

ICC Canada Annual Report

2013-2014



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Message from the President

Duane Smith

ICC Canada Rises to the Challenge

Because of the flurry of activity across the Arctic in 2013-2014, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Canada confronted numerous responsibilities and opportunities, as we continued to take our mandate of representing the international interests of Canadian Inuit abroad seriously, and thereby making a positive difference at home.

As each reader has undoubtedly experienced, sometimes the amount of work that needs doing feels daunting, and one is tempted to leave an important activity behind in order to start a new one that also needs doing. ICC Canada faced this same temptation numerous times over the past fiscal year as so many new and exciting challenges came our way. Our ICC Canada motto should have been "Let's finish what we start!", because in spite of the new responsibilities and opportunities, ICC Canada rose to the challenge.

For example, just before we completed our contributions to the Swedish chairmanship of the Arctic Council in early 2013, we were asked to contribute to the Kiruna Declaration, which Canada's Minister of the Arctic Council signed along with seven foreign ministers of Arctic states. Just before that, we committed ourselves to lobbying hard to ensure the human dimension was front and centre in the Canadian chairmanship program, as Canada took over the Arctic Council from Sweden for a two year period in Kiruna, Sweden in May 2013. ICC Canada brought Inuit-focussed initiatives to the table on matters such as circumpolar languages, sea ice, health, environment, contaminants (including mercury), traditional knowledge, Arctic shipping, resource development, economic development and the list goes on.

Further, just as we worked on completing the 2010-2014 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy, new opportunities to contribute to circumpolar mental



wellness and pan-Arctic cancer projects came our way. ICC Canada needed to develop a new approach in an ensuing multi-year health strategy. And we had to finish up what we had committed to. And just as the ink dried on the Minamata Convention on mercury that ICC Canada worked so hard on, we needed to make sure it was going to be taken seriously by those states who signed on to it.

Another important, yet new, focus that ICC Canada dealt with over the past fiscal year was the need to plan for the upcoming General Assembly in July 2014, a hugely important event that falls to Canadian Inuit to plan and execute only once every 12 years. With that came the need to plan for hosting the ICC international Chair, which Canadian Inuit agreed to do in February 2013 by nominating a Canadian Inuk to serve in this 4-year position from 2014 to 2018.

Add to this the increasing interest of states such as China, South Korea, Italy, India, and Singapore who came knocking at the ICC door lobbying to join the Arctic Council as Observers and talking about future cooperation. ICC Canada could not turn its back on these new and important global players who came to our homeland, Inuit Nunaat, even though a lot still needed to be completed.

As you will see in this report, it was indeed quite a year. You will also see that ICC Canada rose to the challenge, finished many projects and commitments, and planned new beginnings. We finished what our board mandated us to do. We look forward with excitement to a new year in 2014-2015. It won't be easy to finish all the work we need to do for Canadian Inuit, but I am confident that under my guidance we will be equally successful in implementing that which we planned in 2013-2014.

To represent the interests of Canadian Inuit through their national organization (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami), and through their settlement claim organizations, on matters of an international nature;

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 (International) and to implement, in Canada, the resolutions emanating from the general assemblies of the Inuit Circumpolar Council;

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;

ICC Canada Aims and Objectives

To take measures to further enable Canadian Inuit to fully exercise their 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 from 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 their health, culture, language, values, human rights, or any other matters that impact on the ability of Inuit to shape the future of their 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 endeavours 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 on-going dialogue with ministries of the Canadian Government on issues of international importance to Canadian Inuit;

To maintain an on-going dialogue with the ministries of the Canadian Government on issues of importance to Inuit in Russia, Alaska and Greenland and to promote their rights and interests within Canada.

The Mission of ICC

Inuit are an Arctic indigenous people living in Inuit Nunaat (which includes much of Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland). The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) was born in Barrow, Alaska in 1977 when Inuit from across the Arctic met in response to the increasing plans that states and industry were contemplating in their lands, territories, and seas. Inuit recognized the need to have a united voice through a circumpolar organization where Inuit spoke collectively and assertively. After the ICC Charter was adopted at a second assembly in Nuuk, Greenland in 1980, ICC continued to grow into an internationally-recognized organization with offices in each of the four countries in which Inuit live. ICC's principal goals include the promotion of the human rights and interests of Inuit internationally, the encouragement of long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment, and being centrally involved in the economic, social, and cultural development of the Arctic.

ICC Canada is the Canadian chapter of the international Inuit Circumpolar Council, and is a non-profit organization led by a board of directors comprising the elected leaders of the four land-claims settlement regions in Inuit Nunangat: Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, Nunavut, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. An elected executive, including a president, a vice president for international affairs, a vice president for national affairs and a secretary-treasurer, manages the organization. Staff members are responsible for day-to-day operations, under the direction of the executive director.

