



ICC-Alaska's From Decolonization to Conscientization: Implementing the Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy



ICC-Alaska Education Project Director

Síqupsíraq, Pauline F. Harvey

3900 Arctic Boulevard, #203

(907) 274-9058, (907) 412-0727



Inuit Circumpolar Council- Alaska Education Workshop Report

April 16 and 17, 2014 Nome, AK

An Education Steering Committee was selected to lead the process to develop an Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy which was identified as a priority in the ICC-Alaska Strategic Plan 2010-2014. In so doing, ICC-Alaska was responding to the Nuuk Declaration of the ICC International (2010-2014, and renewed for 204-2018), which calls for sharing of best practices across the circumpolar Arctic, the development and improvement of culturally appropriate curriculum, and inclusion of Inuit languages as a critical component of education.

ICC-Alaska is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that works to advance Inuit culture and society on behalf of the Inupiat of the North Slope, Northwest and Bering Straits; the St. Lawrence Island Yupik; and the Central Yup'ik of the Yukon- Kuskokwim Delta in Southwest Alaska. Member organizations include the North Slope Borough, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, NANA Regional Corporation, Northwest Arctic Borough, Maniilaq Association, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Kawerak, Incorporation and Association of Village Council Presidents. ICC-Alaska is a national member of ICC International, an international non-governmental organization. ICC was founded in 1977 and holds Consultative Status II with the United Nations. ICC is also a Permanent Participant at the Arctic Council. ICC strives to strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar north; promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level; develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment; and seek full and active partnership in the political, economic, and social development of the circumpolar north.

ICC receives its mandate from Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka delegates gathered in a General Assembly held every four years. The Nuuk Declaration was the plan during the 2010-2014 term under which the Education Workshop occurred.

CONTACT

Kelly Eningowuk, Executive Director Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska 3900 Arctic Boulevard, Suite #203 Anchorage, AK 99503

The Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy

This Strategy is based on the knowledge of and concepts generated by the ICC–Alaska Education Workshop delegates, speakers, and invited participants.

The development of the strategy was guided by a five-member Education Steering Committee representative of the four Inuit regions of Alaska and a youth member.

ALASKAN INUIT
EDUCATION
IMPROVEMENT
STRATEGY



INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR
COUNCIL-ALASKA

2015



ICC-Alaska Education Steering Committee: L to R: Jana Harcharek-North Slope, Fannie Aqpik-North Slope, Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle-Nome/BSSD, Pauline Harvey-Education Project Director, Nellie Ballot-Northwest, Maddy Alvanna-Stimpfle-Youth Representative, Janet Johnson-Southwest, Eilene Adams-Project Assistant

Strategy 1: Promote the indigenization of education frameworks to more clearly align with Inuit ideologies

IÑUPIAQ LEARNING FRAMEWORK

The Iñupiaq Learning Framework shall be the foundation from which coherent Iñupiaq-based academic curricula and assessment processes will emanate. The North Slope Borough School District is mapping and developing instructional programs and practices in accordance with the Iñupiaq Learning Framework (ILF) consistent with the district curriculum alignment, integration and mapping effort. Through a holistic and interdependent approach to education guided by, and deeply rooted in iñua, we foster the development of spiritual, social, cultural, environmental, emotional, physical and economic connection leading to well-grounded, well educated individuals able to navigate effectively in a modern world.



Promote the indigenization of education frameworks to more clearly align with Inuit ideologies. Strategy 1 is foundational to the other strategies. It reflects a strong desire for decolonization and reclamation of Inuit ideologies.

Strategy 1 encourages educators to develop awareness about the harmful effects of colonization, establish a research and knowledge base, and form alliances to promote indigenization.

Strategy 2: Suggest, advocate for, and influence policies related to Inuit education.



Suggest, advocate for, and influence policies related to Inuit education.

Strategy 2 was developed with the realization that formalized schooling of Inuit children occurs within a framework that can and should be influenced at the policy level to effect lasting change.

Similar to the first strategy, policy change can best be achieved through collective action and alliances among like-minded groups, and use of resolution processes.

Strategy 3: Research, advocate for, and promote the development, implementation, and sharing of culture-based curriculum that focuses on students' identity as Inuit.

*Ayaprun Ilitnaurviit: Bethel

*Nikaitchaut: Kotzebue

*Iñupiaq Learning Framework: Barrow

Research, advocate for and promote the development, implementation, and sharing of culture-based curriculum that focuses on students' identity as Inuit

Strategy 3 builds on the policy foundation of Strategy 2 by calling for culturally-relevant curriculum for Inuit students. The objectives associated with this strategy demonstrate recognition that there are pockets of excellent curriculum resources already developed that could be shared with others.

The objectives call for creating and disseminating culture-based instructional materials, supplemented as appropriate with teaching strategies aligned to Inuit pedagogical philosophy.

Strategy 4: Promote Inuit language education.

Alaska Native Language Preservation & Advisory Council Council Members

The Alaska Native Language Preservation & Advisory Council members are appointed by the Governor of Alaska, and serve three-year terms. Council members are Alaska Native language professionals who provide recommendations for and foster the development of a comprehensive statewide Alaska Native language policy, strategy for improving the preservation, restoration and revitalization of Alaska Native languages.

Senator Donald Olson *Inupiaq*

Representative Benjamin Nageak, *Iñupiaq*

Annette Evans Smith (Chair), *Athabaskan, Alutiiq and Yup'ik*

April Gale Laktonen Counciller (Vice-Chair), *Alutiiq*

Delores Churchill, *Haida*

Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle, *Inupiaq*

Walkie Charles, *Yup'ik*

For more information about the Alaska Native Language
Preservation & Advisory Council contact:

Division of Community and Regional Affairs

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone: 907-269-3646

Email: anlpac@alaska.gov

Promote Inuit language education.

"It is essential to use the Inuit language to communicate the rich and complex meaning of Inuit ideology. There are so many concepts that cannot be expressed adequately or accurately when they must first be translated into English."

-Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle Eskimo Heritage Program Director, Kawerak, Inc. and Education Steering Committee member

Strategy 5: Foster educational leadership capacity among Alaska Inuit.

- *TECK John Baker Youth Leaders - NWABSD, Kotzebue
- *ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM, ANSEP, includes all four ICC-AK Regions
- *AASB Youth Leadership Program, includes all four ICC-Ak Regions
- *Youth Involvement Project - NSBSD, Barrow, part of their Comprehensive Planning
- *LKSD Summer Youth Internship Program, Coastal Villages initiative
- *BSSD Student Broadcasting Team, Unalakleet

Foster educational leadership capacity among Alaska Inuit.

Strategy 5 addresses the dearth of Inuit representation in the ranks of education leadership.

Leadership skills are cultivated and leaders emerge when individuals have opportunities to talk in groups about important education-related issues. Inuit Elders are a wise and experienced group of potential mentors for young, aspiring leaders. The objectives and actions related to leadership development show recognition that leadership in education occurs at many levels and can be either formal or informal, ad hoc or with a defined purpose and period of time.

Strategy 6: Revitalize and reclaim traditional Inuit parenting skills.

ICC-Alaska is currently working closely with Solstice Advertising to create posters and ads that encourage our Inuit elders to reach out to young parents in a mentorship relationship.

The centrality of parenting, and the roles of family and community as foundational for student success.

Strategy 6 provides a call to action to reclaim traditional parenting skills, such as modeling desired actions and skills as a way of teaching, and a return to traditional subsistence activities that draw families together.

Revitalize and reclaim traditional Inuit parenting skills.

ICC-Alaska's Decolonization to Conscientization Think Tank in Nome, Alaska: April 4-5, 2016

To get a copy of the full ICC-Alaska Nome Decolonization
Think Tank report go to www.iccalaska.org



ICC-Alaska's Decolonization To Conscientization Think Tank in Kotzebue, Alaska: June 1-2, 2016

- ◆ To get the full report of
- ◆ Kotzebue's Think Tank
- ◆ Go to www.iccalaska.org



Regional Visits/Think Tanks

- ♦ December 2-4, 2015: NSBSD Visit, Barrow
- ♦ January 13-14, 2016: LYSD Visit, Kotlik,
- ♦ January 26-28, 2016: UAF Visit, Fairbanks
- ♦ February 8-10, 2016: LKSD Visit, Bethel
- ♦ March 7-9, 2016: UAS/Legislature Visit, Juneau
- ♦ March 21-23, 2016: BSSD Visit, Unalakleet
- ♦ April 4-5, 2016: BSSD/Nome Decolonization Think Tank in Nome
- ♦ April 6-8, 2016: Nome Schools Visit
- ♦ April 20-22, 2016: NWABSD Visit, Kotzebue
- ♦ May 4-5, 2016: Education Steering Committee Meeting, Barrow
- ♦ May 11-13, 2016: Yup'it School District Visit, Akiachak
- ♦ June 1-2, 2016: Kotzebue Decolonization Think Tank in Kotzebue

- ♦ FALL-WINTER 2016-2017 VISITS:
- ♦ September 7-8, 2016: Education Steering Committee Meeting, Kotzebue
- ♦ October 26-27, 2016: Barrow Decolonization Think Tank
- ♦ November 8-9, 2016: Alignment Summit with Rural Caucus of AASB, Anchorage
- ♦ November 12, 2016: Presentation to the AASB
- ♦ March 30-31, 2017: Bethel Decolonization Think Tank
- ♦ May 22-23, 2017: Education Steering Committee Meeting in Bethel
- ♦ TBA - Visit to Kashunamiut School District, Chevak
- ♦ TBA - Visit to St. Mary's School District

YEAR 3

- ◆ Steering Committee Meeting in Nome
TBA
- ◆ International Inuit Education Summit in
Greenland in 2018: sharing of best
practices between Alaska, Greenland,
Canada and Chukotka TBA

NEXT STEPS

- ◆ Follow through meetings with regions on Think Tank reports
- ◆ Seek additional funding for the continuation of the work started with this USDOE grant