



**GWICH'IN COUNCIL  
INTERNATIONAL  
REPORT TO THE  
GWICH'IN GATHERING  
Tsiigehtchic, 2018**



# OVERVIEW

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- ▶ Gwich'in Council International (GCI) is proud to represent Gwich'in internationally at the Arctic Council. We want to take a moment to share some more information with you about what we're doing. This deck will cover:
  - ▶ Who We Are
  - ▶ What We're Doing
  - ▶ How to Connect with Us



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WHO WE ARE



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## ABOUT CGI

Gwich'in Council International (GCI) represents 9,000 Gwich'in in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Yukon, and Alaska as a Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council; the only international organization to give Indigenous peoples a seat at the decision-making table alongside national governments.

GCI supports Gwich'in by amplifying our voice on sustainable development and the environment at the international level to support resilient and healthy communities.



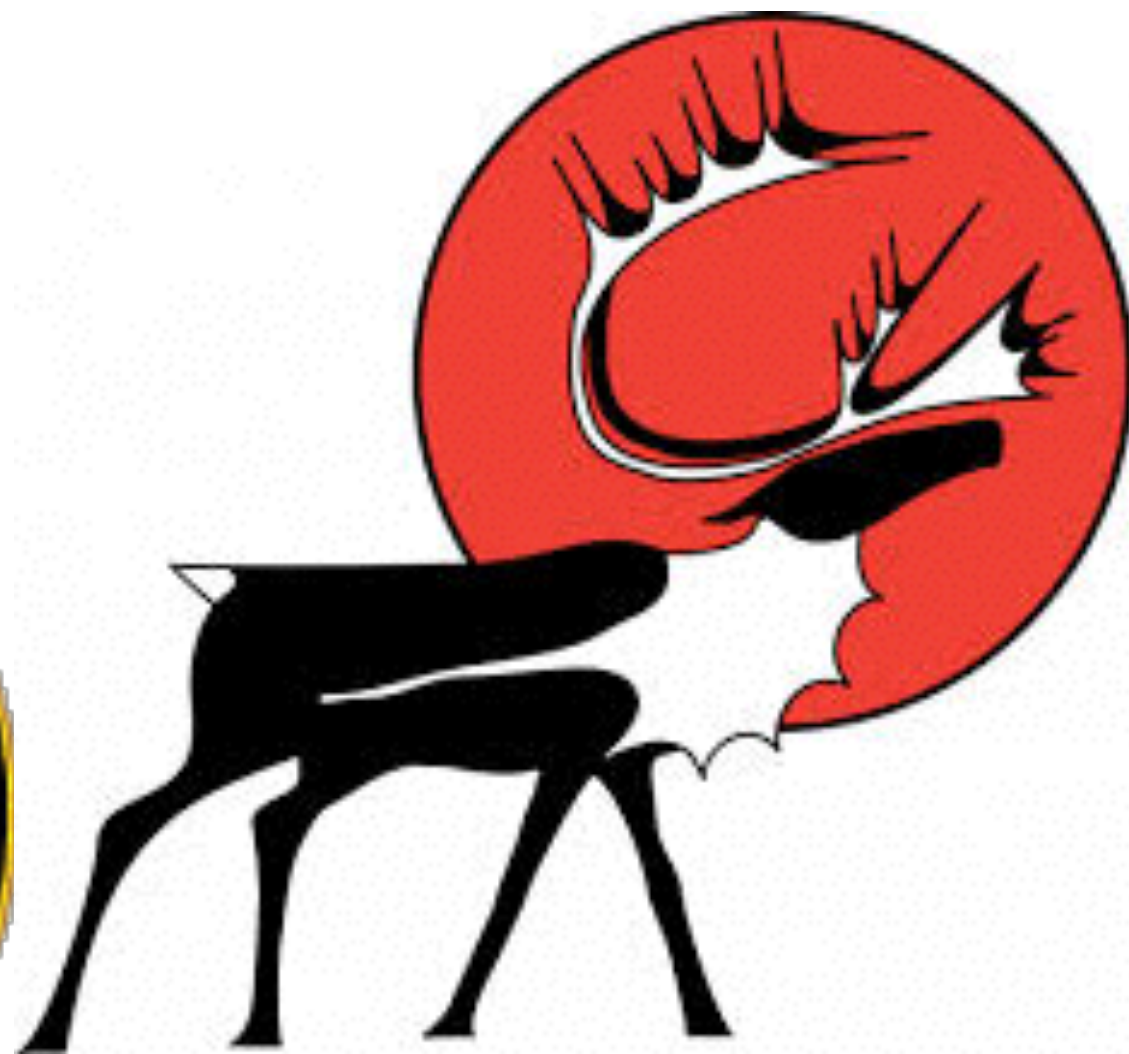
Gwich'in Council  

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INTERNATIONAL



# MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



**VUNTUT  
GWITCHIN**



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ▶ Ethel Blake (Co-Chair)
- ▶ Ed Alexander (Co-Chair)
- ▶ Paul Josie (VGFN)
- ▶ Jordan Peterson (GTC)
- ▶ Sam Alexander (CATG)
- ▶ Evon Peter (CATG)

## STAFF

- ▶ Grant Sullivan  
Executive Director  
[gsullivan@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:gsullivan@gwichin.nt.ca)

## SUPPORT

- ▶ Sara French  
Advisor  
[gciadmin@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:gciadmin@gwichin.nt.ca)



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# 2017-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2017–2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

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- ▶ Setting overarching mission, vision, and values statements;
- ▶ Clarifying decision-making processes (e.g. Board Handbook and By-Law Revisions);
- ▶ Enhancing communications and outreach within Gwich'in communities;
- ▶ Consolidating gains in financial management;
- ▶ Plotting a project development and management plan; and
- ▶ Defining GCI positions on various issues.



