

#### **Inuit in a Globalized Arctic**



Stephanie Meakin, Science Advisor ICC(Canada) Brussels, October 18, 2013

# Challenges

- The Arctic is vast. It has an unforgiving climate that is changing rapidly and unpredictably, with implications for the health of Inuit, the Arctic environment and the wildlife Inuit depend upon.
- Inuit manage much of this land through their negotiated land claims.
- The level of skilled labour and education posed to take advantage of the economic potential requires immediate attention within the Inuit community.

# ICC: Who we are



Inuit

Circumpolar Counci



155,000 Inuit live in the Arctic spread across Greenland, Canada, Alaska (USA) and Chukotka (Russia). The Inuit Circumpolar Council advocates for Inuit rights internationally.

## **ICC: Principle Goal**







Promote Inuit Rights Internationally Inuit Circumpolar Counci

#### ICC (Canada) Priority issues in Arctic – GA 2014





- Sustainable Use (Biodiversity)
- Resource Development Issues (Oil and Gas, Mining)
- Health and Food Security
- Climate Change
- Contaminants
- Arctic Trade
- Language
- Research
- Government Relations

### Inuit of Canada





Inuit Circumpolar Council

### Who Are Modern Inuit?







Inuit

Circumpolar Council

# **Climate Change**

"Scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal."-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



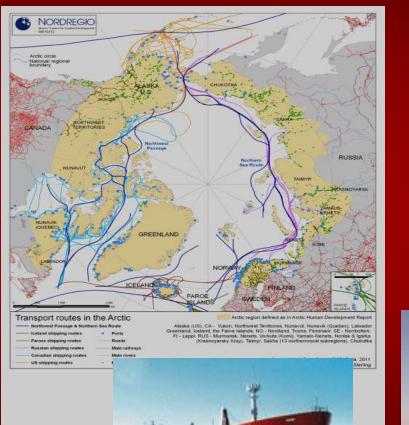


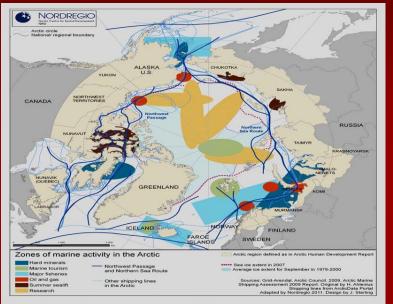


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#### The Arctic in a New Era – Inuit and Global Interests









# Inuit Circumpolar Counci

# Role of Indigenous Peoples

- Witness to the impacts of environmental change
- Consumer/user/beneficiary of the policy
- Science/Knowledge should inform policy development and decision making (but)...
- Scientists/indigenous knowledge holders need to be thinking ahead to be proactive and ensure that appropriate knowledge is available in a timely manner

Counc





Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC) ark are dipartationamber communes term of light and ref. Materials output ares Gwich'in Council International (GCI)

#### Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council

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Saami Council (SC) Russian Association of Indigenous

Peoples of the North (RAIPON)

Aleut International Association (AIA)

Inuit Circumpolar Council

#### Arctic Council



#### Six Working Groups

AMAP-Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program
CAFF-Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
SDWG-Sustainable Development Working Group
EPPR-Emergency Preparedness, Prevention and Response
ACAP-Arctic Council Action Plan
PAME-Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

CANADA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL (2013-2015) "DEVELOPMENT WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH" PROPOSED INITIATIVES



There will be three sub-themes to guide Canada's work:

- 1."Responsible Arctic Resource Development,"
- 2."Safe Arctic Shipping," and
- 3. "Sustainable Circumpolar Communities."