Making Connections

Forming Partnerships and promoting Inuit Knowledge around the World.

ICC's unique network of circumpolar Inuit communities allows ICC Canada to effectively address, through collective Inuit action based upon the views and concerns of Inuit from across Inuit Nunangat, challenges of circumpolar and international importance. For example, ICC Canada has continued to explore ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Canada and Russia through stronger linkages between Russian and Canadian Inuit, pursuant to the implementation of decisions emanating from the 2010 Nuuk General Assembly. In 2013-14, ICC Canada worked to ensure ICC Chukotka's involvement in and contribution to ICC's ongoing work in circumpolar health, as well as our important work on Arctic indigenous languages

Map Source:
Travel List 2013-2014
& Staff Calendars



Over the past year, ICC Canada led or co-led various various Arctic Council groups and initiatives on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, including:

- co-chair of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)
- co-chair of the Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG)
- leading the Arctic Indigenous Languages Vitality project inside SDWG
- leading the Circumpolar Inuit Response to Arctic Shipping project inside SDWG
- leading Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) work on Community-Based Monitoring (CBM), and co-chairing the organizing committee of the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) which will be held in April 2014
- co-leading a Review of Cancer among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples project inside AHHEG/SDWG
- co-leading the AC project on The Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities
- lead author for a chapter on risk communication for the AMAP Human Health Assessment

Activities and Initiatives

ICC Canada continues to respond effectively to Inuit priorities through our involvement and advocacy efforts in key international organizations including the Arctic Council and relevant United Nations (UN) agencies. We continue to forge stronger linkages between Canadian Inuit and other Arctic Inuit to clarify circumpolar Inuit positions and priorities, ensuring that the representations we make internationally fully reflect the issues and concerns of Canadian Inuit. Our accomplishments are rooted in an ongoing dialogue, achieved in various ways including our board meetings where Canadian Inuit leaders are briefed on developments and provide appropriate feedback and guidance. Our international and domestic activities also allow us to share information with Canadian Inuit on the work of the Arctic Council and its relevance to us.



Arctic Council

The Arctic Council continues to be of central importance to ICC Canada's work, given the relevance of the economic, social, cultural and environmental issues covered by the various Arctic Council bodies to Canadian Inuit.

The Arctic Council, a "high level forum" established in September 1996 through a political declaration signed by representatives of the governments of the eight Arctic states, includes the Inuit Circumpolar Council and five other indigenous peoples' organization as Permanent Participants. Through this important role, ICC representatives sit at the same table as ministers and senior government officials, making the Arctic Council an ideal forum to advance proposals and undertake activities with the potential to effect meaningful change.

The bulk of the on-the-ground work of the Arctic Council is accomplished through its working group structure. In 2013-14, ICC Canada continued to focus our efforts on the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME), and Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Group (AMAP) working groups, as well as the deliberations of the SAO meetings. ICC Canada also planned for and actively participated in the 2013 Ministers meeting, held in Kiruna, Sweden. Working alongside our colleagues from other ICC offices in Greenland, Alaska and Chukotka, we are active in all aspects of the Council's work. The breadth and depth of our engagement represents a significant accomplishment given our limited resources.

ICC Canada played a strong role in supporting the Government of Canada in the actual chairing of the Arctic Council beginning in May 2013. The theme of Canada's chairmanship is "development for the people of the North," with a focus on responsible Arctic resource development, safe Arctic shipping and sustainable circumpolar communities. ICC Canada representatives met repeatedly with Canada's Senior Arctic Official to discuss chairmanship priorities and to provide project-related advice. Our representatives also met regularly with Canada's heads of delegation and staff for the various working groups.

Government Relations

The Canadian federal government continues to place a high priority on the Arctic through its Northern Strategy. This focus provides ICC Canada with opportunities to promote, protect, and advance Inuit interests through consultations, collaboration and partnerships with government departments and agencies. Through Arctic Council Advisory Committee (ACAC), Deputy Minister (DM), and Ministerial meetings, we continue to advocate the positions and needs of Canadian Inuit to federal decision-makers.

