



Annual Report 2008-2009

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Message From ICC Canada President, Duane Smith

Who Owns Inuit Nunaat?



Over the past year, Canadian Inuit often heard these questions asked: *Who owns the Arctic? Who has a right to traverse the Arctic?* and *Who has a right to the Arctic's resources?* These questions of Arctic sovereignty were, incredibly, not asked of Inuit but of and by Arctic states, other states from far away, industry, academics, and tourism companies. They all wanted to get a piece of our Inuit homeland, which we call *Inuit Nunaat*, the collective area in which we live from Greenland to Canada to Alaska to Russia.

In response to the increasing focus on *Inuit Nunaat* from the outside, and in order to re-insert the collective voice of Inuit into the Arctic sovereignty debate, I decided to invite Inuit leaders from across the Arctic to Canada to address some of these questions at an Inuit Leaders' Summit in Kuujuaq. This international gathering of Inuit from Greenland, Canada, and Alaska gave rise to a collective 6-month initiative of drafting a *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Arctic Sovereignty*, which we just launched. Looking ahead to 2009-2010, I am confident that this important *Declaration* will indeed help us to be active players in the Arctic sovereignty debate,

rather than passive onlookers that others tried to relegate us to.

This ICC Canada annual report, however, is about looking back at 2008-2009 and taking stock. In each and every activity reported on in this document you will see the spirit, if not the elements, of the *Declaration* described. For example, the successful ICC Canada-led Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium held in Tromsø, Norway underlined the fact that asserting our sovereignty goes much beyond merely claiming physical territories. Our work on circumpolar health matters emphasized this same principle, as did our science and research work.

The essence of asserting Inuit sovereignty in the Arctic was also at the core of what happened when ICC and other leaders met aboard the research vessel *CCGS Amundsen* to map out an international climate change roadmap. ICC was protecting Inuit sovereignty when it promoted the Inuit right to fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources under the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.

When the European Union wanted to take away our sovereign right to sustainably use renewable resources, such as seals, ICC Canada sat face to face with European officials, asserting our inalienable rights. The same approach was used at the numerous working groups of the Arctic Council, and when it lobbied states at the United Nations – ICC Canada was there to declare that Inuit have rights under international law and national self-government processes. In so doing, we stressed that we were willing to work towards building stronger relationships and fostering greater respect with government, while at the same time asserting forcefully the Inuit right to be at the table in any and all sovereignty talks held at the international level.



Those who will review ICC Canada's activities described in this report will quickly come to understand that we take our role as international representatives of Canadian Inuit very, very seriously. In looking back, I am very proud of what ICC Canada accomplished under my leadership in 2008-2009 and that all members of our team never forgot our mission to undertake international activities in a manner that makes a difference in our local communities. And so from now on when others ask questions such as *Who owns the resources in Inuit communities and Inuit land claims regions?* or *Who has a right to travel across our waters?*, ICC Canada and all Inuit will have the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Arctic Sovereignty* as an international tool that makes a big difference at home, in our *Inuit Nunaat*.

ICC Activities

Human Rights



Human rights and, in particular, working to get states, industry, and others to recognize the human rights of Inuit and all indigenous peoples is at the heart of what the Inuit Circumpolar Council and ICC Canada stand for.

ICC Canada actively participated in the Seventh Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In addition to co-leading a side event on climate change with ICC Greenland, ICC Canada representatives participated in the discussions and offered contributions to the forum's final recommendations. In preparation for the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium, ICC Canada also participated with great interest in the half-day discussion on indigenous languages and took advantage of the venue to make important contacts for the symposium.

Following the September 2007 adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by the UN General Assembly, and the disappointment that Canada was one of four states to vote against it, ICC Canada has been working together with other indigenous groups to encourage Canada to change its position. ICC congratulated Australia on its recent decision to sign onto the declaration and will continue to urge Canada to follow suit. Irrespective of the Government of Canada's position, ICC considers the adoption of UNDRIP an historic initiative for all indigenous peoples. ICC frequently invokes the declaration when arguing for the rights of Inuit, such as, for example, in the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*.

The Organisation of American States continues to negotiate an *American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. ICC Canada participated in two negotiation meetings in 2008-09. As with the UNDRIP, negotiations on the Declaration may take many years. ICC Canada is committed to seeing this process through to the end.

In February 2009, the Government of Canada's record on human rights was up for its first review under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. ICC Canada participated in an Ad Hoc Working Group made up of national indigenous organizations and national and international human rights organizations to make a joint submission regarding Canada's record. Among other things, the submission pointed out that Canada has not yet signed the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and is instead opposing its use as a human rights standard. ICC Canada has noted with disappointment that the Government of Canada did not hold genuine consultations regarding the review. An ICC Canada representative was present in Geneva in February 2009 when the review was initially presented, and ICC Canada will be present again in June 2009 when Canada's UPR is adopted.

Arctic Council



Bringing the priorities of Canadian Inuit to the international stage is one half of ICC Canada's core mandate. The other half is communicating back to Canadian Inuit about international issues and developments of relevance to them. To fulfill its mandate, ICC Canada continuously gathers information about the priorities of Canadian Inuit in order to speak for them in international fora, one of the most important being the Arctic Council. All of our formal and informal interaction with Inuit either directly or indirectly informs ICC of Inuit priorities, and the goal of all our interactions at the Arctic Council is to ensure that Inuit perspectives are taken into account.

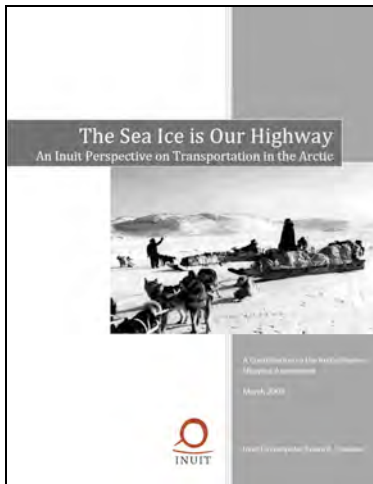
ICC is a Permanent Participant, a status reserved for international indigenous peoples' organizations in the Arctic Council. ICC Canada has been actively supporting and participating in the Arctic Council since its inception. With all six working groups of the Arctic Council currently carrying out important assessments, projects and consultations directly related to Inuit concerns, ICC Canada devotes a large portion of its resources to Arctic Council activities. In 2008, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) entered into a contribution agreement with ICC Canada, enabling the organization to effectively participate in Arctic Council and Arctic Council-related activities and to thereby strengthen the Arctic Council. Some of these activities were jointly funded by other donors.

The following were ICC Canada's key Arctic Council involvements in 2008-2009. Some of these involvements are addressed in more detail in other sections of this report.

- Lead agency organizing the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium;
- Participation in meetings of Senior Arctic Officials (SAO);
- Participation in meetings of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG);
- Participation in the SDWG's Arctic Human Health Expert Group (active participation in the inaugural meeting of this group in February 2009);
- Participation in Arctic Council Canadian Advisory Committee meetings;
- Participation in the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (*The Sea Ice is our Highway*, an ICC document prepared last year, was presented to the SDWG in this report period);



ICC Canada president, Duane Smith, with former USA Vice President Al Gore at Arctic Council meeting. Photo credit Harald Finkler.



