



Annual Report 2011-2012  
Inuit Circumpolar Council - Canada

## **Inuit Circumpolar Council – Canada**

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is the body that represents the views and positions of Inuit from Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Russia on an international level. Canadian Inuit express their particular international and circumpolar interests through ICC Canada, and through the two members they elect to the ICC Executive Council. ICC Canada serves as a conduit of information exchange both to and from Inuit outside of Canada and represents Canadian Inuit on international bodies that have an impact on Inuit lives at home. ICC Canada is directed by a board of directors from among the Canadian Inuit land claims regions.

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# ICC Canada Annual report 2011-2012

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## Message from ICC Canada President, Duane Smith

### *Canadian Inuit as generous and capable hosts*

Canadian Inuit are good hosts. We invite friends as well as strangers into our homes and hunting camps. We enjoy sharing our muktuk and caribou, seal meat and frozen char, berries and bannock. We drink tea together. We talk. We listen.

We often put on feasts for special guests that come to our communities. In the past we amiably received federal officials when they came to negotiate our land claims. Even further back we welcomed and indeed assisted the so-called Arctic explorers find their way through our archipelago and over our sea ice.

As I look back at the activities of ICC Canada's 2011-2012 fiscal year as well as to our upcoming plans, I can't help think about the role that hosting a well-planned meeting plays in the opportunities that are generated for Inuit. A lot needs to be prepared beforehand so that even more can be accomplished after.



The reader will see in the pages that follow that a lot was accomplished last year because of opportunities generated as a result of milestones achieved, significant meetings hosted, and commitments made in the past. Included among these are the Inuit leaders' summits that ICC Canada has capably hosted and also meetings that others have planned, such as the International Polar Year (IPY) conference in which we participated shortly after the end of 2011-2012.

Looking ahead, a number of significant international milestones are coming our way very soon, and Canadian Inuit need to be prepared to both host and participate. Some, as you will see in this annual report, ICC Canada started planning for last year. Much of the coming year will see an increased focus on this planning process. I'm confident that Canadian Inuit, with the support of our office, will meet the hosting challenges coming our way. But we need to start work on them immediately.

Today, we continue to play host to an increasing number of guests. University researchers knock on our doors wanting our data. Industry representatives visit wanting our resources. Increasingly, a number of these guests are foreign. Some are circumpolar and others are

from the European Union, China, and even Singapore. ICC Canada has a mandate to host these newcomers but increasingly we need to do it strategically and smartly. Sometimes being an assertive host is equally important to that of being a generous host. I can assure Canadian Inuit that, as its voice on international matters, their interests are being looked after well, and I am proud of the work ICC Canada has accomplished.

Playing the role of host is important and cannot be overstated. In fact, the very existence of ICC was the result of a 1977 meeting that was hosted by a visionary Inuk from the north slope of Alaska, Eben Hopson, when he invited Inuit from Canada, Greenland, and Russia to discuss how we could collectively respond to the resource rush of that decade and insert the Inuit voice into policy and development decisions that were being made by others.

We have many important meetings that Canadian Inuit will soon host. There will be a workshop in early 2013 in which we will invite other Inuit to join us in mapping out how we would like transportation to be conducted in Arctic waters now that shipping routes are opening up. There will be a workshop in which Canadian Inuit will plan how we should further implement the 2011 Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Arctic Resources. Also, we need to plan for the Greenland premier's invitation to follow up on the summit on the same issue in 2013.

Perhaps the most important milestone in 12 years for Canadian Inuit will be preparing for the hosting of the office of the Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council for a four-year period and the related hosting of the ICC General Assembly (GA). While these events start in 2014, the coming year of 2012-2013 is the period in which much of the hosting role needs to be fleshed out and fundraising started. Canadian Inuit have a huge responsibility but an equally large opportunity. The Arctic has changed since we last hosted the GA and the office of the ICC Chair and all eyes are on us. We need to respond strongly and effectively. And to do so, we need to start the planning now. We need to raise significant funding now. The hosting of the GA and the Office of the ICC Chair must be done well if it is to bring benefits to Canadian Inuit in the way that they can.

What makes the hosting of the GA and ICC Chair's office even more momentous is the fact that the Government of Canada will be hosting the Chair's office of the Arctic Council for a two-year period during the time we take over these two responsibilities. Again, an important responsibility and an equally important opportunity for Canadian Inuit.

