

# Inuit Arctic Policy

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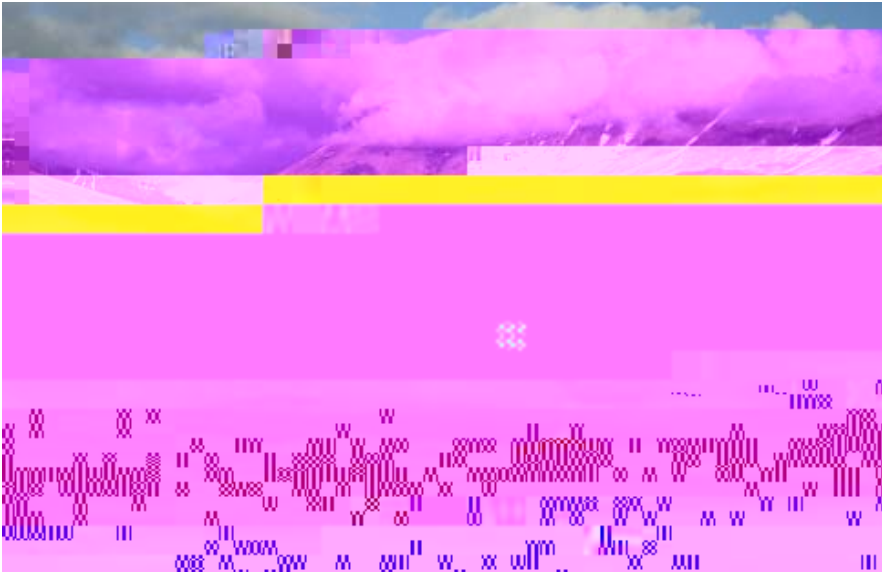


# Inuit Arctic Policy

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Igaliko Village

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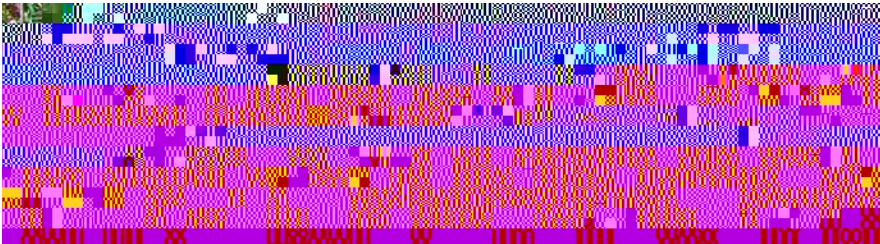
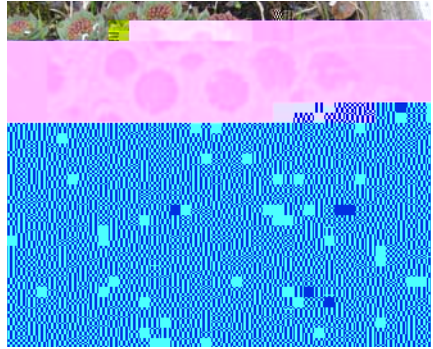
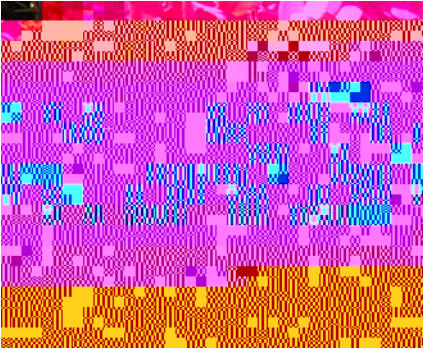


## Acknowledgements

ICC would like to thank Mary May Simon for her contribution to the Inuit Arctic Policy. Without her vision, insight and tireless effort, the state of the Arctic and Arctic Policy would have been vastly different. She had the foresight to understand the importance of this undertaking and to strongly advocate for a comprehensive Arctic Policy, created by and for Inuit.

Many Inuit and non-Inuit have contributed. They are too numerous to mention here but they should consider themselves thanked; their contributions are much appreciated. Special thanks are directed to the Inuit Center for International Understanding, Nuuk and to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada.





Lene Kielsen Holm/Narsaq Museum

Arctic Flowers

## I n d e x : T e I . A c . c P . c

If you look at a globe from on top, you get a surprising view. Inuit own or have jurisdiction over half the entire Arctic, stretching over half of the world's circumference; we are, in fact, the largest landholders in the world. Yet, we number only about 155,000 in four countries Russia/Chukotka; US/Alaska; Canada/Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut and Denmark/Greenland. The Arctic has been our home and our sustenance for centuries.

By 2010, Inuit Nunaat, our homeland, has become a major force in international and national politics, in climate change research and science, in culture and arts, in minority human rights and models of indigenous self-government. Arctic Sovereignty is one of our main concerns and is now also an international concern.

Thirty years ago when the process of formulating a comprehensive Inuit Arctic Policy began, it was almost a novelty to speak of Inuit rights and some regarded the first document as unattainable. But people have underestimated our adaptability and resilience. "We were a rag-tag and young group of Inuit", as Mary May Simon, president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, recently said in a speech, "but we were determined".

She was right, we were determined to improve our living conditions and safeguard our land. We are a culturally-anchored people who not only created principles for a policy but also managed to get many of them implemented; today many of our early pioneers, who worked so tirelessly, against almost impossible odds, are distinguished national or international leaders. In those thirty years, the Inuit world has changed profoundly; the Inuit Circumpolar Council and its Arctic Policy principles have played an important role in this development.

However, as we worked to gain our rights nationally and internationally, it also became apparent that the original Arctic Policy needed revisions and updating for the Inuit Arctic Policy is a living and evolving document. This work was entrusted to Aqqaluk Lyngø, ICC Greenland and Marianne Stenbaek, McGill University, Canada. I want to acknowledge them and express ICC's gratitude to them for this new edition that I trust will be as influential as the previous edition.

## Introduction

I would also like to express ICC's continuing gratitude to Mary May Simon who originally inspired the Arctic Policy work and worked so hard to make it a reality. Eben Hopson will always be remembered with gratitude and devotion as the founder of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (now Council) in 1977 in Barrow.

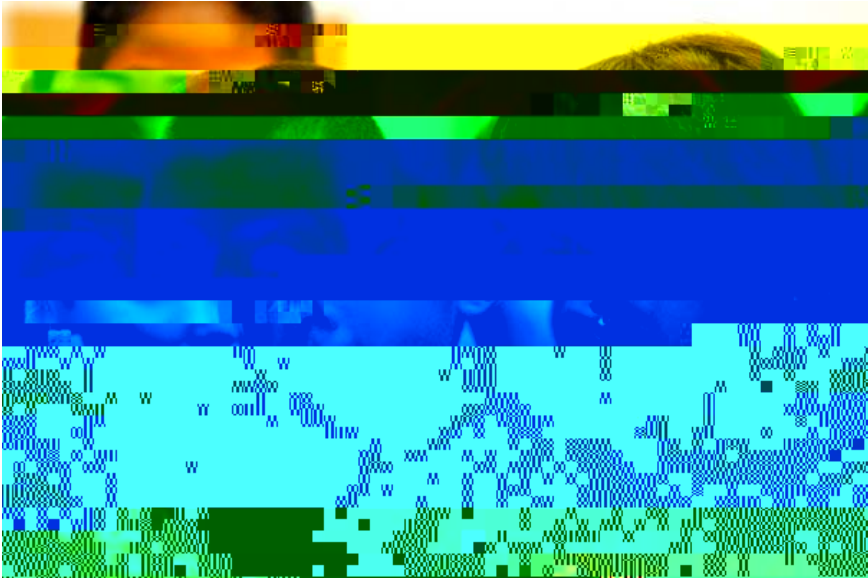
Jim Stotts, Chair  
Inuit Circumpolar Council

# I

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

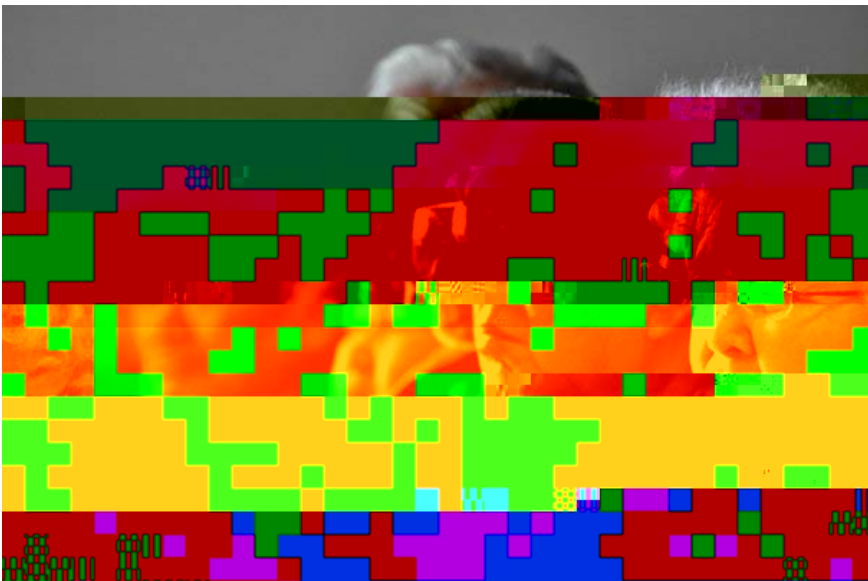
1. To establish a comprehensive Inuit Arctic Policy in Inuit circumpolar regions in regard to matters of economic, social, cultural, environmental as well as political concerns.
2. To achieve a broad consensus on the priorities, policies, and principles to be advanced in Inuit circumpolar regions, taking into account the significance of the Arctic and its resources to both present and future generations of northern peoples.
3. To encourage co-ordination of policy-making and decision-making in the international community, particularly in and among those states with Arctic jurisdictions and interests.
4. To ensure the survival of Inuit as a distinct people, and to integrate Inuit cultural values and concerns in all aspects of Arctic Policy, as appropriate.
5. To emphasize the importance of an economic base in the North, and the continuing right of Inuit to participate in the management and development of the Arctic and its resources.
6. To give due priority to improving the quality of life in Inuit communities and the right of Inuit to exercise adequate control over actions and activities significantly affecting their northern regions.
7. To protect the delicate Arctic environment, including marine and other resources upon which Inuit depend.
8. To devise principles for an Inuit Arctic Policy which not only ensures recognition and respect for Inuit rights and interests, but also protects the human and other fundamental rights and freedoms of all northern peoples.
9. To favour those policies and principles which foster peaceful diplomacy and the use of appropriate and safe technologies in circumpolar regions.
10. To promote international understanding and co-operation in Arctic matters through collaborative, co-operative research; informational, cultural, and educational exchanges; and international agreements.
11. To proclaim November 7th, the birth day of the ICC visionary and founder, Eben Hopson Sr., as "Inuit Day", and all Inuit governments, agencies and communities should also be urged to proclaim annually this day as "Inuit Day" with appropriate ceremonies and celebrations.

Goals and Objectives



Sam Towarak

Children Listening



Sam Towarak

Community Meeting

## **II**

### **INUIT RIGHTS, PEACE, AND SECURITY ISSUES**

#### **Inuit Rights at the National Level**



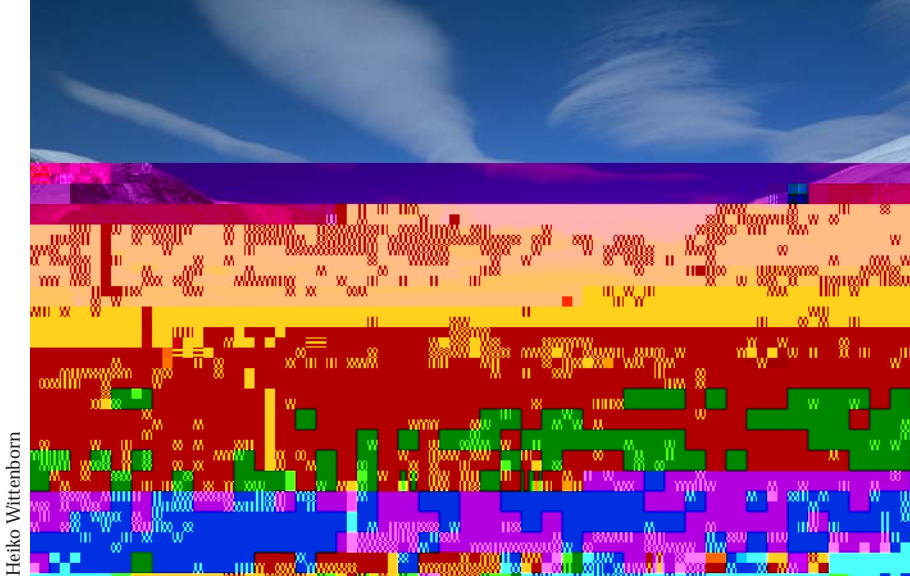
11. Inuit and other indigenous peoples must have a stronger voice at the Arctic Council and be adequately funded to participate fully in the Arctic Council's various working groups and projects.
12. Close contact and collaboration with international organizations involved with environmental protection and sustainable use of living resources should also be encouraged. It is important for Inuit to ensure that the strategies proposed by these organizations fully take into account, and are consistent with, Inuit rights, values and perspectives.
13. In promoting Inuit rights at the international level, it is useful for Inuit to maintain close and effective liaisons with government departments which deal with international matters within their own states. Efforts should also be made to convince the states concerned to sign and ratify international conventions (if they have not already done so), which are consistent with the recognition of Inuit rights and Inuit Arctic Policy.
14. It is of utmost importance that Inuit, together with the ICC, work towards having all countries endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### **Self-Government**

1. As indigenous peoples, Inuit have the right to exercise sufficient control over matters affecting their traditional territories, communities, and interests. An integral part of this right of self-determination within states is the right to self-government.
2. The right to self-government is consistent with recognized rights and principles applicable to indigenous peoples under international law.
3. Inuit can only continue to develop as a distinct people by exercising adequate powers of self-government within their traditional territories.
4. For purposes of self-government, Inuit have the right to determine their own institutions, according to the circumstances and needs in their respective regions. Such institutions must remain fully accountable to the people they serve and be capable of promoting all aspects of Inuit development.

