

Inuit Circumpolar Conference report to the people

According to its recent Report to the People, the Alaska office of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference is being re-organized to better meet the needs of the Inuit peoples of Alaska. The ICC is a non-profit organization with offices in Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Russia, dedicated to providing the 120,000 Inuit of the Arctic with a united voice on common interests, such as human rights, health and social well-being, and subsistence. ICC promotes the rights and concerns of Inuit at the United Nations, the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, and other international fora.

Under the leadership of ICC Vice President Ronald H. Brower, Sr. of Barrow, ICC-Alaska is making the transition from hosting the ICC Presidency to being again a regional office of the international organization. From 1992 until 1995, the ICC President was based in Anchorage. At the

elections at ICC's General Assembly in Nome last July, Rosemarie Kuptana of Canada was elected President, and has established her office in Ottawa.

During the tenure of the Presidency in Alaska, ICC focused on its international mandate in such fora as the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the United Nations, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The regional office will maintain this focus, while striving for greater involvement of the regional organizations in Alaska.

"For ICC-Alaska to accomplish the 1995 mandates, we must have the active participation of our regional organizations; with their area of expertise," stated Brower in his Report to the People. "they will help direct our work, and we will keep them up to date on our activities, to make sure

that we work together to promote the interests of all Inuit. We look forward to using our abilities as best we can to serve our common interests."

The 1995 mandates were also discussed at length at a meeting of the ICC Executive Council in December 1995, in Ottawa. The various responsibilities will be delegated to lead offices. ICC-Alaska will retain a prominent role in environmental issues, as well as trade, assistance to the Russian Far East, and circumpolar health issues.

The re-organization of ICC-Alaska is intended to increase the effectiveness of the office while operating within tight financial constraints. At a September 1995 meeting of the regional organizations—the corporations, non-profits, and boroughs of

the Inuit areas of Alaska—ICC-Alaska was directed to open two offices, a regional office in Anchorage, and a vice president's office in Barrow. In addition, ICC-Alaska is amending its articles of incorporation and drafting new by-laws to "provide a process for improved involvement, communication, and direction by the regional organizations on ICC-Alaska's activities and other matters."

During this process, ICC-Alaska has been greatly assisted by the North Slope Borough, UIC Construction, Piquini Management Corporation, Arctic Sivunmun Ilisagvik College, and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, which have contributed staff, equipment, and funds to assist in the re-organization.