Over the past year, ICC Canada president Duane Smith met with various ministers responsible for portfolios relevant to Inuit interests. He and other ICC Canada representatives also met regularly with the relevant Canadian government departments and agencies working on Arctic issues to discuss evolving developments and

policies relevant to Canadian Inuit, and to identify ways in which ICC Canada and the Canadian federal government could strengthen their action in areas of mutual interest. For example, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) is the lead federal department responsible for Canada's Northern Strategy and provides support to other departments in the Arctic Council. In 2013-14, ICC Canada continued to implement a four-year (2012-16) work plan with AANDC on Responding to Circumpolar Priorities. This plan is designed to respond to major Inuit priorities for the circumpolar Arctic (set out in the 2010 General Assembly Nuuk Declaration) and to support Canada's chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

ICC Canada also continued to implement its agreement with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) to mutually engage in activities related to circumpolar policy work. Our successful partnership with Environment Canada that supports understanding of current environmental issues and their impacts on Inuit, as well as the pursuit common goals and actions to address climate change, biodiversity and mercury challenges, also continued to grow over this past year. Health Canada also offered strong support, enabling ICC Canada to carry out our work on circumpolar Inuit health in 2013-14. This collaborative approach fosters clearer action on priority areas and more effective communication on matters of circumpolar importance.

Environment and Sustainable Development

Climate Change

The Arctic ecosystem is recognized within many international fora as a “bell weather” of global environmental health. The direct and indirect consequences of climate change are felt and seen throughout the Arctic: in the environment, in economic development, culture, wildlife, and community health and wellness. Although we, as Inuit, have always been a highly adaptive people, the global nature of climate change and its ramifications means that current responses require more than local adaptation. Dealing with climate change requires a concerted and visionary international effort which reflects a deep understanding that the Arctic ecosystem is the indicator of global environmental health.

ICC Canada recognizes the ongoing need for Inuit to engage with the circumpolar and international processes to pursue opportunities that ensure Inuit knowledge and perspectives are incorporated into national, circumpolar and global decision-making. We also recognize that issues discussed at the global level should inform local and community decision-making. The cumulative evidence presented in recent publications, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (March 2014), reaffirms that decisions must be made immediately to mitigate and alleviate unpredictable and diverse impacts of climate change and impacts on Arctic environment, wildlife and Inuit communities. Accordingly, ICC Canada continues to remind the national and international community of the urgency and importance of a national and global response to climate change.

Our Permanent Participant designation at the Arctic Council allows us to engage, communicate, and share information about the vital link between climate change and environmental health, sustainable use, cultural identity, and the health and well-being of Inuit. Accordingly, ICC Canada continued in 2013-14 to develop and refine a national Inuit position on international

climate change deliberations, to communicate to Inuit regions the current stage of negotiations within the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), and to seek Inuit input so that it can advise Canada on positions acceptable to Canadian Inuit. To discern Inuit climate change challenges and positions, ICC Canada consulted regularly with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK). Inuit priorities on the impacts of climate change range from health, economic development, housing and infrastructure, food security and the overall the importance of gathering and using the best available information for decision-making to address the challenges of adapting to environmental change and to improve the well-being of Inuit communities.

To help advance Canada’s position on international climate change, ICC Canada liaised with Environment Canada and participated in policy consultation meetings with Canada’s Chief Negotiator and Ambassador for Climate Change. Although ICC Canada did not attend the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 19 in Warsaw, our ongoing dialogue with the federal government ensured that Inuit positions were articulated by allies in attendance.

Biodiversity

In 2013-14, ICC Canada continued our efforts to draw international attention to issues of concern to Inuit regarding Arctic biodiversity, environment and sustainable development. We also dedicated efforts to building or refining partnerships in Canada on this critical issue. For example, our work with Environment Canada facilitated direct Inuit input into federal government processes on biodiversity and access and benefit sharing issues. Furthermore, we continued to communicate with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Steering Committee composed of representatives of the four Canadian Inuit regions, ICC Canada, and Pauktuutit. Our input focused on the appropriate engagement of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge holders in the current and future work of Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF). This work is directly

related to the SDWG’s Traditional Knowledge project, seeking to begin the process of understanding how Traditional Knowledge should be engaged and included in the work of the Arctic Council and its working groups.

ICC Canada participated in many CAFF-related activities over the past year. We prepared a backgrounder on sustainable use and how the CAFF and CBD, as well as other international policy agreements, impact Inuit practices. We also assumed an advisory role to help plan CAFF management board meetings in Yellowknife in September 2013 and in Kuujuaq in February 2014. ICC Canada also participated in Arctic Biodiversity Congress planning committee discussions, and attended the inaugural Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative workshop held in Montreal in February 2014. After these meetings, our representatives shared information with national and regional Inuit representatives through its membership on the Inuit Qaujisarvingat National Committee and through discussions with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

Contaminants

For over fifty years, Arctic regions have been depositories or a “sink” for many pollutants emanating from around the world, resulting in high contamination levels in some Inuit populations compared to people living in temperate and tropical regions. Over the past year, ICC Canada has continued to be a respected, constructive and informed voice within major contaminants, Arctic and human health fora both in Canada and internationally.