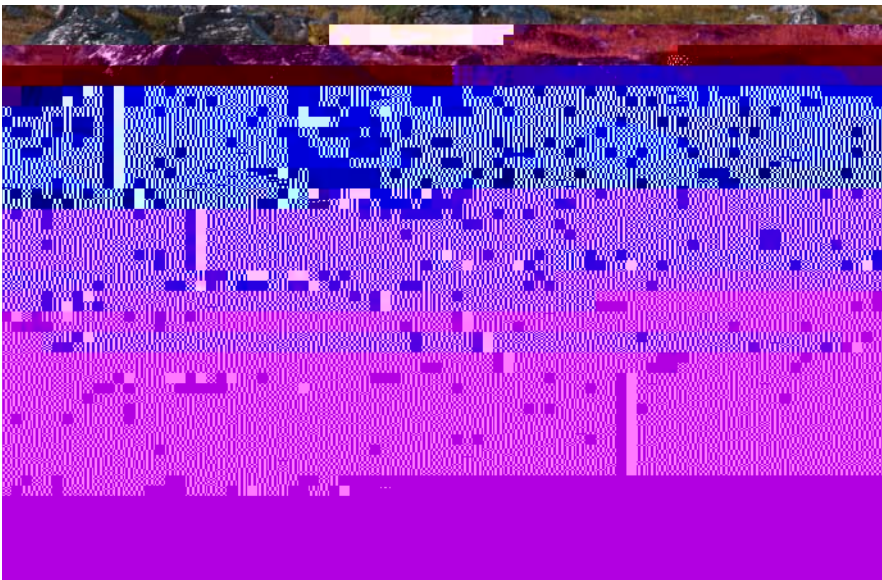


8. Institutions of self-government shall exercise their powers in a manner



Heiko Wittenborn

On the Land



Narsaq Museum

Sheep on the Rocks

- the zone of peace must foster international cooperation for solely peaceful purposes and must be free of nuclear weapons;
  - testing of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction must not be permissible;
  - as a general rule, the safeguarding of the Arctic environment must take precedence over military exercises and activities;
  - peacetime military activities that disrupt or undermine the territories, communities, rights, and security of indigenous and other northern peoples must not be allowed. This includes low-level and supersonic flight testing and training; and
  - international, circumpolar, and national systems of verification pertaining to arms control must be encouraged.
7. For the above purposes, it would be beneficial to devise an Arctic foreign policy as an integral part of the overall Inuit Arctic Policy. Foreign policy considerations should not be limited to defence-related issues but should be made consistent with environmental, social, and other aspects of the overall Inuit Arctic Policy. Where possible, an Arctic foreign policy should be developed in close collaboration with state governments within the circumpolar region.

Such assessments must take place at the earliest practicable point in time, prior to the approval of an activity or project.

peaceful purposes to other states, without inevitably spreading the capability

6. The Inuit Arctic Policy should reinforce the idea that the right of a people or an individual to live in peace creates a corresponding duty on states to resolve international disputes by peaceful means. The right to peace should also include the right of Inuit and other Arctic peoples to participate in decision-making on peace-related issues, particularly when it relates to or affects the Arctic.
7. It is recognized that the emerging right to development is both complex and multi-dimensional. Although the right to development brings together traditional human rights, it is also an evolving concept in human rights law.
8. While the right to development responds to a pressing need of many states and peoples for economic growth, its ultimate goal is development and rights of individuals. In this way, it relates the economic progress of states to the attainment of a broad range of human rights by individuals and peoples.
9. It should be expressly recognized that indigenous peoples, collectively and individually, are active subjects of the right to development. Too often, indigenous peoples are denied the right to their own economic, social, cultural, and political development. In addition, the right to development must include principles pertaining to equitable development and to safeguarding the integrity of the environment. "Indigenous Peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law" (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 1).
10. In light of the evolving and multi-dimensional aspects of the rights of peace and development, the Inuit Arctic Policy should encourage detailed studies of these rights with a view to strengthening their recognition and application, both globally and in the Arctic.

3. Numerous problems of the Arctic transcend the jurisdictional boundaries of states and can only be effectively dealt with through international cooperation, between and among peoples and governments.
4. Cooperation, information sharing, and solidarity among northern peoples are increasingly vital, whether such peoples are indigenous like the Inuit, Saami, and Dene, or ancient European societies like the Icelanders. In this way, Arctic peoples can better deal with the many problems and issues of social and political change. Currently, there is insufficient recognition and respect for indigenous societies and rights in some countries, inadequate protection of the Arctic environment, and often, the imposition of centralized state policies unsuited to Arctic conditions and needs.
5. New and improved communication networks and other mechanisms are needed to enhance circumpolar regional cooperation among Arctic peoples.

# III

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### **Climate Change in the Arctic**

1. The ICC believes in preventing dangerous climate change that will adversely affect Inuit livelihoods.
2. Because of the Arctic's unique physical and metaphoric importance to climate change, the ICC should call on world leaders to designate the minimizing of climate change impacts on the Arctic as one of the key benchmarks for effectiveness of a post-2012 process. The ICC is deeply concerned about the current and potential impacts of climate change on the culture, health, spirituality and economy of Inuit throughout the Arctic. Inuit are concerned about the health of the Arctic environment, which not only sustains Inuit livelihood, but also plays a vital role in keeping the earth's systems healthy as a whole.
3. Inuit should work towards sustaining their lands and territories by obtaining and ratifying a post-2012 agreement that will stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations at 350 parts per million by volume, in order to ensure that long-term temperature increases will remain as close to 2 degrees Celsius, as possible.
4. With the help of the ICC, Inuit should work towards making international organizations recognize the impact of climate change on Inuit and put resources in place to help Inuit adapt.





Jackie Cleveland


Landscape with Rocks

developing countries to adapt to the inevitable changes and to accelerate

change. The Ilulissat Declaration 2008 provides a framework for some of these issues.

15. Inuit should prioritize working towards the ratification of the United

protection and management are to be successful in the Arctic, a holistic approach should be adopted where the analysis of different but related elements could be combined. Neither development nor conservation objectives should be considered in isolation from each other; rather both should evolve in harmony and in support of each other.

4. Strategies to protect and manage the Arctic environment are necessary at international, national and regional levels. Individuals and organizations such as the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the new Inuit Center for International Understanding, as well as governments, can play a significant role in stimulating public concern for the Arctic environment. Collaboration with other organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and other NGOs should be encouraged.
5. The circumpolar Arctic should be the world's barometer of environmental health and Inuit should support resolution 22/11 *S. a ab D*.  
A  adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in February 2003.
6. Innovative measures are required to ensure that environmental considerations appropriately affect individual and collective behavior and actions. For such purposes, environmental education processes should be devised and implemented in a manner that is readily accessible to a variety of persons and enterprises in the Arctic.
7. It must be recognized that, in many instances, detrimental impacts on the Arctic environment can have serious adverse consequences beyond northern limits and significantly affect the world environment, as is the case for climate change and transborder contaminants.
8. There is an essential relationship between conservation and development. Unless northern development applies conservation principles, it will not be sustainable and Arctic ecosystems and resources may be severely damaged. As a result, care of the natural environment should be an integral part of development at all stages. It should be designed to clearly benefit Inuit and other northern peoples and improve their quality of life. Local technologies and knowledge should be used to promote culturally-appropriate development.

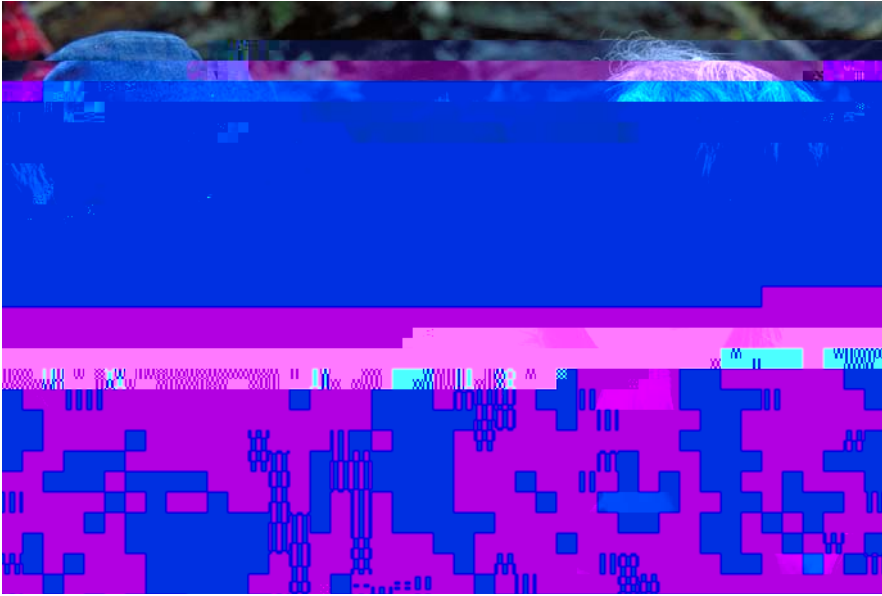
the planning process to be able to influence decisions and help formulate alternative approaches. Inuit should give their free, prior and informed consent to the assessment process. On-going evaluation and monitoring

15. The Inuit Arctic Policy must be concerned with transnational pollution affecting the Arctic.
16. Measures to encourage international co-operation and management are necessary. These could include:
  - entering into, or strengthening of, international agreements on acid rain, ocean dumping, contaminants, and other environmental problems;
  - establishment of international monitoring agencies to measure the performance of states, in protecting or adversely affecting the Arctic or global environment;
  - creation of effective and binding procedures for resolving transnational environmental disputes;
  - promotion of cooperative environmental and international research among states; and
  -

4. The harvesting practices of Inuit are a crucial part of their ancestral rights and traditions. These practices are not static, but evolve with changing Arctic conditions and circumstances. Inuit subsistence must not be defined

11. Conventions concerning migratory birds, sea mammals, polar bears, fish and other animals should be regularly examined from an Inuit perspective.
12. The continuing significance of whales, polar bears, seals, and other marine mammals to Inuit, as a coastal indigenous people, must be appropriately recognized.
13. In regard to living resources in marine areas, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea needs to be examined from an Inuit and Arctic perspective. Efforts should be undertaken by ICC to monitor this convention and to encourage countries to endorse and adhere to its principles.
14. Inuit and other indigenous peoples must have clear priority in terms of access to and use of Arctic renewable resources for subsistence purposes, including inter-community trade. Any surplus in the sustainable harvest could then be equitably divided among other types of users, according to specific and agreed criteria.
15. Harvesting activities must be recognized as a vital factor towards Inuit economic self-reliance and development. Arctic state governments should actively support the subsistence economies of Inuit, through innovative policies and programs that are jointly planned.
16. ICC should enter into discussions with Inuit hunters through national Inuit organizations and, where appropriate, through their regional entities, on existing and newly developing international sustainability covenants that both strengthen and promote the rights of Inuit to use resources in a wise and prudent manner. ICC should also promote the redefinition of hunting and harvesting activities by indigenous peoples as a profession within all international human rights forums, according to the ILO convention.
17. Comprehensive compensation recourses and procedures must be devised to cover the full range of losses suffered by Inuit when harvested resources and habitats have been impaired or destroyed. In devising a comprehensive compensation process relevant to Inuit and the Arctic, elements to consider would include (among others):
  - the need for an effective, rapid and equitable administrative system that is sensitive and responsive to Inuit harvesting rights;
  - redress to Inuit should not only be based on past harvest levels of Inuit, but also on the sustainable yield of future harvests by growing Inuit populations;
  - factors in determining the nature and extent of damages should include the





Heiko Wittenborn

Kangiqsujuaq – Naala with Grandchildren



Narsaq Museum

Flying into Narsaq

- resulting social and cultural impacts on individuals involved in subsistence activities and their families, as well as the immediate and long-term impacts on Inuit community and society should also be assessed.
18. An Inuit Arctic Policy on renewable resources and Inuit subsistence practices must take into account the devastating effects that international anti-harvest and animal rights groups continue to have on Inuit communities, culture, and economies. A comprehensive strategy must be developed and implemented to effectively counter these opposing forces.
19. Elements of an overall strategy to counter international anti-harvest and animal rights groups would include:
- on-going collaboration between Inuit and other indigenous peoples to formulate and implement a common strategy;
  - creation of an international non-indigenous support network for indigenous subsistence practices;
  - securing of adequate international and national recognition and protection for indigenous subsistence rights;
  - increasing of public understanding of subsistence practices and their profound significance;
  - securing of expanded markets for products of indigenous harvesting; and
  - ensuring that Arctic and other state governments play an active supportive role.

