

ICC's 12th General Assembly

PROCEEDINGS



Inuvik, Inuit Nunaat • July 21-24,



INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL

12th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Inuvik, Inuit Nunaat

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MONDAY, JULY 21, 2014

Chaired By: Aqqaluk Lynge

Performance

The Inuvialuit Drummers and Dancers opened the Assembly with a performance before all delegates and participants.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White

Welcome by ICC Chair and Call to Order

Mr. Aqqaluk Lynge, ICC Chair and Assembly Chair commenced by welcoming all participants on behalf of the ICC executive council. He thanked the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and all citizens of the Inuvialuit settlement area and the city of Inuvik.

Mr. Lynge recounted 1956 and 1958 meetings between Inuit from different regions of the North including Baffin Island and Greenland as the beginning of a tradition of coming together that continued to be nurtured and expanded today, with descendants of those who first met still participating. Sharing of subsequent meetings had first been achieved through public broadcasting by the Greenland Broadcasting Corporation and now through internet streaming. He hoped that this would enable open dialogue and stated that the coming days would be decisive for a common goal of One People, One Arctic. Mr. Lynge called the Assembly to order and welcomed elder Lillian Elias to deliver the opening prayer.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



Opening Prayer

Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



Ms. Elias conducted the opening prayer and lighting of the Qulliq.

Host and Mayor Welcome

Mr. Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, ICC Vice–Chair, Canada, as host for the Assembly proceedings, welcomed all to the Assembly. Mr. Smith reiterated the vision of One Arctic, One People by stating that the Inuit are a diverse people with nevertheless much in common. He called for a continued and unified effort over the coming four years to ensure communities in the Arctic could adapt to an unpredictable and rapidly changing Arctic, and discussed the need to position Inuit communities, youth and culture to take advantage of the opportunities a changing Arctic might afford.



Photo Courtesy: Hans Blohm

Mr. Smith noted that given the fast pace of change in the Arctic, this may be the most important Assembly yet: First, many countries and industries were now looking north for new opportunities in energy, shipping and resources; second, Inuit communities were facing many health and wellness challenges such as food security, increasing rates of chronic disease and mental health issues; and finally, increasing pressures from beyond the borders of the Arctic – as well as continued threats from climate change, contaminants and anti-hunting pressure from countries, organizations and individuals – presented challenges in sustainably managing resources.

He called on all delegates to work diligently to help solve these problems through discussions and decisions taken at the Assembly. He asked that together delegates, with their extensive collective capacity, expertise, wisdom and memory as well as the knowledge passed down to them by ancestors, must act as ambassadors on behalf of a thriving and unique Inuit society in order to respond to existing challenges, and take advantage of opportunities and new partnerships so as to realize the vision of a unified Arctic with a positive future.

Floyd Roland, Mayor of Inuvik, also welcomed delegates and observers to the Assembly and his home of Inuvik. He spoke to Inuvik’s longtime cultural role as a melting pot of people and ideas, which helped create the Inuvialuit settlement region as the first settlement region in Canada’s north and which thus made Inuvik an appropriate place to come together and examine the future of the Inuit. He looked forward to seeing the finalization of the *Inuvik Declaration* after the conclusion of the Assembly.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



Welcoming Remarks

Speaker: The Honourable Robert McLeod, Minister, Northwest Territories

Minister McLeod thanked the Assembly for the invitation to attend the event and welcomed international and out-of-territory guests to the Northwest Territories and Inuvik. He commented on the critical analysis, strong vision and excellent and important work demonstrated by the ICC on environmental issues, sustainable development and the health and well-being of northern peoples. A balanced approach should be taken to economic development, with the environment a prime consideration.

The ICC and the NWT were working to address many of the same challenges including building healthy communities and family wellness, promoting sustainable resource use and management, and developing community capacity and infrastructure. Minister McLeod was confident that solutions would be found to existing challenges through innovation, perseverance and a commitment to a sustainable north. He encouraged delegates to enjoy Inuvik and part of the Traditional Circumpolar Northern Games that were underway.

Speaker: Ms. Nellie Cournoyea, IRC Chair and CEO

Ms. Cournoyea thanked all delegates and observers for attending the Assembly. She stated that after many years she had met many people and been inspired by the ICC's leadership, and emphasized the need for greater unity among Inuit peoples. Ms. Cournoyea honoured Eben Hopson, the founding father of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, and repeated his message:

Do not forget your land, don't forget your people and don't take it for granted. Do not take for granted people from other countries that will honour your land, wildlife and culture.

Ms. Cournoyea commented that she was pleased to see so many visiting participants including government representatives. She highlighted the increasing interests in the Arctic from beyond its borders, which contrasted with the concerns and interests among those in the Arctic region.

Elders say you may never starve – you may not have McDonalds, but you have your country foods. We must continue to put our circle of support for Inuit in place, things are changing and we need each other very much.

Ms. Cournoyea spoke of the wisdom that the Inuit had passed down including teaching the new generations not to worry, to keep working, to keep their focus and their unity; and not to be



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



afraid of creating wealth for themselves, but to recognize that wealth was not only money, but people and land as well. Ms. Cournoyea indicated that she had hoped to see Prime Minister Harper at the Assembly in order to demonstrate federal government support for the work of Inuit peoples. She welcomed his video presentation.

Speaker: The Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper, General Assembly Patron

By video message, Prime Minister Harper welcomed delegates to Inuvik and to Canada. He stated that the Inuit are an integral part of Canada's past and present and are important to Canada's sovereignty. The Prime Minister noted that the peoples of the Arctic are well positioned to take advantage of the Arctic's economic rise. He concluded by wishing all a successful General Assembly.

Official Website of the 12th ICC General Assembly: www.iccga.com

Introduction of Delegates

The Heads of National Delegations introduced their delegates (see Annex A).

Opening Remarks

Speaker: Ms. Julia Gourley, U.S. Senior Arctic official

Ms. Gourley expressed her appreciation in attending the General Assembly and thanked the IRC and NWT government for their hospitality. She indicated her respect for and pleasure in working with the ICC within the Arctic Council, and the strong leadership of the ICC and Arctic Council, as well as the ICC Alaska. Ms. Gourley noted that the U.S. updated its Arctic strategy in 2009 and then in 2013. The three themes of the American strategy are the security of the Arctic, the stewardship of the Arctic, and international cooperation in the Arctic. She indicated that the associated implementation plan directs U.S. federal agencies to, *inter alia*, map the continental shelf and take action on Black Carbon emissions. She highlighted that a key concern of her government in relation to this work was to ensure that the interests of Arctic Indigenous peoples, and particularly those of Alaskan Indigenous peoples, were taken into account.

When the U.S. assumed Chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2015, its intentions were to increase the profile and appreciation of the Arctic in American society, through internal strategy and through lessons applied in Canada and Finland. She emphasized the importance of consensus within the Arctic Council across its member regions in making decisions, and its reputation as a peaceful and prosperous body. The U.S. was inspired to continue in Canada's direction of further integrating traditional knowledge into the Arctic Council's work.



The U.S. intended to explore in particular lower costs of living and improvements in living conditions, in part through renewable energy infrastructure and water and sewer improvements.

Ms. Gourley indicated that the U.S. continued to collect inputs including those of the ICC in preparation for its Chairmanship of the AC. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, as the American representative for the Arctic (alongside Robert J. Papp, a former Commander of the U.S. Coastguard) would make the relevant announcements at the time of U.S. assumption of chairmanship. The former governor of Alaska, Frank Murkowski, would also be part of the U.S. Arctic Council delegation. Ms. Gourley reiterated that she was honoured to be present at the Assembly and looked forward to working with the ICC.

Speaker: Mr. Igor Novikov, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Russian Federation in Canada



Photo Courtesy: Tatiana Achirgina

Mr. Novikov expressed his pride in representing Russia at this meeting and thanked the organizers for the invitation. He emphasized Russian interest in resource development in the Arctic, which he said makes up about 15% of Russian territory. He stated that 25% of Russia's GDP is from oil and gas and that in 2014 Russia recovered oil for the first time from an ice-covered area offshore. He cautioned that safety was a top concern in recovering oil.

Mr. Novikov noted that the key and core institution is the Arctic Council and that current AC priorities were important including the creation of an Arctic Economic Cooperation Council to foster business development in Arctic. He indicated that Russia had an inadequate legal framework for Indigenous peoples' rights at all levels of government and that this remained to be addressed. He stressed that the key means of protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples was to account for their needs, to help to maintain and foster traditional languages, and to ensure land and traditional hunting and fishing rights were in place. The preservation of the lifestyles of Indigenous peoples depended on those rights and access to traditional resources, as well as accounting for the impact of industrial activities on those rights. Mr. Novikov concluded by welcoming the Chukotkan delegation and expressing well wishes to them.

Speaker: Ms. Anne Hansen, 3rd Vice-President of Inatsisartut of Greenland

Ms. Hansen, Mayor of Mr. Lyngø's hometown and a cabinet member, was also welcomed by Mr. Lyngø. She expressed that it was an honour to speak at the opening of the General Assembly and stated that the ICC General Assembly created mutual awareness and understanding among all Inuit.



She stressed the importance of taking advantage of parallels and opportunities to develop in the directions that all wanted. June 5th marked the 30th anniversary of an agreement between Inuvialuit and the federal government, in which Inuvialuit had obtained formal land rights. She stated that great results had been achieved in relation to calls for development and becoming self-reliant since the time of the agreement.

Ms. Hansen noted Greenland's extensive experience with international cooperation, particularly among Nordic countries, and its long time interest in cooperation in the Arctic and closer ties with other countries. She was pleased that the Greenlandic Parliament had put forward a proposal for greater cooperation between Greenland and Nunavut in areas such as mineral resources and trade. The Premier of Nunavut had visited the Premier of Greenland in July to discuss cooperation including a strategy on polar bears and the EU seal ban. The Greenland Parliament supports ICC Greenland annually and it was now possible to send Greenlandic parliamentarians to meetings. Ms. Hansen hoped that Parliamentarians in other Arctic countries would be sent to meetings as well so as to ensure continued international cooperation.

Ms. Hansen concluded by praising the ICC for efforts on behalf of Indigenous peoples and expressing well wishes for the meeting. She expressed gratitude to the ICC Executive Council for the program and to the ICC Greenlandic presidency for work on important issues.

Keynote Address

Speaker: The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, federal Environment Minister and Arctic Council Chairperson

Minister Aglukkaq was introduced by Mr. Lyngé as the Assembly keynote speaker. She thanked the ICC for the invitation to speak. Minister Aglukkaq emphasized the shared strength of Inuit peoples and their common future, and her desire to be a voice for Northerners. She highlighted the importance of her appointment as an Inuk to the federal cabinet and as the Chair of the Arctic Council since May 13, 2013. She also highlighted the importance of consulting with Arctic peoples, who are the true experts on Arctic issues. She indicated that development was paramount in bringing about the well-being and prosperity of Arctic peoples, but needed to be accomplished without negatively impacting the environment. She announced her plan to establish an independent business body in the Arctic Council so as to promote better economic decision making.



Photo Courtesy: Hans Blohm



Minister Aglukkaq asserted that environmental groups who campaign against traditional Inuit lifestyles are making unscientific arguments on the basis of moral “high grounds” and do not represent Inuit interests. She indicated that Inuit should be asking how they can take control of their own future and that the ICC plays an important voice for Inuit in the Arctic Council as well as the other Permanent Participant Organizations in raising the level of dialogue, including influencing efforts in relation to mental health, language, and shipping assessments, so as to sustain the Inuit way of life.

Minister Aglukkaq pointed out that upcoming challenges the Inuit will face included increased development, shipping, and resource extraction. She asserted that these challenges can be dealt with through the continued leadership, participation, and emphasis on traditional knowledge by Inuit peoples at decision tables in relation to the Arctic’s future. She reiterated her gratitude to the Assembly for the honour of speaking.

Chair’s Report

Photo Courtesy: Hans Blohm



Mr. Lynge delivered the Chair’s Report. He indicated that it had been a great privilege to be part of ICC for so many years and to work closely with many Inuit leaders. He thanked all partners, governments, businesses and Inuit for helping with the decisions and strategies developed in Nuuk 4 years prior. He asked delegates to study the activities report and expressed his gratitude to ICC staff and the many other helping hands.

Mr. Lynge noted the harsh environments in which Inuit peoples live, across four countries that share areas of the Arctic. He emphasized that though some work had been done to implement the *Nuuk Declaration* of 2010, much work remained for the Arctic Council, its working groups and UN working groups, including in

relation to Indigenous peoples’ rights. He acknowledged the work of ICC Alaska and subsequently ICC Canada in coordinating Arctic Council work, and that of ICC Greenland in relation to the UN and human rights.

He discussed the expanded work of the ICC over the years with now a president for each country partner and an expanded Chair role, and his hope that there would be greater ease in communicating across languages in the future between country partners. He offered thanks to the many invitations to speak in regional and international forums.



Mr. Lyngé emphasized that international cooperation by way of the ICC and other organizations was sometimes a fragile balancing act. He referred to *Sila* as “mind, intellect, but also sky and our environment”, noting that *Sila* should be kept in mind as Inuit moved forward.

He discussed the important influence of Inuit in spite of their minority status in each of the four nation states, and the value of the ICC’s work over the years in connecting Inuit who live in remoteness and isolation and teaching all four corners of the world. He stated that the ICC is working for a new and better Arctic for upcoming generations and that new conceptions of traditional occupations had to be developed. He stressed that in the context of the Arctic, which had become one of the world’s most significant areas for economic growth and exploration, development must take place in a sustainable manner, ensuring that the public is fully informed about how industrial activities can impact nature and society. He hoped that the Arctic would remain a territory of peace and that the experiences of the cold war would not be repeated. He stated that all governments, businesses and organizations must treat the Indigenous peoples of the Arctic with respect, and that Inuit peoples should control resource development in the Arctic and should do so as well as possible, as a cornerstone of their ongoing leadership and control over decision making in the region.

If we don’t deal with environment challenges in a new and better way, we won’t have much to control.

Mr. Lyngé highlighted the importance of proper consultations or “free, prior and informed consent”, as asserted by the UN and the ICC, by industry and government planning projects and programs in the Arctic. Consultations must be based on free independent expertise and their language must be clear and easily understandable. Government agents had a duty to act transparently and accountably, and issues in relation to the Arctic should be dealt with on the basis of best practices to this effect. Indigenous organizations such as the ICC continued, importantly, to fight for the rights of Indigenous peoples to this and other ends.

In the context of his discussion on rights, Mr. Lyngé indicated that a key element of rights was responsibility:

We are responsible for the Arctic, our families, our life, and the life of our communities.

Mr. Lyngé again drew on the concept *Sila*. To develop a whole person, “it was necessary to develop an identity within our own *Sila*.” Children and young people had to be educated about identity, including their own history and their responsibility in regard to it, so that Inuit peoples could remain strong and self-sustaining. Mr. Lyngé concluded by noting that the ICC was well positioned and well prepared to play an important role in the new Arctic.

