



Annual Report 2009-2010
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Message From ICC Canada President, Duane Smith

Preparing for a New Arctic

Preparing for the ensuing season that comes along has always been important for Inuit. Preparing for what might come next in our homeland has never before been as important as it is today.

Many states and organizations are setting their sights on our Arctic. Change is coming. There has been intense lobbying by non-Arctic states and NGOs to get a seat at the Arctic Council table, a place where Inuit, through the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), have a direct and meaningful voice. There are scientists wanting greater access to the Arctic to undertake their research projects in the context of ArcticNet, and other Arctic science fora such as the International Polar Year (IPY) and what might come after it. There are industrial giants, being driven by the profit motive, who want to take the resources from our lands and from our seas. And there are tour operators who want to show off our Arctic to "their" people, especially as sea routes open and access to the Arctic becomes less difficult over time.



As you will see in this Annual Report, ICC Canada spends a great deal of our resources dealing with outsiders, friends and foes alike. In the year 2009-2010, we dealt directly with the European Union (EU) as it moved toward imposing a seal import ban. We also went to Washington, DC to deal directly with the USA, as it tried to classify our polar bear as a threatened species in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Last year we dealt, and worked very closely, with IPY and ArcticNet

scientists. ICC Canada also led the way in taking on the *Oceans Five*, the group of states bordering on the Arctic Ocean who once again met on matters of Arctic sovereignty without Inuit. We dealt with emerging superpowers such as China and international NGOs such as Greenpeace, as they tried to gain observer status in the Arctic Council. As you will also see, the year 2009-2010 saw ICC Canada put our strong views forward on how access to Arctic genetic resources of flora and fauna should be managed, and how benefits being derived from this access should be shared. We were assertive with those calling for new ways of governing in the Arctic, when they ignored our input.

As Inuit from Russia, Alaska, and Greenland join Canadian Inuit in preparing for the new and changing Arctic, we must continue to use wise judgment on when to oppose and be assertive, and when to be diplomatic and forge mutually-enriching partnerships.

ICC Canada was vigilant in 2009-2010, keeping the human rights of Inuit at the centre of what we did. Sometimes we had to oppose, but as you will see in this report, more often we used tact, diplomacy, and offers of collaboration to advance the cause of Inuit in this new and changing Arctic. For example, ICC Canada was a proactive partner in many Arctic Council working groups, contributing to major initiatives such as the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA). We played a strong role in many health initiatives, such as planning and hosting the Circumpolar Inuit health summit and participating in the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group's health expert group. We continued to work on Arctic indigenous languages matters, in strong partnership with both government and other indigenous peoples' organizations. We had much success in our governmental relations, improving two-way communications at both the federal and territorial levels. We continued to play a constructive role at many United Nations forums.



I am confident that, while the Arctic is changed forever, Inuit will thrive well into the future.

As Inuit from Russia, Alaska, and Greenland join Canadian Inuit in preparing for the new and changing Arctic, we must continue to use wise judgment on when to oppose and be assertive, and when to be diplomatic and forge mutually-enriching partnerships. I am honoured to have led an organization over the past year that was able to accomplish much through doing both, judiciously. I am confident that, while the Arctic is changed forever, Inuit will thrive well into the future.

ICC Activities

Human Rights

While the protection of the human rights of Inuit and other indigenous peoples pervades every aspect of ICC Canada's work, there are a range of fora and activities that specifically address, promote and advance this most fundamental issue itself. Particularly important in this regard is the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. ICC Canada was an active participant at the Forum's eighth session held in New York in May 2009. With the Saami Council, ICC shares the responsibility for the

ICC Canada, with other indigenous organizations, led efforts to convince the Canadian Government to reverse its opposition to the Declaration. This resulted in the Canadian Government's announcement in March 2010 that it intended to start steps to endorse the Declaration.

Europe/ Arctic seat at the Forum on a three year rotation. ICC held the seat from 2005 to 2008 and will again take on the seat from the beginning of 2011.

September 2010 will mark the third anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the UN General Assembly. During much of 2009 – 2010, ICC Canada, with other indigenous organizations, led efforts to convince the Canadian Government to reverse its opposition to the Declaration. This resulted in the Canadian Government's announcement in March 2010 that it intended to start steps to endorse the Declaration.

We continued to work on the finalization of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which is being negotiated under the framework of the Organization of American States. While this process continues at a very slow pace and may take many years to complete, the lesson of the successfully negotiated UN Declaration is that it requires perseverance. ICC Canada is committed to seeing this process through to the end.



Figure 1 Violet Ford and Aqqaluk Lyngé at UNPFII 2010 (May 2010)

Arctic Council

As an intergovernmental body, the Arctic Council includes eight Arctic states, six indigenous peoples' organizations (IPOs) with permanent status, six working groups including the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP), the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP), the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR), the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) and the Sustainable Development (SDWG) working groups. All activities are supported by ministerial and senior official offices. Also included are a long list of official observers, from international organizations, non-Arctic states and non-governmental organizations. There has been increasing interest by many additional states, international organizations and NGOs which would like observer status. Along with five other indigenous peoples' organizations, ICC has 'permanent participant' status inside the Council, giving it a seat at the ministerial and senior officials meetings.

ICC's stated mandate is to strengthen unity among Inuit across the circumpolar region; to promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level; to develop and encourage long term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment and to see full and active partnership in the political, economic and social development of circumpolar regions. Given this mandate, the Arctic Council is a preeminent forum for ICC and ICC Canada.

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ICC Canada's goals are to represent Inuit on the international stage and to serve as a two way conduit of information for Inuit inside and outside Canada. With mounting attention focused on the Arctic, ICC Canada's efforts and participation in all levels of activity in the Arctic Council have increased accordingly, as seen in every single aspect of Arctic Council work done during this past year.

ICC Canada prepared for, and participated in, the April 2009 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Tromsø, Norway. Just prior to the April meeting, and several times after, ICC Canada participated in several important Senior Arctic Officials meetings took place. Significant work was done as a follow-up to the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium in Tromsø, Norway held in 2008. ICC Canada participated in the finalization and follow-up to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) undertaken by PAME, Arctic Council biodiversity initiatives within CAFF, was involved in the follow-up monitoring of the Oil and Gas Assessment and participated in AMAP working group meetings. With health taking a prominent position this past year, ICC Canada worked on the Sustainable Development Working Group including its Arctic Human Health Expert Group, as well as on cross-working group projects related to circumpolar health, climate change and related projects.

ICC Canada played a major part in several Arctic Council Advisory Committee (ACAC) meetings, where Canada develops its positions by having interdepartmental gatherings. These can include representatives from the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Environment Canada, Transport Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian based Inuit indigenous organizations including the Canadians in Gwich'in Council International and the Arctic Athabaskan Council and the three Territorial governments. ICC Canada has a firm place at ACAC meetings where it is able to both influence and learn about Canadian government policy and directions.

