

# Policy Implications for Arctic Collaborations on Water and Sanitation



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# Rural Water and Sanitation in other Arctic Countries



# Cooperation on Arctic human health

## ❑ International Union for Circumpolar Health

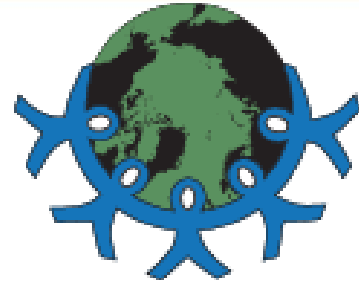
### ➤ Members:

- American Society for Circumpolar Health
- Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health
- Nordic Society for Arctic Medicine
- Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences
- Danish/Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health

### ➤ Working Groups:

- Birth Defects, Cancer, Environmental Health, Health Surveys, Indigenous peoples, Infectious Diseases, Injury Prevention, Occupational Safety & Health, Family health, HIV/AIDS & STDs, Tobacco & Health, Women's Health

### ➤ Triennial Congress ICCH16 Oulu Finland June 2016



# Cooperation on Arctic human health

## ❑ Arctic Council

- The Arctic Council is a high level intergovernmental forum for political and scientific discussion on issues common to the governments of the Arctic.
- Member states
  - Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Iceland, Norway Finland, Sweden, United States
- Permanent participants
  - Aleut International Assoc, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Qwich'n Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Saami Council
- Observers
  - Non Arctic states and international organizations (WHO, IUCH)



# Cooperation on Arctic human health

## ❑ Arctic Council Working Groups

- Arctic Contaminants Action Program
- Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna
- Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response
- Protection of the Marine Environment
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program
  - Human Health Assessment Group
- Sustainable Development
  - Human Health Experts Group

## ❑ Chairmanship rotates every 2 years

- Canada 2013-15
- US 2015-17





# Cooperation on Arctic human health

## ❑ US Arctic Research Commission

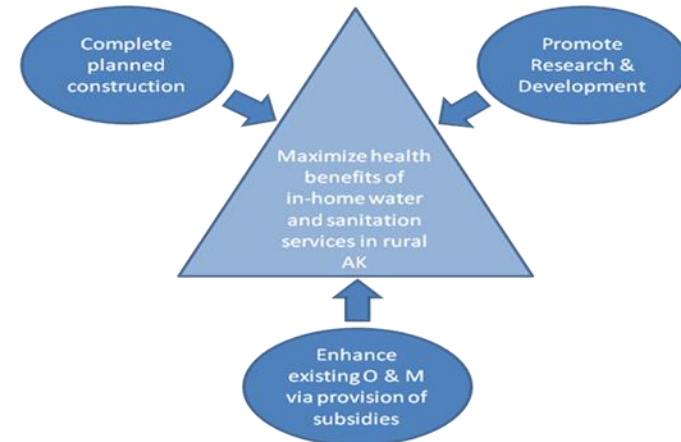
- Is an independent Federal agency
- Establishes goals and objectives for Arctic Research
- Priority area: Improve human health
  - Special Focus: Water Sanitation and human health
  - Coordinate the Alaska Rural Water and Sanitation WG



# Cooperation on Arctic human health

## ❑ Rural Alaska Water and Sanitation Work group

- Improve health by increasing water and sanitation services
- Participants
  - Alaska Native Tribal organizations
    - ANTHC, YKHC
  - State of Alaska
    - Department of Environmental Conservation
  - US Government Agencies
    - US Arctic Research Commission (coordinator)
    - CDC Arctic Investigations Program
    - Environmental Protection Agency
- Yearly workshops
  - Engineers, scientists, health experts, policy makers



# Alaska Rural Water and Sanitation Work group

## Current Activities

### ❑ **Water and Sanitation retrospective**

- Historical account of R & D in decentralized settings

### ❑ **Best practices for Alaska Washeteria Construction**

### ❑ **Healthy Alaskans 2020**

- Added rural water service as a Leading Health Indicator
  - “Increase the proportion of Alaskans with access to in-home water and wastewater services from 2010 baseline of 78% to 87%. ”

### ❑ **Arctic Council, US Chairmanship 2015-17**

- Promoting a water and sanitation human health theme





# Arctic Council US Chairmanship (2015-17)

## Human Health Proposal

### ❏ Objectives

- Host a circumpolar conference in Anchorage-summer 2016
  - Explore benefits, challenges and solutions associated with provision of adequate safe affordable sustainable water and sewer in Arctic & sub Arctic communities
- Showcase selected projects of the Alaska Water & Sewer challenge
- Human Health Assessment
  - Conduct a circumpolar assessment of current status of systems, water quality and quantity, regulatory frameworks, health impacts, and challenges posed by climate change.
- Publish Proceedings and a Report to Arctic Council Ministerial 2017

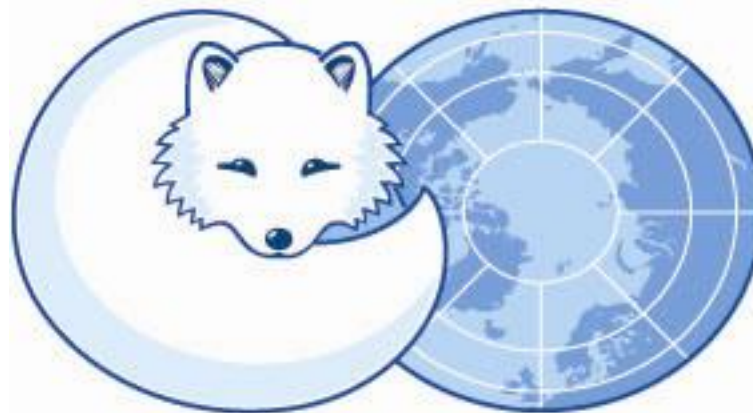


# Arctic Council US Chairmanship (2015-17)

## ❑ Policy Implications:

- Highlight potential impacts of climate change on water and sanitation infrastructure and health
- Greater visibility of the challenges to help policy makers and non government organizations assist and allocate funding future efforts
- Exchange of ideas regarding regulatory approaches and flexibility toward small community public health infrastructure.
- Springboard for further collaborative research and development that could lead to improved health and support sustainable development





ARCTIC COUNCIL

United States Chairmanship  
2015-2017