Political Developments

The afternoon sessions comprised discussion on political developments with presentations from Inuit leaders of the four countries. Mr. Lyngé introduced the speakers, as follows: Charlotte Brower, Mayor, North Slope Borough Alaska; Terry Audla, President, Inuit Tapiriit



Kanatami Canada; Anna Otke, Senator, Council of Russian Federation (presentation read aloud in her absence); and The Honourable Aleqa Hammond, then Premier of Greenland.

Speaker: Charlotte Brower, Mayor, North Slope Barrow, Alaska

Ms. Brower began by recognizing the legacy of the founding father of the ICC and past Mayor of North Slope Barrow, Eben Hopson, as well as other prior Mayors and the North Slope Youth and Elders.

Ms. Brower indicated that the Inuit face significant challenges. She described the impact of the 1971 *Alaskan Native Settlement Act*, which, instead of creating a system of reservations, instituted and allocated titles of surface and sub-surface rights to corporations, which then shared their rights by way of dividends. Over 100,000 square kilometers were distributed as Aboriginal lands but these lands had been privatized and were subject to taxation, rather than representing a system of sovereignty for Aboriginal peoples.

If instead Aboriginal peoples could apply for private lands to be returned under Aboriginal title, they would regain lands that are exempt from taxation, and Inupiat peoples would also potentially gain a degree of sovereignty. Ms. Brower also noted that the courts had ruled that the federal government must maintain oversight in relation to subsistence rights, allocating special rights to Aboriginal persons in relation to subsistence fish and game resources.

Ms. Brower indicated that early voting has been instituted in North Slope Alaska, though a lawsuit had been filed in relation to the lack of voting materials in the local language. She discussed tensions in relation to swapping lands for road space or to share rights to oil and gas leases. She addressed a lack of respect and lack of listening by Alaskan governments, industries, and NGOs to Indigenous peoples. When oil and gas development was banned across Alaska, Inupiat partnered with regional corporations and went to Washington to talk to the Minister of the Interior, and succeeded in obtaining a seat on a group looking at the issue. Finally, Ms. Brower reported that the North Slope Port Authority was formed to deal with increased shipping. North Slope Barrow also worked with Slope Barrow and Nome to influence shipping regulations.

Ms. Brower emphasized that Arctic citizens should take a lead in relation to decisions on the Arctic, and that as a unified people they could better impact on policy.

Speaker: Mr. Terry Audla, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Mr. Audla was introduced by Mr. Lynge. He had been born in Iqaluit and raised in Resolute Bay, the son of a relocated family. Mr. Audla began by saying that it was a privilege to stand in the presence of so many distinguished leaders. He noted the increasing realization among both Inuit and non-Inuit of the opportunities that Inuit Nunaat held for economic prosperity in the Arctic; and that Inuit recognized the need to manage these opportunities effectively so as to avoid squandering existing resources.



Development needed to be based on sustainable use of resources, and in his view, the current federal government supported development of the north for northerners.

Inuit had a right to own, use, and develop Arctic resources, which spanned lands nearly the size of India, and that their ability to successfully populate the Arctic and make use of Arctic resources for millennia was now being recognized. However Mr. Audla cautioned that in the global push for Arctic resources, Indigenous peoples must raise a common voice or important steps might be missed. Quoting Frederick Rosing of Greenland, he stated that “Inuit want to carve in rock that we are not anymore an object of history, but a subject.” In particular, Inuit peoples had a responsibility to consider how actions in the Arctic, whether national or international, impacted Inuit and the world and that Inuit peoples must be included in resource development projects that may affect seals, narwhales, or polar bears.

Mr. Audla stressed that through the land claim agreements, Inuit could successfully become equal partners:

Inuit have been and will continue to be stewards of the Arctic.

In Nunavut, Inuit now collected royalties from projects taking place on Inuit lands. Nunavut’s objective was to create improved social well-being for Inuit peoples but to do so at an appropriate pace, with a broad perspective, and using traditional knowledge to develop resources effectively. Mr. Audla expressed appreciation of initiatives such as the Arctic Inspiration Prize to support advancements among Inuit. In ending, he urged the Assembly to recall the purpose of the gathering and the importance of their decisions.

Speaker: Ms. Tatiana Achirgina on behalf of Anna Otke, Senator, Council of the Russian Federation

Photo Courtesy: Hans Blohm



Ms. Achirgina reiterated Mr. Lyngé’s point that Inuit peoples have a unique heritage of which to be proud, and that greater unity between peoples of different regions could be cultivated so as to keep this heritage alive.

She delivered Senator Otke’s presentation, which noted that in the former Soviet Union and now Russia, the rights of Indigenous peoples to preserve their collective identity were not honoured. Under the Soviet Union and Russia, the intention was to build one society, without attention to diverse peoples including the culture of Indigenous peoples. In all cases the State promoted equality, but in reality an equal rights framework was not implemented, including in relation to equal medical and health care for all.

Nevertheless, some improvements were underway in the instance of health care, including forms developed in Chukotka that will register Aboriginal peoples and identify health issues.



Russia was also introducing a forum for NGOs (civil society) and had developed a framework for distributing grants. ICC Chukotka won four such grants which it was able to apply toward preservation of culture including a four-day event and the publication of a manuscript and CD about Chukotka elders. Some communities won some of those grants as well. Nevertheless, Chukotka was challenged by a deficit budget and a lack of adequate jobs in the public sector, an economy largely based on mining with little diversification, and a need to expand social support measures. The region had faced environmental degradation and now the loss of Indigenous languages. There were some areas of respite – Canadian mining companies were providing funds to Indigenous organizations, for instance – but in general, Chukotka Indigenous peoples were not beneficiaries of subsurface resources.

The presentation concluded by expressing appreciation for the longtime diplomatic role, and important and valuable work, of the ICC.

Speaker: The Honourable Aleqa Hammond, (then) Prime Minister of Greenland

Prime Minister Hammond noted in her introductory comments that the first meeting of the ICC in 1977 preceded Greenlandic home rule by only 2 years. She highlighted the central importance of Inuit human resources and capital in advancing the position and capacity of Inuit peoples in Greenland, and the rapid pace of change in the country. This rapid transformation had been accompanied by social problems including drug and alcohol abuse, and much higher suicide rates; as well as successes including a strong education program that was seen as addressing social issues and contributing to a self-reliant economy, and improved counselling in early education and psychological counseling directed towards youth that have fallen out of the education system. Prime Minister Hammond indicated that in the midst of increasing pressures on the climate change and mineral development fronts, among other pressures, Greenland had to prepare for a large retiring population over the coming 20 years.

The Prime Minister stated that Inuit Nunaat was rich in natural resources but that these resources should benefit the local people. At the heart of Inuit culture and identity was the preservation and conservation of living resources. The Prime Minister hoped for future economic growth through greater activity by the Greenlandic government in the mineral resources sectors; and for Greenlandic peoples to have a more influential role internationally. She noted that the meetings of the international whaling commission were important for Greenland in regard to Greenland's participation in quota decisions.

It was important that Inuit stand together, and they could and should do much more together. Greenland and Nunavut, for instance, were working to increase cooperation that began in the 1980s. Best practices could be shared and joint cooperation could be explored elsewhere in North America. Greenland needed to prioritize use of its own infrastructure, such as Greenlandic ports, to allow for direct trade between Inuit.



Photo Courtesy: Hans Blohm



The Prime Minister stressed the important role of Inuit territorial leaders in transforming challenges into opportunities, together with the present and future AC Chairs and others. She indicated her hope that Inuit voices would be strongly represented at the September 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, particularly on the EU seal ban on which it was important to coordinate and dialogue. In her view, the international community was prepared to hear the voices of Arctic peoples today.

Mr. Lynge announced the final speaker of the day, Nunavut Premier Peter Taptuna.

Speaker: The Honourable Peter Taptuna, Premier of Nunavut

Premier Taptuna thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Lynge for the invitation and expressed appreciation in seeing Minister Aglukkaq, the other premiers, and the many distinguished Inuit leaders at the Assembly. He stated that the Government of Nunavut supported the ICC.

Premier Taptuna reflected on the importance of addressing mental wellness in the Arctic, which is a priority of the Government of Nunavut and the federal government. Given the remoteness and isolation of Nunavut communities, education was critical for ensuring individuals were prepared for employment opportunities and for reducing poverty; and mental wellness was a vital concern, with over 30% of those under 18 having mental health issues and Nunavut having one of the highest suicide rates in the country.

Federal and territorial governments had to work together in overcoming challenges in the Arctic, with 90% of Nunavut revenue coming from the federal government and Nunavut also seeking private sources of capital. Key industries in Nunavut included mining, tourism, harvesting and a growing fisheries sector with 200 seasonal jobs that has still to realize its full potential. Nunavut continued to promote sealing in spite of challenges to this industry. He felt that a significant part of the ICC's work was to ensure prosperity for Inuit peoples and looked forward to dialoguing in the next two days.

Closing of Day 1

Mr. Lynge presented the ICC Financial statements and closed Day 1 of the 2014 General Assembly.

All delegations met in caucus rooms to discuss the day's events and a cultural performance was delivered in the evening.



TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014

Chaired By: Duane Ningaasiq Smith

Opening Dance

The Qikiktagruk Northern Lights Dancers from across Alaska performed at the opening ceremony. The dances they performed had been shared with children in school by Inupiaq elders in 1973 and those children eventually performed at the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) in Anchorage, Alaska, since which they had performed under their present name, the Northern Lights Dancers.

Mr. Duane Smith welcomed The Honourable Bob McLeod as Tuesday's keynote speaker.

Speaker: The Honourable Bob McLeod, Premier of the Northwest Territories

The Premier began by stating the commitment of the Government of the Northwest Territories (NWT) to sustainable development in the territory, noting that responsible development required strong partnerships between key stakeholders including Inuit organizations.

He reported that on 25th June 2013, the government of the NWT and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) signed an agreement to provide Northerners with more control over their resources, with a transfer of control formalized as of 1st April 2014.

Premier McLeod discussed the eagerness of his government to meet with IRCs and others through the new Intergovernmental Council on Land and Resource Management that now supported cooperation by Northern leaders in relation to management of lands across borders. He explained that there was up to a 25% share of resource revenues from public lands set aside for Aboriginal governments to build their capacity, and that formal negotiations on oil and gas development in the Beaufort Sea area would provide economic opportunities for NWT residents. The NWT government was, however, aware of the social, cultural, health-related, food security-related and other impacts arising from increased petroleum exploitation. The NWT police, hospitals, social services, and others had to be enhanced to serve these needs. The NWT was also interested in the devolution of off shore resources, as well as sustainable development, support for industry, local participation, and environmental protection.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



The Premier was pleased by the AC's efforts and successes in promoting traditional ways of life and benefiting both Inuit and non-Inuit residents of the North, and looked forward to more such work for the NWT. He thanked and acknowledged ICC Canada President Duane Smith for all his work and extensive travel, and thanked Minister Aggluqaq, Ms. Cournoyea, and Mr. Lyngé, noting that the federal government had assisted with a road project to connect remote places. He wished all ICC members continued success over the next four years.

Session 1: Broadening the Scope of Arctic Governance

Photo Courtesy: Hans Blohm



Mr. Smith opened the first session of Day 2. He indicated that the ICC's mandate included monitoring and representing Inuit interests in international governance mechanisms. The dramatic rise of interest in Arctic matters had resulted in a proliferation of existing and newly-created bodies implementing initiatives and making decisions that impacted upon the governance of Inuit Nunaat.

The Arctic Governance panel speakers discussed the importance of various international bodies in the context of how the ICC should influence and participate in their work, bearing in mind the human and financial resource implications. The speakers were asked to focus on the Arctic Council, the Arctic Five (in its various manifestations), the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the UN General Assembly High Level

Plenary on Indigenous Peoples known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples which took place 22-23 September 2014 in New York, the UN Human Rights Council (in particular its Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Arctic Circle, and other relevant Conventions. GA delegates were asked to consider where the ICC should focus its attention and how.

Speaker: Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough, Chair, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

The first panelist and speaker of the session, Dr. Sambo Dorough stated that the ICC should focus its attention on ensuring participation within the three indigenous mechanisms and the World Congress on Indigenous Peoples, and on sustainable development goals, regarding which Inuit views were important. Education in biological diversity and human rights was important to support such participation and the ICC could support training to this effect.

We need to demand and maintain participation in the Arctic Council, especially in relation to the Law of the Sea. The ICC should also focus on expanding on biological diversity and human rights education training at all levels, especially among the youth.



Dr. Sambo Dorough discussed her work with the UNPFII on principles of good governance and listed principles in relation to governance of Aboriginal peoples, including equity and inclusiveness, accountability, consultation and consent, respect of human rights and the law. A draft of the principles was in progress that was expected to inform the UN system and influence states to take action. The Arctic Caucus would continue to play a crucial role and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples would move dialogue forward.

She noted that the ICC was able to play an influential role in relation to the draft and could make recommendations to focus on all rights mentioned in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (DRIP). The ICC was able to influence the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) as well as having an influence on the work of the AC owing to its respected role as a Permanent Participant. Dr. Sambo Dorough called for a coordination meeting to create a joint statement about all three mechanisms, with the primary message to governments that they properly acknowledge different statuses and use the phrase “Indigenous peoples”. The concepts of indigenous self-government and autonomy should be raised in the context of the UN. Finally, she referred to the important Arctic-related claims that had been made by all 5 Arctic states in relation to the UN *Convention on the Law of the Sea*, including by Canada. All of these issues should have the attention of the ICC as the risks were high and potentially devastating to Inuit ways. She stressed that equitable development discussions were necessary and the Inuit must be vigilant to defend their land and resource rights in the Arctic.

Dr. Sambo Dorough noted that at the 1977 founding meeting, ICC founder Eben Hopson recognized the rights of homelands, the rights to cultural heritage and linkages between rights and lands and resources, genetic resources, knowledge and expressions. Today, the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* should be read in the context of all rights including labour rights, rights to prior informed consent and to traditional lands and resources, all of which were aimed at safeguarding Indigenous peoples, with established principles creating legally binding obligations. In her view, safeguarding fundamental human rights was the reason for the existence of the ICC.

Language contains memory of 4000 years of survival. Language contains intricate knowledge of ice that we have seen no others to demonstrate. – Dr. Sambo Dorough, repeating the message of Eben Hopson, ICC founder

Dr. Sambo Dorough stated that the ICC, with always increasing access to engaged and dynamic thinkers among the Inuit including young Inuit, was well placed to contribute to efforts at the UN and other international fora:

The ICC is well placed to do work at the UN and other international fora. There is no shortage of intellectual capacity and young Inuit are emerging and preparing for engagement, some of whom are in this room.