**Renewable Resour--7.9(ii)E4.2(gh)993 Tw(Reneonderst)0(8)6cndeel(o)1524(8)1(4).9(**

cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral tradition, literatures, designs, sports, traditional games, and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their intellectual property, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural experiences; and

- In conjunction with indigenous peoples, states shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

3. Flora and fauna are ecologically interrelated and interdependent. In regard to renewable resources, an "ecosystem management" approach should be adopted in which entire ecosystems are considered. Extinction of a single species could have dramatic impacts on a whole ecosystem. The delicate balance between different species of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the Arctic must be preserved. Wildlife, in particular, requires an ecologically based system of management and a complementary system of land and water management that includes habitat protection.

10. Transnational or regional networks of protected areas in the Arctic can play a key role in environmental management, by safeguarding Inuit harvesting areas and critical habitats that support them. Inuit rights of access to public lands for the exercise of harvesting rights must not be restricted, except in a manner acceptable to Inuit for reasons of conservation and public safety.
11. Resource management and economic development must be based on a common approach that fosters understanding of, and appreciation for, Arctic ecosystems and their components. This also applies to eco-tourism.
12. Inuit traditional ecological knowledge and Western scientific research are both valid systems of knowledge that should be integrated and harmonized

scientific resource management, subsistence practices and techniques, Arctic ecosystems, and the harvesting of resources at sustainable levels. The knowledge and experience of Inuit elders and other traditional knowledge should be utilized in informing Inuit students and developing their skills and be appropriately integrated in northern school curricula.

### **Non-Renewable Resources**

1. As Arctic indigenous people, Inuit have rights to the possession, ownership, and control of surface and subsurface resources within their traditional territories. These rights are both collective and individual in nature and they extend to offshore areas. Inuit rights include the right to manage Arctic non-renewable resources and to fully participate in, and benefit from, policies and projects associated with resource development.
2. It is important to recognize that violations or abuses of the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples are most frequently related to development issues. Developments imposed by states and third parties have served to deprive indigenous peoples of their right to self-determination, an adequate land and resource base, means of subsistence, and other human rights.
3. State government policies that continue to deny indigenous peoples their full rights to non-renewable resources and that treat such peoples as obstacles to development are colonial and out-dated. Development policies and actions that fail to respect the basic rights of indigenous peoples are not valid forms of development.
4. By their very nature, non-renewable resources are limited in quantity and must be subject to responsible management, conservation, and rational exploitation. The needs of not only present, but also future, generations of Inuit and other northern peoples must be fully taken into account. In view of these and other considerations, alternative forms of development should always be considered when making development decisions concerning non-renewable resources.
5. It must be recognized that Arctic non-renewable resources form an integral part of the economic base necessary for the full exercise of Inuit self-government. Appropriate access to, and benefit from, such resources by Inuit are also critical, in order to substantially diminish the severe socio-economic disparities that affect Inuit communities. Non-renewable resource development projects must be designed with a view to improving the quality of life in Inuit communities, in accordance with the aspirations, priorities, and needs of the Inuit concerned.
6. Inuit non-renewable resource rights must not in any way be diminished or otherwise affected, without the free, prior, and informed consent of those Inuit concerned. In light of the short and long-term significance of non-renewable resources to Inuit, expropriation by state governments is not an acceptable means of securing control over Inuit resources. Many of these

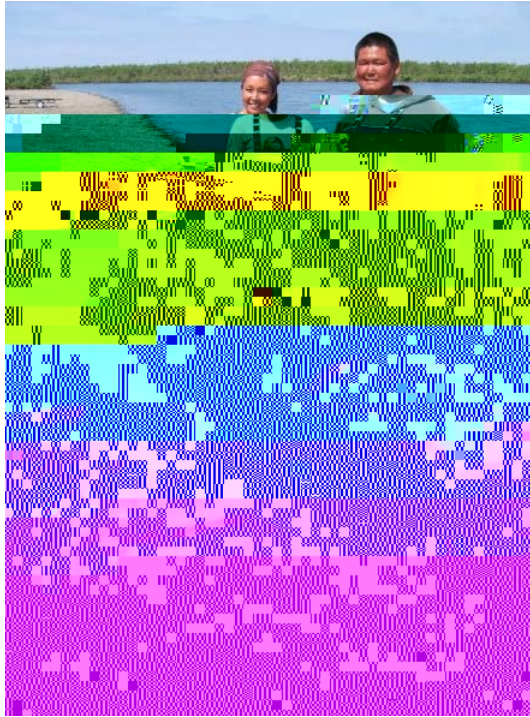




- water demand as well as water supply should be appropriately managed in a balanced manner;
  - water pricing can be beneficial in that it provides incentives to avoid waste and it also generates revenues to help cover the costs of water supply and waste water treatment; and
  - in evaluating a proposed activity, the benefits of its realization should clearly exceed the costs. In this regard, the costs of irreversibly altering the Arctic environment must be fully included and cooperation, both nationally and internationally, among the various authorities and states with responsibility for some aspect of the alterations affecting Arctic water use and management has to take place.
7. Inuit have extensive rights in inland water areas within their traditional territories, as outlined in agreements with their respective nation states. They have rights to waters surrounding their lands, and offshore rights to national and international as well as traditional usage.
  8. Inuit also have a right to safe drinking water. Adequate water quality standards should be maintained in Arctic communities, through proper water treatment, monitoring, and enforcement.
  9. It is important that an Arctic waters management regime address conflicting uses. Such uses may include shipping, hydroelectric power, interbasin transfers, mining, oil, and gas developments. As a general rule, pre-existing Inuit uses should have priority over proposed new water projects or activities, unless otherwise agreed. Probable impacts and ramifications on the land, wildlife and people of dams, channel modifications, and other projects must be fully taken into account.
  10. In cases where fresh waters, plants, wildlife and their habitats, and Inuit harvesting are affected by development activities, Inuit have a right to full and fair compensation.
  11. Waters and other areas of particular importance to Inuit culture and society should also be protected through specific legislation.
  12. It is important to establish comprehensive strategies and policies to deal

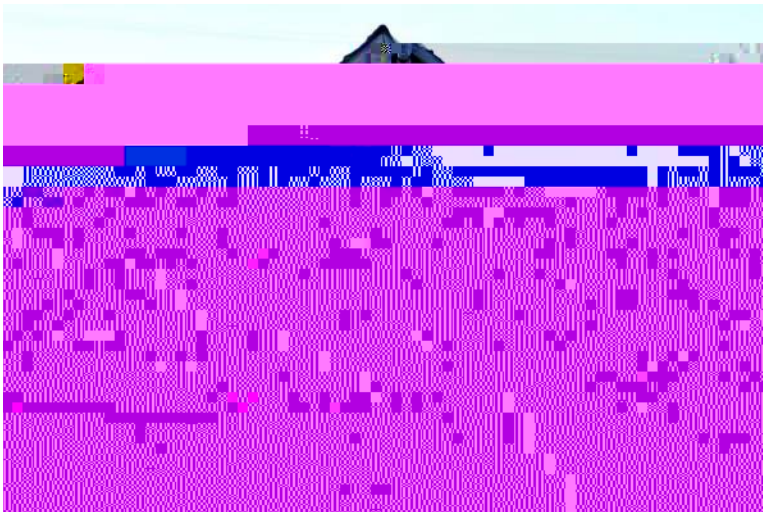


13. Toxic and persistent substances from transboundary sources are increasingly affecting Arctic waters and every part of the Arctic food chain. In many instances, vapours or fine dust (Arctic haze) transport this pollution from other continents.
14. Access to adequate and reliable information on transboundary sources of pollution must be ensured through greater international cooperation of states and through the UN International Repository for Potentially Toxic Chemicals and other supervisory bodies.
15. Mining activities can be a major source of water pollution within circumpolar regions. In particular, measures must be taken to ensure the use of environmentally safe disposal methods for mine wastes both during operation, and long after mines are abandoned. These concerns should be addressed in a stringent environmental impact assessment process.
16. Large-scale water diversion projects affecting the Arctic merit strict and careful attention, since they increase water supplies and water flow in one watershed at the expense of another.
17. Increased sedimentation, alterations in water levels, contaminants, and other impacts can seriously affect fish and other sea mammals. It may, therefore, undermine Inuit harvesting, navigation, and tourism. Where oceanic basins and estuaries are involved, changes in river discharges can upset the balance of Arctic marine processes. As a result, the overall



Jackie Cleveland

Nature's Bounty



Sam Towarak

Drying the Catch





be fully assessed. The Inuit Arctic Policy should support an express ban of any burial of radioactive wastes in the seabed and insist that nuclear states assume the full responsibility and costs of dealing with the wastes they generate.

16. It is important to identify and effectively address the principal sources of oil pollution in marine environments. These sources may be “operational”

21. Arctic state governments must dedicate increased resources to Arctic marine-related research. Research priorities should be determined in conjunction with Arctic Inuit and other Arctic peoples. Such research should integrate traditional knowledge with western science. The five coastal states (i.e. Russia, U.S.A., Canada, Norway, and Denmark/Greenland) included in this work currently cooperate closely in the Arctic Ocean, with each other and other interested parties. This cooperation includes the collection of scientific data concerning the continental shelf, the protection of the marine environment and other scientific research. This cooperation, which is based on mutual trust and transparency, should be strengthened through timely exchanges of data and analysis.
22. ICC should work for the adoption by all communities and countries of the UN Convention of the Sea.

### **Arctic Marine Transportation**

1. In view of the potential adverse impacts associated with marine transit in circumpolar regions, it is imperative that a comprehensive policy on Arctic marine transportation be devised and implemented. Such a policy or strategy must include international, national, and regional aspects. Ocean



Narsaq Museum

Going Fishing

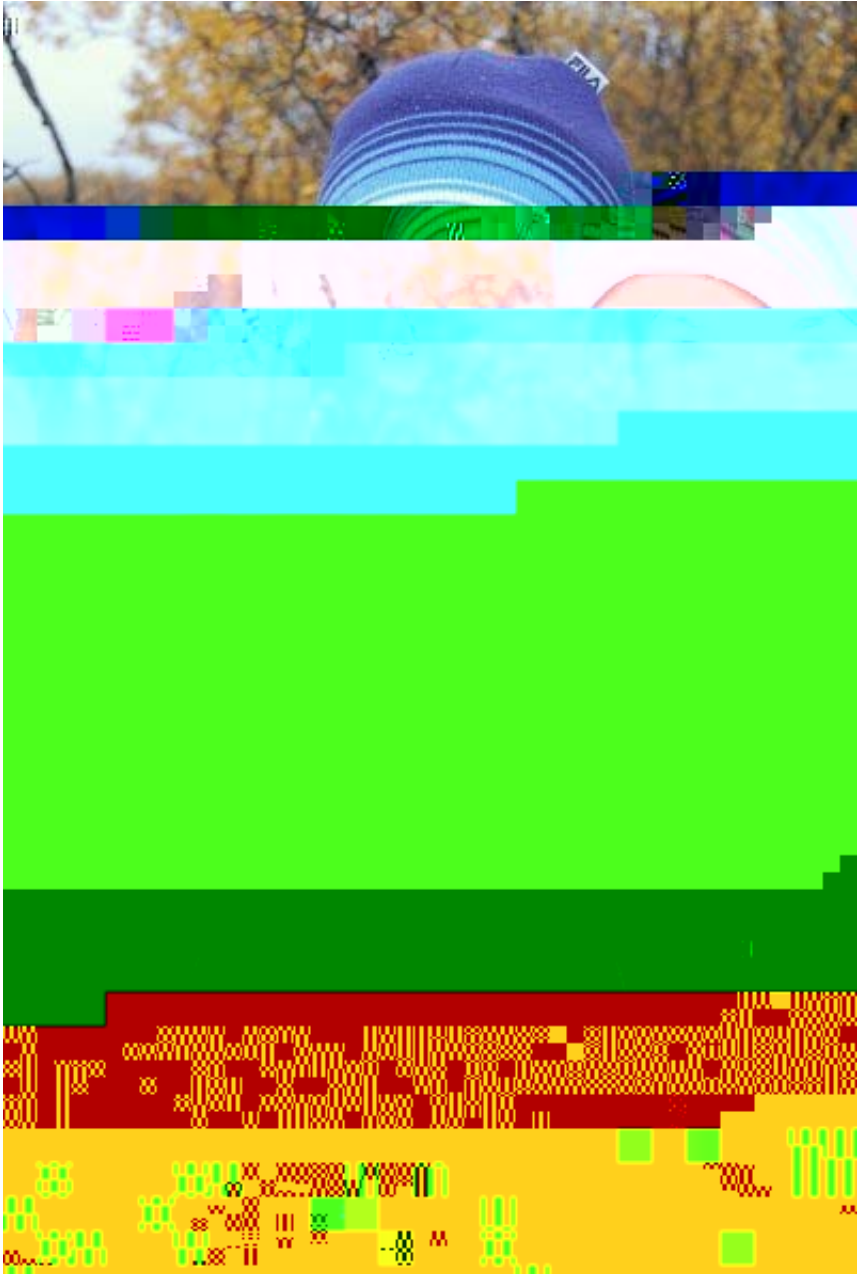
detection of spills. However, the overriding concern is the increased melting of ice and other potentially detrimental effects of climate change on the oceans and waterways.

