

# INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007







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## Message from ICC Canada President, Duane Smith



Exactly 30 years ago, in June 1977, Canadian Inuit travelled to Barrow, Alaska upon the invitation of Eben Hopson, Sr. to create what is known today as the *Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)*.

These Canadian Inuit joined Mr. Hopson, other Alaskan Inuit, and Inuit from Greenland in promising each other to work together to protect the Arctic environment from not only unwanted pollution, but also from unwanted intrusion from outside industry, government, and researchers.

The Canadian Inuit who travelled to Barrow were not against development in their own back yard, but they agreed with the founder of ICC, as he said at that historic meeting, that it must be done on their own terms: “Without our central involvement there can be no safe and responsible resource development.” Mr. Hopson also said that the environmental security of the Alaskan Inuit coastline depended “upon the strength of (self) government in Canada and Greenland”, and only when we all have our own home rule governments, “will we be able to really trust any offshore operation in the Beaufort Sea, or in the Davis Strait”.

Those were wise and prophetic words, weren't they? I believe that there are two central concepts in Eben Hopson's message that continue to be valid for Canadian Inuit today. And which make me continue to believe strongly in the work of ICC. They are that we must be strong both individually and collectively. One doesn't work without the other. Just as it is important to create and strengthen governments such as Nunatsiavut and Nunavut, for example, it is equally important that we continue to join hands with our fellow Inuit across the circumpolar region in Russia, Alaska, and Greenland.

Inuit in Canada have created an invaluable tool – ICC Canada – to be the main body through which we join with other non-Canadian Inuit in global initiatives, international lobbying, and difficult negotiations to promote our interests at home. ICC Canada has been extremely successful in doing this work, and you will see some of our most recent activities described in the pages that follow. Individually, Inuit organizations and governments sometimes undertake their own international initiatives either alone or in partnership with ICC Canada. This is important and necessary, but I would like to throw out a word of caution and make an appeal in this regard: Help keep ICC Canada strong. Provide it well with resources, and give it your full support. It is your link to other Inuit and, and also a window to the world. As Eben Hopson said, it is through collective action abroad that we will be strong at home.



## **Overview**

### **Inuit Circumpolar Council**

Since 1977, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has flourished and grown into a major international non-government 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; and
- ◆ 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. Please refer to Annex I for information on the structure of the organizations.

### **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 III for a list of donors and contributors.



Photo courtesy: Hans Blohm

## 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 cooperate with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in presenting the position of Canadian Inuit 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;
- ◆ To 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)***



## Looking Back 30 years - The First Inuit Circumpolar Conference

In 1973, several Greenlandic organizations based in Copenhagen hosted the first Arctic Peoples Conference. The hosts invited members of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (now known as Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami), the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada (now known as the Assembly of First Nations), and Saami from northern Finland, Norway and Sweden. Because neither Alaskan nor Russian Inuit were able to attend that event, the need for Inuit to collectively meet as one indivisible people became evident at that meeting.

Inuit visionaries such as Mayor Eben Hopson of the North Slope Borough, Alaska, were among those that never let go of the idea of an international meeting of Inuit. In 1975, the World Council of Indigenous Peoples held its founding conference in Port Alberni, British Columbia. At this meeting, Mayor Hopson had his special assistant, Billy Neakoq, deliver an invitation to participants to a “pan-Eskimo” gathering to be held some time in the near future. Planning, fundraising, and focussed attention to this goal began in earnest. A grant submission made to an American foundation in 1975 contained the following text:

*“We Eskimo are an international community sharing common language, culture, and a common land along the Arctic coast of Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Although not a nation-state, as a people, we do constitute a nation”.*

Inuit from Canada, Greenland, and Alaska discussed their common vision when Eben Hopson hosted the first ever the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in June of 1977 in Barrow Alaska. At that historic and inaugural meeting, political resolutions were passed, poetry was read, and songs were sung. All 54 delegates (18 from each of the three respective participating countries) agreed to found an organization to carry on the task of working together on an international basis. The celebratory mood in 1977 was only dampened by the unfortunate absence of Inuit from the former Soviet Union, whose arrival would have to wait several years.