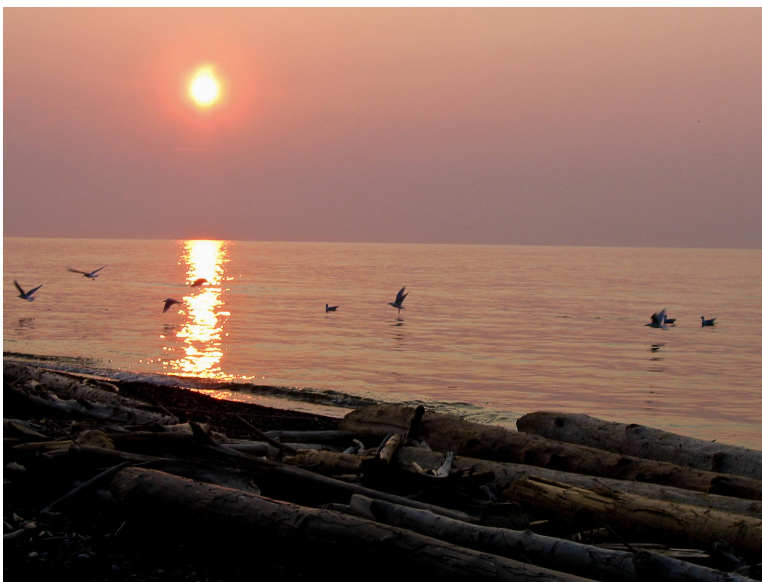


Figure 2 Inuvialuit traditional camps off of the Yukon coast called Tapkak

Acting as a conduit for Canadian Inuit in communicating relevant and important international issues and developments, it provided Canadian Inuit with information about key Arctic Council initiatives on an ongoing basis. Further, it promoted the ACAC Youth Advisor Program, with ICC Canada's Youth Advisor attending several SAO meetings, including the April 2009 ministerial. To be sure, ICC Canada has facilitated the inclusion of all Canadian Inuit priorities in Arctic Council considerations.

ICC Canada was able to undertake cooperative and joint activities with other members and governments. As a Permanent Participant of the Arctic Council, it is often approached by other Arctic Council States to work on areas of mutual concern, such as the EU seal ban and the USA polar bear listing. ICC Canada's involvement and liaison with the Arctic Council's other permanent participants brings comprehensive and consultative understanding to the organization's ongoing work reflecting the views and concerns of all Arctic indigenous peoples.

Government Relations

ICC Canada has a demonstrated history of working in partnership with government, when appropriate, and to oppose government policy, when it is not in the best interests of Canadian Inuit. ICC Canada, in 2009 – 2010, continued to interact with government on many topics.

Maintaining regular and constructive contact with both government ministers and officials remains a major focus of ICC Canada's work.

ICC Canada's Chair Duane Smith meets with Ministers from time to time, the most notable being the private meeting he had with Foreign Minister Cannon just prior to his hosting of the Arctic Ocean countries in March 2010. Here, Mr. Smith made it clear that he was disappointed that ICC Canada was not at the table – but he welcomed the opportunity, which both sides agreed to, to be part of the dialogue on some issues in the future. This was seen to be mutually beneficial, both inside and outside of the Arctic Council.

The Canadian Government continues to make the Arctic a priority and reaffirmed this emphasis in its March 2010 *Throne Speech*. This focus by the government on Arctic issues has significant consequences for ICC Canada which was called to testify before a number of parliamentary committees during the year, including the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Defense. ICC Canada used this opportunity to present the then recently-launched *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*.

Maintaining regular and constructive contact with both government ministers and officials remains a major focus of ICC Canada's work. This is important to ensure that the Canadian government has a full understanding of ICC's work on behalf of Canadian and circumpolar Inuit and to identify opportunities where cooperation can bring benefits to Inuit.

ICC Canada also works closely with officials responsible for the Arctic in INAC and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). An important element of that cooperation is ICC's contribution to and participation in the workings of the Arctic Council. It is through the regular support from these two agencies that ICC Canada is able to dedicate significant resources to this work.



Figure 3 Tuktoyaktuk

Other departments where support and cooperation is strong and constructive include Health Canada which provided significant financial support in 2009-2010 to enable ICC Canada undertake its work on circumpolar Inuit health. Canadian Heritage, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are also important focus departments for ICC Canada.

In addition to the ongoing contact with the federal government, ICC Canada also looks for opportunities to meet with provincial and territorial governments. An example of this was ICC Canada's participation, led by Duane Smith, in the first ever meeting of the three territorial Premiers and the Canadian representatives of the Arctic Council Permanent Participants: Chief Bill Erasmus, international chair of the Arctic Athabaskan Council and Chief Joe Linklater, international chair of the Gwich'in Council International in Whitehorse.

ICC Canada continues to work closely with the Inuit Relations Secretariat, which, housed within INAC, is what the federal government sees as its first point of contact for Inuit governments, organizations and individuals in such areas as outreach and liaison, as well as research and policy development.

Languages

ICC Canada's work on indigenous languages during the past 12 months was reflected in the follow-up Report on the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium. The symposium was held in October 2008 under the auspices of the SDWG and in partnership with the Saami Council, with support from Canadian Heritage, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The Symposium's chief recommendations were developed by participants attending the meeting and underscored "the recognition by Arctic indigenous peoples of the need for more creative, more accessible and more versatile mechanisms for communicating information on Arctic indigenous languages to indigenous communities."

The recommendations coming out of the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium recognized that Arctic indigenous peoples have "the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their languages, oral traditions, histories, writing systems and literatures." As such, Arctic states, which include Canada, "should make the necessary resources available to achieve substantive equality between indigenous peoples and the dominant national societies for the preservation, revitalization and promotion of indigenous languages and cultures, recognizing the cost of implementing programs and projects in remote areas." Further, "future Arctic indigenous generations should be able to maintain and enrich these languages, in part by establishing mechanisms for communicating information, best practices and recommendations for Arctic indigenous languages."

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In a presentation to the SDWG in Copenhagen in March, 2010, ICC Canada, with constructive feedback from INAC, invited input into a "Scoping the Way Forward" study which looked at what next steps needed be taken in this pan-Arctic initiative. An online survey was developed, and interested parties were asked to revisit the 2008 Symposium recommendations, with special attention to those made to the Arctic Council. To this end, ICC Canada reported findings indicating overwhelming support for the Arctic Council to act on the Symposium's four major recommendations.

After what was clearly an exciting and inclusive process, ICC Canada concluded that "the Symposium's recommendations underscore the recognition by Arctic indigenous peoples of the need for more creative, more accessible and more versatile mechanisms for communicating information on Arctic indigenous languages to communities."

Environment and Sustainable Development

As this past year has shown, we are witness to the many challenges and opportunities for Inuit. Environmental change has implications in all aspects of Inuit community. The changing Arctic is seeing new economic opportunities for both the renewable (wildlife) and non-renewable (minerals, oil and gas) resources. We also see the challenges of ensuring that these activities are undertaken in collaboration with the appropriate Inuit organizations and that Inuit decision makers have the best knowledge to move forward to take action and that Inuit benefit from the changes in their homelands. Whether we are discussing resource development, policy decisions on sustainable utilization of wildlife, advancing international agreements on contaminants, climate change or biodiversity – the voice and vision of Inuit is invaluable. Perhaps one of the greatest challenges this year has been to ensure that Inuit knowledge influences the decisions being made at all levels of governance and academia that may affect the Arctic for decades to come.