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# WHAT WE DO AT THE ARCTIC COUNCIL





ARCTIC COUNCIL



# WHAT IS THE ARCTIC COUNCIL?

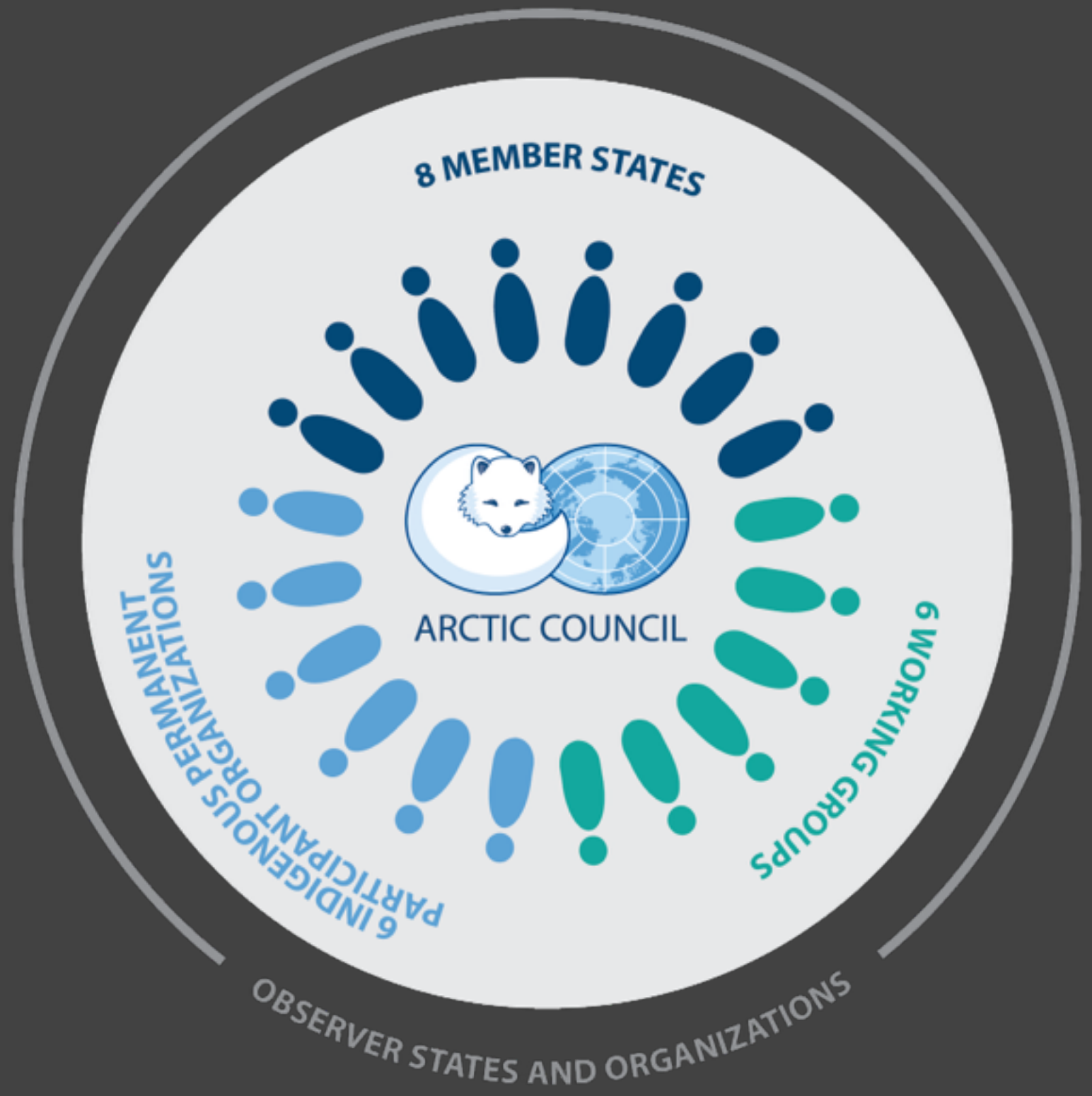
- ▶ The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.
- ▶ To learn more about the Arctic Council go to: [www.arctic-council.org](http://www.arctic-council.org)
- ▶ In 2016, the Arctic Council celebrated 20 years!





# MEMBERSHIP

- ▶ The Arctic Council is made up of 8 Member States.
- ▶ 6 Indigenous Organizations ("Permanent Participants") participate alongside the Member States.
- ▶ Other states (like China and the UK) and NGOs (like WWF) are invited to observe.





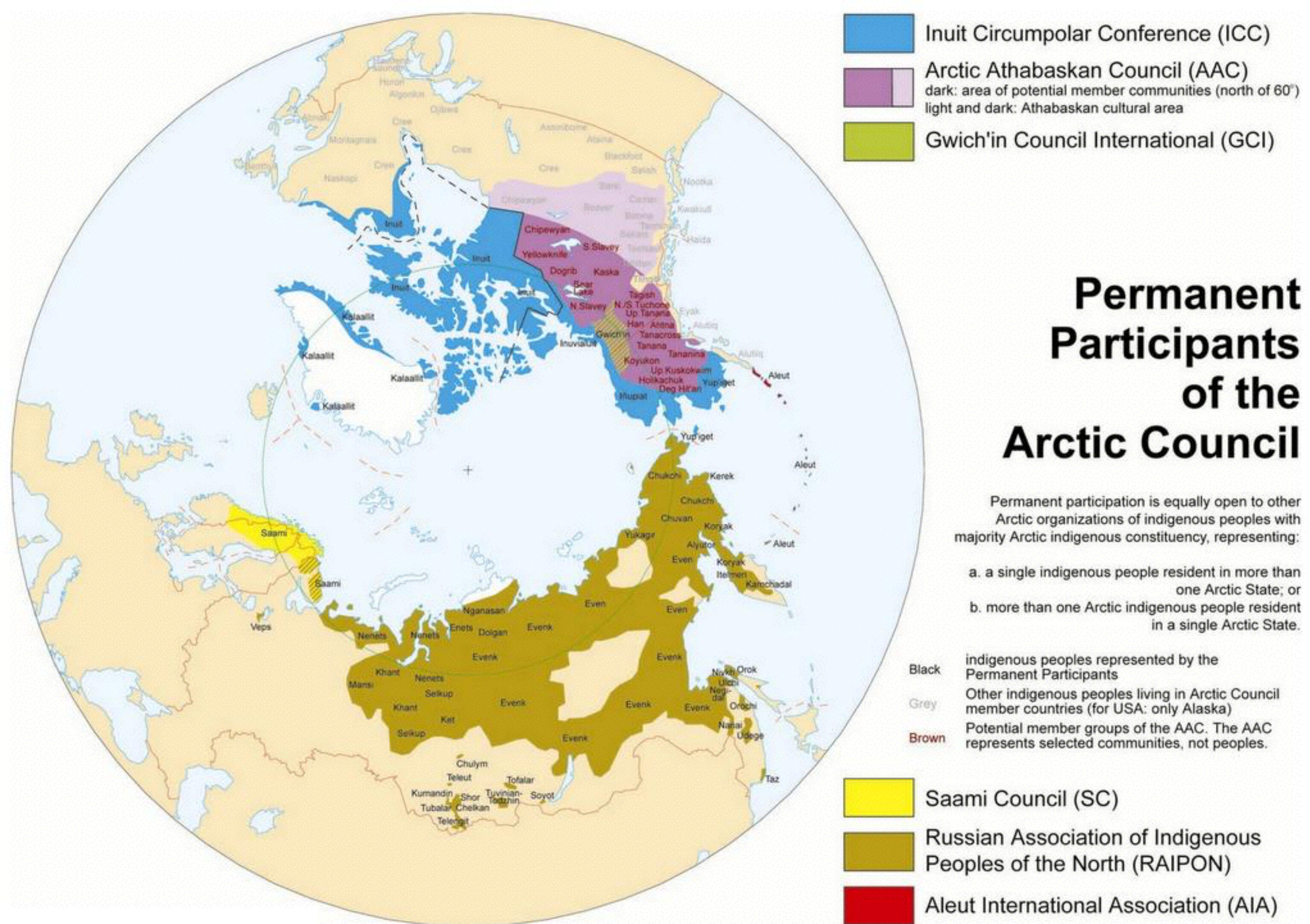
# “PERMANENT PARTICIPANT” IN THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