It's again time to be generous and capable hosts. It is time to plan, to prepare and to deliver. Like a well-planned community feast, I'm sure that Canadian Inuit will be generous hosts and willing to share with others. But we will also be capable hosts, take care of our own interests and make sure that the future Arctic will be a sustaining one for all Inuit.

## ICC Activities

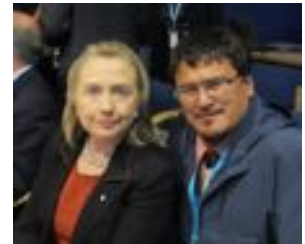
### Arctic Council

In 2011-2012, the Arctic Council continued to be of central importance to ICC Canada's work. Because this 8-nation body includes the Inuit Circumpolar Council and 5 other indigenous peoples' organization at the same table as ministers and senior government officials, it remains the ideal forum for ICC to undertake activities and also to put forward proposals that have the potential to effect immediate change.

ICC Canada personnel work alongside those from other ICC offices in Greenland, Alaska and Chukotka to forge an effective team that is able to cover the many Arctic Council working groups, task forces, and high-level meetings. Over the last year, ICC Canada played the lead on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Council on several major initiatives. The issues that were addressed were many and the work undertaken in 2012-2013 represented a major accomplishment. While these achievements cannot be overstated, still the potential for advocating even more on behalf of Canadian Inuit at this circumpolar body is vast and is only limited by the resources available.



ICC Canada prepared for, attended, and actively participated at the meeting of Arctic Council foreign ministers in Nuuk, Greenland in May 2011. An indicator of the increasing interest and relevance of the Arctic Council was the fact that the USA, for example, sent to Nuuk not only their foreign minister, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, but also their Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar. ICC Canada president, Duane Smith joined both Secretaries, Canada's Minister Leona Aglukkaq and others at the ministerial table where some significant decisions about our homeland were made. For example, the ministers concluded a milestone agreement on circumpolar-wide search and rescue that became the first ever legally-binding instrument developed at the Arctic Council. They also struck two new task forces and put them to work for the period until May 2013, when the ministers will meet again. Ministers gave one task force the mandate to develop a second legally-binding agreement, this one of how the 8 Arctic states would cooperate in the event of an Arctic oil spill.



ICC Canada was also active in the meetings of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs), the government officials that manage the Council's activities on behalf of ministers for a 2 year period. One was held in Copenhagen prior to Denmark handing over the Arctic Council chair to Sweden, and another 6 months later in Luleå, Sweden. Significant policy decisions are always made at these meetings and ICC Canada was there, again at the table, to defend the rights and interests of Canadian Inuit.

The bulk of the on-the-ground work of the Arctic Council is accomplished through its working group structure and ICC Canada focussed its efforts on the following groups:

- Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)
- Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Group (AMAP)
- Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)



In other working groups, such as Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), ICC Canada played more of a supportive role to ICC Alaska, who took the lead on CAFF activities on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Council. ICC Canada also played an important role in two task forces, as well as expert groups that exist within each working group. One of the more notable expert group is the SDWG's Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) where circumpolar health issues are addressed. Other cross-cutting expert group work addressed by ICC Canada and other ICC offices included the Arctic Resilience Report, a climate expert committee, an

ecosystem-based monitoring project, a food security initiative, and others. ICC Canada aimed to bring youth into its work whenever possible, for example, the ICC delegation was strongly supported at the SDWG in Gällivare, Sweden by Thomasie Johnston from Nunavut. Of course, ICC Canada also participates in many other international processes that contribute directly and indirectly to its work inside the Arctic Council and did so again in 2011-2012.

### **Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment**

As the Arctic waters continue to open more widely, Arctic shipping has an increasingly greater potential to impact upon the day to day lives of Canadian Inuit. As such, ICC Canada addressed Arctic shipping matters in 2011-2012 in order to bring Canadian Inuit concerns to the various bodies working on this issue. Following the 2009 Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), ICC Canada has worked on implementing and addressing some of the AMSA recommendations. In this context, ICC Canada worked on developing a project at the Arctic Council called *A Circumpolar-wide Inuit Response to the AMSA*. In early 2012, the project was endorsed by USA, Canada, and Denmark within the auspices of the SDWG and ICC Canada started the planning for it immediately thereafter. The first major activity of this project will be to bring Inuit from across the Arctic together for a workshop in early 2013 that will focus on how to deal with the shipping recommendations of the AMSA and to also develop a second phase of an earlier ICC project entitled *The Sea Ice is our Highway: An Inuit Perspective on Transportation in the Arctic*.



