

**TUSAYAKSAT**  
PRESENTS

# ICC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014



# SIVUMUN



Lighting the qulliq (seal oil lamp).

“Atautchitun katilluta  
uqarupta tajva Inuit  
Nunangat nayuqtaqput  
suangasiniaqtuaq.”

Uvani katimagapta (ICC General Assembly ) 2014 Inuuvingmi Inuit qaiyuat Alaskamin, Greenland, Canada, Chukotka (Russia). Nuna Nayuqtaqpullu Sivuniqpullu Atausiuyuq.

Uvani tajva katimagapta (ICC GA) anginiqsayungnaqtuq. Inugiaktut nunat ungavani savaktillu nayuqtaqput maani qiviaqtuatun iliyaat. Sunaliqaa atuaksaq isumagibluq. Iluriurluta sivuniuqtuksauyugut. Nunaptingni tajva qangma sapiqsautit nanginautit sukkuliqaa ilitarnaqtut.

Katimagapta Inuit sivuliuqtingingnin tusaayuanni taapkuatigun. Tajvuuna tajva taamna Kitigaaryuit Declaration aullaqiyuaq. Sitamani ukiuni savaaksaqput nalunaiqtuaq. Malirutaksaq. Iluatun tajva sivunniuqtuksauyuguk maani. Nayuqtaqput nuna mana alangumun aullaqiyuaq nalunaittuq.

Nalunaittuq takumagikput nunanin ungavanin inuusiqtut angaltchukaat.

Atautchitun katilluta uqarupta tajva Inuit Nunangat nayuqtaqput suangasiniaqtuaq.

Uvagut ilisimagikput nuna nayuqtaqput. Tamapta katilluta ilisimayaptingnik uqarluta tajva aulagupta iluatun sivunniurniatuanni.

Tamarmik uvani ilauyuat Katimaryuarapta suangamun iluatun aullaqiyuanni.

Tamapsi Inuit ICC-nguyusi, Ilipsi tajva. Angalatchiyuat sivunniuqtit ikayuqugaasi. Ilipsi ilisimayuasi; anguniarnikkun ikayuqtuat katimayuannun. Taimana tajva iluriluta sivinniurniaqtuanni.

Inuvik-miutauyuami. Inuit alagiit atautchimuksimagamik suanguatigivaga. Kuukpak, Canada-mi anginiqsag, tariurlu qanittuk. Irilu akipingni takunaqtut. Natirnaq nigim tungaani. Inuuqatigiit nunaqatigiit Inuit katimayuut Greenland-min, Chukotka, Alaska, Canada-minlu. Atautchitun ikayqtigiiktugut sungiqutigiiktugut. Savaqatigiikkupta iluatun inuusiqtut sivunialagikput. AARIGA!

Quyanaq,

**Duane Ningaqsiq Smith**  
President ICC Canada

# WELCOME ADDRESS

“Through our efforts as a united voice, we let the global community know what our vision is for Inuit Nunaat we are not here to just survive but to thrive in our own environment.”



Duane Ningaqsiq Smith in his opening speech.

The ICC General Assembly (ICC GA) 2014 in Inuvik brought together Inuit from Alaska, Greenland, Canada and Chukotka (Russia) under the call of “Ukiuqtaqtumi Hivuniptingnun, One Arctic, One Future”.

This may be the most important ICC GA yet, as many countries and industry look north for new opportunities of energy, shipping, and resources and we need to ensure economic development is carried out in a sustainable way. Our communities face at this time unprecedented health and wellness challenges including increasing rates of chronic disease, food insecurity, and mental health.

At the ICC GA we addressed and heard open, frank, and meaningful deliberations on these crucial issues amongst Inuit leaders leading to the adoption of the Kitigaaryuit Declaration. The Declaration charts a course for the next four years – a course that will steer us through both the challenges of this rapidly and unpredictably changing Arctic, and as importantly, position our communities, our youth and our culture to take advantage of opportunities in our changing Arctic.

We see increasing pressure from beyond our borders to impose restrictions on our sustainable use of natural resources and continued threats to our land from climate change and contaminants.

Through our efforts as a united voice, we let the global community know what our vision is for Inuit Nunaat. We are not here to just survive but to thrive in our own environment.

We are the experts in this land and together with others we will use the best of our knowledge and the best of other expertise to make informed decisions and shape our future together.

Each of those present at the ICC GA brought strength to our intention and each of them offered wisdom.

The ICC is all Inuit, it is YOU. The Executive Council needs your support, your expertise in your respective fields; such as when harvesters contribute their knowledge to their regional bodies, which in turn allows us to express the rights and the positions of Inuit on harvesting issues at the broader national and international levels.

My hometown Inuvik is a place where incredible diversity comes together forming a strong and coherent community. Our geography includes the Mackenzie River, Canada's largest freshwater delta, and the majestic Arctic Ocean; we have mountains to our west, and the tundra to our east. Circumpolar Inuit are as diverse and in unity – gathering from Greenland, Chukotka, Alaska and the Canadian Arctic. We are “One Arctic” and together we help forge “One Future” for our people.

Let us forge new partnerships and innovative ways to meet our challenges, embracing together the opportunities before us. To all who make it so, AARIGA!

Quyanaq,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Duane", written over a light blue circular watermark.

**Duane Ningaqsiq Smith**  
President ICC Canada



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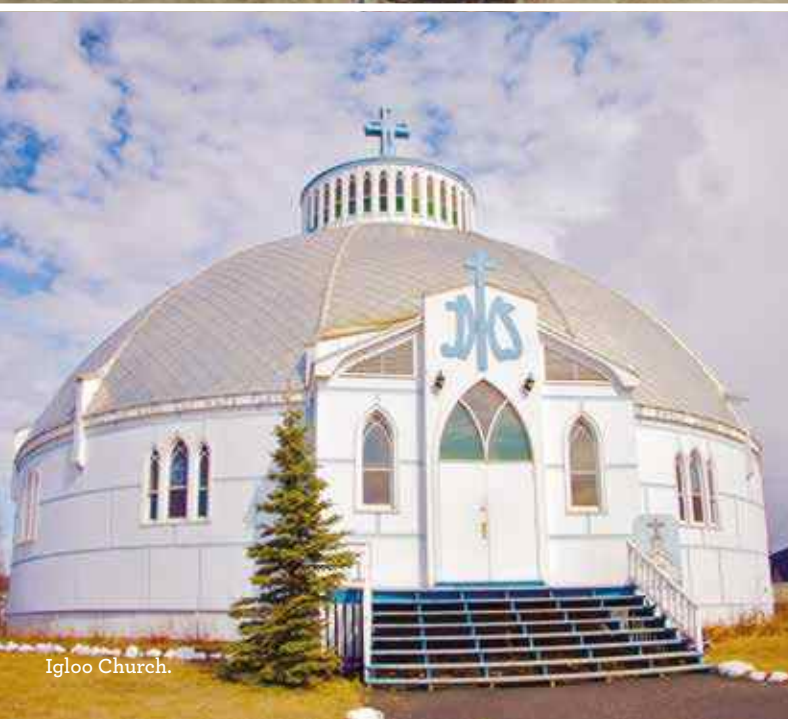
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# WELCOME TO INUVIK



Igloo Church.



Inuvik Drummers and Dancers.





Russian delegate Vasilii Dobriev dancing upon arriving.



Happy faces.



Singing for the delegates.



Scott Kasook, Nungki Brian Rogers and Kevin Allen.

Greenlanders arriving by Canadian North.







Vanessa Rogers and Scott Kasook (front).



Excitement at the airport.



Debbie Gordon-Ruben (front).

**I**t is close to midnight at the Inuvik Mike Zubko Airport. The Inuvik Drummers and Dancers had already danced twice that day as planes for Greenlanders, Chukotkans (Russians) and Canadians arrived. The Alaskans are now arriving.

There was moisture in the air, heat from the bated breaths of Inuvialuit waiting to see who would come off the planes, and from drum dancers giving their all each time Alaskans

were let through by officials of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

Some Alaskans respond in dance, one even dropping his cane in order to express his happiness more fully. "Aya-ya!" Debbie Gordon-Ruben and Kendra Elanik dance right next to the rope border set up by CBSA, while the larger group of drummers stood on rows of chairs spanning the width of the airport, beating their drums and

singing with full lung power.

Elder Sarah Tingmiak, using her cane and supported by dancer Wendy Smith and Alainna Carpenter enters the dance area. She puts down her cane and begins to dance. The crowd cheers. Deep hugs, big smiles and even some tears are shared. These are just some of the wonderful moments welcoming ICC delegates arriving at the Inuvik airport. ➦



Alaskan Welcome.



Reunion.





Elder Sarah Tingmiak (center) dances as the crowd cheers.







Sam Raddi, President of COPE (Committee of Original Peoples Entitlement) during an ICC gathering.



Tom Brower speaking at the 2nd ICC.

## ICC HISTORY IN BRIEF

**Photo credits:** [www.itk.ca](http://www.itk.ca) and [www.ebenhopson.com](http://www.ebenhopson.com)

Surveying an arena filled with delegates and attendees at the ICC GA Community Welcome, Nellie Cournoyea, Chair of IRC remembers ICC founder Eben Hopson (1922 – 1980). “He wanted to bring people together. Looking around he has succeeded,” she says.

Eben Hopson’s political leadership was key to the formation of the Alaska Native Land Claims Movement, the establishment of the North Slope Borough, advocating for environmentally safe Arctic energy development

that respected Inuit claims as original stewards of the land.

In 1973, several Greenlandic organizations in Copenhagen hosted the first Arctic Peoples Conference. They invited members of the then Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (now known as Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami), the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada, and Saami from northern Finland, Norway and Sweden. Neither Alaskan nor Russian Inuit were able to attend that event due to the Cold War, and the need for

Inuit to meet as one indivisible people became even more evident.

With foresight regarding the need to mitigate precipitous assault by energy companies on the Arctic -- Hopson called for the creation of an international environmental regime, by which all Arctic nations would agree to follow the same rules in the industrial development of the Arctic.

In 1975 at the World Council of Indigenous Peoples founding conference in Port Alberni, British Columbia, Hopson called upon the Inuit leaders of Greenland, Canada, the U.S., and the U.S.S.R. to form an international organization, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), in order to pursue these goals.

Planning, fundraising, and focused attention to this goal began in earnest. A grant submission made to an American foundation in 1975 contains the following:

*We Eskimo are an international community sharing common*





*language, culture, and a common land along the Arctic coast of Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Although not a nation-state, as a people, we do constitute a nation.*

In 1977 the first meeting of the ICC was hosted in Barrow by Hopson. The delegates hammered out seventeen resolutions in five days, on Inuit land claims, Arctic environmental protections, Arctic health and technology, and Inuit culture and education.

In his opening speech Eben Hopson said, "We Inupiat [Inuit

people] live under four of the five flags of the Arctic coast. One of those four flags [Russia] is badly missed here today. But at least in Denmark, Canada and the United States, it is generally agreed that we enjoy certain Aboriginal legal rights as Indigenous people of the Arctic. It is important that our governments agree about the status of these rights if they are to be uniformly respected.

To secure this agreement, we must organize to negotiate for it. This will take circumpolar community organization, for the status of our

rights as Inupiat is necessarily the core of any successful protection of our mutual Arctic environmental security."

At that historic and celebratory meeting, political resolutions were passed, poetry was read, and songs were sung. All 54 delegates (18 from each country) agreed to found an organization to carry on the task of working together on an international basis. 🌐

**We Eskimo are an international community sharing common language, culture, and a common land along the Arctic coast of Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Although not a nation-state, as a people, we do constitute a nation.**



The signed charter adopted June 29, 1980 at the 2nd ICC GA.



A historic ICC gathering.



A scene from the 2nd meeting of the ICC.



Eben Hopson addressing the 1st ICC Conference in 1977.





“*One Arctic, One Future* is how we work together to make a long term investment in the responsibility of looking after our homeland. We come from different countries but it’s really one people. No matter what happens in the future, and we felt this right from the beginning. Politicians and larger country initiatives come and go but the Inuit are always going to be there.”





ONE ARCTIC,  
ONE FUTURE  
**UKIUQTAQTUMI**  
**HIVUNIPTINGNUN**





Canadian delegates recording the historic opening.



Lighting the qulliq as a symbolic reminder to be guided by traditional values.





The 2014 Inuit Circumpolar Council General Assembly (ICC GA), a quadrennial gathering of Inuit leaders from Canada, Greenland, Chukotka (Russia) and Alaska was hosted by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) in Inuvik, NWT from July 21st to 24th. Close to 600 people were involved in the Assembly, including 18 delegates from Canada, Greenland and Alaska, 10 delegates from Chukotka, speakers, performers, media, volunteers and sponsors, in addition to hundreds who participated in the cultural celebrations.

Duane Ningaqsik Smith, ICC Canada President believes given the current pressures on development in a rapidly changing Arctic, this ICC GA might be “the most crucial yet”. He explained why the 1992 ICC GA theme, One Arctic, One Future - Ukiuqtaqtumi Hivuniptingnun

was reprised at this ICC GA. “ICC leadership wanted to emphasize and demonstrate Inuit unity. Unity amongst Inuit is even more crucial at this time.”

Nellie Cournoyea, IRC Chair and CEO agreed, “One Arctic, One Future has always been the theme for our working relationships, right from the beginning. One Arctic, One Future is how we work together to make a long term investment in the responsibility of looking after our homeland. We come from different countries but it’s really one people. No matter what happens in the future, and we felt this right from the beginning. Politicians and larger country initiatives come and go but the Inuit are always going to be there.”

Nellie remembers the founding of the ICC in 1977. Most Inuit then still lived off the land, and were natural stewards of the land.



Hon. Leona Aglukkaq,  
Minister of the Environment.





Koomuatuk Sapa Curley, artist, with Duane Ningagsiq Smith (L) and Jim Stotts.

The Arctic Slope Regional Corporation had been incorporated in Alaska in 1972 under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the first Canadian land claim agreement – the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was signed in 1975. The political climate was not strongly established for Inuit groups to be seen as partners with government in the Arctic's future. Inuit leaders then had the foresight about future developmental pressures. “Even if the pressure then was less felt than today, they saw the changes coming in 50 years. The ICC was to bring strength and unity to all Inuit. You had to speak for all. It's been many years - it's not just one conference to another, it has always been an ongoing, continuous building of this relationship. At this General Assembly we really felt that people were tied in completely to make the process fulfill itself,” she said.

Speakers and presentations at the ICC General Assembly focus largely on empowering Inuit to act on their own vision for their Arctic homeland and how international cooperation, working together and learning from other experiences in the circumpolar region can advance the interests of Inuit.

## DECLARATION

A significant goal of the ICC GA is to approve and adopt the Kitigaaryuit Declaration. “We promoted open discussions, a direction given to us at the last assembly – leaders had more time to discuss issues amongst each other - I think at the end everybody went away very pleased,” said Duane.

The Declaration sets ICC's mandate for the next four years. Most importantly, Nellie said, the Declaration sends out nationally and internationally the message



ICC GA staff transcribing.



Mimi Karlsen (Greenland).





Generations dancing together.



UNPFII Chair Dalee Sambo Dorough (front).

that Inuit involvement must be a priority in any decision-making affecting the Arctic. “We are considered a smaller number of constituents. Inuit have to have a united voice on a larger global stage – our connections cross borders and we have a commonality of interest. Today we do have a more authoritative mandate to speak, especially in Canada because we have land claim agreements that are constitutionally protected.”



Deliberations during the ICC GA.



Minnie Grey (Canada).

“The will of the government has to be strong in representing the land claims settlements, and the land claim settlements cover everything from wildlife to the health of the ocean to our place in the political mosaic of Canada and the world. Together we can face conflicts, alone it would be very difficult.”



Inuvik Drummers and Dancers.





ICC GA Canadian Caucus meeting.



ICC Greenland delegates.



Hon. Robert McLeod, Minister of MACA.



## CELEBRATION

As the ICC GA emphasizes both political and cultural exchange, it was a given that the Traditional Circumpolar Northern Games be a part of this major international event. Concurrently, Inuvik also hosted the Great Northern Arts Festival and Oceans Day. “It’s not all about the politics. It’s very important that we get together and share our culture, music, and drum dancing,” said Duane. “Drum dancing is very important to our identity. Sharing country foods shows our relationship with the ecosystem, it is a very important

part of our diet. Sharing amongst each other is another strong part of the Inuit identity. I hope everybody, whether they are Inuit or not left with a better understanding of the Inuit culture and our way of life. I hope we are able to have these sorts of gatherings more often, not so much the political debate but the opportunity to bring Inuit from every region to share in our culture more actively.” ❄️

**The next ICC General Assembly will be hosted in Barrow, Alaska in 2018.**

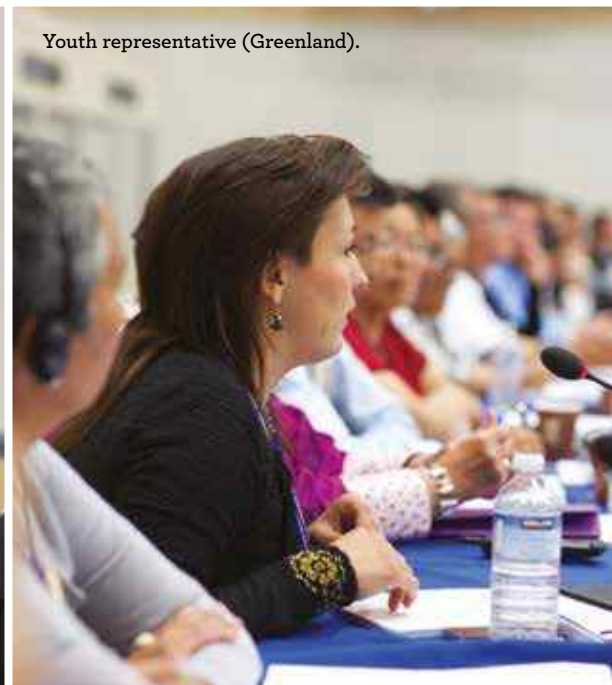
Martha Abelsen (Greenland).



Ane Hansen (Greenland).



Youth representative (Greenland).



Sara Olsvig, Chair of Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region.



Doreen Lampe (Alaska).



Opening prayer led by Lillian Elias.



NTI President Cathy Towtongie.



Canadian participants in traditional dress.



Akanisie Sivuarapik and Sylvia Watt-Cloutier (Canada) throat singing.



# ICC LEADERSHIP ON THE 2014 ICC GA

## **Okalik Eegeesiak** ICC International Chair (Canada):



### **On the impact of this ICC GA**

"Inuit are a force to be reckoned with and we have to be involved in the discussions and decisions that affect our communities."

### **On her Chairmanship**

"It is an honour to assume this role to advance the interests of Inuit in the circumpolar region. We know that the world is looking to our homeland to develop our renewable and non-renewable resources and Inuit must be at the table as discussions and decisions are being made about activities in our own backyard. Inuit will still be in the Arctic when the last barrel of oil and the final piece of ore is extracted from our land."

### **On significant issues discussed**

"What I heard from all the delegates was that a critical issue our community is we need to invest in health programs and healing programs as well as including Inuit in policy development through communications."

### **On Inuit partnerships**

"One of the discussions would be to share results of different research such as seismic testing.

We have just learnt that Greenland had quite a bit of seismic testing and off the shores of the ISR and Alaska... so to learn from each other on the impacts, and how they go about making decisions on when seismic testing should occur... Nunavut can learn from that."

## **Jim Stotts** ICC Vice Chair (Alaska):

### **On significant issues discussed**



"Climate change and the impacts at the community level, a theme throughout the themes. The Declaration calls for 2 international conferences to be held sometime in the next four years, two widely different issues, one of the conferences will be on Economics and Business for Inuit and the other is to convene a conference on Wildlife Management."

"One of the things I took is that people are looking at the new world bravely, I would say and wanting to be a part of it but at the same time there clearly was a message about keeping our culture, keeping the best of what we have in the past."

## **Duane Ningaqsiq Smith** Vice Chair (Canada):



"Canada was pleased to host the 2014 ICC General Assembly where Inuit had a tremendous opportunity to discuss our shared experiences in the circumpolar region. I would like to thank outgoing ICC International Chair Aqqaq Luk Lynge for his many years of service to Inuit and the town of Inuvik for being gracious and accommodating hosts."

## **Hjalmar Dahl** Vice Chair (Greenland):



### **On being elected**

"I am honoured to be elected Vice Chair. I am also humbled to receive the honour as I have been working internationally for many years and have observed that the visibility of Inuit is growing. The whole world is watching the Arctic and that creates a huge responsibility for ICC to promote the right of Inuit to be

part of the decision making regarding our future where the internationally recognized principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent is one of the keys."

## **Tatiana Achirgina** Vice Chair (Chukotka):



### **On the ICC GA**

"We consider the Inuvialuit land lucky. In 1992, it was here that we joined the ICC. We have been together for 22 years now. It is at the ICC GAs that the Yupik peoples living on the shores of the Bering Sea learn to solve problems, conserve their culture, obtain political experience, and learn to discuss matters with national governments."

"We have a very small population of Yupik people around 700. And we are actually assimilated by the bigger populations like the Russians. It was very good that we could find our family and finally we are united when there is opportunity." 🌐



# INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL 2014 ELECTION RESULTS



Okalik Egeesiak in her first speech as ICC Chair.



Aqgaluk Lynge outgoing ICC Chair.

Next page: The new ICC Executive Council. Front Row: Okalik Egeesiak, Tatiana Achirgina, Elvira Tiunikova.

Back row: Martha Abelsen, Hjalmar Dahl, Jim Stotts, Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, Doris Jakobsen and Herb Nakimayak.

Okalik Egeesiak from Canada assumes the role of Chair for the next four years.

Okalik took over the position officially at the quadrennial ICC General Assembly in Inuvik July 2014, upon being officially elected by Inuit delegates from across the circumpolar region.

As ICC Chair, she is the international spokesperson for all Inuit living in Greenland, Alaska, Canada, and Chukotka (Russia), and will head up an ICC Office of the Chair, to be located in Canada for the duration of her 4-year term.

Okalik takes over the office of the Chair from Greenlander, Aqgaluk Lynge, who has served in that capacity during three separate terms. The last Canadian Inuk to head up the international office of ICC was Sheila Watt-Cloutier who was elected in Kuujuaq in 2002.

It is the custom of ICC to have the Inuit leaders of the host country to nominate the Chair. Upon news of her being chosen, Okalik stated, "I am delighted to have the confidence of Canadian Inuit, and asked to take up this important position".

Her first order of business is to start implementing the mandates given to ICC through the Kitigaaryuit Declaration, which is the statement of tasks developed by the Inuit delegates at the General Assembly.

"I look forward to working with the ICC offices in Alaska, Chukotka, and Greenland to determine how best to share with Canadians the important work that needs to be done by all Inuit and for all Inuit."

Jim Stotts, President of ICC Alaska, Tatiana Achirgina, President of ICC Chukotka and Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, President of ICC Canada all maintain their positions as Vice-Chairs on the ICC International Executive Council.

Hjalmar Dahl, incoming President of ICC Greenland assumes the role of Vice-Chair for Greenland.

In addition, three new members were elected to the Executive Council to replace retiring members: Herb Nakimayak (Canada), Martha Abelsen (Greenland) and Elena Kaminskaya (Chukotka).





Photo: David Stewart



ICC delegates applauding Okalik Egeesiak's inauguration.

## ICC CANADA 2014 ELECTION RESULTS

ICC Canada is a non-profit organization led by a board of directors comprising the elected leaders of the four land claims settlement regions: Inuvialuit, Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and Nunavut. An elected executive, including a president, two vice-presidents, and a secretary-treasurer, manages the organization.

ICC Canada announced on July 19, 2014 that Herb Nakimayak

was elected as Vice President – International at their AGM in Inuvik.

Duane Ningaqsik Smith was acclaimed as ICC President at the close of the call for nominations on July 23, 2014.

As President of ICC Canada, Duane is also Vice-President of Canada's National Inuit Organization, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Duane has been involved with ICC Canada since 1998.

Herb Nakimayak was elected by delegates from all four Inuit regions. Originally from Paulatuk,

NWT, Herb brings experiences of working across Canada in search and rescue and the resource conservation and development industry.

He is a strong advocate of Inuit, especially Inuit youth.

"I am honoured to welcome Herb to ICC Canada, representing the interests of Canadian Inuit at the Inuit Circumpolar Council and internationally," said Duane.

"Holding this position for over a decade has established important continuity as well as the ability to foster long-lasting relationships

with our Inuit partners around the circumpolar region. I look forward to continuing this work in the coming years."

"I am pleased to have been elected as Vice President – International for ICC Canada," said Herb.