## ICC Activities and Initiatives 2006-2007

### The 2006 Barrow General Assembly

The 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) was held in Barrow, Alaska in July, 2006. This was an especially exciting event due that it was being held in the same community as the very first General Assembly. Similar to previous Assemblies, this venue provided an important opportunity for Inuit of the four countries to debate Arctic issues and to address developments that affect the circumpolar world. The 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly also provided an opportunity to celebrate a rich cultural heritage. Through the celebration of music, cultural performances and art exhibits which took place throughout the week, the cultural bond between all Inuit was strengthened.

Participants included delegates, staff, cultural performers, youth representatives, and elders. Delegates were involved in looking back constructively at the first ever ICC Assembly held in 1977 in Barrow and in calling for ICC's renewal and restructuring so that the original goals would continue to be implemented within the reality of the current era in which Inuit find themselves.

The Assembly concluded with the adoption of the Utqiaġvik Declaration which serves as the mandate for the organization until the next GA, which will be held in 2010. The Utqiaġvik Declaration is ICC's blueprint for action and its implementation will be led by the new ICC Chair, Patricia Cochran, along with the eight Executive Council members representing Inuit of their respective countries.

### Utqiaġvik Declaration

**As declared by the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Russia on the occasion of the 10th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference - July 9-13, 2006, Utqiaġvik, Alaska.**

*Recalling* the vision and commitment of Eben Hopson, Sr. and other Inuit to promote Inuit unity and collective international action by establishing the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC);

**Recognizing** the need to remind ourselves and the world of Inuit unity, strength and diversity;  
**Mindful** of declarations and resolutions adopted at previous general assemblies of ICC;

*Recognizing with Gratitude* the work of the ICC Chair and Executive Council since the ninth General Assembly;  
**Committed to renew and restructure ICC to increase its efficiency and effectiveness to represent Inuit internationally;**

**Encouraged** that the newly-elected ICC Chair and Executive Council have committed to addressing the challenges and priorities set out in this Declaration;

**Recognizing** that all Inuit have the inherent right to self-determination as recognized in international law, including the right to self-government;

**Recognizing** that these rights are not fully realized for all Inuit;

**Recognizing** that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, if adopted by the UN General Assembly, would be the first comprehensive international instrument specifically addressing the human rights of indigenous peoples and thereby establishing "minimum standards" for the promotion and protection of the human rights of Inuit throughout the circumpolar region;

**Acknowledging** the circumpolar Arctic to be the world's "barometer" of environmental health; **and supporting** resolution 22/11 *Sustainable Development of the Arctic* adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in February 2003;



**Further Acknowledging** the work of the Arctic Council from 2002 to 2004 under the chair of Iceland, and from 2004 to 2006 under the chair of Russia, and looking forward to Norway's term as chair from 2006 to 2008;

**Mindful** of the growing scale and pace of environmental change in the circumpolar Arctic and economic, social, and cultural challenges facing Inuit, including that of the rapidly-opening north polar sea route;

**Reminding** ourselves and helping others **Recognize** that the fragility of the Arctic's biological diversity makes industrial development, climate change, and other human-induced impacts a much greater concern than elsewhere;

**Understanding** that some areas of the Arctic, such as the Chukotka Peninsula in Russia, still have fewer resources and opportunities than other areas of the Arctic;

**Attentive** to the need to be financially prudent and to wisely manage the various ICC mandates with limited human resources;

**Having Participated** actively in debate at the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICC, and considered the recommendations of the Assembly, including those from representatives of elders and youth;