Speaker: Ms. Sara Olsvig, Chairperson of Arctic Parliamentarians and leader of Greenland's Inuit Ataqatigiit political party

Ms. Olsvig, the second panelist to speak, expressed her pleasure on behalf of the Standing Committee of Arctic Parliamentarians (SCAP) to be invited to the Assembly. SCAP had been established and held its first conference in 1993, and was an observer to the Arctic Council. SCAP conferences directed statements to Arctic governments in both the AC and the European Union. For its upcoming conference in Whitehorse, SCAP aimed to address sustainable infrastructure development, governance, decision making, capacity building, and environmental challenges.

Ms. Olsvig reported that SCAP shared the view that the Arctic Council should be a main collaborative forum of the Arctic and that development in the Arctic should be led by Arctic peoples. She raised the issue of diversification, asserting that the focus on development should be extended to industries other than oil and gas, such as fisheries and tourism, including particularly eco-tourism, and that these and other areas should be the subjects of legally binding agreements between the AC and governments to safeguard the interests of future generations. Ms. Olsvig said that among things that Arctic peoples had in common are natural living resources, and Arctic peoples should be able to exercise clear rights in relation to these resources. SCAP believed that the Arctic must be developed with attention to human rights and strong strategic frameworks for education, capacity building, research, and health, emphasizing mental health.

Ms. Olsvig stated that there was a need for a strong civil society representation and otherwise diverse perspectives in relation to Arctic issues. It was imperative to ensure the Arctic regions remained peaceful and avoided militarization, so as to protect human life and the environment. SCAP supported the theme “one Arctic, one future” for Arctic peoples and the Arctic environment.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



• Questions and Comments from Session 2 Plenary •

Mr. Smith noted that both speakers asked for enhanced participation of ICC in UN and AC, and that they had identified the need to increase ICC's capacity to be more engaged internationally. He stressed that Inuit and other indigenous peoples are representing peoples and are an Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) (versus a non-governmental organization) with a vested interest in the well-being of a whole culture and with people who depend upon it for a voice.

The following issues were raised by delegates through the plenary discussion:

- The high importance of information sharing
- The need for greater participation by Indigenous peoples in domestic and international decision-making including a strong Inuit voice and leadership in the development arena
- Education and capacity building especially of children and youth on human rights, self-governance in relation to domestic legal frameworks, and Indigenous peoples' rights (e.g. UNIP), including implementing and enforcing international law and states' reporting obligations to the UN
- The importance that action was taken to enforce legally binding agreements
- The intersection between rights and needs (e.g. revenue sharing and placement of monies in trust to build wealth, enhancement of wealth, housing) – to achieve sustainable *and* equitable development
- The need for Inuit peoples to work cooperatively and collectively toward unity, and for collective Inuit aims to be achieved through the work of the ICC, which has a seat on the UNPFII
- The need for greater cooperation between elected government representatives across the Arctic, such as through a working group or Indigenous Parliamentarians' Council
- The need for stable representation of Inuit voices in standing committees and other fora
- Greater attention and awareness raising needed regarding environmental protection; there were concerns relating to poor environmental protection planning in Alaska in relation to offshore drilling in the Chuckchi sea
- Increased participation by youth including at future ICC GAs
- A suggestion that ICC work alongside federally recognized tribes in Alaska, who have no seat in the AC, to support their causes and provide a needed voice
- A suggestion that the ICC provide shadow reports to the UN to ensure that Arctic concerns were heard in relation to human rights

Session 2: Health and Wellness

Mr. Smith introduced the second session entitled *Health and Wellness*. The health and well-being of Inuit underpinned all other objectives that Inuit and their organizations aimed to achieve. This panel explored matters such as food security, health outcomes in Inuit populations, the status of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy, relevant work of the Arctic Council, and the impacts of other circumpolar health initiatives for Inuit.



Panelists were asked to convey their area of specialty to Inuit delegates, and to share how they believed ICC can best serve its constituency on matters of health and well-being.

Speaker: Minnie Grey, Chair, ICC Health Steering Committee

Ms. Grey provided an overview of activities completed in support of the 2010-2014 ICC Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy, presented at the 2010 General Assembly in Nuuk. The Strategy's objective was to improve Inuit health and wellness across the Arctic. Its development was complemented by a pan-Inuit Summit on health and wellbeing, held in July 2009 in Yellowknife with the participation of numerous Inuit health experts.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White

The Strategy's 5 goals were to:

1. Influence international, regional and national policies and programs and understand their impact on Inuit health and wellbeing

The ICC had advocated in relation to health issues outlined in the Strategy, including in support of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in relation to the addition of harmful chemicals to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and in relation to the *Declaration on Resource Development Principles*, including the effects of resource development on Inuit health.

2. Improve awareness of Inuit health and wellness across the Arctic

Awareness raising activities included a web-based *Atlas of Community-based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic* that displayed health best practices, and the production of several reports by the Committee including *Health Systems Serving Inuit Communities Across the Arctic* in 2011, *Circumpolar Inuit Health Priorities: Best Health Practices and Research* and *Food Security across the Arctic* in 2012.

3. Encourage greater focus on Inuit health and wellness through the ICC's representation at international fora

The ICC participated in Arctic Council working groups and committees on topics such as environmental monitoring, marine shipping, sustainable development, and human health. ICC was the Indigenous Co-Chair for the Arctic Council's Arctic Human Health Expert Group during the Canadian chairmanship of the Arctic Council, and delivered interventions at United Nations Permanent Forum meetings on health-related issues.



4. Support improved understanding by health professionals of Arctic/Inuit specific issues

ICC reached health professionals, such as through published articles in the International Journal of Circumpolar Health and a case study on the right to food security for the 2013 Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice Conference in Dublin, Ireland. Other efforts noted above also contributed to achieving this goal, including creation of the web atlas.

5. Promote research to improve Inuit health and wellness

The ICC participated in International Polar Year; in the ArcticNet program in Canada; in the International Union for Circumpolar Health; in Arctic Council health expert groups; and as ICC co-lead on Arctic Council projects, such as development of best practices in mental wellness and resilience to address suicide and cancer among circumpolar Indigenous peoples. ICC continues to work through the Northern Contaminants Program Management Committee.

The 2010-2014 Circumpolar Health Strategy remained relevant, however mental health, housing, education and training, service delivery and youth were suggested areas of focus over the coming four years. A communication strategy was needed to ensure that health messages and information on Inuit health remained high on ICC's political agenda. The Steering committee would work with Inuit leadership more directly in bringing those health messages to and from communities and regions, as part of its advocacy work.

The Committee recommended that the ICC continue advancing and building knowledge of Inuit health and well-being issues through relevant bodies and processes and reviewing achievements made in relation to the 2010-2014 Strategy. ICC should also continue to identify emerging health issues and gaps, and promote strategic initiatives through a 2014-2018 Implementation Plan for Inuit Nunaat in partnership with national, circumpolar, and international partners.

Ms. Grey delivered a heartfelt memorial to Dr. Eric Dewailly who tragically passed in Madagascar earlier in 2014:

Eric shared with Inuit a respect for the marine world, whether it was sailing on it or working to understand marine processes; he truly enjoyed the sea. Maybe it was his French background that also enabled Eric to share the same enthusiasm for food that Inuit have. He understood the importance of traditional country foods and the spiritual connection, the value of hunting, preparing and sharing food with family and community, that goes far beyond the nutritional value.

Eric always pushed new ideas and ensured his research would help Inuit. His early work was instrumental in showing that Inuit in the Arctic are exposed to contaminants that are used in southern latitudes - a finding that ultimately led to the creation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Eric continued to research how Inuit health is affected by contaminants, which was not only important in the development of regional health advisories, but also in international negotiations to add new contaminants to the Stockholm Convention, or in negotiations for a global agreement on mercury (the Minamata Convention was adopted last year).



Just before his death, Eric planned new studies to support ICC's work in the technical Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention on POPs, as well as important baseline measurements for the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The ICC and Inuit will greatly miss Eric, his sincerity, wonderfully entertaining presentations, complete knowledge, tireless work ethic, and great sense of humor. He will leave an empty space in the Arctic research community, and in our hearts, that can never be filled.

Speaker: Dr. Gary Ferguson, Director of Wellness and Prevention at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Dr. Ferguson discussed the linkage between dental decay and chronic disease on one hand, and store-bought foods on the other. He encouraged more thinking on local food sourcing, comparing iron content in seal meat and beef, benefits of salmon and seal oil in terms of glucose tolerance, high-antioxidant berries and fire weed leaves in terms of vitamin C, and high-nutrient dense northern greens. It was important to document and share knowledge of traditional medicines.

Speaker: Mr. Thomas Anguti Johnston, President, National Inuit Youth Council, Canada

Mr. Johnston was pleased to have been asked to speak on Inuit health on behalf of the NIYC, which is comprised by 7 Inuit youth from across Canada. The NIYC represent Inuit youth on federal boards whose work impacts on youth, and in 2013 developed a strategic plan focused primarily on health-related priorities including suicide prevention. NIYC is concerned about a lack of adequate services for troubled and suicidal youth.

Let us not sweep these lives under the rug, let us help them, heal and help to heal and continue to show the resilience of Inuit.

Mr. Johnston also emphasized the importance of education and mentorship on sexual health for youth, and the need for comprehensive improvements to the education system in Inuit communities, where drop-out rates are high and where Inuit are still not able to complete a full primary education in their own language. He concluded by reiterating the need for Inuit to work together to ensure healthy Inuit communities.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



Speaker: Ms. Martha Lund Olsen, Minister of Family & Justice, Greenland

Ms. Olsen discussed her Ministry's focal points for social services including family centers, sexual abuse, adults suffering the after effects of sexual abuse, and violence management. She referred to high rates of sexual abuse in Greenland and the link between suicide and sexual abuse, and to the high rates of violence in the country.

The number of children and adolescents with serious difficulties remains so high that... it is essential to create a socially sustainable community that intensifies the effort to break the negative social legacy.

The Ministry aimed to achieve closer collaboration between social services, family centers and crisis centers. Efforts and research were underway to better understand and address the phenomenon of sexual abuse, and a comprehensive strategy and treatment plan were being implemented to address violence.

Speaker: Galina Zagoruiko, Medical Nurse, Chukotka



Photo Courtesy: Tatiana Achirgina

Ms. Zagoruiko discussed alcoholism as the leading cause of death in Chukotka. She stated that as of 2003, a multidisciplinary college with a veterinary and medical school was established in Chukotka and internships existed in regional hospitals. Living costs and education for all students were financed under the regional budget, with 15 people graduating in the prior year and 18 preparing to graduate in the present year. Students had the option to choose where they would like to work, and many went back to their communities. Ms.

Zagoruiko thanked Ms. Cournoyea for her hospitality and for organizing the event.

• Questions and Comments from Session 2 Plenary •

There was a great deal of interest in this session from delegates. The following issues were raised:

- Broad agreement that mental health is one of the most difficult issues faced by Inuit peoples and required the most courage to address. Mental health should remain a priority, with appropriate and accessible resources



- Families needed tools to apply on a daily basis when family members were unwell; family centers and family physicians and councillors should be made available to meet actual need

- The need to look at the root causes of mental health challenges:

Two men were fishing, they see a body floating by, and pull him out and resuscitate him. They soon see more people floating by, they are trying to help all but cannot. One of the men goes upstream. When asked why, he says it is to see why the people are falling in the water in the first place, because we can't save all of them this way. – from Melanie, delegate who asked about mental health treatment centers

- The need for alternative language in describing mental health, such as “soul wellness”
- A strong focus should be on children’s needs, including in light of high rates of sexual and physical abuse and child neglect; and on elder needs and elder abuse, on the other hand
- More attention was needed on physical abuse and drug abuse and what could be done locally to solve these challenges. More information sharing was needed between Inuit on this subject, and efforts to draw more attention to the successes of Inuit role models and mentors
- The relationship between mental health challenges and identity crises among youth, and the need to discuss suicide more openly
- Health and well-being should be explored and addressed in the first instance at the community level. Traditional knowledge and values, spiritual enrichment, arts such as drum dancing, as well as traditional justice processes, continued to be important sources of wisdom from which to draw solutions and make change; there should be more dialogue on this and more sharing of wisdom by elders with children and youth
- It was important to ensure communities and individuals remain economically viable so that individuals did not need to move to larger centers for employment
- Communities should look at all levels of the person, not just physical health - mental health, emotional health, spiritual health where there is a great need among Inuit communities
- The lack of proper information and knowledge on nutrition and food sourcing
- The ineffectiveness of incarceration in advancing healing and well-being
- The importance of identifying the strengths in communities, so that communities could build on what is already there, rather than analyzing only weaknesses and shortcomings in communities
- It was suggested that the Health Committee gather and share knowledge and information on a regional basis

...[S]exual abuse and child neglect is a generational issue. Each and every one of us can affect this in our community. It is our responsibility... – Charlotte, Alaska



Side Event: Actions on Circumpolar/International Health-Related Issues

Facilitator: Ms. Eva Kruemmel

This lunchtime event, facilitated by Ms. Eva Kruemmel, ICC Canada, showcased examples of activities around health-related issues, and included feature presentations, a demonstration of the community-based monitoring (CBM) web-atlas, and the launching of the mental health project map. Posters, reports and other material explaining ICC health-related work were on display.

Speaker: Natan Obed, Director of Social and Cultural Development, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and Chair, National Inuit Committee on Inuit Health (NICoH)

Mr. Obed shared that the NTI report on the Inuit Health Survey, released in February 2014, provided an Inuit perspective on the Survey, which was the largest Inuit health research project ever to happen in the Nunavut Settlement Region. The concept of Inuit self-determination in research was a central discussion point within the report. The recent Nunavut Social Development Council reports, released by NTI, such as reports on language and on children and youth, all were interrelated, especially in relation to improving health outcomes. He noted that these reports were an obligation of Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The NTI's report discussed the governance model, the partners, the funding, and the process surrounding the Survey, as well as the key outcomes related to contaminants, well-being, and physical health. For instance, the Inuit Health Survey had found that nearly 70 per cent of Inuit households in Nunavut, or over eight times that Canadian average, were food insecure. This was among the highest documented food insecurity rates for an Indigenous population in a developed country. Food security had very real implications for physiological and cognitive child development. Mr. Obed also referred to the relative safety of most country foods, but noted the currently high mercury levels in Ring Seal Liver.

Mr. Obed noted that one of the greatest frustrations of NTI's involvement in the NIHS was how the Nunavut data had been accessed, summarized, and distributed by NTI's academic partners. In some instances, NTI was not informed of research undertaken on Nunavut data, or else it was provided with the related research findings and in most instances, communities were unaware of the findings related to the secondary uses of data and were not given an opportunity to understand the findings. Multiple attempts had been made by NTI to track secondary outputs, but the list was still incomplete and frequent changes in the core academic research team created confusion and lack of accountability to other partners. Now, the process had stabilized and a Memorandum of Understanding was imminent between NTI, McGill, and the Government of Nunavut regarding the NIHS.

In reference to the issue of Inuit self-determination in research, Mr. Obed highlighted the NTI report's discussion of the successes and challenges of the Inuit Health Survey.



