UTQIAQVIK TO HOST THE ICC GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JULY 2018

North Slope Borough in Alaska has offered to host the ICC’s 13th General Assembly in the days 16-19. July 2018 in Utqiagvik (formerly known as Barrow). Mayor Harry Brower Jr. gave the offer during the ICC Executive Council Meeting in Utqiagvik 1 to 3. April.

Mayor Brower emphasized that it was a special honor for Utqiagvik to host the General Assembly, as the city celebrates the 40th anniversary of the late Mayor Eben Hobson’s initiative for the meeting that ended with the establishment of the ICC.

ICC is the international association of Inuit from Alaska, Arctic Canada, Greenland and Chukotka in Russia. The General Assemblies are held every four years and elaborate the guidelines for the organization’s work for the next four years.

ICC Greenland President Hjalmar Dahl is pleased with the invitation from Utqiagvik, and expresses his joy by saying – this was where the spark sparked and this is where we will see the blazing fire.
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ATAATSIMIINNERANNIT INUIT INUIT SITTORMIUT
SIUNNERSISOQATIGIT ALAATSINAANNERMINNIK
ISUMMERSORNERMINNILUU SAQQUMMIUKKUMASAAT

ISSITTIMI SIUNNERSISOQATIGIT Fairbanksimi ataat-
simimneranni ICC-p siulitaaasua Okalik Eegesi-
ainn agaqeqaaraqsuarat ika agaqeqaaraqsuarat ic-

“ICC Chair, Okalik Eegeesiak said yesterday at the
Arctic Council Ministerial in Fairbanks, “Last
year the Arctic Council celebrated twenty years –
this year the Inuit Circumpolar Council cele-
brates 40 years. Eegeesiak shared, “We need to
take a moment to step back and observe where
we have come from, where we are now, and
where we want to go,” she said.

The United States has worked hard to ad-
cvance the Arctic Council and we celebrate the
work done during the U.S. chairmanship
and invokes all to participate in the ICC Educa-
tion Summit in 2018 in Greenland.” Dahl offer-
ed, “We cannot overstate it is time to move for-
towards more meaningful engagement with the
Permanent Participants and to continue to build
upon this partnership, evolve and move the
bench-mark up,” stated Eegeesiak.

Hjalmar Dahl, ICC Greenland President sug-
gested, “ICC commends Finland’s effort to sup-
port the importance of education in fostering
sustainable development in Arctic communities
and Invokes all to participate in the ICC Educa-
tion Summit in 2018 in Greenland.” Dahl offer-
ed, “We cannot overstate it is time to move for-
tward on this issue and close the gap between

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NUNAT INOQQAVISAVA ATUGAAQ PILLSUGT
FN-IMI ATAATSIMEERSUARNEQ

On the occasion of the decade of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Inuit and Saami ask for action!

ICC International Chair Okalik Eegeesiak heads the ICC delegation to the Permanent Forum (UNPFII) and spoke at the UN Headquarters in New York on April 25, 2017 on behalf of Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic, consisting of the Saami Council, the Saami Parliaments, the ICC and representatives of the youth of the Arctic and throughout the globe.

“The adoption of the UNDRIP on September 13, 2007 by the UN General Assembly, was an important milestone for protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Confirmation of the right to self-determination and land rights and territories and resources reflects collective human rights, which is extremely important for Indigenous Peoples all over the world,” said Eegeesiak.

“Now that we mark the 10th anniversary of the Declaration, the Arctic Indigenous Peoples continue to encourage our respective governments to initiate national implementation processes to complete The Declaration's objectives,” Åsa Larsson Blind, President of the Sami Council said. “We urge all the Arctic states to take active measures for the implementation of our rights in close cooperation with the Arctic Indigenous Peoples and their organizations to achieve our full participation.”

Member States are required to respect and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples and to maintain the principles of UNDRIP.

“Therefore, we must continue to encourage the states to implement The Declaration at national level, which Member States have committed themselves to do. Initial people throughout the world, not just for the Indigenous Peoples but for all humanity.”

Onuit Qasigiannguit, ICC International Chair Okalik Eegeesiak
The desire for obtaining observer status at the UN for Indigenous Peoples’ representatives and their representative institutions was discussed at the UN. It happened during the session of the Permanent Forum in New York, which took place on April 24th and ended on Friday May 5th, 2017.

– The President of the UN General Assembly presented a motion for first reading and further discussion a resolution concerning observatory seats at the UN until it will be presented at the UN General Assembly in autumn 2017, President of ICC Greenland, Hjalmar Dahl, said.

Further Hjalmar Dahl stated that the idea of observer status at the UN was discussed at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples organized by the UN General Assembly in September 2014, where it was part of the resolution’s wording that recommended a study of a higher status for Indigenous Peoples at the UN.

It was during the Indigenous Peoples’ Global Conference in Alta, Norway in June 2013, where the wish for observer seat for Indigenous Peoples at the UN was included in the Alta final document. The Alta Conference was a preparatory conference for the World Conference in 2014.

– During the Session of the Permanent Forum, the Arctic Caucus, representing the ICC, the Saami Council, the Nordic Saami Parliaments and the Arctic Youth Group, supported the desire for an observer seat at the UN. If the resolution, as expected, will be adopted by the UN General Assembly this autumn, the UN’s doors will become open to the Arctic Indigenous Parliaments, such as Inatsisartut, who will be able to apply for an observer seat at the UN, ended Hjalmar Dahl.
ANINGAASARSIORENEQ PILLUGU ICC ALASKAMI ATAAATSIMEERSUARTITSISOQ


ICC ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN ALASKA

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) hosted the ‘Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit’ in Anchorage, Alaska, on the 28th to 30th of March 2017. The theme of the summit was: “We set the agenda for our future.”

ICC Alaska, that hosted the summit, had about 80 participants from Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka, representing Inuit-owned companies. The purpose of the summit was to look into the possibilities of working together across borders and possibly form an international Inuit business council to look further at the possibilities for long-term economic co-operation.

ICC Greenland’s President Hjalmar Dahl said that it was an important initiative. “There is a great focus on the climate change, but we must not forget the human aspect, and thus the economic opportunities.”

Then Minister for Business, Labor, Trade, Energy and Foreign Affairs Vittus Qujaukitsoq and CEO In Royal Arctic Line Verner Hammeken participated as speakers.


Innersuussutini isumaliutissat piersaraaotit al-lat ilagat Pikialasorsuaq samnissi tamani Inukt inimalsaaquta quzzleenniimassaitaat, Pikialasar-suq aqtussinussamut piersaraaunit niisuttaat aqqusinngernarnis-saqut qullaqtaarniimassarnin-teen, kiisali ujaaseninni amaniissaint ni-latut innersuussiit tunnga-rtumillu piffissaqreerimik ilisim-samminik tunniussimmasatik ilumut ilisa-rissaanernaarit.
The ICC Pikialasorsuaq Commissioners met on this week to consider the wealth of testimony they heard over the summer and fall in Canada and Greenland on the past, present and future of the Pikialasorsuaq. The Pikialasorsuaq, The Great Upwelling, is also referred to as the North Water Polynya in the northern part of Baffin Bay.

“The ICC Pikialasorsuaq Commission process started in the communities and it is our intention as Commissioners to recognize these valuable voices”, stated Okalik Eegeesiak, Inuit Circumpolar Council Chair. Kuupik Kleist, the Greenland Commissioner continued, “The Pikialasorsuaq Commission process has been conceived from the bottom up”. The Commission travelled to and heard from the communities most closely associated with the Pikialasorsuaq and are now developing the report and recommendations. The next step for the Commissioners is to shape these community voices and visions into recommendations. The report will be structured around a number of key principles that communities expressed as important and that define the communities relationship with the Pikialasorsuaq and their vision for the future.