**Hereby:**

1. **Thank** the community of Utqiagvik for hosting ICC's 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly;
2. **Instruct** the ICC Executive Council to annually proclaim the November 7<sup>th</sup> birth date of ICC visionary Eben Hopson, Sr. as "Inuit Day" and to urge all Inuit governments, agencies, and communities to annually proclaim this day as "Inuit Day" and conduct appropriate ceremonies and celebrations;
3. **Welcome and Adopt** the ICC Chair's report;
4. **Welcome and Adopt** the ICC Report on Activities 2002 – 2006;
5. **Welcome** the reports by Inuit leaders, including Inuit elders and youth regarding the developments and challenges facing Inuit in Alaska, Canada, Chukotka and Greenland;
6. **Instruct** the new Executive Council to promote Inuit unity by strengthening ICC's regional offices;
7. **Direct** ICC to establish a committee to examine the state of Inuit rights to self-determination as recognized in international law, including the right to self-government, and recommend options to the next General Assembly to secure these rights in all Inuit homelands;
8. **Instruct** ICC to use its Arctic Council Permanent Participant status in the Arctic Council to promote legal and administrative reforms to strengthen the Council and to increase the ability of Inuit to utilize the council internationally;
9. **Urge** ICC's Executive Council to develop initiatives that will promote Russian cooperation with ICC and, in particular, work with Chukotka Inuit to help develop the opportunities that Inuit from Chukotka have at their disposal, including small business opportunities;
10. **Instruct** ICC to continue to address the impacts in the Arctic of human-induced climate change, including:
  - a. Participation in the Arctic Council's Arctic Climate Impact Assessment follow-up activities;
  - b. Support of the climate change-based human rights petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and other Inuit-centred initiatives; and
  - c. Participation in implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;
11. **Instruct** 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;

12. **Instruct** ICC to further develop and increase its participation in global efforts to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, including an Arctic work program to implement the Convention;
13. **Instruct** ICC to support, as a priority, the final adoption of the draft UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the UN General Assembly before the end of 2006, and to **Further Instruct** the ICC Executive Council members to urge their respective governments to support the adoption of the Declaration;
14. **Instruct** ICC to use the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to defend the rights and further the interests of Inuit, including close co-operation with Arctic and other indigenous peoples of the world;
15. **Instruct** ICC to participate in international bodies, in particular the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) to defend the right of Inuit to harvest marine mammals and to trade their products on a sustainable basis;
16. **Direct** ICC to use and, where appropriate, lobby international and regional bodies such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the European Union (EU) to help promote trade of Inuit goods and services world-wide in ways that do not adversely affect Inuit hunting, fishing, and gathering rights;
17. **Direct** ICC to explore approaches and guidelines to protect intellectual property of the Inuit;
18. **Urge** ICC to enter into discussions with Inuit hunters through national Inuit organizations and, where appropriate, through their regional-level entities, on existing and newly developing international sustainability covenants that both strengthen and promote the rights of Inuit to use resources in a wise and prudent manner;
19. **Instruct** ICC to promote the redefinition of hunting and harvesting activities by Indigenous peoples as a profession within all international human rights fora;
20. **Ask** ICC to insist that Arctic governments treat the Inuit homeland as an integral whole as it pertains to policies and programs targeting the Arctic;
21. **Request** ICC to study the socio-economic, environmental, and cultural impacts of the opening of the north polar sea on our communities;
22. **Instruct** ICC to participate actively and fully in the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment and, upon its scheduled completion in 2008, to communicate, through appropriate national and local Inuit organizations, the results of the assessment to Inuit;
23. **Instruct** ICC to build upon the circumpolar oil and gas assessment currently underway in the Arctic Council and to develop case studies of environmentally and culturally sustainable oil and gas development in the circumpolar world for use in communication and advocacy; and **Further Instruct** ICC to support Indigenous property rights as well as land uses in managing and planning development;
24. **Instruct** ICC to support Indigenous property rights, and land, water, and air uses, as well as sustainable development projects of renewable and non-renewable resources in Inuit homelands to include enhanced governmental and private industry support for access to capital, employment, contracts, financing, royalties, local revenue, and other financial benefits of development, and to ensure that governments and companies provide formal opportunities for local Inuit involvement at the earliest stages in the managing and planning of such projects;
25. **Direct** ICC to secure the necessary resources to hold a pan-Inuit summit on social challenges, including matters such as health and well-being, with the aim of sharing information on national initiatives and approaches to policy, and sharing promising practices among Inuit across the circumpolar region;