Canadian Inuit are particularly concerned with contaminants that undergo long-range transport, bioaccumulate in the Arctic ecosystem, and lead to very high concentrations in some Inuit populations, potentially impacting their health and well-being. Accordingly, ICC Canada continues to work nationally and internationally to address this issue through advocacy and research. We have brought for-

ward to the international stage research generated by the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) of Arctic Council to help create international policies to regulate chemicals that are of concern to Inuit in the Arctic.

Over the past year, ICC Canada worked actively to support NCP by working on the Management Committee, Environmental Trends and Monitoring Subcommittee, and the Canadian Arctic Contaminants Assessment Highlights Report III. We assisted in the organization of the NCP Results Workshop in September 2013, with Duane Smith presenting on NCP partnerships and chairing a panel on communications, community-based monitoring and knowledge integration. As part of this workshop, ICC Canada also organized and awarded (together with ITK) poster prizes for young scientists, and hosted a special session featuring Inuit throat singers and drummers to celebrate 20 years of successful partnership with the NCP. At this session, Smith presented an Inuit partnership award to Russel Shearer to highlight this partnership.

ICC Canada continued to actively contribute to a wide variety of Arctic Council activities in 2013-14, including AMAP Working Group meetings, webinars for the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) Integration Team, and the Sustaining the Arctic Observing Networks (SAON). We continue to lead the SAON task on community-based monitoring, and developed a white paper on the subject that we presented in April 2013. Through our active involvement in SAON, we are working to ensure that community-based monitoring (CBM) and Traditional Knowledge (TK) are better utilized in monitoring activities. In addition to playing an active role in the SAON Board and Executive Committee, ICC Canada and our partners launched the online Atlas of Community Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic (www.arctic-cbm.org) in July 2013. ICC Canada also co-chaired the organization committee of

the Arctic Observing Summit in Helsinki and organized a stakeholder panel.

Internationally, ICC Canada continued our activities related to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Work on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is ongoing, with ICC Canada attending the 9th POP Review Committee (POPRC) in October 2013 and providing input into POPRC working group documents on subjects including Risk Profiles for pentachlorophenol, Risk Management evaluations for chlorinated naphthalenes, and the draft Risk Profile for decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE). Our staff scientist has been named a Canadian national expert for the AMAP POPs expert group, which is currently working on the next POPs assessment.

Mercury

Mercury contamination has important implications for Inuit in the circumpolar Arctic because it undergoes long-range transport via the atmosphere and oceanic currents and is deposited in the Arctic environment. The metals' most toxic form, methylmercury, accumulates in the food web and reaches very high concentrations in top predators such as marine mammals and subsequently in Inuit, who rely on these animals as a food source. As a result, high mercury concentrations have been found in Inuit populations in the circumpolar Arctic. Health studies and consumption advisories add to the mounting evidence that mercury contamination is a real threat to Inuit that requires urgent action.

ICC was strongly engaged in United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) negotiations that led to a global, legally-binding agreement on mercury (the Minamata Convention) aimed at the elimination of further anthropogenic mercury releases into the environment. In 2013-14, ICC Canada continued to promote the use of sound science in efforts to develop policies aimed at reducing and, if possible, eliminating contaminants (including mercury) in the Arctic

environment. We continued to review literature and to conduct research on mercury to assist with policy development, and prepared reports and briefing notes on the subject for Inuit regions. For example, we continued work (with partners from the University of Ottawa and Trent University) on sampling and data analysis for our study on mercury pathways and sources to the Canadian Arctic. We also continued to work with Health Canada in AMAP's Human Health Assessment Group (HHAG) on Risk Communication on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Mercury, and presented on the subject at the Arctic Frontiers Conference in January 2014.

ICC Canada is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) project and is supporting the development of two pilot Regional Implementation Teams in the Beaufort, Bering/Chukchi, and Baffin/Davis Strait regions, as well as organizing webinars and being a member of the communications team. ICC Canada is also the nominated representative to the Scientific Cooperation Taskforce of the Arctic Council. We are on the Integration Committee and the Executive Committee for the AACA-C (the part led by AMAP), as well as the communications working group – a role in which we organize the monthly webinars for AACA.

United Nations and Human Rights

Inuit human rights as well as the rights of other indigenous peoples lie at the heart of ICC Canada's aims and objectives. Accordingly, the United Nations (UN) represents a key venue in which ICC promotes the human rights of Inuit and, along with others, works to improve the lives of all indigenous peoples globally.

Accordingly, representational activities in a range of UN meetings and workshops remain highly relevant to our multilateral engagement efforts. The ICC continues to contribute human and financial resources to the work of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. Over the past year, we have also continued to engage with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Environment Program (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), and GRID Arendal. These activities ensure that Canadian Inuit perspectives contribute to the global human rights dialogue, and represent another means for ICC Canada to seek better integration of science and policy decisions in support of our circumpolar priorities.

