



Inuit Youth & Infrastructure Programme – Green Zone

November 3, 2021, 1330 – 1500 hrs

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) will host a 90-minute panel discussion with Inuit youth from across Inuit Nunaat, Inuit homelands and territory, to explore answers to the question of how existing Inuit knowledge and Inuit innovation and technologies might help better inform climate-resilient infrastructure. Most of Inuit Nunaat already has infrastructure deficit that connects to climate resilience and adaptative capacity.

- **Education:** Most Inuit must travel far away from home for post-secondary education
- **Power:** Many Inuit communities are reliant on diesel generators to provide power
- **Housing:** Lack of sufficient housing is chronic in Inuit communities.
- **Marine Infrastructure:** Inuit are coastal people and rely on marine resources. With an Arctic Ocean open for more of the year, the seas present opportunities for traditional harvesting pursuits, and other opportunities from increased shipping access. But this require appropriate infrastructure that is currently sparse in Inuit Nunaat.
- **Health & Mental Health:** More and more Inuit are speaking about the need to increase health and mental health programming in order to reclaim and revitalize traditional practices.

Climate Change is a challenge to the integrity of various aspects of our community infrastructure. In Alaska, whole Inuit communities are threatened, as big storms are no longer buffered by protective shore ice. In other communities, there are concerns about the integrity of roads, pipelines, water and sewer pipes, and runways. The whole connective issue of Inuit Nunaat is being challenged by climate change. This event will engage Inuit youth in thinking about and describing the sorts of infrastructure that will be necessary to withstand the changes already occurring in their home communities.

Screening of “**Happening to Us**” trailer

Moderator: Crystal Martin-Lapenskie

Panelist:

- **Brian Pottle**, ICC Youth Delegate and President for the National Inuit Youth Council
- **Addy Ahmasuk**, ICC - Alaska Youth Delegate
- **Victoria Buschman**, ICC – Alaska / Greenland Youth Delegate



Panel Questions:

Question #1: What are some signs of climate change in your community?

Question #2: How can we build climate-resilient infrastructure in our community?

Question #3: What do you hope to see change?

Closing Remarks: What

About the Panelist:

Brian Pottle is the President of the National Inuit Youth Council in Canada and a Nunatsiavummiut Inuk. He aspires to be a positive role model for Inuit youth and cares deeply about raising awareness on suicide prevention. He has co-led an engineering outreach program on suicide prevention with Memorial University and was a keynote speaker on suicide prevention at the 2017 National Inuit Youth Summit in Nain, Nunatsiavut. He also was a youth panelist in the 2016 Whistler/Vancouver International Conference on Life Promotion.

Adelaine Ahmasuk: Adelaine is Yup'ik, Inupiaq & Norwegian from Western Alaska. As an Inuk living in rural Alaska, she has many roles throughout her community & family. As a mother, sister, daughter & grand-daughter - she centers much of her work in the value of relationship building, truth telling & intersectionality. She has backgrounds as a Research Assistant for Climate Forced Relocation, Community Development, Language Revitalization, Indigenous Birthwork, Suicide Prevention & Wellness. She recognizes the work laid before her from previous generations and relations, and will continue in this walk for justice - "until she melts".

Victoria Buschman: Victoria is Iñupiaq/Inuit wildlife and conservation biologist raised between the vast tundra of Utqiagvik, Alaska and the tall redwoods of northern California. Victoria has lived and worked across the Arctic in an effort to promote how Indigenous Peoples fundamentally shape Arctic biodiversity conservation, from research, to management, to actualizing the dreams of new protected areas.

About the Moderator:

Crystal Martin-Lapenskie: Crystal is Inuk originally from Nunavut, Canada. She is a noteworthy leader in the Inuit advocacy space, particularly as the past President of the National Inuit Youth Council, Canada (**2019-2021**). She is known for her articulate political advancements in improving the lives of Inuit in mental health, infrastructure and climate change.