4. In addition, efforts should be made to eliminate the “flag of convenience” registry for marine vessels. Under existing international rules, ships may be registered with, and carry the flag of, a foreign country with which they have no genuine connection in order to lower standards in terms of crew training and ship safety.
5. As a further preventative measure against ocean oil spills, it is crucial that improvements be made in ship design. Oil tankers must generally be required to have double hulls and those tankers navigating in ice-covered waters should be ice-reinforced.
6. States should impose a charge or levy on tankers and other marine vessels that do not have double hulls, when required, or fail to meet other national standards.
7. Tanker traffic, in the Arctic, is highly risky and should be prohibited, except when there is no other alternative for the delivery of essential community supplies. In such cases, the routing of tanker and tank barge traffic must avoid those areas that are environmentally sensitive or otherwise of importance to Inuit at certain times of the year. This danger is quickly increasing as waterways that could not previously be navigated now become navigable due to changes in ice cover.
8. A system of registration should be implemented for all tankers and ships sailing in the Arctic waters in order to track them in case of accident.
9. There is an urgent need to develop upgraded navigational or hydrographic charts for Arctic marine areas, according to the highest standards. In particular, uncharted underwater pinnacles pose great hazards to both surface and submarine vessels.
10. Increased mapping of the waterways, including the ocean bottom and ridges, has to be carried out in order to settle border disputes and various international claims to the seabed in the Arctic Ocean, in accordance with the UN Convention of the Sea.
11. It is critical in the Arctic to develop a proven capacity for immediate and effective response to any oil spill. Coastal settlements should be equipped with emergency equipment for a first response to oil and other chemical spills.
12. Improved technologies have to be developed and be available for proper containment and clean-up of chemical spills in marine areas. The full scope of harm to the environment and health is generally not known and must be fully investigated.
13. In addressing navigational, economic and environmental concerns, reference should be made to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the





is a comprehensive national and international regulatory regime for the



Jackie Cleveland

Berry Picking

## Health and Social Well-Being

1. Health is more than the absence of disease. It refers to the state of the whole person and has a direct bearing on the development of the individual and her or his quality of life.

housing, water and sanitation, medical care and social services, must be developed if health goals are to be achieved.

9. Health and social services must be provided to Inuit and other Arctic peoples without discrimination of any kind. Also, individuals should not be subjected to medical or scientific experiments without their free, prior, and informed consent. As a general rule, the socio-cultural impact of health programs in the Arctic should be assessed.
10. The right to health should include the right to protection against external risks likely to endanger health. Special attention should be devoted to occupational health and safety. In addition, there are increased health risks found in the Arctic environment.
11. Environmental causes of health problems in the Arctic should be carefully studied. If new and existing environmental contaminants are not better controlled or contained in order to prevent diseases, Inuit development as individuals and as a distinct people will be severely affected.
12. The Inuit Arctic Policy should make clear that the right of individuals to health bears a reciprocal responsibility not to abuse one's body or mind. Over-consumption of alcohol, tobacco products, and drugs harms more than the persons directly involved. Often, the well-being of Arctic communities as a whole is undermined. Leaders, parents, teachers, and all adults have a responsibility to act as positive role models for youth and young children.
13. Domestic violence must be eliminated. It not only affects the assaulted spouse but also may lead to behavioural problems and emotional disturbances in children of battered women or men. The needs of the victims should be given highest priority. However, the problems of men and women who batter cannot be ignored. A comprehensive program to deal with violence in the home should be devised that includes the following elements, among others:
  - counselling and emotional support for victims;
  - community education programs;
  - therapy for persons who assault;
  - emergency services;
  - advice on legal rights;
  - training of police officers and health personnel to improve ways of dealing with family disputes; and
  - legal reforms and support programs for children from violent homes.
14. Special support and remedial programs should be made available to children who have suffered psychological, physical, or sexual abuse.



24. It is of primary importance that Inuit values and traditions with respect to family planning and treatment of children be given full recognition by the Arctic states concerned.
25. Inuit women should have the choice of delivering their babies in their own community, if no medical complications are anticipated. Inuit women should also have the choice of having the birth of their children assisted by traditional midwives in order that traditional Inuit child birthing practices are respected.
26. Education about AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), and other sexually transmitted diseases, is central to any strategy to prevent the spread of these diseases, reduce risks to Arctic residents, and encourage an appropriate, sensitive, and informed societal response.
27. Dissemination of factual information on AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases, is necessary in the Arctic and elsewhere, in order to help people distinguish between safe and unsafe sexual and other practices.
28. Education and preventive measures concerning suicide, especially among young people, is an absolute priority.
29. Both men and women should have adequate access to pregnancy prevention methods.
30. ICC should collaborate with the International Association of Circumpolar Health as well as with other health related projects within the Arctic Council.
31. To the extent possible, urban Inuit, or Inuit living outside Inuit Nunaat, should be entitled to the same rights and privileges as Inuit living in Inuit Nunaat. They should not be the objects of discrimination.

### **Sexual Equality and the Changing Roles of Women and Men in the Arctic**

1. It is recognized that, due to changing circumstances and conditions in many Arctic communities, the roles of women and men are necessarily changing. In terms of family responsibilities, reference is gradually being made to "parental" functions where once they were viewed as purely "maternal".

elimination of all forms of sexual discrimination, whether intentional or accidental, is the responsibility of both men and women.





and society. This principle must be fully respected in the policies, programs and actions of international, national, regional, and local authorities. Issues relating to children that require high quality standards in an Arctic context include: education, including language and culture; health; child care; child welfare, including customary adoptions; justice; and communications.

4. In order to grow up as healthy adults, Inuit children must have a strong identity as Inuit. It is a parent's primary responsibility to take an active interest in his or her children, from the day they are born, and to teach them the Inuit language, traditions, and way of life. Also, the vital role of elders in communicating with, counselling, and teaching Inuit children must be fully recognized and encouraged both at home and in Inuit educational, cultural, and social institutions.
5. Appreciation of Inuit cultural heritage and history must also be enhanced in Inuit children through Arctic education and communications services. Inuit children must have access to culturally-appropriate curricula, Inuit language broadcasting, and a wide range of Inuit artistic and cultural activities.
6. The provision of child care services in Inuit communities should be based on the following principles:
  - services for Inuit children must be compatible with northern lifestyles and Inuit culture and values;
  - the design and implementation of these services should be undertaken by Inuit, if they so desire, and meet the social, cultural, and developmental needs of Inuit children;
  - state government funding for child care services should be allocated on a priority basis to non-profit services in Inuit communities, rather than commercially oriented entities; and
  - government funding should also be provided for training Inuit child care workers in their own communities.
7. States should take measures to enable Inuit child welfare services to be planned and delivered through Inuit institutions. Where this is not possible, local Inuit committees at the community level should still supervise the placement of Inuit children in foster and adoptive homes, in a culturally-sensitive manner.
8. In Inuit child welfare services, consideration should be given to the following principles:
  - strengthening the various aspects of Inuit society is fundamental to the protection of Inuit children and families;
  - actions taken should be in the best interests of the child, in a context that fully reflects Inuit values and standards;

- Inuit customary laws and practices on child care and adoption must be clearly recognized in the national legal system of the states concerned;
  - counselling services, by elders and others should be made widely available to foster and adoptive parents;
  - Inuit children have a right to know who their natural parents are and to remain in contact with them, unless anonymity has been expressly requested by the natural parents involved; and
  - state government agencies and courts must respect the values standards, customs and institutions of Inuit in regard to the welfare of their children.
9. Inuit children should be ensured a childhood free of physical or sexual abuse and other forms of harm and exploitation. Wherever possible, the offender and not the victim, should be removed from the community concerned. Harsh sentences should be imposed for child sexual offenders. In addition, counselling should be encouraged for both abusers of children and their victims.
10. In regard to physical and sexual abuse, family violence, alcohol and drug-related problems, parents and organizations should take the initiative in developing comprehensive action plans for implementation at local and other levels. Research, information, and education programs to prevent alcohol and other substance abuse by children are also required. There should be zero tolerance for sexual abuse or violence of children, directly or indirectly through the Internet or other methods.

hours and conditions for children, and protection of children from hazardous work and substances; and

- the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should be fully respected.
13. In promoting the rights of Inuit children, it should be recognized that the international rights of children are not fixed, but are still emerging. In this context, it is important to emphasize the significance to children of such emerging human rights as the right to peace, the right to development, and the right to a safe and healthy environment.
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Sam Towarak

Drumming on the Tundra

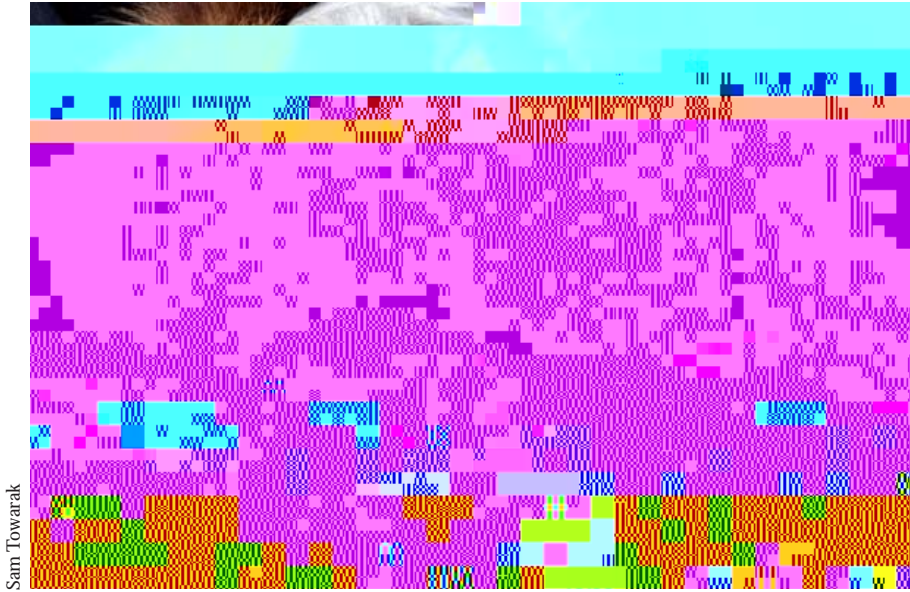


Mary Sage

Point Hope Elder Drumming

6. Through collective efforts and improved communication, both among youth, and between youth and other members of the Inuit community, major steps must be taken to overcome the barriers to youth participation. The Inuit Arctic Policy must consider ways for new and existing northern institutions to better respond to the needs and aspirations of young people and provide for their involvement. ICC, through its youth organisation and other initiatives, should include youth in its activities.
7. Fundamental rights applicable to youth, which are set out in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, should be elaborated and implemented in the Inuit Arctic Policy in a manner which ensures the right to work, the right of everyone to an education, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to take part in cultural life, and the right to be shielded from abuse and violence.
8. In regard to issues of global concern, young people can have a special role in shaping future international relations. An Inuit Arctic Policy should encourage activities of youth that emphasize the need for international peace, co-operation, and understanding. They should be encouraged and facilitated to participate in UN activities and other international activities.
9. To facilitate cross-cultural dialogue among youth and with regional,





Elder



transfer this knowledge to youth and to enhance the role of elders in Arctic matters.