"I am excited to work with the well-established ICC team and serve Inuit in this role. Many thanks to those who have supported me in this endeavor." ❖





ICC GREENLAND









ICC CANADA









ICC ALASKA









ICC CHUKOTKA









**F**rom 20th to the 26th of July, Inuvik was transformed into an international hub where Circumpolar Inuit came together to discuss their political future, culminating in the adoption of the Kitigaaryuit Declaration setting their road map for the next 4 years. At the same time the ICC GA is an opportunity for all the Inuit to get together to share and celebrate their uniqueness, their commonality, their differences and to come together as they used to traditionally at the end of a year of nomadic living in order to sustain a living on the land.



# THE MAKING OF THE ICCGA







Interpreters from the ICC regions.



NWT Youth Ambassadors with Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment.



Peggy Jay, ICC GA Conference Coordinator remembered sending off ICC Alaskan delegates at the end of this momentuous week. “We hugged everybody going home on that charter flight. Nobody wanted to leave Inuvik. They had this big piece of cardboard that people signed to say ‘Thank you’ which they then presented to us. When we looked on Facebook afterwards the number one thing they missed was the hospitality.”

The hosting of the 2014 ICC GA rotates every four years amongst the ICC countries. This time the ICC GA was supposed to be in Nain, Labrador. Construction of infrastructure in Nain however was delayed, and an alternate hosting venue had to be found.

“As anyplace in the Arctic when you are putting in infrastructure such as a school or large buildings it takes a lot longer than expected,



Duane Ningagsiq Smith briefing the performers.



NWT Youth Ambassadors serving coffee to delegates.



so because we had done the Truth and Reconciliation Northern National Event here in 2011, which had approximately a thousand people and, in '92, we had hosted the ICC GA before, so we volunteered because we probably could best carry it out on behalf of all Inuit," said Nellie Cournoyea, IRC Chair and CEO.

The Inuvialuit were celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). It was felt that the Traditional Circumpolar Northern Games and DFO's Oceans Day would complement the cultural component of the ICC GA.

## Challenges

"When we looked at the work plan, we knew the priority was fundraising, because we had nothing," said Peggy. "We had about 10 months to pull everything off."

"It required a lot of organizing to get the number of volunteers we required, to get everybody on side, to talk to all the different government and Aboriginal institutions on what they could do to support us, including our partners with the industry," said Nellie. "Just by everything



Photo: Peggy Jay

Volunteer Glen Gordon.



Photo: Peggy Jay

Ronald Brower (Alaska) cutting up muktuk.



Volunteer Carey Kisoun.



Photo: Hans Blahm

Volunteer Blythe Browne.



Volunteers Yvonne Doolittle and Bunnik Ipana.



happening at once, we could say we magically put everything together but that wasn't so at all. I believe everything happened for the right reason. People came together at this particular time."

## Fundraising

ICC was responsible for bringing in the official delegation, including delegates, cultural performers, staff, speakers, etc. from each country. This totalled 220 people. As host, IRC provided the local support and logistics to ensure that the needs of the official delegation and other participants were met. ICC Canada fulfilled the role of secretariat for the ICC GA.

"Our job was to make sure that we had the logistics, accommodation, catering, venues, cultural programming, volunteers and everything in place for the official delegation. As soon as the General Assembly started, we would turn it over to them. At the same time, we also had to make arrangements available to house, feed and transport all the additional participants that would come to Inuvik for the event," said Peggy.

Fundraising for the logistic preparation had to be raised in very little time. \$2 million would have to be raised between ICC Canada and IRC to stage the event. With ICC Canada based in Ottawa, it continued working with the federal government. IRC looked after fundraising from the corporate sector as well as local governments. Due to the shortness of time, a fundraising strategy involved asking the other Inuit regions for assistance in reaching out to their corporations and businesses on IRC's behalf. Although the ICC GA would be in Inuvik, it would after all be Canadian Inuit welcoming their fellow Inuit.

CONTINUE ON ► PG 44



Volunteers Lucy Kuptana, Bunnik Ipana and Sherry Gordon making fish cakes.



ICC GA staff preparing the tables.



Arlene Hansen (in red), one of the volunteers at Jim Koe Park.



# KITIGAARYUIT DECLARATION

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The Kitigaaryuit 2014 Declaration was unanimously passed by ICC GA delegates on 24 July 2014, setting direction for ICC's Executive Council over the next four years.

Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, ICC President of Canada said, "We wanted to reflect some significant area within the hosting region. Kitigaaryuit is a national historic site that is recognized in terms of its contribution to Canada's identity, as well as identifies the Inuvialuit within this respective region." Kitigaaryuit, a traditional Inuvialuit whaling camp represents the coming together of Inuit with the goal of sustaining themselves in harmony with their natural environment. 'Kitigaaryuit' reminds us of the intent of this Declaration to remain united and connected to Inuit values and culture through past, present and future.

The Kitigaaryuit Declaration mandates ICC to hold three key summits within the next four years:

**Economic Summit:** to explore potential collaborations among Inuit businesses and facilitate Inuit businesses sharing experiences amongst themselves. This summit will build upon the Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat.

**Wildlife Management Summit:** to develop consistent standards in the Arctic for safeguarding living resources Inuit depend on for food security.

**Education Summit:** to promote educational exchanges, share best educational practices, and have experts and practitioners from the circumpolar Arctic contribute to developing and enhancing culturally appropriate curriculum.

As explained by Duane, the Declaration are "the marching orders for the Executive Council to try and fulfill its obligations. Facilitating planning and organizing crucial summits, such as Inuit Circumpolar Economic Summit, we bring together the Inuit leadership that are involved in economic opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge. Because we see the changing Arctic and it's not all doom and gloom. There are opportunities we want Inuit leaders to explore together and potentially develop a collaboration to keep the benefits of these opportunities within our own Inuit communities."

"In terms of Wildlife Management if you look at this region there are bowhead and beluga whales, they pass by our cousins the Inupiat in Alaska and they overwinter off of Russia where again our Inuit colleagues there also harvest them as part of their diet. We want to provide an opportunity for experts to get together so we get a better understanding of what's going on within the ecosystem for the benefit of our people, and the ecosystem."

"With the Education Summit we want to share best practices amongst each other so we can try to influence or change policy to better enhance ways of delivering education within our Inuit communities so it instills pride within the youth, it alleviates a lot of social issues down the road as well."





Elvira Tyunikova, Executive Council Member and Tatiana Achirgina, Vice-Chair, Chukotka.



Kirt Ejesiak, Executive Council Member, and Duane Ningagsiq Smith, Vice-Chair, Canada.



Vera Metcalf, Executive Council Member and Jim Stotts, Vice-Chair, Alaska.





Hjalmar Dahl, Executive Council Member and Carl Christian Olsen, Puju Vice-Chair, Greenland.



ICC delegates and observers cheering.



ICC leadership joining hands in celebration of the Kitigaaryuit Declaration being adopted.



# KEY DECLARATION HIGHLIGHTS:

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## 1. ARCTIC COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL FORA

- Continue to use the Arctic council and other international fora to further Inuit interests, and call upon Arctic member states to include Inuit at all bilateral and multilateral meetings, as at the Arctic Council.
  - Advance the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) with member states, promoting meaningful and effective Inuit participation in decision-making processes, including the right to free, prior and informed consent.
  - Actively promote the Alta Outcome Document at the World Conference on Indigenous People, ratify and implement the International Labor Organization Convention 169 concerning tribal peoples.
- 

## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Continue to address climate change to retain environmental stewardship of the Inuit homeland.
  - Maintain healthy and abundant source of renewable resources for future generations of Inuit; including creating adaptation strategies.
  - Involvement in international efforts concerning our food and protection of all Inuit customary, traditional, spiritual, social and physical uses of migratory species.
  - Reduce worldwide emissions of contaminants that affect the Arctic and promote policies that protect Arctic freshwater.
- 

## 3. SAFE SHIPPING AND FISHERIES

- Assert Inuit rights and responsibilities to our waters, seas, and passages by working with Inuit experts in shipping and international bodies such as the International Maritime Organization.
  - Present Inuit perspectives and knowledge about sea ice, behaviour of marine mammals, and Arctic navigation to international bodies, facilitating negotiations related to Arctic shipping.
  - Advocate a precautionary approach to commercial fishing to ensure management regimes include Inuit.
- 

## 4. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Build upon ICC resource development principles.
  - Support our hunters by fighting attempts to undermine our wildlife economy (eg. The listing of Inuit food resources as endangered), opposing attempts to make the Arctic into a wildlife preserve.
- 

- Continue work on oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, and monitor Arctic states efforts under the UN Law of the Seas Convention (UNCLOS).
  - Inuit Economic Summit.
- 

## 5. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Advocate for Inuit at relevant international forums, such as advancing the 2010-14 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy.
  - Establish, maintain and improve core infrastructure to sustain healthy Inuit communities (including housing, education, health care and social service delivery infrastructure).
  - Advocate for culturally relevant mental wellness and substance abuse programs across Inuit nunaat, including traditional/cultural and clinical approaches.
  - Encourage education and training for Inuit health care providers.
- 

## 6. FOOD SECURITY

- Speak out about the implications of food insecurity on Inuit health.
  - Promote community based monitoring and research at international forum.
  - Ensure access to Inuit traditional foods in changing economic and social conditions, contamination, climate change, and regulatory decisions impacting Inuit food security.
  - Inuit Wildlife Management Summit.
- 

## 7. COMMUNICATION

- Work with Inuit and other media organizations to promote improved and pan-Arctic Inuit-to-Inuit interaction.
  - Improve communication between our countries and other Inuit organizations.
- 

## 8. EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Support training, recruitment, and retention programs for Inuit in all professions.
  - Promote and lead programs to strengthen Inuit language, including the Arctic Council assessing, monitoring, and promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages Project.
  - Inuit Education Summit.
- 

## 9. TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE

- Insist upon the utilization of Inuit traditional knowledge in science and at all levels of decision making by utilizing a participatory approach.
  - Create ethical responsible research policies emphasizing bringing knowledge back to our communities.
  - Promote protection of Inuit intellectual property and cultural heritage at the World Intellectual Property Organization and other forums.
- 

The full Kitigaaryuit Declaration can be downloaded at  
<http://www.inuitcircumpolar.com/2014---inuvik-canada.html>



# KITIGAARYUIT QAUNAGIYAKSAQ

Una malirutaksaq Kitigaaryuit  
2014 Declaration-mik taiyuayuq  
angiqtauyuaq katimamata  
taapkuat ICC GA July-mi  
2014. Taamna malirutaksayuq  
sitamani ukiuni.

Duane Ningaqsiq Smith uqalaktuq tajva,  
“Kitigaaryuk nuitatqublutigu takunqublugu  
Canada-mun. Inuvialuit inuuniarvingat  
katimavingat qilalukiqivingat ingilraan.”  
Kitigaaryuit nalunaitkutiksauyuq uumunga  
malirutiksamun Inuvialuit pitqusiitigun.

ICC katimayuksauyut pingasuiqtuarlutik ukiut sitamat  
iluani. Ukuat sivulliuruksangit.

**Katimaqpak Savaatigun:** Inuit maani savaatigunun sivuniuqublugit.  
Ikayuqtigiiqublugit. Taamna tajva aullaqiviksaun, tungaviksaun.

**Katimaqpak Niryutitigun:** Maani nayuqtaptingni niryutitigun  
munaqsiniq.

**Katimaqpak Ilisarnikkun:** Ilisarnikkun sivuliurniq. Ilisaujilu kituliqa  
maani inuuyualu ikayuqtigiiklutik ilisarniq saungamun aulatqublugu.

Duane tajva uqaqtuq, taamna Malirutaksaq “Declaration”  
malirutaksariyaqput. Ikayuqtigiiklutik, sannaiyailutik katimatinnatik.  
Inuit sivulliuqtit atautchimun katillutik savaamingnik  
quliaqtuarlutik. Mana nunakput alanguqsimayuaq takumagikput.  
Aglaan isumaalungnaittuq. Savaaksaq tukumagikput. Inungnun  
quyalitauyuksaraluaq.

“Niryutitigun, nayuqtaptingni arvirillu qilalukalu takunaqtut. Alaska  
sayurulugu Russia-mun ukiiyaqtuqpatuat. Ilapta taavani anguniapagait  
niqiksatik. Qangiqsialagukluta qanuq inuit maani quyallitiksainik.

Ilisarnikkun sivuliuqatigiikluta atautchitun tamapta savaqatiikluta  
ilisarniq nayuqtaptingni nakurualaqublugu. Nanginautillu  
palangaqublugit.

## UKUAT 9-NGYUT NUITANIQSAUYUT:

### 1. ARCTIC COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL FORA

- Taamna Arctic Council aturlugu nalunaitkutigilugu Inuit  
quyalitaksanginnik. Inuit ilauyuksauyut katimagumik.
- Inuit ilauyuksauyut katimayaraigumik, sivuliurnikkun.
- Inuit qangiqsipkarlugit pitqusiptigun katimayaraigumik



## 2. NAYUQTAQPUT NUNA, IMAQ, SILA

- Silam alanguuta Inuit nunangani uqausirilugu.
- Inuit quyalitautait nunamingni nungutaililugit.
- Inuit ilaulutik niqitigunlu pitqusiptigunlu katimayaraigumik.
- Imakkunlu munaqiringniq.

## 3. ILUATUN AULANIQ, IQALUKTIGUNLU

- Inuit pitqusingit nunaptingni qaunagilugit imakkun aulayuni.
- Inuit isumangit sikukkun tariumi, niryutailu pitqusingitigun tusaapkarlugit Tariukkun aulasuktuanun.
- Inuit ilauyuksauyut iqaluktigun katimayuanni

## 4. ILUATUN INUUNIARNIKKUN AULANIQ

- ICC-m malirutaksangit tungavigilugit.
- Anguniaqtit ikayurlugit niryutitigun irliktuatun ilikpata.
- Ikayurlugit uqsiqiyit. Munaqiringnikkun, piyaquqtailinikkun.
- Katimaqpataat Inuit: (Inuit Economic Summit.)

## 5. SUYUMAITUN INUUNIQ

- Ikayurlugit Inuit katimakpata pitqusiptigun ungavani, qannikkun unna (2010-14 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy) suyumaitun inuuniarnikkun.
- Illilugit Inuit nayuqtainun quyalitiksats (iglut, ilisarviit, suyumaitun inuuniarniq). Sulliqaa quyalitiksats.
- Ikayurlugit savaqatigilugit iluatun inuuniarnikkun Inuit Nunangani. Inuit pitqusiitigun tungaanun.
- Inungnun munaqsit ilurilutik ilisaqtuksauyut.

## 6. NIQPTIGUN

- Niqptigun iluatun uqaqtuksauyugut. Inuit quyalitait.
- Inuit isumagiyait malirutaksats katimagaigumik.
- Inuit niqingit qaunagiyaksauyut sunaliqaa alanguqsimaakirman.
- Inuit Niryutaitigun Munariniq (Inuit Wildlife Management Summit)

## 7. UQAQATIGIINGNIQ

- Inuit savaqatigilugit alalu ikayuqtit. Inuit avanmun uqaqtuat atautchitun ilurilirlugit.
- Inilaalu ungavani Inuitlu maani atautchitun uqaqatigiiktusats ilurilutik.

## 8. ILISARNIKKUNLU PITQUSIPTIGUNLU

- Inuit ilisarnikkun, savaatigun, sukkuliqa ikayurlugit.
- Inuit uqausingat qulvaqtuksauyuq. Ikayuqtit savaqatigilugit.
- Inuit Katimaqpatait Ilisarnikkun (Inuit Education Summit).

## 9. INUIT ALALU PITQUSINGIT

- Inuit pitqusingit atuqtaksauyut qaunagiyaksauyut isumaliugaigumik katimalutik.
- Malirutaksat aglaktat katimagamik Inungnu utiqtuksauyut.
- Inuit ilisimayangit qaunagilugit katimayaraigumik.

Chukotka (Russia) delegates.





## Travel

Due to its major sponsorship, Canadian North was designated as the official airline of the ICC GA. As a result, special flights allowed delegates to fly from Iqaluit to Inuvik in one day as opposed to two days. ICC Alaska chartered Canadian North to fly their 130 plus participants to and from Inuvik to Anchorage.

Delegates from Chukotka (Russia) travelled to Moscow from their communities (located across the Bering Sea) and flew to Edmonton to catch the Canadian North flight to Inuvik. Although there were visa issues, this was thankfully worked out at the last minute. The travel costs for the Chukotkan delegation were shared by ICC Canada, ICC Alaska and ICC Greenland. This generosity is exemplary of the Inuit value of helping each other and valuing each other's input.

Nuka Kleemann, Greenland delegate.



Inuvik Mayor Floyd Roland.



Hjalmar Dahl and Carl Chr. Olsen (Greenland).



Russian delegate Vasili Dobriev showing his diary.



The Alaskan delegation charter.



Photo: Minnie Maylor

The Alaskan delegation charter.



Photo: Carolina Behe



Hon. Bob McLeod, Premier of NWT.



ITK President Terry Audla.



Photo: Hans Blohm



Photo: Hans Blohm

ICC staff on Canadian North!



## Accommodations

Inuvik has three hotels. Mackenzie Hotel was dedicated to delegates with Capital Suites and Nova Inn housing speakers, VIPs and special guest. But housing was needed for observers, media, performers, regional drum dancers and Northern Games athletes.

Possible accommodations included a billeting/homestay program, barge, an industry camp and Aurora College student housing. The coordinators set to work making these available for ICC delegates. The Great Northern Arts Festival was able to schedule some artists to leave a little earlier so their dormitory rooms were available. EGT Northwind Ltd. moved their barge with 60 beds to the Canadian Coast Guard dock on the East Channel. "We paid EGT Northwind Ltd. for use of the barge and it was great, people could walk into town," said Peggy. The barge's kitchen also became a back up kitchen for the GA.

Northwind Industries has an industry camp on Navy Road, which was also moved to the Aurora College expansion land

to allow delegates easy access to town. Its camp kitchen also became the main kitchen for the Northern Games when the Town of Inuvik allowed the use of electrical and water hookups in the area. The federally-owned Smith Apartments, which were currently vacant, became accommodation for participants. Furniture was donated by the management of the defunct Eskimo Inn.

An aggressive billeting or homestay program was launched in Inuvik. Many in Inuvik opened their homes to billet participants and relatives from Alaska or other parts of Canada. In the end, there were more billets and homestays than required.

"So when you look at it accommodations were a challenge for us, but working through partnerships, we were able to make it work for us," said Peggy. In the end, there were even more accommodations than needed, and last minute visitors, such as 40 Alaskans who drove into to join in the cultural performances could therefore be housed.

**CONTINUE ON ► PG 50**



Northwind camp.

Photo: Hans Blohm



Aurora College dormitory.

Photo: Hans Blohm

Photo: Michael Carman



Rowhouses.



The Mackenzie Hotel.





EGT Northwind Ltd's barge 802.

“Our job was to make sure that we had the logistics, accommodation, catering, venues, cultural programming, volunteers and everything in place for the official delegation.”



Photographer Hans Blohm in his Aurora College dormitory room.





Brenda and Vina Norris volunteered for ICC GA, along with their brother Wayne.



The Gordon-Arey family gathered at the ICC GA. The family spans Alaska and the ISR.



# VOLUNTEER POWER

## NORRIS SIBLINGS GO THE EXTRA MILE AS VOLUNTEERS

**V**ina Norris is such a dedicated volunteer of the ICC GA, that she convinced her siblings to join her as well. She first volunteered at the GA in 1992. “When it came on again I was all excited, because I enjoyed myself so much the last time. The thrill, activities, all the people, and I’ve a lot of relatives that are from Alaska... it’s a really great time renewing friendships and meeting people, catching up with relatives,” she said.

Her sister Brenda who lives in Yellowknife flew in to volunteer, while her brother Wayne took time off work to be a volunteer driver for the GA. Vina reprised her previous role running the GA general office. “I was directing people and answering questions... helping people know where to get things. Like telling people where to get photocopying, how do you get from here to there, we were the go-to people for information and transportation,” she said.

Brenda was a media liaison, but she also multi-tasked. “I was more of an ambassador for the Inuvialuit,” she beamed. Vina and Brenda were GNWT staff who could volunteer in lieu of work, and Brenda and Wayne found ways to fly up. “We have our Pivut fare, and ICC helped a little bit and Wayne used his points,” said Brenda.

Vina and Brenda are also part of the Gordon-Arey family, spanning Alaska and the Mackenzie Delta. “We had the chance to get a very great big family picture done, right down on the Jim Koe Park site. We are probably looking at over 100 people in one picture and that’s all our different relatives coming from Barrow, Kaktovik, Aklavik, Inuvik and all over so it’s really great,” said Vina.

“I haven’t seen some of my uncles for 40 years so it was very nice to see them, and a lot of cousins that I haven’t seen since young,” Brenda added.

Vina posted the family picture online, “And right away, you know, people were so excited. They are so glad we are putting it on Facebook so it’s like they are right here with us.”

Coming home also meant getting to eat traditional foods. “I helped in the park – on the first day and I had two bowls of muktuk. Since then I’ve been having a bowl of muktuk a day,” Brenda laughed. “To me that’s really great.”

Vina and Brenda agreed that part of the fun is eating. Vina lists her favourite country foods at ICC GA. “First of all you have the muktuk, then you have the drymeat, then you have the soup. My goodness - the geese soup, the rabbit soup, so it’s just an amazing complement of different things that you can go for every day.”

For Brenda coming home is also a chance to connect deeper with her culture. “Last night I watched the geese plucking contest. A participant from Greenland just

came from her performance, she is wearing her dress, pantyhose and dressy shoes and she’s on the grass plucking a goose... and I just thought that was so poetic. We have evolved, and yet we still hold onto the families and the traditions that way. Like my sister was saying everywhere we went in Inuvik people were waving and smiling... People were very welcoming and saying ‘Come in and eat’ just like the old days.”

Brenda and Vina are grandchildren of Tom and Jean Arey, elders involved with the revival of drum dancing. “So we got up there and tried to dance and I know she [Jean] would have been proud,” laughed Vina.

For Brenda the invitational dances were especially poignant. “There’s this sense of collective belonging. One of my friends who’s non-Aboriginal said the drum is in all of us and it’s been removed from a lot of us for centuries - and it’s like our heartbeat and that’s what I feel when I’m drum dancing,” she said. 📍

**“Everywhere we went in Inuvik people were waving and smiling... People were very welcoming and saying ‘Come in and eat’ just like the old days.”**



## Food

Another challenge was food. A meal ticket system was devised so delegates could enjoy a variety of food options in town. By far the most popular was the country food offered at the Northern Games booth.

The vast volume of country food to feed the community and the conference had to be acquired a year ahead. "It took quite a large group of people to do the cooking and the preparation," said Nellie. "We cooked the muktuk outside. To feed this group we used about 50 to 60 whales. And the dryfish was very important too. About 200 dryfish were consumed, along with Arctic char, whale dry meat, caribou, muskox, duck, and geese.

"Sandra Ipana is a key person. She has such a skill to pull people together to cook on a continuous basis and there's Barbara Archie who is such a good support, making sure everybody has the kind of food they want to eat," said Nellie.

Alaska also brought King Crab and bowhead muktuk to share at their reception.



One of the many breakfasts made possible by generous sponsors.

Photo: Hans Blohm



Char and vegetables.

Photo: Hans Blohm



Fruit buffet.

Photo: Hans Blohm



Caribou stew.



Dinner at the Legion.



Getting food at the Northern Games booth.

Photo: Nick Westover





Lunchtime.



Volunteer Fiona Cook.

Photo: Peggy Day

## Volunteers

In all, there were about 100 volunteers for ICC and 135 for Northern Games. Volunteers, accommodations and billeting information were shared. Many who still remember the 1992 experience jumped on board as volunteers.

Nellie said, "We are fortunate that we have a very strong group of people with the Northern Games. The community knew what they wanted to do and put their best efforts forward. Many from the other regions, who've been involved with our traditional games before, like the

Commissioner of Nunavut, Edna Elias, we made sure she got here, and other people like her as well."

GNWT employees had special permission to volunteer at the GA and Northern Games. Many in Inuvik took advantage and had a wonderful experience.

"In these types of gatherings, particularly in the Arctic one has to recognize that it's not easy to get very far unless you had a lot of volunteers who are willing to host. People really went out of their way to give the royal treatment to their friends and relatives," said Nellie.



The Alaskans brought King Crab!



Chukotka crafts.



Peggy Day and Anne Thrasher.





James Kuptana and Eddie Dillon.

## Local Transportation

Glen Gordon, who volunteered to drive, took it upon himself to give tours to delegates even after the GA was over. Transportation was taken care of with the use of GNWT vehicles, rental vehicles from Northwind Industries, buses from Up North buses and whatever buses and personal vehicles were available.

