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Sunday, August 11, 2002

Arrival



Registration



Monday, August 12, 2002

Call to Order

Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) President, Aqqaluk Lynge, called to order ICC's 9th General Assembly, and individually shook the hands of the 68 delegates from Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Russia, who were gathered in the just-opened Kuujjuaq Cultural Centre.

Mr. Lynge then called upon the Reverend Canon Benjamin Arreak of Kuujjuaq to open the 4-day deliberations with a prayer.

Opening Prayer

Reverend Arreak prefaced the opening prayer by stating he was very happy to be together with all delegates, observers, and guests celebrating this historic anniversary of Inuit unity. He noted that the situation was very different today and that step-by-step, all Inuit had been helped and strengthened by the creator over the last 25 years. After reading Psalms 139, the Reverend Canon prayed, among numerous other things, for the "God of peace ... to bless the leaders gathered, those that helped prepare for the Assembly, those working behind the scenes, and those that we have left behind."

Opening Ceremony

Aqqaluk Lynge introduced Mary Aitchison of Kuujjuaq, who coordinated and led the opening ceremony. Before calling up throat singers, musicians, drummers, and dancers, Ms. Aitchison stated that the youth and elders in the ceremony were eager to make those gathered feel at home and that the upcoming ceremony was the "voice of all Nunavik people saying welcome".

The delegates and guests were first treated to two Nunavik throat singers (Leah May and Ann-Marie Aitchison), followed by the ceremonial lighting of the conference lamp or *qullik*, which was located inside the circle of ICC delegates. Two elders, Lizzie Gordon (of Kuujjuaq) and Isaci Padlayat (of Salluit), guided Akenisie Sivuarapik in the lighting of the *qullik*. This was, in turn, followed by the entrance of numerous anorak-clad youth and children. Everyone applauded as the end of a second song by the throat singers coincided with the children and youth completing their beautiful entrance. Conducted by Maureen Cooney, they sang O Canada in Inuktitut, English, and French. Many of the delegates and observers joined in the singing.

Three pairs of throat singers, led off by two little girls, Sheila Gordon and Gloria Lingard, then entertained the audience. All delegates and guests spontaneously stood and held hands in a large circle as the song, "We are the World" was sung in Inuktitut and English by all performers, accompanied by Edward Snowball and Ulayu Piliurtut on the guitar. The large group then exited in an unfolding circle led by drummers Jennifer May, David Dupuis, and Theresa Tooma. A welcome to Kuujuaq from the youth and elders was delivered by Jana Lingard. Her words of welcome were stated in Inupiaq, Yupik, Greenlandic, Russian, Inuktitut, French, and English.

Mary Aitchison said a final welcome, noting that the emotional and spontaneous circle formed by politicians, entertainers, guests, and others made her personally very happy and proud to be part of one united Inuit circumpolar family.

Welcoming Address — Aqqaluk Lyngø

The ICC President addressed all delegates, elders, youth, ICC executive council members, and special guests with a welcome in several languages, as follows:

- | Welcome
- | Tikilluaritsi
- | Tunngasugitsi
- | Tunngahuggitti
- | Paglautimik aitchugivsign
- | Quyana tailuci

Among other things, Mr. Lyngø drew special attention to how much had been accomplished, not only over the past 25 years, but also within the most recent 4-year period of ICC's work. He noted that there was no Nunavut when the last ICC General Assembly was held, and congratulated all Nunavummiut present in Kuujuaq. Mr. Lyngø noted that 4 years ago, the Labrador Inuit were struggling and calling – as they had at almost every previous General Assembly – for recognition of their human rights. He congratulated all Labrador Inuit present for being on the verge of finalizing their land claims agreement. He went on to congratulate the people of Nunavik for just recently having concluded an historic agreement with the Government of Quebec. Loud applause greeted each of these statements.

Before thanking the Town of Kuujuaq and the Kativik Regional Government for co-hosting the Assembly and other major sponsors and individuals for their efforts, Mr. Lyngø focused attention on the General Assembly theme, *Inuit Voice – Enlightening the World*. He stated that the Inuit voice does not enlighten the world from a "position of

knowing better” but rather through constructive dialogue, something to which he was also looking forward in the days to come as delegates discussed the various items on the agenda.

Welcoming Address — Michael Gordon

Speaking in both Inuktitut and English, Mayor Michael Gordon stated that there had been a death in the community only a few days earlier, and on behalf and in honour of him, he would like to welcome all to Kuujjuaq, and that he was sure the deceased would want all gathered to work hard to accomplish what needed to be done.

Paying tribute to all the people of Kuujjuaq, Mayor Gordon said that he was always confident that his very small community could host such an impressive international event. He added that it could not have been done, however, without the additional support of the Canadian Government, the Quebec Government, Makivik Corporation, and Kuujjuaq’s co-host, the Kativik Regional Government (KRG). He made special mention of Quebec’s Deputy Premier, the Honourable Louise Harel, for her support in making the event happen, especially its venue – the beautiful Kuujjuaq Cultural Centre. He also thanked Johnny Adams of KRG for his immeasurable cooperation, and to Pita Aatami of Makivik Corporation for, among other things, “knocking on the federal government’s doors for us”.

Mayor Gordon asked the delegates and guests not to hesitate in calling him personally if they lacked anything regarding housing, transportation, or any other matter, but “hopefully not after midnight”. He passed on his firm convictions that each General Assembly should be held in a small centre such as Kuujjuaq, “because that is where we come from”. He ended by stating that he believed strongly in the Inuit Circumpolar Conference because the organization’s international activities make a positive difference at the local level.

Welcoming Address — Johnny Adams

On behalf of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), Johnny Adams welcomed everyone to the 9th General Assembly of ICC, celebrating its 25th anniversary. The KRG Chair noted how the Inuit of Nunavik had contributed their voice to ICC since its beginning, and how ICC has contributed to Inuit unity. He thanked the late Mark R. Gordon, Canadian Senator Charlie Watt, Mary Simon, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Minnie Grey and Johnny Peters for making ICC what it is today. He welcomed the opportunity to interact with Inuit from other regions and countries who all share concerns about culture, language, environment, wildlife and economic development. “We all share the same ambitions for self-governance . . . for our voice to stay strong,” he said, but noted that the Inuit “economic voice” should be stronger – to create more jobs, more housing, better transportation and improved telecommunications. He cited the recently

signed Partnership Agreement, *Sanarrutik*, with the Quebec Government as a good thing for jobs and a stronger voice for Inuit. Finally he thanked the many government officials and local businesses that made it possible to hold this important event in Nunavik. He paid special tribute to the Honourable Louise Harel noting that he was honoured to have the first woman speaker of the Quebec National Assembly in the audience, and thanked her for her dedication in providing funding for the General Assembly and the beautiful cultural centre. This was greeted by lengthy applause. He ended by thanking all people from Kuujuaq, Makivik Corporation, and Makivik's affiliates for their tremendous support.

Welcoming Address — Pita Aatami

The President of Makivik Corporation welcomed all Greenlanders, Alaskans, and Russian Inuit to Nunavik, and thanked the Honourable Louise Harel and the Honourable Michel Létourneau for their part in supporting the General Assembly, which he said was a very important event. Speaking in French, English, and Inuktitut, Pita Aatami stressed the importance of language to Inuit. "It reflects who we are, and helps give us our identity". He praised the Alaskan Inuit for their vision in giving support to ICC 25 years ago.

Mr. Aatami interspersed his welcome with his conviction that the challenges of alcoholism, drugs, and other issues facing many Inuit communities could partially be met by a commitment to sound economic development at the local level and beyond. He stressed the importance of working collectively, to break down borders, and promoting trade for the benefit of Inuit. He cited some successful examples such as Nunavik's cooperation with Nunavut on fishing, and the success of burgeoning Inuit clothing designers and manufacturers. He noted that Inuit were developing on their terms and stressed that they did not want to ever "rely on hand-outs".

The Makivik President remarked that people in the past have controlled the lives of Inuit from the outside, but now Inuit were taking control. It would only be a matter of time, with a strong emphasis on how youth fit into the bigger picture, that Inuit would be achieving even greater economic development and prosperity. In this regard, he noted the importance of ICC's international work and the need for ICC to continue its mandates.

He reminded the delegates of a song sung by the youth earlier that included the words, "we are the future". Mr. Aatami said that Inuit have to show its youth that this indeed is true. He ended by saying that although Inuit were separated by borders, they were essentially one people with the same culture, food, and way of living.

Introduction of Delegates, Elders, and Youth

Aqqaluk Lynge, who chaired the day's session, asked the heads of delegation to introduce each country's delegates, as well as the participants in both the elders and youth assemblies. Mr. Lynge first asked Jose Kusugak of Canada to introduce the Canadian Inuit delegation, elders and youth. On behalf of Lubov Otrokova, Tatiana Kharchenko introduced the Russian delegation. She noted that due to very difficult immigration and travel problems, 6 of the 18 delegates, as well as all the elders, youth, and performing artists that were supposed to make the long trek from Chukotka were unable to travel to Kuujuaq. Michael Pederson then introduced those that had travelled from Alaska, and noted that one of the Alaskan youth, Kathy Rexford, was the most famous, as she was a "World Eskimo Indian Olympics (WEIO) star". This was followed by Jens Lars Fleischer, who introduced the Greenland delegation. He made special reference to fellow Greenlander Aqqaluk Lynge's service to ICC, as well as ICC executive council member, Carl Christian Olsen's vision, noting his involvement in the first meeting in 1977.

Opening Remarks

Aqqaluk Lynge asked the Honourable Louise Harel, Speaker of Quebec's National Assembly to address the Assembly. She said, speaking on behalf of herself – as well as Quebec's National Assembly – that it was a great pleasure to be among the Inuit of Quebec and the world. She made comments about each of the upcoming agenda items, and especially highlighted the importance of United Nations and other international institutions for creating a better world for Inuit, Quebecers, and others. She said she was impressed by how much Inuit had accomplished in the last 25 years both internationally and also in Nunavik. She mentioned several areas ranging from education to social services to economic development. She noted the various business ventures that were either wholly owned corporations or those who partnered with the assistance of Makivik Corporation. Among other things, she was impressed with Nunavik's airport industry, petroleum distribution companies, building construction know-how, hunting, fishing, and tourism, among many others. She drew several comparisons between Quebec's desire and right to be recognized as a people internationally and that of human rights of Inuit.

Looking back at the social, political, and economic development of Nunavik, she noted several milestones including the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement in the 1970s, and the most recent milestone, the Sanarrutik Agreement signed between Quebec and Nunavik in April 2002. She paid special tribute to former Premier René Lévesque's desire for recognition of Quebec's indigenous peoples, and drew the delegates' attention to a Quebec National Assembly motion passed in March 1985 that recognized the rights of indigenous peoples to "direct their own development as distinct nations having their own identity and exercising their rights within Quebec".

Madame Harel ended by noting that she interpreted the *qulliq*, or seal oil lamp, in the General Assembly logo as representing the ancestral wisdom of years past shedding light forward onto the path of modernity. In this regard, the newly built multi-functional Kuujuaq Cultural Centre, she said, was testimony to Inuit knowledge and resolved to have their voices heard in order to “enlighten the world”.

The Honourable Michel Létourneau, Minister for Native Affairs and for the Development of Northern Quebec, welcomed the Assembly to Nunavik, the first time that Quebec has hosted the ICC. He remarked on the role of ICC as a major international NGO that allows Inuit to speak with a united voice and to report their concerns to the international community. He reviewed the cooperation between Quebec and the Inuit in the last few decades, including the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, signed by the Inuit, the Crees, the Government of Quebec, and the Government of Canada. He also mentioned the Kativik Regional Government and the creation of the 14 northern villages, which have given the Inuit the power to deliver services and manage the main institutions and which show collaboration between Quebec and the Inuit. He detailed the founding of the Nunavik Constitutional Committee in 1989 that led to the creation of the Nunavik Commission in 1999 to suggest a form of self-government for Nunavik. Negotiations on the commission's report, tabled in April 2001, will begin shortly, he said.

Most recently, he stated, the good relations between Quebec and the Inuit are exemplified in the signing of the Sanarrutik Agreement in April 2002, which unites the two communities to work together for economic and community development of Nunavik. Some specific areas where they are cooperating are in developing the hydroelectric, mining, and tourism potential of Nunavik. Now, he said, there will be studies on constructing a power line for the 14 northern villages, determining the hydroelectric potential of Nunavik, and creating 5 national parks, noting that the government will pay the Inuit 1.25% of the value on the electricity production on each hydroelectric project. Other possible projects that he mentioned included paving roads, constructing marine infrastructures, increasing the number of police officers and police stations, and hiring new wildlife conservation officers. Housing development is now, he said, controlled by the Kativik Regional Government. The major challenges facing Nunavik in the next few years that he noted include job creation, preserving the Inuktitut language and culture, developing a system of justice better adapted to local needs, and the question of self-government. In conclusion, he spoke of the personal ties and friendships between Quebec and the Inuit and expressed confidence that the discussions held during the Assembly will be profitable.

The Honourable Daniel Skifte, Speaker of the Greenland Parliament addressed the delegates by stating it was important to acknowledge individuals who had put a lot of effort in developing ICC, as well as making the current General Assembly happen.

Mr. Skifte recognized Aqqaluk Lynge for his service to all Inuit and, to applause, praised his work over the past 6 years. Mr. Skifte also thanked the mayor of Kuujuaq, Michael Gordon, and the President of the Kativik Regional Government, Johnny Adams, for co-hosting the Assembly. He further thanked the Quebec Government officials for

attending and acknowledged his own Greenland delegation and government officials. He then thanked all the Inuit delegates who had made the trip to Kuujjuaq.

Mr. Skifte noted that he was very proud to be an Inuk because of what ICC had accomplished over the past 25 years. He noted that ICC has been recognized globally as a serious and dedicated organization speaking as the Inuit voice internationally. He stated that the Greenland Government, of which he is a member, always kept its eyes and ears open to the activities of ICC and offered its support and cooperation whenever possible. He further stated that even though the offices of ICC may be small, he was proud that they were located throughout the Arctic from Greenland across to Chukotka.

He noted that the Greenland Parliamentary budget had supported the work of ICC in Greenland over the past few years and it was his hope that the future parliamentary members will continue to do so. Mr. Skifte ended his address by once again thanking Aqqaluk Lyngé for his 6 years of service as ICC President.

Walter Sampson of Alaska's Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly spoke on behalf of Governor Tony Knowles of Alaska and thanked ICC for the privilege of participating in the conference. He noted the great changes in today's world and the issues of Inuit culture, subsistence, and jobs all boil down to the matter of education, which will help in dealing with these issues at the grass roots. We need to encourage "our children to become who they are and who they should be." He said change is coming every day and we need to be able to deal with modern technology, even though it is hard. He stated further that Inuit need to be proactive in the decision-making process, not letting decisions "affecting us be made without our input". He ended by saying that this Assembly would be crucial for setting the future for "our children, our grandchildren, and their children". The key issues of subsistence, Inuit culture, and jobs for Inuit all boil down to one issue, Mr. Sampson said, and "that is education". The educational system, he said, must be first in priority and the rest will follow. He said all Inuit must listen to what the youth sang earlier in the opening ceremonies – "we are the future generations of our people". Change is coming, he said, noting that 25 years ago it was not thought possible to land on the moon. Mr. Sampson ended by saying Inuit must be ready for this change and ensure that Inuit children end up as important decision-makers, and in important jobs.

Alexander Borodin spoke on behalf of the Governor of Chukotka, Roman Abramovich. Mr. Borodin said he was deeply honoured to be addressing this important Assembly and to be in the "very warm atmosphere of this beautiful hall". Although the Inuit community of Chukotka is relatively small, it is strong, and it is proud to be a part of the Inuit world, the Arctic civilization with a unique cultural heritage. He said it was not this pride that brought Chukotkan (and other) Inuit to Kuujjuaq, but rather the important and crucial issues, common problems, and common challenges facing all Inuit. He wished the delegates productive discussions as they deal with these issues. Mr. Borodin ended by giving a special thank-you to all those who made it possible to bring the Chukotka delegation to Kuujjuaq, adding, "it was not an easy thing to do". "Unfortunately the delegation is only one-third of what was expected to attend".

The Honourable Paul Okalik, Premier of Nunavut, began by congratulating the ICC on the 25th anniversary of its establishment, saying at that time “we all had what was considered bold demands”. He noted that when ICC was established in 1977 the government of Canada had indicated that a territory led by Inuit was unlikely; the establishment of Nunavut, he said, is a tribute to the “determined voices” of the Inuit. He mentioned the similar purposes of ICC and Nunavut—to strengthen and advance the interests of Inuit and other people of the Arctic. He said that Nunavut has worked to demonstrate a style of governing that incorporates Inuit values and traditions into the Canadian political system. Nunavut is, he said, dedicated to decentralization of government jobs and resources so that all Nunavummiut will benefit. He anticipated an increasingly strong connection with the Inuit of the circumpolar world, as Nunavut becomes a self-reliant community.

He expressed good memories of communication with Inuit in other countries, such as in Alaska and Greenland, and noted the strength of working together toward common endeavours. He also cited the visits to Nunavut by interns from the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), and the reciprocal participation in a conference in Russia; he supported expanding international internships for circumpolar youth. He expressed a continuing strong support for ICC and its “common voice for all Inuit” and noted the effort to transliterate Inuktitut throughout the circumpolar world. He expressed concern about the effects of climate change on the Inuit way of life and the necessity to provide leadership on environmental issues, the necessity of sustainable development, and necessity to deal with the impacts of climate change. He concluded that he was confident that the close relationship between the ICC and Nunavut would still be strong at the 50th anniversary of the founding of ICC.

Ambassador Peter Stenlund, Chair of the Arctic Council, expressed his appreciation of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference as a professional organization working on the international stage to educate the world on Arctic issues. He noted with concern the effects of pollution on the Arctic environment and complimented ICC for its crucial role in working towards developing global regulations on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). He spoke about the beginning of a new phase in the struggle against pollution in the Arctic when AMAP delivers the second status report to the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in October 2002. This report, he noted, will confirm the importance of the struggle against POPs and heavy metals and includes the emergence of new POPs.

Ambassador Stenlund reported that the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) has made good progress and noted the importance of supporting the ICC initiative to strengthen indigenous participation and local response in adapting to the impact of climate change. He commented on the need for emergency prevention and preparedness as new climate challenges arise, noting that the effects of the Kyoto protocol will not be immediate. He also noted that the Kyoto accord has led to a split among Arctic States: the Nordic countries, the European Union, and Japan have ratified the protocol, but Canada and the Russian Federation have not. The message that the Arctic Council will take to Johannesburg, he said, is that the problems faced in the Arctic—shrinking ice cover and

melting permafrost—are global concerns. The Arctic is as an indicator region of the global environmental health and global developments strongly influence the Arctic.

In conclusion, he expressed his concern that during his tenure as Chair, the Arctic Council has listened to the concerns expressed in a balanced manner. He noted the expanded activities of the Council: including health issues, the future of children and youth, and economic issues that include sustainable tourism, infrastructure, and reindeer herding. He expressed concern that women's issues need to be addressed more effectively, especially the spread of violence against women. And he noted that more study of the social and environmental effects of expanded use of Arctic resources must be conducted.

Ambassador Stenlund concluded by expressing confidence in ICC and its role in expanding circumpolar and international cooperation in the future.

Aqaluk Lyngé commended the Ambassador from Finland for his country having started the “Finnish Initiative” process, which led to the very successful Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) in the early 1990s.

Mr. Lyngé then introduced Ole Henrik Magga, a Saami, and speaking on behalf of the Saami Council and its President, Anne Nuorgam, who could not make the trip. Mr. Lyngé noted that Mr. Magga would speak later in the Assembly as the newly elected chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Mr. Magga stated that Ms. Nuorgam passed on greetings and best wishes to all Inuit gathered in Kuujuaq. She had asked Mr. Magga to assure all Inuit that “she is with you in her heart and rejoices with you.” He added further words from the Saami Council as follows: “The contributions from ICC and all Inuit remain a constant source of inspiration for the Saami, the Saami Council, and indigenous peoples worldwide. The Saami Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation of good partnership for a long time in the furthering of indigenous peoples interests worldwide and particularly in the Arctic”.

Mr. Magga reflected back to the first large official meeting of cooperation between Inuit and Saami during the Arctic Peoples Conference in 1993 in Copenhagen, which he remembered personally. And since 1977, he noted the cooperation on many issues and forums with ICC over the years. He noted especially the Arctic Council and the UN's Working Group on Indigenous Populations, in which ICC and the Saami Council often prepare common positions on a broad range of issues. Mr. Magga also expressed his appreciation on common representations such as the UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples, which he said was established through a common effort of Saami, Inuit, and others in 1975. Mr. Magga stressed that over the years there were many, many personal ties between the Inuit and the Saami people, which should also be acknowledged.

In congratulating ICC on its 25th anniversary, Mr. Magga stressed that “every step forward you make is a step forward for all Arctic peoples. Our fate and future is tied

together. May the creator of all things and the spirits of our ancestors guide you in your work and deliberations”.

Mr. Magga ended by saying he would like to deliver a personal greeting by honouring the Assembly, ancestors, and elders through singing a traditional Saami joik. He stated that Saami people never say that they sing (or joik) about animals, persons, and places, but rather “we sing them”. Mr. Magga’s beautiful joik was about a large stone called *Onnegeadgi* (a stone of good fortune) watching over, and protecting, all the plants, animals, and human beings. This big stone, Mr. Magga said, stands on the coast of northern Norway and has protected and watched for thousands of years. The only words in the song, he said, were “the spirit from the nine valleys”. He suggested that the delegates receive the joik also as referring to “the spirit of the nine ICC General Assemblies”, held since 1977.