ICC Canada submitted "*The Sea Ice is Our Highway: An Inuit Perspective on Transportation in the Arctic*" to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA). Many points raised in ICC Canada's report were included in the final AMSA report released in April 2009.

- Finalization of the Oil and Gas Assessment;
- Participation in the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) with particular emphasis on northern contaminants, POPs and the AMAP Human Health Assessment (see further information below), and monitoring of the Climate Change and the Cryosphere: Snow, Water, Ice, and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA) project;
- Participation in the working group, Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME);
- Participation in the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program and the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment within the working group, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF);
- Communication and consultation with Canadian Inuit on Arctic Council initiatives.

Government Relations

In this reporting period, ICC Canada was called to testify before several parliamentary committees on matters relating to the Arctic, and was also able to meet with a number of government ministers.

The ICC Canada President met with Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl in Ottawa to present opportunities for cooperation on international matters of concern to Inuit. He also met with Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon in Whitehorse to discuss the Inuit perspective on Arctic sovereignty, and they met again at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Norway. The ICC Canada President met with Canada's Governor General when she visited Inuvik in April 2008 and again in conjunction with Arctic Council meetings in Norway.

ICC's Policy Advisor on Climate Change and Health met with Environment Minister Jim Prentice at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Poland to urge the Canadian government to act more swiftly on climate change.

ICC's Vice President and health staff met with Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq to discuss ICC's recent activities on the important issue of circumpolar health.

ICC Canada made the following presentations to parliamentary committees: to the Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans outlining Inuit interests regarding oil and gas development, Arctic sovereignty and climate change; to the Commons Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities regarding Bill C-3, which seeks to extend the reach of the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act; and to the Commons Committee on National Defence as part of its study on Arctic sovereignty.



ICC Canada President Duane Smith met with Governor General Michaëlle Jean in Inuvik in April 2008.

ICC Canada maintains regular contact with numerous government officials responsible for Arctic matters, including officials from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Health Canada, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Canadian Heritage, in order to bring their attention to Inuit concerns. In keeping with ICC's international mandate, ICC Canada focuses its attention on those officials who work on international and circumpolar affairs.

Canada-Russia Relations

ICC Canada undertook a scoping mission in August 2008 through meetings with members of the ICC Executive Council to determine what services and support are needed to establish a self-sustaining office for ICC Chukotka.

ICC Canada has renewed its resolve to assist the Inuit of Chukotka in building their capacity so that they can participate fully in the activities of the global Inuit community. This scoping mission, supported by the Circumpolar Liaison Directorate of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, provided some of the information necessary for this assistance to take place.

Ongoing work by ICC Canada with ICC Chukotka has two outcomes that are important to both the Canadian Government and to the ICC: a stronger bilateral relationship with Russia through Inuit associations in an area of the Arctic that is strategically important for Canada; a richer reservoir of understanding and knowledge of circumpolar issues through strong links between Canadian and Russian Inuit.



ICC Chukotka representatives Natalia Rodionova and Valentina Leonova met with ICC Canada and members of the Executive Council in Alaska in August 2008.

Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium

Of great concern to Inuit is the importance of revitalizing the indigenous languages of the Arctic, some of which are in imminent danger of extinction. On behalf of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, and Arctic Council states, ICC

Canada took a lead role in organizing a highly successful “Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium” in Sápmi or Saamiland (Tromsø, Norway), 19-21 October 2008, under the auspices of the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). The symposium was attended by more than eighty representatives of the Arctic Council, national and regional Arctic governments, academia, circumpolar youth and the media, and it resulted in the presentation of concrete recommendations to the Arctic Council, the Arctic states, the United Nations and other international organizations, and all indigenous peoples of the Arctic.



The symposium was organized by the Inuit Circumpolar Council along with the local assistance of the Saami Council and the strong support of Gwich'in Council International, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, the Arctic Athabaskan Council, and the Aleut International Association. The Government of Canada was especially instrumental in promoting and supporting the planning and implementation of the symposium.

The symposium attracted 84 participants, including delegates representing the Arctic Council's Permanent Participants, delegates representing member states, and others interested in the status and role of indigenous languages. Guest speakers and other participants addressed the status and trends of Arctic indigenous languages, the critical role of indigenous language in protecting culture and transferring traditional knowledge, technology and media as tools to promote and strengthen indigenous languages, the role of indigenous languages in protecting the Arctic environment, and the role of government and international organizations in legislative development and standards setting to promote and enhance indigenous languages.

Participants shared best practices, engaged in debate with policy makers and other experts on indigenous issues, and finally adopted a comprehensive set of recommendations calling for action by the Arctic Council, member states, international organizations and indigenous peoples’ organizations to support the revitalization of indigenous languages. Among the recommendations made to the Arctic Council was a call to support a comprehensive assessment of the state of Arctic indigenous languages, upon which language promotion and revitalization activities can be planned.

The symposium provided a significant opportunity for indigenous peoples of the Arctic to highlight the critical connection between culture and sustainable development, to galvanize action (in the form of policy shifts and increased access to resources) by key players across the Arctic, and to turn hopes into reality.

Symposium proceedings and photographs can be viewed at the symposium website www.arcticlanguages.com, along with background articles, presentation materials from symposium sessions, and recommendations issued as a result of the symposium.

The organization of this symposium required significant collaboration with Arctic Council member states and close partnership with the Government of Canada. ICC Canada also collaborated closely with the Government of Norway as the host country of the symposium. Other Arctic Council governments made financial or technical contributions to the symposium.

Circumpolar Health

ICC Canada's current work on the health and well-being of circumpolar Inuit is guided by two articles in the *Utqiagvik Declaration* directing ICC to hold a pan-Inuit summit on social challenges, including health and well-being, and to develop a Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan. ICC Canada is playing a leadership role in the area of health, having entered with ITK into a formal agreement with Health Canada in December 2007 to develop and implement over a three-year period a Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan to advance Inuit health priorities and to facilitate Inuit involvement in international engagements on health.

This reporting period has been particularly productive in advancing the circumpolar Inuit health agenda. Noteworthy achievements include the establishment of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee, the finalization of its report on a workshop held in Copenhagen in September 2008, and the planning that has been done in preparation for the Circumpolar Inuit Health Summit in July 2009. In addition, two major papers were produced to support the work of the steering committee: one focused on the overall health and wellness situation among circumpolar Inuit; and the other dealt with food security in the Arctic. Furthermore, ICC Canada was able to hire a Senior Health Research Officer and a Policy Advisor on Climate Change and Health to lead and support all these health initiatives.



Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Photo credit: Duane Smith

Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan

Terms of reference were developed for the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee, and the committee was subsequently formed with representation from Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Russia. The Steering Committee held its first meeting in Copenhagen on 22 September 2008 to address the key issues affecting Inuit health and to identify the priorities that should be discussed at the Circumpolar Inuit Health Summit. It was agreed that the focus of the Summit would be on Inuit youth and children ("a family responsibility, a community responsibility, our responsibility") and that the Summit should be held back-to-back with the International Conference on Circumpolar Health (ICCH) in Yellowknife in July 2009. A draft agenda was prepared by ICC Canada and shared with steering committee members for their views and suggestions.

