

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

BRINGING ALASKANS TOGETHER



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Alaska and Greenland share many interests?

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forded these groups by the State of Alaska and the federal government. She noted the fact that despite a unified voice from the different Native groups living in and around Norton Sound that the oil lease sale should be delayed, people in the federal government who live over 5,000 miles away decided to go ahead with the sale anyway.

"The people there are the ones who should decide," Rasmussen fumed. "They have their governments chosen by the people and they have always lived there! They should decide and the United States and Alaska should honor their decision!"

The people of Greenland, Rasmussen said, also have a strong interest in what happens in Alaskan seas. "It is the same seas that we have in Greenland," she explained. "The same animals, which we depend on, live in it. Like they say, just one major oil spill and these could be gone!"

There is no oil development in Greenland right now, Rasmussen noted. The Arctic Pilot Project would have had giant, ice-smashing supertankers smashing through the seas near Greenland's coast, but the ICC played a major role in bringing it to a halt. The tankers would have been transporting oil from the Canadian

Arctic to ice-free Canadian ports.

The Inuit feared the effects of the project on the whales, seals and other wildlife of the region.

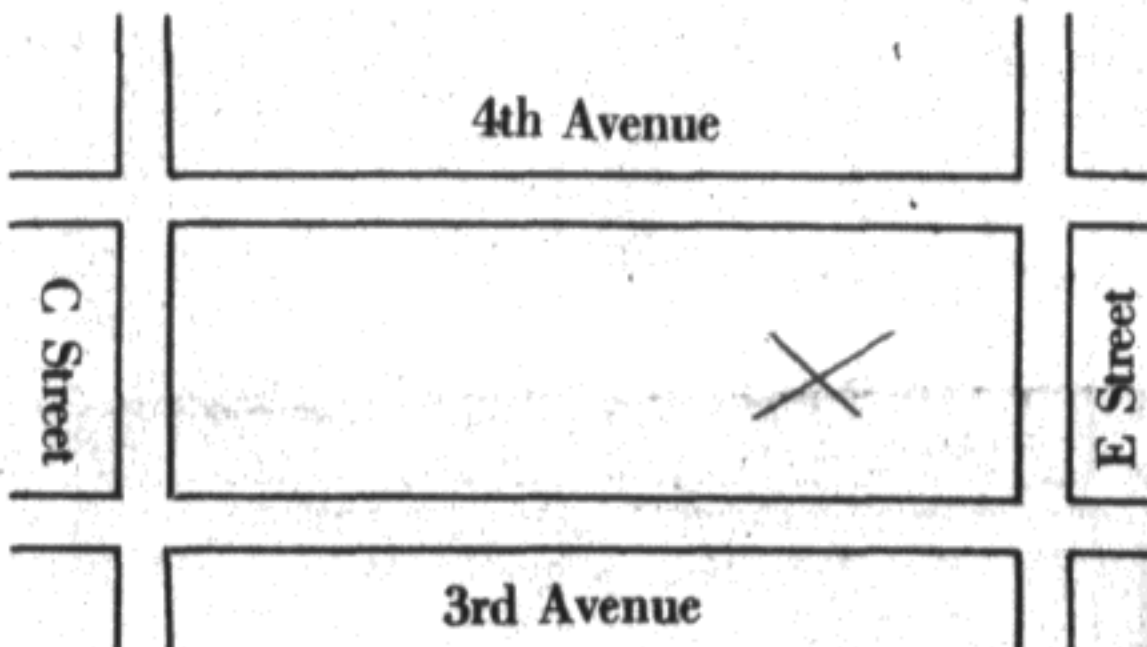
"I am happy to be able to learn more about Alaska," Rasmussen said. "It is beautiful. It is so big! So wild!"

Most Greenlandic Inuit, she said, do not know enough about Alaska, and most Alaskans do not know enough about Greenland. Rasmussen is hoping the work the communications commission is attempting to launch will help change that situation.

Also in Alaska from Greenland was Peter Frederick-Rosing, manager for Radio Greenland and Television and Karen Kleinschmidt from the ICC office in Nuuk. There were also a number of technicians. Debbie Brisebois from the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation in Canada attended, along with coordinator Marianne Stenback.

Delegates from Alaska included commission chairman Peter Twitchel, Tom Shackle of the North Slope Borough, and Tommy Richards, Jr., of AVCP. Apart from its communications work, the commission passed a resolution supporting the AVCP lawsuit against the Norton Sound lease sales.

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