

# ICC gains UN non-voting status

A five-year fight to ensure Inuit participation in political, economic and social institutions came much closer to being won last week when the United Nations admitted the Inuit Circumpolar Conference as a Non-Governmental Organization membership.

NGO status allows the ICC to have formal and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and its specialized agencies, committees and commissions as well as with the secretariat of the UN.

The ICC is an international Inuit organization formed in 1977 at the urging of Eben Hopson, first mayor of the North Slope Borough. Inuit members come from Canada, Greenland and Alaska.

The ICC consists of a president, a six-member executive council, a Secretariat and a General Assembly.

The General Assembly meets regularly every three years alternating its location among Alaska, Canada and Greenland.

The next meeting is planned for Greenland.

ICC President Hans-Pavia Rosing said after word of the U.N. membership was announced, "This is a great achievement for such a relatively young organization and provides the ICC with an important forum to present our views and exchange ideas.

"We take this acceptance of our NGO application as recognition by the United Nations of the important role Inuit can play in promoting the objectives of the U.N. and in assisting the international com-

# ICC joins United Nations

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munity in developing a greater awareness of and sensitivity to the Arctic region, its environment and its inhabitants."

The ICC was formed to strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar region, to promote Inuit rights and interests on the international level, and ensure endurance and growth of Inuit culture and societies for both present and future generations.

Alaska delegation members are Oscar Kawagley of Bethel and Jimmy Stotts of Barrow. Stotts was out of the country and Kawagley couldn't be reached to comment on the UN announcement.