The Inuit value of sharing and pulling together was seen and felt throughout the GA, a truly unique feature of a conference of this scale.

## Sponsors

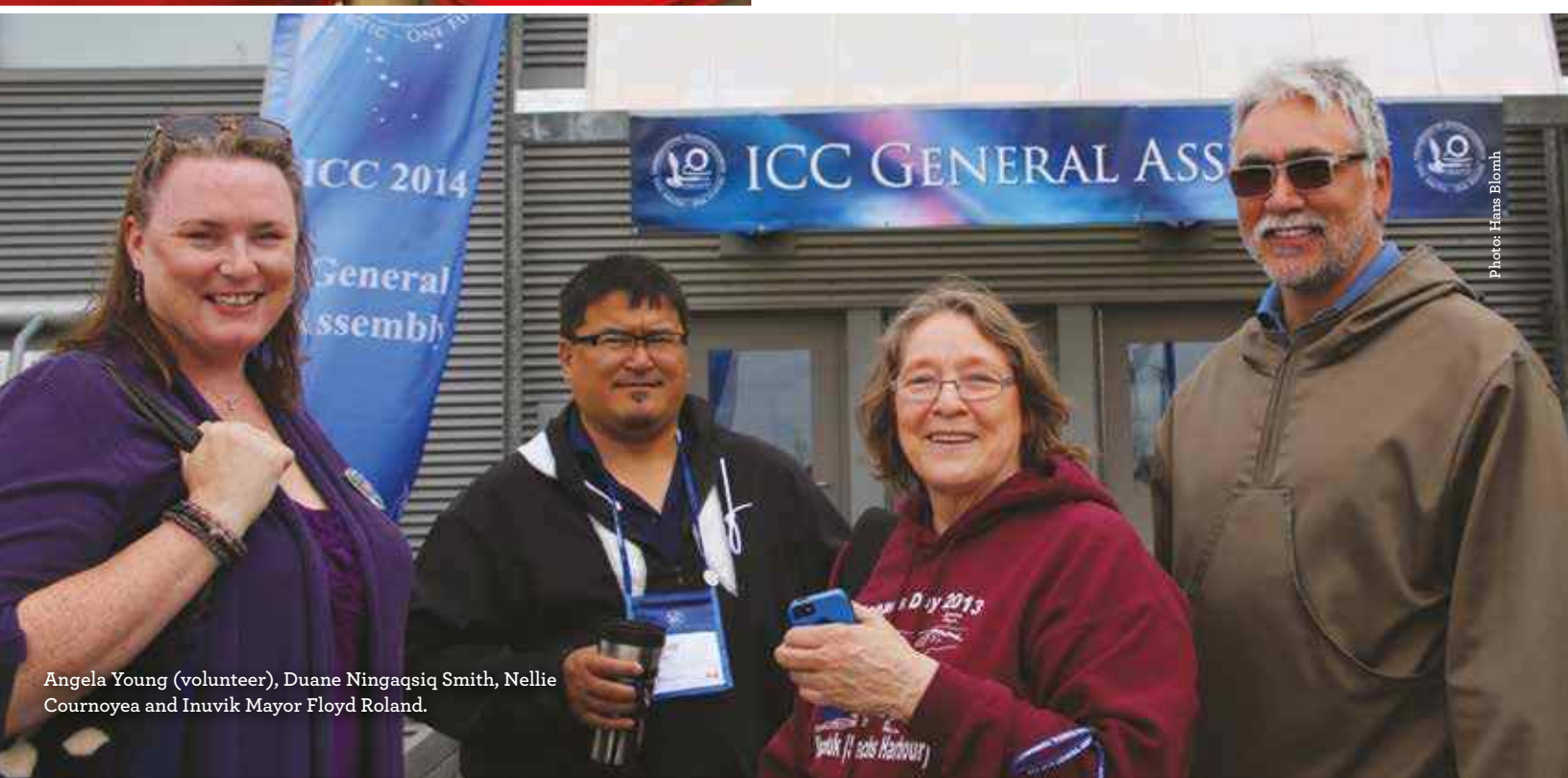
“Nothing would have happened if we didn’t have great sponsors. When we decided to take the chance, we had an idea who our sponsors would be, and certainly the regional Aboriginal organizations and institutions really came forward on getting us the first bulk of the funds and we had some very strong corporate sponsors. In some cases we were more than pleasantly surprised that they came forward with the amounts that they did contribute, so that was very very important,” said Nellie, whose

connections with the sponsors helped immensely with fundraising.

The GNWT not only contributed funds, but also in-kind donations, allowing Youth Ambassadors to take part and government employees time to work as volunteers during the week. They also provided the brand new East Three School as the GA main venue, use of GNWT vehicles, etc. “The Town of Inuvik went out of their way to provide us with support and all the facilities they have, including the Midnight Sun Complex, Jim Koe Park and decoration of banners in the community,” said Nellie.

“Not to take away from the local businesses, they opened their doors and there was no problem in getting everything from in-kind support to financial support, and on top of many went out of their way to make sure the town looked good as well,” said Nellie. “In addition to all the other factors, Peggy Jay was a fundamental part to putting this event together. You always have to have somebody driving the process. Given the short period of time we’d never

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Angela Young (volunteer), Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, Nellie Cournoyea and Inuvik Mayor Floyd Roland.





Lloyd Visser, ConocoPhillips VP of Environment and Sustainable Development.



Northwind hauling sound equipment.

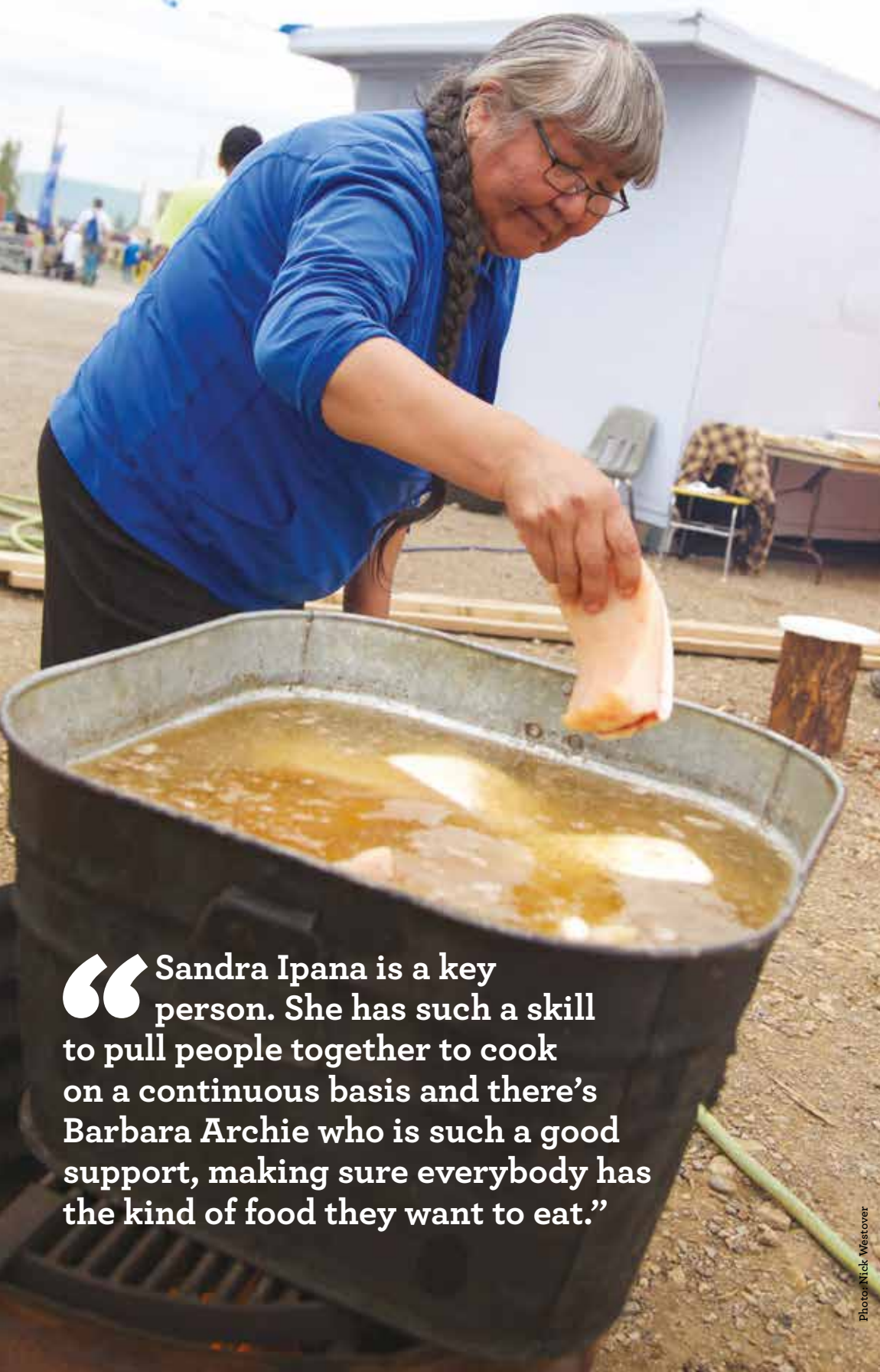


Lloyd Visser of ConocoPhillips shaking hands with ICC Vice Chair Jimmy Stotts.

Photo: Hans Blomh



Sandra Ipana, long-time volunteer and head cook.



“Sandra Ipana is a key person. She has such a skill to pull people together to cook on a continuous basis and there’s Barbara Archie who is such a good support, making sure everybody has the kind of food they want to eat.”

Photos: Nick Westover







Dry Fish.



Muktuk (Beluga Blubber).



Berries.



Susan Pepper prepping muktuk.



A volunteer cooking up muktuk.





Photo: Nick Westover

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have taken on without her. So really these are the kinds of people that are necessary – those who have the depth and the understanding and the will to do it and the strength to do it,” said Nellie.

Peggy, who is IRC’s Director of Community and Beneficiary Relations took on the role of ICC GA coordinator full time after making sure her existing work plan could be delegated. “IRC provided a lot of in-kind support to the GA, the organizing, offices, my time, and making space available to the Northern Games so we were able to coordinate the events work together. IRC also allowed staff to volunteer and work with us the whole week and the weeks leading up to it. We had wonderful staff members who worked double time doing transportation – they were out meeting the planes – that was Jiri Raska - and we had our own HR department with Meeka Kisoun and Marci McDougall looking after the whole volunteer group,” said Peggy.

**“In these types of gatherings, particularly in the Arctic one has to recognize that it’s not easy to get very far unless you had a lot of volunteers who are willing to host. People really went out of their way to give the royal treatment to their friends and relatives.”**

## Inuit Hospitality

Nellie and Peggy knew the Alaskans were boarding a 6 am plane to go home, and decided to give them bags of drymeat and dry fish in case they got hungry. “Well you won’t believe it. When they stopped off in Whitehorse to clear customs I immediately got a Facebook message: They LOVE it! They all stood up and clapped. They can’t believe you’ve extended the hospitality even beyond Inuvik,” she shared.

“In the end when you work with logistics and everything, you want happy people. That’s all that matters,” said Peggy. “I don’t think everyone got enough of Inuvik!”



Photo: Nick Westover

Barbara Archie making traditional doughnuts.





Nellie Cournoyea (R) and Peggy Jay, ICC GA coordinator being recognized for their contributions.

And they loved the fact there was something going on every day and there were activities going on at all times... now mind you I think the one complaint we had was we had drum dancing till 3 in the morning and how were they supposed to get up the next morning and go to meetings? But if that's the only complaint we had, it makes us happy organizers too."

"The important thing is... you can talk about the Declaration, the real tragic issues that we have and are wanting to fix but the good part of this type of gathering is people see the better part of life as well. So we are celebrating the better part of life but we are not ignoring that we have to resolve a lot of important issues. Inuit always seem to think it's all manageable, given that you are already putting your effort into it," said Nellie.

"When the conference was starting on Monday, and going in there to watch the official proceedings, I saw the people enjoying the sealskin tapestry, the big wall hanging at the back, the buzz in the venue, the colour coordination and the microphones on every table and everyone's happy. It was just the greatest feeling of thinking, wow now we can turn this conference over to the ICC Chair, as everything is ready. That was a wonderful feeling," said Peggy. 🍀



Volunteers at the GA merchandise booth.



Margaret and Bill Mero collecting meal tickets.

Photo: Peggy Jay



# STEPHEN HARPER HONORARY PATRON



Photo: PMO Office

PM Stephen Harper meets with workers at the Inuvik-Tuk Highway groundbreaking ceremony.

**“Having Canada’s Prime Minister serve as Honorary Patron is a strong indicator of the importance of ICC as a body that can directly address the impacts of our changing Arctic.”**

**A**s Honorary Patron of the ICC GA, Prime Minister Stephen Harper welcomed the participants, “Uvlaami, bonjour, greetings to everyone attending the 12th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council. I want to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to serve as Honorary Patron. I am delighted.”

“We all share the same goals to see healthy, prosperous Inuit families and communities. That is why this General Assembly is so important. Let me congratulate ICC Canada and our local hosts, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, for hosting this Assembly and let me wish you all a pleasant and productive meeting.”

ICC Canada President, Duane Ningaqsiq Smith said, “We are very pleased that the Prime Minister is presiding over this international celebration of our people. This is truly a major historical event as the Arctic gains prominence on the world stage.”

“Having Canada’s Prime Minister serve as Honorary Patron is a strong indicator of the importance of ICC as a body that can directly address the impacts of our changing Arctic,” added International ICC Chair, Aqqaluk Lynge. ❄️





Andrea Hansen (R) on a Mackenzie Delta boat tour with colleague Chantale Campbell.

Photo: James Kuptana

# ANDREA HANSEN PROUD TO BE HOME

**W**e catch up with Andrea Hansen, who was a star volunteer at the ICC GA! Originally from Inuvik she came back to the ISR as a ConocoPhillips staff but went the extra mile to ensure visitors had a good experience at the GA.

## **What was your role at this ICC GA?**

I got involved a few days before the ICC GA commenced. My role was to be a support to ICC conference coordinator Peggy Jay and her team in any way possible – there are so many details to attend to in coordinating a production of this scale. I just looked for any tasks, big or small, to help alleviate the work load.

ConocoPhillips is an official sponsor of the ICC GA. We set up a booth for ConocoPhillips in the trade show area. We were walking around giving out ConocoPhillips cookies! We attended sessions during the day and looked after our executive staff. VPs Sheila Reader made a speech, and Lloyd Visser spoke at the opening night and at the Wednesday Panels.

## **Could you describe the volunteer work you helped to do?**

The majority of my time was spent preparing delegate and participant kits and general set-up along with supporting registration on the first day. Working with

Donna Bernhardt was a blast! We spent hours preparing the delegate bags and setting up the flags and banners. I drove around with Harley Matthews showing Greenlanders and Alaskans where to go. The truck showing up with the translation and audio visual equipment was not able to get up to the gym - we had to get a loader over there on short notice.

## **Who else amongst the volunteers stood out as a star volunteer?**

Louie Porta with Oceans North was up late driving Alaskans in from the airport. I think he was the one who volunteered to put sheets on beds for delegate accommodations.

## **How did it feel to be back in the ISR at the ICC GA?**

I always look forward to coming home – I pursued work that would allow me to stay involved and travel in the ISR – but coming home for the ICC GA filled me with pride and excitement both as an Inuvialuk and from the hosting region. I wanted those visiting Inuvik to appreciate it the way I do and leave with only good memories. I volunteered in 1992 at the ICC GA and was amazed at the numbers of Inuit from around the world and the scale of the event. The cultural celebration showcasing traditional clothing and dance was captivating. I get shivers just thinking about it. 🌟



# IN APPRECIATION

to the following sponsors for your generous support of the ICC GA 2014. Thank You, Quyanaq and Quyanainni!

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Bill and Marie Tracey.



James Kuptana and Barb Simic.



ICC Alaska Reception.



# IN APPRECIATION

to the following volunteers for your generous support of  
the ICC GA 2014. Thank You, Quyanaq and Quyanainni!

Aleekuk, Amber	Day, Colin	Grandjambe, Athena	Kogiak, Allen	Peffer, Susan
Aleekuk, Annie	Day, James Jr.	Green, Rita	Kokko, Anne	Pertschy, Elizabeth
Allen, Eileen	Day, Peggy	Greenland, Joey	Komeak, Charles	Phillips, Debbie
Allen, Fanny	Day-MacLeod, Skye	Gruben, Darlene	Kotokak, Lena	Pokiak, Maribeth
Allen, Gloria	DeBastien, Duane	Gruben, Ethel-Jean	Kudlak, Shauna	Porta, Louie
Allen, Kathleen	Dillon, Eddie	Gruben, Nikkia	Kuptana, Donald	Raska, Jiri
Allen, Mabel	Dillon, Lucy	Gruben, Patrick	Kuptana, James	Ritias, Amber
Alley, Sarah	Dimaano, Yvonne	Gruben, Robert	Kuptana, Lucy	Ritias, Selina
Alunik, Louisa	Donovan, Kyle	Gruben, Tanya	Kuptana, Terri Lee	Rodgers, Denny
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Arey, Eddie	Edwards, Ruby	Haogak, Priscilla	Larocque, Chelsey	Shattler, Deanna
Arey, Sonny	Elanik, Felicia	Harley, Delores	Lennie, Alecia	Sidhu, Viraj
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Arthorne, Paul	Elanik, Nellie	Inglangasuk, Olivia	Lennie, Crystal	Sittichinli, Jayda
Aulin, Mary	Elias, Delanie	Ipana, Leah	Lennie, Edward	Smith, Chelsey
Azevedo, Berta	Elias, James	Ipana, Sandra	Lennie, Hans	Smith, Linda
Baldwin, Erin	Elias, Lorna	Ittungna, Brenda	Leonido, Michael	Smith, Wendy
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Clarke, Paul	Giilck, Charlene	Kingmiatuq, Madison	Modesto, Melanie	Tingmiak, Abel
Cockney, Cathy	Gillis, Melinda	Kinney, Jim	Morgan, Candace	Venaas, Judith
Cockney, Jennifer	Goose, Leanne	Kisoun, Caroline	Nartok, Makabe	Verbonac, Camilla
Cockney, Lacey	Gordon, Sandra	Kisoun, Donna	Nasogaluak, Gloria	Vittrekwa, Haili
Cockney, Steve	Gordon, Sherry	Kisoun, Gerry	Nasogaluak, Natasha	Voisey, Elizabeth
Cook, Barry	Gordon, Glen	Kisoun, Lesli	Nasogaluak, Sheila	Vos, Pippa
Cook, Fiona	Gordon, Jasmine	Kisoun, Meeka	Navratil, Crystal	Wall, Erica
Cook, Terry	Gordon, Jerome	Kisoun, Melissa	Norris, Brenda	Williams, James
Costa, Jenny	Gordon, Liz	Kisoun, Shirley	Norris, Vina	Wright-Fraser, Karen
Cross, Christine	Gordon-Ruben, Colton	Kisoun, Tricia	Norris, Wayne	Young, Angela
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# Thank You

It was an honour for us to be a part of the Inuit Circumpolar Council General Assembly.



# BEHIND THE SCENES

## COMMUNICATING FOR THE PEOPLE

At one end of the ICC GA conference hall, there is a row of booths where interpreters from the ICC countries are hard at work, simultaneously translating as presenters took their turns at the podium. Annie Goose from Ulukhaktok is in the Innuinaqtun booth, along with Helen Kitekudlak. She took a little time out to share what it is like to translate at the ICC GA.



**W**e work from 8:30 am to 6 pm – there are 2 interpreters in each booth. We are translating from English to Innuinaqtun, sometimes vice versa. It depends on the speakers. We take turns translating to take pressure off each other. Your mind is going so many miles per hour, and you try to do the best you can to get the message out to the people,” she said.

Every booth is speaking for their region. There is Russian, Greenlandic, Yupik, Inupiat, Inuktitut

Uummarmiutun, Siglit, and Innuinaqtun...We’ve to try to translate everything that’s being said on the floor because that’s expected of us. There are people sitting in the audience that I recognize, some from here, some from Kitikmeot, some understand Innuinaqtun, Uummarmiutun, and Inuktitut, so I guess some of them take on the language that is closest to them. Sometimes when I am taking time out I listen to the people who are translating and there is music in the rhythm of the different dialects.





ICC GA Katimavium akiani pingasut igluruyat iluani takunaqtut mumiktiqiyit savaksimayuat. ICC-mi nunaqativut. Uqaqtuat tugligiiklutik malirusimagait. Annie Goose unalu Helen Kitekudlak Ulukhaktok- miutak Innuinaqtun uqaqtuk. Uva sivikitumik unipkaaqtuq.

8:30 ublaami 6-mun aglaan savakpaktuangni. Malruuyut savaktik igluami. Innuinaqtun mumiktisivaktuanni, ilaanni Taniktun. Ikayuqtiigiipaktuanni. Qiilaksuuqluta isumaliuqaktuanni, inuit iluatun tusaapqublugit.

Mumiktisivaktuat nunaqatigiingnun, Russia, Greenland, Yupik, Inupiaq, Inuktitun, Uummarmiutun, Sallirmiutun, Innuinaqtunlu. Tamaan inuum uqaqtanga mumiktiniaktuksaq. Inuit katimavingmi iltarnaqtut. Kitikmeot, Uummarmiut, Kivataanirmiullu. Ilaani savaqatitka kituliqaa naalagiakpakatka. Uqausingit quvianaqtut.

Inugiaktut uqausiqpait tusarnaqtut. Sivituqaqtumik tusaamaugalirainni qangiqsinarmit. Quyllitauyuq. Mumiktiniapaktuanni uqaqtuaq angumaniaglugu. Isumaliurnaqtuq sukayumik. Ilinariblunilu qakugu.

Uqausiqpait tusaamaugalirainni sumiliqa katimayuanni qangiqsinaqivangmiyuat. Ilinarmiuq qakugu ilurilutin savakkuvit.

Mumiktiniq quviagiyara. Uqaqtaksat katimayuanni sivunniuqtaksat inugiaktut. Inuit pitqusiitigunlu, sapiqsautitigun, iluatun inuusiqtutqiksarniq. Tamana tajva qangiqsipkaqtuksauyuq inungn naalaktuanun.

Uqaqatigiipaktuanni savaqatiptingnun. Taimana innapta. Savaaksaugaluaglutata ikayuutivaktuanni uqaqatigiiklutata. Nirivigaluani uqaqatigiingnaqtuq iluatun. Taimana tajva ikayurniaqaktuanni. ❖

There are many technical terms and when you are translator-interpreter, over a period of years you get to understand the different topics that they talk about so that's helpful. You are translating as close as you can really quickly, your mind is going very fast, you have to put the two together. It's a technique you learn over time.

Some of the words you hear over and over in different conferences but it differs in each

speaker's perspective, and their audience. It's a technique you learn over time and you do the best you can of course.

I enjoy translating - topics brought to the floor from each region range from knowledge based, traditional-cultural sharing, to difficult situations in each region or the good works that they are doing. You have to translate that to the audience and that the information can be received well.

Translators have been talking to each other of course, because we Inuit are an open people. Even if we are busy we take time to communicate. Like at the tables where we eat, you try to accommodate each other as best as you can, that is the quality that we try to carry as translator-interpreters. ❖

Annie Goose (L) and Helen Kitekudlak (R).



# JUMPING IN HOWIE MACLEOD

To Howie MacLeod, sound is not just his business, it is his passion. A year before the ICC GA, he began meetings with ICC Conference Coordinator Peggy Jay to ensure that audio for the GA would work well for the five venues, where conference meetings and cultural performances will be ongoing.

Howie's live sound business has served most major shows in Inuvik. He knew audio needs for the GA would be complicated, there were 8 separate language systems just for the conference itself. "It's really important that everyone understood what's going on in the meetings, especially for the Inuvialuit at this critical time," said Howie who helped arrange for an audio crew to look after multi-simultaneous translations.

He took care of audio for the cultural performances and the Northern Games. "That was a lot of work, we started early in the mornings to prepare for the



Adjusting the mike for Danny C. Gordon during the Interfaith Service.



On the drums.



day and we went late into the evening. The performances and the Northern Games were going on at the same time, sometimes on the same stage. It was a bit of a challenge for me to work around, sometimes we couldn't do sound checks with the groups when there was already something happening at the venue. But it all worked out really well, I was mostly as prepared as I could be," he said.

Performers from Greenland and the Eastern Arctic saw Howie playing drums for Inuvik musicians Louie and Leanne Goose and invited him to play with them too. "At first I was nervous, I have never even heard these musicians before but it all fell together so well it was just like we played together forever. They'd come over to me after and say 'Man, it was really neat playing with you.' There was good feeling onstage and you can't beat that."