ICC continues to take guidance for our work from the articles of the Utqiagvik Declaration and looks forward to the General Assembly to chart out a new course. ICC Canada has continued to bring to the attention of the international community the many environmental and sustainable development issues of concern to Inuit. ICC Canada also endeavors to inform Canadian Inuit of these international efforts and the significance for Inuit communities of having their voices and issues heard.

As the causes and consequences of climate change are increasingly understood, the global community continues to approach the meeting of these challenges in different ways. For this reason alone, it has never been more important than it is now to ensure that Inuit participate in the processes determining the global responses to ensure benefits to the Arctic and its peoples.

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Climate Change

Climate change provides a fruitful example of our work in environment and sustainable development. ICC Canada, on behalf of all Inuit organizations, is at the forefront of efforts to address the impact of climate change in the Arctic. Inuit have much to offer, both within their communities and internationally regarding the climate changes and observations being witnessed, as well as the adaptive strategies that they have developed. This knowledge sharing makes a significant and rich contribution to the development of Inuit-specific, appropriate, effective and forward-looking Inuit-specific policy related to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Concerned about environmental change, including climate change and the impact of contaminants on the health of Inuit and Arctic ecosystems, ICC has worked closely with scientists, negotiators, and policy makers to inform the development of policies that affect Inuit. ICC Canada worked closely with the Arctic Council to bring traditional knowledge to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. As a major partner in the three-year International Polar Year, the Circumpolar Flaw Lead System Study, ICC is currently undertaking a comprehensive study based on the traditional knowledge of the Inuvialuit communities who have occupied and used this area of the Arctic for thousands of years. The integration of these “Two Ways of Knowing” will help determine the long-term implications to the Arctic and the current impacts of climate change on the globe. An example of this is seen in the International Polar Year’s “Arctic Peoples: Culture, Resilience and Caribou” project which shows how circumpolar Inuit are adapting to changes in caribou populations is being studied.

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UNFCCC COP-15

In December, 2009, ICC Canada representatives joined with representatives from 193 nations in Copenhagen for the 15th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) “Conference of the Parties” (COP-15). Work to establish protocols to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to develop frameworks for financial mechanisms and adaptation assistance for vulnerable countries and populations was continued, with ICC Canada bringing to the global negotiating arena the perspectives and voices of Inuit, who are among those most affected by climate change.



Figure 5 Inuit Circumpolar Council Side Event : COP-15

Building on the “Amundsen Statement: 2012 ICC Climate Change Roadmap”, ICC’s vision and leadership was outlined in “Inuit Call to Global Leaders: Act Now on Climate Change in the Arctic” (Annex IV) which represented both Inuit perspectives on the Copenhagen Agreement and also a call for the protection of Inuit rights. It hosted an event on “Using Inuit Traditional Knowledge in Climate Change Decision-Making” and helped to plan and host the “Inuit and Arctic Peoples Day”, bringing together Inuit and indigenous political leaders for dialogue and celebration of indigenous sovereignty. It worked collaboratively with the Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group to draft language that recognized “areas dependent on ice and snow” as being particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate

change. Through a press briefing, it highlighted for the media and participants the impact of climate change on Inuit communities and the Inuit perspective.

Sustainable Use of Wildlife

Several major issues have demanded significant attention from ICC Canada during the past year, as it has fought to protect Inuit rights and interests in sustaining wildlife. The USA's domestic listing of polar bears as being a threatened species and their subsequent imperative to have the polar bears' classification uplisted within the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), as well as the EU's banning of seal products have required considerable time and resources.

Following Utqiagvik Declaration directives, ICC Canada has also continued to focus on other wildlife issues, working with organizations including the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Conservation Organization (NAMMCO) and CITES.

ICC is a Steering Committee member for the Arctic Peoples: Culture, Resilience and Caribou (ACRC) project, which is studying resiliency to environmental change through the relationship Inuit have with caribou. This type of knowledge is useful for communities and indigenous organizations in decision-making and knowledge translation.



Figure 6 Inuit and Arctic Indigenous Peoples Day : COP-15



Figure 7 Beluga Hunt Cut Up
photo courtesy of Duane Smith



Figure 8 Muktuk Hanging To Dry
photo courtesy of Duane Smith

Polar Bear Listing and CITES Status

In 2009-2010, ICC Canada's president, Duane Smith, and other representatives of ICC Canada were heavily involved in polar bear matters, especially since the USA Secretary of Interior's decision to list the polar bear as a threatened species under their Endangered Species Act.

Subsequent to the decision to list the polar bear as threatened, the USA Government campaigned to change the status of the polar bear under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). However, parties to CITES attending the 15th Committee of the Parties in March 2010 rejected the USA proposal, in large part thanks to ICC and Inuit advocacy. Had it succeeded, polar bears would have been reclassified as a CITES Appendix One species, meaning that it would have been considered as threatened with extinction. Instead, the polar bear remains listed under the less severe Appendix Two.

European Union Seal Import Ban

ICC Canada has spent considerable time lobbying against conditions set out in the EU Seal Import Ban. Despite this lobbying, on May 5, 2009 the European Parliament voted to ban imports of seal products into the 27 EU nations. The decision became final after the European Parliamentary elections in June. In response, Canada started legal action at the World Trade Organization, which ICC Canada fully supported in 2009-2010.

This EU ban legislation includes an exemption for seal products from hunts conducted by Inuit in Canada, or by other indigenous communities, but it stipulates that the products must be for personal use and brought into the EU on a non-commercial basis. ICC's position is that while the ban might look good on paper, it would, for example, shut down tanneries, local industries, auction houses, and other infrastructure. Even the EU's own consultants concluded that Canadian Inuit would have a difficult time marketing products under the exemption. ICC Canada has argued against this exemption because of the vagueness of the legislative language and the difficulties of establishing an infrastructure for marketing seal products under the conditions specified by the ban. In fact, the EU invited ICC Canada to Brussels in October 2010 after the legislation passed, as the EU wanted to develop a methodology to assist them in "policing" the Inuit exemption that they had put into regulation. While the EU wanted help in keeping non-EU products out, ICC Canada argued that for the Inuit exemption to work, the EU must instead find ways to bring Inuit products in. Animal rights organizations were also consulted but provided answers which involved massive amounts of red tape and complex labeling systems.

Because the EU was unable to find a way to bring Inuit products in – a way to make the exemption work for Inuit, ICC Canada supported ITK and other Canadian Inuit organizations in taking the EU to the European Court of Justice. ICC Canada, as a conduit between Canadian Inuit inside and outside of Canada, has consulted with ICC Greenland, the Greenland government and ICC Greenland's Hunting and Fisheries Department. The latter two are also part of the lawsuit.

Arctic Peoples: Culture, Resilience and Caribou (ACRC)

ICC Canada continues to strongly support the Arctic Peoples: Culture, Resilience and Caribou (ACRC). This study, approved as an International Polar Year project in 2008, was directed to learn more about the potential effects and responses to declining caribou populations in the Canadian north. As the global environment is changing rapidly and with it, the sustainability of modern societies, ecosystems, biodiversity and indigenous peoples, circumpolar indigenous peoples continue to develop unique capacities and knowledge to adapt to change. The resilience and adaptive capacity of Arctic

communities can be understood by investigating a series of reciprocal community-land (natural resource) relationships that exist across the North.