Sergei Kharuchi, President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), began by speaking of the benefit of cooperation among the circumpolar countries. He especially praised the role of ICC in giving support and assistance to RAIPON as they joined other organizations in making the world aware of the environmental effects and vulnerability of the Arctic. He commented on the effectiveness of working together under the umbrella of the Arctic Council in making the global community aware of the circumpolar region, one of the least populated and developed areas of the world. He noted that ICC and RAIPON had similar representation and delegation processes that reflect the nature of indigenous societies. He remarked on the cooperation of ICC and RAIPON on issues of capacity building and partnership development and suggested that the next issue on the common agenda is sustainable development.

Mr. Kharuchi ended his address by mentioning the personal connection he now had with Canada as his daughter lives in Iqaluit with her Canadian husband, and just gave birth to a baby boy. He then presented the ICC President with a gift “made from our craftswomen”. Happily receiving the gift, Aqqaluk Lynge noted that “this has been the best speech so far”.

The Honourable Nancy Karetak-Lindell, Member of the Canadian Parliament for Nunavut, congratulated ICC on 25 successful years of advocacy and consensus building. She welcomed the trend towards openness, cooperation, and partnership across the Arctic, which she said was pioneered by ICC. She complimented ICC on its success in bringing northern issues and concerns to the attention of citizens and governments in the south and in initiatives such as the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. She noted that the evidence in the Arctic clearly shows that human activity is straining the planet’s ecological systems – as ICC has successfully shown in the past – and wished ICC well as it develops policies and solutions to guide the organization.

Approval of Agenda

A motion, put forward by Molly Pederson of Alaska, and seconded by Jose Kusugak of Canada to approve the agenda, was unanimously passed.

Approval of 1998 GA Proceedings

Arnold Brower of Alaska made a motion to accept the proceedings of the 1998 (8th) General Assembly, which was held in Nuuk, Greenland. The motion was seconded by Cathy Towtongie of Canada. A vote was taken and the proceedings were approved unanimously.

Appointment of Credentials Committee

Session Chair, Aqqaluk Lynge, noted that the Credentials Committee was generally the outgoing executive council. Jens Lars Fleischer from Greenland moved it as such and Marie Greene from Alaska seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Appointment of Declaration Drafting Committee

Mr. Lynge explained the role of Committee, noting that a Declaration by delegates would guide ICC's work during the next four-year mandate, rather than a series of resolutions as had been the practice at all previous General Assemblies. He stated that, except for rare exceptions, resolutions from the floor would be channelled through the drafting committee. Each country provided two names to the declaration drafting committee. They were Cathy Towtongie and Pita Aatami from Canada, Tatiana Kharchenko and Irina Appa (as a translator) from Russia, Molly Pederson and Lisa Ellanna-Brandt from Alaska, and Amalie Jessen and Kuupik Kleist from Greenland. Marie Green of Alaska moved to accept the names of the declaration drafting committee. Carl Christian Olsen of Greenland seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Musical Presentation — Aavaat Choir

Prior to the President's report, Makka Kleist of Greenland introduced the Aavaat Choir, composed of Greenlanders living in Denmark. They sang *Nuna asilliasooq*, Greenland's national anthem.

President's Report

Aqqaluk Lyngé reported to the Assembly on many of the activities he undertook on behalf of Inuit during his last four-year mandate. He asked each delegate to refer the written President's report for a more comprehensive review of ICC activities since the last General Assembly was held in Nuuk in 1998. In his report, he also provided some of his thoughts on what the future holds for all Inuit, and how ICC might play a role in this future.

Mr. Lyngé drew attention to the fact that among many Inuit bodies at the local, regional, and national levels, ICC was small as an organization. However, in spite of the size of its staff and budget, he remarked how strong its voice was globally, and how successful it has been at making Inuit concerns known internationally, and within each of the 8 Arctic countries.

The activities to which he referred, among many others, included ICC's work with Inuit in Chukotka, assisting other indigenous peoples across Arctic Russia, the promotion of the Inuit language, speaking out internationally on trade issues affecting Inuit, pollution, and Arctic communications and media. He hailed the long-awaited and very recent establishment of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as an example of how perseverance and commitment with other global indigenous peoples can make a difference internationally. He stressed the importance of the Permanent Forum as an international tool to help make a difference at the local level.

Mr. Lyngé called upon the Canadian government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, and addressed the Nunavut premier, Paul Okalik, as well as Quebec ministers Louise Harel and Michel Létourneau by thanking them for their unwavering support on this issue. He also thanked Sheila Watt-Cloutier of Canada for her important role in getting governments to agree to the *Stockholm Convention*, a global agreement to reduce and eventually eliminate persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that enter the Arctic ecosystem from elsewhere.

The ICC President called upon all Inuit to be ready for an increasing focus and interest by others on the Inuit homeland. Although much of this international focus on the Arctic is welcome, much of it is not, he said. He stated that it would be important for all Inuit to make priorities on how to prepare for increasing attacks by animal rights organizations who, through some uninformed journalists, were denigrating the Inuit way of life. He stated that Inuit must also be on guard against the development of unsustainable development projects in their back yard.

In response to these increasing threats and also as a way to promote greater Inuit unity and prosperity, he urged the Assembly to give unanimous support to the work of the three bodies established during his tenure as ICC President. They are the Inuit Language Commission, the Inuit Communications Commission, and the ICC Task Force on Arctic Trade. He stated that Inuit unity and the health of Inuit culture in the future will, in large

part, depend on how well we deal with these matters. He noted the need to plan an Arctic media strategy that will help Inuit communicate better with each other and across the Arctic (rather than towards the South only), especially as new technologies are developed.

Mr. Lyngé closed his report to delegates by stating that after almost 6 years as President, he would not be seeking re-election. He thanked many individuals for supporting him through struggles and successes, especially his wife Erna Lyngé. Upon completing his report, all delegates and guests stood to applaud Mr. Lyngé.

A motion by Michael Pederson of Alaska, seconded by Carl Christian Olsen of Greenland to adopt the ICC President's report was unanimously passed.

Afternoon Session

Overview of Current Issues

Aqqaluk Lyngé, who chaired the afternoon session, asked each delegation from Greenland, Canada, Chukotka, and Alaska to highlight the issues facing Inuit in their respective countries.

| Greenland

The Honourable Hans Enoksen, Minister of Fisheries, Hunting and Settlements of the 23 year old Greenland Home Rule Government, reviewed the Government's ongoing initiatives for the Assembly delegates. Sustainable development is a core issue in Greenland, he said, since Greenland is totally dependent on its natural resources. He noted the environmental challenges facing his people as Greenland explores drilling for oil and mining for gold. An even greater challenge, he said, is utilizing the living resources in a sustainable way; sustainable hunting and fishing are affected by many different factors. Aware of recent criticisms of the Greenland Home Rule Government, he noted that the Government is working even harder to cooperate with other countries to conserve and manage mutual resources, such as the narwhal and beluga stocks, that migrate between Greenlandic and Canadian waters.

Membership in international bodies, such as the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) and other regional fisheries organizations in the North Atlantic, shows, he said, Greenland's concern for scientific information on preserving these resources and desire to work with other countries also harvesting these resources. Although not part of the European Union (EU), he noted that the Greenland Home Rule Government will participate and host an upcoming conference on the EU's Northern Dimension and its unique "Arctic Window" that will help to bring more attention to the

potential and needs of the Arctic peoples. Ongoing concerns are formal cooperation between Nunavut and Greenland, continuing support of the Arctic Winter Games, which Greenland co-hosted last year with Iqaluit, and the future plans by a Canadian company to inaugurate a direct air route between Iqaluit and Nuuk.

Mr. Enoksen praised the work of ICC Greenland, and noted the Home Rule Government's pleasure in the work of Inuit and Saami in the establishment of the UN Permanent Forum.

| **Canada**

Jose Kusugak, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) opened by saying it was only yesterday that we hardly knew about other Inuit, and would only sometimes communicate by short wave radio with them. Now other Inuit come to Canada to tell us about their way of life. He noted the instant communications Inuit have today and, in this regard, reflected on world events, such as September 11th and the related stock market fluctuations, that have affected even the most remote Arctic community. He noted that within minutes of the collapse of the World Trade towers, air travel in the Arctic was halted.

Mr. Kusugak went on to review changes in Arctic Canada since the last ICC General Assembly, including the 1999 creation of Nunavut and the recent signing (agreement-in-principle) of the fourth and last Canadian Inuit Land Claim in Labrador. The current challenge, he noted, is implementing and managing the various existing land claims agreements, rather than negotiating new ones. He believes that his organization's new name, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, adopted in December 2001 and the new logo both demonstrate cultural distinctiveness and commitment to Canada. He noted the role of educating the Government of Canada on Inuit issues. To loud applause, he indicated his intention to ask Canada to change the name of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) to include the word "Inuit" and recognize the distinctiveness of Canada's three aboriginal groups – Indian, Métis, and Inuit. The "one size fits all" approach no longer worked, he said. He also expressed concern that Inuit may not receive a fair share of the social development program money allocated in last year's federal budget. Mr. Kusugak stated that this may have been one of the reasons that DIAND's Minister Robert Nault had sent his regrets and could not be at the Assembly. Mr. Kusugak noted a pattern here and threatened to call Mr. Nault the "Minister of Regrets" from now on.

ITK President Kusugak agreed with earlier remarks made by Aqqaluk Lyngé that we need to work hard to preserve and promote the Inuit language, and one day we will have a common orthography. He also noted that environmental issues are of great importance in the Arctic, and the Inuit have had some influence on the government, as shown in the Species at Risk Act and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. He said that Inuit are working to inform the Arctic and world communities about contaminants in the Arctic and the influence of climate change on the Arctic. He also noted that health issues related to Inuit are being identified and addressed. In economics, he reported that the land

claim organizations are moving towards economic and social self-reliance for Inuit; a new northern gas pipeline in Canada's western Arctic promises new economic stimulus. In socio-economics, he noted that Canadian Inuit are pushing for policies tailored to our culture and circumstances; developing a National Inuit Agenda is a significant part of this effort. He also reported on efforts to get Canada's Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to develop a more flexible funding formula and work toward the ultimate goal of self-reliance. He complimented the ITK communications department on bringing awareness of the Inuit to Canadians and the world through the new, effective web site. Our challenge, he concluded, now that the world is increasingly becoming aware of the Inuit, is to enlighten the world about who we are, including our needs and concerns.

In making reference to the beautiful new building in which the ICC General Assembly was being held, Jose Kusugak informed everyone that "the paint on this podium is still wet". He then referred back to 25 years ago when he had the pleasure of chairing the session in which the first charter of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference was drafted. He noted that fellow Canadian Inuk, Johnny Peters, had also been there and asked him to say a few words. Mr. Peters thanked Aqqaluk Lynge and others who had made ICC a reality, including the ICC founder, Eben Hopson, Sr. of Alaska. To loud applause, Mr. Kusugak ended by telling delegates that hunters in Igloodik had just today harpooned a bowhead whale.

! **Chukotka**

Lubov Tayan of Chukotka was asked to speak on behalf of Irina Khomitskaya, President of the Association of Indigenous Minorities of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug. She remarked that although she was not the Association's President, she was proud to wear that hat for the next few minutes. She brought greetings from Ms. Khomitskaya congratulating ICC for its 25th anniversary and noted that the Chukotka Association recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. Ms. Tayan thanked the Town of Kuujuaq for its great hospitality, but noted its mosquitoes were considerably larger "than those found at home in Chukotka".

In her remarks, Ms. Tayan paid tribute to Ludmilla Ainana, former ICC council member and activist for Yupik in Russia, and on-going President of the Yupik Society of Chukotka.

Ms. Tayan informed delegates about the current situation in Chukotka, its economy, social conditions and political process. She said that although there were still grave problems facing Yupik and other indigenous peoples, there was some hope since the new Governor, Roman Abramovich, had been elected. Currently, there is a process in place in which indigenous peoples and other groups can put forward proposals to the Chukotka Government for assistance. Both the Yupik Society and the Association of Indigenous Minorities have put forward several proposals. One proposal that is of importance relates to law enforcement, she said.

On the economic development front, Ms. Tayan noted that Chukotka was preparing its lands for possible increased gold mining, oil extraction, among other things. She said, however, that the issue of indigenous peoples rights must be front and centre. In this regard she remarked on a proposal that aimed at ensuring their rights had been forwarded to the Chukotka Administration for their perusal. This proposal included a work plan until 2011. She passed on the wish by Irina Khomitskaya that a Chukotka youth council be established as it was important to look at the future with youth in mind.

She added that she currently works as an instructor at a college, where she was responsible for education. The chair of the teacher's council, Ms. Aivana Ennenkau, she noted is currently studying international law of indigenous peoples at a four-month workshop organized within the framework of UN apprenticeships. She hoped that in the future this training would significantly help the activities of the youth in Chukotka.

In closing, Ms. Tayan said the time for hope in Chukotka had finally arrived and a true cooperation between indigenous peoples and its Government seemed to be taking hold. She also said that people were starting to say that it was themselves who had to make their living a better one, not someone else. She said their proposals are finding a voice, and that "the ice is melting".

Alaska

Mike Irwin, Chief of Staff for the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) passed on greetings on behalf of Julie Kitka who was unable to attend the General Assembly. Mr. Irwin introduced himself as an Athabaskan from the interior of Alaska, who grew up in a small log house without running water and electricity. He attributed much of who he is today to his grandparents influence, especially his grandfather who told him to "read, read, read".

He noted that Alaskan Natives were starting to take their rights, rather than ask for them as they had in the past. In this light, he said the right to self-determination was the central theme for most Alaskan Natives. He outlined a few successful examples in which Natives had taken their rights such as health and economics. Mr. Irwin detailed the Alaska Native Health Care System, which included a very impressive hospital set up exclusively by Natives, staffed by Natives and run by Natives. This state-of-the-art hospital combined the latest technologies with traditional healing when requested. In the area of economics, Mr. Irwin reviewed the impact of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the pioneering establishment of the North Slope Borough in 1972. He said that through ANCSA, Natives now owned 97 percent of all private land in the state, controlled enormous assets, had US\$2.1 billion in revenue last year (which resulted in dividends payments to Native families in the order of \$50 million), provided 10,000 jobs state-wide, and donated \$8 million to charities and \$5 million to scholarships.

Although Alaskan Natives were doing relatively well in some areas, many of the 229 recognized tribes in Alaska needed to do better. Politically, there were many hurdles and there were constant battles with both the State of Alaska and the US federal

government over jurisdiction, human rights, and other matters. Much of this was related, he said, to the fact that Alaska had changed its state constitution 27 times; some of these changes having been a direct erosion of Native rights. Fortunately, during the Nixon years, there was some support from the US government but today, both Alaska and the federal government, as well as their Courts were once again trying to erode Native rights. He noted that the Courts used to be the last places of defence for Natives “but they are today more often rendering unfavourable rulings against Natives”. He went on to say that Natives could not rely or even trust the Alaskan government, citing a recent example of how it tried to influence the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in taking away the whaling quotas of “our whaling captains”.

Today, Mr. Irwin stated, that the “right wing governments in both Alaska and United States” are working hard to abrogate legal rights of Native Peoples and therefore it was even more important to forge strong allies with, and learn from the experiences of, their Arctic neighbours in Greenland, Canada, in Saami land, and elsewhere. Self-determination is tenuous in many parts of Alaska, but by resolving not to give in and through international partnerships and assistance, Mr. Irwin said he believed Alaskan Natives would prevail. He ended by saying that Alaska Natives must take back the right to self-determination and discuss among themselves on what it means. He was optimistic that Alaska Natives will take charge of its destiny through self-governance. Mr. Irwin stated “all critical problems facing indigenous peoples are rooted in the lack of self-determination”. Examples of these problems include, he said, political marginalization, deteriorating rights, poverty and economic marginalization, social disruption among families, and the woeful lack of recognition and respect for indigenous cultures by the majority populations. But, he said, Natives do not need to seek permission to pursue self-determination and Mr. Irwin was optimistic that this would happen in Alaska.

Report on Activities of ICC Commissions

Aqqaluk Lynge provided the delegates with a brief background to what he said were three important bodies set up following the last General Assembly. He noted that the areas of Inuit language, communications, and trade would be crucial areas of work for Inuit, and if they did not deal with them proactively and definitively over the next decade, Inuit culture and prosperity would be severely stressed. He saw the Commissions and Task Force as excellent vehicles to deal with these issues and asked delegates to give continued support to them. He thanked the Commission Chairs for their work and for the members who had given of their time since 1998. Mr. Lynge reminded delegates that discussions on these matters would be part of the agenda on Wednesday.

! Inuit Language Commission

Language Commission Chair, Carl Christian Olsen, Puju, referred delegates to the written Commission report that had been made available to them, and went on to highlight some

of the issues. He thanked the members of the Commission, Nina Emmenkau from Chukotka, Jose Kusugak from Canada, Nuka Møller from Greenland, and Darlene Orr from Alaska. Puju also thanked Aqqaluk Lynge for his involvement in the Commission. He noted that it would not feel right to deliver the report in any other dialect, but his own Greenlandic.

In 1998 the commission received considerable mandate to study various questions on the promotion of the Inuit language. Puju outlined the purpose of the commission, which he said was 1) to act as a forum for Inuit to discuss any issue related to language; 2) to investigate the possibility of creating a common writing system for all Inuit languages; 3) to provide recommendations to the Executive Council on the development of one writing system for our languages; and 4) to provide recommendations to the Executive Council concerning actions, methods, and opportunities for conserving and promoting the Inuit language. The Language Commission was also mandated to approach various language related organizations, such as UNESCO, the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO) for various kinds of support and assistance.

The Language Commission Chair then reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission's work thus far. He said that the Commission had concluded that the Inuit language was definitely at risk and is disappearing in some Arctic regions, but it was strong in others. The Commission had recommended that one way of possibly rejuvenating the language would be to introduce a common writing system and, as such, was recommending that this idea be further pursued through consultations across the Arctic. He noted that literacy in Inuit language should be seen as a right. Related to this, the Commission noted that Inuit geographical and proper names needed to be more widely recognized. The major task for the Commission in the future would be to determine to what degree each of the parallel goals of language rejuvenation and discussing a possible common writing system should be emphasized.

With respect to rejuvenation, the Commission hopes to promote development of dictionaries, student exchanges, use of technologies such as the Internet, cultural camps for children, legislative initiatives, and Inuit language centres.

With respect to looking at a common writing system, or even a move towards standardization of a language, Puju emphasized that this could only be done through a comprehensive and wide ranging public consultation. But, he added, "a common writing system for Inuit may be closer than we think." Puju mentioned the importance of further extensive data gathering to get an even better understanding of the current state of the Inuit language. He ended by stating, "Inuit should also promote use of computer assisted language technology and promote the development of teaching materials to be used in schools and other learning institutions". The Commission Chair read the remaining recommendations, which he urged people to read in the report, if they had not already done so. He then said he hoped the General Assembly would give the Commission another 4-year mandate.

! Inuit Communications Commission

Aqqaluk Lynge then introduced Kuupik Kleist as a former ICC Executive Council member, a former member of the Greenland government, and current member of the Danish parliament. Before giving his report, Mr. Kleist stated that it was so good to meet old friends, and to make new ones here in Kuujjuaq.

Stressing the importance of the Inuit Language and Communications commissions working together (because they ultimately have the same goal), he stated that the first communications commission goes back to the days of the Greenlandic explorer, Knud Rasumussen, who travelled throughout the Inuit homeland with sledge dogs. Mr. Kleist said that communications has been an urgent item discussed for a very, very long time, and it was good to have a body such as the Commission to deal with real life issues. He stressed that the Commission very quickly came to realize the importance of developing more communication from East to West and West to East in the Arctic – as the South to North lines were already quite busy. Communication is the best tool for our unity, he stated.

Mr. Kleist thanked members of the Commission – mentioning them by name – for the work they have been doing on the Commission. He thanked the ICC President, Aqqaluk Lynge, for his active involvement in the Commission's work. "We need to have practical goals and not just theories, and I hope that the Commission continues in this vein". Mr. Kleist introduced the idea of an Arctic media conference in the near future. He noted that the Commission was asking for another four-year mandate, but he wanted it restructured to allow membership from experts who have professional background in the field. He also mentioned another important recommendation – that of establishing an Arctic news agency to provide news from throughout the Arctic countries. He noted that serious consideration should be given to establishing an Arctic television network. Additionally, "we should establish training sessions, on a biennial basis, for Arctic journalists". He ended by stating that "better communication among us is the best tool for our unity. "If we don't hear from one another, we can't develop our goals together". He reminded the delegates that they would have an opportunity to discuss the Commission's recommendations on Wednesday, and urged the delegates to review them in his report before then.

Aqqaluk Lynge thanked Mr. Kleist for his report, noting that as a member of the Danish parliament, he was not allowed to speak Greenlandic as he had just done. Mr. Lynge then asked Amalie Jessen, Chair of the ICC Task Force on Arctic Trade to present her report.

! ICC Task Force on Arctic Trade

Amalie Jessen, Deputy Minister of Hunting, Fishing and Settlements in the Greenland Home Rule Government, spoke for the Task Force. She noted her pride in the Task Force work. She thanked ICC for asking her to be its chair, and to her employer, for allowing her the time to work on this important file. She named the Task Force members and

reminded the delegates of the upcoming panel on Wednesday where they could bring their questions and feedback to the report. Ms. Jessen guided the delegates through her written report, the full text of which is available from ICC.

She said that as a Greenlander, she was constantly aware of trade issues, seeing fishers and hunters coming into Nuuk to sell their catch at the open-air market, *Kalaaliaraq*. She stated that in her position in the Greenland Home Rule Government she was also brought face to face with international trade issues, such as the Danish, European Union, and other countries' regulations regarding the export of meat and other products from Greenland. "Trade is integral to the economy in all parts of the world, but trade in the Arctic is unique on several fronts" Partly, she said this was because the Arctic is so far away from markets, but also because it is based on renewable resources. In this context, she stated that it was of special importance to "enlighten the world" on renewable resource matters. In particular, many products were unfair targets of the animal rights' movement and Inuit needed to find a way to "enlighten" individuals and nations not to pay heed to false, unfair, and harmful statements emanating from these organizations. The new path of globalization, exemplified in part by the establishment of the European Union and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), was presenting further unique problems to Inuit, the Task Force chair stated. She noted that the Task Force was established to provide guidance on trade topics to the executive of the ICC and that it had over the 4 years discussed numerous substantive and far reaching issues both in its meetings and as exemplified in its written report detailing the Task Force's recommendations.

