INUIT LED PIKIALASORSUAQ COMMISSION TO STUDY THE IMPORTANT NORTHWATER POLYNYA

See Article on Page 9

Baffin Bayip avannaatungaani Avannaata Imartaani Pikialasorsuarmut takussutisiaq.

Map of Pikialasorsuaq, the North Water, in the northern part of Baffin Bay.
NEW PRESIDENT OF ICC CANADA

ICC Canada appointed former Nunavut MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell as new president in April. At the same time, she becomes ICC Vice Chair for Canada on the Inuit Circumpolar Council International.

Nancy Karetak-Lindell is taking over after Duane Smith who has become chair and CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. Her term is until July 2018, just prior to the next quadrennial ICC General Assembly to be held in Barrow, Alaska and hosted by ICC Alaska.
**NUNAT INOQQAVI NAALAGAAFFIIT PEQATIGIINNII QAFFASINNERUMIK INISSISIMALLUTIK PEQATAASALERUSUPPUT**


Issittormiit gruppilaaat (The Arctic Indigenous Caucus), Saamit inatsisartutisa (The Saami Council) Inuit Issittormiillu Unniertusquaqatigif-fiata nunat inoqqavisa naalakkersuisuia, inatsisartutixa njukkamininiin qortussaasutixa ataavartumik alaatsinaatutut peqataatineqar- talemissaat tapersorsoriirisiinaat.

**SIUNNERSORTIT SISAMAT TOQQARNEQARPUT**


Inuit taakku piumasaqatsiap oqasertassaanik piareersaarmi tinunaaqkaatqat pillugut Naalagaaffiit Peqatiqinni nunat inoqqavisa maajinini New Yorkimi atatsimiininneraniin marlo- riarlniit tusiarraasagassaaq.

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**BETTER ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

In September 2014 the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) requested the UN General Assembly to address and resolve current obstacles for participation of Indigenous Peoples’ representatives in meetings of United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. This commitment by Heads of States and Governments, ministers and other high-level representatives of Member States, is a direct response to the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Indigenous Peoples’ call for a revision of the United Nations’ rules of participation for Indigenous Peoples’ self-government institutions.

The Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for WCIP, held in Alta, Norway, from 10 – 12 June 2013, unanimously recommended that Indigenous Peoples be provided recognition as Indigenous Peoples and Nations, consistent with the provisions of the Declaration. Moreover, the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference called for, at a minimum, permanent observer status for Indigenous Peoples within the United Nations system enabling Indigenous Peoples’ direct participation through their own governments and parliaments, as well as traditional councils and authorities.

The Arctic Indigenous Caucus, The Saami Council and the Inuit Circumpolar Council fully support the call for permanent observer status for indigenous governments and parliaments, and traditional councils and authorities.

**FOUR ADVISERS APPOINTED**

The process to implement this topic is now on and the President of The UN General Assembly, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft has appointed two indigenous representatives, who are Dr. Claire Winfield Ngamihi from the Pacific region and Dr. James Anaya from the North America region as well as two representatives from the Member States of the UN, H.E. Mr. Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland and H.E. Mrs. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana as advisers.

The advisers will help the President of the UN General Assembly to conduct consultations in order to draft a text to be finalized and adopted by the General Assembly during its 71st session fall 2016.

There will be two consultations on the issue during the session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May at the UN Headquarters in New York City.
ICC Greenland has recently undergone a strategic planning workshop led by Kasper Ottoßen Kanstrup from the consultancy Huginn & Muninn.

ICC Greenland has long desired to strengthen the Greenlandic part of our organization, both internally and externally.

– Constantly we are facing new challenges. The tasks are not becoming lesser – on the contrary! Economically, we challenged why we have to find savings through efficiencies and new revenue opportunities through targeted fundraising – Hjalmar Dahl says.

ICC serves on several international forums where we as the only Inuit organization can ensure Inuit rights and community through culture and environment in a changing Arctic. As an indigenous peoples’ organization, the ICC has direct access to both the UN system and the Arctic Council. Through its status in ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council), ICC has access to international forums that Inatsisartut and Naalakkersuisut does not have because Greenland is not a sovereign state.

