

ARCTIC FUTURE

The Circumpolar International Internship Newsletter

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Arctic Resource Links

On Top of the World
www.ookpik.org

Northern Forum
www.northernforum.org

Inuit Circumpolar Conference
www.inuitcircumpolar.com

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
www.amap.no

Arctic Youth Impressions

Contest attracts entrants from throughout the north

Creativity was flowing in the circumpolar north this winter. Arctic youth between the ages of 12 and 25 submitted essays, poetry and photography to Arctic Youth Impressions for the chance to be published on the On Top of the World Web site (www.ookpik.org). Arctic Youth Impressions provides an opportunity for Arctic youth to share their thoughts, opinions and feelings about life in the Arctic. Entries were received in several different languages from youth across the circumpolar north addressing a broad range of issues, including climate change, education, the role of traditional knowledge and leadership. Response exceeded expectations. There were many outstanding entries and as many as possible will be posted throughout the year at www.ookpik.org.

People who submitted entries by February 28, 2005, were also entered into a draw to win one of three randomly chosen prizes of CDN\$250. Congratulations to the three winners: Erin Spoule from Yellowknife, NWT, Canada; Maria Ershova from Yakutsk, Russia; and Georgina Aklah from Taloyoak, Nunavut, Canada.



Arctic Youth
Impressions Entry
(Photography)

Early Spring

By Anna Zheleznaya
Murmansk Region, Russia

Checking in with Ambassador Anawak

By Ian Caldwell



Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Canada's Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Jack Anawak, who filled me in on his recent work.

Ambassador Anawak works with a broad range of institutions, governments and individuals—on regional and international levels—on important issues facing the north. For example, the Ambassador is a co-chair of the recently reactivated Arctic and North Working Group, which deals with northern issues shared by Canada and Russia, such as the environment and trade. As well, the Ambassador is the Canadian Senior Arctic Official to the Arctic Council. The council is composed of countries and international indigenous groups who work together toward the achievement of sustainable development in the north. Ambassador Anawak emphasized that the council operates by consensus, and works to make sure that action is taken on vital northern concerns.

A key product of the Arctic Council is the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, released in Reykjavik, Iceland, in November 2004. Ambassador Anawak sees this report as a vital part of the push for publicity on climate change in the north, and to impel countries around the world to begin to reduce the emissions that are causing global climate change.

Meeting these northern challenges requires strong northern leaders. The University of the Arctic is a key vehicle for developing new generations of leaders in the north, and it is an exciting time for the northern territories as no university north of 60° has ever existed before in Canada. However, while Ambassador Anawak has big hopes for the youth who will be the leaders of tomorrow, it is the broader goal of post-secondary education and capacity building that is most important. "We are not pushing the youth to be leaders," he said. "Instead, we are equipping them with the skills necessary to be leaders."

Ian Caldwell is currently working at the Stockholm Environment Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, as part of an internship with the International Institute for Sustainable Development Circumpolar Young Leaders Program. His internship is funded by Foreign Affairs Canada and International Trade Canada.

From Cowboys to Spaceships: A Conversation with Øystein Dahle

By Lauren E. Haney



I cannot help but feel some trepidation as I walk into the conference room of our Quarterly Board Meeting here at UNEP/GRID-Arendal to meet one of our Board of Directors—and my interviewee—Øystein Dahle.

I have been assured that he is a charming and kind man, and that despite his rather intimidating profile, he is "really quite down-to-earth." Mr. Dahle spent some 32 years working in the corporate sector for Esso/Exxon. Until 10 years ago, he was Vice President of Esso for Norway and the North Sea. For the past 17 years, Mr. Dahle has been Chairman of the Board for the Worldwatch Institute Norden and eventually assumed the same position in Washington. He is a true nature-lover (an inherently strong characteristic of Norwegian culture)—accurately reflected by his position as Board Chairman for the Norwegian Touring Association and for Organized Outdoor Life in Norway. An environmental visionary born in the corporate sector! And his experience reaches far beyond this brief account.

"It is not a lack of opportunity that hinders the progress of sustainability; it is lack of will. It is time for a major paradigm shift," he said. "One similar to the radical change of perspective that occurred when we realized the world was not flat."

Mr. Dahle and I move on to discuss cowboys and spaceships. He describes a development model, in which our civilization's history is said to have begun with a *cowboy economy*. In this framework, we had unlimited freedom to act because our

destructive capacity was very small compared to the capacity of nature to handle us. He argues that we have drifted very far from this point, toward a *spaceship economy*, in which we must accept that there are limitations to our freedom to act if we are to accommodate all the people in our closed system. “Resource consumption just has to come down,” he insists. This is indeed a radical ideological change that is required to adjust our current consumption patterns to consuming just 1/10 of what we do today. “Is this possible?” I ask doubtfully. “Yes, it’s possible,” he affirms without delay. “But it has to be recognized globally as a challenge and an objective.”

“Sustainability is a challenge. In my opinion, sustainable living will create a better world because there is less focus on money and more focus on relationships—with nature and with others. Currently we are material-rich and time-poor.”

To close, I asked Mr. Dahle to describe his role as a northern leader in sustainability. He tells me that his current objectives are accomplished through his role with Worldwatch. “I do not have political or corporate power, so my only way of having an impact is by providing credible information that policy-makers can use to change the direction of development.” He also plays a leadership role through promoting what he calls “The Well-Being Society.” It is a model by which he lives, promoting sustainable consumption and a manner of living that considers the truly important aspects of life. I find this interesting, as his model is strikingly similar to indigenous peoples’ way of life.