She noted that the Task Force had tried to grapple with innumerable issues and, as such, it became more of a discussion forum that identified issues, rather than finding solutions for all of them. Given the limited resources available, the Task Force may have to establish a list of priorities over the next 4 years. She said, however, that the wide-ranging discussion gave the Task Force a broad understanding of many trade issues of importance to Inuit. She mentioned only some of them: intellectual property rights (for example, the issue of the use of the Inukshuk by non-Inuit for marketing purposes), meat inspection standards, transportation costs as a trade barrier, WTO regional exemptions, collaborations with so-called like-minded organizations, regional trade councils, Task Force participation in Expo 2000 in Germany, analyzing NAFTA, WTO, and EU, public campaigns, and lobbying. Ms. Jessen gave an example of the importance of standardizing meat inspections, by stating that in 1993, Greenland put a moratorium on the hunting of caribou due to lowering numbers. Because Greenland is subject to EU veterinary standards, it was not able to import caribou meat from Nunavik. In fact, Ms. Jessen stated, Greenlanders who spend time in the hospital in Copenhagen, for example, are allowed very little traditional food to be taken with them due to Danish import standards. "Meat inspection standards are a trade barrier and we need to address this".

One of the more important issues that the Task Force dealt with, Ms. Jessen stated, was the issue of the USA's Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). An important and constructive dialogue among Greenlanders, Canadians, Alaskan indigenous peoples fostered a better understanding of how the MMPA affected the various regions. It was a

complicated, yet enlightening process, Ms. Jessen noted. She said that through this dialogue, Greenlanders and Canadians were now better aware of how parts of the MMPA actually assisted Alaskan Natives, whereas many Alaskans were understanding of how other sections of the MMPA hindered Inuit from exporting their products. She noted that the dialogue was a significant achievement and would form the basis for further discussion and, hopefully travel exchanges between the various Arctic regions, to see first-hand how marine mammal products are important components of each region's economy.

She briefly reviewed the 7 recommendations of the report, and then asked the Assembly delegates to include in the GA's "Kuujjuaq Declaration" a mandate to continue its work in another four-year mandate, with increased funding, to continue our very important work and continue dialogue on the United States Marine Mammals Protection Act, and numerous other matters.

Closing Musical Presentation – Alaska and Greenland

Aqqaluk Lyngé asked Tom Opie to lead more than 50 Alaskan Inuit, dressed in traditional anoraks, as well as the Aavaat choir, to close the day's formal activities. After a beautiful performance by the Northern Lights Dancers from Kotzebue, Alaska's head of delegation, Michael Pederson, stated that in honour of the recent death of one of a delegate's family member, the Alaskan choir would sing "How Great Thou Art". After the beautiful hymn concluded, several of the Alaskans started a rousing drum dance. They invited other delegates to join the dance.

The Aavaat choir then concluded with three songs, one of which, according to conductor Mads Lumholt, spoke of a lonesome sailor and his need for womanly love. Delegates and others joined hands and swayed to this beautiful song. The final piece, sung *a cappella*, was written by choir member, Jørgen Petersen.

The opening day chair, Aqqaluk Lyngé, then closed the meeting for the day and reminded delegates and guests about the evening's reception hosted by the Kativik Regional Government and the Town of Kuujjuaq. He also invited people to attend the evening's cultural activities, including the *Aqpik Jam*, a music festival held in parallel with the General Assembly.

PROCEEDINGS OF ICC'S 9TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



INUIT VOICE - ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD

Tuesday, August 13, 2002

Chair Aqqaluk Lynge opened the meeting by thanking delegates, guest speakers, and performers for a wonderful opening day. He also commented upon the incredible reception by Kuujuaq's citizens, and the impressive cultural activities the night before.

Session I – United Nations and Human Rights

Before introducing the panel members for the discussion on ICC's work in the area of human rights and the UN, Mr. Lynge provided a short background to the current issues as follows:

“ICC's international NGO status at the United Nations has allowed it to speak out loudly on matters of human rights and other issues on behalf of Inuit for many years. Work inside the UN has often been slow, but ICC, along with other indigenous peoples' organizations, has one step at a time, put forward Inuit positions on many issues. This has now resulted in welcome and dramatic progress. The last 4 years of work on both the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have proven to be extremely fruitful. ICC is very proud of its input into the establishment of the Permanent Forum and looks forward to receiving input from delegates as ICC establishes its areas of priority within the Forum. Also, we require your support as ICC and other organizations work towards having the UN adopt the current Draft Declaration before the end of the UN Decade of Indigenous Peoples in 2004.”

Mr. Lynge then asked the first panel member, Ole Henrik Magga, to address the Assembly, mentioning that he had met Mr. Magga during the first Arctic Leaders' Summit held in 1973. He introduced Mr. Magga as “one of the best lawyers in Sápmi (Saami Land).”

Ole Henrik Magga, Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, explained that the role of the newly formed Forum is to discuss and provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the UN Economic and Social Council and other UN bodies. He thanked all Inuit and especially its international organization, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, for its unwavering support and cooperation with Saami people and other indigenous peoples on human rights work. The Permanent Forum, he said, is charged with raising awareness of issues important to indigenous peoples, and it seeks to guarantee that these issues are taken into account by UN bodies. There are already concrete results from the first session of the Forum, which was held in May 2002, he said, including the decision to issue an annual State of the World Report on Indigenous Issues and a push for the World Health Organization (WHO) to establish an Indigenous

Peoples Health Advisory Group. To be most effective, he noted, the Forum must have a secretariat with funds to adequately function; the UN will deal with this issue in the autumn. He closed by quoting UN Secretary General Kofi Annan that with the establishment of this forum, indigenous peoples have joined the UN family. The Forum represents possibilities as well as challenges, he stated, and it can be the starting point for facing problems of indigenous peoples in the world community.

The ICC President then introduced the next speaker, Dalee Sambo Dorough, as a good friend and fellow Inuk from Alaska who had worked with ICC for a very long time. He stated that she was a leading expert on international law, especially in matters of human rights.

Dalee Sambo Dorough thanked Aqqaluk Lynge and Hjalmar Dahl of Greenland for their hard work and dedication to work at the United Nations on behalf of all Inuit. She said they charted a course for Inuit diplomacy in this field. She also paid tribute to former ICC President Mary Simon for her commitment and international diplomacy on these matters.

She asked delegates to refer to the written report about ICC's United Nations work and then highlighted several areas of note. Ms. Dorough spoke briefly about the history of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP) and the draft on the rights of indigenous peoples. The group has several mandates, including reviewing the conditions and status of indigenous peoples; the second mandate was concluded in 1994 with the delivery of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that eventually went to the Commission on Human Rights, where it now is under review. This is a highly political and volatile body and there have been many debates between members over human rights abuses within the commission, she said. Now is a critical turning point on this draft declaration that touches on every single aspect and element of the day-to-day lives of indigenous peoples. The objective of the declaration, she said, is to ensure that the international community has a set of standards that embraces our distinct values, customs, practices, languages, and institutions. She noted that this declaration goes further than the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in taking into account the distinct views of indigenous peoples. Instead of focusing on individual rights, it recognizes the important collective dimension of our communities and the fact that we as communities work together in a fashion that very few people have demonstrated elsewhere, she said. She emphasized that for indigenous peoples the collective rights as also important. Many western governments are troubled by collective rights and have difficulty accepting and supporting this notion in the Draft Declaration. We have determined that the Declaration needs "a balance between individual and collective rights".

Ms. Dorough stated that another contentious issue was the right of all people to self-determination, including indigenous peoples. States read the language to mean allowing indigenous peoples to secede and become independent, whereas this is not the desire of most indigenous peoples. Numerous governments have fought inclusion of the rights to self-determination, not understanding the way the term is used by indigenous peoples. Some of these contentious issues are outlined in documents that Ms. Dorough

stated delegates had at their disposal. ICC will need to decide what to do if this language is removed from the document submitted to the UN, she stated. We need to think of ways that we can use this document in our own circumstances, for example, the use of sea ice, which is included in the draft document.

Mr. Lyngé then introduced Henriette Rasmussen as a former member of the Greenland Parliament and former minister of social affairs. She had also worked, he said, for almost four years as the chief technical advisor on indigenous peoples at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva.

Henriette Rasmussen started her address by stating that ICC is admired in the international field of human rights and for its dedication to working with other indigenous peoples on these matters. Ms. Rasmussen gave a brief background to her work inside the ILO, a UN agency based in Geneva. She stressed that although the Permanent Forum, the Draft Declaration, and other important international instruments are extremely worthwhile, we should not forget the considerable legal weight that the ILO Conventions have (which include ILO 169, its predecessor ILO 107, and another one on the way). She stated that they were legally binding upon nations who had ratified them and were, in fact, the only legal instruments available to indigenous peoples on matters of human rights, the right to participate in the political process, the right to be consulted, the right to self-determination, and the right to the resources of traditional lands. "Let's use them and make them work". She said Inuit could use them internationally but they were also useful for indigenous peoples inside nations, for example for Greenlanders "inside Denmark", for the people of Nunavut "inside Canada", and for the Saami people "inside the Nordic countries". She ended by saying Inuit need to train their youth (through internships and other means) in matters of human rights and, especially, the ILO Conventions. "The work is tough and we need to be well prepared."

Aqqaq Lyngé reported that he had been asked to address the Inuit elders' conference during the break that was being held partially in parallel with the General Assembly. He passed on greetings from the elders before introducing the next panel member, Sergei Kharuchi, the President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON). He thanked Mr. Kharuchi for filling in for Mr. Oleg Orestovich Mironov, Human Rights Commissioner from Russia who was unable to make it to Kuujuaq.

Sergei Kharuchi said he would like to help delegates and observers to gain an understanding of some of the human rights issues facing Russian indigenous peoples. He said he would do this not only from the viewpoint of being the chair of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), but also as the Speaker of the Duma (or parliament) of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region of Russia. "It's one of the largest territories and it has a tremendous energy potential," he noted. He added that he had recently acquired his doctorate in law, which was related to securing the rights of indigenous peoples in the Russian Federation. RAIPON, he said, represented 48 indigenous peoples, 40 of those located in the North, Siberia, and the Far East. He noted that the Russian Federation has recently realized that within a larger international context, matters of the rights of indigenous peoples issues were important and, as a result,

has enacted several laws in this regard. He explained to the Assembly several elements of some of these laws, including a law entitled, “Rights and Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples” and another “framework law” on territories and use of lands in the far north. Because of the vastness of the territories and the large number (28) of the subjects addressed, it was difficult to have a final detailed law encompassing all the matters of importance. As such, this framework law was a very good start and would give guidance to more detailed legislative drafting in the near future on matters of importance to local areas. Although Mr. Kharuchi was very optimistic about this framework law, he did mention the problem of complete lack of financing for the next steps to be taken. He stressed the importance of traditional knowledge. He further cautioned that for Russian indigenous peoples and, for that matter, any group worldwide to effect change for their communities, that “we must be intellectually prepared” in order to be taken seriously.

! Discussion Among Delegates – UN and Human Rights

In response to the panel members’ interventions, several delegates added various comments. The first to speak was Cathy Towtongie of Canada. She thanked Aqqaluk for his presidency and stated that following yesterday’s successful hunt in Igloolik, she and Nunavut’s Minister for Sustainable Development were arranging for almost a hundred pounds of bowhead muktuk to be flown into Kuujuaq to share with delegates and friends here. She used the taking of a bowhead whale in Igloolik as a key example of human rights. She thanked Canada for having withdrawn from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) several years ago. This act, she said, was an example of Canada supporting our human right to live the Inuit way of life. If Canada had not withdrawn from the IWC, this whale would not have been taken, she said. She went on to say that the two issues of individual and collective rights were often misunderstood and, in this context, she wanted to respond to Peter Stendlund’s comments on gender equality of the opening day. Ms. Towtongie noted that the way in which feminism had been brought to Inuit had sometimes been destructive for the Inuit way of life. She continued by saying that Inuit leaders need to take a greater stand on the pressing and more difficult social issues facing us. She remarked that she disagreed with those that say that social issues such as alcoholism, suicide, and other self-destructive behaviours were not part of their mandate as Inuit leaders. She also called upon Inuit leaders to speak out against same-sex marriages and other difficult questions they often do not want to face. She stated her regret that the General Assembly agenda had not provided for a specific session on social issues. She concluded by saying she had learned much from her uncle in Igloolik who practised *Selooktut* which involved a ceremony of swallowing a seal heart thereby rejecting an animistic past, replacing it with the Judeo-Christian value system.

After introducing Hjalmar Dahl, Aqqaluk Lyngé left to speak to the youth session and Michael Pederson was invited to chair the meeting in his absence.

Aqqaluk Lyngé introduced Hjalmar Dahl, stating that although he was not a panel member, he was regarded as ICC’s staff expert on all matters related to human rights and

United Nations' work, and as such thought it was important for ICC delegates to hear from him. Mr. Dahl stressed to delegates the importance of the General Assembly to provide support to ICC in making sure that the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was passed soon. He outlined many of the hurdles still to be crossed. Mr. Dahl also provided a description of the recently established UN Advisory Body that would give advice to ICC on all matters of the increasing load of UN work. He mentioned that Henriette Rasmussen, Dalee Sambo Dorough, and Minnie Grey had been nominated to the body, and that Aqqaluk Lyngé would serve as its first chair.

Pita Aatami of Canada stated that he had read ICC's report on UN activities and had listened carefully to what the panel members had said. His sense was that ICC was asking delegates for direction in how to approach the on-going negotiations at the UN with respect to the Draft Declaration. He wondered if ICC should set a deadline for its lobbying efforts or should ICC accept a "watered-down" version of the UN Declaration if that is the only way UN government members would support a universal declaration on indigenous peoples' rights. He noted that this process had started as far back as 1994 and asked "how much longer should we push for the exact wording?" He said he did not feel he had enough information to give guidance and would like to hear the views of ICC's executive council. Personally, he hoped that the Draft as it stood would be adopted by the UN, but he would like further discussion on this very important issue.

Michael Pederson of Alaska, who had temporarily taken over the session chair in Aqqaluk Lyngé's absence, said there was a greater willingness in some circles to accept greater recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and he cited the recent change of heart of the long-standing position of the USA to accept the language of "peoples with an s", rather than "people without an s". He also mentioned that it was a file that Inuit in Alaska found extremely important but had not had sufficient resources to participate in as much as they would have liked. He pledged to continue to offer Greenland Inuit, who were taking the lead on this file, the Alaskan support on its efforts to get the Draft Declaration signed as is.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier of Canada echoed Mr. Pederson's comments that ICC-Canada had not been able to commit as many resources to this issue as it had hoped, but noted the Greenland office of ICC had done a good job in taking the lead of this file. Responding to Mr. Aatami's assertion that it had been a very long time in the making, Ms. Watt-Cloutier stated that that is the nature of international work, diplomacy, and lobbying that ICC involves itself in; "it really takes a long time for these issues to bear fruit". Although ICC and other indigenous peoples organizations had, she added, hoped to have the drafting completed and accepted by the UN by the end of the UN Decade of Indigenous Peoples (in 2004), she was of the opinion that Inuit should not be necessarily confined to that deadline.

In response to a question to panellists from Greenlander, Carl Christian Olsen, on the international implications of "extinguishing the rights of indigenous peoples", Dalee Sambo Dorough explained the process of international law that applies to this issue. Among other things, she noted that there are things such as "pre-emptory norms" that

cannot be overturned by governments – it is simply prohibited by international law. The question often posed, she said, deals with the USA government that has had the practice of purportedly extinguishing the rights of indigenous peoples in the United States. She cited the problems of hunting and fishing rights of Alaska natives in the light of the Alaska Native Claims Settlements Act (ANCSA) of 1971. Other agreements and settlements have contained a “certainty” clause, which is essentially an extinguishment clause, she added. “It’s the growing view of academics, scholars, and others, and myself, that these policies of extinguishment are highly questionable in terms of who has the power to extinguish the rights of other peoples.” In the context of the USA congress, “Who gave it the power to extinguish the rights of other peoples”, she asked? She said this certainly does not square with the pre-emptory norms of international law. Technically, she said, extinguishment is inconsistent with the norms of international law.

Arnold Brower of Alaska asked the panel if it will allow the discriminating policies of the UN if its member countries water down the Draft Declaration and, if so, how useful would the Declaration really be, and how useful is it even if we get what we want?

Ms. Dorrough stated that the guidance ICC is looking for is on the Draft’s most contentious issues, namely Article 3, which deals with self-determination. All other international human rights covenants contain almost exactly the same language with respect to the rights of peoples to self-determination and “we say that the same language applies to us, so it should be in the Declaration as well”. States are now asserting, she said, that they want the right and the authority to prescribe exactly the extent of our right to self-determination – which, in turn, would be a different standard and different language from that which we assert. She stated that this was at the heart of the issue – that some governments would be trying to introduce discriminatory language in the context of indigenous people. Why would it be that all other peoples have this standard, but indigenous people have a lesser standard, based upon their race, she asked? In response, she said indigenous peoples have asserted that to have different standard applied to them “would be discrimination based upon our race and our ethnicity”. The United Nations, which is supposed to represent the pinnacle of human rights, must respect our rights equally with all other peoples and not introduce double standards in our particular context, she added. All indigenous peoples in the drafting process, Ms. Dorrough said, regard this as a threshold issue. If, she stated, states are successful in weakening the text on Article 3, “is this a document that we can or should support?” She noted that this was one of the pinnacle issues on the question of equality.

As to Mr. Brower’s question of the Declaration’s usefulness, Ms. Dorrough provided him with a few examples. First, it can serve as useful language inside nations when indigenous peoples are drafting their own laws or lobbying their governments to draft laws favourable to indigenous peoples. As an example, she cited a child welfare law that the Yupik of Alaska had drafted. They analyzed and took the best pieces from their customary Yupik law, from national laws, borrowed from the international Convention on the Rights of Children, and from language found in the Draft Declaration. As such, Ms. Dorrough noted, the Declaration had usefulness even before it was adopted. Ms. Dorrough then provided a second example using the permanent participant status

indigenous peoples' organizations inside the Arctic Council. She said that the Declaration could be used later to codify this "basic right to participate" at a later date, but also noted that this was only one tool among many tools, such as the strength and authority of own peoples and communities and national laws.

Mr. Brower thanked her for her answer on the usefulness of the document, but he still had some concerns regarding whether or not ICC will allow discrimination to continue to be promoted at the United Nations.

Henriette Rasmussen reiterated that the ILO Conventions had legally binding teeth for those countries that had ratified them. She stated her support, however, for promoting Draft Declaration as it stands and reminded Mr. Brower that there was nothing discriminatory about how the Draft now stood, but it was several governments who wanted to change the language of the Declaration that could make it somewhat discriminatory, depending upon what is finally agreed upon.

Lisa Ellanna-Brandt of Alaska, introduced herself as a community member from King Island, which has a strong culture and identity. She asked Mr. Magga to comment on the rights of King Islanders regarding a music group from New York who want to tell their story, use their name, and are misrepresenting their culture. The group's lawyers, she noted, has told King Islanders that they do not intend to stop doing this.

Mr. Magga responded by looking at issues of 1) history and 2) current legislation. He stated that it was a very, very delicate and complicated matter and knew of no legislation in any country that would prohibit the telling of another culture's story because it could violate many "freedom of speech" laws. He said he also had a personal experience in which there had been a 150-year-old story told about his own Saami village recently and it was very inaccurate. He suggested one area in which to work on these issues is inside the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). In the end he said there was a conflict between our right to freedom of speech and our right to protect our cultural assets.

Violet Ford of Canada, who introduced herself as an Inuk from Labrador, and as someone who had done considerable work with WIPO, she noted that ICC had observer status with WIPO and that this issue could be brought to their attention. Michael Pederson noted an upcoming WIPO meeting in December 2002.

Jose Kusugak of Canada asked the panel for assistance in determining how to proceed from a human rights perspective on the Government of Canada's broken promises regarding housing in Inuit communities. Although he said Inuit were not looking for handouts, it was a matter of an agreement of housing provision that had not only been broken but has resulted in upwards of 12 people and 4 families living in crowded conditions in homes. Basic needs, such as healthy housing, he said, was definitely a matter of human rights. He noted that there was a double standard applied in Canada when one compared what Inuit received in housing compared to what other indigenous peoples in Canada received.

In response, Dalee Sambo Dorough suggested that two aspects of international human rights law could be brought to bear on Mr. Kusugak's scenario. First, she suggested to him that he could work with others in similar situations and use international instruments to build solid arguments with impeccable documentation of who said what when. This documentation could involve bringing the matter eventually to the UN Commission on Human Rights, who could give their opinion on the matter. Mr. Kusugak could use in his arguments issues of fiduciary obligations of the government, among other things. He could make references to many other international conventions, draft or otherwise, to assist him in preparing his strategy.

Uusaqqak Qujaukitsoq from Greenland informed delegates that current human rights matter in which he and others were forcibly relocated from their homes and region in northern Greenland in 1953 was still in front of the Courts (now the Supreme Court of Denmark) and that it had taken almost 30 years to get this far. He noted that it took perseverance on the part of *Hingitaaq* 53, the organization he founded to represent the victims and descendants, as well as many submissions to the United Nations, other international bodies, including the ILO, and organizations and courts inside Denmark. He said one needed support and help from a variety of places and thanked Aqqaluk Lyngø and ICC in this regard.