4. As traditional leaders, elders must be encouraged and permitted to re-establish a leadership role and participate in decision-making. It is the responsibility of Inuit to reaffirm this role of elders at the family, community, regional, national, and international levels.
5. The Inuit language must continue to evolve with the pace of Inuit and Arctic development. Language commissions, comprised of elders, youth and other Inuit must be established both to ensure the continuing quality of language and to develop new vocabulary which is required to maintain pace with change. Elders should promote on-going respect for the Inuit language as vital, dynamic, and relevant.
6. In regard to the teaching of children, elders should have a clear role in educational institutions as well as in less formal community environments.
7. Traditional knowledge, be it cultural, environmental or ecological, should be part of the curriculum in schools and be included in research projects in and about the Arctic. Areas of traditional knowledge that should be transmitted to youth include: Inuit spiritual beliefs, customs and traditions, harvesting skills, history, traditional science, cultura and arts, healing and medicine, animals and the Arctic environment.
8. In regard to communications programming and broadcasting, elders should be encouraged to be actively involved. Through radio, television and other media, including the Internet, the narratives, songs, poetry, as well as other knowledge and skills possessed by the elders can be learned, enjoyed by others and recorded for the future.
9. Inuit health and social service organizations must ensure the creation or improvement of services in Inuit communities, to accommodate the needs of ill or disabled elders, so that elders areutioiker  
Inuit must be erkn -.0237 Tw

# V

## CULTURAL ISSUES

### **Inuit Culture, Language and Cultural Development**

1. Culture, including all of its creative, spiritual and material aspects, constitutes the foundation upon which a people thrive. Culture provides meaning and identity to community life. In order for Inuit to continue to develop as a distinct people in the Arctic, appropriate conditions for the on-going growth and enrichment of Inuit culture must be assured.
2. Many of the elements that contribute to the development of a culture are dictated by the natural forces and processes that are unique to the environment upon which that culture is based. In the Arctic, the traditional institutions, languages, other means of communication and ways of life of indigenous peoples are manifestations of their profound relationship with, and dependence upon, the northern environment.
3. Inuit cultural development and the protection of the Arctic environment are inseparably linked. In particular, the vital role of subsistence practices within Inuit culture provides further compelling reason for safeguarding the integrity of the vast circumpolar environment and its living resources.
4. The diverse cultures of Inuit and other indigenous peoples in the circumpolar North are part of the cultural heritage of all humankind. In this context, each culture has a dignity and value which must be respected and protected.
5. Language is central to the continuity of culture and to cultural identity. It is the cohesive thread that binds a particular people. Inuit perceptions of society, nature, and the universe are manifested through the Inuit language. The history and beliefs of Inuit culture are recorded and transmitted from generation to generation, through song, poetry, oratory and narratives.
6. Languages that are not frequently used are likely to eventually disappear. Extensive use of the Inuit language in education, public affairs, commerce, and governmental activities within Arctic regions, as well as in the day-to-day endeavors of Inuit, must be actively encouraged through concrete measures, such as being an official language in government, education and every day life.
7. The ICC should mandate its Language and Communications Commission to participate in international bodies and promote technological initiatives that will promote linguistic diversity, fight the tendencies of linguistic in Inuit language speaking areas and promote youth initiatives, such as the





Lene Kielsen Holm

Confirmation in Hans Egede's Church

- an integral part of the overall objectives of state laws, policies and actions pertaining to the Arctic should be the express protection and advancement of Inuit and their culture;
- relevant international and national standards should appropriately cover a wide range of actions and activities impacting on the cultures of indigenous peoples;
- the direct input and involvement of Inuit in national and international

communications can play a major role in implementing Inuit language

forms of communications, mass media, and information technologies in the Arctic. The promotion of long term career opportunities and culturally

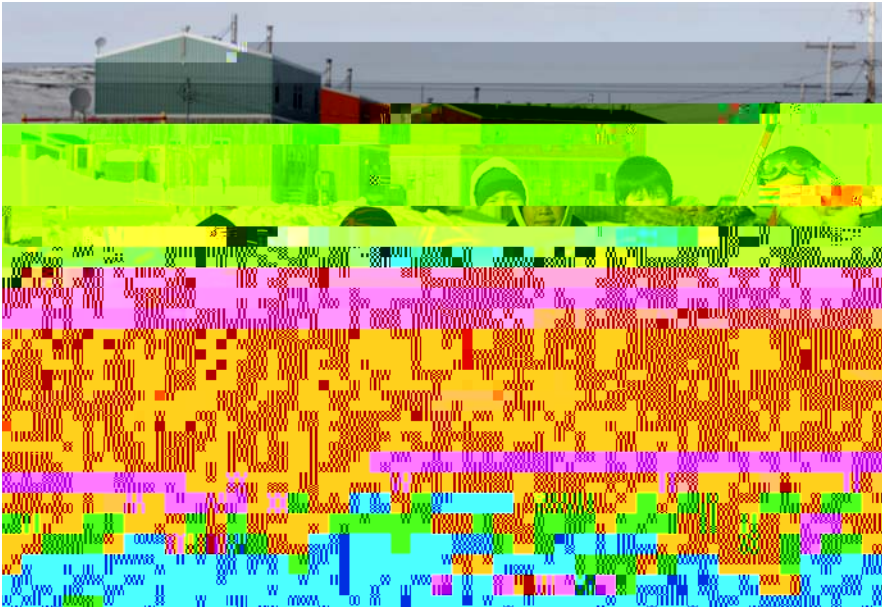






Sam Towarak

Drum Dancing



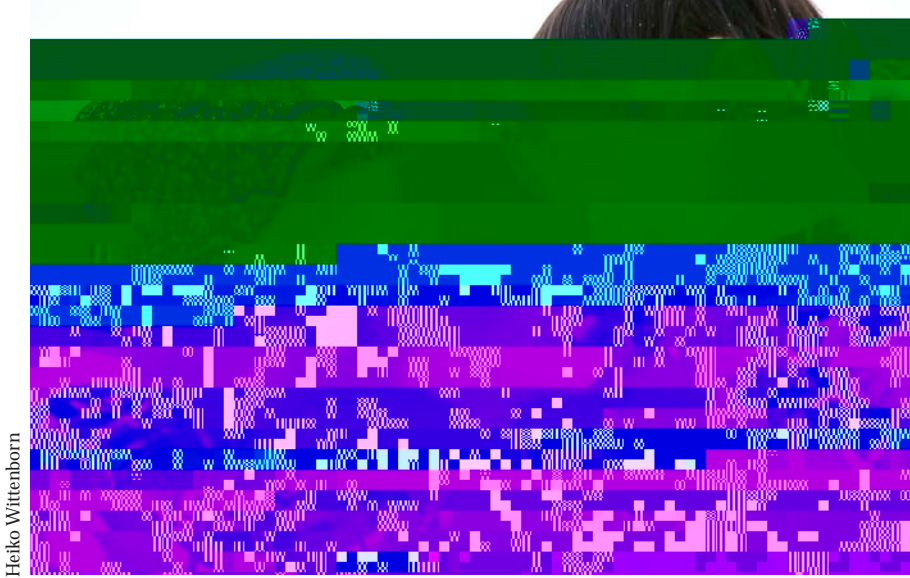
Helko Wittenborn

Hockey in Inukjuak

purposes of research, publication or propagation by written or electronic means. The heritage of the Arctic is the heritage of Inuit. It is this common heritage that further unites Inuit with their Arctic environment. At the same time, it is generally recognized that there are national and international community interests in relation to cultural property. Such property is increasingly viewed as the cultural heritage of humankind. Inuit should co-operate with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

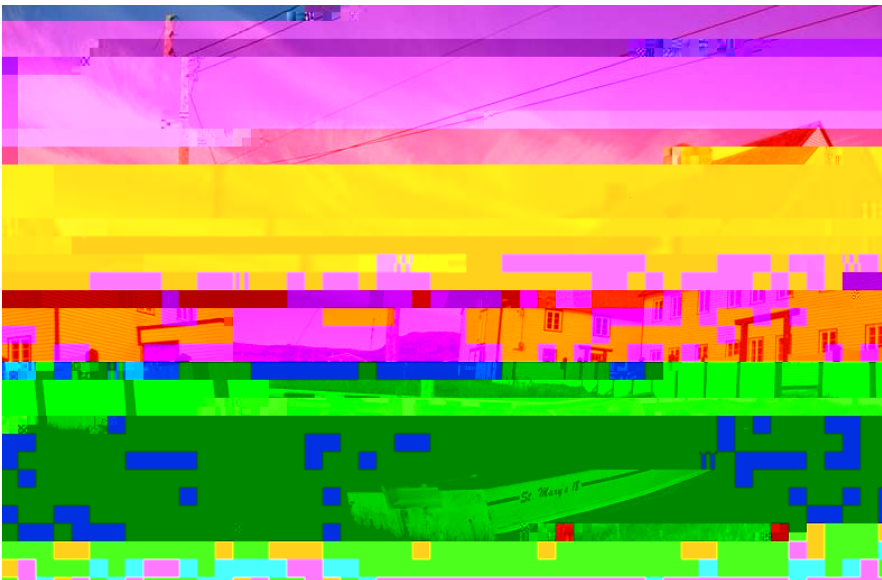
5. It is essential that Arctic states expressly recognize the rights of Inuit in regard to cultural property that specifically pertains to them. These rights of Inuit include:
  - the right to own and control their own cultural property;
  - the right to use, manage, and conserve cultural property for their own educational, cultural, and spiritual benefit;
  - in particular, the right of access to, and use of, sacred objects and sites, in accordance with their own spiritual or religious beliefs; and
  - the right to privacy, especially in regard to Inuit graves and human remains: which must not be disturbed in any way without the free and informed consent of the Inuit relatives and community concerned.
6. In view of the extensive nature of Inuit rights and the continuing interests of Arctic states in relation to cultural property, it is vital that cooperative agreements and other arrangements be worked out between the parties affected. Arctic states have a duty to ensure, together with the Inuit concerned, that items of cultural significance and human remains of their ancestors that have been taken without their consent are returned in a dignified manner.
7. The archaeological record of the Arctic is the history of Inuit and other northern indigenous peoples. Inuit historical and contemporary cultural identities are directly related to cultural materials and the archaeological record. Unless other arrangements are agreed to, Inuit material culture should remain in the Arctic and be preserved, interpreted, and displayed for the education and benefit of Inuit and others who live in or visit the Arctic, particularly in regard to the return of cultural artifacts.
8. Where Inuit graves have been disturbed and human remains taken without Inuit consent, arrangements must be made with Inuit by the responsible persons or authorities concerned for the return of this private property, in a dignified manner. In particular, acceptable provisions for reburial must be made so that the spiritual or religious beliefs of Inuit are fully respected.
9. Archival resources relating to Inuit are important sources of historical and cultural information. Examples include explorers' journals, police and government records, and records of companies involved in Arctic exploration and records kept by religious denominations. Arrangements

should be made to increasingly deposit this relevant information with



Heiko Wittenborn

Girlfriends in Tasiujaq



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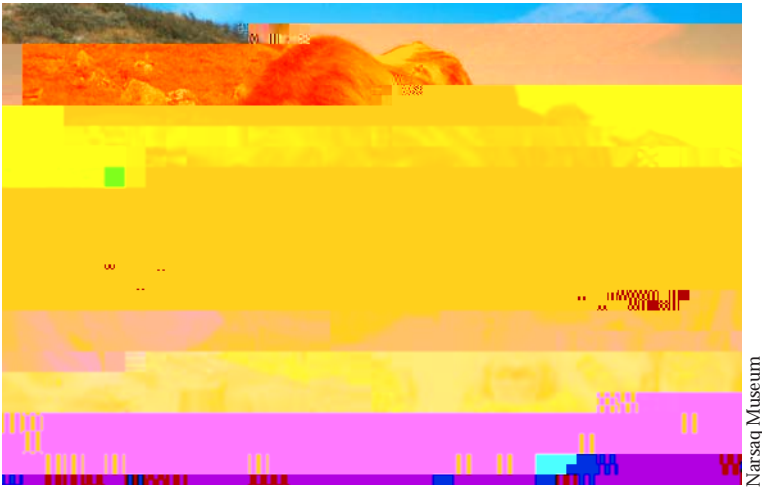
Hopedale Moravian Mission Labrador

respected and protected. At the same time, this right must be balanced with the necessary principle of non-interference with the rights of others.

2. Religious beliefs are not limited to organized religions. Persons may genuinely hold beliefs as a matter of religious conviction, even if their beliefs do not necessarily form a part of any particular religion.
3. In regard to Inuit, spiritual identity continues to be derived from their relationship with the land and its wildlife resources. Although Inuit religious practices have, in many instances, undergone some change, this spiritual connection remains an essential part of Inuit culture and religious beliefs. Moreover, the right to profess and practice their own religion or beliefs is a part of Inuit indigenous rights.
4. Religious freedom is closely linked with other human rights, particularly freedom of thought, conscience, and assembly. If exercised responsibly, freedom of religion or belief can contribute to the attainment of the goals of peaceful relations among Inuit and other people.
5. It is important to have the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief, in private or public. This should include the following freedoms, among others:
  - to worship, alone or in a group, and to establish and maintain places for such purposes;
  - to establish and maintain appropriate charitable or humanitarian institutions;
  - to make, acquire, and use articles and materials necessary for the performance of prescribed rituals;
  - to write, publish, and disseminate information on a religion or belief, in a reasonable manner so as not to impair/-.1(eir bIo ()-2())TJ h)9.6(t t)6.7matioo profess and

in all circumpolar regions. Exemptions should be granted to all genuine objectors by state governments.

7. No one should be compelled to take an oath in a manner that is contrary to the rules or principles of his or her religion or belief.
8. In the workplace, equality of opportunity and treatment of individuals must not be adversely affected on the basis of their religion or beliefs.
9. Parents should have the right to determine the religion or beliefs and moral education in which their children should be brought up. When a child attains an adequate degree of understanding, her or his wishes should be taken into account. In all cases, the best interests of the child should be the paramount and guiding principle. In no instance should the practices of any religion or belief be injurious to the physical or mental health of children or to their full development.
10. Dissemination of hate literature, incitement to violence, and other forms of promoting racial, religious, or other prejudices must be effectively prohibited throughout the Arctic.
11. Education programs and other means should be used to promote acceptance of the principle of non-discrimination, as well as understanding, tolerance, and respect for different religions and for religious freedoms.