Health

Inuit health and wellbeing is a major priority for Canadian Inuit. ICC Canada continues to play a leading role in circumpolar health management and research, contributing to various ongoing initiatives and ensuring that Inuit perspectives frame and inform future ones.

ICC Canada has played an active role on the Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) since 2008 and has appointed a health expert as co-chair of AHHEG during the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. Over the past year, we have served as co-lead of the SDWG's mental wellness and resilience project and as co-lead of the SDWG's Cancer project. ICC Canada also is leading the chapter on risk communication for the upcoming AMAP Health Assessment, which will be published next year.

Because of these leadership roles, ICC Canada continued to liaise closely with Inuit and their representative organizations to provide updates on AHHEG and SDWG health initiatives, including briefings to the ICC Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee members and the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH). Furthermore, we promoted Inuit health interests and presented on issues affecting Inuit health at many international fora over the past year. Part of our health work documents and shares different health and wellness experiences in Inuit Nunaat. Our 2012 report on Circumpolar Inuit Best Health Practices highlighted the need to develop

an open resource to share information more broadly on food security, chronic disease, service delivery and mental health and wellness with community members, program managers, and researchers in Inuit Nunaat and with other indigenous peoples' organizations. As a SAON initiative in 2013, ICC and our partners created a community-based monitoring (CBM) web atlas (www.arcticcbm.org) that maps CBM and TK projects from across the circumpolar Arctic. Based on consultations with the Circumpolar and National Inuit Health Committees, ICC Canada gathered and input information so that the atlas includes Community Based-Health projects in Inuit Nunaat. The map will be launched at the 2014 ICC General Assembly in Inuvik, and further data from Canada, Alaska, Greenland and Chukotka will be incorporated into the map in the upcoming year.

Food Security

Food Security remains an issue of vital importance to Canadian Inuit. ICC Canada is a member of the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH) and the National Inuit Food Security Working Group (NIFSWG), and contributes to Inuit efforts to develop a National Inuit Food Security Strategy. We also play an important role in sharing information with Canadian Inuit on food security initiatives from the Arctic Council and from across Inuit Nunaat.

This past year, ICC Canada contributed information to the Council of Canadian Academies Food Security Assessment released in March 2014. Our representatives also attended the Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice Conference held in Dublin, Ireland (in April 2014), presenting an Arctic case study with Leese Papatsie from Feeding My Family. This high-level meeting allowed ICC Canada representatives to meet with the former and current presidents of Ireland, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition, and former United States Vice President Al Gore.



Traditional Knowledge

Although the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge (TK) into the work of the Arctic Council has been a goal since 1998, the consistent and appropriate use of TK throughout the Council's activities (and associated ethical and capacity considerations) remains a work-in-progress. ICC defines Traditional Knowledge or TK as "a systematic way of thinking applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and spiritual systems. It includes insights based on evidence acquired through direct and long-term experiences and extensive multigenerational observations, lessons and skills. It has developed over millennia and is still developing in a living process, including knowledge acquired today and in the future, and it is passed on from generation to generation." In 2013-14, ICC Canada continued to advocate for better consideration and use of TK within the Arctic Council working groups, acting upon the guiding principles that we helped develop in 2013.



ArcticNet

ICC Canada promote and communicate the strengths of Inuit partnership in Arctic research. In 2013-14, we continued to use and promote our partnership in ArcticNet, a network of centres of excellence studying the impacts of climate change and modernization in the coastal Canadian Arctic, as a current best practice in carrying out research activities and disseminating research findings.

ICC Canada is represented on the ArcticNet Research Management Committee and the ArcticNet Board of Directors. Staff and leadership regularly participate in ArcticNet meetings such as the IRIS 1 Steering Committee, Research Management Committee, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee. Our engagement activities include attending meetings and teleconferences to coordinate Inuit partner efforts, supporting Inuit regional representatives during ArcticNet activities, and ensuring that the research programme benefits Inuit more generally through the Inuit Advisory Committee and Inuit Research Advisors. We also helped to improve coordination between ArcticNet research programs and other Arctic initiatives with overlapping interests, such as the Sustained Arctic Observing Networks, Northern Contaminants Program, United Nations Environment Program, and the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP), Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), and Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) project.

ICC Canada, in partnership with University of Alberta and Trent University, continued to partner on research and the development of tools that help define the use of ArcticNet knowledge in decision-making. The Integrating and Translating ArcticNet Science for Sustainable Communities and National and Global Policy and Decision-Making project seeks to understand and anticipate where science outcomes have the greatest impact and influence on climate change and adaptation policies.