Joannasie Akumalik from Arctic Bay, Canada said that because this important issue would affect our youth's future profoundly that "we must do the Declaration right" and carefully. Mr. Akumalik wished to know, however, what specific support is ICC seeking on this issue – Was it funding? Was it general support? Noting that the written report stated only two articles in the Draft Declaration had been adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights (gender and nationality), could an indigenous people not claim nationality as a collective people?

With respect to one of these questions, Panel Chair Michael Pederson said it was not direct funding that the Council was seeking at this time, but more general support and the type of guidance would be put in the eventual Kuujuaq Declaration to be voted on later in the week.

Ms. Dorough responds to the question regarding the adoption of only two articles by explaining that states have been adopting the Draft Declaration article by article and introducing their suggested changes. Indigenous peoples have maintained that the wording as it stands now is the best formulation, but then, she said, "you have the states coming with different positions". She noted that Article 5 dealt almost solely with the issues of us as individuals, in an individual fashion, having the right to nationality and "your linkage to the issue of self-determination and self-government does not come automatically". The article is confined to the issue of having the right to a nationality – to identify oneself within a given state. The Declaration has to be read in context from one article to the next: one can see that there are important linkages among the articles, Ms. Dorough noted.

Johnny Peters, a Canadian delegate, stated that we must look at both what the government has taken from Inuit and get it back, as well as look at the leadership problems facing Inuit since outsiders came to Inuit land. Before, he said, Inuit listened to the counsel of elders; now the youth do not listen and all Inuit follow advice from the outside.

Cathy Towtongie of Canada suggested that the Draft Declaration should have something about the relevance of both the traditional and non-traditional economies. There was also a need to recognize that in non-Inuit society, people were an independent economic unit, whereas in Inuit society, individuals were dependent upon elders until they died.

Chair Michael Pederson noted that today was Greenland Day and everyone was invited to see a 30-minute video, *Inuk Silis* (Eskimo Story) presented by the Greenland delegation during lunch.

Aqaluk Lyngé chaired the end of the morning session. He responded to Ms. Towtongie's earlier concern that social issues were extremely important matters by noting that the executive council in preparing the agenda had agreed that social issues were very important, and that each part of Inuit society impacted upon social matters. Because of this, the Council had decided that social issues would be integrated into each agenda item, rather than have a standalone section. Mr. Lyngé then went on to say that he welcomed anyone to bring up social issues under each agenda item during the rest of the week. He also agreed with Jose Kusugak the social issue of adequate and healthy housing was a human rights matter and that his discussion on the matter was most welcome.

Mr. Lyngé stated that he wanted to add some information to what Mr. Qujaukitsoq had said regarding those exiled from where the USA Thule Air Force base now is situated. He said that it appeared there was no longer a political solution for *Hingitaaq 53* in their quest to redress the human rights abuse its members and families suffered. He spoke of ICC's role, which used its international reputation as an intervenor to assist them in bringing the case to the UN's Human Rights Committee, among other international bodies. He said just recently the Committee had come out with a statement that it "had serious regrets" that the Thule case had not yet been settled in the Danish Courts. Another UN body, the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, has also started to look into the matter, expressing an opinion on the Danish situation every year since 1997, noting its concern, he said. Mr. Lyngé went on to say that it was important for ICC to use the UN Human Rights Declaration, and the UN Charter, among many other instruments to the benefit of all Inuit in their respective struggles. "Let's use them to our benefit and not let the governments use them simply for their own use".

Jose Kusugak responded to Mr. Lyngé by saying that he agreed that these instruments should not only be used for forced relocations, but also for the abuses related to housing, which he said was woefully substandard when compared to others. In this regard, Mr. Kusugak gave the comparative examples of housing for police, teachers, nurses, teachers, and other residences built alongside Inuit housing. He reiterated that this was a matter of abusing the rights of Inuit.

Aqqaluk Lynge thanked the panel members and those who contributed to the discussion.

The Northern Light Dancers from Kotzebue performed to end the morning session. This was followed by most Alaskans present singing "When I Cross Over the River", led by Martin Woods and Clinton Swan, Sr.

Makivik Corporation President Pita Aatami invited all who were interested to come to both a luncheon barbeque and a re-launching of an 1894 book about the Ungava district at Old Chimo near Kuujjuaq. The book by Lucien M. Turner, Mr. Aatami stated, was full of interesting facts about the community and its region. He said Makivik Corporation would provide truck and boat transportation to the original site of the Kuujjuaq community. Michael Pederson of Alaska noted that he had read much of the book and highly recommended it.

Afternoon Session

A quorum was re-established at 3 pm, due to the lunchtime barbeque. Afternoon chair Aqqaluk Lynge stated that the meeting would have to be further shortened so that the caucus meetings can take place from 5:30 to 6:30. Mr. Lynge also noted that the Art Exhibit at the Kuujjuaq Forum, first floor, would officially open at 6:30 and invited all delegates to attend there.

He then introduced two throat singers. They sang a song that was the "invitation of the sound of the wind," "a chanting song", and finished with an "imitation of a growling puppy".

After applause by delegates for the throat singers, Mr. Lynge noted that alternates sitting in the delegates' seats should inform the chair of it. On behalf of Alaska, Michael Pederson introduced Ray Koonuk, alternating for John Hopson, Jr. and Jane Adams sitting in for Nelda Swan. Jose Kusugak of Canada noted that an alternate would take the seat for James Eetoolook and Jens Lars Fleischer of Greenland stated that Mogens Kleist would be replacing Daniel Skifte for the afternoon.

Session II – Land Claims and Self-Government

Session chair Aqqaluk Lynge introduced the afternoon session by stating the following:

"Inuit have made great strides in Greenland, Alaska, and Canada in the last 30 years to exert significant control over decisions that affect their lives, cultures and economies. While constitutional and political circumstances differ greatly among Arctic states, self-determination by Inuit is becoming a reality through home rule, land claim agreements, and local and regional self-government."

“It is time to take stock of still-evolving arrangements, to share experiences and to chart the future direction for self-determination. In the case of Russia, it must be determined whether or not there is fertile ground for self-government and, if not, what are the alternatives for Inuit and other indigenous peoples in the new economy? Is land ownership an option? Is the path of collective negotiations for Inuit and others the way to proceed? This session of the General Assembly will provide each Inuit jurisdiction an opportunity to note past and ongoing successes and challenges for the future.”

Aqqaluk Lynge introduced each of the panel members for Session II and asked them to address the Assembly. First he asked Nellie Cournoyea, Chair and Chief Executive Office of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to speak. Mr. Lynge called her “a good friend of ICC” and the head of the General Assembly organizing committee, which was held in Inuvik, Canada in 1992.

Nellie Cournoyea reviewed land claims negotiations over the years and emphasized the difficulty in dealing with government officials who do not understand claims, the constitution, or the government’s responsibility as a signatory to a claim. This is frustrating, she said, and one needs a good sense of humour to deal with constant misunderstandings of these officials. Ms. Cournoyea said that while Inuit see the necessity of compromise, she said they should also know when to say no. As an example, she briefed the ICC delegates on an 8-day negotiating session that occurred more than 75 years ago. She described one attempt by government negotiators in 1926 to sign a treaty with the Inuvialuit who met with them in Kittigaryuit (a meeting place) after travelling down the McKenzie River. The Inuvialuit delegation of 60 persons was headed by Mangilaluk and Nuligat. These two Inuvialuit negotiators understood that their people were essentially well off – they had their vast tracts of land, their animals, and their trapping income, among other things. But they listened to what the negotiators had to offer. After 8 days of discussions, the federal government negotiators woke up one morning to find that Mangilaluk and Nuligat and the 60 other Inuvialuit had disappeared. There was no sign of them or their large tenting site. “Sometimes we say yes to things” Ms. Cournoyea said, “but we also have to be prepared to say no” in any negotiating position we find ourselves in.

Ms. Cournoyea reviewed for the General Assembly the numerous negotiations and agreements along the way to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, giving them a comprehensive land claims settlement in the Canadian western Arctic in 1984. She also outlined the very difficult stick handling that had to be done with respect to whether or not the Inuvialuit should attempt to join with other Inuit when the boundaries of Nunavut were being negotiated. She said that because she and other Inuvialuit were convinced it would have been impossible to have the remaining western part of the Northwest Territories vote for a so-called tree line border, they chose “a partial win, rather than no win at all”

She stressed that not all land claims processes are the same, but said that all agreements would be most beneficial if they can evolve to fit changing circumstances and include

amendments as needed. She mentioned that we must always assist each other in our claims negotiations and, in this regard, paid tribute to ICC founder Eben Hopson, Sr. of Alaska's North Slope Borough. "He was the most unselfish and honest advisor that we ever had" and he was the one who insisted that we never give away what we had taken for granted for millennia – our continued use of the land, the animal habitats and wildlife. She concluded that land claims would always be a struggle but one worth the good fight.

Aqqaluk Lyngé thanked Ms. Cournoyea for her wise counsel. He then introduced Johan Lund Olsen, "a young man from Greenland who has been in the Greenland parliament for 11 years".

Johan Lund Olsen, MP, and member of the Greenland Commission on Self-government, expressed his pleasure in representing the Greenland Commission at a meeting of other Arctic peoples. He explained that the Commission on Self-government believes that the Greenlandic people meet the criteria to exercise of the right of self-determination and are working to determine just what options the Greenlanders should have. The main options he listed are three: independence, free association, and integration. He noted that regarding its relationship to Denmark, there is a spectrum of models that represent different development stages with increasing degrees of self-government; some of these models exist within the framework of another state while others lead to full independence. He stated that the Commission believes the peoples of Greenland are entitled to initiate negotiations with Denmark as an equal partner, but that they may also recommend full independence. He noted that issues where Greenland could benefit most from full independence are economic development of industry and natural resources, and issues essential to maintain Greenland identity, culture, and education. But he added that in some areas such as currency, Royal Court, and religion, Greenland could benefit by remaining in an integrated union with Denmark. And he stated that Greenland may be able to have security matters regulated in cooperation with Denmark. He said that the Commission's final report advising on the type of self-determination that it deems most helpful for Greenland will come in March 2003. He ended by comparing the future of Greenland to the Northern Lights – "beautiful, amazing, and lovely".

Before asking the next panellist to speak, Mr. Lyngé excused from the plenary all members of the Declaration Drafting Committee and announced that all suggestions for changes to the current draft or any resolution from the floor should be passed on to members of the Committee.

Ronald H. Brower, Sr. began by pointing out that Inuit formed one single nation until they started becoming governments. They were one nation for thousands of years and this is what all Inuit wanted ICC to become. He explained about the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). He pointed out that ancient and modern live side-by-side in Alaska and the North Slope was the poorest part of the USA, not much better than a third-world country. Although the Inuit in Alaska had their own way of governing, the white man in the shape of oil people and hunters, saw that there was no government there and acted as they wished in this territory. Some 30 years ago an Alaska native land claim was organized and the Inupiaq began to take control over their own destiny. The Arctic

Slope Regional Corporation, 1972, was created to manage nearly 5 million acres of land and capital resources granted to the North Slope Inupiat under ANCSA. He noted that this was only a fraction of the 89,000 square miles of land that was rightfully theirs, and that had been part of the Inupiaq original claim. Thirty years later, he noted, Alaska Native Corporations have become powerful economic engines with a profound economic impact on Alaska's economy. These corporations play an increasingly important role in the economic development of Alaska, especially because the state is so dependent on resource development. Traditional native ethics—including a desire to protect the past, present, and future—have been woven into the corporate fabric of these organizations. These native firms, Mr. Brower noted, generate much of their revenue in the state and direct most of their expenditures in Alaska. This local activity generates employment and growth and injects tax revenue into the economy. Native corporations comprise 15% of the top 100 employers in Alaska, he said. The hiring of Alaska natives is a part of the native corporations' commit to welcoming shareholders into the business world of corporations. They also provide scholarships to the children of shareholders and this is very important for the future. Life expectancy, health care, housing, high schools built, and college graduation rates are getting higher in the past 30 years. Transportation and communication have also improved. Through employment and training experiences the lives of native corporation shareholders have improved. Native corporations have been successful beyond the expectations of their creators. Mr. Brower ended by saying that their invaluable contributions have “enhanced our lives, cultures, and economies in adding a new and critical dimension in the efforts towards our self-determination”.

Tatiana Kharchenko reminded delegates of the dire economic crisis that struck the Russian Inuit in 1998-99, and thanked ICC member countries for helping to mitigate the effects. She said things have changed for the better since the election of a new governor, Roman Abramovich. Today there are indigenous people's councils in the governments of each district, representing a new attitude. The Chukotka Regional Government has since been working to ease poverty in the indigenous villages; i.e., pensioners' income supplements, free meals at schools and pre-school daycare, food and fuel supplies, sixty new homes, a new school, a geothermal heating plant, a food processing plant, and very soon all aboriginal villages will have much improved telephone, TV and radio services. Ms. Kharchenko also talked about the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that had been signed between Aqqaluk Lyngge of ICC, Governor Abramovich, and the Association of Indigenous Minorities in September 2002. She said that the MOU speaks volumes to Governor Abramovich's attitude towards indigenous peoples. In conclusion, she again thanked Roman Abramovich for stabilizing the situation, building schools and greenhouses, and improving communications (including television) in Chukotka. On the other hand, she said there was still a need for major improvements in all areas in Chukotka and indigenous peoples need to start being proactive, and take initiatives themselves, before things will fully turn around.

Aqqaluk Lyngge thanked Ms. Kharchenko and referred delegates to their binders in which they would find a copy of the MOU signed last year during the mission he led to Chukotka and the meeting with Governor Abramovich. He said the MOU was a first of

its kind and hoped that the executive council would soon be able to assist in the implementation of the MOU.

After a short break, the McKenzie Delta Drummers and Dancers performed four songs. Andrew Gordon invited delegates and guests to join the dancing.

Discussion Among Delegates – Land Claims and Self-Government

In response to several questions from Adamie Padlayat about the possible move towards autonomy from Denmark, Panellist Johan Lund Olsen noted that most Greenlanders were happy that one of the options that could be pursued was full self-government through negotiations, but Greenlanders have several options at this time. The current thinking was, he said, to negotiate with Denmark various aspects of greater autonomy but if that avenue failed for whatever reason, Greenlanders would always keep the option open to proclaim full independence. In any event, it was the mandate of the Self-government Commission to put options on the table based upon their findings. He also added that in all likelihood there will be a new act – the Self-Government Act – that will be replacing the Home Rule Act. This new law would have to be passed by both Danish and Greenlandic parliaments.

He reminded delegates that there was some information on the self-government commission in English on the Greenland Home Rule's official web site for those that were interested (www.nanoq.com).

Anthony Itooshat of Nunavik, Canada responding to panellist Nellie Cournoyea's statements about the need for better implementation and amendment mechanisms in land claims agreements, spoke about such mechanisms found in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) and other circumpolar regions. In response, Ms. Cournoyea repeated that one of the shortcomings of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement was the lack of a clear implementation plan and this is something that "we and others could all learn from". She noted that later agreements did, in fact, pay better attention to implementation. "In early agreements, such as what we, the Inuvialuit, signed, it was thought that because both the federal and territorial government names were on it, that the agreement's provisions would be respected." This was not always the case, she said. She noted that she and other Inuvialuit passed on their experience and advice to their neighbours, the Gwichin and the Dene people, who have implementation plans in their agreements.

Ane Hansen of Greenland stated that she was very pleased to have this discussion as it not only provided a much-needed exchange of information between various Inuit regions on the state of their self-government process, but inspired her to look for better ways in which self-government could be achieved. She said that Inuit had achieved very many things since the ICC General Assembly that she attended as a young woman in Iqaluit 22 years ago. Ms. Hansen suggested that Inuit at the Assembly should consider creating

an ICC Decade of Self-Government. This would help to keep the focus on greater self-government for all Inuit, it would promote continued information exchange on advances of self-government in each region, and it could be used to encourage Inuit through ICC and other organizations to carry out a comprehensive fact-finding mission around the world on similar self-government processes. “We need to learn from each other”, she said, and thought the naming of an ICC decade in this manner would assist us in doing this better.

In response to a question about North Slope governance and related profits mentioned in Ronald Brower’s presentation, Mr. Brower clarified that the North Slope Borough is a “home rule” government that administers and taxes oil development in the 89 thousand square miles of land. However, the land claims corporation is a private corporation, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (created under ANCSA), and last year it achieved revenues of US\$ 1 billion (which ranked it as the number one corporation in the state of Alaska), and generated a profit of US\$ 392 million. He helped delegates from outside Alaska understand some governance issues faced by indigenous peoples in Alaska. He summarized by saying that one is a land claims organization and one is a local government. Mr. Brower also mentioned that on so-called “federal lands” in Alaska, there were also regional tribal governments, and village tribal councils. Also, there existed municipal governments under Alaska state law. Usually, he said, there were three sets of autonomous governments in each region of Alaska. He said that the “sleeping giant” was the fact that none of these levels of government had addressed the land claims issue in any meaningful way, especially the tribal governments. He further explained that the tribal governments that had existed for millennia had been replaced by federally recognized tribal governments that were established in the 1940s. Today, the federal government recognizes 22 of them in Alaska.

As a point of information, Jose Kusugak mentioned that all delegates here may be interested in attending an upcoming 3-day seminar on self-government that Nunavut was planning for February 2003. Discussions of the various models of self-government discussed here would also be part of the agenda at that time.

In response to a question from a Canadian delegate from Baffin Island about Native hiring policies of Native corporations in Alaska, Mr. Brower explained that, for example, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) had guidelines requiring it to first hire a shareholder of the Corporation. Secondly, ARSC would hire spouses of shareholders, third, other Natives from other regions, and finally, non-Natives. A big problem is qualifying for a job – certain federal qualifications must be met. But if it is an ARSC project, Mr. Brower stated they follow their own guidelines.

Kuupik Kleist of Greenland stated that from listening to the presentations and discussion, he has concluded, “our goals are solutions and processes are different, but our goals are the same”. It was important to work towards greater self-government across the Arctic and share with each other. In this regard, he supported Ane Hansen’s proposal for an ICC Decade on self-government. Mr. Kleist provided additional information regarding a former Danish parliamentary debate in which parliament agreed that the Faeroe Islands

had the right to secede. He also said Greenlanders paid a high price for its current Home Rule structure and that all Inuit must ask “what price are we willing to pay?”

Session Chair, Aqqaluk Lynge noted that the proposal for a Decade could be passed on to the Declaration Drafting Committee and could then be debated by delegates at the agenda item on the “Kuujuuaq Declaration”. Mr. Lynge offered his support for such an idea. He suggested that there should possibly be plans for a meeting mid-term through such a Decade so that we could once again share this kind of very important information with each other.

The session was closed by Pita Aatami of Canada referring to Nellie Cournoyea’s presentation “in which she urged us to have a sense of humour” when dealing with these difficult issues. Mr. Aatami noted that land claims and self-government negotiations can be arduous and take a long time. In the spirit of humour, he said, he wanted to respond to Ane Hansen’s comments about her first ICC General Assembly when in her words, she “attended as a young woman 22 years ago”. He informed her that she was still a young woman. To which Ms. Hansen responded by chastising Aqqaluk Lynge for calling panellist Johan Lund Olsen a young man. “He is older than I am”, Ms. Hansen stated. Mr. Lynge agreed that humour was important and noted that because he was at the podium, he had an excellent view of all 67 delegates and “you all look very young and very good to me”. With that, Mr. Lynge reminded delegates of time allocated for caucus meetings, the reception hosted by the Honourable Louise Harel, and by invitation, the evening dinner and keynote address by Mr. Harry Tulugak, Nuvavik Commission on Self-Government.



Wednesday, August 14, 2002

Opening Performance – Labrador Drum Dancers

The third day of the ICC General Assembly was opened with a performance by the Nunatsiavut Drum Dancers from Labrador, led by Matthew Okkuatsiak.

Lubov Otkrova, head of delegation for Chukotka, informed the meeting that one of their delegates had left in order to attend the Inuit youth conference that was being held partially in parallel with the Assembly. Michael Pederson announced that Charles Edwardsen would be an alternate delegate, for the first agenda item.

Introduction of Nominees for ICC President

Prior to inviting delegates to introduce their nominations for ICC President, Session Chair Aqqaluk Lyngé informed delegates of an executive council resolution proposing to change the name of the title of “ICC President” to “ICC Chair” and the term “Vice-President” to “Vice-Chair”. He noted that this was needed because of the legal requirements in most countries for the ICC offices to be incorporated, which in turn means the regional offices themselves have “Presidents and Vice-Presidents”, and in order to avoid confusion between the ICC Head Office and the regional offices. He further noted that according to Article 12 of the ICC Charter, both a unanimous recommendation of the Council and the vote of two-thirds of the General Assembly delegates were required for such a name change.

Aqqaluk Lyngé asked Chester Reimer to read a draft resolution as drawn up by the executive council. Nellie Cournoyea of Canada then moved to waive the “adequate notice” required for a motion involving changes to the charter and by-laws. It was seconded by Charles Edwardsen (Etok). The motion to waive adequate notice was passed unanimously.

Arnold D. Brower of Alaska moved to change the titles of ICC President, and ICC Vice-President, respectively, to ICC Chair and ICC Vice-Chair. Because there were other wording changes proposed by Mr. Brower, Aqqaluk Lyngé asked that the discussion and vote on the resolution be postponed until the afternoon.

Aqqaluk Lyngé then asked for introduction of each member delegation’s nominations for ICC Chair.

Jose Kusugak stated that on behalf of the Canadian delegation of ICC, it would like to introduce Sheila Watt-Cloutier of Canada as its nomination for ICC Chair.

Lubov Otrokova, head of delegation for ICC Chukotka stated that her delegation would also be nominating Sheila Watt-Cloutier as ICC Chair.