## Arctic Indigenous Languages

One of the most significant initiatives ever tackled by ICC Canada inside the Arctic Council is the project *Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages*. This Arctic indigenous languages project is a multi-year program that is led by the Inuit Circumpolar Council, with the strong endorsement and support by USA and Canada. The Canadian office was asked to be the central ICC body to coordinate the work. A draft proposal had been circulated and presented to the Arctic Council's SDWG on several occasions in an iterative manner to fine-tune the proposed activities. Finally, last year the SDWG and then the SAOs approved the project. Therefore, 2011-2012



saw much of ICC Canada's staff and other resources focussed on this project. A management structure was created, a communications strategy was developed, and a fundraising plan implemented. Additionally, ICC Canada developed a proposal and ultimately undertook the planning in 2011-2012 for a major research development workshop that was held shortly after the end of ICC Canada's fiscal year-end, which brought together linguists, indigenous languages practitioners, and policy-makers to determine how best the various experts in the field could work collaboratively, merge methodologies, and support the indigenous-driven focus of the program.

## Government Relations

Consultations with the national, provincial and territorial governments of Canada are an ongoing and important aspect of ICC Canada's work to promote and protect Inuit interests. These consultations include regular meetings between ICC Canada's president, Duane Smith, and ministers responsible for areas of relevance to Inuit interests.



The Arctic is a high priority for the Canadian Government and particularly as Canada will take over the leadership of the Arctic Council from 2013 to 2015. As this period coincides with ICC Canada's hosting of the next ICC General Assembly in 2014, discussions have begun with relevant parts of the Canadian Government to find ways to maximize the opportunities this situation presents for advancing Inuit interests.

Key federal departments for ICC Canada include the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). ICC Canada's relationship with both departments is particularly relevant to ICC's participation and contribution to the workings of the Arctic Council.

Health Canada is another federal department whose support has been strong and ongoing enabling ICC Canada to carry out its work on circumpolar Inuit health. Canadian Heritage, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are also important departments for ICC Canada.



## Human Rights

Inuit human rights as well as the rights of other indigenous peoples lie at the heart of ICC Canada's aims and objectives. As such, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is one of the most important forums for ICC to participate in and contribute to. With ICC in the UNPFII's Europe/Arctic seat from 2011 to 2014, ICC Canada is playing an important role in ICC's contribution to the work of the forum.



Another aspect of ICC Canada's work in human rights is its ongoing contribution to the finalization of the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which is being negotiated under the framework of the Organization of American States. This process continues at a very slow pace and it is not expected to be completed for some years.

## Arctic Sovereignty

In 2011-2012, ICC Canada's Arctic sovereignty strategy focussed on using the 2009 Declaration, *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic* in a cross-cutting manner inserting it into each of ICC's activities rather than develop a specific project focussed solely on the sovereignty issue. The *Declaration on Sovereignty* has, in its short existence, developed into a foundational document of ICC and continues to play a pivotal role in all of ICC's work.



Notwithstanding the cross-cutting nature of the Declaration, ICC Canada did use the foundational document in some projects more than others. For example, last year ICC Canada played the pivotal role in drafting the 2011 Declaration, *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*, that came out of directives given by Inuit leaders from across the Arctic at an earlier summit on Arctic resources. The

resource declaration addressed and underscored the importance of many sovereignty-related issues. Further, ICC Canada started a significant project in 2011-2012 on implementing the provisions of the resource declaration, the work of which is described elsewhere in this annual report. Finally, ICC Canada representatives took part in many Arctic security related forums, where the Arctic sovereignty declaration also took centre stage, for example at the October 2011 Conference Board of Canada's *Canada's North Beyond 2011*, where ICC Canada was asked to address questions such as "what is meant by securing sovereignty in Canada's north?" and "how should Canada deal with other nations in addressing circumpolar issues...?"