The Circumpolar Inuit Health Summit will bring human health experts from all of the circumpolar countries together to talk about social challenges, with a focus on health and well-being, to share information on national initiatives and approaches to policy, and to share promising practices among Inuit across the circumpolar region. Outcomes of the meeting will provide input into the Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan and will also be presented at the ICCH and at the second meeting of the SDWG's Expert Group on Arctic Human Health, which will take place on the first day of the ICCH in Yellowknife.

Collaboration with other Stakeholders

ICC Canada works to strengthen collaboration with key national, circumpolar and international stakeholders in the health area, including ITK, the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH), Inuit Tuttarvingat, the Arctic Council and government agencies. ICC Canada is now a member of the Expert Group on Arctic Human Health under the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). ICC Canada is also a reviewer of the Health Assessment Reports compiled by the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and INAC's Northern Contaminants Program (NCP); ICC Canada is participating in the organizing committee for a Health Assessment workshop in Iqaluit in June 2009, at which these the Health Assessment Reports will be released. ICC

has been an active participant in the AMAP Oil and Gas Assessment to ensure that Inuit health issues are brought forward and is working to ensure that Inuit health issues are considered in the AMAP Shipping Assessment.

ICC participated in the following meetings in 2008-2009 to strengthen its collaborative relationships and to draw attention to health issues of concern to Inuit: ITK's Food Security Workshop, May 2008; the NICOH meeting, Nain, June 2008; the Global Indigenous Stop TB Experts meeting, Toronto, Nov. 2008; the Health of Indigenous and Remote Northern Communities Meeting hosted by First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) for the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS), Gatineau, Quebec, Nov. 2008; the Sustainable Development Working Group's (SDWG) Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) Inaugural Workshop, Ottawa, Feb. 2009; and the International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement Meeting, Kona, Hawai'i, Mar. 2009.

Environment and Sustainable Development

Guided by the articles of the *Utqiaġvik Declaration*, ICC Canada has continued to bring to the attention of the international community many environment and sustainable development issues of concern to Inuit. ICC Canada also endeavours 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 and the global community scales up its response and dedication of resources, it has never been more important than it is now to ensure that Inuit participate in the processes determining the global responses. For ICC Canada, climate change stands out as a most significant challenge with consequences affecting many aspects of Inuit life in Canada and other circumpolar regions. At the same time, other areas of concern related to the environment and sustainable development continue to demand ICC's attention, including the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, the sustainable utilization of wildlife, Arctic science and research, circumpolar health, and the worldwide emissions of contaminants that end up in the Arctic (see below).

Climate Change

ICC Canada is at the forefront of efforts to address the impact of climate change in the Arctic. It is taking the lead on this issue on behalf of all Inuit organizations.



Coastal regions such as this one in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut are being affected by climate change.
Photo credit: Duane Smith.

Through ICC Canada's IPY Circumpolar Flaw Lead System Study, a climate change policy workshop aboard the research vessel *CCGS Amundsen* in April 2008 brought together circumpolar Inuit leaders with climate change scientists and resulted in a comprehensive plan for ensuring that the knowledge, interests and needs of Inuit are considered in all international fora on climate change mitigation and adaptation. This innovative plan, the "Amundsen Statement: the ICC 2012 Climate Change Roadmap" (see Annex II), is designed to help ensure the success of the post-Kyoto-2012 process, so critical to the long-term survival and development of the Arctic.

In September and October 2008, ICC Canada participated in the Arctic Council SDWG's workshops on "Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies for Arctic Indigenous Communities" (in Copenhagen) and "Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic" (VACCA) in Tromsø, Norway. Participants in the VACCA workshop made recommendations in the areas

of local climate change adaptation, supporting and linking adaptation at the local and national levels, and climate change capacity building, education and outreach.

ICC Canada is actively advancing the interests of Inuit through a number of United Nations activities, particularly in the context of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

At the 7th session of the UNPFII in April 2008, which adopted the theme, “Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Livelihoods,” ICC hosted a side event on the impact of climate change on the Arctic, and a paper, co-authored by ICC's Executive Council member, Aqqaluk Lynge, on the impact of climate change mitigation measures on indigenous peoples and their territories and lands was presented.

Though aboriginal groups were not invited to join the Canadian delegation to the December 2008 UNFCCC COP 14 in Poznań, Poland, and though there had been no consultation between the Government of Canada and Inuit prior to COP 14, ICC Canada representatives were able to meet in Poznań with Canada's Minister of the Environment to request consultative cooperation between ICC and the Canadian government leading up to COP 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009. ICC Canada continues to work through Canada's Climate Change Ambassador to secure an official role in the UNFCCC COP 15 in Copenhagen and to ensure that Inuit issues are represented there. Through our observer status membership on the National Inuit Climate Change Committee (NICCC), ICC Canada has been able to inform Canadian Inuit of international developments and ensure that our work is representative of national positions.

ICC Canada has been preparing for the UNFCCC COP 15 in Copenhagen through its work in ArcticNet (see below) and its assistance with the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change, which took place in April 2009 in Anchorage, Alaska. In preparation for this summit, ICC Canada worked on two background papers addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation issues of concern to circumpolar Inuit: one in cooperation with the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD); and one with the support of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Sustainable Use of Wildlife

International campaigns and bans associated with Arctic wildlife continue to have a major impact on the livelihood of Canadian Inuit. ICC Canada has been working hard to ensure that international wildlife policies reflect the views and concerns of Inuit with respect to the sustainable utilization of wildlife and that these policies at the very least are not harmful to the economic and social wellbeing of Inuit.

In October 2008, eight thousand of the world's leading decision makers in the area of sustainable development met in Barcelona at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress to discuss ways to ensure the development of a diverse and sustainable world. ICC Canada organized a side event entitled, “When Contemporary Science and Indigenous Knowledge Collide – Two Ways of Knowing to Survive and Thrive as the Climate Changes.” The intention of this workshop was to provide an opportunity for scientists and Inuit and other indigenous leaders to share their knowledge of climate change, food security, health and climate change adaptation in the context of the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife.

Two actions in particular have demanded ICC Canada's attention during this reporting period: the European Union's (EU's) proposed import ban on seal products; and the listing by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

European Union Seal Import Ban



In the case of the proposed ban on seal products, ICC Canada worked in close collaboration with ITK and the Canadian Government in an attempt to ensure that Inuit interests would be protected within the eventual framework agreed to by the European Parliament. ICC Canada officials met with Canadian officials and European Commission (EC) officials in Brussels to discuss the importance of focusing on the sustainability of the Inuit seal hunt, to request that the definition of “traditional harvest” be broad and accurate enough to accommodate Inuit methods of sealing and hunting, and to request support for the small-scale commercial harvest conducted by Inuit in Canada.

ICC Canada was well-received by EC officials; some, though ill-informed, were well-meaning and interested in learning more about how the proposed ban might affect Inuit. They even indicated to ICC Canada and ICC Greenland that they would do whatever is in their power in future to directly assist Inuit in exploring seal product market potential, thereby opening a window for productive dialogue in the future about Arctic issues of interest to both Inuit and Europeans.