**“It was quite the challenge to work with the weather, the schedule to work and with so many different people, but everybody in the end pulled together and realized the vision of One Arctic, One Future.”**

"It's so much more rewarding when you can help a situation out, it was neat they trusted me to help them with their show."

Howie also enjoyed fellow Inuvialuit who jumped onstage to share their playful side. "Gerry [Kisoun], he's on the mike a lot doing the emceeing, it was good to see all of a sudden he picks up his guitar and sings a song in front of 500 people," he laughed.

Howie went beyond his responsibilities, jumping in to help clean up after the events and supporting other staff of the GA.

"We tried to help out everywhere we could. I really have to congratulate the volunteers, and the organizers ... it would be 6 o'clock in the morning and they'd be outside cleaning up the park in the rain."

"I think everybody tried really hard to get the job done well. It was quite the challenge to work with the weather, the schedule, and with so many different people, but everybody in the end pulled together and realized the vision of *One Arctic, One Future*," he said. 🌱



Working on sound.





JACQUI  
LAMBERT



# SAY YES TO OPPORTUNITY

Jacqui Lambert is a life force to be reckoned with. The 22 year old from Kotzebue, Alaska can be seen at the ICC GA conference meetings, snapping away with her camera as a journalist for First Alaskans magazine, while multi-tasking as ICC Alaska Staff, coordinating logistics and donning her dance parka to perform with the Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers. As part of her internship with the UN Indigenous People's Center of Documentation, she is also collecting oral histories for a documentary.

While it might seem like a lot on her shoulders, Jacqui says she is having the time of her life. "In the past 4 years I was just thinking ICC, ICC, really excited! I've been planning for this forever," she says. Jacqui was 14 years old when she attended her first ICC GA in Barrow Alaska as part of the Sivuliq Youth Media Group. "I didn't understand what was going on, I was just working hard with the media, learning the tools... how to use these microphones and cameras." When she turned 18 she went to the 2010 ICC GA in Nuuk Greenland as an observer. "I was just learning the ropes, sitting in and understanding the materials. Through these ICCs I can feel my growth."

"Sivuliq means the front end of the bow. We are leading this technology change, using these media tools to preserve our culture," she says through projects such as a documentary on the Beringia Land Bridge. "Basically it's about the connection of dances

between Alaska and Russia, show how we lost touch with our dancing and yet it's not lost, we are finding it again. We talk so much about losing our native language, but we are also losing our native dance. Because of the cold war Russia and Alaska couldn't communicate with each other. When that happened they communicated songs through the radio. There are some dances where they are familiar with the songs but the motions were different because they couldn't share them."

Jacqui's long distance internship with the UN has her working with 6 other youth from Bolivia, Costa Rica, Australia, the Philippines, the Arctic region, the North American region. At a historic symposium, the interns documented oral histories of Inuit people who were part of the fight for Indigenous rights in the 70s.

"At the UN Convention in Geneva in 1977, Indigenous people were not even allowed into the convention area. We recorded the stories of the first delegates that were there, who were fighting, we have human rights too, there's a big rally of them." This project called "The Bridge to the Future" is according to Jacqui "to build the bridge between the first delegates, the elders, and the youth about this history."

Jacqui finds courage to be the key to getting life changing experiences. "Any opportunity that came up I was just like YES I didn't want to pass anything up."

When she first applied for the UN internship position, another candidate was selected instead. "After Labour Day weekend I opened up my emails and they were like 'The other candidate backed out! Are you interested in coming to the UN on Friday?' This was a Tuesday but I can't say no to this."

"Even though on short notice and I didn't know anyone, I trusted it enough. I talked to my professors, I met everyone when I was there and basically that's how I became an intern with the Indigenous People's Center of Documentation. I've been

all around the world. I didn't mind traveling on my own," she says.

"I'm trying to prove to the youth, don't wait. It's possible, don't wait for the delegates to reach out to you. Take any opportunity that comes. If I haven't started the Youth Media group in 2005 I'll never be here today. And all I heard when I signed up was that it's a fun project with cameras and they are going to Barrow. It shifted my entire career for me. So that's basically what it is, don't be scared of any opportunity." 📸

**“Don't wait for the delegates to reach out to you. Take any opportunity that comes... It shifted my entire career for me. Don't be scared of any opportunity.”**



Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers.



# UP AND COMING

TOM MCLEOD





“The benefit of the ICC is that everyone agrees on the best possible way to march forward. If we get everyone in the North walking in the same direction, that can be the direction of the future.”

Tom McLeod is the youngest Inuvialuit published author – co-authoring *The Delta is My Home* in 2008 with Mindy Willet as an 11-year old. As a child, the gifted storyteller was heard frequently on CBC Radio North sharing delightful stories about hunting and living on the land. Originally from Aklavik, Tom has returned to the Delta after working and studying in Whitehorse for about two years, completing the Producer Training Program at Inuvialuit Communications Society (ICS) in Inuvik last year. The 19 year old is now a full time producer for ICS, and continues his love of storytelling through a children’s television show slated for broadcast on APTN.

For Tom it is a “natural progression” to move from writing into television and he finds “The best part of making children’s programming is that you know you are possibly making something that will stick with them their whole life... make them happy for a long time.”

You might have seen the lanky young man behind a camera

during the ICC GA, pensive as he documents the discussions. In a moment of spontaneity when recording the cultural performances he jumped in to join the drummers and dancers of his hometown.

Tom’s love of the Mackenzie Delta is evident and even though many younger people his age are moving south, he is determined to stay in the North. “I’m a bit of a family man. I’ve my whole family (in Aklavik) and I’m still really close to my younger sister... we are great friends. My brothers have their younger children and I like helping them out, it’s part of my coming back up North after I left,” he said.

A bit of a history buff and geek, Tom researches ancient history “for fun” and knows everything about science fiction. His is astute about the importance of timing in getting the Inuit voice heard through the ICC GA. He said the resources of the North is like a poker chip. “Right now we’ve our poker chip that’ll get us to the table but when it’s gone we’d get kicked off the table. In that time when we have our poker chip we have to play well to gain more,” he said.

He is hopeful that the North will be able to advance beyond dependence on natural resources by developing renewable energy sources, “That would be an incredible thing, so we are less dependent when we lose our natural resources.”

A significant observation Tom has of the ICC GA was to see a bigger picture of circumpolar Inuit working together. “The benefit of the ICC is that everyone agrees on the best possible way to march forward. If we get everyone in the North walking in the same direction, that can be the direction of the future,” he said. 🌀





# AWARDS & GIFTS

# THE BILL EDMUNDS AWARDS



Carl Christian Olsen, Puju (Greenland).







Photo: Hans Blohm

ICC Alaska reception.



Photo: Hans Blohm

Edna Elias, Commissioner of Nunavut.



Enjoying the dancing.

Photo: Hans Blohm



Terry Audla receiving a gift.



Dr. Paul John, Elder Representative (Alaska).

Towards the end of the ICC GA, an award and gift presentation ceremony is held in recognition of service towards ICC's goals.

The Bill Edmunds Award was presented to Carl Christian Olsen, (Puju) for his outstanding role in promoting Inuit rights and interests throughout the circumpolar region. Puju is the director of the Oqaasileriffik (Language Secretariat) at the University of Greenland. He is known for his dedication as a linguist to revive and protect the Greenlandic language and identity. He advocated for Home Rule, Denmark's 1979 decision to let Greenland manage some of its own affairs and is President of ICC Greenland.

Other gifts were also given during the ICC GA and country receptions to participants in recognition of their contribution. ❖



# COUNTRY FOOD



Photo: Michael Carman

Photo: Michael Carman

Caribou soup and roast with bannock.



Renie Arey.



Caribou rib roast.





# MAMAQTUUQ!

## DELICIOUS EATING

There was a secret ingredient behind all the joy at the ICC GA – nutrient rich, energy giving country food! Volunteer cooks prepared pails of muktuk day and night at Jim Koe Park, and the rich beluga blubber boiling away was a beautiful sight. There is just about every kind of country food

available in the region, moose, caribou, geese, duck, muskrat, ptarmigan, rabbit, fish are made into soups and roasted, and there are drymeats and dryfish of all kinds. Eskimo donuts, soups, stews, bannock, berries, everything was available for a token price, and visitors are delighted. “Only \$10

for all this!” said an Alaskan on her Facebook, showing a bowl of muktuk, dryfish and drymeat.

“We used about 20 pails of muktuk, 40 muskrats and 30 ducks,” said head cook Sandra Ipana, who was shaping fishcakes with her daughter Bunnik, and a group of volunteers from the Northern Games Society. Coming through the door of the cook booth are volunteers carrying massive bags of flour, while others are flipping pancakes and fishcakes, punching dough, frying Eskimo

doughnuts. The excitement of feeding the guests is infectious and there is much laughter as the food is prepared.

Country food is a crucial part of Inuit culture, and for many who have moved away, coming back and eating country food immediately connects them to their roots. It has been twelve years since Louise Aga Flooren has been back home in Inuvik. She drove for 4 days from Fort Vermillion, bringing her young children along so they could get a taste their culture. Her children cannot get enough of the drymeat. “The food, the activity, the relatives, friends and people, they are really enjoying it. One of them is joining the games and volunteering,” she said.

Country food is so good that even songs have been written about it. The Jerry Cans sang their hit song “Mamaqtuuq” at the ICC GA which got everyone dancing in agreement! 🎶



Photo: Minnie Naylor

Minnie Naylor, Deanna and Brent Latham (Alaska) enjoying muktuk.



Dry meat.



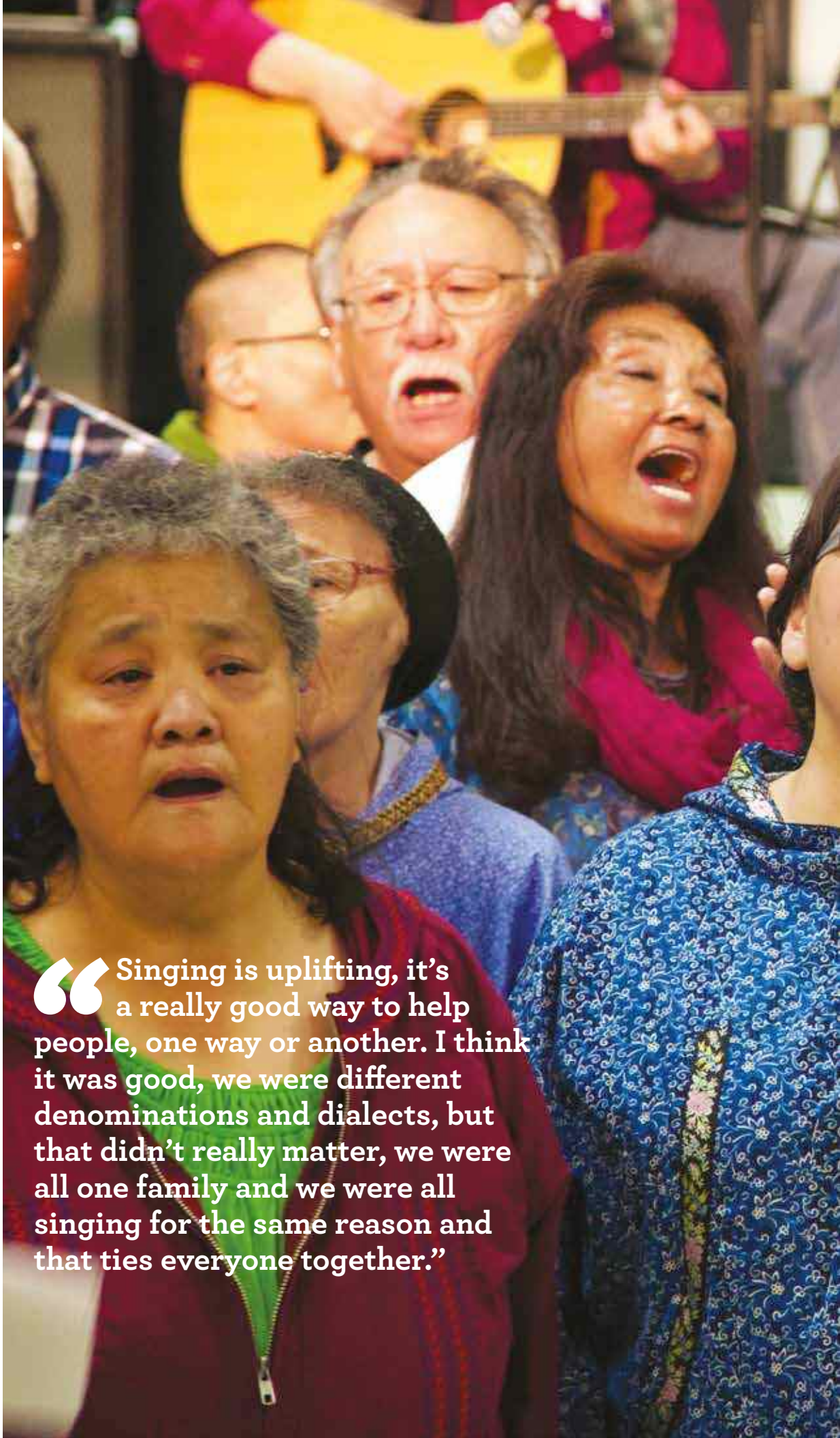
Photo: Peggy Jey



Bannock.



# CELEBRATIONS



“Singing is uplifting, it’s a really good way to help people, one way or another. I think it was good, we were different denominations and dialects, but that didn’t really matter, we were all one family and we were all singing for the same reason and that ties everyone together.”







# WE ARE ONE VOICE

Coming from different origins and faiths, attendees at the Interfaith Service – ICC GA’s first event – were in harmony with their intent and devotion. “Oh they are going to sing, her voice is just beautiful!” whispered an elder in the audience, as two members of the North Slope Region Choir took the stage. As the singer began her song, the elder and those around her eagerly joined in.

Voices and hearts soared as musicians and members of the various regions – Greenland Kalaalit Nunat Choir, Nunavut Choir, NANA Region Choir, Aklavik Sing-a-long Group, Chukotkan Choir, Gwich’in Choir, North Slope Region Choir and Kaktovik Sing-a-long Group – took turns in leading.

Sermons were delivered by Reverend Mark MacDonald (National Indigenous Anglican Bishop), and Reverend David

Parsons (Bishop of the Arctic), both emphasizing ICC GA to be a time to celebrate existing strengths and to follow wisdom.

It was a heart warming reunion for many whose family live across the border. Hymn leaders Danny C. Gordon (Aklavik) and Willie Goodwin (Kotzebue) are cousins by marriage, while many of the musicians on stage were from Kaktovik, Danny C.’s original hometown. He said many complimented the service after.

“Singing is uplifting, it’s a really good way to help people, one way or another. I think it was good, we were different denominations and dialects, but that didn’t really matter, we were all one family and we were all singing for the same reason and that ties everyone together.”

This gathering set the tone for the rest of the ICC GA where many voices would unite as one. ✪





Gwich'in choir.



Aqgaluk Lynge (center).



Greenland Kalaalit Nunat Choir.



Anglican bishops (Canada) and Lief Immanuelson (Greenland) playing.



Danny C. Gordon with fellow Hymn Leader Willie Goodwin.







NANA Region Choir (Kotzebue).



Joy, song and hugs are shared all around.





Rt. Reverend David W. Parsons, Bishop of the Arctic (R) and musicians from Alaska.



The Danny C. Gordon family.



Greenlanders enjoying the service.





# HOME BEYOND BORDERS

**It's not everyday that you have Inuit from Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka singing Happy Birthday together for you, and Carol Arey beamed with delight as the Kunuyuk Kaktovik Sing-a-long Group burst into song, surprising her and Annie Tagarook, who shared her birthday.**

Originally from Aklavik, Carol moved to Kaktovik, Alaska in November 2013. She had come back for the ICC GA as part of the Kaktovik Sing-a-long Group. When we caught up with her, her voice was a little hoarse.

"I'm enjoying every minute of it," she laughs. "I got to sing with the Aklavik Delta Drummers and Dancers the other day. We are all one family in the singing area - it's such an enjoyable time to have everybody come up and sing together... I think you can hear it in my voice."

Carol represented the Inuvialuit for many years politically through her involvement with IRC and community organizations. "I've been to a few ICC GAs... this is the first time I'm not sitting around the table," she said. However, she welcomed the change. "Usually when I come home to Aklavik I'm helping out there as well, and this time, just visiting with everybody is awesome. Having family and friends from the Alaska side, and meeting family from this side back home. With Northern Games too, that tops everything off."

Like many of the Inuvialuit of Inupiat descent, home is beyond geographical boundaries. "I would say that probably Aklavik and Kaktovik are both my homes. I've always enjoyed going to Kaktovik and living there is just like going home... although being away from my immediate family in Aklavik we still go back often to see each other. This trip I'm actually bringing my mum and family back with me to Kaktovik, so with family in both areas it's welcoming and it's home." 📍



# OCEANS DAY



Alexandria Inglangasuk makes a beautiful Sedna on the IRC float.



Banner on a float.

At the Oceans Day parade (Inuvik, July 20th) the IRC float stood out with its theme depicting an Inuit mythology figure – Sedna the Sea Goddess who provides the seals, walrus, whales, and animals of the sea important to Inuit hunters.

This is an apt reminder to value the health of the oceans and of the Inuvialuit's ancestral connection to the oceans. The Oceans Day celebrations are organized by DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) with assistance from IRC and other partners. The parade included local businesses, DFO, Parks Canada, visiting ICC delegations and families who made their own floats.

The winner of the Oceans Day logo contest Kyra McDonald (Inuvik) was happy to see her design on hoodies

and T-shirts that were given away at the event. Entries were chosen from submissions by students at the East Three Elementary School. Speeches were made by Mayor Floyd Roland, IRC Chair Nellie Cournoyea, and DFO Regional Director-General Dave Burden followed by an afternoon barbecue at the boat launch, located at the East Channel of the Mackenzie River, a major artery of the Inuvialuit region's waterways. The Inuvik Qayaq Club demonstrated traditional qayaqs. Community members also participated in games such as a "Life of a Char" which were both entertaining and educational. There were also several rounds of tug-of-war.

Thank you to everyone who made Oceans Day a success! 🍷



Parks Canada float.



Thank you sponsors!



IRC staff.





Peggy Day and children on the IRC float.



Alaskans in the parade.



Harpoon throw.

Photo: Dan Slavik



Photo: Dan Slavik

Cassidy Ipana is happy to dress up for Oceans Day.



Photo: Dan Slavik

Kyra McDonald (Inuvik) winner of the Oceans Day logo contest and Edna Elias, Commissioner of Nunavut.







# ART AT THE ICC GA

Over the course of three weeks, four Nunavummiut artists created a sculpture for ICC GA through the Mobilizing Inuit Cultural Heritage grant. Contributing artists were Koomuatuk Sapa Curley and Ashoona Ashoona, who are both carvers from Kinngait. Frederick Silas Qulaut is a jeweler and precious metal worker from Igloolik. The base was sewn by Kathy Kuniliusee from

Qikiqtarjuaq. The goal in preparing the sculpture was to communicate the importance of the arts for the future of Inuit and to express pressing issues facing Inuit society today.

The hunter, animals and inukshuk are carved from Aberdeen based serpentine stone, from Southern Baffin Island, inlaid with caribou antler, ivory, and gold. The hunter holds a harpoon made of silver,

gold and sinew. The figures sit on a base – a drum, symbolizing the beating heart of Inuit Nunaat lined with sealskin and rimmed in silver. The black, blue and silver areas of fur symbolize sea, snow and rock. The syllabics on the drum base is the name of the sculpture and also the name of the grant.

Koomuatuk Sapa Curley who conceived the idea of the gift as Community Outreach Coordinator

for the grant presented the piece at the ICC GA, “It was made by Inuit and it accurately represents Inuit culture and heritage. The story is we eat the animals from the Arctic and the animal keeps us alive. The hunter also feeds us and that’s why we are alive. So the carving is a story of how we live up North. The animals and the people live together in the Arctic.” ❄️



“The goal in preparing the sculpture was to communicate the foundational importance of the arts for the future of Inuit and to express pressing issues facing Inuit society today.”



# NUNALI: THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE



**T**he land – nuna – is an enduring theme in Inuit Art. Nunali - the place where we live is an exhibition held concurrently with the ICC GA. From drawings and prints of the 1960s by elder artists such as Mark Emerak and Helen Kalvak, to the depiction of modern transportation coming into the North in airplane point of view drawings by Pudlo Pudlat, the artists' imagery collectively provide a broad view, from vast panoramas to close-ups of the tundra, of the land as inhabited by animals and of people, underscoring the interconnectedness of the Arctic environment and those who live there. The range of approaches and styles, from the naturalistic to the fantastical – reveal the rich diversity of artistic expression by Inuit and Inuvialuit artists. Art materials such as bone, stone, antler and ivory is essential to maintaining Inuit identity, healing and well-being.

Christine Lalonde, curator of Indigenous Art at the National Gallery of Canada said, "The artwork are by artists all over Canada, from the Eastern Arctic to the region of the Inuvialuit. In particular we were able to borrow some key artworks from the IRC so the local artists are really there and very present."



Embroidery.



This exhibition featured an artist talk and tour with Louie Nigiyok, and showcased artwork by Shuvanai Ashoona, Mark Emerak, Agnes Goose Nanogak, William Gruben, Ronnie Gruben, Mark Igloliorte, Helen Kalvak, Jimmy Kamimmalik, Pudlo Pudlat, Bill Nasogaluak, Louie Nigiyok, William Noah, Mary Okheena, Andrew Qappik, Annie Qappik, Jim Raddi, Stanley Ruben, Nick Sikkuark, Jutai Toonoo, and Joe Talirunili. The exhibition is sponsored by the Inuit Art Foundation, IRC, Mobilizing Inuit Cultural Heritage and the Chada Family Foundation. 📍



Each artwork depicts aspects of Inuit life.

# QUILT EXHIBIT



Photo: Hans Blohm



Photo: Hans Blohm



Photo: Hans Blohm



Photo: Hans Blohm

Quilted artworks by textile artists of the Inuvik Quilting Guild celebrating the ICC GA's theme of "One Arctic, One Future" added to the colourful representations of the beauty in the North! These works each highlight one of the main topics of the ICC GA; economic development, health and wellbeing, governance, political development, environment, or hunting/food security, and are a brilliant combination of texture, fabrics, colour, graphic patterns, and technique. 2014 marks the 8th year of this show in Inuvik.



# Real progress is helping other people make progress.



ExxonMobil engages with indigenous peoples in a manner that is respectful of their cultures and customs. Through open consultation, we work to understand and incorporate indigenous perspectives into project planning, design, execution and ongoing operations wherever our presence has the potential to impact their communities.

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### **Nanuk sponsor of the 2014 Inuit Circumpolar Council General Assembly**

### Finding balance in a sea of energy

In participation with BP Exploration Operating Company Limited and ExxonMobil Canada Ltd.



Beaufort Sea  
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# ICC GA CULTURAL PERFORMANCES



**“T**he drum is our heartbeat” is a sentiment passionately expressed by Inuit throughout the ICC GA, and the variety and harmony of hearts and voices coming together is felt nowhere as strongly as during the cultural performances, where each country gets its turn in the spotlight to showcase their music and drum dancing.

It is an understatement to say that the performances were varied and exciting! There are countless highlights, such as the haunting drum dance performance by young Peter Jayko with Miriam Aglukkaq and Atiima Hadlari (Nunavut); Etua Snowball’s rocking jam (Nunavik) with our local drummer Howie MacLeod, George Kakkayuk (Nunavik) and Leif Immanuelson (Greenland); and the Jerry Cans, an

irreverent and energetic band from Nunavut who blended funky tunes, Northern topics and Inuktitut lyrics, bringing down the house and getting the audience grooving.

The evocative performances of the Nunatsiavut Drummers, made up of Pauline Kohlmeister, Kerri Kohlmeister and Mathew Okkuatsiak also took the audience back across time to the ancestral rhythms and songs of the ancient past.

CONTINUE ON ► PG 100









Drum Dancer Peter Jayko (Canada).



Photo: Peggy Jay



Photo: Peggy Jay

Atiima Hadlari, drummer and dancer elder (Canada).





Tuktoyaktuk Siglit Drummers and Dancers.







The Jerry Cans on Community Welcome night.



The Jerry Cans' funky beats got the audience moving.



Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment enjoying the show with her mother Miriam.

Photo: Hans Blohm



Greenlanders invited the audience to join in their polka!





Leif Immanuelson (Greenland) brings big laughs to the audience with a cheeky dance.



Even though it's their first time playing together, Etua Snowball (Canada), Lief Immanuelson (Greenland) and Howie MacLeod (Canada) sounded great!





