



INUIT

Dear colleagues and friends,

Happy New Year to all!

ICC's objective is to support the interests of Inuit from across Inuit Nunaat in international activities. We speak on issues such as economic development, scientific research, transportation and environmental protection. More importantly we work to put forward Inuit perspectives in international forums on issues of more immediate importance to Inuit, such mental and physical health, education, food security, housing, traditional livelihoods and employment, and opportunities for youth.

We are starting 2015 with our ICC Executive Council Meeting in Nuuk, Greenland on January 13-15 to share Inuit perspectives from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. The Inuit *Kitigaaryuit Declaration* provides us with an ambitious mandate and we will discuss strategies for implementing it in the coming year. We will also take stock of trends, issues and accomplishments.

The New Year will bring new challenges and new accomplishments. ICC will be organizing summits on Economic Development, Education and Wildlife. Canada will conclude its chairmanship of the Arctic Council and the USA will take over with an ambitious new program. ICC needs to ensure that we share the Inuit vision at the upcoming Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit in April, and at several other important events. I look forward to building upon the Inuit network as we search for cooperative solutions to shared challenges.

As always, I welcome your views on matters that might need my attention. As ICC Chair I am honoured to work on your behalf, and on behalf of all Inuit in Inuit Nunaat. My best wishes for 2015.

Aingai,

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

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