## Drafting & Implementing The Circumpolar Inuit Declaration On Arctic Resources

Shortly after the ICC Canada president Duane Smith invited Inuit leaders from Greenland, Russia, Alaska and Canada to an Inuit Leaders' Summit on Arctic Resource Development, ICC Canada took the lead in drafting the 2011 *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*. This Declaration was launched by the Inuit Circumpolar Council just prior to the Arctic Council's meeting of foreign ministers held in Nuuk, Greenland in May 2011.



The Declaration is a collective Inuit statement on how the Arctic's resources should be treated, who should have access to them, and under what conditions. The resource declaration relies, as a starting point, on the provisions of the 2009 *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*, as well as the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. It begins with a preamble, a declarative section of 9 foundational statements, and then a section of 10 detailed declarations on how Inuit would like to work with those having an interest in our homeland. In the Preamble, the reader is reminded that there will be positive and negative impacts as the Arctic seas open and resources are taken. It stresses the fact that a proper pace of development is essential to Inuit well-being and that “[in] the weighing of impacts and benefits, those who face the

greatest and longest-lasting impacts must have the greatest opportunities, and a primary place in the decision-making.” The Declaration is clearly open to partnerships on Inuit terms, and in fact ends with an invitation to those who “seek a role in the governance, management, development, or the use” of our resources to “conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of this Declaration”.

Like the 2009 Declaration on Arctic Sovereignty before it, the resource declaration has already garnered widespread interest and is, as its predecessor, developing into an ICC foundational document.

Also in 2011-2012, ICC Canada started to look at ways in which the Declaration on Arctic Resources could be used. Rather than let it sit on a shelf, the organization (with financial support from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada) started a project called “Implementing the Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Arctic Resources”. While funding was initially received for only a few of the activities of the multi-year proposal prepared by ICC Canada, the organization was still able to take the Declaration and move it forward on a number of fronts. As part of last year's activities, ICC Canada wrote and published the proceedings of the Inuit Leaders' Summit on Arctic Resources, liaised with Canadian Inuit on applying the principles of the Declaration, started the planning on a Canadian Inuit-focussed workshop on how to move the elements of the Declaration forward by seeking guidance from Canadian Inuit, initiated an analysis of on-going resource development projects in Inuit Nunaat, and liaised with Canadian government officials on aspects of the Declaration. ICC Canada officials spoke at meeting and conferences thereby promoting the

Declaration and its provisions. ICC Canada continues to liaise with federal government officials on the need to expand the work on implementing this milestone Declaration.

### **Environment and Sustainable Development**

As the political and economic landscape is rapidly changing in the Arctic, environmental challenges and opportunities continued to present themselves during 2011-2012. The sustainability of Arctic homeland for Inuit remains an important priority for ICC Canada because of the implications for all



aspects of Inuit life. As the changing Arctic presents new economic opportunities for both the renewable (wildlife) and non-renewable (minerals, oil and gas) resources, the challenge remains to ensure that these activities are undertaken in collaboration with the appropriate Inuit organizations and that protection of the environment informs decisions and action. Inuit decision makers must have the best knowledge, both scientific and traditional, to ensure the voice and vision of Inuit inform the development of the Arctic.

ICC Canada has continued to bring to the attention of the international community the vast knowledge Inuit hold of the Arctic as well as the many environmental and sustainable development issues of concern to Inuit. ICC Canada continues to ensure Canadian Inuit benefit from the international efforts. It is critical to have the Inuit voice and issues heard in international forums.

### **Climate Change**

Climate change is felt around the world, but especially in the Arctic, where the lives of Inuit are directly impacted. Responding to climate change requires an international effort which reflects the understanding that the Arctic ecosystem is the indicator of global environmental health. ICC has prioritized its efforts to ensure the international community understands the urgency of the issue for Inuit.

A part of ICC Canada's work includes engaging and working as a committee member on ITK's National Inuit Climate Change Committee (NICCC) to bring national Inuit priorities and concerns to international settings. A part of that process is to liaise with Environment Canada and participate in policy consultation meetings with Canada's Chief Negotiator and Ambassador for Climate Change.



As climate change is a cross cutting issue, we also monitor and participate in Arctic Council meetings and initiatives relevant to climate change. We review and monitor positions on the views of other International Indigenous peoples, and ensure there is Arctic relevant information in interventions or statements presented at international meetings.