“The category of Permanent Participant is created to provide for active participation and full consultation with the Arctic indigenous representatives within the Arctic Council.”

- *Ottawa Declaration* (1996)







courtesy of Norwegian Polar Institute/W.K. Dallmann [4]



# BENEFITS OF BEING A PP

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- ▶ Participate directly in the work of the Arctic Council.
- ▶ Be a part of and have access to cutting edge research.
- ▶ Work collaboratively with other Indigenous organizations from across the Circumpolar Arctic.
- ▶ Gain access to national-level decision-makers.
- ▶ Access to the international media to raise awareness about our issues.
- ▶ Create better awareness about the Gwich'in nation internationally.
- ▶ Speak with one voice as a Gwich'in nation.





**DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN ARCTIC COUNCIL  
ACTIVITIES THROUGH GUARANTEED  
PARTICIPATION**





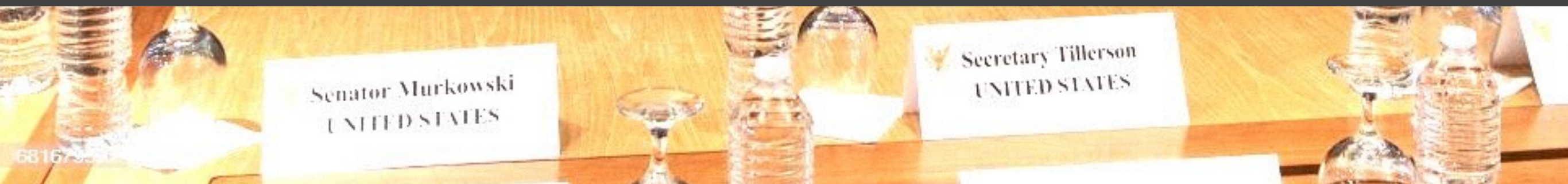
# ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKERS: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE EIGHT ARCTIC STATES







# GCI (ALASKA) REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE AND SENATOR MURKOWSKI





10th MINISTERIAL  
FAIRBANKS 2017

# GCI (CANADA) MEETING WITH MINISTER OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS CHRYSTIA FREELAND WITH ICC AND AAC

**ONE ARCTIC**  
Shared Opportunities,  
Challenges, and  
Responsibilities





# ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING

- ▶ Environment Ministers from the eight Arctic states to meet in Finland in October 2018.
- ▶ GCI to participate and make an intervention.
- ▶ Discussion: What are the key messages that the nation would like to bring to the Environment Ministers

## Environment Minister Catherine McKenna won't sacrifice national unity for environment

Canadian and U.S. environment ministers play up Arctic co-operation

Bruce Cheadle · The Canadian Press · Posted: Apr 07, 2016 9:17 PM ET | Last Updated: Apr 07, 2016 9:17 PM ET



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy (right) speaks during a news conference with Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna looks on, April 7, 2016 (Tang/Canadian Press)



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# ENGAGING THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY



# ENGAGE WITH INTERNATIONAL MEDIA TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT OUR ISSUES





# Tillerson gets earful on climate change from Arctic governments

By Rachel Waldholz, Alaska's Energy Desk | May 11, 2017



That point was made over and over again. Each Arctic nation and indigenous group had three minutes to speak and hardly any let the chance pass without mentioning climate change.

The Gwich'in Council International declared, without coordinated action, "our culture cannot survive." Finland, the incoming chair, called global warming "the main engine of change" in the region.

## US signs Arctic Council accord

Matt Buxton, mbuxton@newsminer.com May 12, 2017 Updated May 13, 2017

Groups representing the indigenous peoples of the circumpolar north, known as permanent participants on the Arctic Council, were nearly universally unified on the need to address climate change.

Ethel Blake, the chair of the Gwich'in Council International who is from the Northwest Territories, Canada, joined the other representatives in calling on the nations to seriously address the causes of climate change.

"We strongly believe that without significant, sustained and coordinated approaches to addressing the causes of the warming Arctic, our culture — linked so closely to the Porcupine caribou herd — cannot survive," Blake said.





# FACILITATE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE NATION AND CIRCUMPOLAR PARTNERS

PHOTO: PERFORMANCE AT THE FAIRBANKS MINISTERIAL ORGANIZED BY EVON PETER





# **BRINGING ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS AND SCIENTISTS TO THE COMMUNITIES**

**PHOTO: CAFF VISITS FORT YUKON, ORGANIZED BY ED ALEXANDER**



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# THE WORK OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL



# WORKING GROUPS

- ▶ The Arctic Council has six working groups, where the majority of the Council's work takes place.
- ▶ In the Working Groups, the Arctic Council undertakes projects and studies on common Arctic issues.
- ▶ GCI primarily participates in the:
  - ▶ **Sustainable Development Working Group** (SDWG), which looks at the human elements of the Arctic; and the
  - ▶ **Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group** (CAFF), which focuses on biodiversity.





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# THE ALGU FUND

- ▶ The Álgú Fund is a charitable foundation.
- ▶ It has two components: an endowment and a project support mechanism.
- ▶ The endowment's interest will provide stable, reliable, and predictable funding on an annual basis to participating organizations to facilitate their work in support of the Arctic Council.
- ▶ The Fund launched in May 2017 and fundraising is ongoing.
- ▶ GCI acted as the Project Lead during the development stage.
- ▶ For more information see: [www.algufund.org](http://www.algufund.org).