The workshop was in addition to the employees attended by board members and delegates from the organizations represented in the ICC Greenland.

– Our great desire is to get our member organizations to participate more actively in the work of ICC Greenland. All organizations, separately have capabilities that we use too little – ICC Greenland’s president says.

In the time ahead ICC will develop a new strategic plan, both politically and administratively.

– Now we have the tool and have set clear goals for the work to be performed within the next few months – Hjalmar Dahl concludes.
Mads Fægteborg, ICC Kalaallit Nunaanni pisortartaaq.

Mads Fægteborg, the new Executive Director of ICC Greenland.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eskimologist Mads Fægteborg took office on April 1st as Executive Director of ICC Greenland. Mads has for many years served ICC Greenland as External Advisor.

With nearly 40 years of work in and with Greenland and Arctic Issues Mads has a good knowledge of the ICC work. Through 33 years he has for shorter and longer periods carried out consultancy assignments for ICC by his former company. Recently, however, as external advisor to ICC Greenland.

Many will know Mads as a productive author of books and articles about Greenland and the Arctic. He has also been a guest lecturer and speaker in various forums.
The latest meeting of the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) took place in Barrow in Alaska in the days 11th and 12th of March.

SDWG differs from the other working groups by being more oriented towards the human dimension. At the meeting in Barrow, ICC Greenland especially was interested in some projects called ‘Rising Sun’ regarding the reduction of suicide, ‘One Health’ on the health status in the Arctic, ‘EALLU’ on the Arctic Youth and climate change, and last but not least ‘Arctic Indigenous Languages’ on the languages in the Arctic.

The latter project has had the ICC as the lead dog for a long time, but now that phase two shall find its end it lacks the states’ interest in the project. ICC Greenland’s proposal met some interest, and thus the necessary financial support to implement the project. From ICC’s side it was argued that if the states don’t want to be with, the organization will have to continue alone. The states were a little shocked about this announcement, and a compromise proposal was presented, and it was that all Arctic indigenous organizations sat down to find a joint proposal on how the project can be supplied with financial resources and thereby continue within the working group.

During the discussions on the future strategy for the working group’s ICC Greenland president Hjalmar Dahl took word and said that he felt provoked by the working group held its meeting in Barrow.

– Why do we travel to Barrow and all the other places where we are sitting discussing the situation of the indigenous peoples, when we at the same time don’t want to let them in to hear what we are talking about. – said Hjalmar Dahl.

Then Hjalmar Dahl suggested that the future strategy should include openness and dialogue with the local populations.

– Therefore, I suggest that when we are going out into the communities, we devote time to listen to the locals’ visions and concerns and provide the opportunity for an open dialogue so that we can achieve a transparency in our work. If not, we may just hold our meetings in the capitals. – Hjalmar Dahl concluded.

ICC Greenland’s proposal met some interest, and it was decided that this proposal should be included in the draft for the future strategic plan of SDWG.
THE ARCTIC POLICY OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a public debate in the cultural center Katuaq in Nuuk on April 4. The theme was “Prospects for the role of the Arctic in the Kingdom’s foreign policy towards the year 2030”.

Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen is the government investigator and author of the report that will be published May 1st.

The Kingdom of Denmark’s Arctic ambassador, Erik Vilstrup Lorenzen, also participated in the debate. Lorenzen ends as Arctic ambassador later this year and has been appointed as ambassador to Italy.

ICC Greenland would like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Lorenzen for a good working relationship.
FINLAND'S UPCOMING CHAIRMANSHIP OF ARCTIC COUNCIL

On April 28, ICC Greenland was visited by two representatives from the Government of Finland. The reason for the visit was that the Finnish government prior to its take over of the chairmanship of the Arctic Council from the U.S.A. has a wish to consult Member States and Permanent Participants on the priorities of the Finnish Chairmanship. These are: Environmental protection, Telecommunication services, Meteorological cooperation and Cooperation on Education.

