Arctic Community of Communities

Tony Penikett
In my last Anchorage presentation, I presented a security frame for a BIG small country such as Canada.
In the 1970s Justice Thomas Berger described two competing Arctic worldviews, Frontier and Homeland, in his famous report on the Mackenzie River Pipeline inquiry.

In the fifty years since, much has changed in the Arctic, starting with ANCSA, the Alaska Native land claims settlement, including climate.
1970:
A thousand years after the first Olympic Games, the first Arctic Winter games at Yellowknife revived Inuit games (one-foot-high kick and two-foot-high kick), and Dene sports (hand games and pole push).

Photograph by Pat Kane
1971: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), first modern or northern land claim settlement: $1 billion USD and 178,000 kms² in land
1975: James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, Canada’s first modern treaty.

Twenty modern treaties covering the northern 40% of Canada’s lands followed, with regional/Indigenous co-management of fish and game.

Grand Chief Billy Diamond

Waskaganish, Quebec Cree and Grand Council of the Crees
1979: Greenland achieved Home Rule, Self-Government in 2009, and it may become the Arctic’s first Indigenous nation state.
1987: the Bruntland Commission proposes “Sustainable Development”

Gro Harlem Bruntland
Three terms as Prime Minister of Norway
1987: Mikhail Gorbachev proposed the Arctic as a “Zone of Peace”

Mikhail Gorbachev
Former leader, Soviet Union / Nobel Peace Price winner
1989: Mauno Koivisto launches the “Finnish Initiative,” leading to the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS).
1996: Inuit leader Mary Simon negotiates “Permanent Participants” status for six international Indigenous organizations in the new Arctic Council forum.
2001: The world adopts the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to halt the contamination of Arctic food sources by POPs from southern industries.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier

Environmental, Cultural, and Human Rights Advocate
2005: Norway’s Finnmark Act provides County & Saami co-management of lands.

Pekka Aikio
Served three terms as President of the Sami Parliament
Nordic states and Sámi leaders are negotiating a Sami Convention, the first international treaty with Indigenous peoples.

Tiina Sanila-Aikio
Current President of Finland’s Sami Parliament
2019: Norway has a $1 trillion oil fund to build a post-oil economy.
Artists & writers bring Arctic stories to the world:

- Alva Aalto
- Manasie Akpaliapi (1)
- Robert Arthur Alexie
- Kenojuak Ashevak
- Pitseolak Ashoona
- Pierre Berton
- Olafur Eliasson
- Maxim Gorgy
- Björk Guðmundsdóttir (2)
- Ted Harrison
- Aka Høegh (3)
- Peter Høeg (4)
- Aki Kaurismäki
- Alma Katsu
- Jewel Kilcher
- Zacharias Kunuk
- Jack London
- Finn Lyne
- Henning Mankell
- Jo Nesbo
- Tahmoh Penikett (5)
- Robert Service
- Kirill Shamalov
- Jean Sibelius
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
- Viljalmur Stefansson (6)
- Sheila Watt-Cloutier
- Andrey Zvyagintsev
Against a global backdrop of growing income inequality: Power-mad autocrats in Africa, Asia and the Americas; Canada’s blackface embarrassment; Muslim Bans; Mexican Walls; plastic pollution; police brutality, can we imagine....
...along the shores of Arctic Ocean, the birth of a new civilization based on:

- reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and settler cities;
- democratic debate & dialogue;
- sustainability;
- climate crisis adaption; and,
- social peace, and a long view of immigration.
ARCTIC GENESIS

Over the last sixty years northerners have created something quite different in the Arctic, a community of communities, arrangements still under construction but well worth defending.
Thank You
Tsin’ii choh
Sarah Lahlil and Stephanie Yahsan Penikett with their grandmother Nelnah Bessie John