The logo for The Álgú Fund. It features the word "The" in a blue script font, followed by "Álgú" in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font, and "FUND" in a smaller, bold, blue sans-serif font.

*The* **Álgú** **FUND**



# GCI BOARD MEMBER, SAM ALEXANDER WAS THE MAIN SPOKESPERSON FOR THE LAUNCH IN MAY 2017









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# ABOUT THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

The Arctic Economic Council (AEC) is an independent organization that facilitates Arctic business-to-business activities and responsible economic development through the sharing of best practices, technological solutions, standards, and other information.

GCI participates in the following AEC Working Groups: Responsible Resource Extraction, Arctic Infrastructure and Investment, and Energy.



GCI is represented in the AEC by Gwich'in Development Corporation Board Member, Geordie Hungerford



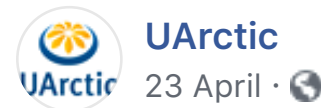


**UA**Arctic



# ABOUT UARCTIC

- ▶ The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges, research institutes and other organizations concerned with education and research in and about the North.
- ▶ UArctic builds and strengthens collective resources and collaborative infrastructure that enables member institutions to better serve their constituents and their regions.



Students and early career scientists, apply for the APECS-UArctic science communication workshop, organized in conjunction with the UArctic Congress in Oulu, Finland in September 2018!

The workshop day on Monday Sept 3 includes introductory lectures and hands-on practical parts. In addition, the participants are expected to use the skills gained from the workshop during the UArctic Congress (incl. conducting interviews).

Deadline for applications: May 13, 2018... [See more](#)



CONGRESS.UARCTIC.ORG

**APECS and UArctic organizing student workshop on Science Communication in UArctic Congress 2018**



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**SAMPLE OF RECENTLY COMPLETED ARCTIC  
COUNCIL PROJECTS GCI HAS BEEN INVOLVED  
WITH**



# OTTAWA TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PRINCIPLES

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- ▶ The *Ottawa Declaration*, that created the Council recognizes:
  - ▶ the traditional knowledge of the indigenous people of the Arctic and their communities and tak[es] note of its importance and that of Arctic science and research to the collective understanding of the circumpolar Arctic.
- ▶ Worked collectively with the other Indigenous organizations in the Council to define how traditional knowledge should be used in its work.



## PRINCIPLES

**WORKING DEFINITION – TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE:**<sup>1</sup>

Traditional Knowledge is a systematic way of thinking and knowing that is elaborated and applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and linguistic systems. Traditional Knowledge is owned by the holders of that knowledge, often collectively, and is uniquely expressed and transmitted through indigenous languages. It is a body of knowledge generated through cultural practices, lived experiences including extensive and multigenerational observations, lessons and skills. It has been developed and verified over millennia and is still developing in a living process, including knowledge acquired today and in the future, and it is passed on from generation to generation.

**PREAMBLE**

These fundamental principles on Traditional Knowledge will strengthen the Arctic Council and advance its objectives by supporting the active participation of Permanent Participants. Traditional Knowledge has been formally recognized by the Arctic Council as important to understanding the Arctic in numerous Ministerial Declarations, including the 1996 Ottawa Declaration on the establishment of the Arctic Council. The "...role of Arctic indigenous peoples and their Traditional Knowledge in the conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biological resources" was also emphasized in the Tromsø Declaration (2009). Furthermore, in 2013 the Kiruna Declaration called for the Arctic Council to "**recognize** that the use of traditional and local knowledge is essential to a sustainable future in the Arctic, and **decide** to develop recommendations to integrate traditional and local knowledge in the work of Arctic Council." Permanent Participants represent Traditional Knowledge holders and are integral to the inclusion and use of Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council. These fundamental principles represent the foundation for the long term vision and framework for incorporating Traditional Knowledge in Arctic Council activities.

The inclusion, promotion and use of Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council is a collective expression of Arctic Council States in supporting the domestic and international rights, roles, and place of indigenous peoples in the circumpolar Arctic; and will address a collective need to produce information that are of use to Arctic indigenous peoples, decision makers and scientists of all cultures from a community level to international governments.



DOWNLOAD THE  
FULL  
DOCUMENT AT:  
[GWICHINCOUNCIL.  
COM/RESEARCH](http://GWICHINCOUNCIL.COM/RESEARCH)

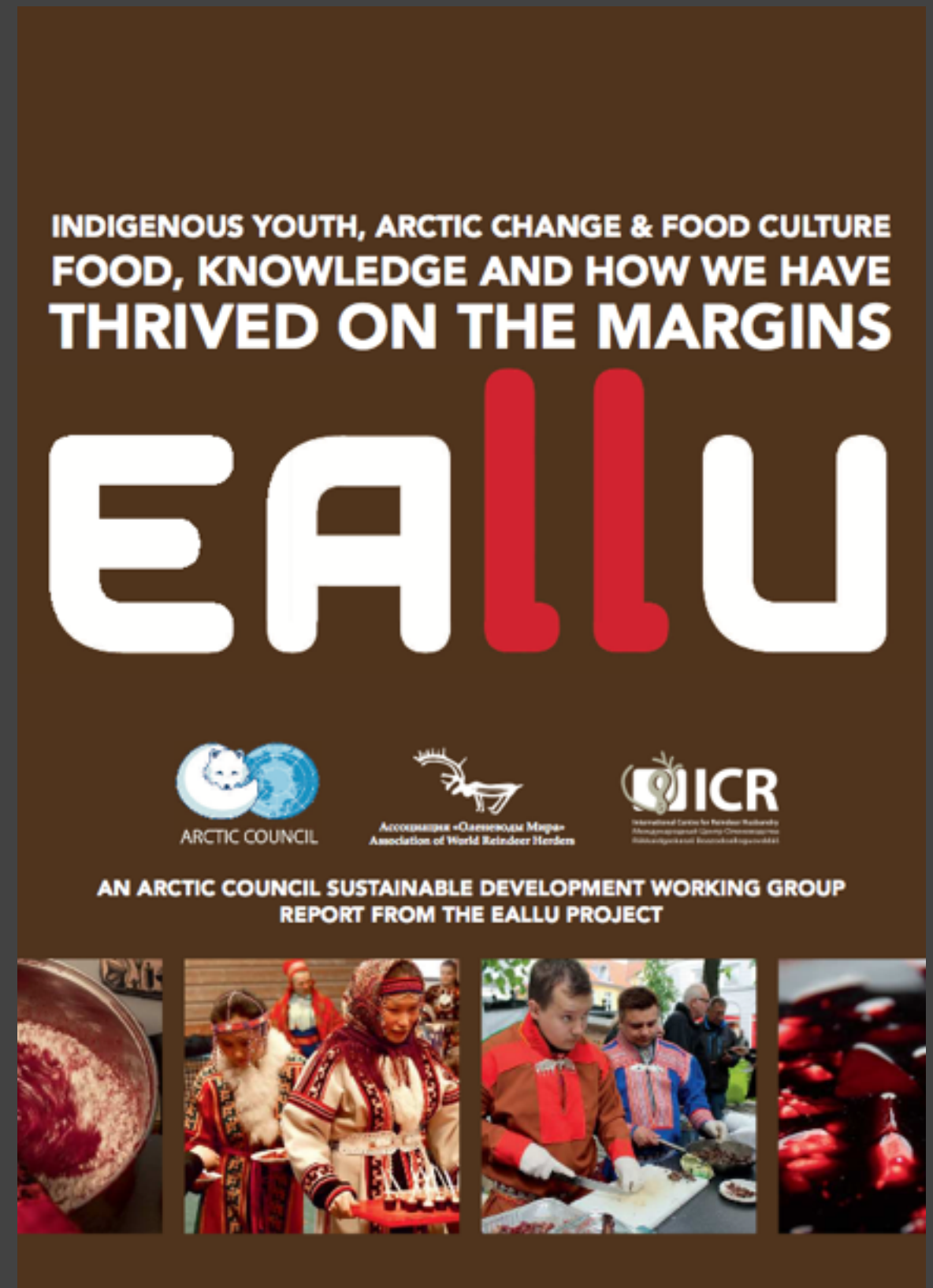
## Fundamental Principles for the Use of Traditional Knowledge in Strengthening the Work of the Arctic Council

