

Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council

compiled by Nadine C. Fabbi, University of Washington, nfabbi@uw.edu

Last updated: March 2012

Arctic Council (1996) – <http://www.arctic-council.org>

Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples Secretariat –

<http://www.arcticpeoples.org>



Saami Council (1956) –

<http://www.saamicouncil.net/?deptid=1116>

The Saami Council is one of the oldest indigenous organizations founded in 1956 to represent the Saami of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. One of the goals of the Council is to attain recognition for the Saami as a nation and to maintain the economic, social and cultural rights of the Saami in the legislation of the four states. There does not seem to be an accurate account of the Saami population but it is estimated to be at around 70,000 individuals with the largest population in Norway and the smallest in Russia.

Inuit Circumpolar Council (1977) – <http://inuitcircumpolar.com>

“Founded in 1977 by the late Eben Hopson of Barrow, Alaska, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has flourished and grown into a major international non-government organization representing approximately 150,000 Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka (Russia). To thrive in their circumpolar homeland, Inuit had the vision to realize they must speak with a united voice on issues of common concern and combine their energies and talents towards protecting and promoting their way of life.”

Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (1990) –

<http://www.raipon.info/en/>

RAIPON works to guarantee the protection of native homelands and traditional way of life as well as the right to self-governance. The traditional home of Russian indigenous peoples constitutes more than half the land mass of Russia. More than 40 indigenous groups representing about 250,000 individuals are represented by RAIPON.

Aleut International Association (1998) – <http://www.aleut-international.org/>

“The organization was formed to address environmental and cultural concerns of the extended Aleut family whose well-being has been connected to the rich resources of the Bering Sea for millennia.” The AIA represents the Aleut of Alaska and Russia – about 17,000 individuals in Alaska and 700 in Russia.

Gwich'in Council International (1999) – <http://www.gwichin.org/>

The Council was formed so that the Gwich'in people would be represented at the Arctic Council and would play an active role in the development of policies that relate to the Circumpolar Arctic. The GCI represents about 9,000 individuals from the Gwich'in Nation in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska.

Arctic Athabaskan Council (2000) – <http://www.arcticathabaskancouncil.com/>

The Council was “established to defend the rights and further the interests internationally

of American and Canadian Athabascan member First Nation governments” in the Arctic Council and other international fora. The Council represents about 40,000 individuals.