Compliance with OCAP principles (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) and other commonly agreed upon ethical obligations must be followed in Nunavut like the Canadian Institutes of Health Research 'guidelines for research involving Aboriginal people' and the guideline set out by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research for research involving Aboriginal people. It was NTI's experience that many of these practices existed on paper only. Research involving Inuit had not always been ethical and there were particular experiences that had left a lasting impression on communities.

NTI planned to advocate for additional layers of control over research in Nunavut. NTI had instituted the 'requirement of research agreements' before partnering with academics, and required that all research in Nunavut proceed in compliance with the Tri-Council policy statement regarding ethical conduct for research involving humans. Exercising greater control over research meant that researchers should anticipate being asked to enter into Partnership Agreements; that fundamental changes to the Nunavut Licensing System are needed, with NTI playing a stronger role in the screening of and licensing of research project proposals submitted to the Nunavut Research Institute; and that Inuit must be trained as researchers – NTI sought opportunities to form academic partnerships to support this vision.

Mr. Obed discussed in some detail the advantages of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Model for research review and its potential for adaptation for Nunavut, particularly as it related to social, cultural, and health research.

Mr. Obed emphasized that research was a means to an end:

We need evidence to systematically evaluate our health status, [...] to advocate for change, and to inform our interventions. We work in partnerships to harness the best possible capacity in the academic community to learn more about our health status in a respectful and useful way. We demand true partnership at all levels in regard to our data and the way it is summarized and published. Good research partnerships lead to meaningful research results that respond to Nunavut's realities and build long term capacity in Nunavut.

Speaker: Dr. Reiner Arndt, International Chemicals Expert, former Chair of the POPs Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention on POPs (persistent organic pollutants)

The next panelist, Dr. Arndt, discussed POPs, their use for products such as pesticides and flame retardants, their characterization as persistent due to very slow biological/chemical/photochemical degradation, and their distribution around the planet through a process called global distillation. Dr. Arndt explained that after global distillation POPs could be found in cold regions in small concentrations in water, air or soil but they particularly accumulated in living organisms. Adverse effects could be found among people and animals in the Arctic regions such as behavioural changes and immune dysfunction, through contaminated food, for instance.



Dr. Arndt referred to the International Negotiation for a Convention to regulate POPs, which entered into force in 2004 and was binding for signatory countries.

Within the Stockholm Convention there had also been an attempt to regulate produced POPs (industrial, pesticides) and unintentionally produced POPs. He said there was an effort to enact life cycle management of POPs including banning production, use and trade; release reduction; management of stockpiles and waste; and cleaning up of contaminated sites. He also spoke to the mechanism by which new POPs are listed.

There were efforts to measure POPs in remote regions like the Arctic so as to identify new POPs and determine the effectiveness of POP regulation. These programs would measure concentrations in air, water and soil, and in organisms. The POPRC (POP Review Committee) assesses information on POPs in organisms in remote regions and inputs by people affected by POPs, like the Inuit, are important in informing the work of the RC.

Speaker: Ms. Leanna Ellsworth, ICC Health Officer

Ms. Ellsworth advised that Inuit health and wellness had been a major priority for ICC action since 2006. In 2008 the ICC formed a Circumpolar Inuit Health Committee and in 2009 it hosted an Inuit Health Summit, as discussed, leading to the development of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy. One of the major activities of the strategy was to document the different health and wellness experiences in the ICC countries. In 2012, the ICC completed a report on Circumpolar Inuit health priorities, best health practices and research, focusing on four health areas: Service delivery, chronic disease, food security and mental health and wellness. Ms. Ellsworth noted the variety of inputs by each country. Findings from Canada focused most strongly on mental health and wellness. The report recommended wider information sharing of this information.

In November 2012, the ICC, the Exchange for Local Knowledge and Observations of the Arctic (ELOKA), and the Inuit Qaujisarvingat: Inuit Knowledge Centre (a Centre under Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami) launched a two-part initiative focusing on community-based monitoring and traditional knowledge, as part of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON).



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



The goal was to ensure that community-based monitoring and observations based on traditional knowledge would be part of the broader discussion of Arctic observing methods and modalities, and integral within global coordination networks and efforts. SAON was initiated based on a request from the Arctic Council to respond to a need for more information and better coordination and availability of data/observations about the Arctic. Ms. Ellsworth referred again to the web-based atlas, which also had a traditional knowledge element. There were currently 80 community-based monitoring and traditional knowledge initiatives included within the atlas including citizen science, traditional knowledge studies, on-going and community-led monitoring among others. The content partners that helped identify projects for the atlas included the European Commission, NORDECO, Arctic Ocean Observing Systems (AOOS) and Alaska Sea Grant.

The atlas and web platform had been expanded in 2013 to include community-based health programs, with a focus on mental health and wellness initiatives. This fell within a larger theme of community-led observation and response to ongoing environmental and social change. Ms. Ellsworth announced the official launch of the Inuit Mental Health and Wellness map. Overall, in Canada there were 30 projects and 31 initiatives recorded, in Greenland 4 projects and 3 initiatives, in Alaska 10 projects and 45 initiatives, and in Russia 1 initiative, for a total of 124 projects and initiatives. The map continued to be developed further and an open request was made for any information on CBM and mental health and wellness initiatives that could be added to it.

Session 3: Sustainable Resource Use and Management

Mr. Smith opened the session by reiterating that the sustainable use of living resources had always been the backbone of Inuit culture, food security, and economic sustenance. International actions and policies, such as the European Union's seal product import ban, impacted the ability of Inuit to pursue traditional livelihoods. The ban and litigation related to the ban had drawn greater attention to sustainable use of renewable resources.

The panel discussed the ban, reflecting on lessons learned for directing ongoing Inuit policy on other sustainable use areas as well as how Inuit currently participate in, and how they could improve their input on, bodies such as the International Whaling Commission, NAMMCO, and CITES. Panelists considered how Inuit could collaborate on matters of sustainable use in particular and how the ICC should implicate itself in this area; and considered the possibility of a major pan-Inuit wildlife conference to promote Inuit interests.

Mr. Smith introduced the first panelist, Mr. Leif Fontaine.

Speaker: Mr. Leif Fontaine, Chairman of KNAPK, Greenland

Mr. Fontaine expressed his gratitude for being able to address the delegates and brought greetings to fishers and hunters throughout the Arctic. KNAPK, established in 1953, is an association of fishermen and hunters in Greenland whose focus is on sustainable utilization of



Greenland natural living resources. Its 70 member branches represent most communities in Greenland and over 2000 fishermen and hunters. KNAPK promotes and lobbies government on sustainable natural resource use and regulations in this area.

Mr. Fontaine stressed the need to return to subsistence food consumption. At present, access to and utilization of traditional foods was limited, and the emphasis on importing food from outside countries resulted in higher CO2 levels, was costlier, and brought fewer health benefits. A shift to traditional foods might be achieved by imposing taxes on outside food and subsidizing traditional food items, and enabled further through the supplying of traditional foods through modern marketplaces in towns and settlements. Best practices in hunting and fishing should be established, and sustainable use issues and hunting and trading methods should be included in all school curricula. Mr. Fontaine also reiterated the notion that Inuit culture is based on what nature provides.

Mr. Fontaine indicated that in spite of an exemption for Inuit sellers to the seal product ban, a poor information campaign in Europe prevented stores from taking advantage of Inuit sellers, resulting in the destruction of the Inuit sealskin trade. KNAPK aimed to address this in cooperation with fellow Inuit and with the Greenland and Danish governments.

KNAPK was currently strongly against extraction of fossil fuels, with some exemptions possibly on land, so as to protect commercial fishing areas and sea mammals. No precautionary measures had been enacted in the event of accidents or spills. As a priority, land areas, oceans, lakes should be mapped and registered to help regulate mineral explorations. Second, terms should be developed, including clean-up protocols, in the event of accidents, on the basis of consent and agreement of all stakeholders including hunters and fishermen whose livelihoods may be seriously impacted – prior to continued exploration and development. For instance, seismic testing should be halted until further research into its effects was completed. Many products and chemicals used in the EU and U.S. produced high concentrations of POPs which had negative health impacts on humans and animal life, and the extent of toxic risk should be investigated before approvals are given. Third, representatives of hunters' organizations proposed the creation of a board with a majority Inuit representation to examine the issues.

Mr. Fontaine closed by stating that addressing current changes in the climate, the environment and the living conditions of animals required cooperation between communities in adopting sound and organized resource management practices, policy, and legislation. He hoped to see greater knowledge sharing between hunters in Arctic regions as well as continued cooperation between Arctic people so as to help move all of these issues forward.

Speaker: Ms. Vivian Korthuis on behalf of Mr. Myron Naneng, President, Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)

Ms. Korthuis delivered Mr. Naneng's presentation in his absence. She thanked the delegates for the opportunity to present the work of the AVCP in relation to sustainable use and management. The AVCP was in its 50th year and had been created to help the settlement of



land claims in Alaska. Ms. Korthuis noted that the majority of Alaskan (indigenous) communities continued to rely on subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering.

The geographical area in which AVCP functioned had seen many advances in the protection of wildlife. The area is an important migratory bird nesting ground and has the largest king salmon run in Alaska. A Goose Management plan had resulted in sustained migratory bird management; a Moose Management plan had since 1990 resulted in higher populations of moose; and a fish commission and tribal salmon management plans were now addressing declining salmon stocks.

When all is said and done we want to make sure that right decisions are made keeping children's future protected. If we take care of our fishing resources, they take care of all of us.

Ms. Korthuis noted that many needs remained to be addressed. In the Bering Sea, greater monitoring of fisheries and resources was needed to prevent depletion, and a tribal seas fishing management council was envisioned so as to reduce the impact of increased shipping on the fisheries. Climate change was seen as causing more extreme storms, loss of sea ice, and changing vegetation, impacting the subsistence of local communities. Long-term planning was necessary.

Mr. Smith announced that Mr. Larry Carpenter could not attend. In his place, two Inuvialuit youth engaged in studies with biologists on beluga shared reflections on their work:

Speakers: Ms. Catherine Snow and Ms. Kayla Hansen-Craik

Ms. Snow spoke about the benefits of the Inuvialuit land claim and management system and the role that the system played in research and Inuit policy making. The goal of the 1984 Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), as the first comprehensive land claim agreement for the Canadian Arctic, had been to preserve Inuvialuit identity and to protect and preserve Arctic wildlife and biological productivity. She discussed the structure of IFA, which comprises 6 hunters committees, a game council, advisory councils, and a fisheries joint management committee; each community has a hunter and trapper committee, and each game council appoints members to the co-management committees. Many conservation efforts had been initiated in relation to IFA including the Inuvialuit and Inupiat of Alaska agreements on polar bears and caribou herds. Ms. Snow appreciated the opportunity she had had to become qualified for a research position and to bring traditional knowledge to her work on Hendrickson Island.

Ms. Hansen-Craik spoke about co-management research as a system that allowed all to work together in research and management, nationally and internationally. With the IFA's crucial role of ensuring the sustainable use of wildlife, efforts had been made to support research and a community based monitoring project with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for beluga whales – a pivotal species for Inuit culture. This project had created one of the largest datasets on any marine mammal.



The Inuvialuit communities continued to work with DFO to deliver the mandate and to ensure a sustainable ecosystem. Capacity building and training were important ongoing components of the work and provided opportunities to learn about management and science. The program allows youth to work on science and research and to learn how to build research programs.

While in high school I was part of a joint fisheries management youth program, and this sparked my interest in this area and allowed me to stay home and work on this rather than having to leave my community to work.

Attending delegates raised the following issues in response to the panel discussions.

• Questions and Comments from Session 3 Plenary •

- The importance of remaining locally food sourced and self-sustaining
- Problems with shipping, which was disrupting the main denning areas for marine animals in the Northwest Passage – the ICC was asked to look into this further
- The need to determine risks to wildlife before engaging in seismic testing, such as was planned in Baffin Bay, and other similar exercises
- The importance of integrating traditional knowledge into research projects and processes
- Challenges with governments' recognition of subsistence rights
- Challenges with costs of power and the possibility of sharing knowledge on alternatives to ensure continuation of traditional hunting methods
- Observations on the increasing knowledge around and evidence of environmental changes – some examples were discussed including changes of migratory routes and low walrus counts between Alaska and Russia

Mr. Smith concluded the session by stressing the need to understand the bigger picture, and for Arctic Indigenous peoples to collaborate in research and knowledge sharing.

Mr. Jim Stotts, President of ICC Alaska, commented further on the EU seal ban. He noted that the ICC took the position that the EU should not be allocated observer status in the Arctic Council unless and until the EU was prepared to assist Inuit peoples in regard to the seal ban.

The delegations left for caucus meetings and an evening reception, sharing of gifts, and cultural performances.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014

Chaired By: James Stotts

Session 4: Arctic Economic and Resource Development

Photo Courtesy: Hans Blohm



This panel, opened by Mr. Stotts, focused on the many variables that impact on economic development of the Inuit Nunaat (homeland). Resource development policy and practice and sectors including fisheries, shipping, employment, and conservation of the environment continue to evolve. New extraction initiatives and resource-sharing models have come into play, though with as yet unclear effects on Inuit communities. ICC

had dedicated significant resources to non-renewable resource development in the Arctic over the prior four years. As a result of a mandate given to the organization at the 2010 General Assembly in Nuuk, an Inuit leaders' summit was held that led to *A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*. A follow-up Inuit leaders' summit on Arctic resources had been contemplated.

Panelists and GA delegates were asked to consider what collective path Inuit peoples should embark upon in terms of economic development, employment, and conservation of the environment, what role should ICC have in these ventures, and whether ICC should plan for an Inuit Economic Conference. Mr. Stotts urged panelists and delegates to broadly consider the many opportunities available to Inuit with regards to development: resource development (renewable and non-renewable), training, employment, and infrastructure, and what guidance was needed with regards to development, while protecting culture and the environment.

Speaker: Mr. Rex Rock, President, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Alaska

Mr. Stotts welcomed Mr. Rock of the ASRC. ASRC is the largest for-profit corporation in Alaska, holds title to some 5 million acres of Alaska's North Slope, and has nearly 11,000 Alaska Native shareholders. Mr. Rock highlighted the benefits of renewable resources, as well as non-renewable resources such as oil which have brought in tax dollars and job opportunities. Mr. Rock indicated that Alaska had produced over 17 billion barrels of oil and that the state was dependent on and would suffer without further oil extraction. The ASRC partners with industry in oil and gas development. He noted that the ASRC welcomed, and the Arctic needed, appropriate infrastructure to carry out projects.



He emphasized the peaceful and cooperative nature of Inuit society and supported the ICC in bringing Inuit together and creating a voice for their representation in the world.

Speaker: Kuupik Kleist, Member of the Greenlandic Home Rule Parliament

Mr. Kleist, former Premier of Greenland and now a sitting MP, was introduced by Mr. Stotts. He thanked the delegates for the opportunity to address them. He referred to the extensive interest and attention being given to development in the Arctic, and the need to take account of obstacles and challenges such as a lack of infrastructure, limited information sharing within Arctic, varying regulations and methods of land and resource management across jurisdictions, limited economic opportunities and the continuing isolation of communities from one another.