Charles Edwardsen (Etok) stated that the Alaska delegation met on the previous day to unanimously support the nomination of Sheila Watt-Cloutier as ICC Chair.

Jens Lars Fleischer, head of delegation for ICC Greenland said that the all Greenland delegates wished to nominate Sheila Watt-Cloutier as ICC Chair.

All General Assembly delegates then rose to applaud the unanimous nomination of Sheila Watt-Cloutier as the next ICC Chair.

Jose Kusugak of Canada mentioned that Nunavut's Minister for Sustainable Development, the Honourable Olayuk Akesuk would be an alternate delegate, replacing Joe Allen for the upcoming session.

Session III – Environment and Sustainable Development

ICC Chair Aqqaluk Lynge introduced the next session as follows:

“How to conserve and sustainably use the Arctic environment have been critical questions we Inuit have faced for thousands of years. One of the key arenas in which we address these questions today is the Arctic Council. Established in 1996, the Council draws upon five years of experience. Inuit and other indigenous peoples' organizations enjoy 'permanent participant' status and so meet and talk at the same table as ministers of the 8 Arctic governments. Has the Council adopted and implemented an agenda relevant to the goals and aspirations of Inuit, and provided a framework for funding Inuit participation in this work? What have the Council's working groups and task forces accomplished, and how may their activities be improved? What should be the role for the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS)? Both environment and sustainable development are key pillars of the Council. It is in this framework that ICC can bring a vast spectrum of Inuit issues to the attention of Arctic governments.”

“The environment that has sustained us for thousands of years is under increasing attack by development of oil, gas, and minerals as well as former military sites. Our soil, ice, water and animals are accumulating persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals deposited from long-range sources. There is evidence that these may have great health consequences for us and our children. On the other hand, is it time we focus greater attention on the health benefits of Inuit

food? There is evidence from both scientists and our own people that climate change has begun to affect the ice and animals we depend upon. Inuit helped sculpt a Global Convention on POPs – our voice was heard by many nations.”

“What are the sustainable development issues that ICC should bring to the Arctic Council table and elsewhere? The Sustainable Development Working Group has many worthwhile programmes, including those focussed on social issues, such as the one on children and youth. What other pressing social needs should ICC draw to the attention of the Council and elsewhere? The Council is an ideal forum – but perhaps not the only one – in which to bring to the table concerns that cross all three fields of environment, human health, and economic development. For example, how will climate change affect the Inuit economy? Will global warming further open the Northwest Passage and radically change our way of life? As a consequence, will a north polar sea route be promoted? Will this be harmful to Inuit? Will it be beneficial? ICC looks to delegates for guidance on these and many other matters.”

Mary May Simon, Canada's Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, was the first panellist to speak on the topic of environment and sustainable development. Ms Simon first complimented the ICC for being a model for cooperation and a catalyst for change on issues concerning Inuit and other northerners. She noted that the originating issue for the ICC had been the environment, and that with their efforts to define sustainable development and to promote the recognition of the Inuit voice in international Arctic policy development they have become highly influential.

One such influence, she said, has been the recognition of the Arctic as a distinct environmental region, economically and socially within the global community. For instance, the ICC has helped shape the environmental protection and sustainable development agenda of the Arctic Council since its beginning in 1996. The Arctic Council stresses that social inequality and environmental degradation compound economic problems.

On a related front, Ms Simon noted that the northern dimension of Canada's foreign policy rose out of its participation in the Arctic Council. This new policy endeavours to reflect the values, perspectives and hopes of Canadians, especially northerners, and will guide Canada's engagement with her circumpolar neighbours to promote and protect this rich, diverse, yet vulnerable part of the world. A current strategy of the Council concerns "capacity building." This is an effort, Ambassador Simon said, to develop knowledge-to-action protocols that will shape policy, legislation, regulations and projects at all levels of government, while insisting that northerners do it for themselves. She mentioned that too often in the past, governments and industry have forgotten about the social impacts that projects have on communities and the EIA process, in her opinion, should pay more attention to this.

She encouraged ICC to continue to bring forward project proposals and policy perspectives to the Arctic Council, and to bring their unique contribution to the human side of the common objective to protect, enhance and promote the Arctic as a vital region in global affairs.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Co Vice-Chair of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group, started her panel presentation by informing delegates how wonderful it was to have the ICC General Assembly in her hometown of Kuujjuaq. "I was born here. My friends are here. My relatives are here". She also paid tribute to the former speaker, Mary Simon (also from Kuujjuaq), for her diligent work in helping create the Arctic Council. She also wanted to recognize George Koneak, an elder who was among the spectators.

Ms. Watt-Cloutier, who was also speaking as President of ICC Canada and Vice-President ICC International, drew attention to the sealskin vest she was wearing by stating that even though it was very hot in Kuujjuaq, she felt unusually cool in the vest. She mentioned it was also a symbol of being Inuit, and sometimes a necessary political statement to wear it, depending upon the situation.

She went on to discuss various matters on sustainable development, especially the importance of balance. As a former elected official at Makivik Corporation, she noted the importance of development to move Inuit forward, but "we need to have a balance" and that was where the principle of sustainability was very important. She noted that sustainability had three pillars: economy, health, and environment.

She reminded the delegates and observers that Inuit can make a valuable contribution to the worldwide struggles with implementing and achieving sustainable development. Because Inuit think in holistic ways, she said, "we realize how interrelated everything is; sustainable development requires holistic thinking and acting". She noted ways in which Inuit are working towards sustainable development, including developing caribou pâté for gourmet markets in southern Canada, making sweaters from muskox wool, exporting Labradorite for marble fireplaces and floor covering, and exploring the possibility of developing omega-3 seal oil capsules. She also said that the Inuit are working at developing the resources in their homelands – oil, gas, minerals, and hydropower – in an environmentally careful and sustainable fashion. She noted that the view by many that

the environment is to be preserved and the wild animals to be protected, causes laws that have barriers to the sustainable Inuit hunting economy. A primary goal for leaders in the North, she said, is to educate decision-makers in the South about northern realities.

She challenged the group to use and reintegrate many of our traditions and values into their lives to both promote their own health and also to help the world. We have not, she said, lost the real focus to sustainability nor has “our conscience been numbed by the need to make a dollar”. She referred to her sealskin vest at various times in her presentation, reminding those gathered that it was a symbol of Inuit determination to preserve traditional ways of making a living. She ended with a quote from Robert Peary, the American Arctic explorer, who spoke of the Inuit as “trustworthy and hard, who will yet prove their value to mankind.”

ICC President Aqqaluk Lyngé thanked Ms. Watt-Cloutier and introduced the next panellist, Finn Lyngé from Greenland by saying that he was an expert in many areas and that if Robert Peary had been able to read, he would have gained much from reading Finn Lyngé's books.

Finn Lyngé, Consultant with the Greenland Home Rule Government, started his intervention by referring to Sheila Watt-Cloutier's description of sustainability's three pillars of economy, health, and environment, and noting that in the Arctic – at least by those with eyes from the outside – concentrated mostly on the environmental pillar.

Mr. Lyngé said he would like to speak on issues that were contained in ICC's *Inuit Regional Conversation Strategy* (IRCS) and also how matters of importance have evolved since the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. He mentioned the upcoming second UN Conference on Environment at Johannesburg and then traced the beginnings of the inclusion of indigenous peoples' right to cultural integrity and subsistence wildlife harvest in international organizations. The first mention was in the 1987 Brundtland report. The Rio Conference in 1992 also mentioned the right of the indigenous peoples and, he said, this right is now a fixture of the nature management agenda around the world. He noted that at the same time that other world bodies were recognizing indigenous rights, ICC had launched its own environmental policy project, the IRCS, in 1986. He observed that the IRCS turned out to be a unique environmental policy project because it linked geographically and ecologically similar areas in three different nation states into one policy region, and the IRCS has made a noticeable contribution to the growing environmental consciousness of the world. On the eve of the second big UN Conference on Environment and Development, it is time to reassess the situation and the status of the IRCS. He commented that ICC has done a good job over the years in defending the right to harvest wildlife; it is now a part of the World Conservation Strategy.

He noted that there are problems; especially on the ground level between hunters and biologists and these problems extend to the level of NGOs and hunters. He pointed out that it is time to reassess this ongoing "trench war" and get into an honest dialogue rather than the character assassination that has taken place on both sides. He suggested that it is time for the Inuit to examine their own behaviour rather than only pointing their fingers at others; in fact, he noted that there are places when the Inuit have been guilty of abuse of nature and a "lousy hunting ethic". He concluded with an appeal to the General Assembly not to let the IRCS fall by the wayside because that project is important to the survival of Inuit culture.

Roswell L. Schaeffer of the Alaska Eskimo Beluga Whaling Committee, with the assistance of a power point presentation, spoke about "Environment and Sustainability."

Mr. Schaeffer explained that the Commission had studied the beluga whale stocks in Alaska, using aerial and satellite pictures, to advise on harvest levels of this important mammal. Additionally, he stated that the commission is studying the contaminants found in harvested whales, but they believe that these mammals can tolerate fairly high levels of

these toxins because, although the metal levels are fairly high, they could discover no harmful health effects as a result. The theory has been developed that selenium helps protect marine mammals from mercury. He also noted that the tagging of beluga whales showed that their migration in 2002 was totally different than it had been in previous years. Their movements may be based upon food source and where the open leads are. In the future they need to watch out for the Red Dot Mine, the world's largest zinc mine, and the coalfields that may be developed in Point Lay, and their effects on the environment and the roads that may need to be developed.

He stated that other issues faced by the commission involved economic issues of developing various mines so that the native workforce could have maximum training to take over the mine and the local economy will benefit. He also commented briefly on a population explosion of beavers and noted another issue: the effects of global warming and documenting where belugas are moving will help to predict the effect that global warming will have on them. Animal migrations also affect beluga migrations. Beavers affect where belugas migrate. Beavers dam up the rivers and streams that white fish migrate to and once those are jammed up the white fish have to look for other places to migrate to and the belugas change their migration routes.

The Red Dot Mine, when it was first considered almost 12 years ago, sustainability decisions were made by the various players and they decided to only take a certain amount of ore out of this mine so that it would last for 30 or 40 years – providing jobs for a certain length of time for our shareholders. The native governing body was not a partner in that decision-making. The governing body, he said, needs to be involved as an equal partner to make the best decisions for sustainability. The example set by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Committee is important, he said as they have developed conflict avoidance agreement principles to help mitigate any and all effects upon native communities' subsistence life. This agreement, he noted, includes stopping industries from certain activities during certain migration of land and sea mammals. Mr. Schaeffer noted that if changes in migration patterns occur due to industry activity then they look for ways that industries can compensate the native communities for the added cost in pursuing their subsistence foods. Mr. Schaeffer ended by saying that communications is extremely important; the communities nearest the industry must be kept informed.

| Discussion Among Delegates – Environment and Sustainable Development

Charles Edwardson of Alaska noted that there was insufficient time for interventions from the floor and that the “right to intervention was as important as our right to sovereignty”. He also went on to say “our right to intervention at the UN was very important”.

Steen Jepson of Greenland said that although the delegates were told that the Inuit voice was heard “by many nations” through the global convention on POPs, he was sceptical that anything concretely could really be done to reduce the pollution entering the Arctic.

He cited the example of high levels of contaminants found in polar bears. "Do the nations of the world really want to change their behaviour on POPs?", he questioned.

Cathy Towtongie followed by responding to Ms. Watt-Cloutier's presentation by saying that we talk a lot about capacity-building, but we need statistics to show Inuit how much capacity is actually being built, especially considering the fact that Inuit hire many non-Inuit and send many to the south for education. Ms. Towtongie stated that she supported Finn Lynge's "self-criticism" and his presentation in general.

Jens Lars Fleischer of Greenland asked panellist Finn Lynge to clarify which animals he thought were being over-hunted in Greenland today. This was very important for him to know, he said, because "we rely completely on fishing and hunting in Greenland" and needed to know the source of Mr. Lynge's information. He also suggested it was important in the Arctic to restrict the use of snowmobiles when it came to hunting and that ICC should lobby for the reduction of all motorized vehicles used in hunting.

The chair recognized Senator Charlie Watt who had taken his place with the Canadian delegation as an alternate.

Leif Fontain of Greenland and a member of Greenland's Association of Hunters (KNAPK) said he took exception to Finn Lynge's assertion that over-hunting was a problem in Greenland. He said it was his knowledge that because Greenland hunters relies on animals often as their only livelihood that they had no self-interest in "abusing nature". He said that the few hunters that step outside the law are punished and get large media attention, even though the abuse is minimal. Mr. Fontain concluded by saying it was KNAPK's position to have Inuit improve upon their rights to manage their own resources and that Inuit should "use our last drops of blood" to do this.

Finn Lynge responded to criticism of his presentation that clearly he must have been misunderstood as he said he did not claim – "not once" – that Greenlanders were over harvesting of nature, but rather that some "abuse of nature" does occur and simply that Inuit should be more open to taking criticism on this issue. Otherwise, he said, Inuit will not be taken seriously on any matter regarding the taking of animals. He went on to say that "no one is perfect and that the Greenland hunter was not perfect either". Because of this, in fact, the Greenland Home Rule Government has started a publicity campaign to bring attention to the way in which we manage nature, he said. Since he had been asked to provide an example, Mr. Lynge pointed to the Nuuk Fjord's complete lack of Greenland halibut today. He said there were other examples where nets are set at the mouth of a river that threaten the sustainability of fish stocks. He reiterated that he was not suggesting Greenland hunters over-harvest, but simply that there are pockets of examples where abuse of nature exists and Greenlanders should not simply deny it.

Aqqaluk Lynge noted that the English "abuse of nature" is normally translated into Greenlandic as "over-harvesting" and that this might be a partial source of the misunderstanding.

Robbie Watt of Canada asks Ross Schaeffer for clarification on the term “halotype” that was used in connection with DNA testing of beluga. Mr. Watt noted that in Nunavik, they were dealing with mitochondrial DNA and asked if he could inform the Assembly if the Alaskans are using predominantly genotypes or phenotypes in their research. Mr. Schaeffer responded by saying they also use mitochondrial DNA but “because I am not a scientist”, he said he was unable to respond the specifics of the latter question.

Aqqualuk Lyngé suggested that the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) and its Chair, Greenlander Amalie Jessen, could be of assistance to him on this matter.

Noting that she is very new to ICC work, Dorthea Jakobsen of Greenland wanted to know what ICC's position was on claims made by other countries such as the USA that they were actually reducing pollution emissions. With respect to fellow Greenlander Finn Lyngé's intervention, she said she was very hurt. What she has heard is that some people abuse animals, but that a survey should be done on this.

Salomine Tobiassen of Greenland suggested to Finn Lyngé that it was not only hunters who were abusing the environment, but forces from the outside such as climate change and “we should make sure that it stops”. She asked for an English copy of Mr. Lyngé's presentation.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier asked to provide a brief historical summary of events related to the question regarding USA contaminants policy. “When we in Northern Canada first knew our country food was contaminated”, she said, Inuit – with others – created a very rich data base of knowledge based on western science and traditional knowledge through research centres such as the McGill University's Centre of Environment and Indigenous Nutrition (CINE). CINE's board, she noted, was composed of only indigenous peoples organizations. In partnership with the Canadian government, Inuit and others created Canada's “Arctic Environmental Strategy” and its major component, the Northern Contaminants Programme. Inuit also participated and lobbied in international negotiations, which led to international conventions, the most notable recent one being the Stockholm Convention on POPs, she said. “We brought this science to the UN and to treaty negotiations.” She said that she was personally involved in all negotiating sessions on behalf of all Inuit.

With respect to the Stockholm Convention, she believed the USA had every intention to ratify it in Washington, but it was necessary to have 50 countries ratify it in their own parliaments and legislatures before it officially becomes international law. She also added that although there are contaminants in the environment and there will continue to be for decades, even with the Stockholm Convention that the nutritional and spiritual benefits “of our country food still outweighs the risks”. With respect to the Kyoto Protocol, however, Ms. Watt-Cloutier said it “was another story”. ICC, she stated, is very disappointed that the Bush administration in the USA has chosen not to ratify it, putting climate change back on the agenda for major lobbying by ICC and others.

Aqqaluk Lyngé agreed with Finn Lyngé that a number of international organizations – even WWF and Greenpeace – were more open to promoting the sustainable harvest of species on a subsistence basis, but reminded the delegates that not so long ago the USA chapter of WWF had strongly condemned the Canadian government for allowing bowhead hunting in its Eastern Arctic.

Johnny Peters of Canada stated that as an Inuk, he was an expert of the land. This expertise gave him some insight, he said, on university teachers and researchers that study Inuit and Arctic environmental problems. Many of them, he claimed, “had no understanding of our lands, yet others were willing to learn”. He said that Inuit must be vigilant on the partnerships that it makes, yet it must do research with others. He pointed to the research centre established by Makivik operated by Inuit as an example of a successful endeavour. Mr. Peters said he also wanted to pay tribute to the late Peter Abraham of Kuujuaq whose funeral had just been held.

Aqqaluk Lyngé then introduced Senator Charlie Watt of Canada who asked for the floor. He too wanted to pay tribute to Peter Abraham noting that had grown up with him in Old Fort Chimo, thinking that they were the only two children in the whole world. Stating that he wanted to share some ideas regarding trade and economic development inside the broader topic of sustainable development, Senator Watt noted that Inuit needed to go much further with its “one voice”. Although he appreciated the work of ICC and other NGOs, it was important to develop “our own instruments which will foster greater economic prosperity” and greater sovereignty for Inuit. He promised to speak more on this issue under the trade and development agenda item.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier added, in response to Johnny Peters’ desire to promote more Inuit in research positions, that most of the work done by ICC and the Canadian Government inside the Northern Contaminants Programme did involve “our own Inuit scientists” and knowledge. She said the partnership model worked so well that Alaska was now planning to model their programme after it. She also wished to pay her respects to the late Peter Abraham, and noted that he and his wife had been very helpful to her family over the years.

Afternoon Session

Prior to opening the afternoon session, delegates were treated to entertainment from Katersugaasiviup Ikinngutai from Aasiaat, Greenland who danced a Greenlandic version of the square dance, or *Kalattuut*. This was followed by a performance by the Northern Lights Dancers from Kotzebue, Alaska.

Aqqaluk Lyngé asked delegates to now consider the motion put forward by Arnold D. Brower in the morning regarding changing the name of ICC President and Vice-Presidents, respectively, to ICC Chair and Vice-Chairs. The full text was read out (and can be found at the end of these proceedings). After Jens Lars Fleischer seconded

the motion, a vote was called. The motion passed unanimously. It became ICC General Assembly Resolution 2002-01 (see Annex B).

Aqqaluk Lynge then noted the election of ICC Chair would be held the following day and as such he would now wear the hat of ICC Chair, rather than President, for another 24 hours.

! Survey on Living Conditions in the Arctic – Birger Poppel, Chief of Greenland Statistics

Aqqaluk Lynge then introduced the next agenda item, which he said was a report on the large-scale comprehensive gathering of data across the Arctic by the Arctic Council through a project entitled “Survey on Living Conditions in the Arctic” (SLICA). Because this multi-year project cuts across many of the General Assembly themes, he said ICC had invited Birger Poppel, Director of Statistics Greenland to address the delegates.

Birger Poppel, Director of Statistics Greenland who is involved with SLICA, opened his report by mentioning that the project was coordinated by his organization and supported by several Arctic countries, as well as ICC, RAIPON, and the Saami Council. The survey is important, he stated, to document and compare the rapid social changes and living conditions of all indigenous peoples of the Arctic and to create a factual basis for political decisions. He reported that the survey plans to assess the relationships between regional differences in policy-relevant histories and living conditions as well as other community aspects such as social relationships, traditional knowledge and western education, housing, and resource management. He stated that this circumpolar comparison of living conditions will help to better understand how differences in forces for change affect our resources. The next task will be, he said, to examine forces for change – such as government policies, native self-government, resource development, animal rights groups, contaminants, climate change, and spirituality – and how these have affected freedom of choice.

The methodology to be used, he said, will be a dual approach of structured survey and ethnographic techniques to interview a random sample of about 23,000 indigenous people in 13 Arctic regions and 250 communities. Advisory boards containing representatives of the indigenous regional organizations will, he said, oversee the study. He said that indigenous participation is crucial to the success of this effort and input from many organizations and researchers is needed to create a new list of living conditions indicators that mirrors the priorities of the indigenous peoples being surveyed. Other groups supporting this project, he said, are the Alaska Native Management Board, a Steering Committee representing the four Canadian Inuit regional organizations, the Greenland Research Team, and SLICA Chukotka. He noted that the ICC support helped to establish this project as part of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group. He said that Phase I, developing and pilot testing the research design, is now completed. Phase II, data collection, analysis, and reporting, has begun, he said, and will be

concluded in 2004. Information on the project can be obtained, he said, from the web site: www.arcticlivingconditions.org.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier asked the assembly to stand for 30 seconds of silence in memory of the late Peter Abraham.

Session IV – Inuit Communications

Aqqaluk Lynge introduced the next panel session as follows:

“The Inuit Circumpolar Conference was principally founded to promote the unity of Inuit cross four Arctic countries. Recognizing the important role that communications has played and will continue to play in fostering Inuit unity, ICC established an Inuit Communications Commission. The Commission focussed its work on Arctic media, such as radio, print and television. It concluded that, with certain positive exceptions, there is an increasing dependence on north-south flow of information. Inuit in Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland heard more about events in Moscow, Washington, Ottawa, and Copenhagen, than they did about each other. In order to promote a better exchange of news, stories, and other information among Inuit and other Arctic residents, the Commission developed several recommendations. Among them the need to study the possibility of developing a Pan-Arctic television network. The Commission also advocated a more organized and innovative approach to using the Internet, in particular ICC and other Arctic-related web sites. The Commission looks forward to feedback from General Assembly delegates on these and many other issues related to communication among ourselves”.

Mr. Lynge then introduced the panel members and invited them to speak.