26. Instruct ICC, in cooperation with national and circumpolar partners, to develop a Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan that clearly identifies the health issues, priorities, and mechanisms in which Inuit Health priorities can be advanced; and Further Instruct ICC, in cooperation with national and circumpolar partners, to insist that Arctic governments support healthy communities initiatives;
27. Instruct ICC to re-establish and strengthen a tradition of matching Inuit sister towns and villages in the Inuit Circumpolar countries to promote a closer cultural and economic exchange as well as to build cooperation between communities;
28. Instruct ICC to develop a clearinghouse that will help record and protect traditional knowledge of Inuit and to facilitate information exchange between Inuit of the circumpolar region;
29. Instruct ICC to begin a process to update its *Principles and Elements for a Comprehensive Arctic Policy*;
30. Instruct ICC to take the necessary legal and other steps to restructure ICC, including the adoption of the new name, *Inuit Circumpolar Council*, the new logo as adopted here, and to follow through with recommendations from the delegates;
31. Instruct the ICC Executive Council to work with and support the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council (ICYC) to further develop its organization to allow participation of Inuit youth and to more fully participate in ICC governance at the international and national levels;
32. Mandate the ICC Language and Communications Commission to participate in international bodies and to promote technological initiatives that will promote linguistic diversity, fight the tendencies of linguicide in Inuit language speaking areas and to promote youth initiatives, such as the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council's project on *hipification* of Inuit culture and language;
33. Instruct ICC to incorporate "capacity development" of Inuit in its plans, processes, activities and advocacy to defend the rights and to further the interests of Inuit internationally in particular in addressing social, cultural, educational, and language concerns.

### International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan

In addition to the Utqiagvik Declaration, another instrument that serves as a blueprint for strategic directions and policy for ICC Canada is the International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan 2006-2010. In accordance with the Partnership Accord that was entered into by Canadian Inuit and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada on May 31, 2005, the Inuit Action Plan was to be jointly developed by the Inuit of Canada and the Canadian Government. The International Dimension remains an important part of the Inuit Action Plan. Over the past year, the ICC Canada President and staff worked closely with ITK and the regional Inuit organizations to ensure inclusion of the circumpolar and international interests of Inuit through the development of the International Dimension.





## Environment

### Arctic Council

The Arctic Council is a high-level forum for cooperation, coordination and interaction between Arctic states (members) and Arctic Indigenous peoples organizations (permanent participants). The Council is a key vehicle for implementation of circumpolar objectives and throughout 2006-2007, ICC continued to play an active role as one of its six permanent participants.

In addition to meetings of Ministers and Senior Arctic Officials, the Arctic Council carries out activities and projects under the auspices of its working groups. ICC participates in a number of processes and working groups including the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP); Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME); Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG); Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF); Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Response (EPPR); and the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP). These working groups have conducted or supported a number of major assessments and projects to date, including the Arctic Climate Change Impact Assessment, the Arctic Human Development Report, and the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic. ICC also has a seat on the board of the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat, which facilitates the involvement of the indigenous peoples organizations in Arctic Council activities.

ICC Canada participated in the following Arctic Council and related activities from April 2006 to March 2007:

- A) 26-27 April 2006: *Senior Arctic Officials Meeting, Komi Region, Russian Federation*
- B) 22 May 2006: *Arctic Side Event Hosted by Arctic Council, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, New York, USA*
- C) 9-14 July 2006: *ICC Quadrennial General Assembly, Barrow, Alaska, USA*
- D) 17-19 September 2006: *Drafting session, Salekhard Declaration, Moscow, Russian Federation*
- E) 24-25 October 2006: *Senior Arctic Officials Meeting, Salekhard, Russian Federation*
- F) 26 October 2006: *Ministerial Meeting, Salekhard, Russian Federation*
- G) 10 January 2007: *Canadian Arctic Council Advisory Group Meeting, Offices of DFAIT*
- H) 21-26 January 2007: *Arctic Frontiers First Annual Meeting, Tromso, Norway*
- I) 16 February 2007: *Canadian PAME Team Meeting, Offices of DFO*
- J) 23 February 2007: *ICC Planning Meeting re developing Strategic Plan to collectively tackle Arctic Council files, Washington DC*
- K) 6-7 March 2007: *PAME meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- L) 12-14 March 2007: *AMAP Working Group Meeting, Hanover, NH, USA*
- M) 15 March 2007: *Canadian Arctic Council Advisory Group Meeting, Offices of Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade*



## Climate Change

The Arctic ecosystem is often described as the indicator of global environmental health. It has taken over two decades of scientific findings and advocacy to create a global awareness that changes to the world's environment are seen first in the Arctic. As such, the Inuit homeland is viewed as an 'early warning system' that places a great deal of importance on Inuit knowledge and concerns regarding climate change.

One of ICC's primary goals is ensuring that Inuit perspectives and concerns on climate change are fully considered in national, circumpolar and global decision making. ICC has, and continues to be, engaged in a range of international processes related to climate change. International instruments and mechanisms for addressing climate change include: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Convention on Biological Diversity; the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation; and the Arctic Council. ICC Canada is committed to working with the Government of Canada in promoting climate change mitigation, adaptation and monitoring. ICC also continues to be involved in surveillance, research and outreach activities related to the Arctic Council's Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and Reykjavik Declaration.

One of the most significant climate change venues held over the past years, was the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP12). This CoP was held in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2006 where Inuit were represented by ICC Canada. A key outcome was the successful completion of the negotiations on the first phase of activities (to 2008) for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.



These activities include the development of a five-year program of work on adaptation. The program is known as the "Nairobi Work Program on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change" (NWP). A coordinated strategy is also being developed for Inuit participation in COP 13 taking place in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007.

## Contaminants

Canadian Inuit continue to work with scientists and participate in international processes on contaminants-related issues, as well as inform and consult with Arctic Inuit communities. Significant advances have been made in contaminants-related science and through international vehicles such as the Stockholm Convention on the Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants. Through the International Dimension of the Inuit Action Plan, the parties agree that they will focus on the production of legacy Persistent Organic Pollutants, emerging new chemicals and heavy metals. ICC Canada is currently preparing to enter into further agreements that are designed to support implementation of international instruments, such as the Stockholm Convention.

It is also preparing for on-going and increased engagement in the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and is working to ensure the interests of Inuit are considered in the UN's Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Long Range Transport of Airborne Pollutants process. Through Canada's Northern Contaminants Program, ICC Canada and the federal government are committed to collaborating on these and other issues related to the status of Arctic mercury levels and international chemical activities.

## Wildlife & Harvesting

Over the past year, ICC continued to be actively involved in wildlife and harvesting issues through vehicles such as the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Conservation Organization (NAMMCO), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The primary objective of ICC in wildlife and harvesting matters is to ensure the Inuit voice is heard and that Inuit are represented at essential international wildlife meetings, where action can be taken. It is important that the Inuit perspective is included in designing specific assessments, regulations and actions required to conserve the distinct natural heritage of the Arctic region.

Currently, there are some significant international developments of concern to Inuit. One of these developments is the U.S. proposal to list the Polar Bear as threatened under the provisions of their Endangered Species Act (ESA). In December, 2006 the U.S. Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), released a twelve-month Petition Finding and Proposed Rule to List the Polar Bear as Threatened throughout its range, including the Canadian Arctic. ICC Canada and ITK collaborated on the development of a submission made to the USFWS to highlight the devastating impact such a listing may have on the Inuit way of life.



Based upon input from various sources inside and outside of the USA, a draft proposed rule was written by the USFWS. ICC Canada President, Duane Smith, was asked by the USFWS to act as a peer reviewer of this document before it is finalized. In consultation with Inuit regions in Canada and with Inuit from Greenland, Alaska, and Chukotka (Russia), he submitted a lengthy review that pointed out several areas in which the *Finding* and proposed rule were either inaccurate or biased.