1. The use of Traditional Knowledge is an overarching mandate of the Arctic Council and is a central commitment for implementation by the Senior Arctic Officials, Permanent Participants, and all Arctic Council Working Groups.
2. Traditional Knowledge enhances and illuminates the holistic and shared understanding of the Arctic environment which promotes and provides a more complete knowledge base for the work of the Arctic Council.
3. Recognition, respect, trust, and increased understanding between Traditional Knowledge holders, scientists, and representatives of the Arctic States are essential elements in the meaningful and effective inclusion of Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council.
4. The inclusion, use, review, and verification of Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council will occur at all stages of every agreed-to initiative and will be led and facilitated by the Permanent Participants. Recognizing that Permanent Participants will determine the appropriate use of Traditional Knowledge in work of Arctic Council.
5. Traditional Knowledge is the intellectual property of the indigenous knowledge holders, therefore policies and procedures for accessing data and information gathered from Traditional Knowledge holders should be developed at the appropriate ownership level, recognizing and adhering to each Permanent Participants' protocols.
6. In order to maintain the integrity of specialized information and avoid misinterpretation of Traditional Knowledge, it is crucial that evaluation, verification and communication of analyzed information be conducted by Traditional Knowledge holders with appropriate expertise, to be identified by Permanent Participants.
7. Each of the Permanent Participants represent their respective cultures, communities, peoples and Traditional Knowledge systems and holders; processes of including Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council will respect and reflect this diversity.
8. The inclusion of Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council requires adequate capacity and resources to address the unique needs and circumstances of the cultures, languages, communities, governance processes, and knowledge systems of Arctic indigenous peoples represented by the Permanent Participants.
9. Traditional Knowledge and science are different yet complementary systems and sources of knowledge, and when appropriately used together may generate new knowledge and may inform decision making, policy development and the work of the Arctic Council.
10. The use of Traditional Knowledge within the Arctic Council must benefit the knowledge providers and appropriately credit indigenous contributions.
11. The co-production of knowledge requires creative and culturally appropriate methodologies and technologies that use both Traditional Knowledge and science applied across all processes of knowledge creation.
12. Communication, transmission and mutual exchange of knowledge using appropriate language conveying common understanding, including strategies to communicate through indigenous languages, is critical to work of Arctic Council.
13. Recognize the need to bridge knowledge systems, including leveraging existing indigenous knowledge networks, institutions and organizations, as well as developing education strategies to broaden mutual understanding.



# EALLU COOKBOOK

- ▶ This is a book about the fabulous abundance and diversity of food in the Arctic. While many think of the Arctic as a place of harsh climate and scarcity, in fact the Arctic hosts an extraordinary food culture, built on 10,000 years of knowledge, and intergenerational knowledge transfer.
- ▶ Food culture and recipes from across the Circumpolar Arctic.
- ▶ For an online copy go to: <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1926>.





A landscape photograph showing a wetland or tundra area. In the background, a dense line of evergreen trees stands against a backdrop of rolling hills. The middle ground is a flat, marshy area with patches of water and low-lying vegetation. In the foreground, a large, light-colored caribou antler lies on the ground. Overlaid on the image is white text.

# **GWICH'IN: CARIBOU ARE HALF OUR HEART**

**BY JACEY FIRTH-HAGEN**



Gwich'in are Indigenous Athabaskan Dene peoples who have inhabited the areas of the interior region of Alaska in the U.S.A, and the Northern Yukon, and Inuvik Region of the Northwest Territories, Canada; since time immemorial. Gwich'in are commonly referred to as just Gwich'in» due to the English translation being «The people of a certain area», so saying, «the Gwich'in people» would be similar to saying «the people» twice. Gwich'in are also known as *Dinjii Zhuh*, which refers to a person as a whole, rather than the area in which they inhabit. Gwich'in are known by many different names including 'the caribou people'. Today, Gwich'in are settled in 11 different communities and ten different bands across northern Alaska and Canada, still to this day practicing ancestral traditions such as hunting, fishing, trapping, moose hide tanning, and sewing. The land, animals, language, and culture are very important to us with many different organizations and initiatives aimed towards autonomy.

The Gwich'in language is considered critically endangered as approximately out of 9,000 or so Gwich'in, only 500 people still speak the language. Although the Gwich'in language is taught in the primary and secondary school system, the number of language speakers continues to decline. Organizations that exist to combat language decline include the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Gwich'in Language Revival Campaign #SpeakGwichinToMe, and the Yukon and Alaska Native Language Centers.