Mr. Kleist highlighted the need for investment and capital across the Arctic so as to support education as a first priority, followed by infrastructure, technology, and health care. A common Arctic news channel was also needed, as were more opportunities for youth. He also stressed the importance of Inuit leadership in decision making in regard to resource use, and thought that there should be equal use of both living and non-living resources. Mr. Kleist noted that Greenland's approach to resource management and development differed from the approach taken by Alaska as defined by Mr. Rock. He felt that there should be a unified way of dealing with non-living resources.

Mr. Kleist recommended that the ICC have a conference on the Inuit economy and the ICC's role in this context. He stressed the importance of Inuit becoming more knowledgeable about international (economic and political) development policies and plans in regard to the Arctic. He emphasized the vital place of culture, art, and country food for Inuit culture and the need to be able to trade food within countries.

Mr. Stotts introduced Ms. Okalik Egeesiak, former President of the Qiqkitani Inuit Association (QIA) which administers the land claims process for the Baffin region of Nunavut.

Speaker: Ms. Okalik Egeesiak, former President of the Qiqkitani Inuit Association (QIA) and incoming ICC Chair

Ms. Egeesiak stated that in a context where media constantly highlighted mining and fishing development in the Arctic, QIA's mandate ensured that any development must account for Inuit cultural values. She discussed QIA's efforts to consult with communities in Nunavut on what kind of projects they want to see and how these should benefit them.



Photo Courtesy: Hans Blohm



A key issue had been the extraction and shipping southward of resources. Inuit were concerned about a repetition of the poor style of oil and gas development that occurred in the Arctic 30 years ago. Ms. Egeesiak gave examples of how projects could work by using the regional community and lands resource committees. She pointed out that QIA helped to stop seismic testing, was in negotiations with government to create a marine protection area, and was working with AANDC on strategic environmental assessments. Ms. Egeesiak noted the need for infrastructure and deep sea ports that would enable Inuit to take advantage of renewable industries. The region has three national parks and there are several conservation areas that could also support an emerging tourism industry.

...[T]he days of the Inuit being passive observers to what happens on their land are dead and buried...

Ms. Egeesiak suggested that the ICC become a body for knowledge and information sharing. Given that Inuit societies shared the aim of a bright economic future and because solutions may differ by regions, there was a need to create network to share what worked and what did not. She agreed with Mr. Kleist on the need for a common TV channel.

Ms. Egeesiak concluded by emphasizing that Inuit would be in the Arctic for the long term, that Inuit visions had not changed since contact, and that Inuit communities should continue to aim for long-term cooperation and a healthier world.

Speaker: Lloyd Visser, Vice-President of Environment and Sustainable Development of ConocoPhillips Canada



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White

Mr. Visser expressed his thanks to be speaking to the Assembly and shared the work of his company, which extracts oil and gas in the Athabasca oil sands and in other jurisdictions including the Arctic.

Mr. Visser referred to the disparate geography of the Arctic and noted that it was difficult to deliver services to areas safely and respond to emergencies quickly. From a market perspective, the remoteness and lack of pipeline infrastructure impacted on the ability to deliver resources to major markets such as Asia or the southern U.S. He discussed obstacles to ensuring appropriate

and specialized infrastructure that meets environmental standards in a fragile environment and that mitigates permafrost degradation. He pointed out the extensive unrecovered oil and gas available in the Arctic and outlined the industry approach to becoming an operator in a new region: The operator must establish sources and then look at the feasibility, community input, environment and economics.



Mr. Visser noted that projects tend to take longer in the Arctic owing to challenges such as lengthy timelines, so it was important to maintain a presence to look for opportunities for engagement. In his view, it was important for companies to engage communities early and build capacity to support sustainable development when the time is right. Project timing was important and could be adjusted to work with seasonal hunting and the design of the site could be altered to blend in with landscape, while benefits would arise from taxes, royalties and career opportunities. Mr. Visser emphasized the value of dialogue and the importance of the knowledge of community members.

• Questions and Comments from Session 4 Plenary •

Mr. Stotts invited comments from the panelists and statements or questions from delegates. Panelists and delegates raised the following issues:

- Communication was a high priority in enabling cooperation in economic development:
 - There needed to be ICC guidelines on communications and better information sharing in general between Arctic communities
 - There was a need to identify, understand and share the consequences of resource development and the expectations and desires of communities, as well as realistic options for economic development
 - Knowledge sharing was particularly vital in helping newer or poorer communities make the best decisions, but all benefited from sharing information and experience
- In regard to consultations:
 - Consultations should not only occur between Inuit and external parties or governments, but should also occur within Inuit communities
 - Consultations should occur prior to major decisions are made and before any work has begun
 - Consultations should include all communities that may be impacted by development activity, not just those that are immediately geographically proximate to activity
 - Development should be agreed to on terms set by communities
 - It was important to appropriately ensure that elders and all community members understood and appreciated the terms of agreements made between communities and industry or government
 - Appropriate timing and local readiness for and understanding of impacts of development were critical factors prior to engaging in development
- Education was critical, including the integration of Indigenous traditional knowledge
- The importance of involving youth in learning, decision-making, and change
- There were formal Inuit economies and informal, hunting and trade-based economies, both of which should be legitimized and accounted for in framing any discussion



- Environmental concerns were repeatedly stressed: In particular, it was vital to protect the oceans and waterways which would provide long-term sustenance and which represent the culture and social identity of Inuit peoples
- Offshore drilling was concerning to a large number of delegates, and inadequate attention had been given so far to prevent and address oil spill risks
- In regard to seismic testing and activity:
 - Consultations in regard to seismic testing had been inadequate in many communities and this should be addressed
 - There had been very little study of the impacts of seismic work on sea mammals apart from initial learning on the changes to bowhead whale migration paths. One delegate noted that marine mammals are abundant in areas where seismic work is planned. Multiple delegates asserted that activity should cease until further understanding was gained of the potentially significant negative impacts.
- Other points related to environmental protection included concerns that environmental pollution from oil and gas extraction in the sensitive Arctic environment were not being adequately addressed, development practices were not sustainable, there were no effective means of appropriately disposing of waste produced by mining and other development, and Arctic communities should not hold low standards in terms of taxation and protection of the environment
- In terms of benefits and disadvantages/risks of resource development in general:
 - In terms of offshore development, risks to the Inuit were very high and financial gains negligible
 - Inuit should be asking about the benefits of every individual development initiative and should be benefiting financially from all resource development
 - There should be quotas for hiring of Inuit by companies engaged in development projects
 - Delegates discussed instances of both success and failure in terms of seeing communities benefit from development
- The need to share experience of developing and selling food and other resources locally
- The desire for more information sharing on how to raise funds to advance concerns and interests within civil society
- The suggestion was again made to set up an Inuit economic conference and an Inuit Business Council, and Inuit economies could be a common theme of the ICC; delegates agreed that a conference on Inuit business and economy was needed in the coming few years
- Through the ICC, Inuit or Arctic peoples could find a common voice and identify common aims and priorities

Our Inuit TK makes us aware of what is happening in the region. I grew up with my parents in an Igloo. I have been aware of developments in region, and have travelled. Whether it is an Inuk or white man, we need to work together. We have done damage to our land already, let us stay aware of the need to protect whatever we have left of our land. – Maria Agglukak, Canadian elder



During this period, Mr. Stotts directed the drafting committee to consider integrating plans to increase communications and to focus on education, among other matters.



Side Event: Traditional Knowledge and Western Science

Co-Facilitators: Ms. Carolina Behe, Ms. Pitsey Moss-Davies, and Ms. Parnuna Egede

GA delegates were asked to consider how Inuit knowledge of the Arctic could best be combined with the knowledge of Western scientists; the role the ICC play should play in promoting Inuit traditional knowledge; and how Western science could be drawn upon to the benefit of Inuit peoples. The panel examined the tools for and challenges of developing, managing, accessing, storing and communicating both western and traditional knowledge; it highlighted the complementarities between the two forms of knowledge and examined barriers in their successful mutual application at the point of decision making.

Speaker: Mr. Willie Goodwin, community elder from Kotzebue, Alaska, elder for ICC-Alaska

Mr. Goodwin shared that it was important for Inuit to find a way to utilize both traditional knowledge and science to their advantage, and that both have a role to play in understanding the potential impacts of development. Without consideration of traditional knowledge and the direct involvement of traditional knowledge holders in research, scientists would not truly understand what was occurring within the Arctic environment. In addition, along with increasing interest in the Arctic came the potential for an increase in the competition for use and for more potential regulations on Inuit; increases in regulation, such as on seal hunting, would result in an increase in food insecurity.

Speaker: Ms. Lene K. Holm, social scientist, Greenland Climate Research Centre

Ms. Holm shared information on some of her work on the co-production of knowledge, such as in relation to climate change and biodiversity. The co-production research approach had been discussed by senior representatives of UNESCO in 2012, and the conversation had evolved now to best practices. The co-production of knowledge entailed a participatory approach to research and placed the role and knowledge of the traditional knowledge holder and the scientist on equal ground.

Speaker: Moshi Kotierk, Social Science Researcher, Government of Nunavut, Canada

Mr. Kotierk shared that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Hunting strategy recognized and supported the primary role of Inuit harvesters. The involvement of Inuit and traditional



knowledge in resource management was not special treatment, but rather a natural part of government-to-government relations.

Speaker: Dr. Lisa Loseto, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Central and Arctic Region, Government of Canada

Dr. Loseto shared the importance of communication and trust between traditional knowledge holders and scientists. To establish this trust it was important to recognize that these two sources of knowledge could not be translated into each other. Traditional knowledge holders were needed to explain, analyze, expand, etc. concepts derived from traditional knowledge, just as a biologist was needed to explain information or biological data. In her work, both traditional knowledge holders and scientists worked together to decipher observations; and a network of traditional knowledge holders and scientists was being nurtured in order to provide a holistic understanding of the research.

Audience and Facilitator Remarks

Audience members discussed the importance of Inuit participating on management boards; that traditional knowledge was not learned in a book but must be learned through experience; and that continuous monitoring was part of traditional knowledge methodologies, which continually evolved.

The facilitators noted that the ICC puts a high priority on advocating for the use of traditional knowledge. Education on this was important. Research processes should engage traditional knowledge holders from the conception of research questions through to analysis of information gathered and there must be an equal knowledge exchange and equal engagement with both traditional knowledge holders and scientists. The asked delegates to consider what else the ICC might do in this regard.

ICC Traditional Knowledge Definition

With an understanding that there is a need to utilize both sources of knowledge – TK and science – in Arctic research to better inform decision-making, it was important to first come to a consensus on what TK is. The ICC offered the following definition:

Traditional knowledge is a systematic way of thinking applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and spiritual systems. It includes insights based on evidence acquired through direct and long-term experiences and extensive and multigenerational observations, lessons and skills. It has developed over millennia and is still developing in a living process, including knowledge acquired today and in the future, and it is passed on from generation to generation.



Under this definition, TK was seen as going beyond observations and ecological knowledge, offering a unique 'way of knowing' to apply to research processes and which would ultimately inform decision makers.

Session 5: Capacity, Infrastructure, and Sustainable Communities

Mr. Stotts introduced the 5th session of the General Assembly.

As the Arctic changed, the capacity of its Inuit communities needed to be sufficient and appropriate to adapt in sustainable ways. This panel looked at the benefits and impacts of Arctic infrastructure to meet community needs, such as ports, roads, and commodity supply routes, as well as the role that energy plays in building sustainable communities.

The Arctic had changed and would continue to change at a rapid rate. Inuit needed the resources to be part of this change, but at a pace that supported and sustained the Inuit way of life. Infrastructure development was needed that helped build sustainable communities. The capacity of Inuit communities needed to be sufficient and appropriate, along with technologies and infrastructure. The panel looked at this major, cross-cutting question, but focused on matters such as ports, roads, broadband, commodity supply routes, and on the role that energy – in all its dimensions – plays in this process. GA delegates were asked to consider what the top priorities were for infrastructure development in Inuit communities and what role the ICC should play in promoting sustainable Inuit communities.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White

Mr. Stotts introduced the first panelist, Ms. Denise Michels, who presented by video message. Ms. Michaels was the first Inuk and the first woman to serve as mayor of Nome, Alaska.

Speaker: Ms. Denise Michels, Mayor of Nome, Alaska

Ms. Michaels stated that, with the Bering Strait being the only way into and out of the Arctic from the Pacific, development of ports and harbours was needed and overdue to support continued development. She stated that Alaska should follow the leads of both Russia and Canada in investing in emergency response services given increased shipping, increased resulting port calls, and the potential for accidents. Boat safety and compliance checks were needed to prevent drug smuggling that may already have started. New energy sources were being examined and implemented to create alternatives to diesel in Nome including wind and geothermal energy. The Alaska Energy Authority was working to create an energy plan.



Ms. Michaels noted that local communities needed to be prepared for continuing change and responsiveness as other countries planned development in the Arctic. Nome was advocating for a greater coast guard presence as well as a two-way shipping lane. She stated that in order to assist in implementing Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenue sharing, communities needed to cooperate and focus on solutions.

Mr. Stotts thanked Ms. Michaels and reflected that across the rest of the Arctic outside Alaska, many of the same concerns existed in regard to shipping.

Two delegates from Alaska also spoke in response to Ms. Michaels' presentation. One delegate noted that Alaskan towns were in agreement on issues of shipping and the need for consultation; that other mayors would like to create an Arctic Safety Committee and other committees related to mammals, and hunter and fishermen, and that mayors and others needed to work together; and that the U.S. should ratify the UN *Convention on the Law of the Sea*. A second delegate agreed on the need to build capacity and infrastructure, but stated that communities needed to be mindful at the earliest stage of whether the infrastructure benefits industry or government or local Inuit; and that infrastructure was needed not only for industry and government needs but also for communities, who should be part of all cost-benefit analyses.

Speaker: Ms. Sarah Leo, President, Nunatsiavut Government

Ms. Leo was the next speaker. Ms. Leo expressed that it was an honour to represent her government at the Assembly.

Ms. Leo noted that Nunatsiavut was in period of transition, undergoing community growth and expansion, and she referred to a recent Inuit lands claim agreement in Nunatsiavut. She highlighted the extensive effects of climate change: with significant ice decline in Northern Labrador, over a recent winter the ice was unsafe, people could not secure wood and homes could not be heated. The lack of snow meant a lack of insulation and pipes burst in many homes, and there had been days when the planes could not land safely.