Biodiversity – Access and Benefit Sharing

The Arctic's genetic resources and recognition of Inuit rights and interests in these resources are at the heart of ICC Canada's ongoing major work in Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and the overarching *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD). The Convention, which entered into force in 1993, is the international treaty designed to protect the earth's biodiversity in the face of threats such as pollution, climate change and urbanization. Its three main objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of the genetic resources.

As the global environment is changing rapidly ... circumpolar indigenous peoples continue to develop unique capacities and knowledge to adapt to change.

Given the relevance of each of these objectives for Canadian and circumpolar Inuit, ICC Canada maintained a close and ongoing active involvement in the workings of the CBD. In 2009-2010, Environment Canada supported ICC Canada's work in facilitating dialogue on domestic ABS policy and soliciting views on how Inuit communities might be engaged in the development of policy and addressing challenges. A workshop held in Ottawa in March 2010 drew participation from each of the Canadian Inuit regions. As a result of the recommendations coming out of the workshop, ICC Canada formed a new CBD steering group bringing together Inuit region representation, ICC, the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) and ABS experts to study the uses of genetic resources.

In addition to this national work, ICC Canada has been actively involved internationally with the preparations for the 2010 Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity which will take place in Japan in October 2010. With Canada being one of the parties negotiating the proposed international ABS regime to come under the CBD, ICC Canada has been included in the official Canadian government delegation. It has participated in each of the 2009-2010 ad hoc open-ended working group meetings in negotiating the ABS regime. The regime is expected to be adopted at the COP meeting later this year.

ArcticNet

In 2009 – 2010, ICC Canada continued its successful work in ensuring Inuit knowledge was considered and incorporated into the deliberations of western scientists working on Arctic issues.

Over the course of the last fiscal year, ICC Canada has continued its collaborative and independent activities to promote research and partnerships within the ArcticNet program, promoting the voice of Inuit. Started in 2004, ArcticNet brings together international and Canadian scientists and managers in the natural, human health and social sciences with their partners in Inuit organizations, northern communities, federal and provincial agencies and the private sector.

The objective of Inuit partnership in the program is to ensure that Inuit gain a greater understanding of the benefits of research and to increase the level of interest in science and careers in research within Inuit communities. In turn, scientific programs are becoming more aware of the value of Inuit knowledge in research. Efforts to date have culminated in many positive outcomes for both the program and Inuit.

Through collaborative and coordinated efforts, these positive outcomes have been made possible thanks to Inuit membership on ArcticNet’s Board of Directors, Research Management Committee, Executive Committee and on the Inuit Advisory Committee. A collaborative funding approach between ArcticNet, INAC’s Northern Contaminants Program, and the Nasivvik Centre has resulted in the positions of Inuit Research Advisor in each of the Canadian Inuit regions. These positions were established to facilitate research in Inuit regions on contaminants, climate change and environmental health as well as to engage Inuit in undertaking research activities of importance to their communities.

To this end, ICC Canada, in partnership with ITK, Trent University and the University of Alberta was successful in developing a project entitled, “Integrating and Translating ArcticNet Science for Sustainable Community and Global Policy and Decision-making.” This project will allow ICC and ITK to assess and analyze ArcticNet science as it is applied to decision-making at all levels of community and government, as Arctic leaders must have access to the best available scientific information and knowledge. This project has adopted a case-study approach to develop a better understanding of the policy and decision making landscape and associated pathways and mechanisms through which to translate or connect science and action.

International Polar Year

The International Polar Year (IPY) has been the largest ever international program of coordinated, interdisciplinary science in the polar regions including research and observations over a 24-month period from March 1, 2007 to March 1, 2009. While the official observing period of IPY has been completed, ICC Canada has continued the important work of analyzing, publishing and archiving the data and information gathered during the past year. ICC Canada officials sat on Canada’s IPY National Committee which led to the IPY’s development in Canada.



Figure 9 Tuktoyaktuk

Circumpolar Flaw Lead Study

Similarly, ICC Canada strongly supports the Circumpolar Flaw Lead (CFL) System Study, as part of Canada’s contribution to the International Polar Year (IPY). It is closely linked to the activities and processes of ArcticNet and interconnects Inuvialuit and western science thinking into a coordinated approach to understand the flaw lead system near Banks Island. These two different ways of understanding, if considered together, might significantly enhance our understanding of changes in the Circumpolar Flaw Lead (CFL) and the effects on the three local Inuvialuit communities of Ikaahuk (Sachs Harbour), Ulukhaktok, and Paulatuk and the larger Canadian and circumpolar Arctic environment.

This project supports a large Canadian-led international effort to understand how climate variability/change affects marine physical-biological processes within the circumpolar flow lead system. ICC Canada has led the facilitation and linking of Traditional Knowledge with other science team's research agendas.

Contaminants

The bio-accumulation of contaminants in the Arctic ecosystem, due to long range transport, has led to very high concentrations in some Inuit populations. Article 11 of the Utqiagvik Declaration instructed ICC to "maintain its efforts to reduce worldwide emissions of contaminants that end up in the Arctic, threatening the health and well-being of Inuit and the natural environment, including participation in national and regional plans to implement the global Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;"

Funding from the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) of INAC has enabled ICC Canada to work with federal and territorial government agencies, universities and indigenous peoples' organizations to effectively address the issue of contaminants in the Arctic. On a national level, ICC Canada plays an active role on the NCP Management Committee. At the circumpolar level, it is directly involved with contaminant research in the Arctic, through the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring Assessment Program (AMAP) Working Group. Internationally, ICC Canada represents Inuit at the United Nations Environment Program and related meetings including the Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Review Committee and in negotiations for a global mercury agreement.

ICC continues to encourage scientists, industry leaders and policy-makers to understand the cumulative effect that contaminants have on Inuit land, seas and ultimately the global environment. It provides input into blueprint and proposal reviews as part of the Environmental Trends Subcommittee. ICC Canada will also be contributing to the upcoming Canadian Arctic Contaminant Assessment Report (CARCAR III).

Arctic Monitoring Assessment Program (AMAP)

The objective of the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring Assessment Program is to provide information on the status of, and threats to, the Arctic environment, providing scientific consultation on actions to be taken, supporting Arctic governments in their efforts to take remedial and preventive actions relating to contaminants. ICC Canada frequently reviews AMAP assessments, such as the State of the Arctic Report (SAOR), the Arctic Pollution Report 2009, and the Health Risk Assessment 2009. Further, ICC Canada is a member of the AMAP Expert Group on Mercury, and is a co-author of two chapters of the Mercury Assessment Report, to be published by AMAP in 2011.

ICC Canada participated at the AMAP Health Expert Group meeting, which took place June 2009 as well as the NCP/AMAP Health Assessment Symposium in Iqaluit. ICC Canada also contributed to the external review process for the AMAP "Strategic Framework Review" and the internal review process during the AMAP meeting in San Francisco with a subsequent AMAP Heads of Delegation meeting in February, 2010.

