

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

Arctic Institute of North America

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Observer's website, if appropriate:

<http://arctic.ucalgary.ca>

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Is your state or organization still interested in continuing as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

X Yes No

Observer Report

Please describe in no more than 2 pages your state or organization's contributions to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years. Please highlight contributions to specific projects, such as through proposals, concept development, in-kind and financial support, and hosting of meetings. If applicable, please include mention of collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

The Arctic Institute of North America (Canada) contributes to a number of Arctic Council initiatives and activities, including the Arctic Observing Summit, Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic, and works with the North American permanent participants to assist with some of their objectives around data and information management and community-based monitoring activities.

Recent Contributions

1. Arctic Observing Summit (AOS): The AOS is an Arctic Council initiative to design, implement and sustain a pan-Arctic observing system of system. The AOS is a Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks task, coordinated by the International Study of Arctic Change which is supported and directed out of the Arctic Institute of North America. In partnership with SAON and the International Arctic Science Committee and we have led the organization of the AOS 2014 (Helsinki), and 2016 (Fairbanks) and plans for the AOS 2018 (Davos) are already underway. The AOS brings together a diverse cross section of the Arctic Community: research organizations, Indigenous organizations, including the Permanent Participants, various levels of government, members of the private sector with the objective in enhancing existing observational activities, improving observing systems design, finding means of long term support, and improving access to and flow of data and information for decision making, scientific advancement, and a sustainable future. In addition to AOS coordination, the Arctic Institute hosts and maintains the AOS webpages (www.arcticobserving.org), and provides the scientific and technical expertise to produce AOS-related documents and Summit reports.

2. Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic: AINA Research Associate and Professor of Anthropology, University of Calgary, Dr. S. Craig Gerlach is the lead author of Chapter 6, in Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic, "Human and Social Resilience in Bering, Beaufort and Chukchi Communities" and also a contributor to the policy brief that will accompany the final report.

3. AINA has been working with ICC Alaska since March 2016 to assist them in the development of a data management system that will enable drawing together and synthesis of walrus data from the various walrus monitoring programs in place in Alaska. In this initiative AINA will also work with ICC on the data synthesis component and an assessment of these various monitoring programs.

4. AINA conducted two studies on behalf of Environment Canada to assess the feasibility of implementing the CAFF Terrestrial Monitoring Plan in northern Canada through the network of northern research stations. The results of these studies have been forwarded to CAFF and are research facilities are looking for ways to implement and support some initial monitoring under the Plan. These reports are available at request from AINA.

If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's future plans for contributing to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups. Please highlight intentions to contribute to specific projects and to collaborate with Permanent Participants.

Upcoming Activities

1. International Arctic-Observing Assessment Framework Workshop, 12-13 January, Arlington: AINA is supporting the participation of subject matter expert, Dr. S. Craig Gerlach. This workshop is coordinated by the Technology Policy Institute, and SAON and sponsored by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.
2. AINA has developed a cell phone- and tablet based - monitoring tool in partnership with CANARIE Canada and several indigenous communities in Yukon and Northwest Territories. This tool, initially designed for monitoring caribou, can be expanded with little difficulty to provide an inexpensive, consistent approach to biodiversity monitoring more broadly. As such we are developing a version that can be beta-tested and have discussed the potential for doing this testing through the CAFF office in Iceland. We will provide CAFF with the tool early in 2017.
3. AINA is continuing to provide support for the AOS 2018. This includes organizing meetings, teleconference and workshops in advance, maintaining the AOS website and working directly with SAON, AMAP and IASC to develop the agenda, find the funding support, and similar.
4. AINA has applied to participate in the Arctic Remote Energy Network Academy (ARENA) an initiative of the SDWG and Polar Knowledge Canada. AINA Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Henry Penn has subject matter expertise in renewable energy and clean water solutions for rural Alaska and our participation in the Academy is designed to further build out our efforts to assist rural and remote northern communities in Canada develop clean approaches to combined heat, power and water delivery.
5. AINA will participate in the AC/AMAP/CAFF/SDWG/UArctic *International Conference on Arctic Science: Bringing Knowledge to Action*, in Reston Virginia, 24-27 April 2017.
6. AINA is working to support Inuit efforts to improve their access to scientific data and information, and to facilitate Inuit cyberinfrastructure development. To that end we have two multi-million dollar initiatives proposed to the federal granting agencies in Canada for development of both technologic and culturally interoperable cyberinfrastructure. If successful these projects will support the involvement of ICC Canada and Alaska, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in Canada.
7. AINA is also working to contribute to the efforts of the Emergency Preparedness and Response initiative through a recently funded study of the potential for bioremediation of oil and fuel spills in Canada's arctic waters. AINA is leading the stakeholder engagement pieces with the intent of among other things delivering to Arctic Council a report on stakeholder needs for information around bioremediation approaches.

If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered by the previous sections since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years.