One of the major activities we are involved in includes the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC). Accordingly, ICC has been an active participant for over 10 years in the deliberations associated with the UNFCCC. However in 2011, we were unable to secure sufficient funds to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP17) which was held in Durban, South Africa from 28 November – 11 December 2011.

Nevertheless, in October 2011, ICC took part in COP17 indigenous caucus preparatory meetings of the International Technical Workshop of Indigenous Peoples and States on Climate Change in Oaxaca, Mexico. It was clear from these meetings that indigenous peoples needed to have strong voice at

COP17. As a result, an Indigenous Statement was drafted and ICC ensured there was information on the Arctic including the relevance of the Arctic Council as an example of State and Indigenous peoples cooperation.

With input from the NICCC and other ICC country offices, ICC Canada updated and released the “Call to Global Leaders” document which outlines an Inuit perspective on the challenges of climate change and calls on global leaders involved in the UNFCCC negotiations to take strong action to protect Inuit livelihoods and our Arctic homeland. ICC Canada, along with representatives from Nunavut, met in Nuuk, Greenland to launch an initiative with the World Wildlife Fund’s Global Arctic Programme, The Last Ice Area Project. This initiative seeks to understand Inuit use of the unique area that lies between Greenland and Nunavut.

### **Wildlife and Sustainable Utilization**

ICC Canada has participated in discussions with ITK and regional representatives regarding the 2013 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES is an international agreement between governments aimed to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.



The sustainable use of wildlife continues to be an important priority for ICC Canada which has dedicated resources to respond to the various ways in which this issue is being addressed internationally. This includes the USA polar bear Endangered Species listing process and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Article 10 (Sustainable Use) with a focus on Article 10(c) which states that parties will “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements”.

### **Biodiversity: Convention on Biological Diversity and Access and Benefit Sharing**

The Arctic's flora and fauna and the biological diversity of the region have been a longstanding area of ICC Canada's work and interest. Its involvement in various deliberations associated with the CBD. ICC attended on the Canadian Delegation the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and the Fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in Montreal, November 2011. ICC will continue to work towards developing a CBD Strategy and participating in the CBD COP in India in the fall of 2012.

### **ArcticNet**

As partners in the ArcticNet research program, Inuit have both contributed to and benefitted from research and activities undertaken in this largely coastal research network that seeks to study the impacts of climate change in the coastal Canadian Arctic. Inuit participate and advise on policies and adaptation strategies developed in response to the impacts and opportunities created by climate change in the Arctic.

Following the successful renewal of the program, ICC with other Inuit organizations have been actively presenting solutions to address:

- gaps in knowledge required for decision-makers in Inuit regions and communities;
- the knowledge translation challenges between the research community and the Inuit community; and
- long-term legacy planning of the network after its' formal conclusion in 2018

These and other activities by ICC have shaped an innovative program that highlights the importance of knowledge exchange at all levels.

The recently established Inuit Knowledge Centre (IKC) is an important pillar of the program's legacy that is expected to advance qualified Inuit personnel, expand regional engagement, and the emergence and application of research results for evidence-based decision-making in the Inuit regions.

The ICC Canada-led project "*Integrating and Translating ArcticNet Science for Sustainable Communities and National and Global Policy and Decision-Making*" is determining how ArcticNet science can inform policy decisions in Canada and globally. In partnership with Trent University, the University of Alberta, and ITK, ICC Canada has analyzed of the influence of ArcticNet science on Arctic policy development.

### **International Polar Year**

ICC Canada continued its commitment to the International Polar Year (IPY) program in a number of ways throughout 2011-2012. IPY came to an official close with the 2012 Conference *From Knowledge to Action* Conference held in Montreal in April 2012. ICC was an integral member of the International Steering Committee developing the program for the conference. The Conference was one of the largest and most important scientific conferences for polar science and climate change, impacts and adaptation in 2012.





In addition to being on the International Steering Committee, ICC also supported ICC's chair, Aqqaluk Lynge, in his Plenary address, convened three sessions, organized and ensured the participation of all ICC countries in the forums on mining, oil and gas and adaptation. In addition, ICC lead in the development of the conference's Indigenous Knowledge Exchange Program with events and activities developed by Indigenous peoples to highlight issues of interest to Arctic community members.