On 5 May 2009 (following the close of this reporting period), the European Parliament voted to ban imports of seal products into the 27-nation EU. The decision will become final after a vote by the European Council, which is expected at some point following the European Parliamentary elections in June. Canada has threatened action at the World Trade Organization if the ban includes no acceptable exemption for any country, such as Canada, that has strict guidelines in place for humane and sustainable sealing practices.

The ban legislation includes an exemption for seal products from hunts conducted by Inuit in Canada, or by other indigenous communities, but the products must be for personal use and brought into the EU on a non-commercial basis. 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.

ICC Canada will continue to work on this issue. While we remain resolutely opposed to the ban and very skeptical about the possibility of deriving any benefit from the exemption for Inuit, ICC Canada will continue to discuss Inuit concerns with EU officials, to explore with them any potential ways of accessing European markets, and to attempt to work with them on a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

Polar Bear Listing

Despite efforts by ICC Canada to brief US officials on Inuit views, and despite the recommendation of Canada's Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife (COSEWIC) that the polar bear remain a species of "Special Concern" (a status addressed by current conservation measures), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued its decision in May 2008 to list the polar bear as a threatened species. ICC Canada conveyed our deep disappointment to the US Secretary of the Interior, setting out the reasons for our objections to the USFWS decision. ICC Canada has argued from the beginning that Canada's co-management bodies are more than qualified to do their job and should be allowed to do it.

On 16 January 2009, ICC Canada officials, along with other Inuit leaders from across Canada, scientists, and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations and wildlife management boards met in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the National Polar Bear Roundtable hosted by the Federal Minister of Environment. They gathered to address Canada's polar bear listing and other management, research and conservation issues related to polar bears.

The Minister made it clear that Inuit from all four Inuit land claims regions and all relevant co-management boards in Canada will be consulted in the process related to the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* listing of the polar bear. Inuit expressed concern about the need for governments and scientists to respect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Inuit Traditional Knowledge) and to include it in their polar bear research, along with western science. More effective collaboration is needed to improve everyone's knowledge of polar bears and to ensure that decisions affecting polar bears and Inuit are based on the best information available.

ICC Canada will continue to work very hard to address the polar bear situation on behalf of Inuit communities in Canada.

Biodiversity

The *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)* is a landmark international treaty designed to protect the earth's biodiversity in the face of threats such as pollution, urbanization and climate change. One of the objectives of the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)* is fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The issues involved in managing *access* to genetic resources and sharing the *benefits* arising from the use of these resources are being addressed by Canada and other countries under the term, "Access and Benefit-sharing" (ABS).

The CBD and any related future international agreements on ABS are of concern to Inuit because they have important implications for Inuit land claims agreements, wildlife co-management systems, sustainable economic development in the Arctic, and compliance and enforcement issues facing Inuit and the North.

ICC Canada is drawing attention to the positions and concerns of Inuit communities, first, at the national level, as Canada's Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing prepares its report to the FPT Ministers, scheduled for the Fall of 2009 and, second, at the international level as preparations are made for the 2010 Conference of the Parties to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (COP 10). Canada is one of the parties negotiating an international ABS regime, and ICC Canada has been part of the official government delegation.

There is a need to engage all Inuit in discussions on the ABS regime to secure our rights over our resources and knowledge. In this reporting period, ICC Canada, with support from Environment Canada, facilitated a dialogue on domestic ABS policy between the federal government and Inuit in regions across Canada. In March 2009, ICC officials met with land claims representatives and other interested Inuit groups to inform them of ABS matters and solicit their views. These groups underlined the need for an Inuit-specific ABS policy that adequately responds to the particular needs of Inuit and addresses issues related to jurisdiction over the use of genetic materials. They suggested that Canada's ABS policies must take into

account the CBD, Inuit rights and Inuit Land Claims Agreements. They recommended that traditional knowledge holders, scientists and researchers work together to help ensure that research benefits the Inuit community.

These consultations lay the groundwork for further discussion and analysis of Canada's ABS policies and the contributions Canada will make to international ABS policies.



ICC Canada Vice-President Violet Ford has provided excellent leadership for ICC's biodiversity work. Pictured here: Violet Ford with participants of an "Access and Benefit-sharing" meeting in Kuujuaq, March 2009. Photo credit: Yvonne Moorhouse

International Polar Year

The International Polar Year (IPY) is a global, scientific program that focuses on the Arctic and the Antarctic. IPY, organized through the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), is actually the fourth polar year, following those in 1882-3, 1932-3 and 1957-8. In order to have full and equal coverage of both the Arctic and the Antarctic, IPY 2007-8 covered two full annual cycles from March 2007 to March 2009 and involved over 200 projects, with thousands of scientists from over 60 nations examining a wide range of physical, biological and social research topics. ICC Canada officials sat on Canada's IPY National Committee to lead IPY development in Canada.

International Polar Year: Arctic Resiliency and Diversity

In Canada, several northern aboriginal organizations, including ICC Canada, came together to develop a project on "Arctic Peoples, Culture, Resilience and Caribou" (ACRC). This three-year project (2008-2011) focuses on socio-ecological resilience and community health in the context of the relationship between different Arctic peoples and caribou. The focus of the study is not caribou per se, but rather some key elements of communities and their response to changes in this common resource, so central to the lives, culture, health and livelihoods of many Canadian Arctic aboriginal communities. It is hoped that the results of this work will be applicable to other community-environment relationships in which resilience is critically important to protect and sustain health and well-being.

International Polar Year: Circumpolar Flaw Lead (CFL) System Study

The Circumpolar Flaw Lead (CFL) is a perennial characteristic of the central Arctic. The CFL system is formed when the mobile central pack moves away from coastal fast ice, opening a flaw lead, which occurs throughout the winter season, forming first in the fall and continuing as thin-ice areas in the winter season. The flaw lead is circumpolar, with recurrent and interconnected polynyas occurring in the Norwegian, Icelandic, North American and Siberian sectors of the circumpolar Arctic. Due to a reduced ice cover, these regions are exceedingly sensitive to physical forcing from both the atmosphere and ocean and provide a unique laboratory from which we can gain insights into the changing polar marine ecosystem. In the Canada Basin, the Beaufort Sea Gyre is thought to be a significant element in the reduction of sea ice and formation of the CFL.



ICC Greenland President Aqqaluk Lynge and ICC Canada President Duane Smith in front of the CCGS Amundsen, April 2008.

The Circumpolar Flaw Lead (CFL) System Study is an IPY-funded project closely linked to the activities and processes of ArcticNet (see below) and is premised upon the concept of “two ways of knowing.” This concept 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 Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok, and Paulatuk and the larger Canadian and circumpolar Arctic environment.



