

Tundra Times



Inupiat People's Heritage
to Kakti: Seeking and Reporting

Den Nena Henuch Our Land Speaks
Ununguq Yumkling the Alimo Speak

Yupik Kakti: Seeking the Way Yupik's Talk

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Guest editorial

by Dalee Sambo

Inuit Circumpolar Conference

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference — ICC — is the international organization representing all Inuit from Alaska, Canada and Greenland. We continue to encourage the active participation of the Siberian Inuit within ICC. The ICC was founded by the late Mayor Eben Hopson in Barrow in 1977.

Presently, the ICC has its international headquarters in Kuujuaq, Northern Quebec, Canada, where our president, Mary Simon, resides. Regional offices are located in Anchorage; Ottawa, Canada; and Nuuk, Greenland.

The main objectives of the ICC are to:

- Strengthen unity among the Inuit of the circumpolar region.
- Promote Inuit rights and interests on the international level.
- Ensure adequate Inuit participation in political, economic and social institutions which Inuit deem relevant.
- Promote greater self-sufficiency of Inuit.
- Ensure the endurance and the growth of the Inuit culture and societies for both present and future generations.
- Promote long-term management and protection of Arctic and sub-Arctic wildlife, environment and biological productivity.
- Promote wise management and use of nonrenewable resources and incorporate such resources in the present and future development of Inuit economies taking into account other Inuit interests.

Since its founding, the ICC had held a General Assembly every three years with Inuit delegates from Alaska, Canada and Greenland. In 1983, the ICC was officially granted Non-Governmental Organization status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

One of the principal projects undertaken by the ICC is the development of a comprehensive Arctic Policy. Over the long term, the ICC intends to address both domestic and foreign policy aspects of a wide range of issues affecting Inuit and their circumpolar homeland.

The aim of the policy is to achieve a broad consensus of the priorities, policies and principles to be advanced in Inuit circumpolar regions, taking into account the significance of the Arctic and its resources to both present and future generations.

We seek to ensure the survival of Inuit as a distinct people and to integrate Inuit cultural values and concerns in all aspects of policy development.

We also are seriously concerned about current initiatives toward excessive militarization of the Arctic. With a view to encouraging other alternatives, the ICC is preparing a draft international agreement concerning the establishment of an Arctic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.

This is just a brief summary of some of the major projects in which the ICC is presently engaged. For further information, contact the ICC Alaska Office, 429 D St., Suite 202, Anchorage 99501.