

NORTHERN NEWS

International Polar Year News

New funding for Canadian International Polar Year (IPY) activities has not yet been secured, but planning for a wide variety of national and international activities is continuing. A total of 260 Canadian pre-proposals (of almost 1000 internationally) have been submitted and these can be reviewed at www.ipy.org. The International Joint Committee for IPY has requested that full proposals, especially those for logistically intensive projects, be submitted by 30 June 2005. Other opportunities for submitting proposals will be available later in 2005. As well, the Canadian IPY Secretariat is seeking feedback on a number of initiatives, including a review of licence and permit requirements in the territories and provinces; a planning workshop on northern public health held in Whitehorse in April; and an inventory of northern research infrastructure, accessible through the Canadian IPY Interactive Map Server (CANIPY IMS). All of these documents can be accessed from www.ipy-api.ca or www.ualberta.ca/~ipy/. The IPY Secretariat has also been working with the Youth Science Foundation to develop opportunities for high school students to learn more about polar research and distributed posters at the recent national science fair in Vancouver. Finally, in May 2005, Ian R. Church, Senior Science Advisor in the Executive Council Offices, Government of Yukon, was selected as the chair of the Canadian IPY Steering Committee. The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for 20–21 September in Edmonton.

David S. Hik, Executive Director,
Canadian IPY Secretariat

Inuit Clothing Book Honoured

Sinews of Survival: The Living Legacy of Inuit Clothing, by Canadian ethnologist and AINA member Betty Kobayashi Issenman, was selected as one of the ten best anthropological books of all time by *Guardian Unlimited*, the web version of Britain's *Guardian* newspaper. Issenman's study of Inuit clothing, past and present, was published by the University of British Columbia Press in 1997. Betty Issenman is a research associate of the McCord Museum of Canadian History in Montreal.

Awards for Sheila Watt-Cloutier

In April 2005, AINA Fellow Sheila Watt-Cloutier was announced as the recipient of two highly prestigious awards. Ms. Watt-Cloutier, Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, was one of seven individuals recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as

"Champions of the Earth." UNEP's new global environment award recognizes the achievements of individuals and organizations in protecting and improving the environment. Ms. Watt-Cloutier is receiving the award in recognition of her extensive work on a global treaty to eliminate the use of persistent organic pollutants and her efforts to bring attention to the effects of global warming in the Arctic. For these same reasons, Ms. Watt-Cloutier will also receive the Norwegian-based Sophie Prize for 2005 at a ceremony in Oslo on 15 June. The Sophie Prize, established in 1997 by Norwegian author Jostein Gaarder and his wife, Siri Dannevig, is an international environmental award of US\$100,000 distributed annually by the Sophie Foundation.

NWT/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey

Researchers and travelers to the North who are interested in birds are encouraged to participate in the 2005 Northwest Territories/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey. Now in its 11th year, the survey is a program of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada. Checklist forms can be downloaded from www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/checklist.

AINA NEWS

Yukon Biodiversity Database

The Yukon Biodiversity Database, which describes more than 4200 publications and research projects about the biology of Yukon and the Beaufort Sea, is now available at www.aina.ucalgary.ca/yb.

The database was created for the Yukon Biodiversity Working Group by AINA's Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS). Funding for the database is provided by Foothills Pipe Lines Ltd. and the Yukon government's Development Assessment Process Branch.

The Yukon Biodiversity Database includes publications of all types, including grey literature, covering all aspects of all living things except humans, as well as nonhuman palaeontology and the environmental impacts of human activities. The database's coverage of research projects is based on information from Yukon-Canada Scientists and Explorers Act Licenses issued since 1982.

The Yukon Biodiversity Database is not yet comprehensive. Its coverage includes the publications and projects already in the ASTIS database, plus the results of efforts by the Yukon Biodiversity Working Group since the spring of 2004 to identify and fill high-priority gaps. Our goal is to continue filling gaps and make the database more comprehensive over a period of several years.

Suggestions for improvements to the Yukon Biodiversity Database are welcome.