Inuit Rights and Interests in Arctic Resource Development

In the context of a rapidly-changing Arctic, resource development presents new and enormous opportunities and challenges for Inuit. There is a great deal at stake – economically, environmentally, socially and culturally. The respectful sharing of resources, culture, and life itself with others is a fundamental principle of being Inuit, and is the fabric that holds us together as one people across four countries. Nevertheless, the rapid growth of interest and external activity in the Arctic by powerful states, industry, researchers, and special interests demands urgent policy attention to protect and advance Inuit interests.

The *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development* (IDRD), released in May 2011, details the rights of Inuit to be involved in all aspects of decision-making regarding resource development in Arctic lands and waters. IDRD principles make clear that Inuit are in favour of non-renewable resource development that is appropriately paced, features full Inuit participation and partnerships, and is not taken for granted as inevitable by public or private developers. Development must not detract from global, national, and regional efforts to curb greenhouse emissions, nor shall they exacerbate the effects of climate change on Arctic wildlife or food security. Development must be demonstrably sustainable, in terms of promoting and sustaining healthy communities and a healthy environment. Accordingly, the next step for Canada's Inuit is to move from principles to policy development and issue management, with a view to effective engagement with governments, industry and civil society.

Over the past year, ICC Canada continued our efforts to apply the principles of the Declaration to Inuit policy development, and to articulate our resource development policies to governments, industry, academia and other stakeholders. As our first research and analysis activity, we developed a compendium of best practices in law, policy, knowledge acquisition, and resource development across the Arctic. The report on Arctic Resource Development and the Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles scanned how specific developments currently compare to Inuit expectations pursuant to the IDRD, and laid the groundwork for translating the declaration into tangible actions that will facilitate effective engagement between Canada's Inuit leaders and other private and public sector stakeholders.

Applying IDRD principles in a structured and comprehensive manner to Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs) also offers the potential for a reliable set of preconditions for sustainable and culturally-sensitive development that Inuit in Canada can agree upon and effectively convey to government, industry and other stakeholders. Accordingly, ICC Canada dedicated policy research and development efforts in 2013-14 to developing an *IDRD Checklist for Application in*



Impact Benefit Agreements in the Mining Sector guide. ICC Canada will use this as a tool to help guide IBA negotiations in Inuit regions in Canada. Although the checklist focuses on the mining industry, many of the issues and processes addressed are relevant to agreement-making in other sectors and contexts, including protected areas, oil and gas, and forestry.

Responding to Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment Recommendations

Increasing interest in the utilization of the Arctic marine environment and its associated resources demand considerable attention and vigilance from ICC Canada. Inuit, as a marine indigenous people, have rights associated with managing the Arctic marine environment for present and future generations, supporting a healthy and abundant source of renewable resources for Inuit of tomorrow. We also have marine stewardship responsibilities for all humankind.

In 2013-14, ICC Canada continued to play an important role in responding to the important circumpolar priority of Arctic shipping, with particular focus on the recommendations of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) under the auspices of the Arctic Council's Protection of the Marine Environment (PAME) working group. The objectives of the Circumpolar Inuit Response to the AMSA project are:

- 1. To provide a forum in which Inuit hunters and users of the sea ice can understand the implications of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment;**
- 2. To provide a forum in which guidance can be given by Inuit hunters and users of the sea ice on how to respond to the AMSA recommendations;**
- 3. To gain a general understanding of how Inuit use the sea ice and coastal zones, especially how they have responded to their rapidly changing environment;**
- 4. To provide a forum in which general Arctic shipping futures are understood by Inuit hunters and users of sea ice.**

Building upon its 2008 study *The Sea Ice is Our Highway: An Inuit Perspective on Transportation in the Arctic* and our 2013 workshop on Arctic shipping and Inuit sea ice use and occupancy, ICC Canada continued our efforts to review the extensive regional and academic literature on Inuit sea ice use, to identify gaps in the data, and to conduct interviews with Inuit experts to gather supplementary data. ICC Alaska, ICC Greenland, and ICC Chukotka assisted ICC Canada by arranging telephone or face-to-face interviews in their regions with local Inuit hunters, elders, and community leaders about sea ice and use of the land.

Based on this research, ICC Canada produced *The Sea Ice Never Stops: Circumpolar Inuit Reflections on Sea Ice Use and Shipping in Inuit Nunaat* report in March 2014. With the endorsement and support of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), this study frames the dialogue from an Inuit perspective, expands the content of the 2008 report, and includes material on the three other regions within the Inuit homeland. The key findings of the study reiterate that Inuit have a well-established maritime culture; Inuit are adaptable and strong; Inuit continue to rely heavily on our traditional foods; Inuit are concerned with predictions that shipping in the Arctic will increase; and Inuit insist upon sustainable use.