Kuupik Kleist, Member of Danish Parliament for Greenland, former Chair of Tele Greenland, and Chair of the Inuit Communications Commission spoke first by reminding delegates of his report on the Commission two days earlier and, as such, he simply wanted to elaborate a few more thoughts on the recommendations contained in that report. He said there was little disagreement on the need for action and enacting most of the recommendations in the report, such as establishing a pan-Arctic television network, but the question that needed to be addressed now was how. He solicited the delegates' feedback on the recommendations. In order to act, he said, one might think of the saying, “move your ass, and the tail will follow.” It was crucial for the survival of Inuit unity and Inuit culture and economic development that we needed to find a way to improve communications among Inuit – and quickly. He said we must find a way to improve media coverage of events in each other's regions. He stressed the need to have Arctic media people get together soon in a seminar or conference to help map out a plan for a new direction in Arctic communications. Mr. Kleist invited all media people present at the General Assembly to see him about their interest in being invited to such an event. He said we need everyone's input on this. He finished by saying he was pleased that the

Inuit Communications Commission had been able to facilitate company to company discussions and negotiations, such as the soon-to-be-completed agreement between Canada's Aboriginal Peoples' Network (APTN) and Greenland' Television and Radio Network (KNR). "We have already started the process".

Aqqaluk Lynge thanked Mr. Kleist, as well as Tele Greenland for having let ICC "borrow him" during the last few years to serve as Chair of the Inuit Communications Commission.

APTN Chair, Clayton Gordon, first drew a parallel between the establishment of APTN, the world's first national aboriginal television network, and the challenges facing the creation of a pan-arctic network. He said that TV is the strongest medium in the world and can be used to forever preserve Inuit culture, traditional values and languages, and instill Inuit identity in our children. He described something of the APTN startup process, and predicted that the Inuit project would be a great tool to develop economic opportunities, to interpret the world in the spirit of Inuit understanding, and educate non-aboriginal people in boardrooms and government offices. Mr. Gordon noted that Canada's Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) in the mid-1990s "reaffirmed the need for an aboriginal network to be established". He noted the same is necessary for the whole of the Arctic, and it would assist in Inuit remaining strong as one people. He went on to express his views of technology and how it must be used for the benefit of Inuit. Mr. Gordon stated "Aboriginal peoples now have a forum in Canada to express their identity and their issues. ... APTN can assist in establishing the same on an international level". He pledged APTN's assistance in developing an international pool of aboriginal resources for television production. Mr. Gordon concluded by quoting part of the APTN mission statement: "The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network is sharing our peoples' journey, celebrating our cultures, inspiring our children, and honouring the wisdom of our elders".

Stephen Heilmann, Acting Director of KNR – Greenland's national television and radio network – spoke about the history, development, and current operations of KNR. Established in 1958, Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa, received initial support by and excellent collaboration with Radio Denmark. Initial funding came from Denmark but by 1979, KNR was fully funded by the Greenland Home Rule Government. Because Greenlanders considered KNR an essential public service and it was related to the social and cultural fabric of its society, they were very supportive of it. Most of its revenue of DKK 57 million, he said, came from Home Rule sources; 15 percent came from commercials and other sources.

The 30 employees of the radio division of KNR produced 4000 hours of programming last year, 60 percent of it pre-recorded, whereas 40 percent was purchased from freelance broadcasters. The current TV programming schedule included 25 minutes of Greenlandic news (with Danish sub-titles) each night. Mr. Heilmann noted that the television division of KNR had 35 employees. Although much of its programming still comes from Denmark, he is, nevertheless, proud of the high quality of Greenlandic news and other programmes that KNR has been able to produce.

Mr. Heilmann then outlined some of his ideas for greater circumpolar cooperation. He noted that KNR already had agreements with Saami TV, Faeroe Islands TV, and the Iceland television network. He also said that he hoped an agreement with Canada's APTN would be concluded soon. KNR has already collaborated with Canada's Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC), the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC North), among others. The biggest hurdle that he saw in forging new agreements and greater pan-Arctic cooperation was financial, and he said that any attempt to make greater links must deal with this reality. Mr. Heilmann pledged his support to ICC, APTN, IBC, and others to achieve the goal of creating a pan-Arctic television network

He concluded by stating that KNR is ready to work with you in establishing the Arctic News Service and we will work from Greenland with the ICC. "We would like to expand KNR relations to work with the west and Europe. That is our future as I see it."

! Discussion Among Delegates – Inuit Communications

Joannasie Akumalik from Canada voiced his support for the Inuit Communications Commission recommendation regarding training, only that "we should try to have these training seminars annually, rather than only every two years".

Kuupik Kleist agreed that if we had the funding and, especially, if journalist had the time, this would be idea. Mr. Kleist then formally read each of the seven (7) recommendations in the report.

Charlie Watt of Canada noted that it should be remembered that APTN was a television network that had been created at the expense of what the North and Inuit had already created. He said that IBC and others in the north had created most of what is now "aboriginal programming" in Canada, and now it was being administered and changed by the pan-Canadian APTN. In response, APTN Chair Clayton Gordon noted that a split North/South feed was being investigated (and already used sometimes) so that more region-specific needs could be fulfilled.

Thomasie Alikatuktu from Baffin Island in Canada noted a similar concern and stated that the news and programming for the north should be relevant for those in the north. He said he would be supportive of a Northern television network. In making a pan-Arctic network, he said, that we must make sure that the southerners do not take it over, "like they did with APTN in Canada".

Session V – Inuit Language

Session Chair, Aqqaluk Lynge, opened the General Assembly's seventh panel discussion as follows:

“The Inuit Language is at the heart of our current culture, our past and, we hope, our future. In response to the delegates’ mandate in 1998, ICC has worked on various Inuit language issues over the past four years. We have expressed Inuit views on language protection and promotion within various international bodies including UNESCO, which is creating working groups to promote literacy world-wide, including writing systems. Also, an Inuit language Commission was established to look at the possibility of developing a common orthography for the various dialects found across the Arctic. The Language Commission is promoting the idea of a common writing system, yet understand the complexity of such an undertaking. The Commission looked at Inuit phonetics, language use and promotion in each region, and language legislation across the Arctic. Should the Language Commission continue its deliberations? What are the key priorities for it to work on?”

Carl Christian Olsen, Puju, Chair of the Inuit Language Commission, started his address by saying that Inuit must recognize “by ourselves” our language rights, and that language is part of who Inuit are as evidenced by the fact that it existed from the time of the first kayak until the age of cyberspace. He then spoke about the common elements of all Inuit dialects, especially the similarities of the sounds found in each.

Puju noted that in the recommendations of the Language Commission report, it stated that a period of consultation was necessary to determine if and how a common orthography would be created. He also added that it was not the intent of the Commission to eliminate any existing orthographies. We want to strengthen the Inuit language, including the access to all dialects. Therefore it is very important that we have consultations with various Inuit groups, academia, and governments. We must also follow the fluctuations of the use of the Inuit language in various areas to see if some dialects are in danger of dying out or need to be revitalized, he said. Another very important thing is that we are in position to standardise terms that are very similar, such as botanical or anatomical terms. Why don’t we use the same word? By developing our language, he said, will also develop our abilities in different ways in dialogue with the different groups of peoples around the world.

During Puju’s presentation, the Cultural Centre experienced an electrical outage. After some silence in the total darkness, first the Greenland delegation started to sing, followed by the Alaskans, then Chukotkans, and later joined by Canadian Inuit. When the lights finally came back on, Puju remarked how important language was, both in speaking and in singing. He thanked the delegates for their patience and use of language during the blackout.

Nuka Møller of Greenland, was introduced by Aqqaluk Lynge as an employee of ICC, an Inuit Language Commissioner, and a linguist with much expertise in this area. Mr. Møller stated that he would speak in his own language, which evoked applause from the delegates.

He stated that he hoped that the recommendations found in the Inuit Language Commission report would help to generate a broad discussion on Inuit language policy. He noted that we are getting closer to each other in the past 25 years and I do not doubt that developing our own language will succeed. With the opportunities available today – technology and the Internet – we can develop our language and exchange information in our language. Through the Internet and computer systems, the commission intends to give people access to all the dialects of the Inuit world.

With regards to a common writing system, we hope to develop a common writing system to be utilized by all Inuit. Of course, this will be more difficult in some areas of the Arctic than others, but “it should be possible”. The eight recommendations of the commission reflect its work to this time, he stated. “We have started by creating a database of commonalities, among other things, and this will be used for on-going discussion and debate about the direction that we move”.

Natalia Rodionova, Professor at the Pedagogical College in Anadyr, Chukotka, spoke about the effort to preserve the Yupik language by teaching it to the youth, who study it, essentially, as a foreign language. She said that they are working to develop dictionaries and new teaching materials to more effectively teach the language so that the language will not disappear. She noted that the unique understanding of the environment is reflected in the Inuit language and stated that the language is essential for the Yupik to be true Yupik people. She noted the problems with writing in Cyrillic and the return to the Latin alphabet. She is encouraged by recent inclusion of Yupik language classes on the radio, even though there are no newspapers or magazines in Yupik. And she asked to learn how others have solved this type of problems. In closing, she reminded the delegates and observers of the importance of maintaining the Inuit languages.

Eva Aariak, Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, spoke in defence of the work of the language commission and the challenge that the commission faces in standardising writing for Inuktitut, a language that historically was only spoken. Inuktitut was first written by missionaries who did not speak Inuktitut as their first language and, inevitably, they made some mistakes. And different missionaries working in different parts of the Arctic left us with many different ways of writing our language. So now, as we try to build bridges across the circumpolar world, it is difficult to write to people from different regions. The work of another language commission in the 1970s in Canada looked at all the different writing systems that existed in Canada at the time and distilled them down into two standard forms – one in syllabic and one in Roman orthography. It also corrected many of the mistakes made by the missionaries. This work was not without controversy, because many of the elders had grown used to their writing systems.

The challenge the commission is now facing, she said, is to have a standardized writing system that can communicate with Inuit from other countries in Inuit, instead of using English to communicate with them. As the world is becoming increasingly integrated, the ability of Inuit in different countries to talk to each other is becoming more and more important. She reminded the assembly that all aspects of the language are central to Inuit identity and reassured them that the Language Commission is working to harmonize

language across the circumpolar world. We must, she said, be prepared to have a frank discussion and look ahead for the sake of our children and grandchildren to think what would be best for them. We must accept change where necessary to ensure that our language continues to develop and grow strong again. Let us keep open minds and cool heads as we talk about this issue that is so very close to all our hearts.

Jana Harcharek, Coordinator of bilingual and multicultural instruction in Barrow, Alaska, opened her address by saying that she would like to speak in her native Inupiaq dialect, but there was no interpretation present so I will speak to you in English. She then commented to the audience in Greenlandic and Inuktitut for which she was applauded. Ms. Harcharek then spoke of the work going on in her region to preserve and perpetuate the Inuit language and culture. After realizing that the language, Inupiaq, is dying, she said, they have tried to reverse the situation and immersion programs have been implemented in several Alaska communities. She believes that the schools have a responsibility to help pass on the language but in Alaska the schools are dealing with legislation passed by the U.S. federal government that require full English fluency. She believes that the Inuit Language Commission of the ICC is very important because as an international organization it may be able to change the policies of governments and increase communication across artificial borders. In closing, she asked for names of contacts from Canada and Greenland of persons who would be interested in a teacher exchange so that students in Alaska could have Inuit teachers who are fluent in their language and be inspired by this example.

Aqqaluk Lyngé thanked the panellists and stressed his personal desire to see the Language Commission continue its important work. He stated that he hoped the delegates, through the Kuujuaq Declaration would make work regarding the Inuit language a top priority.

! Discussion Among Delegates – Inuit Language

Cathy Towtongie of Canada stated that the remarks she was about to make were as the President of her organization, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI). Reading from a prepared text, she stated that at this time there was not sufficient support in Nunavut for a common Inuit orthography. She added that NTI was in agreement with the Government of Nunavut's work on language policy and that the ICC Language Commission should take note of its work as well. She noted that she had passed on a letter to ICC Chair, Aqqaluk Lyngé and stated that the "Nunavut caucus of the ICC Canada delegation would abstain from this process".

Aqqaluk Lyngé stated that he had read the letter and that there must be a misunderstanding of the intent of the Inuit Language Commission, which was proposing consultations and input from every region. It also had not proposed to eliminate any existing dialects or orthographies, he said.

Pita Aatami of Canada stated that he understands Cathy Towtongie's concerns. He agreed that we need a consensus as we move ahead in this important work. If not, the work will fail, he cautioned. However, he congratulated the panel and Commission members. "Don't give up hope", he added. We have seven Inuit dialects, he said, and we can understand each other.

Aqaluk Lynge urged all delegates to look at the current draft of the Kuujjuaq Declaration and have a thorough discussion about this issue informally and formally when it comes up on the agenda.

Joannassie Akumalik urged the commission to keep working urgently on the language issue. It is essential that we work together on this particular issue. Our decision must be unanimous. I urge the panel to continue your work. We use different dialects but we can understand one another.

Another delegate stressed that the Kuujjuaq Declaration should be a document from a united people and the drafting of the Language Commission section should show "we are not divided". He said he hoped there would be more input from the Alaskan delegation on this matter.

Jose Kusugak noted that the 1970s language commission was totally different than this one today because the world was totally different then – no television and communications systems. The elders were never given a formal education because the world was quite different back then. If we can exchange with the teachers through Alaska, Canada, and Greenland perhaps we could communicate that information to the Nunavut government education department. We have sent exchange students to Japan for the past five years. I think exchanging teachers and students with other Inuit communities is a good idea.

Svetlana Tagiek of Chukotka stated that she has worked on the language issue in Chukotka for 30 years and noted that the Eskimo language was taught properly in only 4 remaining villages. The Yupik language interpretation booth here at the Assembly, she said, sat empty. Maybe in 30 years time, there will be no booth, she added. She noted the various Eskimo or Yupik dialects in Chukotka and that her mother who recently died was the last person to have spoken the Serenkiki Yupik dialect, for example. Although she mostly spoke the Chaplino dialect (because that is where she lived), on her death bed, Ms. Tagiek told delegates, that her mother reverted to her Serenkiki dialect. "I wish I knew what she was trying to tell me. Will it be one day that you in Greenland will not be able to communicate with your children, as you are dying?" That's why I am calling on you to preserve your language. She also informed delegates about weekly trips to St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Strait, which have assisted some Yupik in maintaining ties with others who speak Yupik. I hope these trips will be sponsored by ICC or become part of the ICC project. Going to Greenland to become familiar with the cultural traditions of the Greenland people had a profound effect on them. Such trips would be very important to stimulate our youth to preserve the language.

Elizaveta Dobriyeva of Chukotka, told delegates that she is one of the happiest of those that survived the resettlement from the Eskimo-speaking island in the Bering Sea. I was able to speak my language fluently, but when my parents took me to a different village they spoke Russian there.

She wanted to add to what Ms. Rodionova had said by referring to her Naukan language, “which we still spoke in the early 1990s”. She said that they started to make audio and video recordings of many of those who still spoke the language and documented this in a film called “Memory of Naukan”. After the film was produced, Ms. Dobriyeva informed delegates that this resulted in further work with the University of Alaska in Fairbanks in the development of a Naukan dictionary. It was her understanding that the Inuit Language Commission was trying to develop a type of “Inuit Esperanto” and was unsure about this goal. She concluded by saying: “Let us never see the day that our children and grandchildren don’t understand our language.”

Ane Hansen of Greenland stressed the importance of our language in terms of our internal communications. When we are speaking about our language, she said, of course there are emotions as a part of our language and the way we protect and defend our language sometimes calls on our strong emotions. With the introduction of home rule in Greenland in the late 1970s, one of the requirements was that “we should have legislation on the use of our language”. So today, she said, the Greenlandic Inuit language is much stronger in our society. In its current self-government commission, she noted it stressed the importance of language in the future and the importance to make a strong profile of language in any matters regarding Greenlandic political life. “Our language is the official language in Greenland and we are now discussing whether our second language should be English, instead of Danish as it now is”.

Panellist Eva Ariak of Canada noted that she just wanted to say that language is also a writing system – but when you work on them they are two separate things. We need to think about the writing system for Inuktitut. How can Circumpolar Inuit support each other in their languages. “What more can we do for the younger generation to help them preserve the language?”

Inuit Language Commission member and panellist Nuka Møller stated that he found the discussion very exciting and helpful. He noted that he was very excited about the future in terms of the issues discussed in the afternoon. A common writing system for all Inuit is one of the visions that the commission has, he said. He noted that this aim could, in fact, help attract Inuit who have become more distant from their language. It should be used, he said, to help preserve and promote “our common Inuit language”.

Panellist Natalia Rodionova had a different opinion on the matter. She thought that the emphasis should not be on creating a common writing system but rather all efforts should be put into preserving the language. This is not only a problem in Chukotka but also in Alaska, she noted.

Aqqaluk Lynge then asked Puju to conclude the panel discussion with final remarks.

PROCEEDINGS OF ICC'S 9^TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Carl Christian Olsen, Puju, thanked everyone for the ideas and comments they have given on this matter. He said the Commission's would be to look into the aspects that have come up during this session. "It has been a learning experience for us". He stated that Inuit now had a more clear basis to explore the opportunities for participating in a common writing system, and to ensure it was done in unity, and in consultation. "We have now a whole decade to work on the very harsh issues regarding our language and writing system". He concluded by promising to be in constant consultation with all delegates present at the General Assembly.

Aqqaluk Lynge again encouraged the delegates to prepare for the Kuujjuaq Declaration discussion issue on language policy later in the agenda. He also commented that there had been some media coverage that, in his opinion, had distorted some of the facts of the situation and cautioned delegates to refer to the reports, rather than the media interpretation of the discussions in the corridors. He thanked everyone for a good session.



Thursday, August 15, 2002

Opening Entertainment

The Greenland Choir, Aavaat, opened the last day of the General Assembly stating they would sing two songs. The first song was called “Qaamaallung”, a song about a young man leaving home because he is desperate about not having a woman in his life. The second song, a hymn, “Guutiga Illimmi” (Nearer My God to Thee) was beautifully and reverently sung. A prolonged standing ovation brought back the choir who had already exited the Kuujuaq Cultural Centre. Choir Director, Mads Lumholt, thanked everyone for a great week and then led the Aavaat Choir (composed of Greenlanders living in Denmark) with “Ukiap Seqerna Pukkilisoq”, a song which is sung to introduce and celebrate the arrival of autumn. The Aavaat Choir received another standing ovation before the day’s proceedings began.

The Honourable Stephen Owen, PC, QC, MP, Secretary of State, from Canada’s Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development was introduced and received an ovation from the audience.

Session VI – Trade and Development

Aqqaluk Lynge introduced the panel session on trade and development as follows:

“There were several initiatives related to the key issues of trade and development that ICC dealt with over the past 4-year mandate. With respect to international development, ICC broadened its scope of working assisting aboriginal peoples in Northern Russian, including humanitarian assistance in Chukotka. Also, ICC continued to expand its involvement with the indigenous peoples of Belize and helped them establish and build the Belize Indigenous Training Institute. An ICC Task Force on Arctic Trade was established to look at various issues of trade barriers and opportunities for Inuit. Although the Task Force looked at various issues, a key and, sometimes, problematic area was that the USA’s Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The MMPA denies the importation of marine mammal product for sale in the USA, yet acknowledges some important subsistence rights for Alaskan Inuit.

“Inuit have travelled many paths of development – cultural, economic, and social – over the past few decades and before. The time may now be ripe for us to take stock of what works and what does not work for us – and to be open to new perspectives on what economic development rally means.”

The first panellist, Task Force on Arctic Trade Chair, **Amalie Jessen**, noted that the Aavaat choir “gave us such a fine start to the morning ... I am proud to be a Greenlander”. Ms. Jessen once again referred to the Task Force report. She added some other comments regarding trade issues, Ms. Jessen noted that it was very important to promote dialogue – between countries and governments – in spite of the differences and similarities between our countries. It was important, she said, to develop the Arctic region, but from an Inuit perspective. In our Arctic areas, she said, living resources have a very important role, not only for trade but also in our cultures, our language, and in social and other factors. Inuit need further knowledge, she said, about our resources for sustainable development – how many whales and birds we have, for example, and how many we can take. She reminded delegates that Inuit use many different means of transportation, and that kayaks are still used in Greenland. The rest of the world, only very large vessels are used. In the Arctic, the way of life reduces the possibilities to misuse or abuse nature, she added. It was important to remember that in most of the Arctic, there is limited technology. Infrastructure is very important in developing trade, between Arctic countries and between Arctic countries and the rest of the world. Trade between Canada and Greenland would also improve, she said, if a flight connection could be re-established, say, through an agreement between the Greenland Home Rule Government and a Canadian company. International and, sometimes national, regulations have to take into account some positions, including those of the animal rights organizations. “These are all trade issues”, she said. Marketing was another area that Inuit needed to look at in terms of trade, Ms. Jessen added. She cited the example of marketing seal oil internationally. Using trade as a tool to improve the lives of Inuit, she said, would only be truly beneficial if all the trade information was shared across the circumpolar world. “We need to work together on this.”

With respect to communications, she said that the Task Force learned, through the issue of the USA Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), that “we needed to talk to one another face to face” and now there was more understanding of the positions of both sides. Ms. Jessen then concluded by reiterating the six recommendations contained in her written report on the Task Force that each delegate had in front of them.

Roy Ashenfelter, who introduced himself as a delegate for the Bering Straits Native Corporation and an Alaskan Native who enjoys hunting marine mammals. He argued that this hunt is what keeps many remote Alaskan villages culturally alive, that it's necessary for these communities to flourish. He discussed the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), originally passed by the USA Congress in 1972, which gives natives the right to hunt healthy populations for subsistence purposes.