Milking the Cow



Pulling Up the Walrus

# VI

## ECONOMIC ISSUES

### **Economic Development**

1. It is of utmost importance to emphasize that the lack of economic opportunities and developments have critical implications for the future of Inuit society and culture. Inuit should be involved in all aspects of economic development in order to enjoy such fundamental human rights as the right to work and the right to an adequate standard of living.
2. Initiatives to attain economic goals and aspirations in the Inuit circumpolar homeland can be significantly enhanced through regional, national, and international cooperation.
3. The overall prosperity of each state is affected by the economic growth of its various parts. If the Arctic regions are to contribute to strengthening the economies of their respective states, Inuit have to be included as full and active partners in northern development matters.
4. In relation to economic and social development within Arctic states, it must be recognized that often a large gap exists between Inuit and non-aboriginal peoples. A lack of economic activity and chronic unemployment are major contributors to social problems (such as alcohol, drug-abuse, youth-related crime and suicide) in Arctic communities.
5. To actively promote Inuit self-reliance, the Inuit Arctic Policy must elaborate a comprehensive Arctic economic strategy. This strategy should include regional, national, and international aspects and take into account education and training needs. The issue of a lack of educational and training opportunities or irrelevant and unusable education and training must be addressed.
6. To promote global cooperation and security, the Inuit Arctic Policy should also consider what actions might be taken to assist indigenous peoples in developing states. The new Inuit Center for International Understanding may contribute to this effort.
7. In addition, the Inuit Arctic Policy should address the responsibility of state governments to substantially reduce regional disparities in Arctic regions. Training and assistance in setting up small businesses should be provided in Chukotka. However, concrete steps must be taken to provide essential services of adequate quality and to ensure economic opportunities in all Arctic communities.



8. Inuit have the right to develop a balanced and diversified Arctic economy, which accommodates and promotes both subsistence and wage economies. Sustained and innovative measures will be required to ensure the continuance and growth of the subsistence economy. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping rights must be assured for both economic and cultural reasons.
9. When shaping economic policies at any level, a major focal point must be the community. Inuit settlements must be directly involved in all aspects of community development. A primary indicator of the success of economic efforts in the Arctic is the extent to which tangible benefits are derived at the local level and overall improvements are made to the quality of life, as determined by Arctic standards.
10. At the regional level, action must be taken in every Arctic community towards establishing a viable base for community development. Key elements to be considered include:
  - adequate infrastructures; job intensive economic initiatives, both in the public and private sector;

assessments are done differently in the four countries, it will be useful to supplement each region's knowledge and methods with information about the process from the other regions.



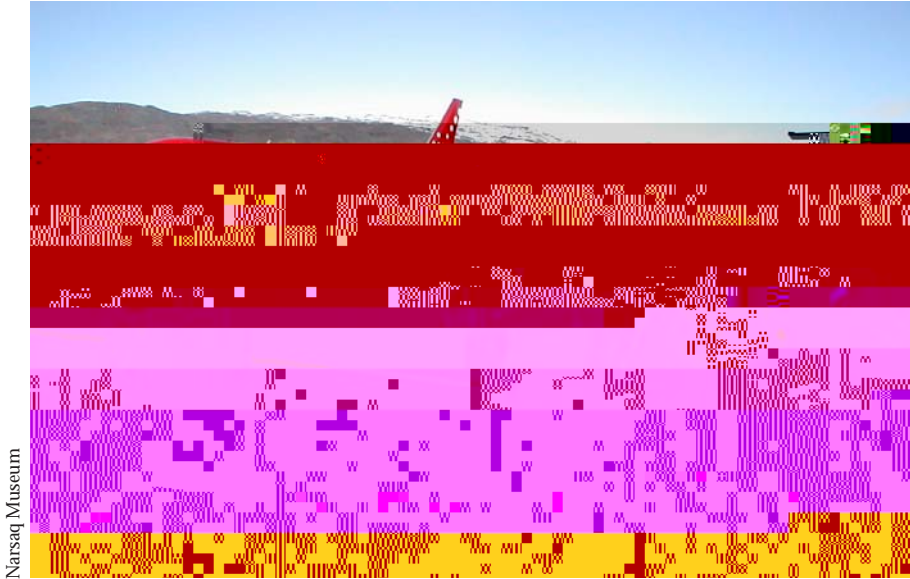
intensive economic growth, which includes both subsistence and wage-earning activities, must be a clear priority.

2. ICC should attempt to incorporate “capacity development” of Inuit in its plans, processes, activities and advocacy to defend the rights and to further the interests of Inuit internationally in particular in addressing social, cultural, educational and language concerns as well as employment opportunities.
3. A vital step towards achieving full and meaningful employment, as well as Inuit self-reliance, must be the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive training and education strategy designed especially for the Arctic.
4. In most instances, job creation and training should be linked, and skill development activities should be closely related, to existing and projected needs of the northern workplace and its institutions. To support job creation efforts, innovative and successful approaches to training should be developed.
5. Positive steps may be required to correct discrimination in the workforce.
6. Equality does not mean that everyone must be treated the same. The Inuit Arctic Policy must recognize that it is sometimes vital to treat individuals or groups as equals by accommodating their differences. To open the doors to equality of opportunity, Inuit and other distinct peoples may need to be treated differently, by eliminating the obstacles which they alone face for no justifiable reason.
7. In order to achieve equality in employment, the Inuit Arctic Policy must effectively deal with the pre-employment situation facing Inuit. Sub-standard training and education, among other factors, serves to put Inuit at a marked disadvantage when compared to many other peoples in the states concerned.
8. Special measures may be required in many instances regarding Inuit women, youth, and unilingual adults, as well as disabled persons, so as to ensure equitable opportunities and participation in the workforce.
9. In order to develop a strong and competitive labor force among Inuit in circumpolar regions, concrete measures are required. These include priority of employment for local residents as well as adapting certification and other requirements in certain trades. Such steps are intended to provide Inuit with a fair opportunity to enter and participate in the workforce. Capacity building for local people should be part of all government and largeudesuageIn pdm W T

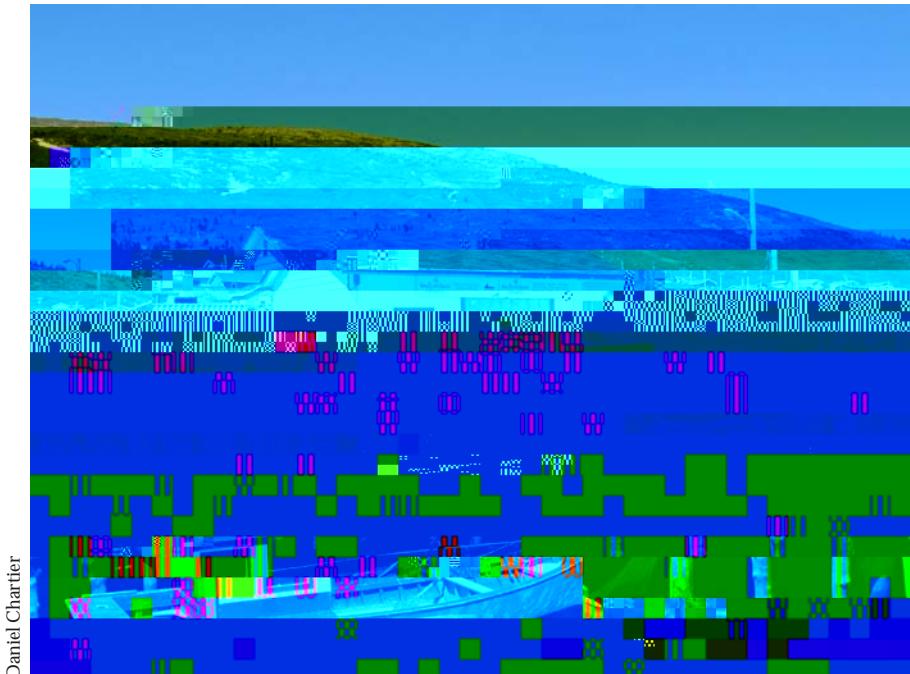
11. Innovative and experimental programming designed to increase knowledge of ways to more effectively advance Inuit economic development through training and education should receive adequate community and financial support.
12. Training and education programs should be flexible, involving on-the-job and off-the-job training as appropriate. Specific incentives should also be developed to encourage the private sector to undertake comprehensive human resource support and development programs for its employees. Workers should have meaningful opportunities to engage in retraining when necessary and to acquire new skills in response to changing technologies and markets.
13. To the extent possible, ICC should advocate with governments and private sector businesses to pay particular attention to capacity building and small enterprise development in Chukotka.

### **Air Transportation**

1. The Inuit Arctic Policy should recognize that aviation is not a privilege but a necessity in the circumpolar region. Air transport represents the only means of year-round transport between Inuit communities, regionally, nationally, and internationally. All communities are entitled to regular and frequent air service.
2. The Inuit Arctic Policy should recognize that the adequacy and costs of air transportation in the circumpolar region have a direct effect on economic development in the same region. Consequently, air transportation problems are also economic development problems to be dealt with in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
3. National air transport policies should recognize that there is an inter-dependence of passenger, cargo and mail systems in .1(r)-11.1(tallyiaff9 -1.0( t)6.ni.1( and



Flying is our Way



Nain Harbor Labrador

6. Adequate and safe systems of transportation, including air transport infrastructures, must be developed and upgraded throughout the circumpolar region. Such systems must contemplate policies governing regulation of intra-Arctic passenger and freight service, Arctic airport construction and maintenance standards, and minimum standards of airborne and fixed station navigational aids. New safety features have to be implemented in those areas where climate change may affect the permafrost and thereby the stability of airport runways.
7. Policies of Arctic states should promote preference to the licensing of Inuit-owned air carriers for transport within the circumpolar region and promote Inuit job and contract priority in the domain of aviation.
8. A rationalized and integrated transportation system must be developed throughout the circumpolar region. A primary purpose of such a system must be to facilitate safe, affordable and efficient transportation in all sectors of the Arctic. A central issue to be addressed is the extremely high cost of air transportation both of people and of freight. It is important that direct flights between Arctic regions be developed, for example, an air link between Greenland and Arctic Canada and a direct air link to Chukotka.

### **International Trade and Travel**

1. A main objective of the Inuit Arctic Policy should be to facilitate transnational trade and travel by Inuit throughout Inuit Nunaat. Such activities are an integral part of Inuit traditional practices and have significant economic, social, and cultural dimensions.
2. Although Inuit live within developed Arctic states, the economies of Inuit and other indigenous peoples in the Arctic often resemble more the economies of less developed countries. In view of the economic problems facing Inuit communities and regions, potential opportunities concerning trade and development at the international level should be explored.
3. It is important to note that indigenous peoples and their vital economic issues are often excluded from the structural arrangements and institutionalized practices and policies of states at the bi-national and international level. This is particularly evident in regard to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Such exclusion of indigenous peoples may in effect be contrary to the 1985 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the 1978 UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice.
4. A comprehensive strategy should be developed to ensure that Inuit can protect their economic interests within the international community, communityco

5. Elements that should be considered in formulating the international dimensions of an Inuit/ Arctic economic strategy include:
- in regard to GATT, there is a need to organize multilateral talks on international trade and development issues affecting the world's indigenous peoples;
  - also, the possibility of adding a new part to GATT should be explored concerning particular arrangements on trade and development relating to indigenous peoples;
  - special study and consideration of the economic rights and concerns of indigenous peoples in Arctic regions should be requested from relevant organs of the United Nations;
  - the potential for trade agreements and other economic arrangements among the Inuit of Canada, Alaska, Greenland and Siberia should be evaluated. As, until now, insufficient efforts have been made by Arctic states to initiate or support pan-Arctic trade;
  - funding criteria of the World Bank and other international institutions should be examined with a view to extending eligibility for financial aid to Inuit economic activities;
  - representations should continue to be made in the EU and European countries in regards to the seal hunt and the ensuing seal products, possibly through consultation with WTO;
  - efforts should be made to fully maintain and strengthen the rights of Inuit in Alaska to take marine mammals for subsistence purposes and for creating and selling authentic native articles of handicrafts and clothing. At the same time, the national laws of each Arctic country should be amended, if so required, to allow the importation of harvesting products of Inuit from other Arctic states;
  - in regard to the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Inuit should continue to monitor and otherwise participate at CITES meetings. In this way, unjustified attempts to use the Convention to unfairly restrict native harvesting and trade may be effectively countered;
  - education and training programs should be further developed to encourage Inuit to specialize in international trade and other economic matters pertaining to Inuit and the Arctic. Within these programs, Inuit traditional economies must be accorded appropriate focus and consideration;
  - Arctic states should be urged to ensure that their embassies or foreign offices can offer proper assistance to Inuit in regard to international trade and other Arctic economic matters. For such purposes, appropriate briefings on Arctic issues of major concern to Inuit should be provided by state governments to their personnel in such offices; and