Another significant development is a renewed push by European legislators to ban seal product imports. Inuit maintain the position that such a ban would be detrimental to the Inuit economy, culture and spirituality and would have devastating effects on Inuit communities. ICC has undertaken initiatives to counter the proposed ban including a letter writing campaign, participation in government briefings, and the development of a Canadian Inuit strategy to address wildlife related issues.

## Bio-diversity

Canadian Inuit acknowledge the twin goals of preserving delicate and unique Arctic biological diversity and associated Inuit traditional knowledge, and of protecting Inuit rights to their genetic resources. ICC Canada has worked over the years to develop expertise in issues related to preserving Arctic biodiversity and to evaluating the complex interconnectivity among environmental degradation, climate change and human health in the Arctic.

An important international instrument for advancing Inuit interests is the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). ICC Canada has long participated in the Canadian delegation and continues to ensure that Canadian policy positions are consistent with Inuit interests. Domestic implementation of the CBD is important to Inuit and ICC Canada will continue to be engaged in areas such as rights to genetic resources, protected areas, and conservation of terrestrial and marine wildlife on which Inuit depend for subsistence. Opportunities for advancing biodiversity issues include participation in CBD Conferences of Parties and related meetings; participation in meetings of the Arctic Council's Conservation of Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group and its four year Arctic Bio-diversity Assessment; as well as participation in World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) processes.



## **Research & Health Activities**

### **ArcticNet**

ArcticNet is a Network of Canadian Centres for Excellence that gathers together scientists and managers from the fields of human health, natural sciences, and social sciences and partners them with Inuit organizations, northern communities, federal and provincial agencies and the private sector. The Network studies the impacts of climate change in the coastal Canadian Arctic. Over 90 ArcticNet researchers from 23 Canadian universities and several federal departments collaborate with research teams from the USA, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom, Spain, Russia, Greenland and France.

ICC Canada has been actively involved in the ArcticNet program through the following activities: representation on the Board of Directors; participation on the Research Management Committee; and through coordination of Inuit Research Advisors (IRA) in each of the four Inuit regions. ICC Canada has also been involved in the mobilization of the Inuit Advisory Committee to enhance the Inuit partnership in this program. The Inuit/ArcticNet partnership has matured and has resulted in benefit to Inuit by providing them an increased capacity to initiate, direct and manage research. As ArcticNet approaches a mid term review in August 2007, the success and challenges of the IRAs and the Inuit partnership in ArcticNet will be highlighted. Inuit have, through ArcticNet, cast a new light on Arctic research and have a continued commitment to effectively manage and participate in research activities.

### **International Polar Year**

International Polar Year, 2007-2009 will be the first time that social sciences and Indigenous Arctic peoples are recognized and incorporated into the research program. In setting out its support for the IPY, the Government of Canada called for a targeted science and research program focusing on two of Canada's northern research priorities: climate change impacts and adaptation; and the health and well being of northern communities. Resources are being allocated to academic, government and community researchers through a competitive, peer review process.

IPY in Canada was launched in March, 2006. Through representation on the Canadian National Steering Committee, ICC Canada has participated in the development of the Requests for Proposals (RFP) for science program, and advising on the development of the overall IPY program in Canada. Over the past year, ICC Canada also participated in the science review committee and was engaged in the work of the social cultural review committee. ICC Canada will continue monitoring the IPY program as it unfolds to ensure the maximum Inuit benefit from the program and that IPY leaves a legacy in the north for northerners.

ICC-Canada is leading Team 10 of the IPY Circumpolar Flaw Lead Project which will take place in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region over the next 16 months with significant ties to other flaw leads in the circumpolar Arctic i.e. in the Laptev Sea and in the Norwegian Sea.

