

Inuit business conference sees potential

The first Inuit Business Development Conference will be Feb. 3-5 in Anchorage.

'This conference grows out of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference's (ICC) desire to promote economic development in northern communities,' says Eileen Panigeo MacLean, ICC president.

Marketing and joint ventures will be among the topics discussed by representatives from Russia, Greenland, Canada, and Alaska.

Inuit are prohibited from wearing clothing made from marine mammals when they cross certain borders and from transporting ivory, even as gifts. These barriers will be addressed. MacLean's goals are a 'circumpolar

free trade zone and visa-free travel throughout the Inuit world.'

The conference is co-sponsored by the Alaska Dept. of Commerce and Economic Development and ICC. Alaska Gov. Walter Hickel recently submitted Paul Fuhs' name to the legislature for confirmation as commissioner of that department. Fuhs, of Unalaska has been acting commissioner since last summer.