In this context, the status quo in community planning was no longer sustainable or responsive. Communities in Nain had come up with the Sustainable Community Initiative, which integrated climate change considerations including a food security strategy, hazard assessment, sea ice classification, climate change adaptation plans, air quality monitoring, and a housing strategy that was awarded the Arctic Inspiration Prize.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



Ms. Leo discussed a housing crisis as one of the biggest challenges Nunatsiavutmiut faced. A 2002 housing needs assessment showed significant need in terms of repairs and overcrowding, and currently the warmer temperatures were causing houses to shift and require more repairs. A recent housing risk assessment to evaluate critical housing issues, causes, and possible solutions, had been initiated just prior to the General Assembly. A workshop was held in Nain with housing experts who designed a unit that fulfilled the needs of Nunatsiavutmiut. Presently, the Nunatsiavut Government was building the first sustainable multi-unit dwelling to determine whether it was adequate and could be replicated across Nunatsiavutmiut.

Ms. Leo referred to a survey finding that food insecurity was prevalent in Nain. Nevertheless, efforts were underway to counter this: The Nain Research Centre had designed new food programs and a pilot social enterprise program had been started to increase the production of char fisheries, so as to help increase nutrition locally; and a program entitled *Growing Off, Growing Strong* had enabled pairing up between harvesters and youth



Photo Courtesy: Hans Blohm

at risk, who help to harvest, prepare, and deliver food to places where it is needed. The youth also help in building smoke houses, general community volunteering, and running the community freezer, and they have movie nights. She indicated improved mental wellness among youths and families and a drop in suicide rates since the program's outset.

Speaker: Ms. Martha Abelsen, Chairperson of Kanukoka, Greenland

Ms. Abelsen was the final speaker on this panel. Ms. Abelsen stated that she looked forward to being part of the ICC's incoming Executive Council for next four years, that it was important that Arctic peoples share their experiences, and that she hoped that the ICC could be increasingly used for this purpose.

Ms. Abelsen discussed the advantages of living in small towns scattered over large areas of land and what was needed to ensure sustainable long term communities across Greenland, including infrastructure, harbour facilities, development of trade, widespread use of new information technology, and cooperation between individuals and communities. Consultation of communities was vital for success. Efforts were underway in Greenland to increase community capacity and sustainability, including providing children with technology in schools.

Ms. Abelsen highlighted the migration to larger towns in Greenland due to a lack of permanent jobs in smaller towns and villages, and the resulting shortage of housing. She emphasized that employment was needed in smaller settlements, as well as developing or revitalizing small-scale industries and factories so as to ensure communities can survive in the longer term. Ms. Abelsen closed by stating that Greenland shared many similar issues with other countries and regions and that she hoped all could work together to create results in the near future.



• Questions and Comments from Session 5 Plenary •

Mr. Stotts invited comments from Assembly delegates on the Capacity, Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities panel discussion. The following issues were shared:

Delegates across several countries agreed that housing was a paramount issue:

- Funding was needed, whether from government or from tribes or communities, to ensure stable housing for children, youth and elders in particular who suffer the most from poverty and lack of housing
- A delegate from Greenland noted mould and crowding as major housing issues; there was a lack of financing to rebuild, a need for housekeepers to be trained and for people in general to learn how to avoid household mould; and legislation was needed
- A delegate from Russia noted that transportation and food security were very important but the major challenge was housing in her area and was the reason young people leave the community
- Housing difficulties in Canada were linked with social challenges including unemployment or seasonal or underemployment, and lack of engagement of or benefit to communities by mining companies, who hire employees from the South

Education on these issues was important to advance solutions. One Greenland delegate noted that climate change had been obvious from the community perspective, with hunting affected by ice melting, and migration to larger centers. He stressed that young people had to go away to get education and to better understand how to function in the current global context, so migration was a reality; but that nevertheless it was important to continue learning to respect and to live in a sustainable way. Young persons had to learn about sustainable living and Arctic peoples needed to cooperate to bring all this together.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White

A Russian delegate was from a small town that had been resettled without consultation with the community's elders, and was in an area with poor hunting and problems with drinking water; consultation was important in relation to resettlement

There was a need for an economy that enables self-sustaining smaller communities

In terms of supporting youth and families:

- In response to a question on how early communities should start in order to prevent problems among children and youth, Ms. Leo indicated that in Nunatsiavut, a "Headstart" program was underway as well as work in daycare



centers, councillors in schools, and there was a mental health department; youth programming was vital

- Ms. Grey, ICC Health Steering Committee, also responded to a request to discuss family centers. She noted that communities had a shared desire that children would become self-sustaining and independent, that it was time for people to take back ownership over their lives. More self-empowerment programs were being developed in communities. It was hoped that family support centers would be developed that would be attached to the health care system to help children who suffer from alcohol abuse and to keep families together. Financed search and rescue programs were needed in Canada

○ Delegates appreciated that in spite of their geographically dispersed homelands, Inuit or Arctic peoples shared similar problems and should work on solutions together

○ The need to be unified in a common voice was reiterated several times

○ An Alaskan delegate noted that many small villages along the Bering Sea and main rivers have a school, store, housing, adults, children, elders, and are a majority Indigenous and so share much in common. However the villages cannot reach one another apart from through air flight, when the weather is stable. A flight school now trains pilots, who are Yupik, Inupiat, and Athabaskan, however funds are needed to continue operating the school and funding student dorms.

○ A delegate from Alaska discussed the approach taken in her region to overcoming the cost of energy, through collective purchasing of power; she stressed that the people could become the partners and corporations who are engaged in providing services and sharing skills with one another, whether construction, shipping or otherwise – taking ownership of the business or industry – rather than jobs going to outside contractors. Proactivity was important.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White

○ Renewable resources were cited as important alternatives to diesel that should be explored, including wind, hydro, and sunlight. Bulk buying should be considered.

○ The importance of local training and hiring by industry: An Alaskan delegate referred to a zinc mine that had a majority of local hires and also trained locals to become tradesmen.

Mr. Stotts summarized the above points and the delegates left to resume their national caucus meetings. Delegates were provided with a program celebrating Inuit culture in the evening.



THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014

Chaired By: Carl Christian Olsen

National delegations met in caucus in the morning. The opening ceremony saw a Greenland Cultural Performance. The morning started with a video of the ICC Executive Council visiting Chukotka. Mr. Carl Christian Olsen (Puju) opened and chaired the sixth session, on responding to environmental challenges.

Session 6: Responding to Environmental Challenges



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White

The panel session related to existing environmental challenges: As already noted, life in *Inuit Nunaat* has been changing at a rapid pace in recent years, driven largely by changes in the Arctic environment. Along with many opportunities for economic growth in resource extraction, tourism and shipping come numerous environmental challenges that directly affect Inuit. The ICC continues to represent Inuit concerns with regard to climate change adaptation, mercury contamination, pollution from shipping, disruption to sea mammals, and other environmental challenges as they arise. For example, the ICC closely

monitored and contributed to the development of the 2013 *Minimata Convention on Mercury*, a new multilateral agreement that addresses specific human activities which are contributing to widespread mercury pollution.

The ICC is an active participant in the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, contributing to the working group's projects on climate change adaptation, Arctic Ocean acidification, identifying Arctic marine areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance as part of the *Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment IIC*, and assessing the levels of mercury and other contaminants now found in the Arctic.

Panelists provided updates on the latest information regarding these environmental matters and the negotiations taking place to mitigate difficulties. They and the GA delegates were asked to consider what priorities ICC should set for responding to environmental challenges, to which international fora and negotiations should ICC dedicate financial and human resources, and which fora should be monitored from a distance rather than through direct participation.

Mr. Olsen opened the session and introduced the first speaker, Mr. Reggie Joule.



Speaker: Mr. Reggie Joule, Mayor of Northwest Arctic Borough, Alaska

Mr. Joule discussed the reality of and the need to address climate change. Climate change had created the conditions, such as significant ice meltage, which had led to the Arctic's becoming a global focus for transportation, for mineral or non-renewable resource development including off-shore development, and by which the Arctic had experienced uncertainty in relation to local food sources and erosion of beaches and sea barriers. He provided statistics on development of oil and gas to date, and the enormous undiscovered gas and oil reserves remaining on Arctic lands and offshore. He noted that the region's own corporation had a gas license, which it was hoped would help with energy needs in the future.

He spoke of the continuing increases in transit through the Bering strait, including tanker, tourism, and passenger vessels, and the need to ensure safe shipping, so as to protect commercial and subsistence natural resources.

Mr Joule discussed President Obama's creation, a year prior, of a national task force on climate change preparedness and resilience to provide and advise the federal government on how to respond to needs of people and communities through the effects of climate change. Mr. Joule was a member of the task force. The President had also directed federal agencies to: modernize programs to support climate resilient investments; manage lands and waters for climate impacts and resilience; provide information, data and tools for climate resilience; and plan for climate change related risks. The Indigenous representatives of the task force, with state support, held webinars to share information on the content of each subgroup with Indigenous groups across the countries, and accepted inputs and recommendations by email from participants for sharing with the task force. Major issues for Alaska included food security and life and health safety.

Mr. Joule shared that at meetings at that level, other participants were frequently unaware of the urgency for Arctic peoples in addressing major questions. Mr. Joule had raised the issue of Arctic climate change at task force discussions. Nevertheless, he concluded by stating that at the highest levels of government, "things are happening; the head is out of the sand."

Speaker: Dr. Søren Rysgaard, Prof, University of Manitoba, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources

Dr. Rysgaard began his presentation by stating that the ICC, in many ways, was ahead of science in studying sea ice and climate change. He discussed current evidence that the temperature in the Arctic was 2 degrees warmer, that sea ice is getting thinner, and that the effect of storms was increasing the amount of open water, creating more wind and waves, which creates a positive feedback cycle. Ship traffic in the Arctic was increasing and the Northwest passage use made it necessary to know the extent of sea ice, as did extensive oil and gas development.



Dr. Rysgaard explained the unpredictable motions of ice bergs and glaciers within the Arctic and continuing risks, for instance, in relation to oil industry activities and shipping and transportation.

He explained that if oil was spilt it would go up under the ice, and primary producers (algae and bacteria) in the food chain would be negatively affected as they absorbed it in the spring. Importantly, it was impossible to see oil under ice through remote imagery, and to date there was inadequate knowledge on how to clean up a spill like this. Efforts were underway to determine how to detect and then clean up oil in these conditions, if this was possible. However, spill management tools for a changing Arctic were not yet fully tested and were in need of development.

The next generation also needed education to ensure safeguarding of the environment, and the legal framework needed attention. Dr. Rysgaard noted that international laws fell short in covering oil transportation and development in the Arctic and needed to catch up to development.

Speaker: Mr. Jobie Tukkiapik, President of Makivik Corporation

Mr. Tukkiapik was introduced and also introduced his fellow executives within Makivik Corporation, the legal representative of Quebec’s Inuit people. He thanked the people of Inuvik for their hospitality, and noted his appreciation for the event and its significance. Mr. Tukkiapik explained that he was primarily a hunter and saw his work as a politician as his “side job”. Mr. Tukkiapik described the region of Nunavik, with Kujuuak as its administrative center, and referred to the 2 land claims agreements signed by the Inuit of Nunavik, as well as other agreements made with neighbouring Cree and Inuit.



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White

Mr. Tukkiapik found that a major element of his communities’ needs going forward was a secure land base that allowed Inuit to hunt for food, transfer their knowledge of the land, and enjoy culture and use of language. He no longer used the word “traditional” – “because we must not focus on things of past but on defining who we are as a people now.” With industrial development ongoing and mining in particular, there were now requirements under the land claims agreements for projects to make impact and benefit sharing agreements, which would ensure that impacts were minimized and benefits maximized. Makivik was working on mining policy, which Mr. Tukkiapik stressed was important for industry. He referred to the ICC’s adoption of a resolution on responsible resource development.



Mr. Tukkiapik stated that the greatest challenge was the impact of climate change. Shifting ice conditions, warming trends, fluctuating salt water regimes, and melting permafrost were disrupting Nunavik communities. One community in Nunavik was particularly affected, as melting permafrost and erosion were deteriorating buildings and causing communities to abandon community expansion plans and to consider relocating. Conditions had degraded airport runways and become very problematic for air transportation, so crucial in Nunavik as there are no road networks. In Kuujjuaq, bushes and trees had grown to larger sizes than ever and in places where they did not grow previously; Kuujjuaq and the wider region had their first heat wave in 2014. New species were arriving and thriving in their region and the food sources of indigenous wildlife were changing, with caribou greatly impacted. It was increasingly more difficult to protect and predict areas of hunting. Nunavik was working to help determine whether ice conditions were safe, and the Makivik Corporation had received funding to work on identifying safe ice travel routes.

Although the ability to adapt had been a defining characteristic of the Inuit as a people, a tipping point was being reached. Efforts were needed to slow the rate of climate change. The ICC was now a leading voice in the charge on a petition of a violation of human rights resulting from global warming. Governments needed to weigh in. The Canadian government and many provincial governments were very pro-development, with the federal government having retreated from climate change commitments and promoted oil and gas development and pipeline construction. Funding for research had been reduced and instead allocated to infrastructure to promote further development.

Makivik was responding with its own plan, to be released in the fall, relating to development in Inuit regions after consulting over two years with communities on all sectors of their lives (environment, identity, culture). Inuit would not necessarily accept the policies that governments imposed on them and needed the voice and work of the ICC for this reason. He reiterated the need for Inuit peoples to work together and dialogue on shared concerns, and to ensure that communities and peoples remained well informed.

Speaker: Russel Shearer, Vice-Chair of AMAP and Head of Delegation, Canada

Mr. Shearer discussed the Northern Contaminant Program (NCP) launched in 1991, with whom the ICC and ITK were now partners. Mr. Shearer reported that the NCP monitors country foods, air and water, with country food samples collected through hunter and trapper organizations and air and water samples collected by the NCP. The information from this sampling is then logged within AMAP. There had been significant contributions by Indigenous peoples in AMAP including in monitoring, sharing of traditional knowledge and assessment work. ICC staff had contributed chapter leads in publications on science and risk communication. Mr. Shearer said the NCP recognized the need for increased capacity to allow for greater participation. Overall, the scientific community and international policy processes shared the objective of reducing the level of contaminants in the Arctic, as had been discussed by Ms. Grey in relation to the health strategy.



Mr. Shearer reported that in the 10 years since the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* had come into being, POP levels had been reduced in the Arctic. There had been a strong Arctic Indigenous peoples presence in Convention negotiation sessions.

Today, mercury was the new challenge: a 2011 mercury assessment in the Arctic found that 90% of mercury in Arctic organisms came from human sources with over 60% coming from Asia, with a predominant source being the burning of coal. Mercury levels continued to rise, and the ICC's role in mercury negotiations was important as would be the application and enforcement of the 2013 *Minamata Convention on Mercury*. Mr. Shearer also discussed the AACA (*Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic*), which makes recommendations in relation to climate change.

Mr. Shearer concluded by referring to a UNFCCC conference in Paris in November 2015 on the impacts of climate change. He also mentioned the deadline for the Arctic Inspiration Prize and provided contact information for it.