Drum dancing.



Engaging with the audience.

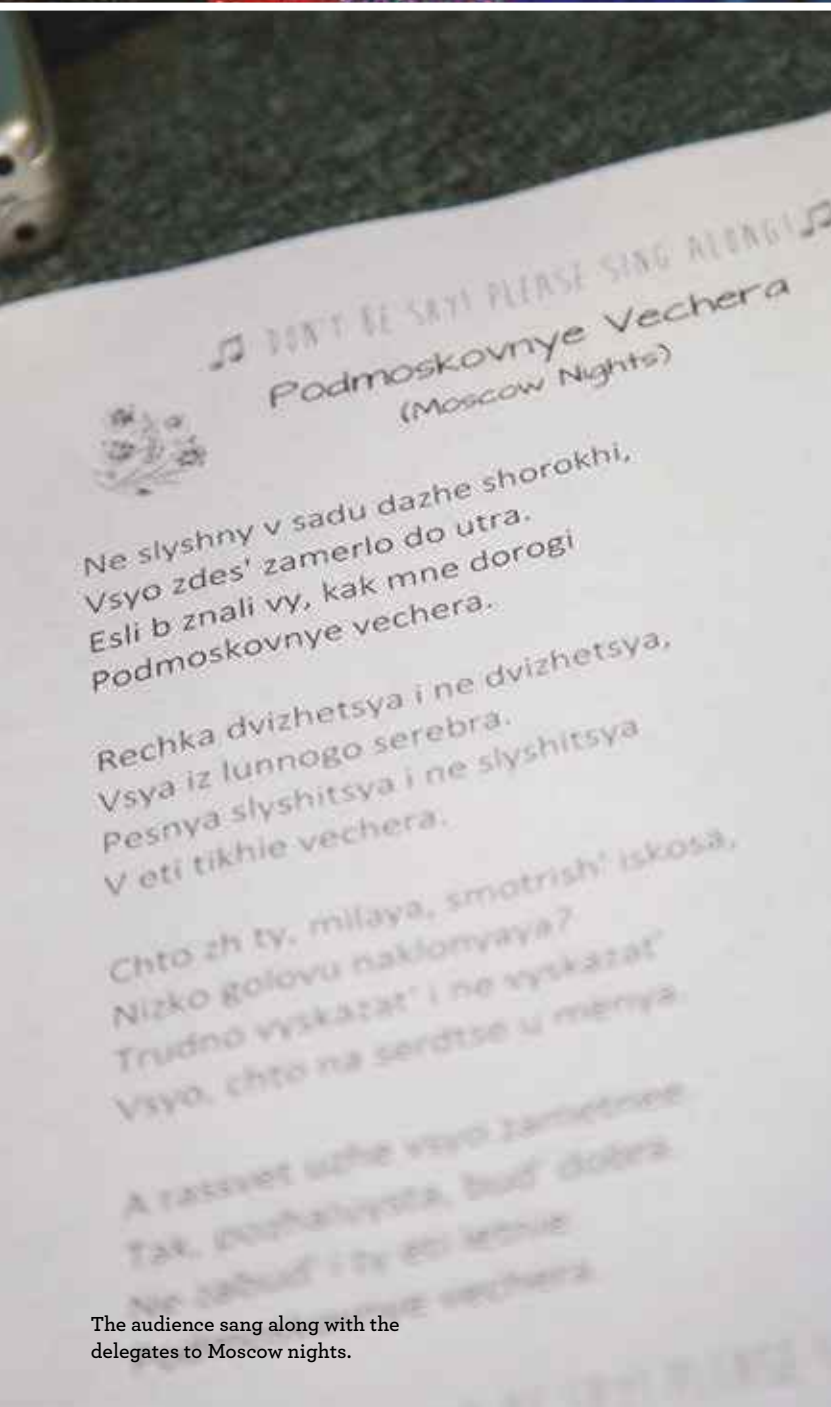


Chukotkan delegates singing.





Chukotka (Russia) delegates singing.



The audience sang along with the delegates to Moscow nights.



Chukotka (Russia) delegates singing Moscow Nights.



Chukotkan delegates shared their traditional games.





Vanessa Rogers and Kevin Allen.



Tuktoyaktuk S



Hans Lennie, Sarah Tingmiak, Abel Tingmiak and Kevin Allen drum dancing.



Talented young dancers join the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers.





iglit Drummers and Dancers.



Tuktoyaktuk Drummers and Dancers.





Nunavut throat boxer Nelson Tagoona performed with throat singers Sylvia Watt-Cloutier and Akanisie Sivuarapik melding modern sounds with traditional. At the end of the Jerry Can's final song, Inuvialuit drummers and dancers stood up and played their drums along with the band in an especially poignant moment of solidarity.

The Alaskan drum dance groups and our regional groups danced together, delighting the audience with innovative interpretations of drum dance songs. The Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers were encored many times with their humourous and joyful dances. They even adapted the 'selfie' trend into their 'Ballroom Dance' pulling out their phones to take pictures of themselves at the end of the song!

Not to be outdone, the drum dance groups from the Inuvialuit regions held audiences in awe with their



Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers (Alaska).

Ovluq Dance Group (Alaska).





Ovluq Dance Group (Alaska).



Traditional style drum dance (Alaska).

Ovluq Dance Group (Alaska) hamming it up Elvis Style.





Nolan Green (center) in a lighthearted moment with the Tuktoyaktuk Siglit Drummers and Dancers.











Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers (Alaska) were a crowd favourite.



Photo: Nick Westover

Northern Games participants enjoying the activities.



Photo: Nick Westover

Sandy Stewart, Ruth Pulk and Nellie Pokiak.



Photo: Nick Westover

Children having fun.



Photo: Hans Blohm

The Evyagotailaks from Kugluktuk, Nunavut.





Aklavik Delta Drummers and Dancers.



# THE UGIUK BLANKET

Alaska brought to Inuvik an ugiuk (bearded seal blanket) that is about half a century old. "It has so much history, I felt pretty privileged to jump on it. It's my first time jumping on an ugiuk one. It's looser and more cushioned in the middle, it's got more spring to it," said James Day Jr., Northern Games athlete and organizer. The blanket was so popular at the celebrations that it needed to be mended by Nicole Johnston, Alaskan Inuit Games official. "Nicole was explaining to me that it was the last seam to come apart from that original blanket," said James.

Gerry Kisoun, Northern Games official said the bearded seal skin is so thick that it is usually halved before they are made into blankets. The ugiuk blankets are valued at about \$10,000 each.

Smaller blankets are used traditionally for hunting, where about 8 people can help "toss" a hunter into the air to look for animals.



Shylena Monroe (Alaska) on the Ugiuk Blanket.



Nicole Johnston mending the ugiuk blanket.

Photo: Nick Westover



Craig Gruben preparing to soar.

Photo: Zoe He & David Stewart



Craig Gruben on the blanket toss.



Donna Kisoun cultural performance MC.



Lillian Elias (front) enjoying a break from translation.



Alice Kimiksana at the Arctic Market.



Aklavik Delta Drummers and Dancers.





Thomas Opie (Alaska) playing country music.

**FROM ► PG 100**

passionate performances and welcoming invitational dances. The astounding agility, strength and sharing spirit displayed at the Traditional Circumpolar Northern Games added to the joyful celebration of vibrant Inuit culture.

Performers also entertained the audience at the Jim Koe Park stage, where the audience enjoyed gathering with family and friends under the open skies. Ovluqa's Dance Group from Barrow, Alaska surprised with a drum dance appearance by Elvis.

While the Greenland and Chukotka groups could not bring any entertainers due to budget constraint, their delegates were all talented in their own right and brought the audience a taste of their culture through games, dance and song.

By the end of the ICC GA cultural events, the audience could dance the Polka with the Greenlanders and sing a robust 'Moscow Nights' with the Chukotkans! 🎵



Modern-traditional jam - throat boxing and throat singing together.





George Kakkayuk (Canada).



Adamie Delisle Alaku (Canada).



Etua Snowball (Canada).

# QIKIQTAGRUQ NORTHERN LIGHTS DANCERS 'SELFIE DANCE'

**T**his dance was originally composed by Blanche and Abraham Lincoln from Alaska. Inuit in Alaska then were 'given' names of American presidents when outsiders came and could not call them by their 'Eskimo' names. 'Great great grandpa' Abraham Lincoln made up the song with his wife, incorporating motions for putting on make up and going ballroom dancing. "There's a song that's very popular now with the line 'But first, let me take a selfie'. We were practicing and we started joking and laughing about it," said Jacqui Lambert. Group leaders Judy Huss and Christina Hensley came up with the idea hiding their cameras in their atkluk pockets and sliding them out at the end of the dance to take a selfie. The audience loved it! "We were really excited about performing that because that's actually new to us too," laughed Jacqui.



But first, let me take a selfie!





A robust finish for Greenland's cultural performance.



Greenland delegates brought their joyful and humorous childhood games and songs.







Children in the audience learning Greenlandic games.



Paulatuk drummers and dancers doing the polka.





Nunatsiavut drummer Mathew Okkuatsiak.





Nunatsiavut drummers and dancers: Kerri Kohlmeister, Mathew Okkuatsiak, and Pauline Kohlmeister.

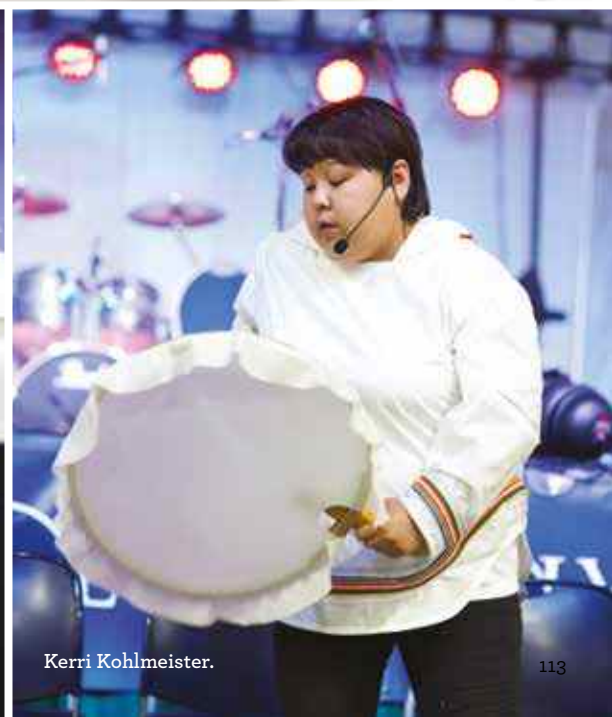
Kerri Kohlmeister.



Pauline Kohlmeister.



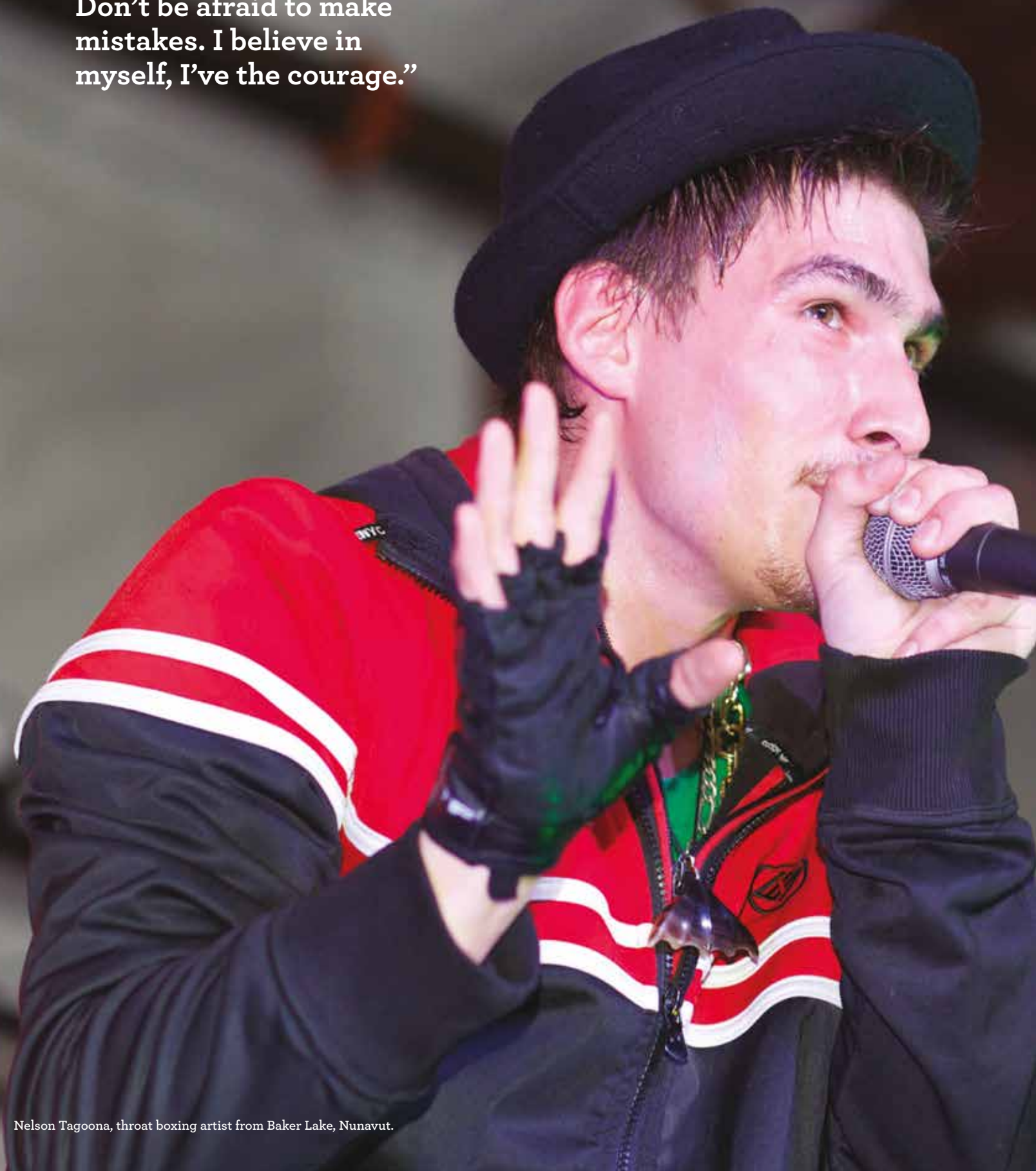
Deep in song.



Kerri Kohlmeister.



“At the end of my show I like to be very honest, and I’m not afraid to “look ugly” on stage. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes. I believe in myself, I’ve the courage.”



Nelson Tagoona, throat boxing artist from Baker Lake, Nunavut.





# NELSON TAGOONA BELIEVES IN THE SUPER YO

Over the past five years, throat boxer Nelson Tagoona emblazoned a star trail from Baker Lake (Nunavut) across Canada to the ICC GA stage in Inuvik. Nelson was 15 years old when he began infusing his culture into music. He rose to fame with this completely new sound, “Throat boxing” - where the raspy, ancestral rhythms of Inuit throat singing meets the hip hop grooves of beat boxing, performing throughout the Canadian North and across Canada. That in itself makes Nelson ultra cool, but when you look at the ICC GA audience, where children, adults, and even elders are equally engaged, standing and raising their hands to the sky saying “I believe” as Nelson leads a song into climax, you can’t help but feel moved by Nelson’s art.

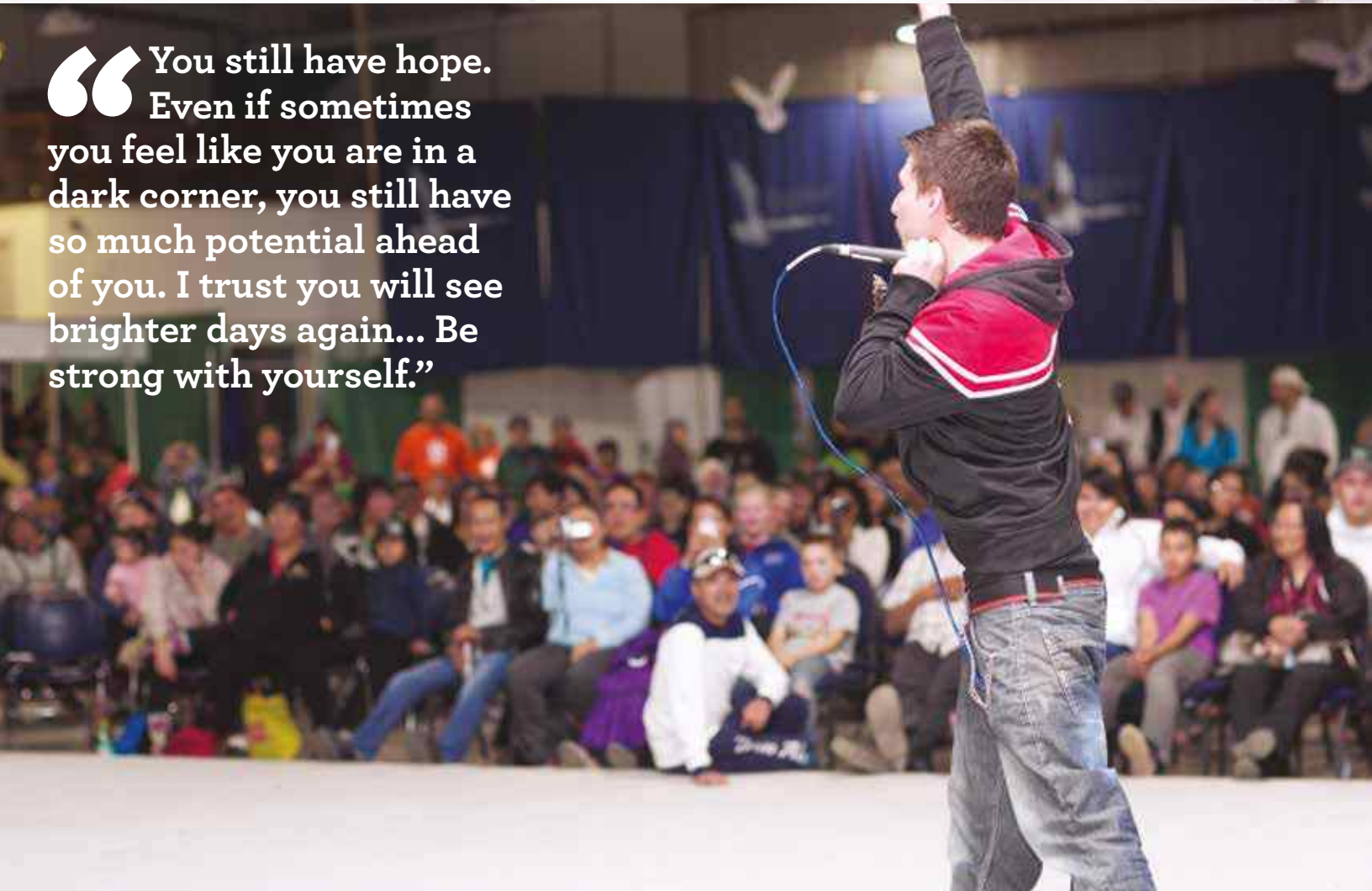
Nelson closes his performance saying, “I believe in each and every one of you too. Thank you.” Nelson shares with us how he found himself through music. “I think it’s important that others hear the messages that I’ve to say in my performances especially coming from the North. I like to have fun... rocking out with my crowd, but at the end of my show I like to be very honest, and I’m not afraid to “look ugly” on stage. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes. I believe in myself, I’ve the courage.”





Nelson Tagooa electrified the audience with his passionate performance.

**“You still have hope.  
Even if sometimes  
you feel like you are in a  
dark corner, you still have  
so much potential ahead  
of you. I trust you will see  
brighter days again... Be  
strong with yourself.”**







Nelson ends with "I believe..."

Nelson wants to help others find their outlets for self-expression. Music helped him navigate the pain of losing his father to suicide. "Growing up as an artist in Nunavut isn't easy... it's pretty hard being in an isolated community if you've been traumatized as a child. I like to take others home with my performances. I like to reach out to youth, and those young at heart who have a void and would like that void to be filled," he says.

Nelson performed at Iqaluit's World Suicide Prevention Day and held workshops through the National Arts Center, coaching performers in Cape Dorset, Nunavut for their first ever community talent show. The twenty year old artist is passionate about encouraging young people to believe in themselves and is especially touched by his experience at the ICC GA. "Coming to the North, the Northern Games, the Great Northern Arts Festival, the ICC GA, I feel it was an opportunity for me to shine some light internationally," he says.

He has a message for youth. "You still have hope. Even if sometimes you feel like you are in a dark corner, you still have so much potential ahead of you. I trust you will see brighter days again... Be strong with yourself." 🌀



**I**t is the final morning of the ICC GA. The conference, usually sombre was in stitches. Leif Immanuelson, Greenlandic drummer was wriggling his “equuq (bottom)” at a laughing Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. President Cathy Towtongie, as he sang “Aya ya” and hit the polar bear stomach drumhead of his drum. As he continued going around the conference table, delegates squealed, took pictures and gave him standing applause for his irreverence and humour.

And that is a taste of Greenland. Leif laughed as he said, “We didn’t have enough money to bring the performers but we will try to give the people what we can sing and dance.”

Leif is being modest. Besides being part of the official delegation, he also played the accordion at the Interfaith Service, and jammed on guitar with Etua Snowball (Nunavik) and Howie MacLeod (Inuvik) on the ICC GA stage. A sound producer, he was always working on recording of other artists’ performances at the ICC GA.

Leif has attended previous ICC GAs as a musician, it is his first time joining the official delegation as Chair for the Greenlandic Artists Association (EPI).

“Our organization EPI started in 2010, we are so lucky now to have a theatre school in Greenland, we have four young actors and actresses graduating,” he said. Leif is serious about protecting the traditional arts, and teaches drum making and drum dancing at schools in Greenland.

“Missionaries came to our country in 1721 and began to shut down

drumming in western parts of Greenland because they thought it was shamanic. We were so lucky to have Qanaaq in north and east Greenland, they kept drumming and kept the tradition from 4,000 years ago,” he said. Eastern Greenlandic drum songs are in Eastern dialect and difficult for people from other parts to understand. “We arranged a seminar in May this year and we found out that drumming in the Western part of Greenland did not die out like we thought.”

“Young western Greenlandic people and children are now beginning to show interest in drumming - I was one of the people taught them to make drums using the modern equipment. Drumming in Western part of Europe is back now. That’s why I’ll tell people in the meeting hall tomorrow that drumming in Greenland is now complete. I’m a very happy man today.”

Leif feels that Inuit in Greenland are fortunate as Denmark has granted Greenland Home Rule. “We are lucky to have close to self-government today. Even if we are still under the Danish nation,” he said.

Regardless, the ancestral connection between Inuit is the strongest for him. “When we arrived at the airport, I was crying. The first time in ‘89 when they welcome us with the drums it touches my heart directly. I’m not crying because I’m sad but because I was so happy to be here and to be seeing everyone. Also this morning inside the hall... you know, I can feel my ancestors and their ancestors together and that’s why I almost cry each time they begin to play. I feel like I’m the luckiest man in the world.” ❖

**“I know that my forefathers already know what I need, my heart. I don’t have to ask them about money or other things.”**





# THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE WORLD

LEIF  
IMMANUELSEN







# DRUM DANCE WORKSHOP

Regional and  
Alaskan Exchange

Young drum dancer Cole Felix from  
Tuktoyaktuk.



Invitational: closing dances where everyone is invited to drum dance.





Mollie Oliktoak.

**A**nnie Aleekuk, Inuvialuit Elder and drum dancer found herself dancing till 3 am at the Drum Dance Workshop during the ICC GA. With the 100 plus participants of all ages from the ISR and Alaska there was an understanding beyond words and she wanted to savour every moment. “Even though they don’t all speak the language, they all know and share the songs and the stories behind the dancing,” she said.

“Today we call it a workshop but a hundred years ago it was just a part of life. People would gather at an agreed place, like Kitigaaryuit, and all they did was share,” said Debbie Gordon-Ruben, one of the organizers of the Drum Dance Workshop.

Debbie said she cried many happy tears during the gathering. “Oh I cried a lot, haha. I’m a crier. You can’t help but see the love that



Julia Ekpakhohak (Ulukhaktok) and Larsen Nasogaluak (Tuktoyaktuk).

**“We have a word in Inupiat: ‘Aariga.’ And basically it means it feels good... Not only were we able to communicate with each other through drum dancing but we were able to celebrate our ancestors the Inuit people. It was a communication between generations of people.”**



everybody shared, even if some things didn't go perfectly right – at the end of the day the energy was always so positive,” she said.