ICC Canada has been a member of AMAP's Initiating Group (IG) of the Sustaining Arctic Observation Networks (SAON) initiative and contributed to the development of the SAON Report, Observing the Arctic. ICC Canada continues its engagement within SAON's Steering Group, and in a sub-group that works on the integration of community-based monitoring into the SAON process.

In March, 2010, ICC Canada participated at the SAON funders meeting in Miami, co-chaired a session on Human Health and Wellbeing at the meeting and co-authored a report on the outcomes.

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

ICC Canada has contributed to negotiations at the UNEP Global Mercury Program, whose goal is to create a global legally-binding agreement on mercury. ICC Canada has provided perspectives of circumpolar Inuit who are particularly vulnerable to mercury exposure due to their consumption of marine mammals. Activities in the past year have focused on preparations for the upcoming Intergovernmental Negotiation Committees, which ICC Canada will attend. ICC Canada participated in the regular stakeholder processes initiated by Environment Canada, attending the UNEP stakeholder meeting in September 2009 as well as a UNEP partnership meeting held in February, 2010.

In a partnership with the Canadian Government, ICC has been instrumental in the negotiations leading up to the Stockholm Convention of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). ICC Canada continues this work and attended the 4th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Stockholm Convention on POPs in May 2009 in Geneva, as part of the Canadian delegation. ICC Canada also contributed to the organization of and presentation in a side event at COP 4: 'Effectiveness Evaluation/Global Monitoring Plan: Measuring progress in eliminating POPs.' In 2010, ICC Canada will attend the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) meeting this October in Geneva.

Engagement in Mercury Research

ICC Canada aims to strengthen the utilization of sound science in its efforts. ICC Canada has been recognized as an accredited partner and as an industrial host for a post-doctoral fellow by the Natural Science and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC). As such, it was able to establish a mercury post-doctoral project. Aimed at identifying sources of mercury to the Arctic environment, this project also positions ICC well to provide input into many circumpolar (AMAP) and global (UNEP) initiatives.

Circumpolar Health

With human rights and environmental/ sustainable development laying at the core of all ICC activities, both merge on the issue of circumpolar health.

In line with the directives contained in the Utqiagvik Declaration which included the need for a pan-Inuit Summit on Health and Wellness and the development of a Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan, ICC Canada is playing a leadership role in health. With ITK, it entered into a formal agreement with Health Canada in December 2007. Its goal was to develop the Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan to advance Inuit health priorities and to facilitate Inuit involvement in international engagements on health. The first steps were undertaken with the formation of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee, and the hosting of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Summit.



Figure 10 Lillian Elias, Duane Smith, and Minnie Grey at the Inuit Circumpolar Health Summit 2009

Since then, ICC Canada, as the lead ICC office on health, has been very productive in advancing the circumpolar Inuit health agenda. Noteworthy achievements include the actual establishment of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee, with representatives from Chukotka, Alaska, Greenland and Canada. The Steering Committee met for the first time in Copenhagen in September 2008, and was instrumental in the planning and realization of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Summit which was held in July, 2009, in Yellowknife. The Summit brought together 30 participants from all four Inuit countries who discussed health challenges, priorities, and good practices. The Inuit Summit generated much interest in the media. Minnie Grey presented outcomes of the Summit at the International Congress on Circumpolar Health, which was held just after the Summit in Yellowknife. Summit outcomes were also featured in an article in the International Journal of Circumpolar Health and in a presentation at the 2009 NAHO National Conference on “Our People, Our Health” held in November, 2009 in Ottawa.

Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan

Coming out of the Yellowknife Summit, a strategy for the Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan is being developed to guide ICC’s health advocacy work over the next four years, which will be presented at ICC’s General Assembly in June 2010 in Nuuk. The Strategy’s objective is to improve Inuit health and wellness across the Arctic. Its goals are to:

1. Influence international, regional and national policies and programs that impact on Inuit health and wellbeing;
2. Improve awareness of Inuit health and wellness issues across the Arctic;
3. Encourage greater focus on Inuit health and wellness issues through ICC’s representation on international forums;
4. Support improved understanding by health professionals of Arctic/Inuit specific issues;
5. Promote research to improve Inuit health and wellness.

Collaboration with other Stakeholders

ICC Canada continues to work toward strengthening collaboration with key national, circumpolar and international stakeholders in the field of health, including ITK, the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH), Inuit Tuttarvingat, the Arctic Council and government agencies. As described above, ICC Canada is a member of the Expert Group on Arctic Human Health under the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) and is an active participant on the Arctic Council’s Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP). ICC Canada has been contributing to the strategic framework review of the organization, and has been a co-author on two chapters of the upcoming mercury assessment. Further, ICC Canada participated at the Health Expert meeting of Arctic Council’s Arctic Monitoring Assessment Program (AMAP), which took place in Iqaluit, in June, 2009 and the following joint symposium of AMAP, and the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) on Human Health and Arctic Environmental Contaminants. For that meeting ICC Canada assisted with the organization of a session on local indigenous perspectives, and presented a talk on international policy on contaminants.

ICC Canada has also been active in promoting Inuit health on the broader international stage through its participation in the International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement. It has also been in discussion with the World Health Organization (WHO) to identify appropriate ways for raising awareness on Inuit health issues, including contributing to WHO’s 2010 Annual Health Report.

Preparation for 2010 General Assembly in Nuuk, Greenland

ICC Canada, over the past year, invested considerable resources in planning for the 2010 General Assembly to be held in Nuuk, Greenland. Here Inuit leaders and delegates will come together from Russia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland to work collectively to map out what needs to be done on matters of international importance over the next four years.

As such, ICC Canada has prepared numerous documents, consulted with Canadian Inuit and contributed to the drafting of the *Nuuk Declaration*. Just as with the *Utqiagvik Declaration*, approved in Barrow Alaska at the last General Assembly in 2006, the *Nuuk Declaration* will be the roadmap directing the organization's future planning and endeavors. ICC Canada has made sure that Canadian Inuit concerns will be reflected in the discussions in Nuuk.

ICC Canada started its General Assembly fundraising efforts in 2009-2010, which included approaching foundations and government departments. Funds were raised for not only the Assembly, but also for cultural activities that are very important for achieving a central objective of the meeting – that of celebrating Inuit unity across four countries.

The General Assembly is a time to celebrate the present and plan for the future. ICC Canada will begin planning for 2014, when it takes over the office of the ICC Chair at a time that will, no doubt, be a critical juncture for all Arctic peoples.

Arctic Sovereignty

The questions of who owns the Arctic, who has access to its resources, and who has a right to traverse the Arctic continued to be central preoccupations for many states and industries in 2009-2010. As a result, it was an important file for ICC Canada as well. At the beginning of ICC Canada's fiscal year in April 2009, Inuit from Russia, Alaska, Greenland and Canada launched the *Circumpolar Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*. As reported in last year's annual report, this Declaration was the culmination of 6 months of consultation and drafting, which in turn followed several meetings, some with Inuit and others where Inuit were excluded. The Declaration provides Inuit and others with background to the assertion and recognition of Inuit rights to lands and seas, and stresses the importance of putting Inuit at the centre of any and all talks surrounding Arctic governance and sovereignty.