Communications, Cultural and Social Issues

Inuit Language

The Arctic Languages Vitality project responds to the need for in-depth language assessment and the development of a long-term plan and program focused on maintaining, preserving and/or resurrecting Arctic indigenous languages. Indigenous languages have a significant role in promoting and supporting the social, spiritual, cultural, physical and economic wellbeing of Arctic indigenous peoples. ICC is leading this multi-year, indigenous-led project, given our established record of advocating for, and partnering toward, a pan-Arctic approach to promoting indigenous languages.

In 2013-2014, ICC Canada made significant progress on this assessment programme, providing project management services for all Permanent Participants, determining strategic direction, communicating with stakeholders and participants, continuing to identify research and data gaps, developing fundraising possibilities, and liaising with government departments. We have also played a key role in developing the project website (www.arcticlanguages.com), launched in February 2014, which serves as the public face of the project and as a repository of the information collected for the project. We have also set up three social media accounts to raise awareness about the project and promote interaction among interested individuals and organizations. These accounts have been active since

December 2013, and feature tweets and retweets on Twitter (@ArcticLanguages); posts, shares, and likes on Facebook (Arctic Languages Vitality page); and video uploads, likes, and the creation of playlists on a YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ArcticLanguages>)

Over the past year, ICC Canada has made concerted efforts to reach out to the other Permanent Participants, encouraging and supporting them to play more substantial roles in the project – a key to the long-term success of the initiative. For example, ICC Canada supported the Saami Council in planning a special gathering of Saami language experts (scheduled for June 2014) who were unable to attend the research development workshops in 2012-13. ICC Canada also expended great effort to engage and brief the new president of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), during a time of political tensions, which resulted in significant changes in RAIPON involvement at the SDWG. We have also offered assistance to the other Permanent Participants in drafting funding proposals for their participation in the initiative, and have reached out to potential partners such as the National Film Board of Canada to document aspects of the initiative, as well as the National Inuit Youth Council. Furthermore, ICC Canada has elicited support from private foundations, such as the Gordon Foundation which provided us with seed funding to develop a framework for youth-elder workshops.

The key objectives of the
Arctic Vitality Project
are built around four priorities:

1. to **reinforce** the importance of indigenous languages;
2. to **assess** the state of Arctic indigenous languages;
3. to **lead** and **facilitate** inter-regional, international, and intergovernmental activities in support of languages; and
4. to **enhance** language exchange and youth engagement.

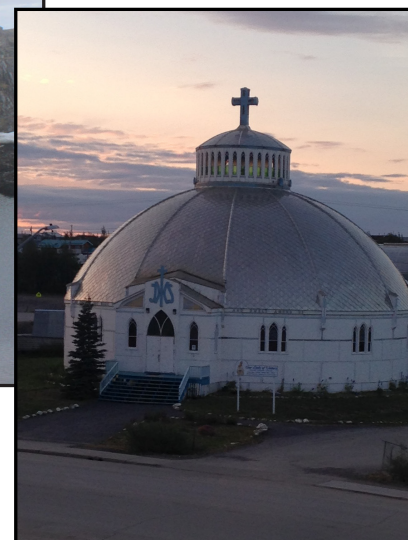
ICC Canada also started planning for the Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium to be held in Canada in early 2015. Bringing together indigenous language experts, members from participating communities, indigenous leaders from all geographic regions, and other professionals in the field of indigenous language assessment and revitalization, collaborators will present and evaluate assessment tools, processes and findings, collectively deepening understandings of data collected and language vitality in the Arctic.

Financials at a Glance

Summary Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2014, with comparative information for 2013 (in dollars)

	2014	2013
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	633,557	144,713
Accounts receivable	365,036	256,255
Prepaid expenses	12,521	13,201
	<u>1,011,114</u>	<u>414,169</u>
Tangible capital and intangible assets	15,279	21,773
	<u>1,026,393</u>	<u>435,942</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	843,574	398,899
Deferred revenue	149,280	—
Current portion of capital lease obligation	4,886	6,607
	<u>997,740</u>	<u>405,506</u>
Capital lease obligation	11,419	16,305
Net assets:		
Invested in tangible capital and intangible assets	-1,026	-1,139
Unrestricted	18,260	15,270
	<u>17,234</u>	<u>14,131</u>
Total Liabilities and Assets	1,026,393	435,942



Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2014, with comparative information for 2013 (in dollars)

	2014	2013
Revenue		
Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada	923,840	632,849
Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development	312,494	226,253
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	225,000	75,000
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (re: Health Canada)	150,000	150,000
Laval University	126,126	131,208
Environment Canada	88,000	43,349
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	75,000	75,481
Government of Nunavut	75,000	75,000
I.C.C. Foundation - (re: Air Inuit - Makivik)	75,000	75,000
Nunatsiavut Government	75,000	75,000
ICC Alaska	34,832	161,618
Health Canada	30,319	3,429
Miscellaneous - travel and other	17,146	17,375
World Wildlife Fund Canada	16,140	79,954
Administration income from projects	113,029	139,894
Trent University	—	31,399
National Research Council Canada	—	8,068
University of Manitoba	—	2,000
	2,336,926	2,002,877