The workshops took place during the day where groups would meet one on one, and in the evenings the groups would all ‘drum dance jam’ together. The jams were open to anyone who wanted to join.

“We had a schedule but we didn’t pick who was going to go with who, it was important that it was done fairly,” said Debbie. Each group met with another ISR group, and an Alaskan group. “The light in their eyes, when they were done meeting with those two groups and the non-stop talking of the younger ones, and they said it was so cool,” smiled Debbie.

Joe Nasogaluak, founder of the Tuktoyaktuk Siglit Drummers and Dancers said, “This is the first time for the young group to perform in

the Northern Games and the ICC GA. It’s just amazing, it’s even hard to get them to sleep.”

While there are similarities in drum dance style, and even shared songs, there is uniqueness in each group’s dance styles and pacing. There were also new songs to be exchanged and created. Tina Hensley, leader of the Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers laughed, “They dance a lot faster here than we do in Kotzebue.”

“Kotzebue are not afraid to shine and to show their happiness when they dance,” said Debbie. “Barrow is very traditional. They have been teaching their drum dance songs from generation to generation, they know their history, whereas we are still learning. That’s why a workshop like this is so important, so that we can get a taste of that history and that camaraderie and sharing.”



Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers enjoying an invitational dance.



Drum dance leaders Justin Memogana (Ulukhaktok) and Joe Nasogaluak (Tuk) sharing a moment.



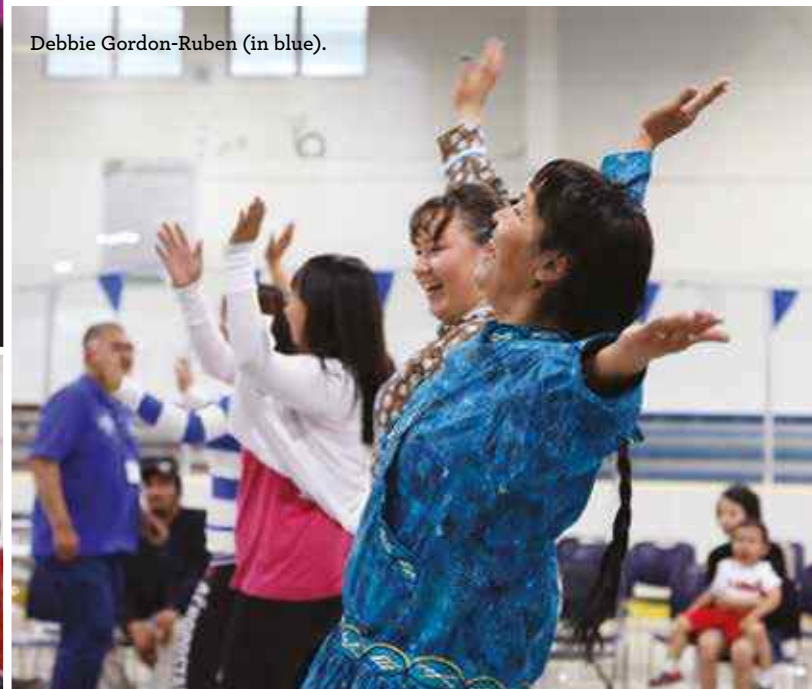


Ernest Nageak of the Ovluq Dance Group (Alaska) said, “ICC started in Barrow and we started sharing songs with each other. That’s why we’ve similar songs from all over the coast.” Previous ICC GAs were also opportunities where participating drum dance groups had exchanged songs.

Debbie said, “The highlight of the whole week was being able to connect with our family,” which Joseph Sage of the Ovluq Dance Group agreed with. “It brought us together with our Canadian neighbours, and we find also that we’ve family here. It just connects

us in a special way that is dear to my heart, that I can come here and say it’s like my home.”

Jacqui Lambert of the the Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers found it hard to describe the feeling of dancing together in words. “We have a word in Inupiat and it’s ‘Aariga.’ And basically it means it feels good... Not only were we able to communicate with each other through drum dancing but we were able to celebrate our ancestors the Inuit people. It was a communication between generations of people. That’s the best way I can put it,” she said. 🍷



Debbie Gordon-Ruben (in blue).

“The light in their eyes, when they were done meeting with those two groups and the non-stop talking of the younger ones, and they said it was so cool.”



Ulukhaktok and Kotzebue exchange dances and knowledge.



# DRUM DANCING IN THE ISR



**N**ungki Brian Rogers is lead singer of the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers. As lead singer his job is to “break trail” for the group, choosing the song to perform, and setting the tone of the dance with his motions and voice. Drum dancing used to be passed on orally from

generation to generation and Nungki learnt this way from mentor Norman Felix about how Inuvialuit ancestors used to gather to drum dance.

“When it’s ‘Qaqaliviqmana’, when it’s the brightest moon at the coldest time of the year, they

would decide where everybody was going to meet. For instance in the summer if there was whaling they would meet in Paulatuk and everyone would travel there. In the winter they would travel to a place and meet in the biggest igloo, with about 10 rooms in it,” said Nungki.





Paulatuk Moonlight Drummers and Dancers.





A budding Ulukhaktok Western Style Drummer and Dancer!



Ulukhaktok Central Style Drummers and Dancers.







"They had no Christmas or Easter. Drum dancing was their holiday – to keep warm, in lonely days and at sad times. It was for people to gather in good and bad times," said Joe Nasogaluak leader of the Tuktoyaktuk Siglit Drummers and Dancers.

Elder Lillian Elias remembered even though her parents George and Martha Harry were important to the revival of drum dancing in the Delta, she resisted it for awhile. "What stopped me was this Church minister who said when they drum dance, they are just like shamans calling for the enemy to come. Until in later years, my auntie Sarah [Tingmiak] and Nungki said 'You have to keep tradition going, your parents like to drum dance and you are one of the people that should be there.' Nungki really encouraged me and I decided to forget what the minister told me. I've been there ever since. And I'm enjoying it, enjoying the students learning, the little ones when they are dancing," she laughed.

It came upon Debbie Gordon-Ruben at the 1989 ICC GA that she had to learn more about drum dancing. "I'm a founding member of the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers," she said, "At the conference in Sisimiut, Greenland they said you have to come up and dance and I knew nothing about drum dancing. My dad and the elders all drum danced but I didn't because of residential school and the Europeans coming. It was something we lost in Western Canada."

"When we came back, my co-worker Leonard Harry who's also my uncle, we had to log all of this footage for ICS. And I said why don't we start a group, and learn, so next time we know what we are doing instead of feeling silly not knowing about our culture," she said.

Debbie and Leonard went through the Inuvik beneficiary list, calling up people to invite them to the first drum dance practice, set up for the very next week with Martha and George Harry, Jean Arey, Tom Kimiksana and Alexandria Elias. The elders were all from different areas in the ISR.



An aspiring young drum dancer !



Karen Kitekudlak honouring Dadak Jimmy Memogana.



Liam Dillon (Inuvik).





Paulatuk Moonlight Drummers and Dancers.

**“When you drum dance  
you have to feel what’s  
inside you and express it.”**



Ulukhaktok Central Style Drummers and Dancer.

“It didn’t matter where they were from, they willingly and without hesitation and with so much patience taught us what they knew and that is where my passion comes from,” said Debbie. At first the group was made of drum dancers from across the region, it was only later when some elders passed on that distinct dance groups were formed for each community.

Annie Aleekuk, also a founding member of the Inuvik group said, “I remember getting a phone call from Debbie and I said ‘sure’ to drum dancing reluctantly. It turned out to be great. The first practices were with cardboard, rulers and dustpans, anything that can make noise, and then the elders said ‘Now Sing’. ‘What? Sing how?’ we said. Our elders thought, “Oh my goodness how are we going to teach these young people? They don’t know Inuvialuktun, we’ve got our work cut out for us.”

The elders were strict teachers, and managed to get the new dancers to learn the songs properly, from the words to the motions. Wilbert Papik said, “We started off with one song, ‘Qanuqhipitunga’. We had to learn through singing it over and over again, we finally got it right after I don’t know how many weeks.”

Abel Tingmiak who learned to drum dance with the group is also teaching the younger generation now. “I’d get a hold of Alec Gordon in Aklavik by phone, he’s singing through the phone to us, then we’ll sing back. It’s so much fun then, we are still having fun,” he said.

Joe remembered his father teaching through singing on the phone from Tuktoyaktuk too. “Growing up I listened to the songs my father sang almost every day. If he didn’t have a drum he tapped. Before he’d get on the





phone we'd try to phone for a taxi because he'd be on the phone for hours with Shepherd (Norman Felix)."

The Inuvialuit then had funding through ISDP (Inuvialuit Social Development Program) to hold a drum making workshop. Debbie said, "Shepherd showed us how to steam and bend the rim and to clean the skin, dry the skin and how to cut it out. Steaming skin was not a very pretty smell but you just had to endure it till it's all done. It makes you tougher," she laughed.

At the ICC GA Debbie saw the traditional drums used by the other groups. "Greenland is very fortunate to still use the original material, polar bear stomach."

"Ovluq Dance Group, I think they used a whale stomach, and they know how to keep it from getting ruined by daily elements."

Religious dogma has had its impact on the passing on of traditional dance songs. "When we asked them about dance etiquette, elders would say you can't sing some songs because we don't deal with shamanism anymore," Debbie said.

In Ulukhaktok, Agnes Kuptana said drum dancing was revived when material from ICS arrived in the community. "We started encouraging our young children to pick up drum dancing and they learnt through the video and cassette tapes. They started to take part in summer camps where it's so

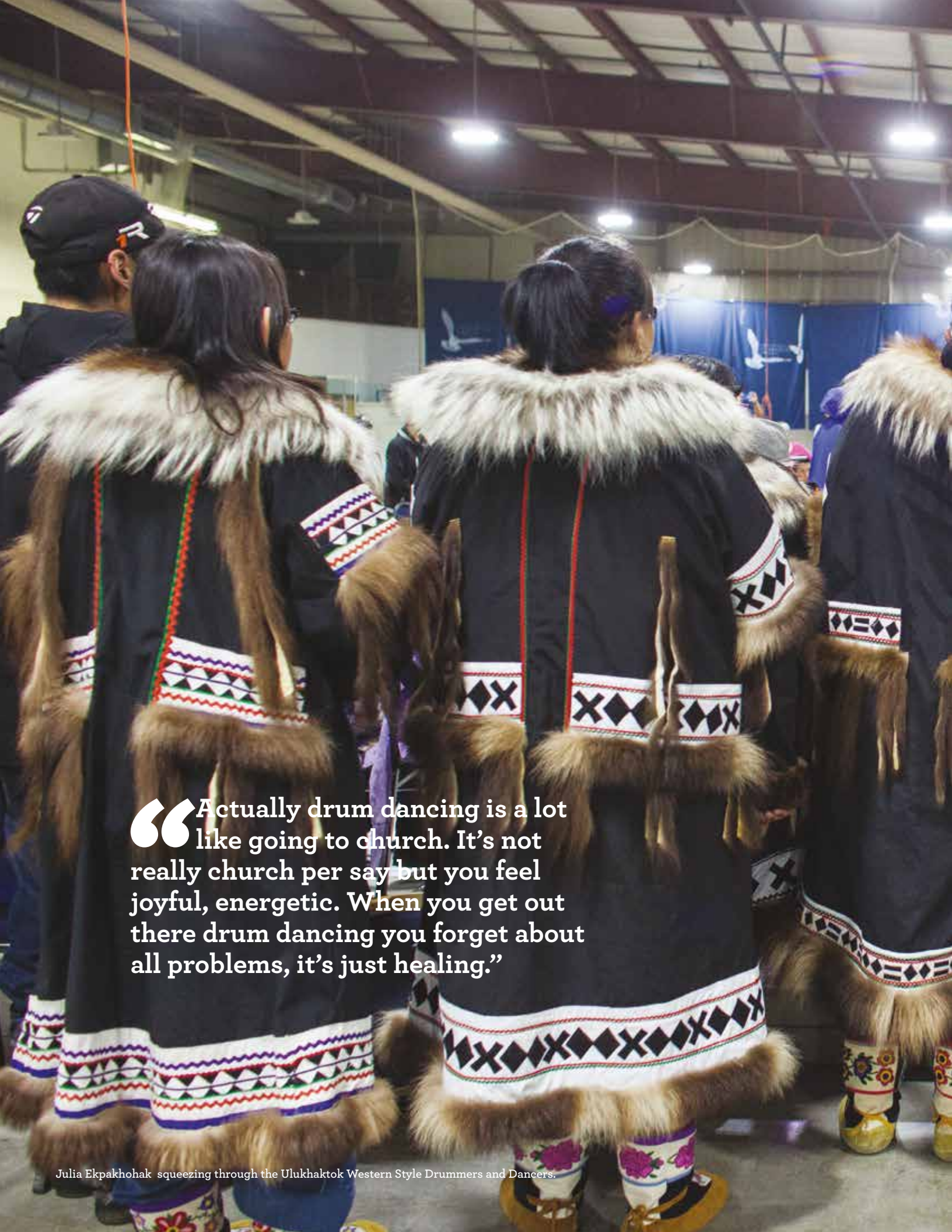
relaxing to dance outside, on the land."

Central style drum dancing in Ulukhaktok is sung in Inuinnaqtun. The melodies usually have a softer beat than the Western Arctic style drum dancing, which is also practiced in Ulukhaktok. "It all depends on what the song is about," said Agnes. Drum dancing used to be a way for men to settle disputes. "The two men are singing the song at the same time, drum dancing and competing with each other, even with who has the best clothing," she said.

Annie said drum dancing remains sacred for the Inuvialuit. "Actually it's like going to church. It's not really church per say but you feel joyful,

energetic. When you get out there drum dancing you forget about all problems, it's just healing," she said. "Just like our elders told us, when you drum dance you have to feel what's inside you and express it to everybody. And things would be so much happier." Inuvik Community Corporation under their Brighter Futures program "Little Drummer Boy" had 25 children's drums made by Wilbert to be used in the schools. The drumming continues on. 🍀





“Actually drum dancing is a lot like going to church. It’s not really church per say but you feel joyful, energetic. When you get out there drum dancing you forget about all problems, it’s just healing.”

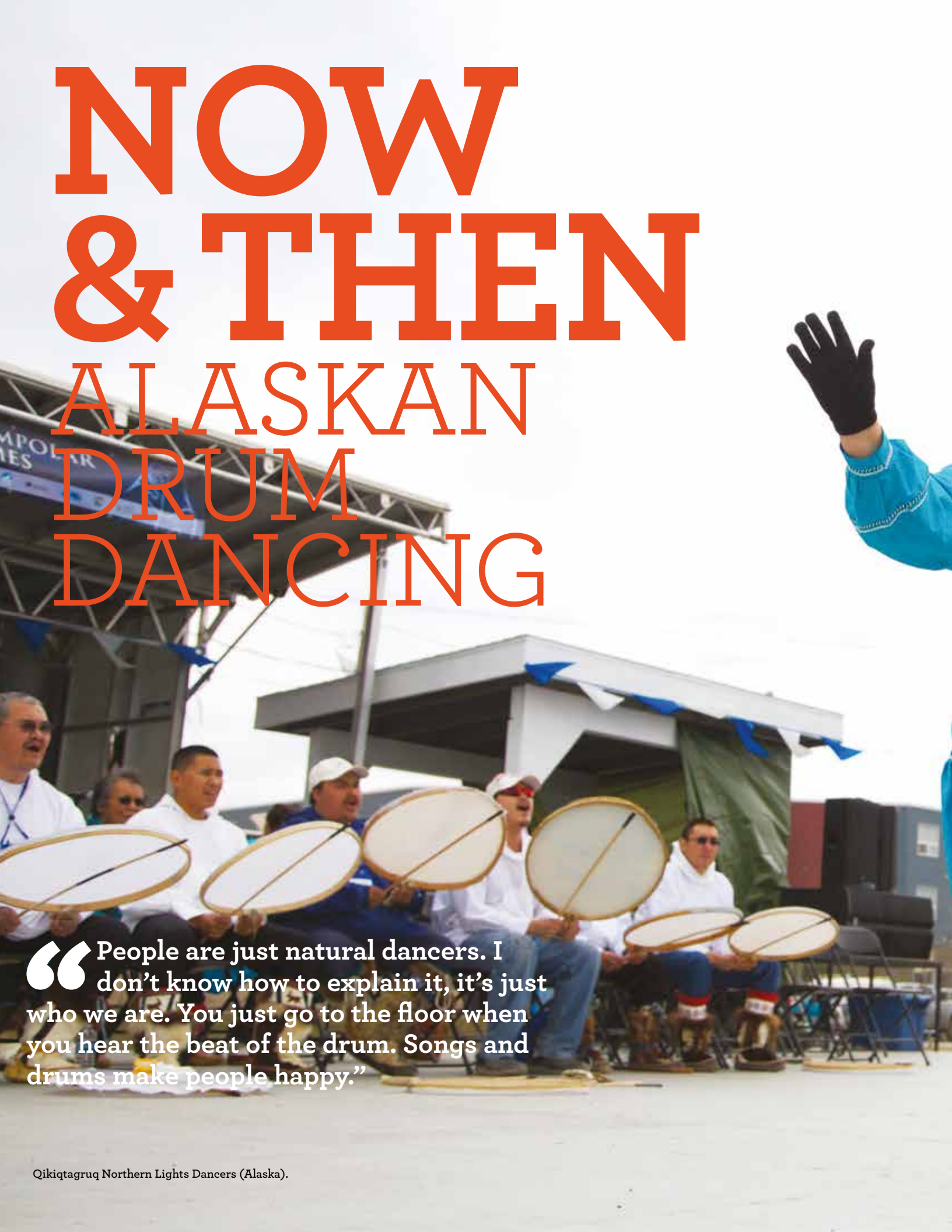






# NOW & THEN

## ALASKAN DRUM DANCING



“People are just natural dancers. I don't know how to explain it, it's just who we are. You just go to the floor when you hear the beat of the drum. Songs and drums make people happy.”



**O**vluaq Dance Group from Barrow, Alaska is built on the teachings of the great composers and dancers Warren Ovluaq Matumeak (1927–2012) and Walter Utik Akpik Sr. (1915–2007). Many members of the group are related to one or both of the two influential Inupiat elders, or have performed with them directly over many years.

The songs performed by Ovluaq Dance Group feature Warren's songs with unique motions, leaps, swaying arms, and counter-intuitive motions, while Walter Utik Akpik Sr.'s songs are often rooted in a geographic place and humour – there is a motion dance featuring a flight attendant briefing passengers! The group also performs songs borrowed with permission from other Inuit groups such as the fun dance “Naniiluna” from Chukotka and St. Lawrence Island.

The Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers (Kotzebue) too comes from a long lineage of drum dancers in Alaska. At ICC GA the two groups share more with us on their perspectives on drum dancing.

**Joseph Sage (Barrow):** Back then people would go back and forth by dog team or boat. Looking at us today we are just the next step – our gathering is international, but then we are still family, sharing stories. That's one of the reasons for the creation of Eskimo dances – people wanted to share stories of their experiences, hunting animals, just traveling the country. Some stories are to celebrate community and some are very spiritual.

**Ernest Nageak (Barrow):** Back then we had to have celebrations in the winter to keep everyone together and to stay joyous during

cold and harsh times. People are just natural dancers. I don't know how to explain it, it's just who we are. You just go to the floor when you hear the beat of the drum. Songs and drums make people happy.

**Judy Huss (Kotzebue):** When the missionaries came, and Christianity was introduced, drum dancing was shunned. People did it behind closed doors, and eventually just reformed and started doing it in public again.

**Christina Hensley (Kotzebue):** A lot of our traditional drummers and dancers originated from Point Hope, Barrow, Point Lake, Kivulina and Kotzebue. Many migrated to Kotzebue, which is a central place within the NANA region, so the Qikiqtagruq Northern Lights Dancers really originated from communities throughout the region.

**Jacqui Lambert (Kotzebue):** Qikiqtagruq is the name of the place where we came from in Alaska. The translation of the place means almost an island...





We are also known as the Northern Lights Dancers, the aurora borealis is always dancing. People from the North Slope Borough came down and taught classes to our group so they could perform at a conference. At the NANA museum we had two shows a day for tourists, and it was basically a place to go to for the youth in our community.

They built a new heritage center and closed down the museum. Ever since the museum's closing, a lot of people had to go home to smaller villages. We still practice but not as often as when we had a reliable place in our community. All of us here at the ICC GA is pretty much a 10 year reunion. I am really so proud of the dance group.

The creation of some dances are really contemporary. We have the airplane dance and that's the story of when the first airplane arrived in Kotzebue. Paul Green was the composer of that song. He was explaining the first airplane landing.

When we first got a public high school and were transitioning to when Alaska became a state, he composed a cheerleading song. Everyone was confused about what a cheerleader was, it was so new, so he was just trying to explain. 🌀



Children from the Ovluqa Dance Group (Alaska).





Photo: Nick Westover



Amil Burns.



Reginald Joule III in the 'Fat Man Dance'.



Richard Atourak.



# FASHION



Shirley Elias in a dance atikluk.



A beaded headband sets off a gorgeous sunburst!



Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment in an elegant sealskin infinity scarf.

# Inuit Fashion Showcase CIRCUMPOLAR STYLE



Gorgeous Chukotkan beaded headband with fur tassels.









Aleqa Hammond former Greenland Premier.



Beautiful pair of Greenlandic mukluks.



Martha Abelsen.





Embroidered Inuvialuit dance mukluks.



Delta braid and beaded mukluks.



NTI President Cathy Towtongie in a beautiful beaded headdress.



Detail from Nunatsiavut drum dance cover.





Chukotkan beaded jacket adornment.



James Williams in an embroidered vest.



Derek Ipana sporting Inuit sunglasses.



An elder having a fun moment modelling.





Floral fur lined child's atikluk.



Fancy atikluk.

At the ICC GA, Nellie Cournoyea IRC Chair declared 2014 'The Year of the Seal'. Not only is sealskin a traditional symbol of Inuit self-sustenance through sustainable harvesting, it is also one of the most eco-friendly, durable, luxurious, and warm materials that protects the body against the elements in our Arctic winter.

Nowadays sealskin fashions have evolved and we saw such a variety of colours and textures on mukluks, clothing, and headpieces at the ICC GA! Inuit also celebrated the occasion by decking out in colour and in traditional dress - there were literally many who showed off a different atikluk cover every day. We were amazed by the intricacies of embroidery, delta braids, fur trims and the creativity of these hand made pieces. 🍷



Desiree Cumberbatch in a simple beaded amauti.



An adorable atikluk cover on a child.





Mary Tatty in a ceremonial beaded amauti with a head band, usually this elaborate clothing is reserved for special occasions.





Akanisie Sivuarapik  
in a sealskin trimmed  
silapaak cover.



A beautiful sunburst and smile.



Miriam Aglukkaq in a traditional drum dance amauti.



Amber Ipana wearing a fur lined atikluk.



Even young children are wearing their best!



Young girl in a summer atkluk.



Olivia Inglangasuk in a qiviuq scarf and earrings by Sharon Firth.



Mabel Allen in a moose hide jacket.



(L-R) Terry Audla, Herb Nakimayak, Duane Ningaqsiq Smith in special atikluks.



# SPECIAL ATIKLUKS FOR ICC GA

Given the importance of the ICC GA, all delegations came in their official 'dress'. Extra efforts were made to design and develop clothing that reflected the culture and heritage of the region and country. As host, the Canadian delegation wore special ICC GA atikluks designed by Billie Lennie. Atikluks were also made for Northern Games. "We cut out the atikluks, Nungki helped and Lena Kotokak did most of the sewing," said Billie.

Nungki Brian Rogers, well known for his sewing skills, also helped Lena and Billie to cut and sew unique drum dance atikluks for the Inuvik Drummers and Dancers. It took about three months to put together the atikluks, and some drum dancers found family and friends to volunteer and help out with sewing!

One of the ICC Sponsors, ConocoPhillips liked the atikluks so much they commissioned similar designs in red. 🍅



Nungki Brian Rogers making an ICC atikluk.



Steve Cockney, Donald Kuptana in Northern Games covers, with Charles Komeak.



Special atikluks for Inuvik Drummers and Dancers.



# NORTHERN GAMES SEWING CONTEST

The Northern Games sewing contest saw many entries of uniquely decorated moccasin duffels. Elder Agnes Kuptana was working away on hers as she listened to speeches at the ICC GA. Second place winner Paula Lanon (Inuvik, NWT) embroidered the ICC GA logo onto hers. The winning entry was by Esther Wolki (Paulatuk) who came back especially from her work with the Canadian Forces in Winnipeg. She said, "I won gold, yay! My mom would be proud of me." 🏆



Photo: Zoe Ho & David Stewart



Photo: Zoe Ho & David Stewart

Winning entry by Esther Wolki.