• Questions and Comments from Session 6 Plenary •

Mr. Olsen asked for any further statements from the panel and opened the floor to questions from the Assembly delegates. Statements by panelists and delegates included the following:

- Panelists were pleased to see work on getting more data through baseline science and to see Inuit traditional knowledge and science coming together. They reiterated the urgency of taking action to ensure development occurred holistically, sustainably and with attention to socioeconomic considerations.
- Delegates noted the following climate change impacts:
 - Challenges in Greenland were described including the increasing risks in hunting on ice and hunting with dogsleds. A delegate stressed the need to map out all coastal sea floors in part so as to better predict and protect against oil spills, and the need to improve communication channels and empower local people who were scattered across the country, so that search and rescue was more effective. Greenland was seeing unpredictable weather patterns such as sudden storms, changing currents, and melting and dangerous ice conditions. Local people were unable to predict weather based on cloud formations as they had done in the past. Efforts were being made to keep up traditional hunting methods, but meanwhile cruise ships to Greenland were allowing tourists near wildlife and disturbing needed hunting grounds. It was suggested that ships should employ local guides for tourists disembarking in towns.
 - Alaskan delegates discussed the changing ice, water, and wind patterns which made travel hazardous and impacted many other issues. They noted the need for a coast guard and an ice breaker to reduce risks. The rate of erosion was significant. Specific conditions near Barrow, for instance, included a warmer climate in spring and fall, thunder where there had not been before, eroding ice cellars ground changes due to thawing of permafrost.



- Communities in Chukotka were increasingly vulnerable due to the effects of climate change and increased shipping through the northern passage
 - A delegate from Canada shared environmental issues had been discussed for a long time: climate change, contaminants from the south, through the air to the Arctic and into the oceans, mammals and the food web. He felt that traditional or Inuit knowledge was important to adapt and understand the local environment.
- Development had financial benefits, but it was important to hear from experts and to appreciate the full risks of projects.
 - A delegate from Greenland urged the ICC to provide a strong international voice in regard to the increasing impacts of pollution in the Arctic.
 - The lack of proven mechanisms to clean up oil spills in the Arctic was reiterated and the need for legislation on this issue.
 - The new Executive Council of ICC was asked to consider the issues of greater information sharing between the regions; and to input into the subject of uranium mining.
 - Mr. Stotts noted that using the phrase “food security” had raised more attention and awareness than the use of the term “subsistence” in relation to hunting
 - The suggestion was made that tourist ships travel in pairs to increase safety
 - Mr. Smith noted that the International Maritime Organization was working on the polar code which would apply the strictest standards to ships going through the Arctic Ocean. All Inuit organizations needed to be in touch with their governments and urge them to hear Inuit issues with respect to Arctic shipping.
 - It was important to bring traditional knowledge and modern science and evidence together, and for Inuit to work together with other people and with experts
 - Mr. Stotts noted that the ICC was engaged in discussion with the Arctic Council on how TK can be made integral in considering solutions for Arctic needs. TK had to be promoted so that others could appreciate its value, its living and evolving qualities. Mr. Stotts agreed with a delegate that the word “traditional” could be replaced with a different word. Mr. Tukkiapik noted in response that a new identity should be found that was distinct and different from “going the white man’s way”.
 - One delegate had been surprised by the question whether traditional knowledge was still relevant, and asked in return whether science was still relevant. He stressed that the value in both was in advancing knowledge. It would require humility for all to accept the extent of wisdom that is held by TK holders. He felt that “traditional knowledge” should simply be called “Inuit knowledge.”
 - Other delegates agreed that traditional knowledge was still applicable, as interpreting changes arising from climate change required local experience and wisdom, and continued local, daily observation of the natural environment including effects on wildlife



- Delegates remarked that adapting to change was a normal part of the Inuit experience, but never before had conditions changed so drastically.
- A delegate noted that industry had to start doing business in different way in Inuit Nunaat. She felt that traditional knowledge was the element missing in international conventions – its principles, the rotation of the earth and wind caused by white waves, and the axis of the earth.
- The ICC was asked to gather together traditional knowledge and to facilitate its weaving together with scientific data in order to find solutions.

Mr. Olsen reiterated core messages of the panel and plenary discussions and closed the session.



Side Event: Culture, Education and Language

Co-Chairs: Mr. Carl Christian Olsen and Mr. Duane Ningaqsik Smith

Facilitator: Prof. Lenore Grenoble

Professor Grenoble, Professor of Linguistics, University of Chicago, opened the side event. The event was premised on the ICC's long history of working on circumpolar languages initiatives and focused on the ongoing Arctic Council's initiative, led by ICC, called *Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting the Vitality of Arctic Indigenous Languages*. The panel summarized the former languages mandates and resolutions passed at previous ICC GAs to determine if ICC should continue to work on them, such as the promotion of a pan-Arctic writing system and pan-Inuit usage. The panel then summarized various language matters, including the current assessment results, the ultimate goals of the project, and the plans for an upcoming circumpolar languages summit held under the auspices of the Arctic Council. GA delegates considered what the ICC could do in particular to help Inuit learn from each other's successes in Inuit language promotion.

Speaker: Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle, Director, Kawerak Eskimo Heritage Program, Nome, Alaska

Ms. Alvanna-Stimpfle expressed her thanks to ICC Alaska for inviting her to speak at the General Assembly. She shared that part of her job was to help revitalize the Fish River Inupiaq dialect, and noted advances being made in Alaska in relation to revitalizing indigenous languages, including Alaska's House Bill which had now made all state indigenous languages official in addition to English. She referred to the recommendations of the Alaska Native Language Preservation Council which touched on the need for research and awareness-raising, increased collaboration and connectivity, the reach of Alaska Statute 14.30.420, and the need for reconciliation and healing.

Speaker: Nuka Kleemann, Rector, College of Social Education, Greenland

Rector Kleemann discussed the high priority placed on education by the government since Greenland's transition to Home Rule in 1979 and described the evolution of education since



that time including secondary education which had expanded significantly over time. She named the institutes that provide secondary education, which now cover numerous areas of study in arts, social sciences, nursing and health science, natural resources, climate research, social work pedagogy, engineering and mining, business administration, tourism and food and hotel services, among other areas.

Speaker: Ms. Lenore Grenoble, Professor of Linguistics, University of Chicago

Prof. Grenoble discussed what improvements were necessary with regards to nurturing the Inuit language. She noted that there was a demand and desire to revitalize language but a lack of data or of coordination of efforts between regions. There was a need to share information and best practices through educational exchanges and other efforts. More attention was needed in relation to teacher training methods and materials. She stressed that even in Greenland where Greenlandic is used in schools, there are problems with local English or Danish native speakers – and that parents should learn along with children. Nunavut was exploring the question of a unified writing system. Finally, nurturing the Inuit language was a part of the overall need for healing (post-colonial).

Mr. Lynge assumed the Assembly Chair and initiated the process of adopting the *Kitigaaryuit Declaration*. Mr. Dan Pottle from Nunatsiavut, Chair of the Drafting Committee, presented Mr. Lynge with the Draft Declaration, on which he stated that the Drafting Committee had worked diligently. Mr. Pottle expressed his thanks for the honour of completing the work and stated that the Committee had been humbled to have been entrusted with it. The Draft had been circulated daily through the national caucus.

The Draft was adopted with all in favour, and signed by the current Executive Council.

2014 Bill Edmunds Award

Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



Ms. Sarah Leo spoke about the Bill Edmunds award, which had been established by the ICC to honour those individuals who have made a selfless contribution to the promotion of Inuit rights and interests, with a particular focus on international endeavours. Mr. Bill Edmunds was the founder of the Labrador Inuit Foundation, and had laid the groundwork for what is Nunatsiavut today.

Mr. Lynge presented the award on behalf of the ICC to Mr. Carl-Christian Olsen (Puju), whom he had known for many decades and who had taught about their language in many schools and the need to maintain it as a living language.



Mr. Olsen was honoured for his work for the ICC of more than 30 years. Ms. Leo presented Mr. Olsen with a carving of an Inuit man entitled “Offering”.

Mr. Olsen described his first meeting with Bill Edmunds on his way to Tuktoyuktuk, and his first years with ICC when he was part of the working group on developing legislation on language for the benefit of subsequent generations. He noted that the elders and young people helped and supported the first ICC teams, which in turn helped advance work and in each country. He quoted Eben Hopson who had stressed that language is part of the environment.

Each delegation presented gifts to Mr. Olsen.

Selection of 2018 General Assembly Host

Mr. Lynge introduced Ms. Marie Greene who announced that the next GA 2018 would be held in Barrow, Alaska.

Introduction of ICC Chair

Mr. Lynge introduced once again the incoming ICC Chair, Ms. Okalik Egeesiak, who shared her gratitude for the confidence placed in her, and her intention to represent Inuit well and with honesty and discipline. She stated that her priorities for his leadership term were as they had been, and as reflected in the Declaration goals. She intended to continue the



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White

same process. She stated that ICC must maintain positive working relations with governments in each country. Ms. Egeesiak expressed gratitude to delegates and the organizations that had worked with her so far and for the work that the ICC had done to date.



Presentation of New ICC Executive Council

Chair: Okalik Egeesiak

Canada

Vice Chair

Duane Smith

Council Member

Herb Nakimayak

Alaska

Vice Chair

James Stotts

Council Member

Vera Metcalf

Greenland

Vice Chair

Hjalmar Dahl

Council Member

Martha Abelsen

Chukotka

Vice Chair

Tatiana Achirgina

Council Member

Elena Kaminskaya



Closing Remarks

Mr. Lynge delivered his final and closing remarks for the General Assembly. He noted that he had spent 34 years working with ICC and felt very emotional in stepping down. He thanked his family members including his wife, daughters and grandchildren, and looked forward to spending more time with them.

Mr. Lynge stated that many delegates had remarked that this was an important meeting for them. The new Declaration would point a new way to a better Arctic, ensuring a more equal distribution of wealth and many other changes and benefits that had been referred to during the General Assembly. He noted his appreciation that whether on the streets in Iqaluit, Canada, Nuuk Greenland, Nome Alaska, or in Chukotka, people had continued to support ICC, and this was deeply appreciated. He stressed that in

ICC's future cooperation with various governments, it was vital that the UN principles of free, prior and informed consent were prioritized and central to all decisions that would impact Inuit. He wished the new ICC leadership and new Chair his very best. He noted that in the context of differences in local, national and international ways of doing things, diplomacy was necessary. He expressed his gratitude that he had been given a chance to live and to change his life for the better, owing to his responsibility at the ICC. He wished all present great success in the future.



Closing Ceremony



Photo Courtesy: Mitchell White



Kitigaaryuit Declaration

As declared by the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka, on the occasion of the 12th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) from 21-24 July 2014 in Inuvik, Canada, and in the context of the Assembly theme,

Ukiuqta'qtumi Hivuniptingnun – One Arctic, One Future

Reaffirming that Inuit are one people living in our shared Arctic homeland of *Inuit Nunaat* since time immemorial, as declared in the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*;

Celebrating the rich Inuit culture that we developed through millennia of living in our Arctic homeland, in which we have subsisted and thrived, continually finding resources to adapt to environmental changes, reinforcing our identity as a strong and resilient people;

Inspired by the spirit and power of Kitigaaryuit, a traditional whaling village and meeting site that served to bring together and sustain Inuit, reminding us of the connection between past, present and future;

Recalling the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference held in Alaska in 1977 at which Eben Hopson, Sr. invited Inuit from across the Arctic to work together to share regional experiences, celebrate the strength and unity of Inuit, and pursue and coordinate collective international action;

Envisioning a future in which Inuit create successful economic, social and environmental conditions which reflect the original and central place of Inuit, Inuit culture and Inuit values throughout Inuit Nunaat;

Recognizing that Inuit children and youth are the fastest growing demographic and that healthy Inuit children and families are the foundation of healthy communities in Inuit Nunaat;

Expressing Gratitude for the rich cultural heritage passed on by our ancestors through the Inuit language, with its regional variations and dialects, and affirming our commitment to maintain, strengthen and revitalize the Inuit language in our communities;

Encouraging the development of communications across Inuit Nunaat over multiple media platforms in order to support the development and promotion of Inuit language, culture and political, social, and economic advancement.

Emphasizing that Inuit health and well-being is a matter of ongoing priority in *Inuit Nunaat*;

Recognizing that supporting mental wellness among Inuit is central to addressing a wide range of health issues;

Underscoring the urgent need to support research and policies that effectively address unacceptable rates of food insecurity, the high cost of living, transportation and doing business in Inuit communities;



Reaffirming that healthy communities and households require both a healthy environment and a thriving economy, and that social and cultural development must go hand in hand with economic development;

Recalling the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat* adopted in 2011, and reiterating the principles set out in that Declaration;

Taking into Account the increase in ship traffic in the Arctic that impacts Inuit culture, security, health, and livelihoods;

Observing with Concern the serious and growing threat to water quality and quantity in and around many Inuit communities owing to exploration and development of resources, as well as atmospheric transmission of contaminants and pollutants which threaten the health of Inuit and the entire Arctic ecosystem;

Mindful that environmental pollution of the Arctic remains critical for Inuit and, in that regard, acknowledging the adoption of the *Minamata Convention on Mercury*;

Appreciative that ICC and its partners have established a *Community Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic* web atlas to share and exchange information on best practices;

Knowing that energy security, resulting from diverse sources and technologies are important to advance sustainable Inuit communities;

Acknowledging scientific collaboration amongst the Arctic States and Permanent Participants within the Arctic Council, and **Recognizing** that sound knowledge is required for research and policy decisions;

Reaffirming the need for Inuit knowledge, including traditional Inuit knowledge holders to participate in Arctic scientific platforms to ensure that our views are respected and reflected in decision making and research planning;

Urging the Arctic Council to focus on its demonstrated success and status as a high level forum for dialogue and cooperation between Arctic states and permanent participants, and **Trusting** that issues between Arctic states, arising from developments outside of the circumpolar world, do not detract from the Council's important work;

Recognizing ICC's leadership and important work in promoting and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples internationally, particularly through the implementation process of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other international fora;

Recognizing the important contributions made by ICC's outgoing Chair and members of its Executive Council since the eleventh General Assembly;

Fully Supporting the newly-elected ICC Chair and Executive Council, and thanking them for their commitment to promote energetically the rights and interests of Inuit as a people at the international level;

We hereby:

1. **Thank** the Town of Inuvik for hosting ICC's 12th General Assembly and congratulate all Inuvialuit on the thirty year anniversary of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the signing of which was an inspiration to Inuit everywhere;
2. **Welcome and Adopt** the ICC Report on Activities 2010 – 2014;



3. **Recognize** the value of the reports and presentations made, and discussions held, by Inuit at this 12th ICC General Assembly;