ICC Canada organized a panel for the international plenary session at ArcticNet's Arctic Change 2008 conference. Pictured here from left to right: Carl Christian Olsen (Executive Council Member, ICC Greenland), Lars-Otto Reiersen (Executive Secretary, AMAP), Duane Smith, Lene Kielsen Holm (Director of International Sustainable Development, ICC Greenland), Marybeth Murray (Executive Director, International Study of Arctic Change, ISAC), David Hik (Vice-President, ISAC), and presenter Caleb Pungowiyi (ICC Alaska). Photo credit: Eva Kruemmel

Team 10 of the CFL System Study is led by ICC Canada in partnership with the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) communities and organizations, researchers from the other 9 CFL teams, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK). ICC CFL Team 10, determined to develop this project from the community up, worked with regional and community representatives to coordinate a Traditional Knowledge Steering Committee (TKSC) that would guide the traditional knowledge component of the project. Interviews in the communities will take place from June-September 2009. ICC CFL Team 10 organized a Circumpolar Inuit Climate Change Policy Workshop aboard the CCGS Amundsen in April 2008 to establish a circumpolar Inuit roadmap for climate change policy development. ICC CFL Team 10 was one of the international organizers of the 2nd Sustained Arctic Observing Network (SAON) initiative and organized the Community-Based Monitoring (CBM) workshop as part of the meeting. ICC CFL Team 10, in partnership with ITK, has also worked with

the Schools on Board coordinators to undertake the Circumpolar Inuit Field Program that was conducted in July 2008. Team 10 participated in two presentation sessions to the Inuvialuit Game Council and to the community of Sachs Harbour.

ArcticNet

ICC Canada continues to be very actively involved in bringing the voice of Inuit to the ArcticNet program. ArcticNet is a Network of Centres of Excellence in Canada that 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 to study the impacts of climate change in the coastal Canadian Arctic. The ArcticNet program began in 2004 and was renewed in 2008 by the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) for a further four years (2008-2011). ICC Canada has representation on ArcticNet's Board of Directors and Research Management Committee.

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.

For ArcticNet's International Arctic Change 2008 Conference in Quebec City in December, ICC Canada served on the International Organizing Committee, gave overall support to help ensure the success of the conference, and organized the international plenary session, entitled, "The Future of Circumpolar Science and Research – An Arctic Experts Perspective – A New Arctic Science and Research Regime." The aim of the plenary session was to illustrate the best practices of science and knowledge partnership and communication and the ways in which scientific results can be successfully translated into effective decisions and positive changes within communities and the circumpolar world. With the help of International Partnership Initiative funds, Inuit from Greenland and Alaska were able to participate.

ICC Canada continues to support the Inuit Research Advisors (IRAs), who are located in each of the four Inuit land claims regions and are co-funded by the Nasivvik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments, the Northern Contaminants Program and ArcticNet. The IRA positions were established to facilitate research in Inuit regions on contaminants, climate change and environmental health and to engage Inuit in undertaking research activities of importance to their communities.

ICC Canada was successful in developing a project in partnership with ITK, entitled, "Integrating and translating ArcticNet science for sustainable community and global policy and decision making." This project will allow ICC and ITK to work with Trent University and the University of Alberta to assess and analyze ArcticNet science as it is applied to decision making at all levels of community and government.

Canadian High Arctic Research Station

After the Canadian Government made a commitment in the October 2007 *Speech from the Throne* to build a world-class Arctic research station in Canada's Arctic, the Canadian Government commissioned three papers to identify Canada's Arctic science needs and knowledge gaps. In May 2008, ICC Canada and ITK presented a paper to the CHARS working group entitled, "Identifying Canada's global science advantage in addressing the grand challenges facing the Canadian Arctic: an Inuit perspective." This paper stated that further consultation with Inuit was required and that a circumpolar Inuit perspective should help direct decisions and investments in Arctic research before, during and after the establishment of a CHARS. ICC Canada and ITK have worked with the Canadian Government to help ensure that international science activities at the CHARS will maintain linkages between Arctic science and research and Inuit research needs and priorities and that the CHARS will ultimately benefit all circumpolar Inuit. Pond Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay have been shortlisted as potential sites for the Canadian High Arctic Research Station.

Contaminants

Article 7 in the *Kuujuuaq Declaration* strongly promoted the need to keep the Arctic environment safe from pollutants. In 2008-2009, ICC continued to be a global leader in work to mitigate the damage already done by environmental contaminants and to stop the manufacture and use of these contaminants at their source. ICC has

encouraged scientists, industry leaders and policy-makers to understand the cumulative effect that contaminants have on Inuit land and seas and ultimately the global environment.

Northern Contaminants Program (NCP)

Canada's Indian and Northern Affairs' Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) funds research and action by federal and territorial government agencies, universities and indigenous peoples' organizations (including ICC Canada) on various contaminants in the North, including persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals. NCP research has provided crucial information about the trends, pathways and effects of contaminants in the Canadian Arctic, and NCP funding has supported ICC Canada's international work on the Arctic Monitoring Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (see below).

Arctic Monitoring Assessment Programme (AMAP)

The objective of the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring Assessment Programme is to provide information on the status of, and threats to, the Arctic environment and to provide scientific advice on actions to be taken, in order to support Arctic governments in their efforts to take remedial and preventive actions relating to contaminants. ICC Canada has provided input into AMAP reports, such as the *State of the Arctic Report (SAOR)*, the *Arctic Pollution Report 2009*, and the *Health Risk Assessment* (to be published this summer). Further, ICC Canada's Senior Health Research Officer co-authoring the first chapter of the *Mercury Assessment Report*, to be published by AMAP in 2011.

ICC Canada has been a member of AMAP's Initiating Group (IG) of the Sustaining Arctic Observation Networks (SAON) initiative and has contributed to the development of the SAON Report, *Observing the Arctic*, which recommends the creation of an Arctic Observing Forum (AOF) to improve communication and collaboration among operators, funders and users of observing activities and observational data in the Arctic region.

As a member of the AMAP Expert Working Group on Mercury, ICC Canada attended the initial meeting in Stockholm and the following workshop in Quebec City in December 2008 to bring forward Inuit health concerns related to mercury. ICC Canada presented its position on mercury in February 2009 at United Nations Environment Programme's 25th Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Nairobi and asked the Governing Council for support of a legally binding, comprehensive agreement on mercury, explaining that levels of mercury in the Arctic environment have not been declining and have even increased in some areas. ICC Canada urged the global community to work together to achieve the most effective international agreement possible.

Stockholm Convention

ICC Canada participated in preparations and the negotiations for the 4th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) held in Geneva in May 2009. ICC Canada also contributed to the organization of a side event on 'Effectiveness Evaluation/Global Monitoring Plan: Measuring progress in eliminating POPs.'

Youth

ICC Canada has continued to encourage and coordinate the participation of youth in circumpolar and international activities.

Youth Delegate Program

The Youth Delegate Program is a Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada initiative supported by the territorial governments, the Canadian Arctic Council Advisory Committee and Permanent Participant organizations. The Arctic Council Advisory Committee is committed to young people learning about and participating in the Council's work and has created an opportunity for three youth to be Youth Advisors on a two-year term. Youth Delegates attend and participate in Arctic Council Advisory Committee, Senior Arctic Official and Ministerial meetings. Using and creating territorial networks, the delegates share the message and work of the Arctic Council with fellow youth in their communities and regions.

Youth Advisors have a support network to help with their roles, including mentors from the Federal Government, Territorial Government and Permanent Participant organization in the Youth Advisor's area. Members of the Arctic Council Advisory Committee are also available to provide help and encouragement.