**2014 Spending: 79% on Projects and Programs
and 21% on General Operations.**

	2014	2013
Expenses:		
Salaries and benefits	787,282	791,048
Professional fees	662,844	483,843
Travel expenses	273,606	354,210
Rent, equipment and facilities	154,349	131,511
Communications	64,321	50,377
Operating costs	40,547	38,206
Administration fees on projects	193,029	139,894
Contribution to General Assembly	150,000	—
Amortization of tangible capital and intangible assets	7,845	9,999
	2,333,823	1,999,088
Excess of revenue over expenses	3,103	3,789
Net assets, beginning of year	14,131	10,342
Net assets, end of year	17,234	14,131

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc.

The accompanying summary financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc., which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2014 and the summary statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. as at and for the year ended March 31, 2014.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 18, 2014.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations applied in the preparation of the audited financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described in note 1.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) Inc. as at and for the year ended March 31, 2014 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with the basis described in note 1.



Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants
June 18, 2014
Ottawa, Canada

Conclusions: Implementation, Consolidation, Preparation

The 2013-14 year has been a time of implementation, consolidation and preparation for ICC Canada: implementing the outcomes of the 2010 Nuuk General Assembly, achieving our annual goals concurrent and in concert with Canada's chairmanship of the Arctic Council from 2013-15 (and in anticipation of the US chairmanship that will follow), and preparing for the 2014 ICC General Assembly.

ICC's quadrennial General Assembly brings together Inuit delegates from all four Arctic Inuit regions – Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka (Russia) – to evaluate ICC's activities over the previous four years and to set common priorities and direction for the next four years. Canadian Inuit will host the 12th General Assembly, which rotates from country to country in which Inuit live, this year in Inuvik. Accordingly, we have dedicated significant time and energy into planning and preparing for this important event at which Inuit from the four countries can debate Arctic issues and

to address developments taking place that affect our world. Inuit can best respond, as one people, to current and emerging circumpolar priorities by meeting to discuss and develop positions beforehand. We have a chance, when we gather together, to reflect on the past, draw upon our traditional knowledge, and consider scientific research to inform our decisions for the future. These assemblies also provide us with an opportunity to celebrate our rich cultural heritage and to strengthen the cultural bonds between all Inuit.

With international interest in the Arctic continuing to grow, ICC faces a corresponding growth in expectations and requirements to effectively represent Inuit in response to emerging issues. With modest resources, ICC Canada has fulfilled its responsibilities in representing the views and perspectives of Canadian Inuit internationally over the past year. We see opportunities to contribute more to the Arctic Council and other international fora, as well as to Canadian research and decision-making processes.

ICC Canada Board of Directors

Board Members

Duane Smith
President
(and ICC Vice Chair for Canada)

Cathy Towtongie
President
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Nellie Cournoyea
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Kirt Ejesiak
Vice-President for International
Affairs
(and ICC Council member)

Jobie Tukkiapik
President
Makivik Corporation

Rebecca Kudloo
President
Pauktuutit Inuit Women Of Canada

Terry Audla
Vice-President for National Affairs

Sarah Leo
President
Nunatsiavut Government

Thomas Anguti Johnston
President
National Inuit Youth Council

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 2013-2014.

Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Makivik Corporation

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Nunatsiavut Government

Government of Nunavut

Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development

Health Canada

Environment Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

University of Laval - ArcticNet




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CRCI



The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has flourished since its establishment in 1977. Representing approximately 160,000 Inuit living in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Russia, the organization brings Inuit interests and concerns to the international level in order to make a difference at home.

Supporting this role, ICC holds Consultative Status II at the United Nations. The vision which guides ICC's work is the vision of the Inuit – to thrive in our circumpolar homeland and to speak with a united voice on issues of common concern. Through ICC, we combine our energies and talents towards protecting and promoting the Inuit way of life.

ICC holds a General Assembly every four years. The assembly brings together Inuit delegates from across the circumpolar region to elect a new chair and executive council, develop policies and adopt resolutions that 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. The next General Assembly will be held in Canada in 2014.

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

ICC Canada represents the international interests of Canadian Inuit, and is led by a Board of Directors comprising the elected leaders of the four land claims organizations in Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, Nunavut, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Core funding provided by these organizations assists ICC Canada in developing additional resources to pursue its objectives, which it does in close cooperation with ICC offices in Greenland, Russia, and Alaska.

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