Photo: Zoe Ho & David Stewart





Photo: Zoe Ho & David Stewart

Many attractive designs were created!



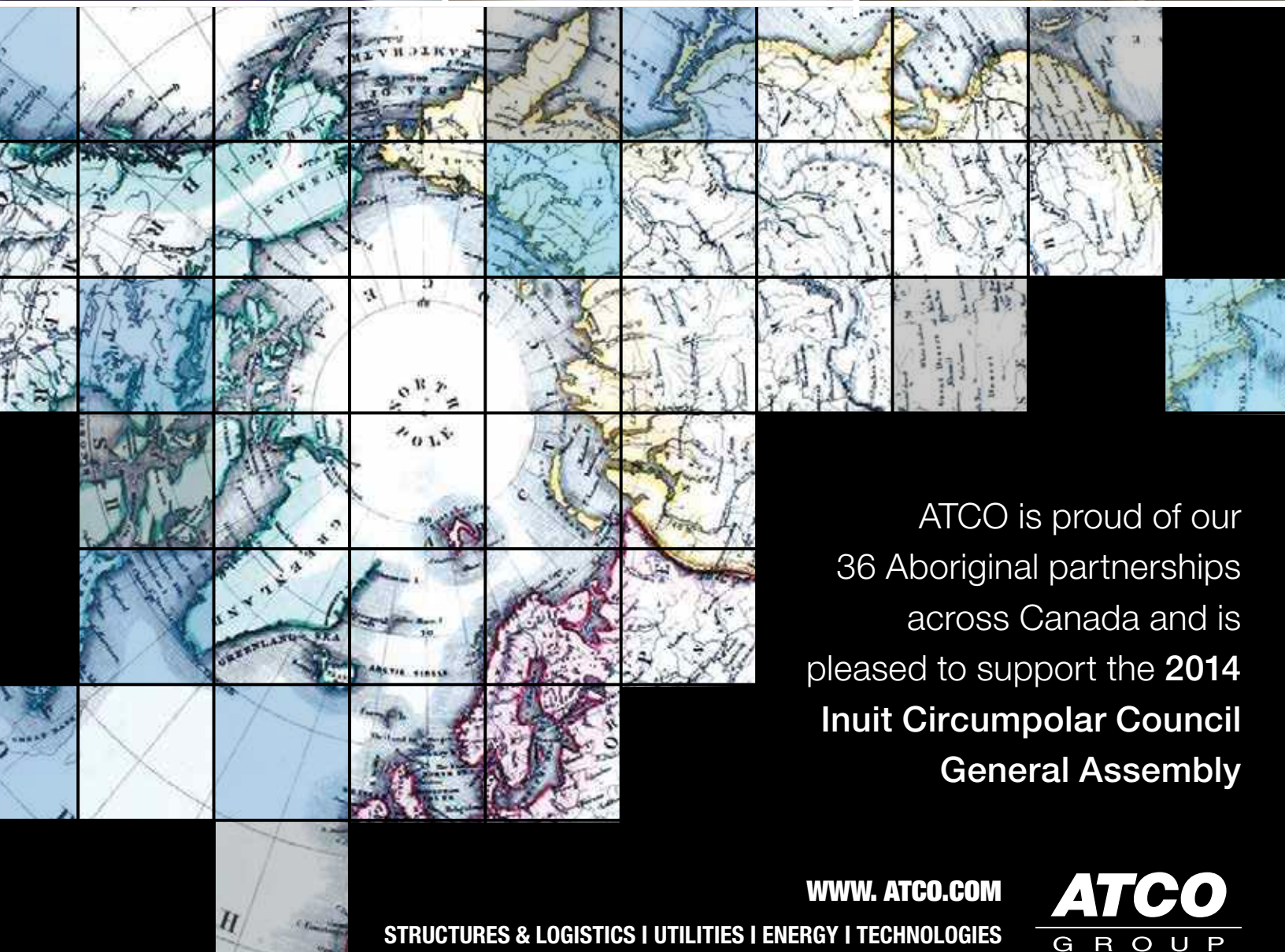
Photo: Zoe Ho & David Stewart

2nd place entry.



Photo: Hans Blohm

Agnes Kuptana working on her entry.



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# ICC GA SEALSKIN TAPESTRY



**I**t was a collaborative effort to design and sew the large commemorative tapestry for the 2014 ICC GA. IRC provided sealskins to a group of traditional seamstresses in Ulukhaktok. Elder Agnes Kuptana led this group who used the sealskin applique technique to depict scenes of Inuit life: animals and harvesters, the IRC gyrfalcon, drum dancers, dog sledding and traditional dwellings. The ICC GA's theme 'One Arctic, One Future - Ukiuqta'qtumi Hivuniptingnun' is on the border framing the panels.

"The ladies in Ulukhaktok made the tapestry," said Agnes Kuptana. "We started in March and finished in April. It is big. We wanted it to be a legacy piece."

"I made the sealskin designs for the podium - I referred to my son's language books for ideas - it took a little over a month," said Alice Kimiksana, who now lives in Inuvik.

"I took it apart 3 times to get it right, it was lots of work, but lots of fun. I really enjoyed making it." ❖







Alice Kimiksana with the sealskin covered podium.



Agnes Kuptana coordinated and helped sew the tapestry.



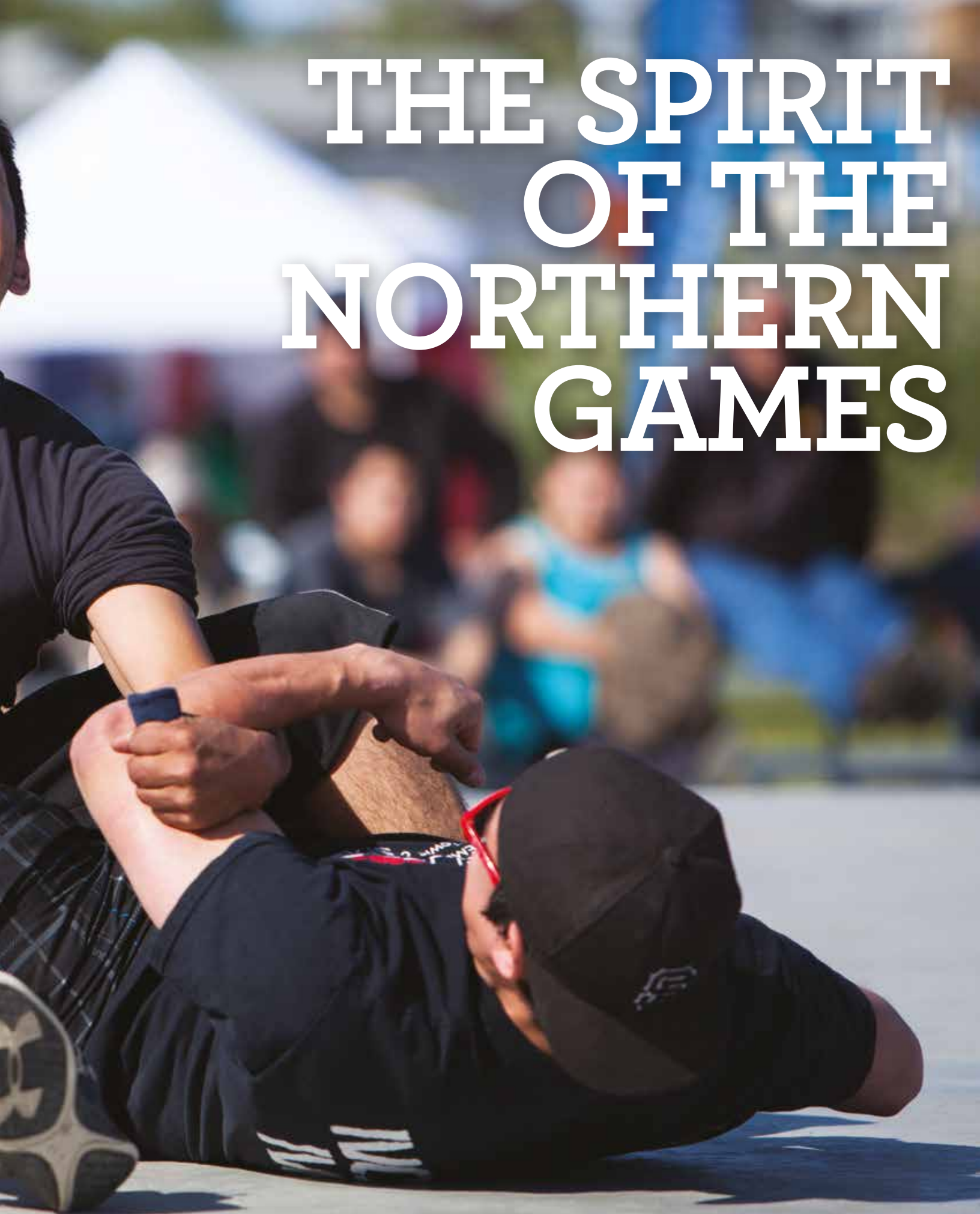
# TRADITIONAL CIRCUMPOLAR NORTHERN GAMES

Photo: Nick Westover





# THE SPIRIT OF THE NORTHERN GAMES





**M**akiyan Ivanoff from Unakleet, Alaska aka “Air Alaska” as coined by Northern Games MC Gerry Kisoun took a deep breath and began his run up to the seal target. “Can I kick it?” The words on his shirt brings a little lightheartedness to the seriousness of his attempt.

“Ayungyee. The best!” said Gerry as “Air Alaska” hits his new 9 Foot record for One Foot High Kick. The

crowd erupts in applause. Fellow athletes, competitors and officials take pride equally in his success. When a young athlete, new to the games fails to hit the target he is rewarded with equally robust applause and encouragement.

The Traditional Circumpolar Northern Games are fondly known in the region as ‘Northern Games’. While in the past the Northern Games was about maintaining the

body and mind for survival, the games now serve a higher goal of connecting youth to their culture and strengthening their confidence.

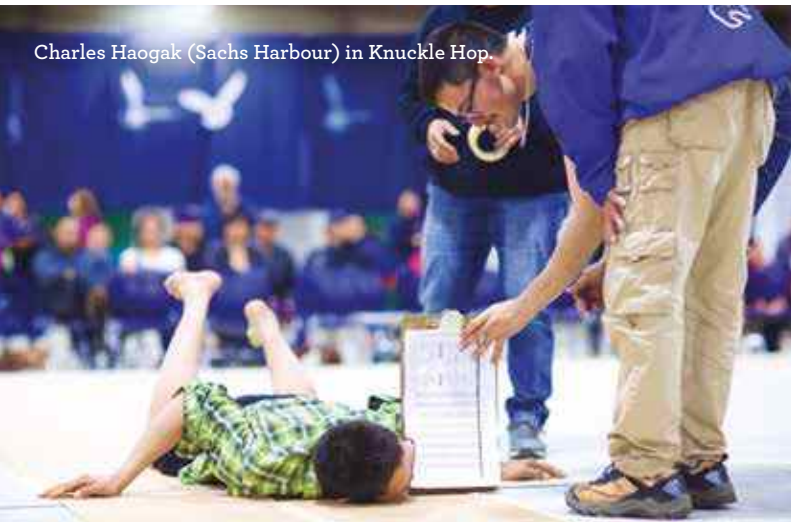
“It’s all about personal best,” said Donald Kuptana who is heading up the event. “It’s about them walking away with success, and coming back to say I can do better.”

Fellow official Steve Cockney (Tuktoyaktuk) agreed, “It’s really amazing for them, first time

competing in front of a crowd. A lot of athletes come to the stage and want to win, but we don’t want them to get serious like that. When the elders taught us they encouraged us to go higher or try harder, there was nothing negative, everything was positive. This is our tradition, these are the games we were taught that we want to pass on.”

“When we go to the communities we have our athletes Matthew

Charles Haogak (Sachs Harbour) in Knuckle Hop.



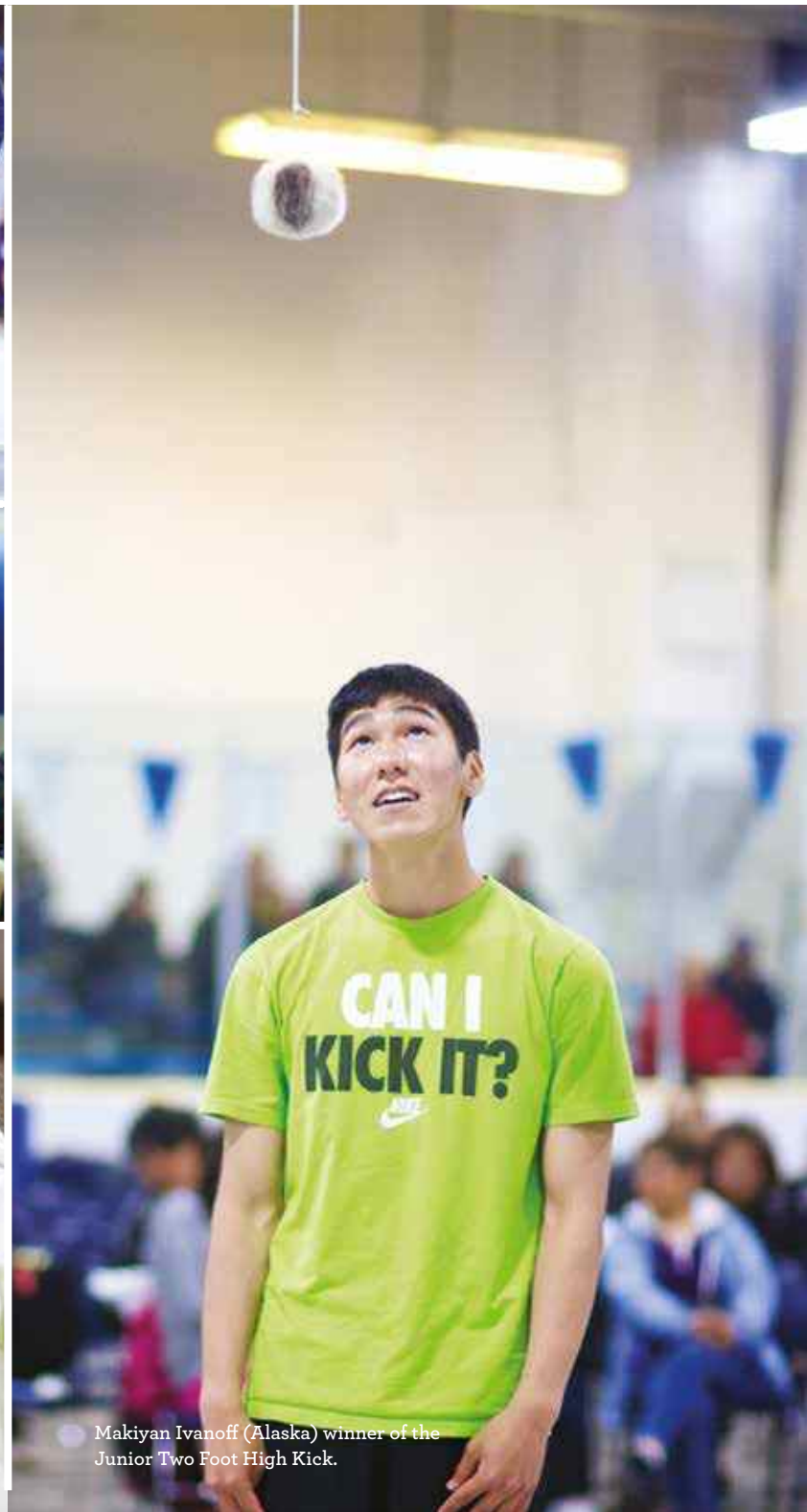
A delighted audience watching the muktuk eating contest.



Donna Kisoun and Helen Tologanak in the laughing game.



Makiyan Ivanoff (Alaska) winner of the Junior Two Foot High Kick.



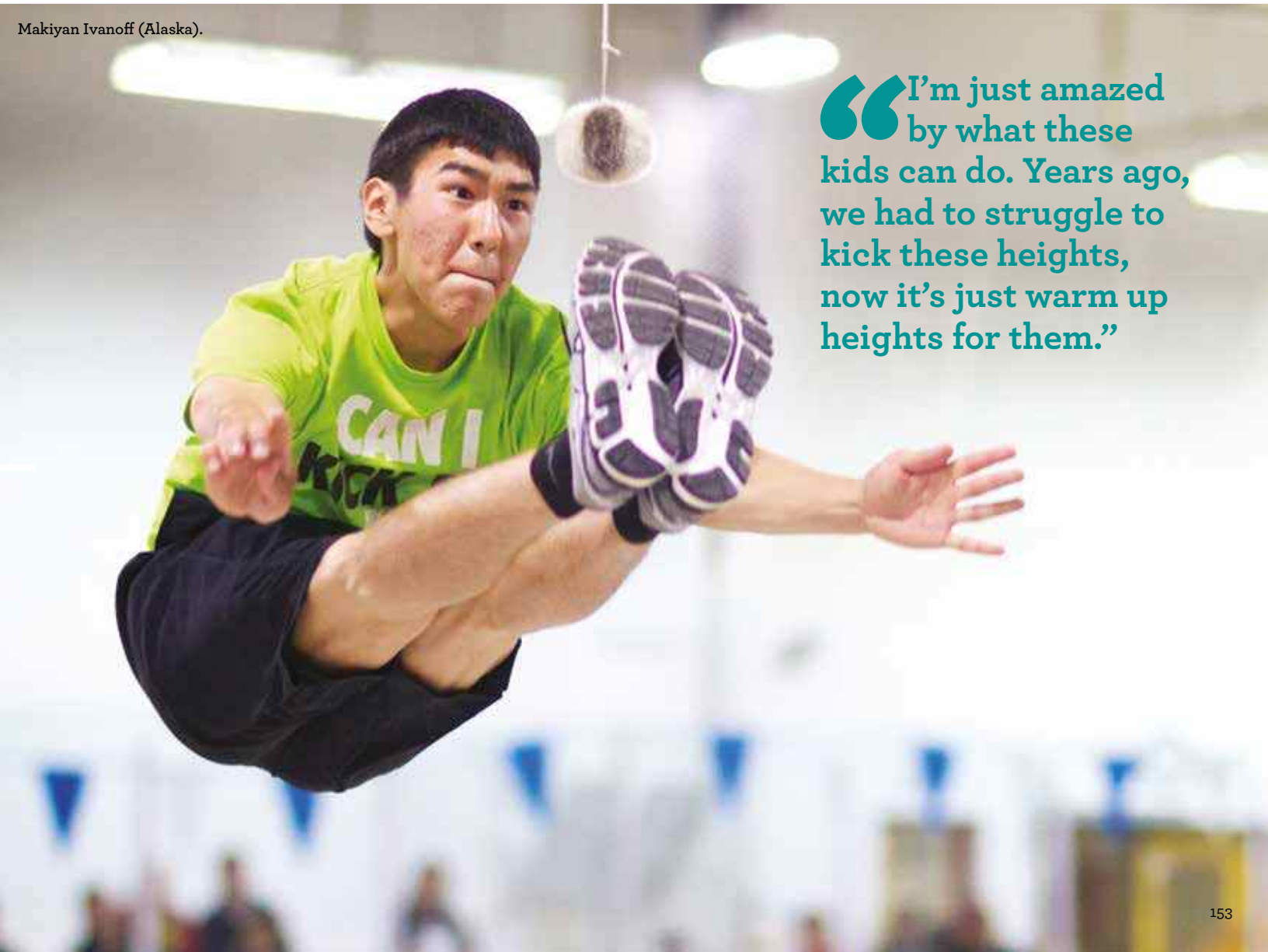




Gideon Allurat (Nunavut) showing One Foot High Kick Belt Jump.



James Day Jr. Belt Skipping.



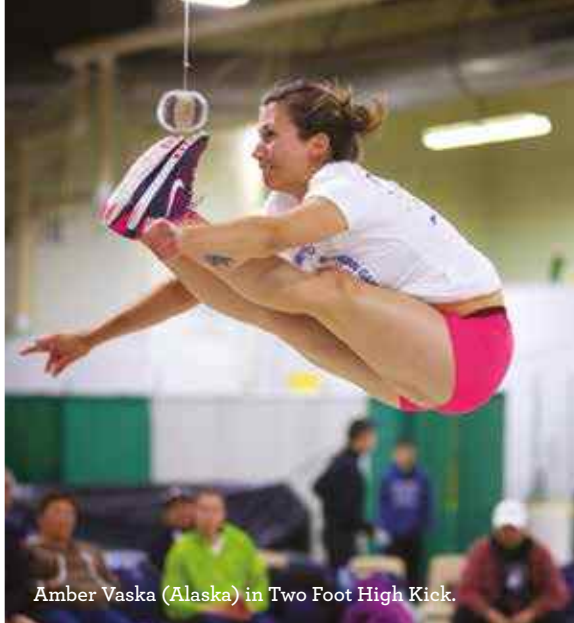
Makiyan Ivanoff (Alaska).

“I’m just amazed by what these kids can do. Years ago, we had to struggle to kick these heights, now it’s just warm up heights for them.”

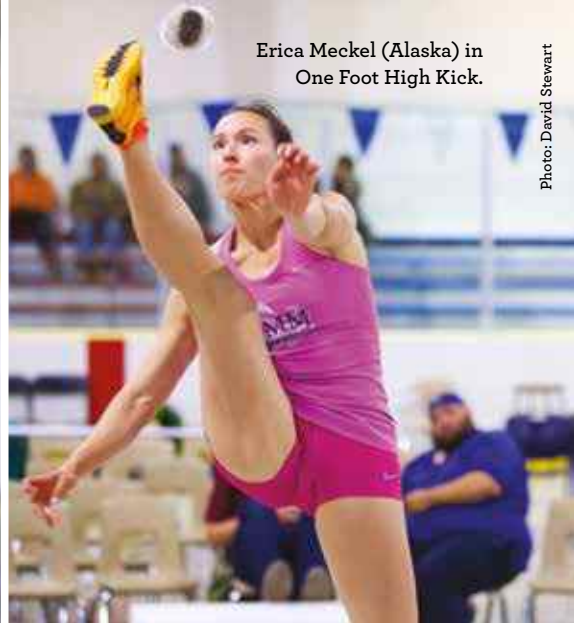




Nellie Pokiak (L) and Dora Raddi (Tuktoyaktuk) in the Laughing Game.



Amber Vaska (Alaska) in Two Foot High Kick.



Erica Meckel (Alaska) in One Foot High Kick.

Photo: David Stewart



Gideon Allurat (Nunavut) in Knuckle Hop.

“When the elders taught us they encouraged us to go higher or try harder, there was nothing negative, everything was positive. This is our tradition, these are the games we were taught that we want to pass on.”



Chris Church (Inuvik) winner of the One Foot High Kick.

Photo: David Stewart



Laughing game.

Photo: David Stewart



Kyle Donovan setting up for Muskrat Skinning.





Anikina, Kyle Kuptana, James Day Jr. demonstrating. The list goes on... at the end of it all the kids go up and ask 'Can I have your autograph please?' It's just amazing what the boys do to inspire our youth across the region and the NWT," said Donald.

The attendance of athletes and officials from the circumpolar region makes these games especially exciting. "This is an international event. We had Nicole Johnston, Alaskan Inuit Games coach, she does a lot of work with the World Eskimo Olympics and the Native Youth Olympics in Anchorage Alaska," said Donald.

The Northern Games officials note that athletes are achieving heights that far exceed those in earlier years. "Our Northern Games, we have a lot of strength games, balance games, and social games too. I'm just amazed by what these kids can do. We had to struggle to kick these heights, now it's just warm up heights for them," he laughs.

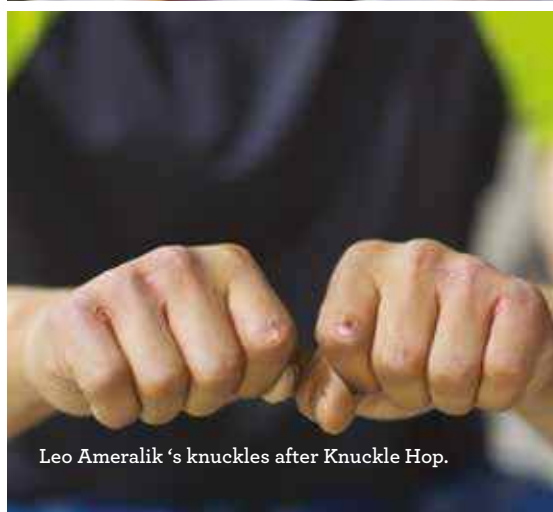
James Day Jr. was impressed by his competitors in the games. "It's a really big eye opener this week," he said. "We are out of shape so we got to train a little bit more for everything that is happening. We are planning to go to WEIO (World Eskimo and Indian Olympics) in Alaska. We also have AWG (Arctic Winter Games) coming up 2016 in Nuuk."