As a young girl I travelled throughout the land with my father learning about the importance of the caribou (*vadzaih*), being taught how to identify animal tracks and different food sources of the caribou and being taught stories and proverbs. One such is a rite of passage for manhood in Gwich'in culture, which is when a

boy hunts his first caribou, which then must be given away and shared with community members, specifically elders. Another is that half of our Gwich'in heart is that of a caribou, as our reliance on the animal is so large, that we cannot exist without them. Gwich'in were originally a semi-nomadic people, following the caribou, which we depended on for food, shelter, clothing, tools, and weapons. My aunty vividly remembers living on the land with her grandparents for months at a time and all of her clothing being made out of caribou hides, from her shirt to her jacket to her pants, and even her toboggan, and watching her grandfather make snowshoes from caribou sinew and willows.

Other animals and plants harvested for Gwich'in sustenance were and still are big game such as moose, waterfowl such as ducks, geese and swans, as well as small game like ptarmigans, rabbits, and grouse, including an abundance of beloved berries such as cranberries, blueberries, and cloudberry. No part of an animal is ever to be wasted and there is to be no disrespect when it comes to harvesting and handling an animal, including when it comes to the care of the land.

The decline of the caribou due to over-hunting, climate change, mining exploration and development, inefficiency and or absence of harvest management and land-use planning, are all grave threats to the survival of the caribou, and therefore also us Gwich'in. Critical calving grounds inside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are threatened by development in Alaska.

Different caribou dishes loved and enjoyed include caribou marrow, ribs, heart, intestines, soup, stew, and dry meat (*nili gaih*). Two different recipes that I would like to share are *itsuu* (pemmican) and *nili gaih* (dry meat).



I have chosen these two dishes for their cultural and personal significance. *Itsuu* is traditionally a ceremonial dish, gifted during a period of mourning and *nilii gaih* is a personal favorite of mine, prized for its taste and unique flavor. Both dishes are prepared seasonally by either men or women, and predate flour. They are also favored due to their convenience when travelling long distances.

*Itsuu* is more commonly known by the Cree word 'pemmican' and is a traditional Gwich'in ceremonial dish. *Itsuu* is a sweet tasting and filling comfort food and the animal fat in the dish is very sustaining. Traditionally, *Itsuu* is made with frozen caribou fat mixed with left

over caribou dry meat with local berries. A contemporary way to make *itsuu* is with boiled caribou meat, ground up with added sugar and berries with melted margarine then formed into meatballs and frozen.

A story that I have about *itsuu* is when my uncle's common-law partner passed away, my father gifted him *itsuu* and this was one of my first traditional Gwich'in teachings.

*Nilii gaih*, or dry meat is another beloved delicacy made by slicing any wild meat (specifically caribou meat) very thinly and then drying it on a rack, turning it over periodically. Some people prefer to pound the meat to make it softer.

Dene (neighbors to the Gwich'in) people from Tulit'a hunt *shúhta ɛpɛ* (mountain caribou) during a fall hunt along the Begádeé (Keele River) in the Shúhtagot'ne Nɛ nɛ (Mackenzie Mountains) of the Northwest Territories, Canada. *Shúhta ɛpɛ* meat is cut into thin strips and air dried to create «dry meat» that can be saved and eaten later. Other parts of the caribou, including hides are also prepared for multiple uses. All photos by Jean Polfus





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**CURRENT PROJECTS GCI IS ENGAGED  
IN AT THE ARCTIC COUNCIL**



# BEST PRACTISES IN ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

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- ▶ The objectives of the project are to:
  - ▶ Ensure that environmental considerations specific to the Arctic including social and health aspects, are explicitly addressed and incorporated into the planning, design and decision making of large-scale economic projects.
  - ▶ Identify existing good practices through sharing and learning with the aim of developing good practice recommendations for EIA in the Arctic.
  - ▶ Promote meaningful practices of public participation, especially the participation of indigenous peoples, and the integration of traditional and local knowledge in EIA within the Arctic.
  - ▶ Build a viable network of Arctic EIA actors.



# INUVIK AND YELLOWKNIFE WORKSHOPS

- ▶ Before the Canadian Workshop in Yellowknife, GCI held a Gwich'in Workshop in Inuvik to:
  - ▶ Facilitate capacity-building;
  - ▶ Share information about the project; and
  - ▶ Gain insights that can be brought forward at the Yellowknife Workshop.





# ARCTIC REMOTE ENERGY NETWORK ACADEMY

- ▶ Focuses on sharing knowledge and establishing professional networks related to microgrids and integration of renewable energy resources for remote Arctic communities.
- ▶ Webinars on renewable energy available free of charge at: [arena.alaska.edu](http://arena.alaska.edu).







A NEW MILESTONE:  
THE FIRST GCI-PROPOSED  
PROJECT AT THE ARCTIC  
COUNCIL!

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# ARCTIC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURES TOOLKIT



## ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

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- ▶ The Arctic Sustainable Energy Futures Toolkit will be a print and web-based guide for communities to follow when developing their comprehensive community energy plans.
- ▶ This step-by-step toolkit will transfer knowledge using best practices, resource guides, case studies, videos, worksheets, and templated pathways to help communities create and implement their energy visions.
- ▶ Find out more at: <https://gwichincouncil.com/arctic-sustainable-energy-toolkit>



- ▶ Ever wonder how much food produced in the North is actually shipped south?
- ▶ Who are the commercial food producers across the North?
- ▶ What are all the rules and regulations that shape how food is sold in the North?
- ▶ What training is available to support food producers?
- ▶ How do people feel about paying more for "Made in the Arctic" products?
- ▶ What projects are going on across the North to tackle food insecurity?