### **Circumpolar Flaw Lead Study**

ICC Canada has played a leading role in the Circumpolar Flaw Lead System Study (CFL). Since the study began in 2008, ICC Canada's involvement has included facilitating an Inuit circumpolar youth experience on board the Amundsen, organizing the first ever on board climate change policy workshop with circumpolar Inuit leadership and initiating a community based monitoring exercise that has fed into the broader Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks initiative of the Arctic Council. A particularly important aspect of ICC's work in CFL has been the design and implementation of the Team 10 component of this important study.

The final CFL Team 10 report was delivered in 2011-2012 and sets out the knowledge of changing ice conditions and the impacts on wildlife, hunting and the land in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Guided by a central concept that respects both Western science and Traditional Knowledge, Team 10 developed and used a research process that focused on the belief in the complementary nature of these two knowledge systems.



CFL is based on the premise, "Two Ways of Knowing", which values the contributions of two different yet interconnected modes of knowledge that, together contribute to a greater understanding of the flaw lead system near Banks Island. This concept relies on both scientific studies of the physical environment and the knowledge of Inuvialuit who live in the region. Together, this information helps explain changes to the physical environment and the corresponding impacts on the marine ecosystem and its inhabitants. In this way, this project has been advancing our understanding and approach by bringing together science and Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous peoples to study the Arctic environment.

## Contaminants

ICC Canada is working on a number of forums on contaminant issues with support from the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP). They include national government efforts, particularly the NCP itself, and coordination with the national Inuit organization, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami as well as circumpolar platforms through the Arctic Council, and international ones, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Environment Canada has also supported ICC Canada's work in communicating information on mercury issues.

Nationally, ICC Canada works with NCP on contaminant research. It contributes its expertise in NCP stakeholder consultations as well as consultations and cooperation with other Inuit and aboriginal organizations and environmental non-governmental organizations. Currently, the NCP is preparing the third Canadian Arctic Contaminant Reports on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Mercury, as well as a Highlights Report. ICC Canada has contributed to the development of the reports.



In the circumpolar Arctic, ICC Canada is working within Arctic Council, specifically Arctic Council working groups such as the Arctic Monitoring Assessment Programme (AMAP), and



related expert groups, to advance Inuit interests and perspectives on this issue. Within AMAP, ICC Canada contributed to two chapters of the Mercury Assessment which was published in 2011. ICC Canada further participated in the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) activities, is a SAON Board member, and is co-leading a task proposal for SAON on community-based monitoring and inclusion of local traditional knowledge.

Internationally, a very important platform for ICC Canada's work is the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP administers international treaties on contaminants, including the Stockholm Convention on POPs, its technical body, the POP Review Committee and the ongoing negotiations for a global mercury agreement. These global agreements are crucial instruments to protect the Arctic environment from contamination. It is therefore vital for ICC to have representation and involvement in these treaties which shape international policy directly affecting circumpolar Inuit.



ICC Canada has been supporting the Canadian government with stakeholder comments for the development of the Canadian position at these international meetings, such as the UNEP negotiations on mercury of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) and the Stockholm Convention on POPs. ICC Canada was part of the Canadian delegation to UNEP's INC meeting on mercury held in October/November 2011. ICC also attended the meetings independently as an observer (ICC Canada at INC-1 and ICC Greenland at INC-2 and INC-3). ICC Canada also attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 5) of the Stockholm Convention as an independent observer in May 2011 in Geneva. ICC Canada worked

with other indigenous groups present and made an intervention on the need to include endosulfan in the agreement which the meeting ultimately agreed should be added to the Annex of elimination (Annex A) with time limited, crop-specific exemptions.

NCP funding allowed ICC Canada to participate at the 7<sup>th</sup> POP Review Committee (POPRC) meeting of the Stockholm Convention on POPs held in Geneva in October 2011. We worked with other NGOs on an intervention on the proposed candidate chemical pentachlorophenol (PCP). ICC Canada actively contributes to POPRC working groups, for example by reviewing draft risk profiles of candidate chemicals, and identifying relevant literature sources.

ICC Canada continues to lead a study investigating the use of mercury isotopes in ice cores to determine sources and pathways of mercury to the Canadian Arctic. Results of the study may be used to aid in national and international policy development to reduce mercury levels in the Arctic.