These youth are developing communications material on knowledge and information they are gaining about the work of the Arctic Council and the work of the Permanent Participants within and outside of the Arctic Council. They are organizing outreach activities and developing opportunities to engage young Northerners in work of the Arctic Council.

ICC Canada's youth delegate, Sandi Vincent, was a superb choice for this program as she has enthusiastically taken advantage of every opportunity to gain knowledge and experience, and is actively sharing this with youth in her community.

Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium

The Youth Forum of the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium was held on 20 October 2008. Youth representing indigenous peoples from across the Arctic engaged in a lively and meaningful discussion of the language issues facing them. Each of the youth delegates who participated in the forum is actively promoting his or her language. Several work for local or regional governments, while others are studying linguistics or other subjects related to indigenous culture at various universities. All came to the table with valuable experiences and ideas to share with the group.

The Youth Delegation made the following recommendations to the symposium: include an Elder Representative from each of the Nations at future gatherings; have a Youth Representative at the table or included in the presentations; use standardization models that do not hurt local dialects; educate our policy-makers so that they can make better decisions regarding language; and teach others about indigenous cultures to encourage mutual respect.



RAIPON youth delegates met in Moscow, joined by ICC Canada's Yvonne Moorhouse and Oxana Golovkina. Photo credit: Oxana Golovkina

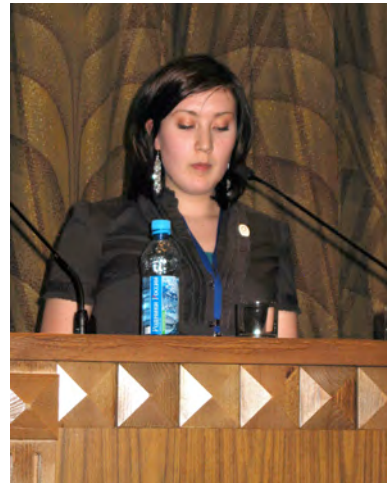
RAIPON Youth Exchange

The Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) requested ICC Canada as a partner in this CIDA-funded project administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

The first phase of the project involved a study tour by two Russian indigenous youth to Ottawa, March 8-15, 2009. The purpose of the tour was to acquaint the Russian youth with leadership-building policies and practices with respect to indigenous youth in Canada. They met with representatives of the Canadian government, aboriginal organizations and indigenous youth groups.



Annual congress of Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON): ICC Canada's Yvonne Moorhouse presents gift from Canada to RAIPON First Vice-president, Pavel Sulyandziga, with RAIPON president Sergey Kharuchi in foreground.



Yvonne Moorhouse addressed the RAIPON Congress, Moscow, and received an award on behalf of ICC Canada.

The second phase of the project, a visit by two ICC youth to the Youth Forum and RAIPON Congress in Moscow, took place in April 2009.

Elders

ICC Canada continues to work closely with Inuit elders and, over 2008-2009 year provided support to the International Inuit Elders Council (IIEC) wherever it was able.



Inuit Leaders' Summit – Kuujuaq

In response to the increasing focus on *Inuit Nunaat* from the outside, and in order to re-insert the collective voice of Inuit into the Arctic sovereignty debate, ICC Canada invited Inuit leaders from across the Arctic to Canada to an Inuit Leaders' Summit in Kuujuaq on 6-7 November 2008. Makivik Corporation was a welcome host.

Thirteen high-ranking Inuit leaders participated in the summit, including the Premier of Northwest Territories, ICC leaders, several representatives of Alaskan borough governments, the president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), a representative of the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council, and leaders from the Canadian land claims regions.

On the first day of the summit, Inuit leaders heard from: Professor Donald McRae, University of Ottawa, on the legal framework surrounding sovereignty over the resources and territory of the Arctic; Peter Harder, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Canada, on the Canadian perspective on sovereignty with references to Russia; Professor Douglas Nord, Western Washington University, on the American perspective with references to Russian interests; Professor Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Roskilde University in Denmark, on the Danish perspective; and, finally, Professor James Anaya, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, on the international instruments available to indigenous peoples. Mr Anaya offered his support should Inuit wish to make use of United Nations tools for protecting their rights.

On the second day of the summit, known since the last ICC General Assembly as *International Inuit Day*, the leaders worked together to issue a joint Pan-Inuit Leaders' Statement. This Statement expressed support for the sovereignty and self-determination initiatives of Inuit throughout the circumpolar Arctic, and stating clearly the right of Inuit to be meaningfully and directly included in all government discussions of sovereignty over the lands and seas we have lived on for thousands of years. (See Annex I: Kuujjuaq Statement.)



ICC Canada invited Inuit leaders from across the Arctic to Canada to an Inuit Leaders' Summit in Kuujjuaq on 6-7 November 2008. Photo credit: Melissa Irwin.

In their closing statements, the leaders underlined their sense of unity and mutual support for the concerns of all the Inuit groups represented. They also specifically expressed support for the November 25 self-rule referendum in Greenland and for the continuing self-determination efforts of Chukotka Inuit.

The leaders also decided to prepare a declaration on Arctic sovereignty by Spring 2009 and charged ICC Canada with the lead role in drafting the declaration.

Declaration On Arctic Sovereignty

The Kuujuaq summit was a huge success. Not only did it give an opportunity to recreate some of the same feeling of Inuit solidarity that existed when Eben Hopson first invited Inuit from Greenland and Canada to Alaska in 1977, but also set the stage for a six-month consultation and drafting of the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*.

Just after the end of this reporting period, ICC completed the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration* (see Annex VII) and, at the Arctic Council meeting of Foreign Ministers in Tromsø, Norway, 28 April 2009, on behalf of Inuit in Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Chukotka, the Inuit Circumpolar Council adopted the Declaration. The document launch, like the Kuujuaq summit before it, was a monumental success. Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs acknowledged its importance at the meeting, as did the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It was later presented at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the UN headquarters in New York. It was reviewed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, S. James Anaya, who called the Declaration a "tremendous piece of indigenous diplomacy" and "a document that truly changes the way indigenous peoples will view sovereignty from here on in." Professor Anaya also called it "visionary" and that it would be a document that other indigenous peoples of the world would learn much from.

There have been many calls for ICC to move forward immediately in implementing the Declaration on various fronts in each of Canada, Russia, Alaska, and Greenland. The board members of ICC Canada, who were central to hosting, and participating in, the Inuit Leaders' Summit should consider their key role in spearheading the Declaration as a historic milestone that indigenous peoples globally and governments everywhere will recognize for decades to come, if not beyond.



En route to Nain, Labrador, June 2008. Photo credits: Yvonne Moorhouse

Annex I: Kuujjuaq Statement

Towards an Inuit Declaration on Arctic Sovereignty

Statement issued
by Inuit Leaders at the
Inuit Leaders' Summit on Arctic Sovereignty
6-7 November 2008

At the invitation of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Canada, we Inuit leaders from Greenland, Alaska, and Canada gathered in Kuujjuaq on 6–7 November 2008 to discuss the issue of Arctic sovereignty.