## Arctic as a Food Producing Region

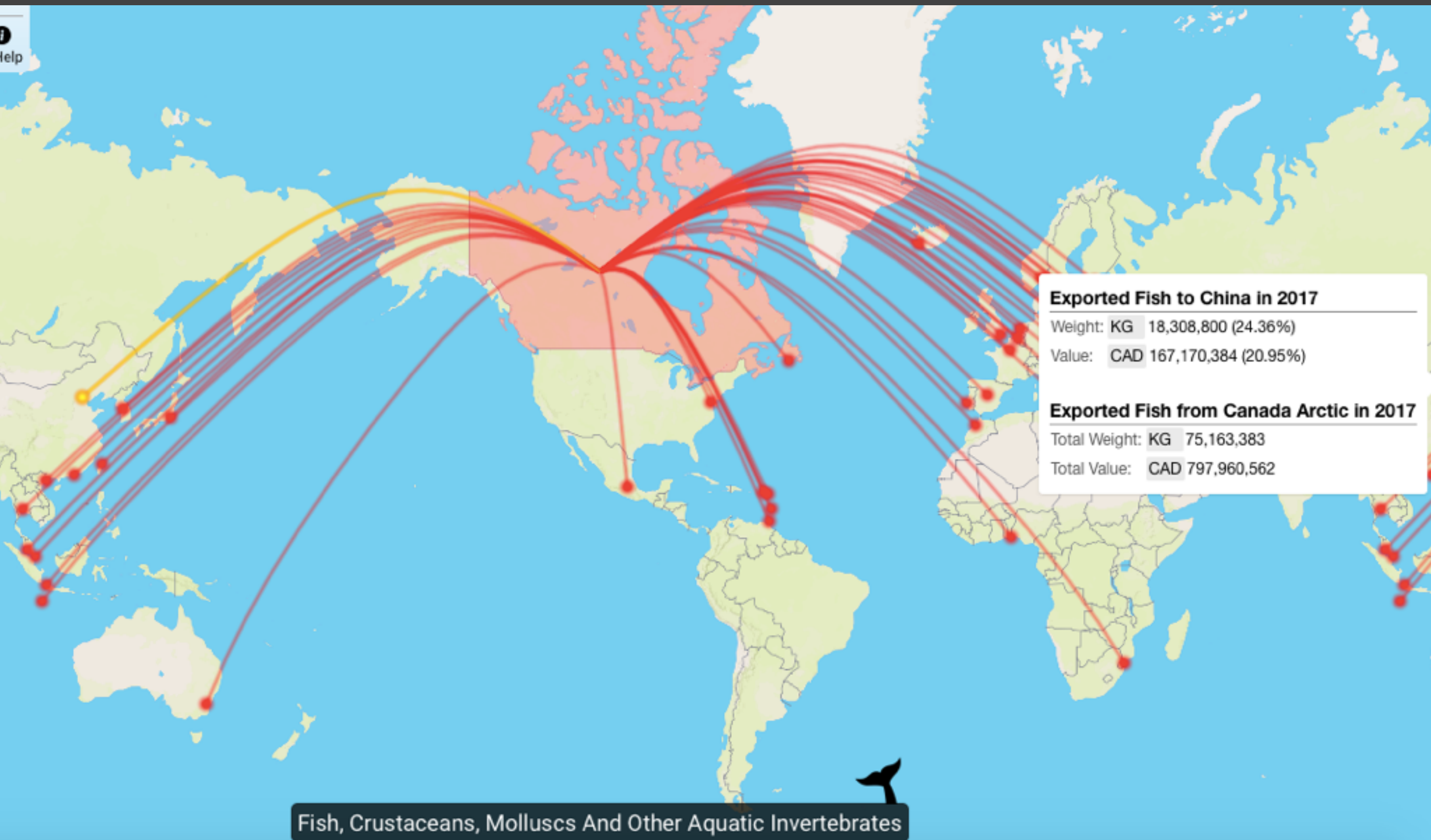
Canadian Permanent Participant Steering Committee Meeting



Dr. David Natcher (Principal Investigator), Camilia Zoe-Chocolate (AAC), Norma Kassi (GCI), Selma Ford (ICC), and Sara French (Coordinator)



# INVENTORY OF FOOD EXPORTED FROM THE ARCTIC BY WEIGHT AND DOLLAR VALUE





# COUNTRY FOOD PROCESSING COURSE

- Congratulations to Florence Carmichael of Aklavik for completing the Country Food Processing Course at Aurora College sponsored by the Arctic as a Food Producing Region project!





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# RESEARCH



# ORIGINAL RESEARCH ON ISSUES RELEVANT TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND THE ARCTIC COUNCIL, SUCH AS RENEWABLE ENERGY

## Diverging from DIESEL

Reducing diesel reliance in Canada's off-grid communities is well within reach. A key to getting there is a fair price for energy produced by projects that reduce fuel use. *Diverging from Diesel*, a report from Gwich'in Council International, establishes the full cost of using diesel to power communities, so that a discussion on fair price can begin. The findings are illustrated here.



**292**  
fossil fuel reliant  
communities

Fuel is stored in large tanks in the community.



Generators turn the fuel into energy.

Fuel systems are:



### Expensive

Shipping, storage, maintenance, machine replacement and more, make fuel so expensive that utilities or governments must subsidize the cost.

### Polluting

Emissions from generation and transportation, fuel spills, and machine noise have environmental and community health impacts.



Fuel is shipped in by...

### Ice Road

With an increasingly short season due to climate change.



### Airplane

One of the most expensive ways to get fuel.



### Boat

Available to coastal communities.



Electricity is distributed to the community.



Communities are ready for clean energy.

**They need a  
fair price  
to make projects go.**



### National Dialogue

Start a discussion on the full costing of diesel energy in Northern and remote communities to promote sustainable energy alternatives.



### Avoided Costs Formula

Establish a method of valuing the full costs of avoided diesel. The formula should be specific to each jurisdiction.

If a fair price for clean energy can make projects take off...

**What do we need to do to make it happen?**



### Collaboration on Innovations

Introduce a national platform that would profile the experiences and impact of diesel alternatives.



### Proactive Procurement

Implement policies that promote the development of clean energy projects that are funded at a fair price relative to the full cost of diesel power.

With these pieces in place, a

**dramatic reduction**  
in diesel dependence is **POSSIBLE.**

Read the full report on [gwichin.org](http://gwichin.org)

Report commissioned by

Gwich'in Council  
INTERNATIONAL



Report prepared by

ig InterGroup  
CONSULTANTS

With contributions from

LUMOS  
CLEAN ENERGY  
2019-2020

### About Gwich'in Council International

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**IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN THE ARCTIC**

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**EMERGING PRACTICES OF  
INDIGENOUS-LED REVIEW**



**SPECIFIC  
RESEARCH STUDIES  
COMMISSIONED TO  
INFORM OR  
COMPLIMENT GCI  
PARTICIPATION IN  
ARCTIC COUNCIL  
PROJECTS**



# INFLUENCING RESEARCH AGENDAS

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- ▶ Engagement with leading research countries, such as China, UK, Japan, Singapore, Germany, EU, NASA, World Meteorological Organization, etc.
- ▶ *Agreement on Scientific Cooperation* (2017).
- ▶ Arctic Science Minister's Meeting, Berlin (October 2018).
- ▶ Goal: Create a document that outlines the research priorities of the Gwich'in nation to encourage researchers and research funders to focus on our priority areas.



# DISCUSSION:

## RESEARCH PRIORITIES OF THE GWICH'IN NATION



- ▶ What research areas are priorities for the nation?
- ▶ Where are there gaps in knowledge that can be filled?
- ▶ How do the communities want to engage in research?