### Health and Wellbeing

Inuit Health and well-being remain a high priority for ICC Canada's work. The Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy, which was approved by the 2010 Nuuk General Assembly, comes out of the work of the Circumpolar Health Steering Committee which was formed in 2008, and reflects the outcomes of the 2009 Yellowknife Pan Inuit Health Summit.

One of the recommendations coming out of the 2009 Health Summit for follow-up was to:

- Document the different experiences in each region to serve as a reference for ICC in its advocacy work at the international, regional and national levels

Accordingly, during 2011-2012, ICC undertook three major research activities, which documents the different health systems; best health practices focusing on mental health, food security chronic diseases and service delivery; and a report on risk communication with a focus on contaminants. These reports contain information from all ICC country regions.

In undertaking its work on health issues, ICC Canada is a member of two human health expert groups within the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP). Part of ICC Canada's work on these expert groups has been to develop a joint working group proposal to gather information and document existing knowledge of food and water security in Arctic. ICC has also been in discussion with the World Health Organization (WHO) to identify appropriate ways for raising awareness on Inuit health issues, including a contribution on a comparison of the four different health systems in the circumpolar Inuit countries to WHO's Health Bulletin.

ICC Canada continues to work toward strengthening collaboration with key national, circumpolar and international stakeholders on the field of health including Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the National Inuit Committee on Health, Inuit Tuttarvingat, Nasivvik, government agencies and the Arctic Council. ICC Canada has also been active in promoting Inuit health on the broader international





stage through its participation on the International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement, and gave a presentation at its meeting in Canberra, Australia in February 2012 about its activities on health.



## ICC Organizational Structure

### Inuit Circumpolar Council

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has flourished since its establishment in 1977. Representing approximately 160,000 Inuit living in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka (Russia), the organization works to ensure Inuit interests and concerns are considered at the international level. Supporting this role, ICC holds Consultative Status II at the United Nations.

The vision which guides ICC's work is the vision of the Inuit – to thrive in our circumpolar homeland and to speak with a united voice on issues of common concern. Through ICC, we combine our energies and talents towards protecting and promoting the Inuit way of life.

The principal goals of the ICC are:

Strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar region

Promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level

Develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment

Seek full and active partnerships in political, economic and social development in the circumpolar region.

ICC holds a General Assembly every four years. The assembly brings together Inuit delegates from across the circumpolar region to elect a new chair and executive council, develop policies and adopt resolutions that guide the activities of the organization for the coming term. The general assembly is the heart of the organization providing an opportunity for sharing information, discussing common concerns, debating issues and strengthening the common bond between all Inuit. The next general assembly will be held in Canada in 2014.

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



### Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Canada

ICC Canada is a non-profit organization led by a Board of Directors comprising the elected leaders of the four land claim settlement regions: Inuvait Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut. The land claims settlement regions provide some core funding. However, raising additional resources is essential for ICC to adequately pursue the objectives of ICC Canada and to implement its initiatives. ICC Canada appreciates the generous donor support it received in 2011-2012 without which the accomplishments of the past year would not have been possible. A list of donors and contributors can be found on page 23

## ICC Aims and Objectives

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

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

- To maintain an ongoing dialogue with ministries of the Canadian government on issues of importance to Inuit in Russia, Alaska and Greenland and to promote rights and interests within Canada.

### **ICC Canada Legal Status and Board Membership**

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

### **ICC Canada Board of Directors**

Duane Smith  
President  
Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada

Kirt Ejesiak  
Vice-President, International Affairs  
Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada

Mary Simon  
Vice-President, National Affairs (ICC Canada)  
President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Nellie Cournoyea  
Chair & Chief Executive Officer, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Cathy Towtongie  
President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Jobie Tukkiapik  
President, Makivik Corporation

Jim Lyall  
President, Nunatsiavut Government

Elisapee Sheutiapik (*ex officio*)  
President, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

Jennifer Watkins (*ex officio*)  
President, National Inuit Youth Council

**ICC Executive Council**

Chair

Aqqaluk Lynge (Greenland)

Canada

Vice-Chair: Duane Smith

Executive Council Member: Kirt Ejesiak

Greenland

Vice-Chair: Carl Christian Olsen (Puju)