The geographical region the Commission is considering is primarily the actual polynya however, “we heard from all communities that the larger cultural region surrounding the Pikialasorsuaq is influenced by the health of the Pikialasorsuaq,” noted Eva Aariak, Canadian Commissioner. Kuupik Kleist noted, “that rapid and unpredictable Arctic climate change threatens the integrity of the Pikialasorsuaq and the precautionary principle must be employed.”

Key principles the Commissioners drew from the communities were, “that the people of the Pikialasorsuaq are one people united by family bonds, history, culture, and Inuit knowledge, and that the Pikialasorsuaq is one ecosystem divided in two countries”, Eva Aariak noted. “We clearly heard that hunting the bounty of the Pikialasorsuaq remains the center of Inuit food security, culture and that the preservation for future generations of this biological wealth is paramount”, offered Eegeesiak. Kuupik Kleist, acknowledged that “conservation can be compatible with Inuit self determination and community economic development and the Commission is shaping our recommendations to reflect this vision.”

“We envision the establishment of an Inuit led Pikialasorsuaq Management Area, with oversight through a yet to be defined governance structure. This body will oversee the management, monitoring of the cumulative impacts of outside activity including shipping, fishing, tourism, non renewable and renewable resources”, offered Aariak. “This was a collective recommendation from all communities and further, that this should include a comprehensive and sustainable community based monitoring regime”, Eegeesiak added. The Commission is also considering recommendations to reduce barriers to travel the Pikialasorsuaq and between adjacent communities to re-establish family ties, maintain culture, food security and sustainable community economic development.

Other priorities are being considered in the recommendations include the central value of Inuit knowledge to inform any actions in the Pikialasorsuaq, consideration of the role of youth in any management plan of the Pikialasorsuaq to ensure their future is protected, and issues of search and rescue and environmental response.

The Commissioners will bring their draft key principles and recommendations back to communities in April and May prior to the mid summer release of the final report. The return to the communities is to ensure their work reflects the voice and vision of Inuit that so freely and generously gave of their time and knowledge.

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Pikialasorsuaq, or “Great Upwelling”, is the largest Arctic polynya and the most biologically productive region north of the Arctic Circle. Pikialasorsuaq has been recognized by Inuit for generations as critical habitat. Communities in the Oqiqtaq and Avanersuaq regions continue to rely on the polynya’s biological productivity. Pikialasorsuaq is vital to many migratory species upon which these communities, as well as farther afield, depend.

In some recent years, the northern ice bridge in Kane Basin, Naes Straight and Smith Sound (Ikeq) has become less reliable and the polynya less defined. The consequences of these changes, linked to larger climatic shifts observable in many parts of the Arctic, are not known.

Led by three Commissioners, Okalik Eegeesiak (chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council) the International Commissioner, Eva Aariak (former Premier of Nunavut) the Canadian Commissioner, and Kuupik Kleist (former Greenland Premier) the Greenland Commissioner, the Pikialasorsuaq Commission is mandated to conduct consultations in the communities in Nunavut and Greenland that are closely connected to Pikialasorsuaq. With the support of the Oak Foundation, Oceans North and World Wildlife Fund the Commissioners have undertaken consultations with Canadian Inuit communities in April (Grise Fiord, Resolute, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet and Clyde River) and is currently in Northern Greenland to hear from Inuit on the Greenlandic side of the Pikialasorsuaq (Siorapaluk, Qaanaaq, Savissivik, Kullorsuaq, Nuussuaq and Upernavik). The consultations are designed to facilitate local and regional input, to incorporate indigenous knowledge, and to recommend an Inuit strategy for safeguarding, monitoring and management of the health of Pikialasorsuaq for future generations.

Pikialasorsuaq remains the center of Inuit food security, culture and that the preservation for future generations of this biological wealth is paramount”, offered Eegeesiak. Kuupik Kleist, acknowledged that “conservation can be compatible with Inuit self determination and community economic development and the Commission is shaping our recommendations to reflect this vision.”

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2014-2018

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