He focussed on the co-management agreements in the Act which provide for Alaskan Natives to participate in management decisions that concern the sustainability of the hunt. Now, he says, the Bush administration has introduced watered down language that threatens meaningful Native participation, and noted the immediate Alaskan Native response – they'll be watching and responding to congressional sessions in 2003. A second threat came from the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which has

recently withheld its usual support from the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) for a small harvest of bowhead for subsistence purposes.

The USA's environmental communities support the Alaskan Native use of marine animals, but there is still no support from other IWC members for a small quota for harvesting bowhead for subsistence purposes by the AEWC. The AECW is fully aware that there are very serious disagreements within the ICC Task Force on Arctic Trade with regards to MMPA prohibition on marine mammal parts. The ICC members throughout the Arctic Circle need to work with the Alaska delegation to resolve our differences and agree to disagree if an immediate solution cannot be found. We have met with several environmental groups to educate them about subsistence harvesting of marine mammals and to find support for Alaska natives to harvest marine mammals. Any changes to the MMPA will not pass without support from the USA's environmental community who support our use of marine mammals.

The Alaska delegation, he said, suggests that Canada and Greenland develop a mutual understanding with their own environmental communities. The environmental communities in each country must be convinced that sustainable harvest of marine mammals is necessary for the economic benefit of Inuit people. When the environmental communities understand that this harvest is viable and sustainable, it will become more supportive, he said. The ICC Task Force on Arctic trade needs to work, he stated, with the environmental communities to change the MMPA to allow importation of marine mammal products into the USA. The international agreement must be changed which bans trade in marine mammal products between countries. "Our suggestion to the ICC Task Force on Arctic Trade to begin to resolve issues in MMPA and trade in marine mammal products in the Arctic is to meet and work with IPCoMM". For many, the hunting in the smaller villages is what keeps the community and culture alive and flourishing. "Our challenge in the United States is to be vigilant to protect the subsistence rights of Alaskan natives to harvest marine mammals". Mr. Ashenfelter then thanked the Assembly for the honour of providing his input to the ICC delegates.

Clint Davis, an Inuk from Labrador who has been a Canada-U.S. Fulbright scholar and recently graduated from the J.F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, spoke about economic development and leadership. Recent research has shown that simply having resources does not lead to economic success, he said. Mr. Davis stated that it is not the case that successful tribes are those with abundant natural resources, or high rates of educational attainment, or have been able to get their hands on financial capital. This research, referred to as the nation building model, identifies three key ingredients: 1) sovereignty, 2) capable institutions of government, and 3) a cultural match. Not only is it important, he said, for a people to have sovereignty, but for them to have the attitude of sovereignty. Capable institutions of government are important, he noted, to create the laws and procedures that get things done. And, he said, the governance model must be a cultural match for the indigenous peoples. To achieve these three components, he explained, the communities need effective leadership. He went on to define leadership as an act, not a position, so that any member of a community may take a leadership role at different times. What this means is anyone and everyone can exercise leadership on this

issue of development. Economic development is essential for Inuit to build strong, viable communities and ensure a vibrant culture for future generations. This challenge is an opportunity and a responsibility for all community members. He concluded with a quote from John F. Kennedy: "If we are to go only halfway, or reduce our sights in the face of difficulty...it would be better not to go at all."

At this point, Aqqaluk Lynge recognized the respected elders who had returned and noted that they will report later, as will the youth, he said.

Monica Reidel, Vice Chair of the Alaskan-based Indigenous Peoples Council for Marine Mammals (IPCoMM) and Executive Director of the Alaska Native Harbour Seal Commission addressed the delegates. Ms. Reidel introduced herself as "Nilatoa", which means in her Native language, "she makes beautiful things with her hands". She said it was passed on from her grandmother. She acknowledged her grandparents, mother and relatives from Kaltag, located on the Yukon River in Alaska. She also paid tribute to many other individuals for teaching her "everything I know about subsistence and marine mammals", including the Alutiq People of Prince William Sound, the Harbor Seal Commission, and other IPCoMM members.

Ms. Reidel gave a thorough background to the past and current events surrounding the USA's Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). She also shared a video that was developed to educate the environmental community on the Inuit way of life; it was distributed to more than 1.5 million children across the United States, she said.

With respect to the MMPA, Ms. Reidel noted that it was the work of conservationists trying to protect dolphins from being killed in the tuna industry. She noted that the animal rights movement quickly jumped on the MMPA bandwagon and tried to ban the taking of all marine mammals including seals, walrus, whales and polar bears.

Ms. Reidel stated that it was hard to eliminate the MMPA and Natives in Alaska worked hard to have it amended a few years ago which now guarantees Alaska Natives the right to harvest and eat marine mammals for "our nutritional, cultural, and spiritual health. Section 101 (b) was added to recognize the rights of Natives to harvest marine mammals for subsistence, clothing and handicrafts.

She spoke about the importance of co-management of living resources, adding that Canadians are much better at co-management than those in Alaska. Because section 101 (b) was the only legislation in the USA that protects Alaska Natives rights to hunt marine mammals and as such, ICC Alaska and all Alaskan Natives "will not allow our exemption to be jeopardized by opening it up for discussion". She said, instead, that Inuit need to start a large-scale campaign to educate and gain support of the environmental community in Canada and elsewhere. She said, "let them do the work for you to convince the US environmental community that your economic needs are being stifled". She recognized the difficulty some Greenlandic and Canadian Inuit had in not being able to

export marine mammal products, including polar bear, to the USA because of the MMPA. But she insisted that Alaskan Natives can never have their important legislative vehicle be taken away from them.

It is important, she said, that the educational process includes passing on an understanding of how co-management works and how sustainable the harvest is in Canada and in Greenland. For this to happen they need to know that there are management plans in place to monitor harvests, to know that the populations of marine mammals stay stable, and they need to know that the harvest levels are sustainable and based on sound science that can be defended. They need to know that harvests reduction will be addressed in the management plan when populations decline, she added.

“I believe that teaching the children about our way of life will help in the future because they will be the ones that will be addressing these issues”, Ms Reidel continued. She said that Natives need partnerships with the media – to show them the art and the beauty of the Native culture and that Natives can share that with the rest of the world. She went on to say that Natives can unite successfully to address these issues to change their course and to the benefit of children and grandchildren. She concluded by saying, “I intend to keep bringing our issues to the front and addressing them head on”.

Discussion Among Delegates – Trade and Development

Hans Enoksen, Minister of Fisheries and Hunting from Greenland, gave a comprehensive reply to the connection between today's discussion and that of the panel on environment and sustainable development. He went on to say that we Inuit are dependent on nature – it is our way of living and all over circumpolar Inuit depend on nature as well. We have had this culture for a very long time. He said, that in Greenland, “we must use the police and justice system to find those who abuse natural resources because we have to be responsible politically and as a society”. These are some of the important issues that each Greenlander must come to grips with, he said. Mr. Enoksen informed the delegates of the ongoing educational campaign on sustainable use of natural resources in Greenland, which will help to carefully control the wise use of natural resources. He said, our government has rules about the use of all kinds of resources and we must follow these rules carefully”. He continued to stress that it was important to take responsibility in caring for Greenland's natural resources. He reminded delegates, however, that caring for the environment was not only an Inuit responsibility. Environmental pollution, he said, has become a global problem and others also need to be held responsible for the state the world's environment, which affects the Arctic and the rest of the world.

Arnold Brower from Barrow, Alaska, representing the regional tribal government of the Arctic slope. He said he thought that all in the Inuit world needed to be cognisant about management and incidents happening in our own regions as those types of incidents are happening also in the villages in Alaska. These need to be the focal points for our co-management principles in Alaska. I support your views and I am becoming more

cognizant of these things myself because these are things that we have to live with and incorporate into our management regimes. In Alaska the tribal governments have regulatory authorities over wildlife, he added.

Johnny Peters of Canada stated that he agreed with the two previous statements. It is true that better management regimes have to be set and all kinds of equipment and technology used. The main thing I want to state is that various species of animals have been affected. This includes salmon fishing and this is now decreasing – we are researching the reasons and one major reason is that they are over harvested when they are out at sea. We Inuit need to take control and use better management policies so that we don't have to rely on other nations to control us.

Svetlana Tagiek of Chukotka added that in Chukotka as well, the harvesting of marine mammals has become the main industry since the reindeer herding has been pretty much extinct. She stated that the marine mammal meat has become a main staple and the women use the skin to generate income; over the winter they prepare many marine mammals for sale, as well, thus generating sufficient income to survive the rest of the year. However, the hunt for marine mammals is a very dangerous activity for our men and “we have to make the maximum use of both meat and skin so that we don't have excessive waste”. She stated that the Yupik always make full use of all the products, even for small slippers, “because these are products for which our hunters have risked a lot”.

Tatiana Kharchenko of Chukotka noted that they are also experiencing a decline in salmon. Over the past three years foreign vessels have harvested these salmon. This is leading to almost the complete extinction of our salmon species.

Walter Sampson of Alaska thanked ICC for the invitation to participate today and the Greenlandic choral group for the start of the day. In the last few days we have concentrated on many similar issues in our four countries. One issue that we have not adequately discussed is the assets we have in our children – the children that will be taking over this very forum. Hopefully, he said, they will become the lawyers, the doctors, and the teachers to tackle the very issues that we are talking about today – the future leaders who will be discussing the same issues that we talk about today. We need to give full support to the education of our children, he stated. Although western systems have been introduced to the Inuit world, he said, “we need to counter some of what is being done to us today”. He ended by saying that we need to strengthen partnerships between different countries to protect the future of the Inuit in the Arctic.

Aqqaluk Lynge then re-introduced to the delegates the Canadian Secretary of State for Northern and Indian Affairs, the Honorable Stephen Owen. He noted that the people of Canada are greatly honoured to have this international meeting in this country and in this beautiful territory of Nunavut. Mr. Owen stated that because the Assembly preceded the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, it was important for the Canadian government to hear of the Inuit vision because the world needs this enlightenment. He commented on the civilized nature of the Inuit culture and, according to Mr. Owen, it was the “light on the land,” which he had first learned about from reading

a book during his law studies in England. He noted that he had always looked at the Inuit community as something that the rest of Canadians should hope to model. He spoke about the Inuit vision of sustainable development and the global leadership demonstrated by the ICC. Sustainable development is about enlightenment, vision, and looking to the future – thinking about the next generations, he said. He informed delegates that the Government of Canada is in discussions with the Government of Nunavut in terms of the development of the Bathurst Port and Road that will help open up opportunities to the vast natural resources of Nunavut Territory. He noted that in all of these projects and issues, the government recognizes that sustainable development is about the future, and “if we’re going to meet it in a responsible way, we require vision”. A vision needs to be based upon traditions if it is going to be realistic, credible, and sustain us into the future, he added.. He ended his address by thanking the people of Kuujjuaq for their gracious hosting.

One delegate asked the Secretary of State about the legislation that Minister Nault will be introducing today in the Parliament on institution building. He wanted to know what it meant for Inuit. The answer by Stephen Owen was that the financial institutions legislation would enable aboriginal communities, perhaps more directly related to First Nations communities than Inuit and territorial government, was to create a financial basis for economic development in the First Nations. It was to set up a series of financial institutions that are aboriginal and run by aboriginals. This would help larger groups of aboriginal peoples have access to financing also. This would not directly affect the territorial government of Nunavut.

Aqqaluk Lynge thanked Mr. Owen for visiting, and speaking to the delegates.

Elders Report

Mary Adams, newly elected President of the Inuit International Elders’ Conference (IIEC) was asked to report on the parallel conference held in Kuujjuaq. She introduced the elders who were present. The objective for the next four years, she said, were included in the recommendations presented to the Assembly. She reminded delegates also of the 1998 resolutions. IIEC should work on culture, education, language, and health. She noted that one of the recommendations was for the IIEC board members to hold annual meetings, not meeting every four years. She also noted that the IIEC was too detached from the ICC General Assembly, and ICC should look at ways of addressing this. In addition to herself as President, Ms. Adams then introduced the three other council members:

- | **David Angnakak**, Vice-President from Canada
- | **Enos Lyberth**, Vice-President from Greenland
- | **Levi Cleveland**, Vice-President from Alaska

Ms. Adams noted that IIEC member from Chukotka would be elected in Chukotka once the elders' delegates were able to nominate an individual. She noted that it was too bad that the travel difficulties had negated the Russian elders from participating at the meeting in Kuujjuaq.

Ms. Adams closed by saying that Inuit must continue working together: the youth, the elders, the community members. "We must work in unity as Inuit have always done".

Aqqaluk Lynge also thanked the outgoing President of the elders, Enos Lyberth for his hard work in organizing the elders association.

Youth Report

Audrey Brower Saganna of Barrow, Alaska, briefly reviewed the goals in the creation of ICC and the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council (ICYC), mentioning the role of the late Eben Hopson in this creation as a person who urged young Inuit to bring this about. She briefly reviewed the Youth General Assembly meeting and the establishment of the ICYC in 1994. The youth, who are about 50% of the Inuit population, she said felt the need to educate the leaders on their needs. In their meeting, Ms. Brower Saganna said they reviewed, revised, and adopted the ICYC bylaws.

The youth received standing ovation.

Closed Meeting

Aqqaluk Lynge closed the 6th session.

Afternoon Session

The last afternoon of the Assembly was opened with drum dancing by the King Island Drummers and Dancers and also a Nunavik dancer, Simon Matte.

The new ICYC Chair, Miali Coley, spoke briefly about the goals for the next four years. She stated that on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council (ICYC), she would like to express her appreciation to ICC in recognizing youth in all areas of Canada, Russia, Alaska, and Greenland. She went on to say that the ICYC goals over the next 4 years included to begin clearly-demarcated communications throughout the 4 countries and to push for a stronger link between the elders and the General Assembly. Ms. Coley noted her regret that a meeting between the elders and youth at this Assembly had not been included. She hoped it would happen in 4 years time. She stated further that it was the aim of ICYC to make strong links to, and work closely with, each of the national youth organizations in Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Russia. She further stated that the

executive council of ICYC would need support from ICC and hoped that it would be forthcoming. Ms. Coley concluded by speaking of the value and importance of the Inuit languages, because “our language is our culture”.

The Kuujjuaq Declaration

The Kuujjuaq Declaration was presented by Kupik Kleist, chair of the committee that prepared the draft declaration. Amendments to the declaration included some of the views on the language, as discussed earlier in the meeting. He read the entire document.

Acceptance of the declaration was moved by Jose Kusugak and seconded by Joe Allen.

The delegates discussed the resolution in some detail looking at many specific questions and providing some amendments. The document was approved unanimously.

The Kuujjuaq Declaration was signed by each delegate in a ceremony (see Annex A).

Resolution Regarding Dog Slaughter (Resolution 02-02)

Pita Aatami presented the resolution, asking them to collect evidence on the needless and deliberate killing of Inuit sled dogs by law enforcement agencies in the 1950s and 1960s, which resulted in loss of way of life, Inuit culture, and resulting distress. It is moved that ICC pursue this matter as a violation of human rights. The motion was moved by Pita Aatami of Canada and seconded by Joannasie Akumalik of Canada.

The assembly expressed unanimous support of the resolution (see Annex C).

Election of ICC Chair

Noting the previous day's unanimous nomination of Sheila Watt-Cloutier as ICC Chair, Aqqaluk Lynge asked the delegation members, one by one to stand, to vote on her election. Individually, each delegate member stood, staring with the Greenland delegation, after which Aqqaluk Lynge declared, “I hereby declare Sheila Watt-Cloutier as the next Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference.”

With everyone applauding, Sheila Watt-Cloutier shook the hands of each delegate, then the youth and elders delegates who had joined the Assembly.

In her address to the General Assembly, Ms. Watt-Cloutier thanked all the volunteers who had helped make the 9th General Assembly a success. She thanked the delegates for their unanimous affirmation as the new ICC chair.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier then outlined plans for setting up the ICC head office in Iqaluit and promised to have an open door to all Inuit across the Arctic. She acknowledged the role of her mother and other family members in providing guidance and support her over the years. She further asked for the support and advice of the new ICC executive council members and stated she would work closely with them. Ms. Watt-Cloutier reminded delegates that Inuit viewed the world in a holistic manner and she hoped to bring this perspective to the multiple challenges facing Inuit over the next four years.

Election of ICC Executive Council

Each of the ICC executive council members were introduced as follows:

- | **ICC Chair**
Sheila Watt-Cloutier

- | **Council Members from Greenland**
Aqqaluk Lyngé, Vice Chair
Carl Christian Olsen, Puju

- | **Council Members from Canada**
Duane Smith, Vice Chair
Violet Ford

- | **Council Members from Alaska**
Chuck Greene, Vice Chair
Michael Pederson

- | **Council Members from Chukotka**
Natalia Rodionova, Vice Chair
Tatiana Kolpikova

Awards and Presentations

| The Bill Edmunds Award

The newly-elected ICC Chair, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, introduced the Bill Edmunds Award. At each ICC General Assembly, the Bill Edmunds Award is presented, she said, to an individual who has shown outstanding dedication and commitment in promoting Inuit unity and human rights. Before calling upon the recipient of the award, Ms. Watt-Cloutier

paid tribute to the Labrador Inuk, after whom the award is named. She said Bill Edmunds epitomizes what ICC is all about. He was a grassroots person, she said, who believed in both individual and collective action. She described how in 1973, Bill Edmunds and a few other individuals were informally discussing what could be done about the denial of their basic human rights, and two years later, he became a founder of the Labrador Inuit Association (LIA). In 1977, he was one of 18 Canadian delegates to the historic ICC meeting in Barrow, Alaska. Mr. Edmunds served as LIA's second President until his death in 1983, which occurred just prior to ICC's 3rd General Assembly in Iqaluit.

Michael Pederson of Alaska then joined Sheila Watt-Cloutier at the podium and together they called upon outgoing ICC Chair, Aqqaluk Lynge, to come forward to accept the award. She noted that Mr. Lynge had provided ICC and all Inuit with outstanding service and commitment in striving and promoting the human rights of Inuit on the international scene over two decades. She also stated that Mr. Lynge had provided dedication not only through his ICC work, but also as a writer, social worker, and politician in the Greenland Home Rule Government. She also noted that he had made early contacts with the Russian government and was instrumental in bringing the Russian Yupik into the ICC fold.

Mr. Pederson added that all Alaskans were extremely grateful to Mr. Lynge and thanked him for his commitment in representing all Inuit internationally. Mr. Lynge was given a lengthy standing ovation.

! Other Awards and Closing Remarks

In recognition of ICC's 25th anniversary, Mr. Lynge acknowledged all the former Presidents of ICC, thanking them for their dedication and help to the organization. He noted that apart from himself, there were two other past Presidents of ICC in the audience, and asked them to come forward. He presented gifts to both Mary Simon (1986-1992) and Hans-Pavia Rosing (1980-1986), amidst a round of rousing applause.

Many other gifts were exchanged among delegates and several tributes were made. The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and the Town of Kuujjuaq were given innumerable "thank-yous" and tributes. All who spoke expressed their immense gratitude to the KRG, the Town, as well as Makivik Corporation. Others thanked the Canadian government, the Quebec Government, and all the people of Canada for the enormous success of the anniversary celebrations and the 9th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

In closing, Aqqaluk Lynge thanked all who had supported him and gave special mention to the staff of all ICC offices. He also thanked the donors for their generous financial support. He then asked Mary Aitchison of Canada and Makka Kleist of Greenland to lead the delegates and performers in bringing a close to the Assembly.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony, which was collectively coordinated by Mary Aitchison, Makka Kleist, and Jerome Gordon included performers from each country. Beautifully choreographed and professionally presented, the children, youth, and elders joined other performers who – one small group at a time – came to the central stage of the new Kuujjuaq Cultural Centre, joining one another to say good-bye through song, music, and dance. Soon many in the audience, including delegates and guests joined the dancing at centre stage.

The very moving closing ceremony was especially significant as it showed both the differences across the Inuit homeland and, most especially, the unity among all Inuit. Mary Aitchison said when she thanked everyone at the end of the ceremony, that she had never seen such beautiful performances. She stated further that the singing, drumming, dancing, and prayers resonated deeply within her and that it exemplified the close emotional and spiritual bond between all Inuit, no matter what physical part of the Inuit homeland they came from, or what colonial past they may have endured.

Closing Prayer

A moving and rousing closing prayer was said by Myrtle Akootchook of Barrow, Alaska amidst drumming, dancing, and singing by artists, performers, and delegates.