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# COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH



FOLLOW US ON  
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TO DATE WITH  
THE LATEST  
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AND  
RESEARCH



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Community

Reviews

Posts



Gwich'in Council International



## Posts



**Gwich'in Council International**

Published by Sara French Rooke [?] · Yesterday at 09:47 · 🌐

The [Arctic Council](#) Working Group - Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) is looking for a new Executive Director. Check out the full posting here: <https://www.jobbnorge.no/.../executive-secretary-of-the-arcti...>

AMAP is mandated:

1. To monitor and assess the status of the Arctic region with respect to pollution and climate change issues.... [See more](#)

Executive Secretary of the Arctic  
Monitoring and Assessment  
Programme (AMAP) (139714) |  
AMAP – Arctic Monitoring and  
Assessment Programme

[JOBBNORGE.NO](https://www.jobbnorge.no)



**Gwich'in Council International**

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Thanks to everyone for your follows, likes, and shares! Lots more information about what we are working on is available on the new and improved GCI website: <https://gwichincouncil.com>





# NEW WEBSITE: [WWW.GWICHINCOUNCIL.COM](http://WWW.GWICHINCOUNCIL.COM)



Gwich'in Council International (GCI) represents 9,000 Gwich'in in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Yukon, and Alaska as a Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council; the only international organization to give Indigenous peoples a seat at the decision-making table alongside national governments. GCI supports Gwich'in by amplifying our voice on sustainable development and the environment at the international level to support resilient and healthy communities.





On May 11, the eight Foreign Ministers of the Arctic States – including U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Christina Freeland – will meet in Fairbanks, Alaska. At that meeting, Gwich'in Council International, through its status as Permanent Participant, will be at the table and will have the opportunity to speak directly to these leaders. We will use this opportunity to urge the Arctic states to continue to take significant action toward addressing climate change, both within the Arctic and globally. The meeting will also mark the conclusion of the American chairmanship of the Council with Finland taking over the Chair.

While the opportunity to speak directly to the Foreign Ministers of eight Arctic states is an exciting opportunity, the “real work” happens in the Arctic Council’s six Working Groups.

Over the next two years, we’ll be involved with the following Working Group projects, where we’ll contribute knowledge from our region and learn from the experiences of other Arctic countries, Indigenous peoples throughout the Circumpolar Arctic, and leading experts and researchers:

- Arctic Renewable Energy Futures Toolkit: GCI is leading this initiative to provide online and print resources for community energy planning to facilitate getting communities off costly and environmentally damaging diesel power generation. This will facilitate communities to take advantage of opportunities offered by the territorial and federal governments’ current interest in renewable energy investments in the North by learning from the experiences of other Arctic states who have set ambitious renewable energy goals. Finland and Sweden, for example, have both commitment to generating 100% of their electricity from renewable sources.
- Best Practices in Arctic Environmental Impact Assessments: The objectives of this project are to: (1) ensure that environmental considerations specific to the Arctic including social and health aspects, are explicitly addressed and incorporated into the planning, design and decision making of large-scale economic projects; (2) Identify existing good practices through sharing and learning with the aim of developing good practice recommendations for EIA in the Arctic; (3) Promote meaningful practices of public participation, especially the participation of indigenous peoples, and the integration of traditional and local knowledge in EIA within the Arctic; and build a viable network of Arctic EIA actors.
- Arctic Renewable Energy Network Academy (ARENA): focuses on sharing knowledge and establishing professional networks related to microgrids and integration of renewable energy resources for remote Arctic communities. Check out the webinars at: [www.arena.alaska.edu](http://www.arena.alaska.edu)
- Arctic Energy Summit: taking place in Helsinki, Finland September 18-20, 2017 it will address energy in the Arctic as it relates to small and off-grid community energy solutions; oil and gas development; renewable energy; regulation and financing; and transportation and transmission.
- Arctic as a Food Producing Region: aims to increase food production in the north for the north through legal analysis of food-production regulations and a value chain assessment to identify economically-viable opportunities to increase food production in the Arctic.

We look forward to sharing with you the results of these projects over the coming two years.



## CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMBER NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS



# ANNUAL REPORT

GWICH'IN COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

AVAILABLE AT THE GCI  
TABLE AND ONLINE AT  
[GWICHINCOUNCIL.COM](http://GWICHINCOUNCIL.COM)



APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018



Gwich'in Council  
INTERNATIONAL



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# OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CGI



# BOARD NOMINATION PROCESS

- ▶ 4 year terms.
- ▶ Open calls are put out to membership of the organization that has a vacancy to fill (CATG/VGFN/GTC).
- ▶ 1 available spot for CATG.
- ▶ VGFN and GTC rotate being the Canadian co-chair; always a co-chair from CATG.





# YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Posted to our Facebook page.
- ▶ Example: Arctic Youth Summit.
- ▶ Funding available.
- ▶ Usually application-based.



## Gwich'in Council International

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Calling all Gwich'in youth 18-25:

Do you have an interest and passion towards protecting the Arctic environment and willing to make your contribution for it?

Do you want to meet other young, motivated people and to be part of an international youth network?

Do you see yourself expressing leadership and active citizenship?

Then apply by June 5 to be a part of the Arctic Youth Summit in Rovaniemi, Finland October 5-12, 2018!

Funding is available and you'll also be able to participate in the Arctic Biodiversity Congress: <http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress>.

Apply online at: <https://form.jotform.com/80924113197961>.

If you are interested in applying or require any assistance, DM us or send an email to [gciadmin@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:gciadmin@gwichin.nt.ca).

There are 50 spots available and priority will be given to Indigenous peoples from Permanent Participant organizations in the Arctic Council - that includes Gwich'in!

[Gwich'in Tribal Council Vuntut Gwitchin Government Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments - CATG](#)



# HELP US MATCH YOUTH TO OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

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- ▶ Email [gciadmin@gwichin.nt.ca\\_answers](mailto:gciadmin@gwichin.nt.ca_answers) to the following questions:
  - ▶ What is your name?
  - ▶ What is your date of birth?
  - ▶ What areas are you passionate about? (Please provide a one page response. The more we know about, the better we can match you to opportunities).
  - ▶ Are you in school or working? What do you do or what are you studying?
  - ▶ Do you enjoy public speaking?
  - ▶ What is your citizenship? Where do you live?



A wide-angle photograph of a coastal scene. In the foreground, waves with white foam are crashing onto a sandy beach. The beach is wide and flat. In the background, there is a dark, dense line of trees or vegetation along the coast. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is bright and open.

# Questions?





# **CONTACT**

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