We Inuit leaders, representing a broad constituency, came to Kuujjuaq with the awareness that an increasing focus on the Arctic is fostering unparalleled interest in, and claims over, our lands and seas from various sectors including governments and industry. We took note of various declarations and statements made by governments and industry regarding overlapping claims and assertions of Arctic sovereignty without full regard to Inuit concerns and rights. We further asserted that any claim of sovereignty that nation states may make is derived through the use and occupancy by Inuit of lands and seas in the Arctic.

We reviewed key aspects of international instruments recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and shared among ourselves elements of various processes such as Inuit land claims agreements and self-government arrangements across the Arctic. We updated each other on the implementation status of these processes and informed each other of recent autonomy discussions between Inuit and Arctic governments, such as the Greenland – Denmark Accord on Self Rule, which Greenlanders will vote on in a referendum on 25 November 2008. We, the leaders present in Kuujjuaq, congratulated Greenland on its accord and pledged to fully support the choice Greenlanders will make.

Various aspects of what sovereignty means for Inuit were discussed. There was agreement among us that the foundation of Inuit sovereignty begins at home, and that only through Inuit well-being and the development of healthy and sustainable communities can meaningful sovereignty be achieved. To achieve these goals, we called upon Arctic governments to be active partners in creating such a foundation.

We, the Inuit leaders gathered in Kuujjuaq, reminded Arctic governments that they are obligated under various legal instruments – both national and international – to include Inuit in meaningful and direct ways in any and all discussions of sovereignty over the lands and seas we have lived on for thousands of years.

We expressed our concerns over potential environmental impacts on our seas as traffic through Arctic waters is sure to increase.

We recognized the value of the work of the Arctic Council and asked ICC, through its permanent participant status on the Council, to work especially hard to make Inuit concerns known at the April 2009 meeting of Arctic foreign ministers to be held in Tromsø, Norway.

We further noted the meaningful and direct role that indigenous peoples have at the Arctic Council, while at the same time expressing concern that the Council leaves many issues considered sensitive by member states off the table, including security, sovereignty, national legislation relating to marine mammal protection, and commercial fishing.

Concern was expressed among us leaders gathered in Kuujjuaq that governments were entering into Arctic sovereignty discussions without the meaningful involvement of Inuit, such as the May 2008 meeting of five Arctic ministers in Ilulissat, Greenland. The Kuujjuaq summit noted that while the *Ilulissat Declaration* asserts that it is the coastal nation states that have sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Arctic Ocean, it completely ignores the rights Inuit have gained through international law, land claims and self-government processes. Further, while the ministers strongly supported the use of international mechanisms and international law to resolve sovereignty disputes, it makes no reference to those international instruments that promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

We, as Inuit leaders, strongly committed ourselves to working both nationally and internationally reminding various actors about the rights of Inuit in matters of the Arctic and called upon the organizers of the December 2009 meeting in Copenhagen of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to directly and fully involve Inuit in their deliberations and give support to the associated Arctic Day. We called upon the parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to take into account the rights and interests of Inuit in any matter concerning the Arctic. We called upon the G-8 countries to centrally involve Inuit in their 2010 conference to be hosted by the Government of Canada.

We further committed ourselves to assert our rights and work collectively at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and through UN treaty bodies as well as, when necessary, through the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples.

We called upon Arctic governments to include Inuit as equal partners in any future talks regarding Arctic sovereignty. We insisted that in these talks, Inuit be included in a manner that equals or surpasses the participatory role Inuit play at the Arctic Council through ICC's permanent participant status.

We agreed to continue the important Arctic sovereignty dialogue started here in Kuujjuaq at this first ever Inuit Leaders' Summit on Arctic Sovereignty and committed to developing a formal declaration on Arctic sovereignty within six months of the conclusion of this Inuit Leaders' Summit. We asked the Inuit Circumpolar Council to coordinate this activity.

While the Inuit leadership from Russia was unable to be present with us in Kuujjuaq, we were pleased to receive a written intervention from ICC Chukotka that stated that "the issue of sovereignty and self-determination is a very important issue for us, and while our path towards self-government has not matched the pace of some of your indigenous institutions in Greenland, Canada, and Alaska, we are pursuing our own path of self-determination, according to international norms and laws." We remained committed to strongly supporting the Inuit of Chukotka through ICC.

We pledged to continue to celebrate and strongly promote the unity of Inuit across the Arctic from Russia to Alaska to Canada to Greenland. We expressed our strong support for the Inuit Circumpolar Council, and wished to take special notice of the 7th of November as *International Inuit Day*, which was established at the last ICC General Assembly held in Barrow, Alaska in 2006. We also expressed our appreciation to ICC Greenland for hosting the next ICC General Assembly to be held in 2010. Finally, we thanked the people of Kuujjuaq and all of Nunavik for allowing us to have this leaders' summit in their region.

Kuujjuaq
7 November 2008

Annex II: Amundsen Statement

The ICC 2012 Climate Change Roadmap

A climate change policy workshop aboard the research vessel CCGS *Amundsen* has brought together Inuit leaders from across the Arctic region with climate change scientists to discuss the effects of climate change in the Canadian Arctic region.

The workshop was part of the International Polar Year - Circumpolar Flaw Lead System Study which is undertaking an intensive scientific study of the unique flaw lead and polyna system located in the Beaufort Sea and 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 Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is a major partner in this three-year project. ICC's involvement stems from its understanding and concern at the impact of climate change on Inuit living in Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Russia, the people it represents on matters of global concern. This was recognized formally at the ICC's General Assembly meeting in Barrow, Alaska in 2006 when it was decided that the ICC should continue to address the impacts in the Arctic of human-induced climate change.

ICC's concern is based on a number of factors including:

- It is cognizant of the observations and predictions of the Arctic Council's Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) of 2004 which reported that, within a decade, large areas of the Arctic basin would be ice free during the summer months;
- Subsequent assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) state that there is clear evidence that the earth's climate system is warming and that the Arctic will warm at twice the rate of lower latitudes over the next century.

ICC has used international fora to remind the world that the Arctic is a barometer of the world's environmental health.

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 and that the ultimate text of the Post Kyoto-2012 process recognizes the unique issues faced by Inuit in adapting to climate. ICC remains very concerned about the actual and potential impact of climate change on the cultural, spiritual and economic health of Inuit throughout the Arctic.

The findings of the IPCC 4th Assessment make plain that the ambition and success of the Post Kyoto-2012 process will be critical to the long-term survival and development of the Arctic. Even a limitation of global climate change to 2°C above historic levels, as many countries have sought, will effectively lead to dramatic irreversible impacts on Arctic communities.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council will continue to seek a Post Kyoto-2012 process that would aim to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations well below 450 parts per million by volume, in order to ensure that long-term temperature increases remain below 2°C. ICC calls for urgent, ambitious, and measurable short-term actions to ensure these long-term goals are met and called for the avoidance of climate change impacts on the Arctic as one of the key benchmarks for effectiveness of a Post Kyoto-2012 process.

The climate change scientists and Inuit leaders at the workshop pointed to the importance of ICC developing a climate change strategy to build on its existing expertise and achievements in relation to environmental

stewardship, international climate change negotiations and the protection of Inuit traditional property and intellectual rights.