Figure 11 Aqpiqs- photo courtesy of Duane Smith

Unfortunately, in the past year, Inuit were once again shut out of Arctic sovereignty talks, this time by the Canadian government, which hosted the *Oceans Five* summit in Chelsea, Quebec in March 2010.

This group consists of the five Arctic states that border on the Arctic Ocean and, while ICC Canada's president put forward many positive reasons directly to Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs to have Inuit at the negotiations table, Canada was resolute in excluding Inuit. ICC Canada continued to press for inclusion other Arctic governance activities and, despite some setbacks in this area, ICC Canada is confident that all *Oceans Five* states and others will continue to see value in having ICC Canada's voice at any and all tables that involve questions such as who has sovereign rights to the Arctic.

There were many other Arctic governance projects and activities that other states and academics initiated in 2009-2010. ICC Canada monitored most of them and, whenever possible, reminded those involved in these initiatives. The *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic* continues to be an important tool for ICC Canada and all Inuit as they continue to face these new initiatives impacting on our homeland.

Financial Report

Summarized Financial Statements of INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.

Year ended March 31, 2010

Auditors' Report

The accompanying summarized statement of financial position and summarized statement of operations and changes in net assets are derived from the complete financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. as at March 31, 2010 on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated May 14, 2010. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants
Ottawa, Canada
May 14, 2010

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2010, with comparative figures for 2009

	2010	2009
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 159,075	\$ 139,941
Accounts receivable	232,467	186,063
Prepaid expenses	8,882	19,611
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	400,424	345,615
Capital assets	30,671	36,904
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 431,095	\$ 382,519
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 275,695	\$ 211,674
Deferred revenue	116,945	131,052
Current portion of capital lease obligation	10,898	7,975
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	403,538	350,701
Capital lease obligation	19,261	24,025
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets	512	4,904
Unrestricted	7,784	2,889
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,296	7,793
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 431,095	\$ 382,519

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.

Summarized Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets
Year ended March 31, 2010, with comparative figures for 2009

	2010	2009
Contribution revenue:		
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	\$ 524,087	\$ 308,134
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	176,500	244,579
University of Manitoba	291,088	375,066
Laval University	146,216	154,678
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada	142,886	159,214
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	75,000	75,000
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	75,000	75,000
I.C.C. Foundation – (re: Air Inuit – Makivik)	75,000	75,000
Government of Nunavut	75,000	75,000
Nunatsiavut Government	75,000	77,837
Environment Canada	69,686	40,000
Health Canada	15,000	–
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council	15,000	–
Trent University	50,000	–
Government of Northwest Territories	25,000	–
Council of Yukon First Nations	6,898	6,360
I.C.C. Foundation (re: Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation)	–	144,661
Heritage Canada	–	206,310
Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada	8,808	7,698
Miscellaneous	35,663	82,915
	<u>1,881,832</u>	<u>2,107,452</u>
Expenses:		
Salaries, benefits and contracts	638,500	608,987
Professional fees	507,879	722,960
Travel and accommodation	475,585	559,192
Operating costs	79,030	59,457
Communications	65,689	84,151
Office rent	100,310	58,875
Amortization of capital assets	14,336	14,042
	<u>1,881,329</u>	<u>2,107,664</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	503	(212)
Net assets, beginning of year	7,793	8,005
Net assets, end of year	\$ 8,296	\$ 7,793

Annex I - ICC Organizational Structure

Inuit Circumpolar Council

Since 1977, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has flourished and grown into a major international nongovernment organization representing approximately 155,000 Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka (Russia). The organization holds Consultative Status II at the United Nations.

To thrive in our circumpolar homeland, Inuit have the vision to speak with a united voice on issues of common concern and to combine our energies and talents towards protecting and promoting the Inuit way of life. The principle goals of ICC are, therefore, to:

- Strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar region;
- Promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level;
- Develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment;
- Seek full and active partnerships in political, economic and social development in the circumpolar region.

ICC holds a General Assembly every four years at which time delegates from across the circumpolar region elect a new Chair and Executive Council, develop policies, and adopt resolutions that will guide the activities of the organization for the coming term.

The General Assembly is the heart of the organization providing an opportunity for sharing information, discussing common concerns, debating issues and strengthening the common bond between all Inuit. Representatives from the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council (ICYC) and the International Elders Council participate, thereby improving communication and creating synergy with these important affiliated organizations.

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

Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada)

The ICC in Canada is a non-profit organization led by a Board of Directors comprising the elected leaders of the four land claim settlement regions: Nunakput, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut (Labrador). The land claims settlement regions provide some core funding; however, raising additional resources to adequately pursue the objectives of ICC Canada and to effectively implement its initiatives remain a necessary and ongoing responsibility of the executive and staff. ICC Canada greatly appreciates the generous donor support received for the year 2009-2010 without which the accomplishments of the past year would not have been possible. Please refer to Annex III for a list of donors and contributors.

ICC Canada Aims and Objectives

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

- To preserve and promote the unity of Inuit as a single people within the circumpolar Arctic and to assist Canadian Inuit in speaking collectively with Inuit in Russia, Alaska and Greenland on international matters;
- To represent Canadian Inuit views on the Executive Council of the Inuit Circumpolar Council and to implement, in Canada, the resolutions emanating from the General Assemblies of the Inuit Circumpolar Council;

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

ICC Canada Legal Status and Board Membership

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

Annex II - ICC Administration

ICC Canada Board of Directors

Duane Smith, President
Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada

Violet Ford, Vice-President International Affairs
Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada

Mary Simon, Vice-President, National Affairs
Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada
President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Paul Kaludjak, President
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Pita Aatami, President
Makivik Corporation

Jim Lyall, President
Nunatsiavut Government

Nellie Cournoyea
Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Elisapee Sheutiapik, President
Pauktuutit

Jesse Mike, President
National Inuit Youth Council

ICC Canada Staff

Corinne Gray
Executive Director

Jocelyne Durocher
Financial Manager

Carole Simon
Executive Assistant

Pitseolalaq Moss-Davies
Research Coordinator

Eva Krümmel, Ph.D.
Senior Health Research Officer

Leanna Ellsworth
Policy Advisor
Climate Change & Health

James Kuptana
Research Assistant

Yvonne Moorhouse
Office and Project Assistant

Stephanie Meakin
Science Advisor



Front: Stephanie Meakin, Corinne Gray, James Kuptana,
Carole Simon, Yvonne Moorhouse
Back: Eva Krümmel, Pitsey Moss-Davies,
Jocelyne Durocher

ICC Executive Council



Chair
James Stotts (Alaska)

Canada
Vice-Chair: Duane Smith
Executive Council Member: Violet Ford

Greenland
Vice-Chair: Aqqaluk Lynge
Executive Council Member: Carl Christian Olsen

Alaska
Vice-Chair: Edward Itta
Executive Council Member: Chuck Greene

Russia
Vice-Chair: Tatiana Achirgina
Executive Council Member: Valentina Leonova

Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council

Chair
Greta Schuerch

Canada
Jesse Mike
Wynter Kuliktana

Greenland
Nuno Isboethsen
Stina Berthelsen

Alaska
Lee Ryan
Deanna Latham

Russia
Galina Seliverstova
Lydia Tutai

Inuit International Elders Council

Chair
Levi Cleveland

Canada
Lillian Elias

Greenland
Magnus Therkelsen

Alaska
Willie Goodwin Jr.