It is this humility and ability to self-reflect that the games also intend to foster.

The games also include Good Men and Good Woman contests, where elders can showcase their skills - bannock making, tea boiling, fish cutting, muskrat skinning and seal skinning. Youth also participate and it is a chance to have the generations have fun practicing tradition together. A new competition, Muktuk Eating, had participants and the audience in stitches.



Leo Ameralik (Nunavut) showing his knuckles post Knuckle Hop.



Leo Ameralik 's knuckles after Knuckle Hop.



Barbara Archie skinning a muskrat.



Sabina Nartok (Nunavut) in One Foot High Kick.

Photo: David Stewart



Kate Inuktalik, winner of the Good Woman Seal Skinning contest.



Photo: Nick Westover



Marthan Abelsen (ICC Greenland) in the geese plucking contest.

Photo: Nick Westover

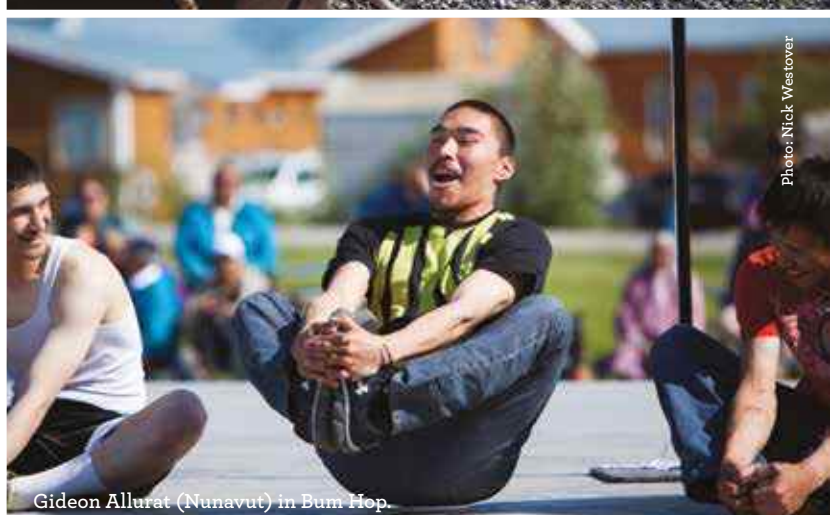


Nellie Pokiak in the tea boiling contest.

Photo: Nick Westover

"We always like to acknowledge our sponsors, our volunteers, the youth ambassadors, they really worked hard," said Gerry. "A lot of elders that passed on the Northern Games are no longer here but they are with us in spirit."

"We had lots of new volunteers for the games. It's really important. Everyone had their own areas of strength we managed to bring it together and had a really successful week. Most of all a fun, alcohol free week for our youth. We showed the kids, and the kids were great." 🍀



Gideon Allurat (Nunavut) in Bum Hop.

Photo: Nick Westover





Hans Lennie, Northern Games Society Chair.



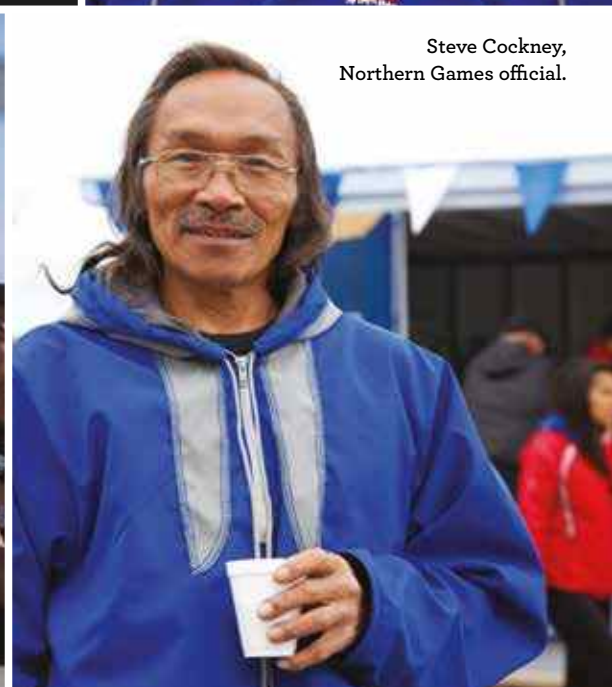
Photo: Nick Westover

Abel Tingmiak, one of the Northern Games "Boys".

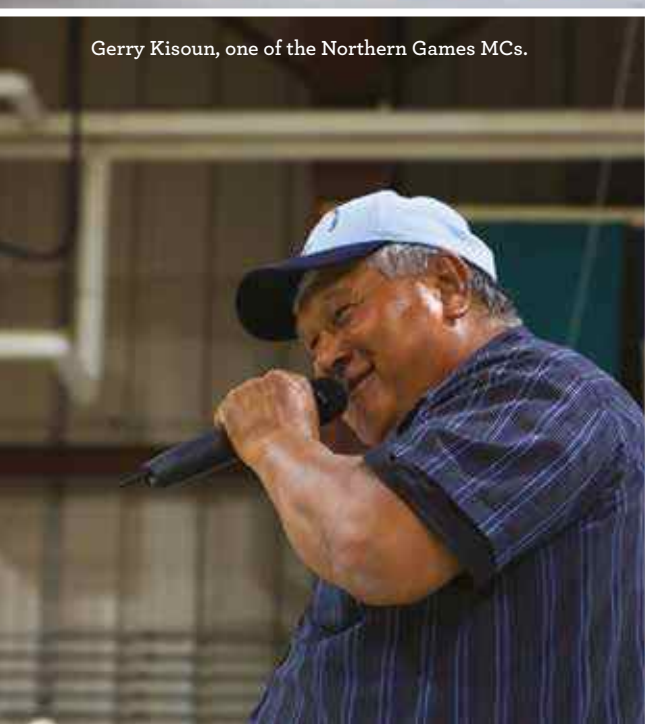


Edward Lennie, respected Northern Games pioneer (center).

Photo: Nick Westover



Steve Cockney,  
Northern Games official.



Gerry Kisoun, one of the Northern Games MCs.



Northern Games volunteers Louisa Alunik and Sandra Gordon.



# 2014 NORTHERN GAMES RESULTS

## TUESDAY, JULY 22

### Kneel Jump

Junior Female		
1	Nellie Cain - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	33 3/4"
2	Sabina Nartok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	24"
3	Kaitlyn Church - Inuvik, NWT	20 3/4"

Junior Male		
1	Dylan Gordon - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	47 3/4"
2	Makiyan Ivanhoff - Unakleet, Alaska	42 1/2"
3	Marty Anaittuq - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	39 3/4"

Senior Female		
1	Amber Vaska - Fairbanks, Alaska	49 3/4"
2	Autumn Ridley - Anchorage, Alaska	43 1/2"
3	Erica Meckel - Fairbanks, Alaska	41 3/4"

Senior Male		
1	Leo Ameralik - Gjoa Haven, Nunavut	56 1/4"
2	James Tautu - Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut	52 1/2"
3	James Day Jr. - Inuvik, NWT	51 1/2"

### One Hand Reach

Junior Male		
1	Makiyan Ivanhoff - Unakleet, Alaska	5'0"
2	Marty Anaittuq - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	4'6"
3	Deon Tanuyak - Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut	4'4"

Senior Male		
1	Ralph King - Arviat, Nunavut	5'1"
2	Kyle Worl - Anchorage, Alaska	5'0"
3	Kevin Sewoee - Arviat, Nunavut	5'0" (1 miss)

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

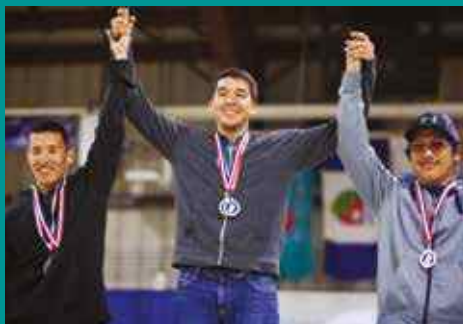
### Bench Reach

Junior Female		
1	Kendall Archie - Aklavik, NWT	48 ¾"
2	Alexis Lucas - Sachs Harbour, NWT	44"
3	Shelby Lucas - Sachs Harbour, NWT	44" (2 miss)

Junior Male		
1	Donald James Kuptana - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	58"
2	Donovan Quanaq - Arctic Bay, Nunavut	55 ¼"
3	Dylan Gordon - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	54 ½"

Senior Female		
1	Erica Meckel - Fairbanks, Alaska	47 ¾"
2	Hilary Tulugak - Rankin Inlet, Nunavut	45 ¼"
3	Amber Vaska - Fairbanks, Alaska	45"

Senior Male		
1	Kyle Worl - Anchorage, Alaska	57 ¾"
2	Craig Gruben - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	56 ½"
3	CJ Haogak, Sachs Harbour, NWT	56 ¼"



### Head Pull

Junior Female		
1	Leigha Keogak - Sachs Harbour, NWT	
2	Alexis Lucas - Sachs Harbour, NWT	
3	Suzanne Gruben - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	

Junior Male		
1	Dylan Gordon - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	
2	Donald James Kuptana - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	
3	Donovan Quanaq - Arctic Bay, Nunavut	

Senior Female		
1	Elizabeth Voisey - Whale Cove, Nunavut	
2	Sheila Tinashlu - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	
3	Deseray Cumberbatch - Inukjuak, Nunavik	

Senior Male		
1	James Williams - Inuvik NWT	
2	Ralph King - Arviat, Nunavut	
3	James Tautu - Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut	

### Tea Boiling

Good Woman		
1	Mary Lou Dillon (Fastest)	11:40:52
1	Judy Okheena (Best tasting)	14:16:25
2	Nicole Johnston (Best color)	14:54:22

Good Man		
1	Joe Allen Evyagoitailak (Fastest)	13:57:00
1	Kyle Kuptana (Best tasting)	16:57:59
2	Preston Dosedal (Best Color)	21:02:56

### Goose Plucking

Good Woman		
1	Annie Thrasher (fastest)	05:15:35
1	Terri Lee Kuptana & Marion Green (best)	

Good Man		
1	Albert Elias (fastest)	03:37:08
1	Paul Pitteloud (best)	

### Seal Skinning

Fastest Skinning		
1	Kate Inuktalik, Noah Akhiaktak, Paris Wainman	13:50:71

Neatest Work		
1	Joe & Susie Evyagotailak, Travis Nalungiaq	

Best Team		
1	David Nasogaluak, Lorna Elias, George Sarantsks	

## THURSDAY, JULY 24

### Arm Pull

Senior Female		
1	Nicole Johnston - Nome, Alaska	
2	Deseray Cumberbatch - Inukjuak, Nunavik	
3	Elizabeth Voisey - Whale Cove, Nunavut	

Senior Male		
1	Lawrence Sittichini - Inuvik, NWT	
2	James Williams - Inuvik, NWT	
3	Teddy Rogers - Inuvik, NWT	

### Musk ox Push

Junior Female		
1	Sabina Nartok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	
2	Olivia Inglangasuk - Inuvik, NWT	43 1/2"
3	Alexis Lucas - Sachs Harbour, NWT	41 3/4"

Junior Male		
1	Dylan Gordon - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	56 1/4"
2	Donald James Kuptana - Tuktoyaktuk NWT	52 1/2"
3	Donovan Quanaq - Arctic Bay, Nunavut	51 1/2"

Senior Female		
1	Elizabeth Voisey - Whale Cove, Nunavut	5'0"
2	Sheila Tinashlu - Kuggaruk, Nunavut	4'6"
3	Karla DeBastien - Inuvik, NWT	4'4"

Senior Male		
1	Lawrence Sittichinli - Inuvik, NWT	5'1"
2	Dale Ruben - Paulatuk, NWT	5'0"
3	James Williams - Inuvik, NWT	5'0" (1 miss)

### Swing Kick

Junior Female		
1	Sabina Nartok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	3'8" (1 miss)
2	Kaitin Church - Inuvik, NWT	3'8" (4 miss)
3	Suzanne Gruben - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	3'8" (7 miss)

Junior Male		
1	Marty Anaittuq - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	4'8"
2	Makiyan Ivanoff - Unakleet, Alaska	4'8" (2 miss)
3	Dustyn Gully - Sachs Harbour, NWT	4'2"

Senior Female		
1	Erica Meckel - Fairbanks, Alaska	4'4"
2	Deseray Cumberbatch - Inukjuak, Nunavik	4'2"
3	Marion Green - Paulatuk, NWT	4'0"

Senior Male		
1	Kyle Donovan - Sachs Harbour, NWT	4'10"
2	Kyle Worl - Anchorage, Alaska	4'10" (1 miss)
3	Gideon Allurut, Duane Illasiak, Leo Ameralik, Kyle Kuptana, Travis Nalungiaq, Craig Gruben, James Tautu,	4'6"





## Alaskan High Kick

Junior Female		
1	Sabina Nartok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	4'4"
2	Britney Ruben-Illuitok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	4'2"
3	Nellie Cain - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	4'2" (4 miss)
Junior Male		
1	Makiyan Ivanoff - Unakleet, Alaska	7'2"
2	Dylan Gordon - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	6'0"
3	Deon Tanuyak - Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut	5'4"
Senior Female		
1	Autumn Ridley - Anchorage, Alaska	6'9"
2	Erica Meckel - Fairbanks, Alaska	5'8"
3	Marjorie Tahbone - Nome, Alaska	5'6"
Senior Male		
1	Kevin Sewoee - Arviat, Nunavut	6'10"
2	Ralph King & Kyle Worl	6'8"
3	James Day Jr. - Inuvik, NWT	6'8" (1 miss)

## THURSDAY, JULY 24

### Airplane

Junior Female		
1	Kaitlin Church - Inuvik, NWT	89'
2	Sabina Nartok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	80'
3	Eriel Lugt - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	79'
Junior Male		
1	Dustin Gully - Sachs Harbour, NWT	1'
Senior Female		
1	Julia Ekpakhokah - Ulukhaktok, NWT	121'
2	Marjorie Tahbone - Nome, Alaska	118'
3	Amber Vaska - Fairbanks, Alaska	73'
Senior Male		
1	Craig Gruben - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	29' 8 1/2"
2	Kyle Worl - Anchorage, Alaska	29' 2 1/2"
3	Chad Memogana - Ulukhaktok, NWT	16'

### Knuckle Hop

Senior Male		
1	Kyle Worl - Anchorage, Alaska	106" 7 3/4"
2	Craig Gruben - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	69' 8 1/2"
3	Leo Ameralik - Gjoa Haven, Nunavut	56' 9"

### Muktuk Eating

Good Woman		
1	Barbara Archie - Aklavik, NWT	01:33:22
2	Florence Sittichinli - Kaktovik, Alaska	01:56:16
3	Moriah Sallaffie - Nome, Alaska	02:55:50
Good Man		
1	Jerry Rogers Sr.	.2838 sec
2	Donovan Qaunaq - Arctic Bay, Nunavut	.3177 sec
3	Joe Allen Evyagotailak - Kugluktuk, Nunavut	.4943 sec

### Muskrat Skinning

Good Woman (fastest)		
1	Mary Lou Dillon - Inuvik, NWT	01:54:04
2	Kathy Ruben - Paulatuk, NWT	02:23:22
3	Marjorie Tahbone - Nome, Alaska	03:11:59
Good Man (fastest)		
1	Joe Nasogaluak - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	2:43:22
2	Teddy Rogers - Inuvik, NWT	2:43:62
3	Abel Tingmiak - Inuvik, NWT	3:22:03
Best Woman		
1	Barbara Archie - Aklavik, NWT	
2	Nellie Pokiak - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	
3	Esther Ipana - Inuvik, NWT	
Best Man		
1	Jerry Rogers Senior - Inuvik, NWT	
2	Teddy Rogers - Inuvik, NWT	
3	Joe Allen Evyagotailak - Kugluktuk, Nunavut	

### Fiddling

Adult		
1	James Nuuluk Rogers - Inuvik, NWT	
2	Michael Francis - Inuvik, NWT	
3	Michael Nolan Green - Paulatuk, NWT	

### Jigging

Adult		
1	Michael Francis and Doris Rogers	
2	Stefan Allen and Erin Simon	
3	Colton Gordon-Ruben & Jeanette Elanik	

## SATURDAY, JULY 26

### Beaver Skinning

Good Woman (fastest)		
1	Kate Inuktalik - Ulukhaktok, NWT	11:20:72
2	Jean Gruben - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	26:52:34
3	Barbara Archie - Aklavik, NWT	39:39
Good Man (fastest)		
1	David Nasogaluak - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	14:01:03
2	Joe Allen Evyagotailak - Kugluktuk, Nunavut	23:21:44
3		

### Fish Cutting

Good Woman (fastest)		
1	Rita Green - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	.4114 sec
2	Julia Cockney - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	.4271 sec
3	Kate Inuktalik - Ulukhaktok, NWT	.4506 sec
Good Man (fastest)		
1	Joe Allen Evyagotailak - Kugluktuk, Nunavut	.4650 sec
2	Colton Gordon-Ruben - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	.5291 sec
3	Dwayne Illasiak - Paulatuk, NWT	.5747 sec

Best Woman		
1	Susie Evyagotailak - Kugluktuk, Nunavut	
2	Betty Elias - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	
3	Barbara Archie - Aklavik, NWT	
Best Men		
1	Joe Allen Evyagotailak - Kugluktuk, Nunavut	
2	David Nasogaluak - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	
3	Dwayne Illasiak - Paulatuk, NWT	

2 Foot High Kick		
Junior Female		
1	Sabina Nartok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	4'6"
2	Eriel Lugt - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	4'5"
3	Kaitlin Church & Nellie Cain	
Junior Male		
1	Makiyan Ivanoff - Unakleet, Alaska	7'2"
2	Dylan Gordon - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	6'4"
3	Marty Anaittuq - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	5'10"
Senior Female		
1	Autumn Ridley - Anchorage, Alaska	6'2" (1 miss)
2	Erica Meckel - Fairbanks, Alaska	6'2" (2 misses)
3	Desiree Cumberbatch & Amber Vaska	5'11"
Senior Male		
1	Kyle Worl - Anchorage, Alaska	7'6"
2	Jamessie Cumberbatch - Inukjuak, Nunavik	7'4"
3	James Tautu - Chesterfield, Nunavut	7'2"

2 Foot High Kick		
Junior Female		
1	Sabina Nartok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	4'6"
2	Eriel Lugt - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	4'5"
3	Kaitlin Church & Nellie Cain	
Junior Male		
1	Makiyan Ivanoff - Unakleet, Alaska	7'2"
2	Dylan Gordon - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	6'4"
3	Marty Anaittuq - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	5'10"
Senior Female		
1	Autumn Ridley - Anchorage, Alaska	6'2" (1 miss)
2	Erica Meckel - Fairbanks, Alaska	6'2" (2 misses)
3	Desiree Cumberbatch & Amber Vaska	5'11"
Senior Male		
1	Kyle Worl - Anchorage, Alaska	7'6"
2	Jamessie Cumberbatch - Inukjuak, Nunavik	7'4"
3	James Tautu - Chesterfield, Nunavut	7'2"

**Left page top:** Knuckle Hop Winners Kyle Worl – Anchorage, Alaska, Craig Gruben – Tuktoyaktuk, NWT, and Leo Ameralik – Gjoa Haven, Nunavut.

**Left page bottom:** Winners of the muktuk eating contest! Barbara Archie (L) and Florence Sittichinli (Kaktovik) and Moriah Sallaffie – Nome, Alaska.

**Left page right:** Male winners of the muktuk eating contest Jerry Rogers (centre), Senior Donovan Qaunaq – Arctic Bay, Nunavut and Joe Allen Evyagotailak – Kugluktuk, Nunavut.

**This page:** Alaskan Women Athletes.

## 1 Foot High Kick

Junior Female		
1	Sabina Nartok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut	5'8"
2	Caitlin Church - Inuvik, NWT	5'6"
3	Nellie Cain - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	5'4"
Junior Male		
1	Makiyan Ivanoff - Unakleet, Alaska	9'0"
2	Dylan Gordon - Kuujuaq, Nunavik	7'8"
3	Donovan Qaunaq - Arctic Bay, Nunavut	7'8" (2 miss)
Senior Female		
1	Deseray Cumberbatch - Inukjuak, Nunavik	7'3"
2	Autumn Ridley & Erica Meckel, Alaska	7'2"
3	Amber Vaska - Fairbanks, Alaska	6'6"
Senior Male		
1	Chris Church - Inuvik, Northwest Territories	9'0"
2	Jamessie Cumberbatch - Inukjuak, Nunavik	8'4"
3	Craig Gruben - Tuktoyaktuk, NWT	8'4"

## Sewing Competition

1	Esther Wolki - Paulatuk, NWT
2	Paula Lanon - Inuvik, NWT
3	Julia Ekpakhokah - Ulukhaktok, NWT

## Edward Lennie Award

Overall Senior Male Athlete
Kyle Worl - Anchorage, Alaska
Overall Junior Male Athlete
Dylan Gordon - Kuujuaq, Nunavik

## Nellie Cournoyea Award

Overall Senior Female Male Athlete
Deseray Cumberbatch - Inukjuak, Nunavik
Overall Junior Female Male Athlete
Sabina Nartok - Kugaaruk, Nunavut

## Good Woman

Barbara Archie - Aklavik, NWT
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## Good Man

Joe Allen Evyagotailak - Kugluktuk, Nunavut
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NWT Youth Ambassadors Kyle Donovan (Sachs Harbour), Hannah Taneton (Deline), and Jacob Pepper (Inuvik).

# GOOD ENERGY

The NWT Youth Ambassadors (YA) were the first ones up and the last ones to leave during the Traditional Circumpolar Northern Games.

Gordon Thompson (Fort Simpson), along with Andrea Keogak (Sachs Harbour), Kyle Donovan (Sachs Harbour), Jacob Pepper (Inuvik) and Hannah Taneton (Deline) assisted the Northern Games Society with all tasks, whether it be prepping muskrats, taping a “runway” for the knuckle hop, measuring seal target heights for high kicks or hauling large seals for the seal skinning. “We are Donald’s Avengers, we do whatever he asks us to,” laughed Gordon.

GNWT (MACA) Recreation Development Coordinator Donald Kuptana guided the youth.

“These youth ambassadors are going home with a lot of capacity for how to run games,” he said. “We wanted them to know the games inside out, how our officials run it, and also be participants. They got the whole 9 yards.”

Jacob Pepper finds the opportunities to travel and expand his horizons the best part of the NWT Youth Ambassador experience. “My confidence is growing with each trip we make and the more we volunteer,” he said. 🍀

## GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

### KYLE DONOVAN

Kyle Donovan, NWT youth ambassador feels the best thing about his hometown Sachs Harbour is that it is “very close knit and traditional”. He shares how his experience at the Traditional Circumpolar Circumpolar Games enhances his ability to do more for his hometown.

What’s the best part of volunteering for the Traditional Circumpolar Northern Games?

**KYLE:** I’m the youth coordinator in Sachs. I do programming for youth - I run Arctic sports, and help coach. I want to pursue special events for my career. This just gave me a lot more insight and background into what goes on behind the scenes. We did cooking, score keeping, clean ups, tear downs, we did a lot.

How did you join the YA program?

**KYLE:** I became a youth ambassador because of my cousin Andrea. She told me about her experiences. You get to have lots more opportunities in life, you get to travel and see more people. Since joining I got to travel to Alaska for the Arctic Winter Games and this year I got to come here for the Northern Games.

What was it like to assist at the Northern Games?

**KYLE:** At first we had a schedule. We would have breakfast duty and then we’d have some time off while others were on duty. But we had to be flexible, our hours were more like 8 in the morning till midnight.

Did you partake in the ICC GA?

**KYLE:** There were 2 days we went to ICC GA, the opening and day after. We just went there to say hello to the Premier, Ministers etc. While we were there they asked the YA to help so we did, serving coffee.

You won a gold medal for swing kick.

Did you expect that?

**KYLE:** No, I was just hoping to maybe hit top 10. I didn’t expect it because the starting height was 4’ 6” and we all had to go up 4 inches at a time. There were 10 of us that hit the starting height, and there were only 2 of us at the end. I was battling it out with Karl Worl from Alaska. We both hit the same height just below 5 Ft, I only got it because I hit 4 Ft 10” on the first try he hit it on the second try. Alaska has a lot of very good competitors. It was amazing, I enjoyed every part of it! 🍀





“As a youth ambassador you get to have lots more opportunities in life, you get to travel and see more people. Since joining I got to travel to Alaska for the Arctic Winter Games and this year I got to come here for the Northern Games.”



# Our northern point of view.



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