- Inuit should strive for their effective involvement in matters of international trade and development relating to indigenous peoples and the Arctic.
6. Inuit have a right to the protection of their intellectual property. In particular, special attention is required to substantially reduce or eliminate the trade of counterfeit Inuit art and other objects and products. When Inuit stories and legends told by elders are sold for profit, the elders involved should receive royalties.
  7. In regard to the export of natural resources by Arctic states, the rights of Inuit must at all times be respected. In addition, the environmental and social costs associated with such exports must be taken into account.
  8. From an environmental perspective, the international trade and development policies of Arctic and other developed countries require closer scrutiny. Toxic products, such as PCBs and chlordane (pesticide), are being supplied to less developed countries that are not in a position to properly store and dispose of toxic substances. These chemicals may continue to end up in the world's oceans, Arctic marine mammals are accumulating these poisonous pollutants at an alarming rate. These pollutants are contaminating the entire food chain, creating serious health problems among Inuit, and may lead to the eventual extinction of certain marine mammals. Steps must be urgently taken to prevent the continuing release of toxic substances and contaminants into the world's oceans.
  9. Arctic states should recognize that Inuit have the right to engage in traditional contacts and in all forms of cooperation, including economic and social exchanges, and travel and trade across state and other boundaries. Existing restrictions imposed by Arctic state governments that affect Inuit trade, travel, and immigration should be minimized or eliminated through cooperative discussions with the Arctic states concerned.
  10. It is important to note that the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation of November 19, 1794 (the Jay Treaty) between the United States and the United Kingdom promised to allow indigenous peoples free passage and trade across the U.S.-Canada border. New arrangements should be negotiated by Inuit so as to provide for the full range of their needs and

# VII

## EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES

### Education

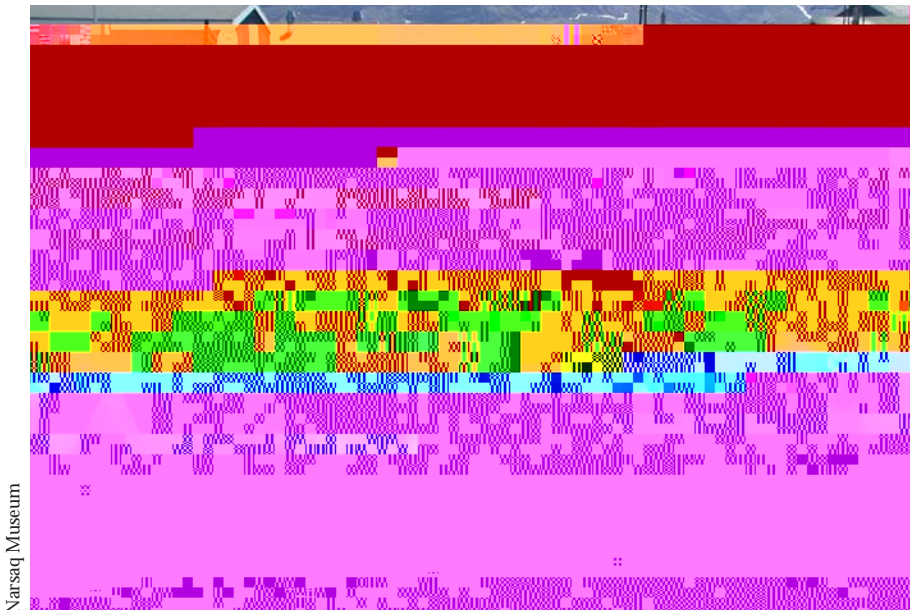
1. Culturally appropriate education is the key to healthier and more prosperous Inuit communities and to a better future for all Inuit.
2. The right to education is a fundamental right, recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Inuit Arctic Policy should elaborate upon and implement this right, in a manner that ensures the accessibility of quality education in all circumpolar regions and encourages learning among all Inuit. School environments must make learning an enriching and valuable experience.
3. Children are the most valuable Inuit resource and represent future leaders of Inuit. Therefore, a comprehensive education policy should be formulated and implemented in collaboration with Inuit communities that appropriately demonstrates Inuit commitment to improving northern education. Remoteness or other causes of regional disparities must not be permitted to compromise the accessibility or quality of northern education.
4. Inuit have the right to control all aspects of the education of their children, through direct parental community involvement and through institutions of self-government. Such rights include the right to determine cultural content and language of instruction as well as to follow best practices.
5. An on-going challenge and goal in circumpolar regions must be to ensure high standards both in performance of institutions and in the performance of students. The Inuit Arctic Policy should elaborate ways to pursue and achieve excellence in all aspects of education.
6. Skills training for the labor force is an important objective of education. It should also be recognized that a major responsibility of the Arctic education system must include the development of language and communication skills, exploration and development of culture, and encouraging young people to become self-reliant, sensitive, critical and technologically astute members of a democratic society and the new information technology environment.
7. It is important that Arctic education systems be able to adapt to changing requirements and circumstances in circumpolar regions. Within such a framework, students should be taught the attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary to achieve success both in subsistence and wage economies.

It is equally important that as the world changes and new technologies increase quickly, that Inuit students are taught to use them and to adapt their traditional ways to the IT lifestyle.

8. It is recognized that extensive funding will be necessary if the Inuit Arctic Policy goals in education are to be realized. However, funding alone is not enough. Parents, elders and the communities must take a more active role, instill the values of education in young people, and encourage disciplined learning and study. Positive role models are clearly required.
9. Educational institutions should be established in the Arctic and encouraged to provide educational and scientific opportunities over a broad spectrum of potentials. In addition, the practical questions of funding for ambitious programs located in isolated and expensive-to-service locations should be addressed.
10. The best strategies for allowing the greatest amount of choice in education and research among inhabitants of generally small and isolated Arctic communities should be explored and implemented; this may include tele-education and/or courses over the Internet, or through such institutions as the University of the Arctic.
11. It is of fundamental importance that the language and culture be respected, preserved, and taught and at the same time, Inuit need to have the opportunity to be full participants in the modern global society. This is especially important with respect to Inuit living in a Russian territory, where lack of a common language may create difficulties in communication with the broader Inuit and circumpolar community.
12. Attention should be paid to the various education reports and committees, such as the Inuit National Education Committee in Canada, whose aim is to implement best practices in teaching and learning, while respecting the Inuit culture and language, preparing students for life in a global society, including parents/elders and preparing students for a future career.
13. Reports such as the UN Expert Mechanism in the Implementation of Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Education (2009) should be taken into consideration.
14. The objective of the education system should be to have most Inuit students graduate from high school and to provide better future opportunities. This may also be one strategy to decrease the rate of suicide among young people.
15. Curricula should be developed which is Inuit-centric and should be closely associated with local communities. It is crucial that culturally appropriate and relevant content be ensured in all materials. Inuit children should be made aware and proud of their heritage. They should be taught the history and evolution of the social, economic, cultural, and political aspects of Inuit life from Inuit perspectives. At the same time, Inuit students should also learn to live and work in a global and technology oriented world.



School Expedition



Elementary School Race

16. Development of educational materials must be done with, and through, Inuit educators (both in the first and second languages) and take into account the learning style of Inuit students. Both textbooks and visual aids should be produced across the full range of teaching subjects, with every effort made to produce materials necessary for the teaching of the Inuit language, Inuit history, and the geography and science of the northern environment. Means of exchanging school curriculum materials should be established.
17. In order to depict the diverse roles of men and women as well as different cultures more accurately, sex-role stereotypes and other forms of discrimination should be eliminated from the curriculum materials.



network, and knowledge integration practices by drawing on relevant information, including Inuit traditional knowledge.

10. In addition, ICC should develop a clearinghouse that will help record and protect the traditional knowledge of Inuit and facilitate information exchange between all Inuit in Inuit Nunaat.

11. The ICC should work with Inuit at community, regional, national, and international levels, governmental and academic researchers as well as policy makers and students, i.e. all who may contribute to the current state of research conduct and the state of knowledge in the Arctic.

12. Centers such as the national Inuit Knowledge Center and the Inuit Center for International Understanding could facilitate the access and participation of Inuit in research.

13. Traditional knowledge should include both traditional ecological knowledge, environmental and cultural knowledge, either as handed down through generations or as engendered in contemporary times. Traditional knowledge should be integrated with western sciences into all research projects and education in the Arctic.

14. Ethical and other basic principles for the conduct of northern scientific research should include the following:

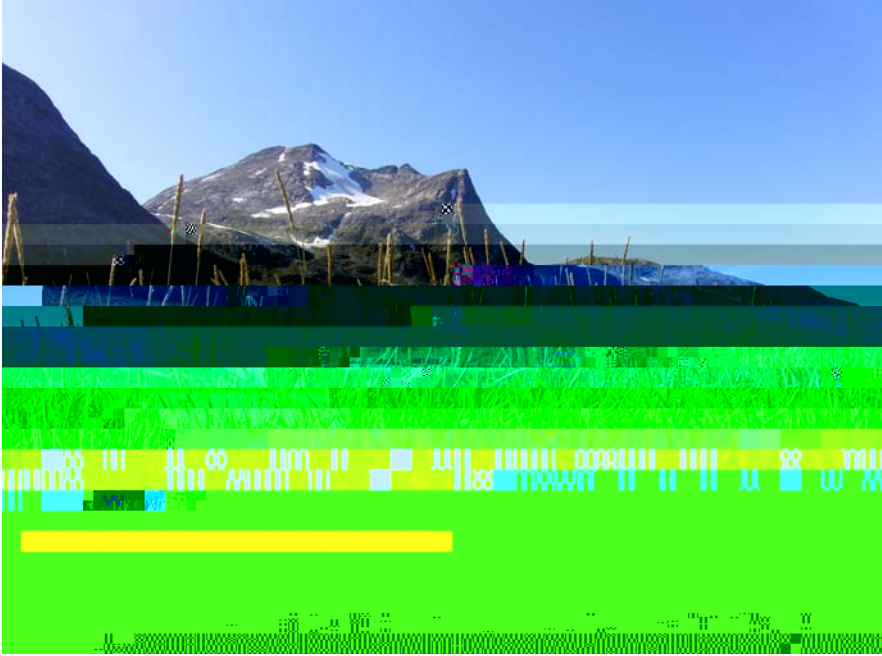
- no research involving Arctic communities should proceed without their free, prior and informed consent expressed through an appropriate governing body. To obtain free, prior and informed consent, researchers must identify for whom the research is being done, research objectives, methods to be used, potential environmental and social impacts, positive and negative implications of research undertaken, sources of financing, and persons in charge;

- scientific research must only be undertaken in a manner which avoids social disruption and which fully respects the privacy, dignity, cultures, traditions, and rights of Arctic peoples and their communities. In cases where

- reasonable opportunities should be given to people and organizations in Inuit communities to comment on research results, prior to finalization. For such purposes, summaries should be made available in the Inuit language. Comments received from Arctic communities, in regard to the research results, should be included in the final research reports; and
  - as soon as they are available, copies of research reports should be sent to the communities involved and to interested Arctic institutions and persons. The research reports should indicate how informed consent was obtained and the extent of community participation.
15. Inuit and the community in which the research is carried out should maintain the intellectual property rights to the material, if they contribute significantly, and Inuit and the community should be clearly acknowledged in all publications or other material stemming from their research.
  16. The Inuit Arctic Policy should ensure that a key aspect of research involves community-based research (CBR). Important elements of CBR are its strong emphasis on the active involvement of Inuit researchers and Inuit training. In addition, research priorities are determined by Inuit and are geared towards local needs. Information and understanding generated by CBR are intended to stimulate community development and collective action.
  17. Arctic state governments and relevant private institutions should be urged to support Inuit research centers for the coordination and practice of Arctic research. In order to sustain timely and vigorous research activities in the North, it is necessary to maintain sufficient levels of funding.
  18. Arctic states should ensure that the principal institutions for northern research are increasingly located in the Arctic.
  19. Responsibilities and functions of research institutions in the Arctic could possibly include the following:
    - to engage in scientific research and provide coordination and logistical support for northern research activities;
    - to develop specialized research training programs, particularly for Inuit researchers and students;
    - to collect and disseminate published and unpublished research information, and inform northerners and other interested persons of new findings;
    - to act as a clearinghouse, to help avoid unnecessary duplication of research activity, including a list of research projects that would be beneficial to Inuit communities;
    - to maintain a computerized directory of scientists, Inuit organizations and other entities with research expertise related to the North; and
    - to foster high quality cooperative research in the Arctic.



20. Large international Arctic research undertakings such as the International Polar Year (IPY) should be urged to more fully include Inuit and other Arctic inhabitants.
21. Collaboration among public bodies, private organizations, and persons interested in Arctic scientific research should be an important consideration. When determining major research objectives and policies, involvement of the general public should also be encouraged.
22. Private and public foundations and especially national and international research councils and funding agencies should insist on the inclusion and close co-operation with Inuit and other Arctic inhabitants in Arctic research projects. Such participation should be a pre-requisite for obtaining funding.
23. Departments dealing with the Arctic, within state governments, should have interdepartmental committees or other mechanisms to coordinate their research activities. Efforts should be made to ensure consistency with the overall research objectives and principles of the Inuit Arctic Policy.
24. It is important to foster regional, national and international cooperation in regard to Arctic scientific research.
25. Significant efforts should be made by Arctic states to involve Inuit when determining the content of international agreements in regard to cooperative northern research. In addition, the ICC should develop a close liaison with bodies within the United Nations and other international organizations interested in Arctic research, such as ICSU, IASC, AMAP, IASSA, ICASS and others. Close cooperation should also be developed with the national research funding agencies.
26. Workshops and conferences, at regional, national, and international levels, should be encouraged to exchange ideas on research techniques and other issues. Through such forums, methods for efficient sharing and dissemination of information and data can also be improved.
27. It is important to promote an “independent” quality in Arctic scientific research. For example, universities engaged in Arctic research should not be excessively funded by development corporations or industries with specific Arctic interests. Adequate funding must also be made available from government and other sources.