Russia
Larissa Visolova

Annex III - Donor Acknowledgement

ICC Canada is very grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and is pleased to acknowledge the following contributors for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Inuvialuit Charitable Foundation

Makivik Corporation

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc

Nunatsiavut Government

Government of Nunavut

Government of the Northwest Territories

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

National Aboriginal Health Organization

Council of Yukon First Nations

Health Canada

Environment Canada

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada,

Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada:

Circumpolar Liaison Directorate

Northern Contaminants Program

International Polar Year Federal Program

University of Laval

University of Manitoba

Trent University

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

Annex IV - Inuit Call to Global Leaders: Act Now on Climate Change in the Arctic

-- November 13, 2009 --

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is an indigenous peoples' organization, founded in 1977 to promote and celebrate the unity of 160,000 Inuit from Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Russia. As the international voice of Inuit, ICC is calling upon global leaders at the December UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (CoP 15) to listen to this Inuit voice. ICC works to promote Inuit rights, safeguard the Arctic environment, and protect and promote the Inuit way of life.

ICC is deeply concerned about the current and potential impacts of climate change on the cultural, spiritual, and economic health of Inuit throughout the Arctic. We are concerned about the health of the Arctic environment, which not only sustains us, but also plays a vital role in keeping the earth's systems healthy as a whole.

Inuit call on global leaders at COP15 to:

1. Help Inuit sustain their lands and territories by *Ratifying* a Post-2012 agreement that will stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations at 350 parts per million by volume, in order to ensure that long-term temperature increases remain well below 2°C.
2. Recognize the impact of climate change on Inuit by *Designating* avoidance of climate change impacts on the Arctic as one of the key benchmarks for effectiveness of a Post-2012 process.
3. Welcome direct Inuit input by *Calling* upon the IPCC to develop a future assessment on climate change and Indigenous Peoples utilizing and addressing the important role of traditional knowledge in informing policy decisions.
4. Work with Inuit in their efforts to adapt to the new Arctic by *Creating* an International Climate Change Adaptation Fund financed by G20 countries to help citizens of the planet adapt to the inevitable changes and to accelerate technology transfer. An immediate investment of \$20 billion (USD) is needed, increased to \$100 billion (USD) annually by 2020.
5. Recognize the vulnerability of Inuit and other indigenous peoples by *Adopting* a mechanism for adaptation assistance to vulnerable groups, communities, and countries that:
 - a. Provides financial support and technical assistance to communities, such as Inuit, that are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts;
 - b. Devolves funding and decision-making to the lowest possible level (i.e. communities instead of states) and incorporates the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent as adopted by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - c. Makes available adaptation assistance to vulnerable communities and populations living within developed nations (Annex 1 countries).
6. Support Inuit in benefitting from and participating in appropriate technology development by *Incorporating* assistance for appropriate, small-scale, green energy technology as part of adaptation and mitigation financing in support of healthy, local economies.

In 2008, ICC convened an International Polar Year climate change policy workshop aboard the vessel CCGS *Amundsen*, which brought together climate change scientists and Inuit leaders to address the effects of climate change in the Arctic region. Based on insights from these leaders, we released the “Amundsen Statement: 2012 Climate Change Roadmap” (available at www.inuitcircumpolar.com), which highlighted our strategy for addressing the global threat of climate change.

Building on the Amundsen Statement 2012, the following “Call to Global Leaders” provides updates to scientific and Traditional Knowledge on climate change. Our engagement on climate change is based on our Inuit Traditional Knowledge, which offers detailed and valuable insights into a changing world, and on our role as custodians for the land where we have lived for thousands of years.

ICC’s COP15 Platform:

COP15 Action Point #1:

Ratify a Post-2012 agreement that will stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations at 350 parts per million by volume, in order to ensure that long-term temperature increases remain well below 2°C.

We need a post-2012 agreement, ratified by *all* the world’s leaders, that will stabilize GHG concentrations at 350 parts per million to avoid catastrophic change in Arctic systems.

Inuit and scientists agree: human-induced climate change has already caused changes in physical, biological, and social systems in the Arctic. The Arctic has warmed at nearly twice the rate of the rest of the world over the past century, and scientists predict that warming trends in the Arctic will continue to outpace other regions. An increase in average global temperatures of 2°C, currently identified as a “point of no return” for climate change impacts, would mean an increase of 3.2 to 6.6°C in the Arctic – an increase that would have major impacts on sea ice and glaciers. For every 1°C in temperature rise, sea ice decreases by approximately 1,480,000 square kilometers, an area roughly equal to the land masses of Sweden, Norway, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom combined.

The *Arctic Climate Impact Assessment* (2005) reported that large areas of the Arctic basin would be ice free in the summer months within a decade, and the IPCC’s *Fourth Assessment Report* (2007) concurred that impacts on ice, snow, and glaciers would be significant. Updates to these reports suggest that changes are occurring faster than anticipated: in 2007, Arctic sea ice reached a record low, and in 2008, both the northeast and northwest passages were ice free for the first time in recorded history. Scientists now suggest that the Arctic will be ice free in the summer in 20 years, with most of the melt occurring in the next decade.

Although scientists have predicted changes to Arctic systems for decades, the pace of change over the past several years has surprised many. It is clear that we must do everything in our power to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C to protect the viability of Arctic sea ice, ecosystems, and cultural traditions.

COP15 Action Point #2:

Designate avoidance of climate change impacts on the Arctic as one of the key benchmarks for effectiveness of a post-2012 process.

The Arctic's physical and metaphoric importance in regulating earth systems and illustrating the impact of climate change should be reflected in the next global agreement on climate change.

The Arctic environment plays a unique role in global climatic and oceanic systems. Arctic ice and snow help to keep the earth cool by reflecting sunlight back into space. As sea ice and multiyear ice and snow melt, the darker ocean and earth below will absorb heat, thus amplifying the rate of climate change. Melting water from glaciers will lead to sea level rise, and may also impact ocean circulation, which impacts temperature and rainfall patterns around the world. A recent report by the United States Climate Science Program based on paleoclimate data suggested that sustained warming of even a few degrees (in the range of 2°C - 7°C) would be sufficient to cause the eventual disappearance of the Greenland ice sheet, which would raise sea level by several meters.

The information provided by scientists studying climate change has thus helped us to understand the essential interconnection of our planetary systems. The Arctic plays a uniquely important role in helping to support the ecological adaptations on which our global human civilization depends. The Arctic has played another essential role in helping the human community come to terms with climate change: impacts of climate change on Arctic ecosystems and human communities have helped illustrate the significant dangers posed by climate change. Images of impacts on Inuit and other Arctic indigenous peoples have been striking, and have helped capture the world's attention, putting the "human face" on climate change. From the community of Shishmaref, Alaska, forced to relocate due to climate change, to the community of Tuktoyaktuk in the western Canadian Arctic, where the government is experimenting with wind power, to Inuit elders in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka struggling to find new, safe routes in sea ice and weather that is less predictable than in the past, voices from the Arctic have become part of the moral and ethical foundation demanding strong leadership on climate policy.