Topics of special interest to ICC Greenland were topics on social impact assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It has for a long time been discussed what local and traditional knowledge actually means. From an indigenous perspective, the two terms do not specifically include indigenous knowledge, why ICC suggested to include the latter, so in future the Arctic Council will operate with local, traditional and indigenous knowledge.

At the same time ICC pointed out that the indigenous peoples have not only to participate in the process of project planning, but also have to get a more involving role.

2017-imi Finlandip Issittup Siunnersuisoqati-giiffanni siulittaasuuffik tugassa-vaa. Uani assim1 2015-imi oktoberimi SA0-it Anchoragemi ataatsimiinneranni Finlandimut alikkusersuisut takusinnaa-

Finland takes over the chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2017. At the Anchorage SA0 meeting in October 2015, the Finish delegation entertained in the evening.
PIKIALASORSUAQ PILLUGU SULINIUT AALLARTINNEQARTOQ


INUIT TUSARNIAAFFIGINEQASSAPPUT
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IMARNERSAQ
Avannaani imarnersaq Pikialasorsuap ammasuuvot immap sikuanik kaajallallugu ungunearqasimaq. Nunavummi imarnersani taamaattingut annersaavoq Qaaasuit-sullu Killeqarfiaatut avannaani uumassussilil pinngorafittut annersaalluni. Baffinip Kangerlunuq naggueqatigiit. The Inuit Circumpolar Council, Office of the Chair and the Inuit Circumpolar Council, Greenland have initiated the Pikialasorsuap Commission to consult with Canadian and Greenlandic communities that are most closely connected to the North Water Polynya (Pikialasorsuap in Greenlandic).

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The North Water is an area vulnerable to climate change. Inuit in the region have expressed a desire to explore locally-driven management options in advance of increased shipping, tourism, fishing, and non-renewable resource exploration/development. The Commission’s mandate will be to listen to Inuit community members and knowledge holders who use and depend on this region about their vision for the North Water’s future use and cooperation.

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PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

Pikialasorsuap ataatsumiititalaanittut/The Pikialasorsuap Commission: Kuupik V. Kleist, Eva Aariak and Okalik Eegeesiak.

INUIT TUSARTIMIK UMAALUKTUKUUT

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WATER AND SEWERAGE

ICC Greenland President Hjalmar Dahl was invited to make a welcoming speech at the conference on ‘Sanitation in Cold Climate Regions’ arranged by Artek in Sisimiut in April. Due to bad weather conditions Hjalmar Dahl did not reach the conference, but the welcoming presentation was delivered by an Arctic Council representative.

We are bringing an extract of his speech:

- To day it is a well known fact, that the safety and accessibility of drinking-water are major concerns throughout the world. Health risks may arise from consumption of water contaminated with infectious agents, toxic chemicals, and radiological hazards. Also here in the Arctic we are facing similar problems.
- Within the Arctic Council, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has participated as Permanent Participant along with four other Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ organizations since the creation of the council. One of the main areas we are doing, is focussing on the human aspects of the Arctic Peoples as well as Indigenous Peoples Knowledge when the member states of the Arctic Council decide on issues affecting the people. When operationalizing issues to improve the health in the communities through safe and affordable access to household running water and sewerage, it is of utmost importance directly to involve the authorities and the people concerned through out the Arctic.
- In our Arctic Policy we mention that the quality of life refers to the state of the whole person and has a direct bearing on the quality of life.
DUANE SMITH THANKED FOR 17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ICC

At the meeting, ICC Vice Chair for Canada, Duane Smith, announced his resignation after serving ICC for over 17 years. Mr. Smith was to replace Nellie Cournoyea as the Chair and CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC). He will also be stepping down as ICC Canada CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC). Duane Smith announced his resignation after serving ICC for over 17 years.

“I am leaving with some regret, but I believe my contribution to ICC has left the organization with the tools to continue to do great work,” the outgoing ICC Canada president said. “On the international stage, I always aimed to do things that made a difference at home and in that way, moving to my new role at IRC is simply a continuation of this approach.”

