Inuit in a Globalized Arctic

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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.
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
• 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
Who Are Modern Inuit?
Climate Change

"Scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal." - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
The Arctic in a New Era – Inuit and Global Interests
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
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
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.”
Quyanaq

Inuit Circumpolar Council