Because of the Arctic's unique physical and metaphoric importance in climate change, ICC calls on world leaders to designate avoidance of climate change impacts on the Arctic as one of the key benchmarks for effectiveness of a post-2012 process.

COP15 Action Point #3:

ICC calls upon the IPCC to develop a future assessment on climate change and Indigenous Peoples and the important role of Traditional Knowledge in informing policy decisions.

Inuit Traditional Knowledge has provided critical information about climate change impacts in Arctic ecosystems, complementing scientific knowledge. Traditional Knowledge should be incorporated into – and made a focus of -- future assessments by the IPCC.

Inuit Traditional Knowledge has provided a wealth of information for researchers and policymakers seeking to understand the rapid pace of Arctic climate change, and its impact on ecosystems and communities. Inuit contributed Traditional Knowledge as part of the expert knowledge incorporated into the Arctic Council's *Arctic Climate Impact Assessment*, a state-of-the-art report when it was published in 2005, and a model for integrating "two ways of knowing."

Documenting Inuit Traditional Knowledge about environmental change was also a major emphasis of several research projects funded through the International Polar Year (IPY). The *International Polar Year - Circumpolar Flaw Lead System Study* is undertaking an intensive scientific study of the unique flaw lead system located in the Beaufort Sea. The flaw system is comprised of areas of open water surrounded by ice. These open water areas foster significant biological productivity, making them natural laboratories for studying the changing polar marine ecosystem.

As a major partner in the three-year *Circumpolar Flaw Lead System Study*, the Inuit Circumpolar Council is undertaking a comprehensive traditional knowledge study of the Inuit communities who have occupied and used this area of the Arctic for thousands of years. The integration of these "Two Ways of Knowing" will help determine the long-term implications to the Arctic and the global climate system of the current impacts due to the changing climate.

The incorporation of Inuit knowledge as a major component of these research programs demonstrates that the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples holds great value for understanding climate change and its impacts worldwide. As such, ICC calls upon the IPCC to develop a future assessment on climate change and Indigenous Peoples and the important role of traditional knowledge in informing policy decisions.

COP15 Action Point #4:

Create an International Climate Change Adaptation Fund financed by G20 countries to help citizens of the planet adapt to the inevitable changes and to accelerate technology transfer. An immediate investment of \$20 billion (USD) is needed, increased to \$100 billion (USD) annually by 2020.

Immediate financial assistance is needed to assist communities already significantly affected by climate change with adaptation planning and implementation.

It is clear that world leaders must adopt a strong post-2012 agreement that ensures that all countries participate in mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit global temperature rise. This is vital to the health of our planet and our communities. But even if a strong post-2012 plan for mitigation is adopted, communities in the Arctic and around the world are already struggling to address challenges created by climate change in their communities. Scientists tell us that because of complex feedback systems in our global environment, temperatures will continue to rise in coming decades even if we limit our emissions today. Because of this, global leaders must commit significant funding to support those most affected by climate change, and this funding must be *in addition to* funding committed to assist with development goals. Furthermore, mechanisms for delivering this funding need to be carefully thought out to ensure both equity and accountability (see #5, below).

COP15 Action Point #5:

Adopt a mechanism for adaptation assistance to vulnerable groups, communities, and countries that:

- a. Ensures the availability of financial support and technical assistance to communities that are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts;
- b. Devolves funding and decision-making to the lowest possible level (i.e. communities instead of states) and incorporates the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent as adopted by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- c. Ensures that vulnerable communities and populations living within developed nations have access to adaptation assistance.

Because Inuit communities in the Arctic, alongside other indigenous communities, are among those most affected by climate change, adaptation mechanisms must be directed not only towards developing countries but also vulnerable populations within developed states.

Inuit have long been admired for our ability to live in harsh climatic conditions. As Inuit, we thrive in our Arctic homeland, drawing on a vast repertoire of Traditional Knowledge practices that we continue to utilize for subsistence hunting today. However, changes in governance structures have made some traditional adaptive practices unfeasible today. Traditionally, Inuit migrated seasonally according to availability of animals. The governments of Arctic nations encouraged Inuit to settle in permanent settlements to make provision of services easier and to incorporate Inuit more clearly into national governance. As such, some traditional adaptive practices, such as moving to a new settlement, are currently unfeasible without significant assistance.

Although some adaptive measures (for example, sharing information about safe hunting routes) are very low-cost and are already being practiced in many Inuit communities, others will be more expensive. For example, many communities currently face problems with erosion and slumping due to permafrost melt; these problems create adaptation challenges such as the need to drill deeper and deeper pilings, and the relocation of individual buildings or entire communities. Such adaptations are significantly beyond the reach of Inuit communities without outside assistance.

Although wealthy nations have a moral responsibility to assist vulnerable countries with adaptation efforts, they also have an obligation to ensure that vulnerable communities within their own borders have the resources, knowledge, and technology needed to adapt. As such, any adaptation framework adopted by the global community should recognize the responsibility of wealthy countries towards communities within their borders that are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, including indigenous peoples.

COP15 Action Point #6:

Incorporate support for appropriate, small-scale, green energy technology as part of adaptation and mitigation financing in support of healthy, local economies.


Fostering resilience and the capacity to adapt means fostering healthy, sustainable, self-governing communities.

Numerous studies have shown that the best way to ensure that communities can adapt to change is to support resilience, health, and economic well-being at the household and community levels. Alongside other peoples that continue to practice subsistence traditions, Inuit struggle with issues of food security, a lack of jobs, housing shortages, and many chronic health issues. In addition, the cost of living in Arctic communities is among the highest in the world.


It makes sense in this context to provide adaptation and mitigation assistance that will help to foster resilience, independence, and health at the community and household level. Support for appropriate, small-scale energy technology is one mechanism for fostering economic well-being and decreased energy costs for communities and households. ICC recommends incorporating support for small-scale, green energy technology as part of adaptation assistance. This assistance should be available not only to communities in developing countries, but also to Inuit, other Arctic indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable populations living in wealthy nations.

Inuit Circumpolar Council's International Engagement on Climate Change

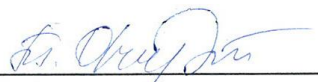
ICC recognizes the ongoing need for Inuit to engage with the circumpolar and international processes including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the Arctic Council and international science bodies (i.e. IASC, IASSA) to ensure the Inuit knowledge and perspective is considered and reflected in these processes. ICC is working to ensure that the ultimate text of the Post-2012 process recognizes the unique issues faced by Inuit in adapting to climate change.



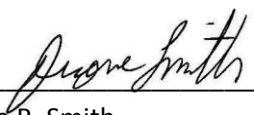
Jim Stotts, ICC Chair



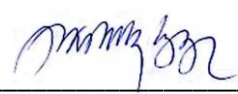
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