Lene Kielsen Holm

Landscape



Heiko Wittenborn

Kangiqsujuaq Inukshuk

# VIII

## IMPLEMENTATION

### **Implementation of the Inuit Arctic Policy**

1. ICC should work towards having the Inuit Arctic Policy taken into account by all levels of government throughout the circumpolar world, as well as by Arctic residents and other users of Arctic resources.
2. Public policies and programs of government, and international agreements, should be aware of the ICC Inuit Arctic Policy. Special assistance should be given to Inuit in Chukotka in this regard.
3. In order to ensure that the ICC Inuit Arctic Policy is achieving the desired effect, its implementation must be monitored by the ICC. Mechanisms for monitoring and for the refinement of its elements (such as through conferences, workshops and research projects) may be established.
4. The Inuit Arctic Policy is sufficiently flexible to allow particular conditions and priorities in specific Arctic regions to be taken into account. This is especially important in elaborating more detailed positions on community, regional, and national issues of major concern or relevance to Inuit. Such issues include negotiations on self-government arrangements, land and resource rights and management, and constitutional rights and protection. In these and other instances, the Inuit Arctic Policy principles may be put to beneficial use. The Inuit Arctic Policy principles should also be adapted to the different situations and levels of self-government in the four regions.
5. In this context, an appropriate plan is required to facilitate the integration of the Inuit Arctic Policy in school curricula in circumpolar and other regions. Extensive use of the policy by Inuit and other organizations involved in circumpolar issues should also be actively encouraged.
6. At the international level, there are numerous applications for the Inuit Arctic Policy. The ICC can help to ensure consistency and coordination in policy-making among Inuit in the various regions or states in the Arctic. In addition, the ICC can continue to introduce the Inuit Arctic Policy in the different UN and other international forums dealing with indigenous and other fundamental human rights, environment, development, and peace and security issues, among others.
7. In order to encourage widespread use of the Inuit Arctic Policy, it is vital to disseminate this information to Inuit communities, Arctic governments, other interested organizations and persons at the local, regional, national, and international level. The Inuit Arctic Policy must be made available in the

Inuit languages to facilitate usage among Inuit. Translation into other languages such as Russian should also be undertaken.

8. Following discussions of the Inuit Arctic Policy by Inuit from the various Arctic states, at the ICC general assemblies, a multi-year work plan should be prepared, major areas of priority and concern should be identified for further work as well as the organizations or persons assigned to undertake the devising of detailed policies. Inuit organizations at all levels should ideally be involved.
9. In proceeding with further Inuit Arctic Policy work, a process of on-going information to and consultation with Inuit communities and others should be elaborated.
10. The development and implementation of an Inuit Arctic Policy is in many ways a major contribution to Arctic states. In light of the importance of the Arctic from a global perspective, such policy work serves as a contribution to the world community. For these reasons, Inuit Arctic Policy formulation and implementation should be strongly supported by Arctic and other interested states.
11. The Inuit Arctic Policy should be viewed as a “living” blueprint for circumpolar regions that is always evolving. Additional refinements or improvements should continually be made, in accordance with changing circumstances.
12. It should always be remembered that the Inuit Arctic Policy is a “living and resilient document”, adaptable to on-going changes in Inuit Nunaat.

# APPENDIX I

## **Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Arctic Sovereignty**

**We, the Inuit of Inuit Nunaat, declare as follows:**

### **1. Inuit and the Arctic**

- 1.1 **Inuit live in the Arctic.** Inuit live in the vast, circumpolar region of land, sea and ice known as the Arctic. We depend on the marine and terrestrial plants and animals supported by the coastal zones of the Arctic Ocean, the tundra and the sea ice. The Arctic is our home.
- 1.2 **Inuit have been living in the Arctic from time immemorial.** From time immemorial, Inuit have been living in the Arctic. Our home in the circumpolar world, Inuit Nunaat, stretches from Greenland to Canada,

example, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [ICCPR], Art. 1.)

Our rights as an indigenous people include the following rights recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), all of which are relevant to sovereignty and sovereign rights in the Arctic: the right to self-determination, to freely determine our political status and to freely pursue our economic, social and cultural, including linguistic, development (Art. 3); the right to internal autonomy or self-government (Art. 4); the right to recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with states (Art. 37); the right to maintain and strengthen our distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining the right to participate fully in the political, economic, social and cultural life of states (Art. 5); the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect our rights and to maintain and develop our own indigenous decision-making institutions (Art. 18); the right to own, use, develop and control our lands, territories and resources and the right to ensure that no project affecting our lands, territories or resources will proceed without our free and informed consent (Art. 25-32); the right to peace and security (Art. 7); and the right to conservation and protection of our environment (Art. 29).

## **2. The Evolving Nature of Sovereignty in the Arctic**

- 2.1 "Sovereignty" is a term that has often been used to refer to the absolute and independent authority of a community or nation both internally and externally. Sovereignty is a contested concept, however, and does not have a fixed meaning. Old ideas of sovereignty are breaking down as different governance models, such as the European Union, evolve. Sovereignities overlap and are frequently divided within federations in creative ways to recognize the right of peoples. For Inuit living within the states of Russia, Canada, the USA and Denmark/Greenland, issues of sovereignty and sovereign rights must be examined and assessed in the context of our long history of struggle to gain recognition and respect as an Arctic indigenous people having the right to exercise self-determination over our lives, territories, cultures and languages.
- 2.2 Recognition and respect for our right to self-determination is developing at varying paces and in various forms in the Arctic states in which we live. Following a referendum in November 2008, the areas of self-government in Greenland will expand greatly and, among other things, Greenlandic (Kalaallisut) will become Greenland's sole official language. In Canada, four land claims agreements are some of the key building blocks of Inuit rights; while there are conflicts over the implementation of these agreements, they remain of vital relevance to matters of self-determination and of sovereignty and sovereign rights. In Alaska, much work is needed to clarify and implement the rights recognized in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). In particular, subsistence hunting and self-government rights need to be fully respected and accommodated, and issues impeding their enjoyment and implementation need to be addressed and resolved. And in Chukotka, Russia, a very limited number of administrative processes Lanumite







Narsaq Town



Ptarmigan

has the right to traverse the Arctic, who has the right to develop the Arctic, and who will be responsible for the social and environmental impacts increasingly facing the Arctic. We have unique knowledge and experience to bring to these deliberations. The inclusion of Inuit as active partners in all future deliberations on Arctic sovereignty will benefit both the Inuit community and the international community.

- 3.7 The extensive involvement of Inuit in global, trans-national and indigenous politics requires the building of new partnerships with states for the protection and promotion of indigenous economies, cultures and traditions. Partnerships must acknowledge that industrial development of the natural resource wealth of the Arctic can proceed only insofar as it enhances the economic and social well-being of Inuit and safeguards our environmental security.

### **The need for global cooperation**

- 3.8 There is a pressing need for enhanced international exchange and cooperation in relation to the Arctic, particularly in relation to the dynamics and impacts of climate change and sustainable economic and social development. Regional institutions that draw together Arctic states, states from outside the Arctic, and representatives of Arctic indigenous peoples can provide useful mechanisms for international exchange and cooperation.
- 3.9 The pursuit of global environmental security requires a coordinated global approach to the challenges of climate change, a rigorous plan to arrest the growth in human-generated carbon emissions, and a far-reaching program of adaptation to climate change in Arctic regions and communities.
- 3.10 The magnitude of the climate change problem dictates that Arctic states and their peoples fully participate in international efforts aimed at arresting and reversing levels of greenhouse gas emissions and enter into international protocols and treaties. These international efforts, protocols and treaties cannot be successful without the full participation and cooperation of indigenous peoples.

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**Building on today's mechanisms for the future**

On behalf of Inuit in Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Chukotka  
Adopted by the Inuit Circumpolar Council, April 2009

Patricia A.L. Cochran, ICC Chair

Edward S. Itta  
ICC vice-chair, Alaska

Tatiana Achirgina  
ICC vice-chair, Chukotka

Duane R. Smith  
ICC vice-chair, Canada

Aqqaluk Lynge  
ICC vice-chair, Greenland

## APPENDIX II

### **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**Adopted by General Assembly Resolution 61/295 on 13 September 2007**

*The General Assembly,*<sup>1</sup>

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and good faith in the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter,

Acknowledging that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,

Acknowledging also that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind,

Acknowledging further that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust, Reaffirming that indigenous peoples, in the exercise of their rights, should be free from discrimination of any kind,

Convinced that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests,

Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources,

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*R* also the urgent need to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States,

*W* the fact that indigenous peoples are organizing themselves for political, economic, social and cultural enhancement and in order to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur,

*C* that control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs,

*R* that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,

*E a* the contribution of the demilitarization of the lands and territories of indigenous peoples to peace, economic and social progress and development, understanding and friendly relations among nations and peoples of the world,

*R* in particular the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child,

*C* that the rights affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples are, in some situations, matters of international concern, interest, responsibility and character,

*C* also that treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and the relationship they represent, are the basis for a strengthened partnership between indigenous peoples and States,

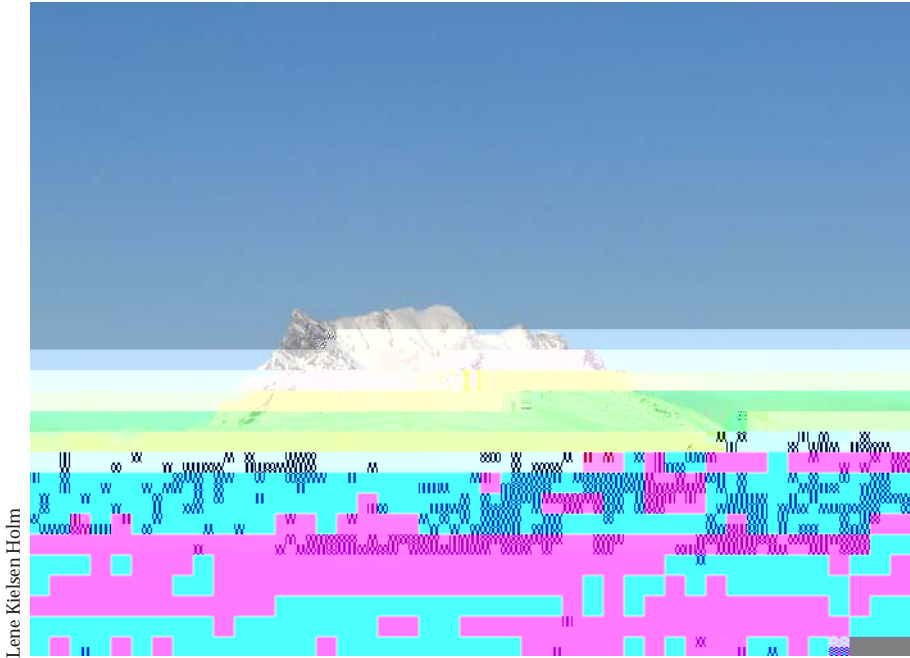
*A* that the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>2</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>3</sup> affirm the fundamental importance of the right to self-determination of all peoples, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

*B a* that nothing in this Declaration may be used to deny any peoples their right to self-determination, exercised in conformity with international law,

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<sup>2</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>3</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.



Lene Kielsen Holm

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#### Article 4

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to 4. Resolution

#### Article 11

Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

#### Article 12

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.



2. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.

#### Article 21

1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

#### Article 22

1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
2. States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

#### Article 23

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining



Article 30

1. Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.
2. States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.

Article 31

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

Article 32

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

Article 33

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

#### Article 34

Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions,



Article 41

The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.

Article 42

The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.

Article 43

The rights recognized herein constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.

Article 44

All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.

Article 45

Nothing in this Declaration may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights indigenous peoples have now or may acquire in the future.

Article 46

1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as prejudicing or affecting the rights of indigenous peoples.



Lene Kielsen Holm

Sunset over the Ice

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This work started when Aqqaluk Lyngé was a Visiting Fellow at the Dickey Center, Dartmouth College in 2008. Aqqaluk Lyngé graduated from the Copenhagen College of Social Work in 1976. He is a well-known Greenlandic author and politician who has been a member of the ICC Executive since 1980.

Marianne Stenbaek is professor of Cultural Studies at McGill University, Montreal, Canada. She has been involved in the ICC since 1980 and was a Fellow at the Dickey Center in 2007. She has done research in Greenland and is a well-known broadcaster for Kalaallit Nunaata Radio.

Aqqaluk Lyngé  
aqqaluk@inuit.org

Marianne Stenbaek  
marianne.stenbaek@mcgill.ca