The strategy should seek to achieve the following objectives and activities:

1. Based on the success of the ICC led CoP 13 side event in Bali, ICC will work with the UNFCCC and others to organize an Arctic event and engage in special sessions at the UNFCCC CoP 14 in Poland and CoP15 in Denmark which will bring together indigenous peoples of the Arctic to present and share best practices in adaptation to climate change.
2. Seek a Post Kyoto-2012 process that addresses the following:
 - International cooperation to support urgent action on adaptation;
 - Specific means to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in vulnerable Inuit and other indigenous communities in the Arctic;
 - Enhanced action on technology transfer and development for adaptation
 - Risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance;
 - Innovative funding approaches to assist particularly vulnerable developing countries in meeting the costs of adaptation;
 - Investment in circumpolar Arctic research and monitoring programs through initiatives such as the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) initiative; and,
 - Engage Inuit in the development of circumpolar Arctic science and research infrastructure.
3. Develop a Global Summit that will be held in Anchorage Alaska in 2009 where global indigenous peoples will:
 - Consolidate, share and draw lessons from the views and experiences of Indigenous peoples around the world on the impacts and effects of climate change on their ways of life and their natural environment, including responses;
 - Raise the visibility, participation and role of Indigenous Peoples in local, national, regional and international processes in formulating strategies and partnerships that engage local communities and other stakeholders to respond to the impacts of climate change;
 - Analyze, discuss and promote public awareness of the impacts and consequences of programs and proposals for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and assess proposed “solutions” to climate change from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples; and
 - Advocate effective strategies and solutions in response to climate change from the perspective of the cultures, worldviews, and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, including local, national, regional and international rights-based approaches.
4. Facilitate Inuit participation in and input to key international processes and work programs related to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and others by:
 - Developing Inuit specific case studies on local coping strategies and mechanisms for inclusion in the UNFCCC database created under the Nairobi Work Program on Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change.
5. Use the unprecedented Arctic science and knowledge generated from Canada, Alaska, Greenland and Chukotka, including the Greenland Siila and Siku Inuk Project, Snowchange, the International Polar Year, ArcticNet, among other programs and the traditional knowledge of the Inuit communities in the Arctic to influence and inform policy through the development of Inuit-specific position papers on:

- Post-Kyoto 2012 process and make a Inuit specific submission under the Bali Action Plan – Adaptation Working Group;
 - The current climate change policy options on adaptation capacity and mitigation options;
 - The links between biodiversity, climate change and human health in the Arctic;
 - Circumpolar Inuit traditional knowledge on climate change;
 - The options for the development of a circumpolar Inuit regime on access and benefit sharing as related to traditional knowledge and genetic resources; and,
 - Call 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.
6. To work with the research community, local Inuit communities, governments, relevant organizations, such as the Arctic Council and its member states, United Nations Environment Program, the World Bank and international NGOs to encourage appropriate climate change decision-making.
 7. To develop an Inuit-specific Circumpolar Climate Change Plan within each ICC country including traditional knowledge and the social and cultural impacts of climate change.
 8. Develop a domestic and international, circumpolar and community communication and Inuit education strategy on the impacts, adaptive capacity and mitigation methods appropriate to Inuit (i.e. ICC country offices, community initiatives, Colleges, University of the Arctic).

Annex III: 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 2006-2007 without which the accomplishments of the past year would not have been possible. Please refer to Annex VI 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 IV: 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

Rhoda Innuksuk, President
Pauktuutit

Megan Pizzo Lyall, President
National Inuit Youth Council

ICC Canada Staff

Duane Smith
President and Vice-Chair

Violet Ford
Executive Council Member

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

Yvonne Moorhouse
Special Projects & Office Administrator

Oxana Golovkina
Special Projects & Office Administrator
International Development Projects

Stephanie Meakin
Science Advisor

ICC Executive Council

Chair
Patricia Cochran

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

Greenland
Vice-Chair: Aqqaluk Lyngé
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



ICC Executive Council Meeting in Nome, Alaska. August 2008. Photo credit: Oxana Golovkina.

Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council

Chair
Greta Schuerch

Canada
Megan Pizzo Lyall
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 V: Financial Report

Summarized Financial Statements of

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.

Year ended March 31, 2009

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. (formerly Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada) Inc.) as at March 31, 2009 on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated May 14, 2009. 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, 2009

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash | \$ 139,807 | \$ 160,282 |
| Short-term investments | 134 | 132 |
| Accounts receivable | 186,063 | 231,672 |
| Prepaid expenses | 19,611 | 9,052 |
| | <u>345,615</u> | <u>401,138</u> |
| Capital assets | 36,904 | 41,388 |
| | <u>\$ 382,519</u> | <u>\$ 442,526</u> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 211,674 | \$ 242,243 |
| Deferred revenue | 131,052 | 163,412 |
| Current portion of capital lease obligation | 7,975 | 6,156 |
| | <u>350,701</u> | <u>411,811</u> |
| Capital lease obligation | 24,025 | 22,710 |
| Net assets (deficiency): | | |
| Invested in capital assets | 4,904 | 12,522 |
| Unrestricted | 2,889 | (4,517) |
| | <u>7,793</u> | <u>8,005</u> |
| | <u>\$ 382,519</u> | <u>\$ 442,526</u> |

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.

Summarized Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Contribution revenue: | | |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | \$ 308,134 | \$ 358,348 |
| Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami | 244,579 | 243,038 |
| 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 | 77,000 |
| Nunatsiavut Government | 77,837 | 75,000 |
| I.C.C. Foundation (re: Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation) | 144,661 | 10,039 |
| University of Manitoba | 375,066 | 304,163 |
| Laval University | 154,678 | 111,619 |
| Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade | 159,214 | 134,377 |
| Canadian Heritage | 206,310 | 92,690 |
| Council of Yukon First Nations | 6,360 | - |
| Environment Canada | 40,000 | - |
| The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation | - | 9,930 |
| Government of Northwest Territories | - | 35,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 90,613 | 34,034 |
| | 2,107,452 | 1,710,238 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Salaries, benefits and contracts | 608,987 | 520,475 |
| Professional fees | 722,960 | 512,456 |
| Travel and accommodation | 559,192 | 461,542 |
| Operating costs | 59,457 | 64,349 |
| Communications | 84,151 | 79,038 |
| Office rent | 58,875 | 56,747 |
| Amortization of capital assets | 14,042 | 15,803 |
| | 2,107,664 | 1,710,410 |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses | (212) | (172) |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 8,005 | 8,177 |
| Net assets, end of year | \$ 7,793 | \$ 8,005 |

Annex VI: 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 2008-2009.

Inuvialuit Charitable Foundation

Nunatsiavut Government

Government of Nunavut

Makivik Corporation

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

National Aboriginal Health Organization

Council of Yukon First Nations

Canadian Heritage

Environment Canada

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada:

Circumpolar Liaison Directorate

Northern Contaminants Program

Environment and Renewable Resources

University of Laval

University of Manitoba

University of Alberta, International Polar Year

University of Alaska

University of Washington

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation

Annex VII: A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic