

NORTHERN NEWS

Inuit Leader Speaks on Arctic Issues

The best way to assert Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic is through the residents who live there, according to Mary Simon, president of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), who spoke at the Canadian Club in Calgary in February as part of her nation-wide speaking tour. The Inuit leader embarked on the tour to make other Canadians aware of the contemporary issues, such as climate change, sovereignty, and the economy, faced by people in the North.

“Our concept of asserting Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic goes well beyond the much-needed military and legal measures anticipated and recently announced by the Government of Canada,” says Simon. “My purpose in speaking to Canadians in all provinces and territories is to make the case that the best way to assert Canadian sovereignty in the region is through its residents. The Inuit approach to asserting sovereignty is holistic and calls for the development of healthy people and healthy communities alongside the military and legal measures.”

Simon says that the huge gaps in health, education, and housing between the Inuit and the rest of Canada must be addressed. She would like to see policies put in place that will build thriving communities and provide for economic growth in a long-term, sustainable manner.

AINA NEWS

New Board Members Welcomed

A changing of the guard occurred at the January 2008 meeting of the AINA board. Stepping down were Kathleen Scherf, Marion LaVigne, Ingrid Johnson, Dennis Salahub, and Louis-Jacques Dorais. AINA thanks these board members for their hard work and dedication to the Institute. Their advice and steady guidance helped keep the Arctic Institute on a forward moving path.

Welcomes were offered to new board members Louis Fortier, Henry Sykes, Patrick Borbey, Shawn Marshall, Rose Goldstein, and Sandy Murphree. These new members come to the institute with stellar reputations and a diversity of interests and expertise. Louis Fortier is the scientific director of ArcticNet at Université Laval. Henry Sykes is president of MGM Energy, a company that is actively exploring for oil and gas in the North. Patrick Borbey is the assistant deputy minister of northern affairs at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Rose Goldstein is vice-president research and Sandy Murphree is dean of the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Calgary. Shawn Marshall, a glaciologist and climatologist in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary, holds a Canada Research Chair in Climate Change.

AINA is looking forward to working with the new board members and anticipates they will also contribute to the Institute’s forward momentum.

New Research Associate

A new research associate was approved at the January meeting of the Board of Directors. Dr. Marc Poulin, an associate professor with the Faculties of Medicine and Kinesiology at the University of Calgary, currently chairs a specialized master’s program in mountain medicine and high-altitude physiology offered in the Department of Medical Sciences. A major aspect of Dr. Poulin’s current research in the field of high-altitude physiology focuses on altitude-related disorders such as acute mountain sickness and cerebral and pulmonary edemas.

New AINA Fellows

Two distinguished Arctic researchers, Dr. Patricia Sutherland and Dr. Kathy Young, were elected as Fellows of the Institute at its January board meeting. Dr. Sutherland is an archaeologist with a long and distinguished career in the Arctic. She has been a principal investigator for 24 field seasons and is currently the Eastern Arctic curator at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Her work on medieval Norse-Inuit/Dorset relations in the eastern Arctic recently won major funding as an International Polar Year project.

Dr. Young, an associate professor in geography at York University, has been conducting research in the High Arctic for about 20 years, having begun as a graduate student. She is currently Canada’s Chief Delegate to the Northern Research Basins Symposia and Workshops, the biennial meetings of the Northern Research Basins Working Group, held in various circumpolar regions. Dr. Young’s main research interests are in northern hydrology and microclimates.

ASTIS News

The coverage of AINA’s Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS) continues to improve on many fronts. Links to the following databases are available on the ASTIS page of the AINA website (arctic.ucalgary.ca, and then click on ASTIS in the third column). Information was current as of mid-February.

- The main ASTIS database now describes 63,500 publications and research projects about northern Canada, and provides URL or DOI links to more than 9700 online publications.
- The Canadian IPY Publications Database now describes more than 300 publications. The Canadian database is a subset of the international IPY Publications Database, which described 440 publications as of its January update.

- With the Mackenzie Gas Project hearings now completed, the Hydrocarbon Impacts database describes 6250 publications and research projects.
- Thanks to funding in 2007 from Makivik Corporation, the Nunavik Bibliography now describes more than 4600 publications.
- The Northern Contaminants Program Publications Database is now close to comprehensive, with descriptions of more than 1800 publications.
- Thanks to funding from the Canadian Arctic Shelf Exchange Study (CASES), ASTIS's coverage of peer-reviewed CASES publications is up to date, with more than 80 publications now described in the database. A large number of new CASES publications will be added to the database during 2008.