Executive Council Member: Hjalmar Dahl

Alaska

Vice-Chair: James Stotts

Executive Council Member: Vera Metcalf

Russia

Vice-Chair: Tatiana Achirgina

Executive Council Member: Elvira Tyunikova

**ICC Canada staff**

Corinne Gray, Executive Director

Jocelyne Durocher, Financial & Human Resources Manager

Carole Simon, Executive Assistant

Pitseolalaq Moss-Davies, Research Coordinator

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

Leanna Ellsworth, Health & Climate Change Officer

Yvonne Moorhouse, Special Projects & Office Administrator

Stephanie Meakin, Science Advisor

## Financial Report

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

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

The accompanying summary financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc., which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2012 and the summary statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. as at and for the year ended March 31, 2012.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated May 24, 2012.

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

#### *Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements*

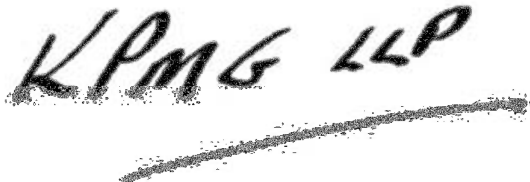
Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described in note 1.

#### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

#### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. as at and for the year ended March 31, 2012 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with the basis described in Note 1.



Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

May 24, 2012 Ottawa, Canada

## INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.

Summary Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2012, with comparative figures for 2011

	2012	2011
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 173,238	\$ 136,106
Accounts receivable	228,345	316,599
Prepaid expenses	16,818	19,056
	418,401	471,761
Capital assets	29,907	18,917
	\$ 448,308	\$ 490,678
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 351,442	\$ 403,581
Deferred revenue	56,250	57,750
Current portion of capital lease obligation	7,362	11,371
	415,054	472,702
Capital lease obligation	22,912	7,890
Net assets:		
Investment in capital assets	(367)	(344)
Unrestricted	10,709	10,430
	10,342	10,086
	\$ 448,308	\$ 490,678

## INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.

Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2012, with comparative figures for 2011

	2011	2010
Revenue:		
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada	\$ 535,724	\$ 482,809
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada	174,055	215,747
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	150,733	202,181
Laval University	135,779	149,048
University of Manitoba	4,915	124,002
Environment Canada	76,730	94,129
Government of Nunavut	75,000	80,370
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	75,000	75,000
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	75,000	75,000
I.C.C. Foundation – (re: Air Inuit – Makivik)	75,000	75,000
Nunatsiavut Government	75,000	75,000
Trent University	53,916	50,000
Ducks Unlimited	–	50,000
Canada Council for the Arts	–	40,000
Natural Resources Canada	–	30,000
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador	–	25,000
Public Works Government Services Canada	–	21,900
I.C.C. Foundation (re: Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and Telesat)	–	40,000
I.C.C. Foundation (re: Pan Arctic Inuit Logistics Corp)	–	10,000
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council	15,000	30,000
Health Canada	77,500	10,000
Government of Northwest Territories	–	5,000
World Wildlife Fund Canada	52,420	–
I.C.C. Alaska	28,582	–
Miscellaneous – charter	–	76,485
Miscellaneous – travel and other	25,177	68,674
	1,705,531	2,105,345
Expenses:		
Salaries, benefits and contracts	824,930	747,257
Professional fees	474,549	600,013
Travel and accommodation	173,754	516,323
Operating costs	70,705	57,643
Communications	54,925	69,368
Office rent	95,534	98,566
Amortization of capital assets	10,878	14,385
	1,705,275	2,103,555
Excess of revenue over expenses	256	1,790
Net assets, beginning of year	10,086	8,296
Net assets, end of year	\$ 10,342	\$ 10,086



## Donor Acknowledgement

ICC Canada is very grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and is pleased to acknowledge the following contributors for fiscal year 2011-2012:

Inuvialuit Charitable Foundation  
Makivik Corporation  
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc  
Nunatsiavut Government  
Government of Nunavut  
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami  
National Aboriginal Health Organization  
Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada:  
    Circumpolar Liaison Directorate  
    Northern Contaminants Program  
    Inuit Relations Secretariat  
    International Polar Year Federal Program  
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada  
Health Canada  
Environment Canada  
ArcticNet / University of Laval  
Trent University  
University of Manitoba  
World Wildlife Fund (Global Arctic Programme)



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