ICC Chair, Okalik Eegeesiak, thanked Duane Smith for his commitment and lengthy service to ICC and all Inuit. “You will be missed. Your contribution to and for Inuit in the work ICC undertakes from Novo Chaplinino in Russia, Bethel in Alaska, to Iqaluit in Canada, and Nuuk in Greenland will also be missed. I’m glad your

ICC work will continue to be felt at IRC,” Ms. Eegeesiak added.

ICC Vice Chair for Greenland, Hjalmar Dahl said, “we will miss Duane’s guidance as we and plan implement these very important summits.”

Jim Stotts, ICC Vice Chair for Alaska, said “Duane was never shy to challenge Arctic states and industry when our interests were not addressed, but mostly he asked how we can all work together.”

LAUNCH INUIT SUMMITS ON WILDLIFE, EDUCATION, & ECONOMY

At the executive council meeting of the ICC in Ottawa, Canada, in January 2016, three Inuit summits were launched. They include a circumpolar-wide wildlife summit to be held in the Canadian Arctic in November of this year, an Inuit economic summit in Alaska in February 2016 (in Greenlandic it says 2017!), and an Inuit education summit in Autumn 2017. Inuit from Russia, Alaska, Greenland, and Canada will participate at these summits before the next general assembly is held in Alaska in 2018.

The ICC executive council next meeting will be in Qaqortoq Southern part of Greenland in the last week of August 2016. The theme will be Uranium mining in the Arctic during the meeting.

ICC CANADA-MI SIULITTAASOQ DUANE SMITH UKIUNI 17-INI ICC-MI SULEQATAAREERLUNI TUNUARPOQ


"ICC-p siulersuisuunerisa saaatsimernanannit/ ICC Executive Council Meeting, Saamiarnimmi talingmimut/from left to right: Jimmy Stotts, Alaska; Hjalmar Dahl, Greenland; Duane Smith, Canada. Sitting: Tatiana Achirgina, Chukotka; Okalik Eegeesiak, Chair, Canada and Vera Metcalf, Alaska.

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PISUSSUTIT UUMASSUSILLIT, ILINNIARTITAANEEQ ANINGGAASARSIORNIKKULLU INERIARTORNEQ PILLUGIT ATAASTIMEAERUARTISITINASSAAT


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URANIUM EXPLOITATION MUST BE BASED ON VOTING BY THE PEOPLE/REFERENDUM

ICC Greenland recommends having a referendum regarding uranium exploitation so people can vote and make a decision based on accurate information. This will conclude in a yes or no vote for this giant mining project.

In the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and in numerous other declarations, the term 'Free Prior and Informed Consent' is used. This means that people must be involved in large projects, based on an independent, prior and informed foundation, in order to decide whether or not to support it.

ICC is working for the inclusion of people in deciding all forms of large-scale projects in Greenland. Uranium exploration is a large and controversial project, which will affect everyone; therefore there is still time to seek the people’s opinion on this matter. This is the best way to include the people. Or else, everything is irresponsible and undemocratic.
INUIT ISSNERTORMIUT SIUNNERSUISOQATIGIIFIAT  
INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (ICC)  
2014-2018

SIULERSUISUUNERIT | EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Siulittaasoq / Chair: Okalik Eegeesiak – Canada

CANADA: Nancy Karetak-Lindell, Vice-president/Siulittaasup tullia & Herb Nakimayak, Member of the council/Siulersuunerni ilaasortaq

ALASKA: James Stotts, Vice-president/Siulittaasup tullia & Vera Metcalf, Member of the council, Siulersuisuunerni ilaasortaq

RUSLAND: Tatiana Achirgina, Vice-president/Siulittaasup tullia & Elena Kaminskaya, Member of the council, Siulersuisuunerni ilaasortaq

KALAALLIT NUNAAT: Hjalmar Dahl, Vice-president/Siulittaasup tullia & Martha Abelsen, Member of the council, Siulersuisuunerni ilaasortaq

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