Arctic Council and International Fora

4. **Instruct** ICC leadership to continue to use the Arctic Council and other fora, to further the interests of Inuit and, while working cooperatively with others in the Council, be vigilant about maintaining and strengthening the unique role of ICC as a Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council;
5. **Instruct** ICC leadership to call upon Arctic member states to include Inuit in all bilateral and multilateral meetings of importance to Inuit, and do so with the same direct and meaningful voice as at the Arctic Council;
6. **Instruct** ICC leadership to advance the human rights of Inuit and to do so by promoting the UNDRIP and by urging member states to fully endorse and implement the UNDRIP among other declarations and instruments, and further instruct ICC to promote meaningful and effective Inuit participation in decision-making processes consistent with the minimum standards of the UNDRIP, including the right to free, prior and informed consent;
7. Instruct ICC to actively promote the *Alta Outcome Document* from the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the UN High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.
8. **Mandate** ICC leadership to continue its efforts to encourage states and Inuit self-governments to ratify and implement the International Labour Organization Convention 169 (ILO 169) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in independent countries, and to continue to promote and protect Inuit rights through direct participation and work in UN mechanisms and agencies focused on the rights, interests and well-being of indigenous peoples;
9. **Direct** the ICC executive council and members to strengthen networks between Inuit organizations, including information sharing, connecting community-based monitoring programs, and promoting Inuit rights;

Environmental Stewardship

10. **Mandate** ICC leadership to continue addressing climate change, highlighting the human impact on Inuit, and to urgently press the international community to cooperate both on mitigation of climate change and in the development of adaptation strategies and mechanisms;
11. **Urge** members of the ICC Executive Council to retain environmental stewardship of the Inuit homeland as a key priority from 2014 – 2018 with the goal of promoting a healthy and abundant source of renewable resources for future generations of Inuit;
12. **Mandate** ICC leadership to participate in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other organizations (such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora);



13. **Direct** ICC leadership to promote and support Inuit rights to manage migratory birds and other migratory animals in the interests of Inuit food security and to protect all Inuit customary, traditional, spiritual, social and physical uses of migratory species;
14. **Instruct** ICC leadership to maintain its efforts to reduce the worldwide emissions of contaminants that end up in the Arctic and negatively affect Inuit, and to continue to work to advance and strengthen the provisions of international instruments such as the global Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
15. **Mandate** ICC leadership to advocate for regulatory policies that protect Arctic freshwater systems from unsustainable pollution and depletion, recognizing that clean water is a human right;
16. **Direct** the ICC leadership to continue the effort of ICC, together with local Inuit organizations, to promote those conservation measures that support the traditional culture and lifestyle of the ecologically, economically, and historically significant areas that support the traditional culture and lifestyle of Inuit;
17. **Instruct** the ICC leadership to call upon Arctic member states to strengthen efforts to include Inuit in all bilateral and multilateral meetings dealing with issues of interest across borders including environmental, economic, and social issues of importance to Inuit, and to do so with the same direct and meaningful voice as at the Arctic Council;

Safe Shipping and Fisheries

18. **Instruct** ICC leadership to increase its knowledge about security and transportation safety developments to ensure that it can assert Inuit rights and responsibilities in relation to Inuit waters, seas and passages used from time immemorial, and to do so through active participation with appropriate Inuit experts in the shipping industry and in the work of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and other relevant bodies;
19. **Mandate** ICC leadership to present Inuit perspectives and knowledge about sea ice, behaviour of marine mammals, and Arctic navigation to international bodies facilitating negotiations related to Arctic shipping, building upon the findings of *The Sea Ice Never Stops: Circumpolar Inuit Reflections on Sea Ice Use and Shipping in Inuit Nunaat*;
20. **Advocate** for the inclusion of Inuit representatives on all councils, committees, and commissions formed to address Arctic fishing issues;
21. **Direct** ICC leadership to advocate for a precautionary approach in developing commercial fishing in the international waters of the central Arctic Ocean and support a moratorium until fish stocks have been adequately assessed and a sustainable management regime is in place that fully engages and involves Inuit;
22. **Recognize** that healthy and abundant fish stocks are essential to the cultural, nutritional and economic well-being and way of life of the Inuit villages and peoples who live along river drainages and coasts;
23. **Direct** the ICC leadership to advocate for the reduction or elimination of salmon by-catch in the trawl-fisheries industry;



Sustainable Economic Development

24. **Instruct** ICC leadership to continue to build upon and implement the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*;
25. **Recognize** Inuit hunters in their ongoing struggle to adapt to the changing Arctic, and continue to speak forcefully for ethical and fair trade for our products, fight unnecessary attempts to limit use of our marine resources by listing them as endangered, and state our opposition to making the Arctic a wildlife preserve or any similar initiative that would undermine our wildlife economy;
26. **Direct** ICC leadership to continue to actively participate in meetings on oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response;
27. **Mandate** ICC leadership to plan and convene a Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit which would explore potential collaborations among Inuit businesses and facilitate Inuit businesses sharing experiences amongst themselves;
28. **Mandate** ICC leadership to urge Arctic member states submitting positions on the extent of their respective continental shelves to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf under UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to involve Inuit in those submissions so as to reflect the Inuit perspective and protect Inuit rights and interests;
29. **Instruct** ICC leadership to engage in the UNCLOS processes to monitor developments to equip Inuit to promote and protect Inuit sovereignty and Inuit rights to the offshore, and take steps to participate in the decision-making of the bodies formed under the UNCLOS whose work has the potential to affect Inuit rights in the Arctic.

Health and Well-Being

30. **Instruct** ICC leadership to continue building its knowledge of Inuit health and well-being issues, and to advocate for Inuit on these issues through relevant bodies such as the Arctic Council, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization, and the Food and Agricultural Organization;
31. **Direct** ICC leadership to advance Inuit health and well-being by reviewing the progress of the 2010-2014 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy, continuing to identify emerging health issues and gaps, and promoting strategic initiatives through the 2014-2018 Implementation Plan for Inuit Nunaat in partnership with national, circumpolar, and international partners;
32. **Instruct** ICC leadership to advocate for the establishment, maintenance and improvement of core infrastructure that is necessary to sustain healthy Inuit communities, including housing, education, health care and social service delivery infrastructure, and core transportation and communication networks that facilitate both public sector activities and private sector entrepreneurship;
33. **Direct** ICC to advocate for a continuum of culturally relevant mental wellness and substance abuse programs and supports across Inuit Nunaat, including traditional/cultural and clinical approaches, which engage at the individual and community level;
34. **Direct** ICC to advocate approaches that address Inuit public health needs through the design, development and delivery of Inuit-specific policies, programs and services that foster, promote and protect Inuit health;



35. **Urge** ICC to encourage health research, education, and training for Inuit health care providers.

Food Security

36. **Urge** ICC leadership to promote the development of circumpolar, community-based monitoring (CBM) programs and research activities that adopt a food security lens within the Arctic Council working groups, and to promote Inuit food security in all aspects of ICC's work, including community health and wellness, retention and transmission of Inuit traditional knowledge, use of Inuit management methodologies, improved co-management activities, sustainable utilization of wildlife, contaminants, biological diversity, climate change, and the availability of nutritious foods;
37. **Direct** ICC leadership to advocate for improved access to sufficient Inuit traditional food sources, communicating the impacts of the nutrition transition on Inuit food security resulting from changing economic and social conditions, contaminants, climate change, and regulatory decisions taken by others on polar bears, seals, and other marine and terrestrial mammals;
38. **Specifically Urge** ICC leadership to speak out about the implications of food insecurity on Inuit health;
39. **Direct** ICC leadership to advocate for the empowerment of Inuit in creating a political, social, and economic environment, grounded in Inuit way of life, that sets optimal conditions for Inuit food security;
40. **Direct** ICC to plan and host an Inuit summit on wildlife management;

Communication

41. **Encourage** ICC to work with Inuit and other media companies and organizations to promote effective communications, sharing of information and the development of pan-Arctic and Inuit communications initiatives that promote increasing Inuit to Inuit communication and interaction;
42. **Mandate** ICC to continuously communicate its work and results of its activities between countries, ICC offices and to Inuit through media and other communications channels;

Education and Language

43. **Mandate** ICC leadership to promote educational exchanges, share best educational practices, and host a summit of experts and practitioners from across the circumpolar Arctic to recommend ways to develop or enhance culturally-appropriate curriculum;
44. **Support** training, recruitment, and retention programs for Inuit in all professions;
45. **Mandate** ICC leadership to continue its promotion and leadership of projects and initiatives to strengthen the Inuit language, including the *Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages* project through the Arctic Council;

Traditional Knowledge and Science

46. **Direct** ICC leadership to insist upon the utilization of Traditional Knowledge in scientific programs/reports and at all levels of relevant decision-making processes;



- 47. **Mandate** ICC leadership to direct, participate and engage effectively in all aspects of Arctic science and research, promoting and contributing to activities that reflect a participatory approach of both Inuit knowledge and scientific methodologies;
- 48. **Direct** ICC leadership to promote awareness of community-based monitoring activities rooted in Traditional Knowledge, and to work with its partners to develop a strategy and tools to implement the proper utilization of community-based monitoring and research;
- 49. **Direct** ICC leadership to work towards the creation of ethical and responsible research guidelines/policies that emphasize bringing knowledge back to Inuit communities;
- 50. **Instruct** ICC leadership to engage in activities that promote the protection of Inuit intellectual property and cultural heritage at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and other bodies;
- 51. **Promote** initiatives for sharing information/knowledge and data in/from the Arctic, and **Hold to Account** those responsible for the proper communication and dissemination of Inuit information/knowledge and data in accordance with Inuit governance structures and agreements.

The Chair and Executive Council of the Inuit Circumpolar Council hereby confirm that the Kitigaaryuit 2014 Declaration was unanimously passed by delegates at the 12th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council on 24 July 2014.

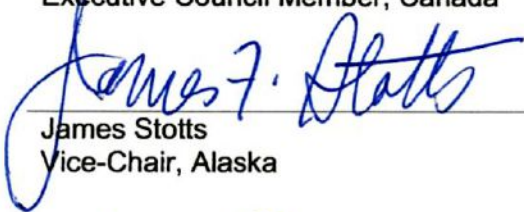

 Aqqaluk Lyngø
 ICC Chair


 Duane Smith
 Vice-Chair, Canada


 Carl Christian Olsen, Puju
 Vice-Chair, Greenland


 Kirt Ejesiak
 Executive Council Member, Canada


 Hjalmar Dahl
 Executive Council Member, Greenland


 James Stotts
 Vice-Chair, Alaska


 Tatiana Achirgina
 Vice-Chair, Russia


 Vera Metcalf
 Executive Council Member, Alaska


 Elvira Tyunikova
 Executive Council Member, Russia



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Adamie Alaku-Delisle
Cathy Towntongie
Okalik Eegeesiak
Charlie Evalik
Raymond Ningeocheak
Nellie Cournoyea
Vernon Amos
Vince Teddy
Sarah Leo
Kate Mitchell
Danny Pottle

Speakers & Special Guests

Lillian Elias – Elder
Bob McLeod
Igor Novikov
Jutta Wark
Larry Carpenter
Lenore Grenoble
Leona Aglukkaq
Lisa Loseto
Lloyd Visser
Minnie Grey
Moshi Kotierk
Natan Obed
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Lori Idlout
Malaya Mikijuk
Noor Johnson
Patricia D'Souza
Scot Nickels
Stas Olpinski
Teevi McKay
Theresa Hughes
Noor Jehan Johnson

Cultural Performers & Artists

Ettua Snowball
George Kakkayuk
Kerri Kohlmeister
Mathew Okkuatsiak
Miriam Aglukkak
Pauline Kohlmeister
Sylvia Cloutier
Akinisie Sivuarapik

Interpreters

Ida Saunders
Suzie Napayok-Hvatnum
Sytukie Joamie
Helen Kitekudlak
Annie Nipalayok Goose
Robert Kuptana



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Vera Metcalf
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Rex Rock
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Percy Ballot
Reginald Joule
Donald Sheldon
Marie Greene
Roy Ashenfelter
Loretta Bullard
Melanie Bahnke
Kelsi Ivanoff
Raymond J. Watson
James Paul
Dr. Paul John
Vivian Korthuis
Julia Dorris

Speakers & Special Guests

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Darlene Dorough
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Bridget McCleskey

Interpreters

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Freda Jimmie
Susie Sun

Cultural Performers & Artists

Jerica Aamodt
Mattie Jo Ahgeak
Mae Ahgeak
Brandi Ahsoak
Alice Akpik
John Akpik
Robert Akpik, Sr.
Arlene Glenn
Patuk Glenn
Warren Kagak
Jacob Kagak
Darlene Kagak
John Kignak
Salomi Kignak
Roy Nageak, Jr.
Marie Neakok
Susie Oyagak
John Oyagak
Flora Patkotak
Bobby Snyder

Cultural Performers & Artists (cont'd)

Josiah Patkotak
Molly Pederson
Joseph Sage
Karmen Kagak
Maaku Matavale
Natalie Parker
Coleman Glenn-Lincoln
Jade Kignak
Skylar Patkotak
Joanne Glenn
Martha Kagak
John Oyagak
Richard Atoruk
Amil Burns
Shawn Burns
Christina Hensley
Judy Huss
Reginald Joule, III
Wilbur Karmun, Jr.
Myrtle Lambert
Francine Mitchell
Robert Mitchell
Shylena Monroe
Pauline Nay
Molly Sheldon
Sidney Shroyer
Mae Douglas
Ed Kootuk



PARTICIPANTS

Greenland

Delegates

Aqqaluk Lyngé
Carl Christian Olsen
Hjalmar Dahl
Nuka Kleemann
Doris Jakobsen
Karl Kristian Kruse
Mimi Karlsen
Martha Abelsen
Esther Rosing
Beathe Hendriksen
Leif Fontaine
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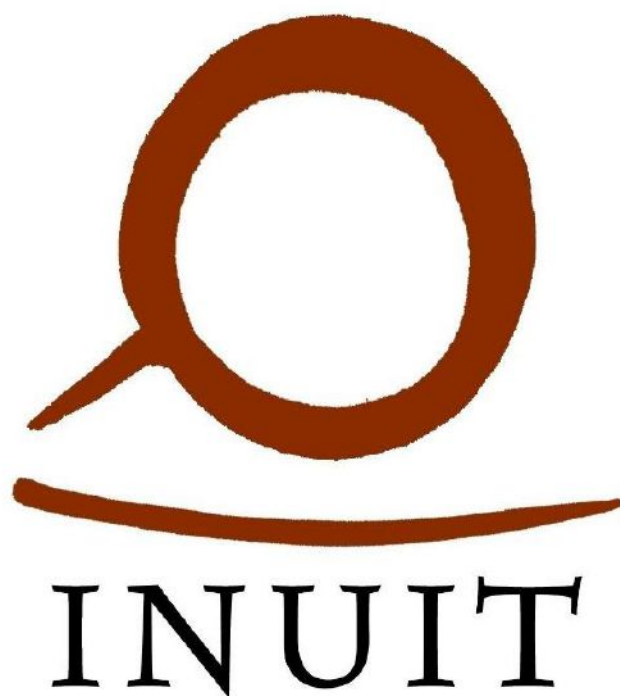
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