Friday, August 16, 2002

Aqpik Jam



Annex A

THE KUUJJUAQ DECLARATION

As declared by Inuit of Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Russia

On the occasion of the 9th General Assembly

of the

Inuit Circumpolar Conference

11 – 16 August 2002

Russian, Alaskan, Canadian, and Greenland Delegates to the 9th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, held August 11 – 16, 2002 in Kuujjuaq, Canada,

RECALLING the early vision of Eben Hopson, Sr. and other Inuit to found, maintain, and foster a strong organization dedicated to Inuit unity and collective international Inuit action;

FURTHER RECALLING that the *Principles and Elements for a Comprehensive Arctic Policy* published in 1991 by the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) is a wide-ranging guide for Inuit, governments, and others to follow;

HAVING STUDIED the ICC President's report on activities for the period 1998-2002, and the reports from the Chairs of the Inuit Language Commission, the Inuit Communications Commission, and the ICC Task Force on Arctic Trade;

HAVING HEARD the deliberations of delegates and input from observers and guests at this 9th General Assembly on several important matters, including those of the United Nations (UN), self-government, human rights, cultural and intellectual property rights, environment, sustainable development, language, communications, economy and trade, youth, and elders;

RECOGNIZING WITH GRATITUDE the enormous efforts of the ICC executive council and staff over the past four years in their input to historic achievements such as the establishment of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the international agreement to eliminate persistent organic pollutants (The Stockholm Convention);

GREATLY AFFECTED by the forced relocations suffered by Inuit in many parts of the Inuit homeland, the dislocation from their traditional areas, and the lack of apologies and adequate compensation by governments;

ACKNOWLEDGING that new known and unknown challenges are facing Inuit over the next four years and well into the new millennium;

DEEPLY ENCOURAGED that the newly-elected and committed ICC Executive Council and Chair are ready to meet the challenges of the next four years in representing Inuit on various matters of international importance;

HEREBY:

- 1. WELCOME AND ADOPT** the ICC President's report on activities for 1998-2002;
- 2. STRONGLY WELCOME** the recommendations contained in the report from the Chair of the Inuit Language Commission and, if adequate funding can be raised, **DIRECT** the Commission, under the guidance of the executive council, to seriously consider these recommendations;
- 3. RECEIVE WITH APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING** the report from the Chair of the ICC Task Force on Arctic Trade and her strong message of the importance of all Inuit assisting each other on matters of both trade opportunities and barriers;
- 4. INSTRUCT** the new executive council to seriously consider and monitor the recommendations outlined in the report from the Chair of the Inuit Communications' Commission, including those related to facilitating the establishment of a pan-Arctic news agency and Arctic television network;
- 5. REAFFIRM THE COMMITMENT** to maintaining a strong ICC presence in Alaska, Canada, and Greenland, and to further strengthening the ICC regional office in Chukotka through financial and other forms of assistance;
- 6. URGE** the ICC Executive Council to consider the guidelines set forth in the document, "Maximizing Efficiency and Delegating Responsibility Within ICC" in order to maximize efficiency and avoid duplication in implementing mandates of importance to all Inuit on an international basis;

7. **STRONGLY PROMOTE** the need to keep the Arctic environment safe from trans-boundary pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals, rapid climate change and, generally, unsustainable development; and therefore:
 - **CALL UPON** governments to enact domestic legislation and promote and implement multi-lateral agreements to reduce and/or eliminate harmful environmental damage and resulting human health problems in the Arctic;
 - **MANDATE** regional ICC offices to lobby their respective governments to immediately ratify and to urge other states to ratify the 1998 POPs Protocol to the UN/ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Atmospheric Pollution, 2001 Stockholm Convention on POPs, and the 1997 Kyoto Protocol pursuant to the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change;
 - **INSTRUCT** ICC to work in partnership with Arctic and other governments and appropriate NGOs to develop global initiatives to combat climate change in general, and an Arctic climate change program in particular;
 - **DIRECT** ICC to protect the interests of Inuit initiatives in international fora such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).
8. **REAFFIRM** the importance of the Arctic Council as an institutional vehicle to protect the environment and promote culturally and environmentally appropriate sustainable development in the Arctic;
9. **DIRECT** ICC to use its status as a “permanent participant” to the Arctic Council to further the environmental and sustainable development interests of Inuit and, when appropriate, work cooperatively with other permanent participants to the Council and actively seek funding for Arctic Council activities, including involvement in ministerial summits, meetings of Senior Arctic Officials (SAO), and Council programmes and working groups;
10. **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the ICC executive council in the new and major undertaking of working within the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and **COMMIT** to providing direct assistance to ICC when called upon;
11. **SUPPORT** the UN Advisory Committee composed of executive council members and others to provide on-going advice to ICC on all UN matters of importance to Inuit and other indigenous peoples;
12. **URGE** the new ICC Executive Council to continue to promote, with other indigenous peoples, the adoption of the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in language acceptable to them;

- 13. AGAIN CALL UPON** national, provincial, and state governments to recognize the inherent rights of Inuit with respect to sustainable hunting, co-management, and other subsistence activities, and **DIRECT** ICC to assist Inuit through advocacy, education, litigation and empowerment on these matters;
- 14. PROMOTE** the removal of international and national trade barriers that affect all forms of Inuit livelihood, in consultation with affected Inuit, at the same time ensuring that the rights of Inuit to their intellectual and cultural property, traditional knowledge, and access to capital, employment, contracts, financing, royalties, local revenue, and other financial benefits of development are enhanced in the process;
- 15. GREATLY ENCOURAGE** ICC to undertake a comprehensive study on how best to address global forces, such as the “animal rights” and other destructive movements that aim to destroy Inuit sustainable use of living resources, and to report back to the next General Assembly on its findings;
- 16. INSTRUCT** ICC, when requested, to assist the various local, regional, and national Inuit organizations in pursuing the matters of forced relocations and dislocations as matters of human rights violations;
- 17. ESTABLISH** an “ICC Decade on the Promotion of Self-Determination” that will include a programme of exchanging experiences and mutual encouragement among regions, and **INSTRUCT** the Executive Council to develop a framework for such a Decade;
- 18. DIRECT** ICC to represent Inuit by promoting their rights and protecting their interests in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), European Union (EU), Organization of American States (OAS), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and other relevant organizations;
- 19. ENCOURAGE** the ICC executive council to prudently expand its international development activities with the aim of assisting Inuit and other indigenous peoples globally;
- 20. REITERATE** the need for ICC to act as a facilitator for Inuit trade and economic development in a supportive role to Inuit-owned companies and individuals undertaking business development;
- 21. MANDATE** the ICC Executive Council to intensify its support to Yupik and other indigenous peoples in Chukotka by building upon the 2001 memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the Governor of Chukotka, the ICC President, and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka;

22. **RECEIVE WITH APPRECIATION** the important recommendations from Inuit youth at this General Assembly and **DIRECT** each ICC office to offer support and advice to Inuit youth as they reorganize their international efforts, and to **EXPAND** existing scholarships for youth;
23. **WELCOME WITH GRATITUDE** the guidance received from Inuit elders at this General Assembly and **URGE** the ICC executive council to intensify its efforts in seeking funding for elders' meetings and activities until 2006;
24. **REQUEST** the Executive Council to begin updating ICC's *Principles and Elements for a Comprehensive Arctic Policy*, the first activity of which should be a comprehensive Inuit-wide consultation process to accurately determine the nature and scope of required changes;
25. **REMIND** the Executive Council that ICC is fundamentally an international organization dedicated to the promotion of human rights and, as such, **REQUEST** the Council members to integrate the human rights dimension into each mandate, program, and activity of ICC.

Annex B

Resolution 02-01
Regarding Changing the Titles of
President and Vice-President

ICC 9th General Assembly
Kuujjuaq 11—16 August 2002

Resolution 02-01
Regarding Changing the Titles of
President and Vice-President

WHEREAS the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) carries out its functions through a head office, as well as regional offices in Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland; and

WHEREAS each regional office is under the direction of organizations, each with their own Presidents and s, respectively; and

WHEREAS the ICC Executive Council has recommended, as per Article 12 of ICC's Charter, to change the name of "ICC President" to "ICC Chair" and that names of each "ICC " be changed to "ICC Vice-Chair";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the title of "ICC President" be changed to "ICC Chair";

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the title "" be changed to "Vice-Chair";

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ICC's Charter and By-Laws be amended to reflect these changes.

Moved by: Arnold Brower, Jr.

Seconded by: Jens Lars Fleischer

Passed unanimously
Kuujjuaq, 14 August 2002

Annex C

Resolution 02-02
Regarding the Dog Slaughter in Canada

ICC 9th General Assembly
Kuujuuaq 11—16 August 2002

Resolution 02-02

Regarding the Dog Slaughter in Canada

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada have collected testimonial evidence that law enforcement agents needlessly and deliberately killed Inuit sled dogs during the 1950s and 1960s, resulting in several negative impacts, including: loss of way of life, loss of Inuit culture, loss of livelihood, and the resulting distress; and

WHEREAS the Inuit of Canada have written to both Federal and Provincial / Territorial governments requesting a public inquiry into this matter, and both levels of government have declined to pursue the matter; and

WHEREAS ICC has a mandate to protect and uphold the human rights of Inuit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, if all available recourses within Canada have been exhausted, Inuit Circumpolar Conference investigate and pursue the dog slaughter issue in Canada as a violation of human rights.

Moved by: Pita Aatami

Seconded by: Joannasie Akumalik

Passed unanimously
Kuujuuaq, 14 August 2002

Annex D

Participants

Delegates

| **Canada**

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, President, ICC Canada

Duane Smith, Vice-President, ICC Canada

Jose Kusugak, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Pita Aatami, President, Makivik Corporation

Cathy Towtongie, President, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

William Barbour, President, Labrador Inuit Association

Nellie Cournoyea, Chair & CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Veronica Dewar, President, Pauktuutit

Adamie Padlayat, President, Inuit National Youth Council

Adamie Alaku, Vice-President, Economic Development, Makivik Corporation

Anthony Ittoshat, Treasurer, Makivik Corporation

Gary Baikie, Director, Torngasok Culture Centre

Don Dicker, Labrador Inuit Association

Thomasie Alikatuktuk, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Vice-President, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Joahansie Akuumalik, Mayor, Arctic Bay

Joseph Haluksit, Director, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Frank Pokiak, Vice-Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council

| **Greenland**

Aqqaluk Lynge, President, ICC

Uusaqqak Qujaukitsoq, Vice-President, ICC

Carl Christian Olsen, Executive Council Member, ICC

Eva Arqe, Ittoqqortoormiit

Salomine Villadsen, Kalaallit Ilinniagaqartut Kattuffiat, Greenland Students Association (KIK)

Cecilie Adolfsen, Qimarnguiit, Women's Shelters Association

Jens Lars Fleischer, KANUKOKA, Siulitaasoq, Chairman, Association of Municipal Councils

Daniel Skifte, Chairman, Siulittaasoq, Inatsisartut, Greenland Home Rule Parliament

Josef Therkildsen, Siulittaasup tullia, SIK

Dorthea Jakobsen, Dorthea Jakobsen, Women's Association

Leif Fontaine, KNAPK, Hunters and Fishermen's Organization

Steen Jeppson, Atassut

Kiistat Holm, IMAK, Teachers Organization

Britta N. Johansen, Sorlak Youth Group

Kristian Poulsen (Pablo), Kallallit Atuakkiortut, Writers Association

Frank Angmalortoq, Qaanaap Kommunia

Ane Hansen, Inuit Ataqtigiit

Doris Jakobsen, Siumut

| **Alaska**

Michael Pederson, Vice-President, ICC Alaska

Molly Pederson, President, North Slope Borough Assembly

John Hopson, Jr., Assembly Member, North Slope Borough Assembly

Margaret Opie, Acting Mayor, North Slope Borough Assembly

Arnold Brower, Jr., President, Inupiat Community of the Arctic

Donald Sheldon, Chairman, NANA Regional Corporation

Joseph Ballot, NANA Board Member

Roland Booth, Sr., NANA Board Member

Walter Sampson, President, Northwest Arctic Borough

Roswell Schaeffer, Mayor, Northwest Arctic Borough

Jane Adams, Board Member, Maniilaq

Irma Hunnicutt, Board Member, Maniilaq

Percy Ballot, Sr., Board Member, Maniilaq

Perry Mendenhall, Bering Strait Native Corporation

Roy Ashenfelter, Board Member, Bering Strait Native Corporation

Robert Keith, Chairman, Kawerak Inc.

Lisa Ellanna-Brandt, Board Member, Kawerak Inc.

Marie Greene, President, NANA Regional Corporation

| **Russia**

Lubov Otrokova, Vice-President, ICC Russia

Tatiana Kharchenko, Council Member, ICC Russia

Valery Yugunhak

Ludmila Makotrik

Vyacheslav Kevkun

Tatiana Kolpikova

Larisa Muravieva

Raisa Zotova

Svetlana Tagjek

Lubov Tajan

Elizaveta Dobrieva

Natalia Rodionava

International Elders Conference Delegates

| **Canada**

Mary Adams/Labrador
Gustav Bosae/Labrador
Willie Emudluk

Lazarusie Epoo
David Angnakak
Lizzie Mary Kakkik

Helen Gruben
Elise Klengenber

| **Greenland**

Jorgen Geisler
Regine Petersen
Kaaleeraq Rosing

Amalie Jeremiassen
Jens Storch
Enos Lyberth

Jakobine Rosing
Agnethe Nielsen

| **Alaska**

Jacob Ahwinona
Alfred Sahlin

Levi Cleveland
Raymond Hawley

Priscilla Sage
Ruth Nukapigaq

International Youth Conference Delegates

Canada

Sheila Angnaktuk
April Anderson
Andy Moorhouse

Jonathan Epoo
Miali Coley
Eric Nutarariaq

Janina Gruben
Fred Kuptana

Greenland

Georg Olsen
Matte Larsen
Randi Broberg

Edvard Morch
Julie Edel Berthelsen
Upaluk Poppel

Bjarne Lyberth
Nikku Olsen

Alaska

Lee Ryan
Asaaluk Ireland
Zazell Staheli

Arlo Davis
Mathew Rexford
Maxine Ahgeak

Katherine Rexford
Audrey Saganne

Guest Speakers

Canada

Ambassador Mary Simon, Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs

Premier Paul Okalik, Premier of Nunavut

Nancy Karetak-Lindell, M.P. for Nunavut

Johnny Adams, Chair, Kativik Regional Government

Michael Gordon, Mayor of Kuujjuaq

Louise Harel, President of the Quebec National Assembly

Stephen Owen, PC, QC, MP, Secretary of State, Department of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

Michel L tourneau, Delegate Minister, Native Affairs of Northern Quebec

Clayton Gordon, Chair, Aboriginal Television Network

Fran ois Villemaire, Presenter, Finance

Clint Davis, Presenter, Harvard University

Eva Ariak, Language Commissioner, Nunavut
Harry Tulugak, Nunavik Commission on Self Government

! **Greenland**

Hans Enoksen, Siumut, Nuuk
Kuupik Kleist, M.P. Chair Inuit Communication Commission
Johan L. Olsen, Member of the Commission on Self Government
Amalie Jessen, Head of Section, Greenland Home Rule
Finn Lynge, Consultant
Erna Lynge, Journalist
Hans Pavia Rosing, Former ICC President
Stephen Heilmann, KNR, Nuuk
Birger Poppel, Chief of Greenland Statistics

! **Alaska**

Ron Brower, Sr., Director, Inupiat Heritage Centre
Jana Horcharek, North Slope Borough School District
Charles Edwardsen, VIP
Mike Irwin, Alaska Federation of Natives
Elizabeth Hensley, Alaska Federation of Natives
Chuck Greene, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, NANA

! **Russia**

Sergei Kharuchi, President, RAIPON
Alexander Borodin, Representative of the Governor of Chukotka

Other International Special Guests

Peter Stenlund, Chair, Arctic Council
Dalee Sambo Dorough, Human Rights Expert
Lola Garcia, IWGIA
Ole Henrik Magga, Chair, UN Permanent Forum

Staff and Interpreters

Canada

Corinne Gray
Violet Ford
Linda Paynter
Natasha Willows
Carole Simon
Lisa Koperqualuk
Caroline Anawak

Stephen Hendrie
Toonee Kootoo
Whit Fraser
Robert Martel
Terry Fenge
Stephanie Meakin
Kevin Knight

June Shappa
Paul Irngaut
Sandy Tooma
Betsy Berthie
Annie Johanes
Lucy Grey

Interpreters

Martha Kauki
Jimmy Mark
Johnny Agma

Mary Nashook
Harriett Kaleutek
Blandina Tulugarjuk

D. Choquette
L. Meunier

Greenland

Rena Skifte
Hjalmar Dahl
Chester Reimer
Mads Faegteborg

Ellen Kristensen
Ove Karl Berthelsen
Elias Rosing
Gerda Knudsen

Susanne Tobaissen
Arnannnguaq Kreutzmann
Fali Kleist

Interpreters

Ole Heinrich
Johanne Petrusen

Jens Geisler
Jokum Nielsen

Moses Olsen
Kiista L. Hoegh

Alaska

Josie Brower
Fannie Suvlu
Cheryl Brower
Lydia Scott

David Case
Carolyn Kulukhon
Rose Atuk-Fosdick
Melanie Edward

Hannah Loon
Mary Sage
Edward Ward
Robert Schaeffer

| **Russia**

Irina Appa

Interpreters

Marina Bell
Oleg Shakov

Nikita Kirliof

Marina Lavrow

Performers

| **Canada**

Aklavik Delta Drummers

Danny Gordon Sr.
Annie Gordon
Colin Gordon
Sarah Meyook

Sarah McLeod
Jimmy Meyook
Andrew Gordon Sr.
Eva Gordon

Georgianne Gordon
Phillip Elanik
Lorianne Elanik
Jerome Gordon

Labrador Drummers

Amilia Tuklavina
David Dicker
Elizabeth Ford

Holly Anderson
Joan Winters
Janelle Barbour

Nicole Dicker
Darren Andersen
Richard Maggo

POV Throat Singers

Mary Sivuaraapik

Alicie Tullaugak

Nellie Nungak

Nunavut Throat Singers

Koomook McIister

Elita Kilabuk

Ayaya Singer

Elizabeth Nutarakittuq

We would also like to acknowledge the Aqqik Jam and local performers who provided entertainment throughout the week.

! **Greenland**

Makka Kleist	Marie H. Andersen	Else Andreassen
Peter Qaavigaq	Theo Andersen	Levi Petersen
Manasi Moller	Simon Petersen	Kristine Petersen
Mads Ole Kristiansen	Kristine Petersen	Mads Kronvold
Miki Jakobsen	Peter Andreassen	Ulrikke Kronvold

Aavaat Choir

Mads Lumholt, Conductor	Helle Andreassen	Poul Ringsted
Ane Poulsen	Henriette Berthelsen	Rissa Busk Larsen
Annette Søborg	Isak Steenholdt	Robert Peary
Anike Fægteborg	Josef Lund	Sofie Larsen
Aqqalooraq Frederiksen	Jørgen Petersen	Per Herholdt Jensen
Pauline Haussing	Nauja Grønvold Johanne Pedersen	Else Møller
Else Lennert	Pavia Høegh	Pavia Lumholt
Else Marie Herholt Jensen		

! **Alaska**

Barrow Dancers
Northern Lights Drummers and Dancers
Kotzebue Drummers and Dancers

Observers

! **Canada**

Violet Ford	Harold Finkler	Hugh Lloyd
Anne E. Adams	Fabien Glauser	Raymond Obomsawin
Ramjit Perera	Donat Savoie	Judith Stenway
Jeffery Tulugak	Charlie Tukkiapik	Lao Akesuk
Lillian Mannik	Charlie Alaku	Marianne Stenback
Johnny Oovout Sr.	Qalingo Angotingirk	Anick Guimond
Jusipi Annahatak	George I. Kakayuk	Susan Keogh-Fisher
David Angutinguak	Arnaituk Targirk	Daniel Gaudreau
Willie Cain	Eli Aullaluk	Genevieve Lamothe SAA
Maggie Emudluk	Paulusie Novalinga	Yves Pourier

Bobby Baron
Annie Grenier
Alice Nalakturak
Sarah Aloupa
Claude Grenier
Sammy Duncan
Johnny Naktairaluk
Rhoda Kokkiapik
Charlie Arngak

Josie E. Tullaugak
Shamik Inukpuk
Sarollie Weetaluktuk
Abelie Napartuk
Davidee Nivixie
Lucassie Inukpuk
Robbie Watt
A Mullen
Martin Raymond SAA

Jacques Gariepy
Jacques Côté
Louise-Philippe Lachance
Christian Dubois
Geoffrey Kelly
Yvon Vallieres
Matthias Rioux
Diane Barbeau

| **Greenland**

Kim Larsen
Niels Egede Hoegh
Peter Bjerregaard
Tiida Ravn
Jakob Moller Lyberth
Tupaarnaq Rosing Olsen
Laannaquaq Lyng
Morgens Kleist
Frederik Kristensen
Sara Jensen
Niels Peter Nielson
Mariane Petersen
Laila Chemnitz

Ane Marie B. Pedersen
Anders Berndtson
Henriette Rasmussen
Inuk Silis Hoegh
Malik Kleist
Alex Andersen
Elias Joelsen
Ango Olsen
Mikael Thorring
Peter Frederik
Peter Olsen
Birher Poppel
Mette Lyng

Ole Lyng
Jan De Vroede
Angunnaq Larsen
Henrik Moller Jensen
Nini Biilmann
Marianne Stenbaek
Ikiuna K. Olsen
Kuutak K. Olsen
Ivaana K. Olsen
Mimi Karlsen
Kenneth Rasmussen

| **Alaska**

Frederica Schaeffer
Jeanette Dellinger
Micheal Dellinger
Helen Spicer
Nana Poldi
Noah Naylor

Joanne Sheldon
Loretta Ward
Elmer Armstrong, Sr.
Lowell Sage, Jr.
Emerson Moto
Ramona Sheldon

George Sheldon, Sr.
Dood Lincoln
Roland Booth
Jane Adams
Irma Hunnicult
Ray Koonuk, Sr.

Annex E

Donors

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the following organizations and individuals. Without their support, the 9th ICC General Assembly would not have been possible.

Aage V. Jensens Fonde

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Aavaat Choir

AYAYA

Aboriginal Business Canada (Industry Canada)

Bering Straits Native Corporation

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Canadian Polar Commission

Chukotka Governor Roman Abramovich

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Direktoratet for Kultur og Undervisning

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Government of Chukotka Administration

Government of Northwest Territories

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Maniitsup Kommunia
Municipality of Cape Dorset
Municipality of Iqaluit
Municipality of Qikiatarjuaq
NANA Regional Corporation
Nadezhda Sudakova
Nancy and Perry Mendenhall
Narsap Kommunia
Northern Village of Akulivik
Northern Village of Inukjuak
Northern Village of Kangigsualujjuaq
Northern Village of Kuujjuaq
Northern Village of Kuujjuaraapik
Northern Village of Quaqtac
Northern Village of Salluit
North Slope Borough
Nunafonden
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Nuup Kommunia
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Pilersuiffik A/S

Pilersuisoq A/S
Public Works Canada
Royal Arctic Line
Qikiqtaaluk Corporation
Sakku Investments Corporation
Upernavik Kommune
Uummannap Kommunua