I decide not to ask Mr. Dahle about the most important attributes a northern leader in the field of sustainable development should have. After our conversation, I know the answer to this question. Øystein Dahle is an ever-optimistic man of vision, courage, will, open-mindedness and compassion. He is motivated by his reverence for nature, his regard for humankind and his faith in the human spirit.

Lauren E. Haney is currently working in the Polar Program at UNEP/GRID-Arendal in Norway as part of a Human Resources and Skills Development Canada-funded internship with the International Institute for Sustainable Development Circumpolar Young Leaders Program.

Making a Difference: An Interview with Brendan Bell

By Cherie Arrow



The Honourable Brendan Bell is the Minister of Resources, Wildlife & Economic Development (RWED) for the Northwest Territories in Canada and the MLA for Yellowknife South. As the Minister of RWED, Mr. Bell works with

Economic Development Initiatives, Industry Sectors, the Environment Protection Service and Devolution. The following excerpts are from an interview I conducted with the Brendan Bell in February 2005. The complete interview can be found on the On Top of the World Web site (www.ookpik.org).

What do you hope to accomplish by being a leader in the north?

I want to make sure that the voices of my constituents and people across the north are heard. At the forefront of our agenda, and what we need to achieve, is getting devolution over the responsibility for lands and resources that currently resides with the federal government. Achieving devolution of that authority to the public government of the Northwest Territories needs to be done in a shared manner with all of the aboriginal governments in the NWT. This is a significant challenge and there isn’t really a model in the rest of Canada to follow. We are talking about the sharing of that mandate and jurisdiction with First Nations government. That is not something typically done elsewhere. This is a huge challenge and we are breaking new trail.

What initiatives and projects has the government of the NWT taken to ensure sustainable development in the north?

Broadly, we achieve sustainable development in the promotion of sustainable development mandate in a number of different areas such as forest management; parks and tourism; and wildlife and fisheries. Specifically, we’ve done some things through developing the secondary industries in oil and gas and in diamonds to be able to benefit from the industries

and play a more sustainable role, as well as developing our economy with something that can have a lasting impact for northern people.

How can the government of the NWT build awareness of northern initiatives and opportunities among northern youth?

I think first off we can support and embark on educational awareness campaigns, most appropriately at junior high and high school levels. In the past we have sent senior NWT officials to the University of Calgary to hold presentations at the Arctic studies department, so I think that's another thing we can do. In addition, the University of the Arctic, with the introduction of circumpolar studies through Aurora College, is another area we can support to raise awareness of some of our northern issues.

What are your thoughts on the future of the north?

The future is amazingly bright for the north. We have very few people and immense untapped wealth. The challenge is to develop in a responsible manner and make certain that it is done sustainably to ensure that we are environmental stewards. You get one chance at this kind of opportunity. If we look at the past 100 or so years, we are left to deal with some ugly contaminated sites and have had to embark on clean-up efforts. It's very important that we learn from our history. I think it's important to pursue development in a more responsible manner. So as long as we are able to do that and be aware that there will be challenges, I think that we will be in very good shape.

Cherie Arrow is currently working at the University of the Arctic in Finland as part of a Human Resources Development Canada-funded internship with the International Institute for Sustainable Development Circumpolar Young Leaders Program.

A Dynamic Russian Young Leader

The Circumpolar Young Leaders program would like to welcome its newest intern, Serge Koinov. Serge will spend six months working at State Provincial Office of Lapland, Finland. When asked to comment on his upcoming placement, Serge replied that he is looking forward to meet-



Serge Koinov: Looking forward to making friends and learning new skills.

ing and befriending other people interested in sustainable development in the north and learning new skills to help him improve the lives of people living in the Beriozovsky district in Russia.

Serge is currently one of seven circumpolar young leaders embarking on international internships at sustainable development organizations across the circumpolar north.

For more information about the program or the current interns, visit www.iisd.org/interns/arctic

International Seminar on Youth Substance Abuse

The Northern Forum, the Yukon Government and the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation are pleased to announce an International Seminar on Youth Substance Abuse, to be held May 9–12, 2005, in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

The goal of the seminar is to contribute to healthier communities in the north through addressing prevention and intervention programs in youth substance abuse. Specifically, the seminar will focus on the following:

- Identifying best practices for intervention and prevention of youth substance abuse;
- Providing information about effective substance abuse reduction initiatives that can be replicated in northern communities;
- Training seminar participants in the establishment of sustainable, community-driven initiatives to address youth substance abuse; and

- Enhancing community efforts to promote and deliver effective substance abuse prevention strategies.

During the seminar the delegates will not only gain from best practices presentations, but they will also receive training in capacity building, and community-driven, participatory approaches to prevent youth substance abuse. Participation is open for community, indigenous, and youth leaders, healthcare providers, social workers and regional government representatives. For further information go to <http://www.northernforum.org>

Arctic Youth Impressions Entry (Poetry)

Arctic Warming

By Matthew Hardy
Yellowknife, NWT, Canada

Winters are becoming shorter
Population of Northern Species growing small
We humans are causing this
We continue this, nearly all will fall

We could easily stop this
Here is what we do
Reduce, reuse and recycle
And Global Warming will be through

If we set an example
Such as riding on a bus
The world will be a better place
Just do a little extra, don't make a fuss

Good luck saving the world
Remember to reduce, reuse and recycle
Every little bit helps
Such as instead of driving, cycle!

Upcoming Events

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) Senior Arctic Officials Meeting

<http://www.arctic-council.org/>
Moscow, Russian Federation
April 3–4, 2005

SAO Meeting

<http://www.arctic-council.org/>
Yakutsk, Russian Federation
April 6–7, 2005

7th University of the Arctic Meeting

<http://www.uarctic.org/>
Oulu, Finland
May 18–21, 2005

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