

ICC to outline comprehensive Arctic policy in Kotzebue

In July of this year the General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), meeting in Kotzebue, Alaska, will be considering a comprehensive Arctic policy statement. The statement will outline the principles that the Inuit want the governments of Greenland, Canada and the United States to follow in the political and resource development of the Arctic.

The proposed statement will contain policies on ecological, social, cultural, economic and educational issues of importance to Inuit. Among the specific topics addressed are subsistence rights, bowhead whaling, Inuit control of health, education and welfare programs, economic self-sufficiency, and the protection of the

marine environment.

The University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF) and Chukchi Community College, of Kotzebue, are offering an audioconferenced class based upon the ICC's proposed policies. The course will be a seminar, with groups of participants taking responsibility for presenting specific issues to the rest of the class and will provide an opportunity for discussion of the proposed policies prior to the meeting in

Kotzebue.

The class, called either Rural Development 293 or 393 "Seminar in Arctic Policy," is being organized by Nick Flanders, an Assistant Professor of Rural Development with UAF, and a Field Coordinator in Kotzebue. The class will begin on January 20th, 1986 and will meet on Monday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Learn Alaska audioconference system. It will end on May 5th.

The United Nations recognizes the ICC as a non-governmental organization representing the Inuit of Greenland, Canada and the United States. The ICC chose the word "Inuit" as an alternative to

"Eskimo."

At present the course is being offered in Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Barrow and Fairbanks. Other sites may be allowed if more funding becomes available.

Interested community members are encouraged to participate, even if they are not planning to attend the ICC meeting. People in Kotzebue, Nome, and Bethel should contact their community college for more information about the class. In Barrow, please contact the CHRD Higher Education Center coordinator, Dan Coffey, at 842-4711, ext. 210. Or, contact Nick Flanders in Kotzebue at 442-3019.