### **CINE**

The Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE) is an independent, multi-disciplinary research and education resource for Indigenous Peoples that was created by Canada's Aboriginal leaders. CINE is located on McGill University's Macdonald Campus in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec. CINE was created in response to a need expressed by Aboriginal Peoples for participatory research and education to address concerns about the integrity of their traditional food systems. Deterioration of the environment has adverse impacts on the health and lifestyles of Indigenous Peoples and, in particular, greatly impacts nutrition by effecting food and food traditions. Through 2006-2007, ICC Canada maintained its capacity as a member of the CINE Board of Directors.

## **Nasivvik**

Through a grant from the Canadian Institute of Health Research – Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (CIHR - IAPH), a Centre has been established for education, training and research on Inuit Health and Changing Environments. Based in the Public Health Research Unit, Laval University (Quebec), the Nasivvik Centre is one of many being established as part of a national network through the ACADRE Program (Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environments). Nasivvik is intended to address Aboriginal health training and research needs and ICC Canada is a member of its Board of Directors.

## **Human Rights**

### **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

ICC has been involved in the United Nations process to develop a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples since 1984. After many compromises and assurances, drafting concluded and, in June 2006, the Declaration was put before the UN Human Rights Council where it was adopted by a vote of 30-2. Signaling a reversal in support for over two decades, and much to the disappointment of Inuit, Canada was one of the two countries that opposed its adoption.

The UN Human Rights Council then sent the Declaration to the UN General Assembly in New York, and recommended its adoption at this higher level. Instead, the General Assembly stalled on the decision during its fall 2006 session. It was clear that a number of UN member states, including Canada, were making a concerted effort to suspend the adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly. In December 2006 the UN Assembly decided that further consultations on the draft Declaration were necessary before taking it to a vote. These consultations are to take place in advance of the Declaration being reintroduced at the UN Assembly in fall 2007.

At the international level, ICC Executive Vice-Chair (Greenland), Aqqaluk Lyngé is the ICC lead on this file. Mr. Lyngé has been working closely with the global Indigenous caucus to develop and implement a lobbying strategy aimed at acquiring support from UN member states to vote in favour of the Declaration at the next session of the General Assembly.

### **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is a high level advisory body within the framework of the UN system, which reports into the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The Forum is the UN's central coordinating body for matters relating to the rights and concerns of the world's Indigenous people. It meets every May in New York, and Aqqaluk Lyngé currently holds the Europe/Arctic seat. However, the seat rotates every three (3) years between ICC and the Saami Council. Lars Anders Baer, a Saami, will hold the seat for three years starting in January 2008. ICC Canada has participated in the Permanent Forum in each of the past 3 years.

### **Organization of American States Declaration**

The Organization of American States (OAS) has undertaken the drafting of a regional equivalent to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Over the past several months, ICC Canada has participated in drafting sessions in Washington, D.C., in domestic meetings with the Canadian government, and is preparing to participate in the next round of negotiations in Bolivia.

**INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.**

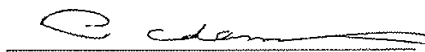
Statement of Financial Position

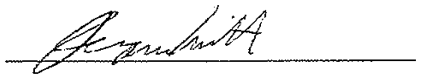
March 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 78,955	\$ 1,422
Temporary investments	127	123
Accounts receivable	70,607	235,252
Prepaid expenses	4,376	2,565
	154,065	239,362
Capital assets (note 2)	51,406	44,775
	\$ 205,471	\$ 284,137
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 106,164	\$ 251,263
Deferred revenue	56,250	-
Current portion of capital lease obligation (note 3)	6,015	12,432
	168,429	263,695
Capital lease obligation (note 3)	28,865	9,793
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets	16,526	22,550
Unrestricted deficiency	(8,349)	(11,901)
	8,177	10,649
Commitments (note 7)		
Contingencies (note 8)		
	\$ 205,471	\$ 284,137

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

 Director

 Director



**INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.**

Summarized Statement of Financial Position  
 March 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
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	<u>\$ 205,471</u>	<u>\$ 284,137</u>

**INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (CANADA) INC.**

Summarized Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006

	2007	2006
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	\$ 434,919	\$ 495,974
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	38,330	46,838
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	75,000	67,729
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	75,000	86,800
I.C.C. Foundation – (re: Air Inuit – Makivik)	84,000	54,550
Government of Nunavut	90,000	75,000
Nunatsiavut Government	68,750	–
Canadian International Development Agency	–	416,704
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade	208,614	216,147
Health Canada	50,000	–
Canadian Heritage	30,000	–
National Aboriginal Health Organization	10,000	–
Canadian Economic Development Corporation - Quebec Regions	20,000	–
Industry Canada	25,000	–
Government of Northwest Territories	25,000	–
Canadian Council for the Arts	24,000	–
Transport Canada	5,000	–
DND – Security & Defence Forum	2,500	–
International Centre for Human Rights & Democracy	2,500	–
I.C.C. Foundation	75,976	34,129
I.C.C. Foundation (re: Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation)	55,000	126,855
Environment Canada	–	111,075
Laval University	108,294	106,944
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	55,464	66,248
Miscellaneous	85,527	182,779
	<b>1,648,874</b>	<b>2,087,772</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Salaries, benefits and contracts	553,521	579,564
Professional fees	310,085	521,716
Travel and accommodation	500,490	534,531
Operating costs	136,907	146,045
Communications	47,765	53,884
Office rent	80,069	127,054
Amortization of capital assets	22,509	25,190
Other contributions	–	103,907
	<b>1,651,346</b>	<b>2,091,891</b>
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(2,472)	(4,119)
Net assets, beginning of year	10,649	14,768
Net assets, end of year	\$ 8,177	\$ 10,649

## 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



**William Andersen III**  
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Nunatsiavut Government



**Nellie Cournoyea**  
Chair & Chief Executive Officer  
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation



**Martha Greig (Ex-Officio)**  
President  
Pauktuutit



**Jonathan Epoo (Ex-Officio)**  
President  
National Inuit Youth Council



ICC Canada Staff

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Patricia Cochran

### Canada

Vice-Chair:

Duane Smith

Executive Council Member:

Violet Ford

### Greenland

Vice-Chair:

Aqqaluk Lyngø

Executive Council Member:

Carl Christian Olsen

### Alaska

Vice-Chair:

Chuck Greene

Executive Council Member:

Edward Itta

### Russia

Vice-Chair:

Natalia Rodionova

Executive Council Member:

Luba Tayan



## Inuit International Elders Council

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Levi Cleveland

### Members:

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Lillian Elias

#### Greenland

Magnus Therkelsen

#### Alaska

Willie Goodwin

#### Russia

Larissa Visolova

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Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle

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Jonathan Epoo

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#### Greenland

Nuno Isbosethsen

Stina Berthelsen

#### Alaska

Greta Schuerch

Dea Strunk

#### Russia

Galina Seliverstova

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Alaska Federation of Natives  
Aurora College  
Canada Council for the Arts  
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Canadian Heritage – Aboriginal Affairs Branch  
Clear Water Fine Foods  
Environment Canada  
Health Canada  
Northern Secretariat  
Finnmark University College  
First Air  
Flow Circle Fund  
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada  
Circumpolar Affairs Division  
Government of Northwest Territories  
Government of Nunatsiavut  
Government of Nunavut  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada:  
Circumpolar Liaison Directorate  
Northern Science and Contaminants  
Research  
Inuit Secretariat Relations  
Industry Canada – Aboriginal Business Canada  
International Centre for Human Rights  
& Democratic Development  
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami  
Inuvialuit Charitable Foundation  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
Laval University - ArcticNet  
Makivik Corporation  
National Aboriginal Health Organization  
National Defence – Security & Defence Forum Special Projects Funds  
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.  
Pan Arctic Inuit Logistics  
Province of Quebec  
Telesat  
Transport Canada  
UNEP / GRID - Arendal  
University of Winnipeg  
Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation

