. ICC's General Assemblies are a gathering every four years for Inuit from Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka to direct ICC's international activities for the next four-year period. At this General Assembly, ICC has partnered with the host organization Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. to host. ICC's Executive Council met several times to advance the preparations for this massive event.

OUR ARCTIC HOME

CANADA'S ARCTIC FOREIGN POLICY

In February, Canada opened a Canadian Consulate in Nuuk, Greenland. Leaders from ICC and across Inuit Nunaat, attended the official opening. This initiative was one of the action items outlined in [Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy](#), released last year and co-drafted by Inuit.



Inuit leaders at the official opening of the Canadian Consulate in Nuuk, Greenland, 6 February 2026.

INUIT-CROWN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

KEY MILESTONE

We contributed to and reviewed AMAP's 2027 Societal Implications of Climate Change in the Arctic report to align and advance Inuit priorities.

ICC Canada continues to co-lead two working groups related to International Inuit Priorities: one on international shipping with Transport Canada, and one on international affairs with Global Affairs Canada. These working groups are spaces where Inuit Treaty Organizations can work directly with federal government partners as part of a whole of government approach to advancing shared issues that impact Inuit across Canada and the Canadian government.

ARCTIC COUNCIL

Several working groups of the Arctic Council hosted virtual executive meetings and plenaries. Our office participated in meetings of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group, and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) to contribute Inuit priorities, provide advice on projects, and advance our ICC position paper objectives.

In early February 2026, ICC participated in strategic planning meetings in Tromsø, Norway, with the Kingdom of Denmark Senior Arctic Officials Chair and fellow Permanent Participants. With formal Senior Arctic Officials Meetings paused due to the current geopolitical situation, these meetings serve as an opportunity for the Indigenous Peoples Organizations to meet with the current Senior Arctic Officials Chair of the Arctic Council to advance work and identify issues that require improvement.

ICC Canada staff reviewed chapters of the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) 2027 Societal Implications of Climate Change in the Arctic (SICCA) as part of the national data check. The SICCA assessment highlights a wide range of climate change-related impacts, including effects on livelihoods and economies, food systems, infrastructure, and health and well-being.

ICC also participated in a Heads of Delegation meeting and several expert group teleconferences for AMAP and reviewed additional draft technical reports on mercury stable isotopes and new contaminant monitoring methods.



From right: Herb Nakimayak (Vice Chair, ICC Canada), Aviaja Tindbæk Jørgensen (ICC Kalaallit Nunaat Marine Governance Advisor), Vernae Angnaboogok (ICC Alaska Inuit Arctic Policy Director), and Benjamin McTaggart (ICC Canada Policy Advisor) at CAOFA in Tokyo, Japan.

SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE & PROTECTING OUR OCEANS



CENTRAL ARCTIC OCEAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT

ICC Canada coordinated with ICC Alaska and ICC Greenland as members of our respective national delegations to the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement (CAOFA). In January, meetings to address language within the Conservation and Management Measures for Exploratory Fishing were made in advance of the Exploratory Fishing Working Group meeting in Tokyo, Japan. In Tokyo, ICC strongly advocated for the continued inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and the recognition of research impacts on Inuit. ICC also pressed for strong sea ice encounter and avoidance protocols to mitigate impacts on the Central Arctic Ocean ecosystems and Inuit communities.

The Data Management Working Group met in January and February to address the ongoing work to create Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for how CAOFA addresses and handles data collected under the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring (JPSRM). ICC made sure to avoid the conflation of Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge within data procedures, and to ensure that Inuit Knowledge Holders retain access, ownership and control of data shared with CAOFA. ICC shared these positions, along with an update on Inuit research activities and national research coordination at the 4th Scientific Coordinating Group meeting (SCG4) in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China (24-27 March). At SCG4, ICC recommended the convening of a dedicated side meeting or seminar on the co-production of Indigenous Knowledge and science at SCG5 (Spring 2027). This recommendation was welcomed and accepted by the SCG, ensuring the continued meaningful engagement of Indigenous Knowledge in CAOFA.

CLEAN ARCTIC SHIPPING INITIATIVE

This quarter, the parties to the Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative (CASI) - ICC Canada, Memorial University of Newfoundland, IRC, NTI,

PRESS RELEASE

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

27 February 2025

Makivvik and the Nunatsiavut Government - completed and signed a Partnership Agreement that redefines how the Initiative's research activities are conducted in Inuit Nunangat. The Executive Committee of the CASI Governance Board met in February to approve a list of 19 initial project proposals and the release of Year 2 Initiative funding. Initial meetings of the CASI Research Committee and Inuit Council have occurred and a full Governance Board meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2026. Inuit Treaty Organization have submitted Inuit Research Fund proposals for approval. Theme-based project activity from now until June will focus on the development of detailed Inuit Engagement and Inuit Data Governance plans. Once these are approved, full project activity will recommence, likely in June 2026.



OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

ICC Canada's Indigenous Climate Action Partnership (ICAP) program coordinator has been nominated as the Arctic alternate representative in the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) of the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change (UNFCCC). Staff are beginning to prepare for UNFCCC Subsidiary Body meeting in Bonn, Germany in June 2026, holding meetings with Saami Council and Saami Parliament as part of the Arctic Caucus.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

ICC Canada participated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Workshop on Methods of Assessment and combined sessions with the IPCC Workshop on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems in February in Reading, UK. The Workshop on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems was focused on considering what systems of knowledge the IPCC can engage with and assess within the framework of existing principles and procedures. The Workshop on Methods of Assessment focused on the means by which such knowledge systems can be assessed.

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP

In January 2026, ICC Canada traveled to Nuku'alofa, Tonga, to meet

with the Indigenous Climate Action Partnership (ICAP) partner Take the Lead (TTL), working on the project implementation plan and planning program activities, exchange dates, and to experience Tonga in preparation for the Tongan exchange in fall 2026.

The ICC-TTL MOU has been finalized and signed by ICC Canada and Take the Lead Tonga to guide the partnership ahead.

ICC Canada is seeking nominations from Inuit Treaty Organizations and the National Inuit Youth Council for Inuit youth to take part in this project. The project is an Indigenous Knowledge exchange and youth-focused training with immersive on-the-land activities. The aim is to enhance Indigenous Peoples' integration of sustainable, nature and land-based solutions into their communities' climate and adaptation strategies. The Arctic exchange will be hosted in Nain, Nunatsiavut. ICC Canada and TTL will meet in the next quarter for their scoping trip.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT

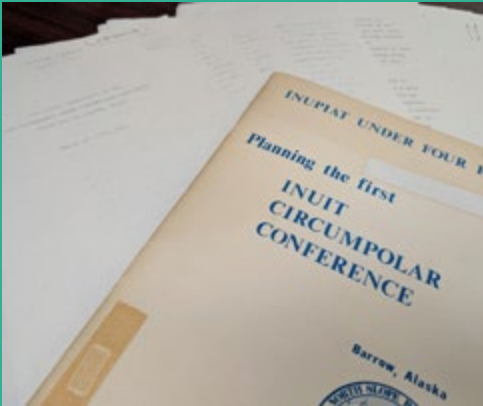
POLAR BEAR RANGE STATES MEETING OF THE PARTIES

As an observer, ICC participated in the biennial Polar Bear Range States (PBRs) Meeting of the Parties (MOP) that took place virtually January 20-23, 2026. The Parties are Canada, United States, Russia, Greenland, and Norway, and the purpose is to implement the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears. PBRs is an opportunity for on-going and shared conservation and management of all subpopulations of the species across the Arctic.

The PBRs MOP is a forum for States to provide updates on their activities in all areas of PB management such as research, hunting quotas, use of Inuit Knowledge, subpopulation estimates, conservation status, habitat conditions, work planning, policy, and to the review of the 1973 Agreement. It is also an opportunity for Inuit organizations to update/report their activities and concerns regarding the species in their respective regions.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE





March 28th marked the 50th anniversary of the first planning meeting for the first ever Inuit Circumpolar Conference! Inuit leaders from across Kalaallit Nunaat, Canada, and Alaska came together in Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska in March 1976 to discuss the need for an international Inuit organization and a circumpolar meeting on shared issues. 50 years later, ICC continues to bring a united Inuit voice to the world.

The Doctrine of Discovery working group met twice to discuss the work plan for the year and determine what products and deliverables would be desirable in the short, medium, and long term. This working group is part of efforts at the IUCN towards revoking the Doctrine of Discovery and its impacts on the wildlife and environment management.

The Canadian Committee for the IUCN had their AGM, where new members joined the executive. It was mentioned that the IUCN proper will be updating its sustainable use policy this year.

The chair of Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group had their chair removed due to lobbying from animal rights groups and then reinstated after sustained advocacy from members of the specialist group.

OTHER WILDLIFE WORK

ICC Canada participated in the Arctic Science Summit Week in Aarhus, Denmark, co-chairing sessions on an Arctic Council project Climate Change Impacts on Arctic Ecosystems and Associated Feedbacks with Indigenous Knowledge holders and scientists across two days. Additionally, ICC participated in many sessions related to co-production of knowledge and the importance of the equitable inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in Arctic research.

NORTHERN CONTAMINANTS PROGRAM

Proposals for the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) were due January 20th. ICC Canada submitted its proposal update and gave presentations on its work to the three Regional Contaminant Committees that requested it (Nunavik, Nunavut, Northwest Territories), which voiced their interest and willingness to be involved. We participated in technical review committee meetings for Human Health, Environmental Monitoring and Research, and Community-Based Monitoring, respectively, and are also reviewing research project proposals.

PLASTIC POLLUTION NEGOTIATIONS

ICC attended the one-day third installment of the fifth Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC-5.3) meeting to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution under the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). Observers were only allowed one delegate each, with no interventions possible. ICC Canada's technical consultant on contaminants attended on behalf of ICC. In the day-long meeting, INC-5.3 elected Julio Cordano from Chile as the new INC Chair. It still

needs to be decided when and where the INC process will continue.

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

The first in-person meeting of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group (EEG) of the Minamata Convention on Mercury took place February 9 – 11 in Geneva, Switzerland. The group was established at COP-5 in 2023, and adopted 36 indicators that the EEG would consider, together with the report from the Open-Ended Science Group and other material, to develop the effectiveness evaluation report. The EEG consists of 25 participants from Parties, with five representatives from each of the five UN regions, as well as five participants from civil society, Indigenous organizations, and local community organizations (currently no representation), women's groups (currently no representation), intergovernmental organizations, industry and the Global Mercury Partnership. ICC participated actively in the meeting to ensure that Indigenous concerns and work can be adequately reflected in the report.

OUR PEOPLE, OUR CULTURE

HEALTH & WELLNESS

ICC Canada led a six-week webinar speaker series featuring Inuit speakers and Inuit organizations from across Inuit Nunaat. The series highlighted promising Inuit-led programs, services, and community-driven approaches that support the health and wellbeing of Inuit children and families. Over the span of the webinar series, ICC featured:

- Abra Patkotak, Indigenous Full-Spectrum Birthworker, student midwife, and Co-Creator and Co-Director of the Alaska Native Birthworkers Community, from Utqiagvik, Alaska.
- Adriana Kusugak, Ilitaqsiniq, based out of Nunavut, Canada
- Kimberly Ayek, Kawerak, Alaska
- Mina Beaulne & Lana Roberts, Nunavingmi Ilagiit Papatauvinga, Nunavik, Canada
- Naja Lund Kielsen, Inulerivik, Kalaallit Nunaat
- Qivioq Lovestrom, Tilioq, Kalaallit Nunaat

ICC Canada attended the first ever Food Sovereignty Summit that was hosted by CIRNAC and Food Banks Canada. This summit was a great opportunity to learn, share wisdom and tradition, and to gather essential data to strengthen food security across Canada; with





Explore all our General Assembly records in English and Inuktitut! Click the 'hierarchy' button at the bottom to see a full list of records.

ENGLISH

INUKTITUT

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many Indigenous leaders attending. The Food Sovereignty summit will inform the Nutrition North Canada reform. At the summit, the Inuit Food Security Working group advocated for a distinctions-based Nutrition North Canada (NNC) framework reform that focuses on distinctions-based, Inuit-led and Inuit-informed solutions to food security.

During the summit, Minister Chartrand announced that 9 Indigenous-led projects will receive over \$2 million in funding as a part of the second phase of NNC's Food Security Research Grant. 6 of those research projects will impact Inuit across Inuit Nunangat. The University of Toronto /Toronto Metropolitan University will lead a project on community-informed modeling of interventions to the NNC subsidy program, and as a part of this project, they will look to learn lessons from Greenland's food system.

ARCHIVES & DATA MANAGEMENT

In Q1, the Archives and Data Management team continued work on several ongoing, year-long projects. The records related to the two ICC General Assemblies hosted in Inuvik in partnership with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in 1992 and 2014, respectively, are now organized, digitized, and described on the Archives web portal (English version). Both these gatherings featured speeches, presentations, and discussions on a variety of Inuit priorities. The 2014 collection features hundreds of photographs and several videos and is one of the best-photographed ICC gatherings. The Archives team looks forward to making the remaining General Assembly records available through the web portal next quarter in time for our upcoming 15th General Assembly in Iqaluit!

We also made progress on the Inuktitut version of the Archives web portal. Our record descriptions and associated biographies for the 1st and the 9th General Assemblies are now available online. We are on track to have the Inuktitut versions of the 2nd General Assembly (Nuuk, 1980) and the 3rd General Assembly (Iqaluit, 1983) published online before July.

HUMAN RIGHTS

ICC Canada welcomed a delegation from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), including UNPFII Chair Aluki Kotierk, to our offices in Ottawa last week. During the visit, President Herb Nakimayak delivered a presentation highlighting ICC's ongoing work and advocacy efforts on behalf of Inuit communities across the Inuit Nunaat.



***THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR WORK AT
INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL CANADA!***