

December 21, 2020

## **OPEN CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

### **UARCTIC INDIGENOUS ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

UArctic's Nominations Committee kindly requests UArctic member institutions and organisations to come forward with proposals for individuals who could serve as members of UArctic's Indigenous Issues Committee.

The scope of the Committee's mandate is defined by UArctic's values, goals, and organizational principles as follows:

- *UArctic promotes relationships of respect, trust, and partnership, and embraces the perspectives and knowledge of northern Indigenous peoples.*
- *UArctic builds, shares, and applies knowledge through member contributions and collaboration, in research and science as well as Indigenous and traditional knowledge;*
- *UArctic recognizes our specific commitment towards northern Indigenous peoples, and respect for their cultures, languages, traditional knowledge, and world views.*

To this end, UArctic's Indigenous Issues Committee serves to provide the oversight and advice needed to ensure that our networking activities are inclusive of circumpolar Indigenous perspectives. In addition, the committee serves as a forum for Indigenous representatives from UArctic's membership, and it strives to secure appropriate awareness in UArctic by promoting activities that encourage personal, social, intellectual, and cultural interactions between Indigenous students and faculty and the circumpolar community. The [Indigenous Issues Committee - Rules of Procedure](#) outline in more detail the committee's responsibilities, composition, and workload.

UArctic's Vice-President Indigenous, Rebecca Mearns serves as Secretary of the Indigenous Issues Committee, while the committee itself has a consultative role in providing advice and support to the Vice-President.

Each Committee of the Assembly consists of a chair and members elected by Assembly members, with each committee member elected for a three-year term, renewable once. The [current members of the Indigenous Issues Committee are](#) [see link], however all three members from North-America (Canada and USA) will end their terms on the committee in May 2021. Therefore, with this call we seek to fill those vacancies, and welcome in particular, nominations from Canada, Iceland, Kingdom of Denmark, Russian Federation, Sweden, and the USA.

In seeking new committee members, the aim is to have representation from a diversity of Indigenous groups in the Arctic region, while seeking broad geographic representation and gender balance. *Annex I* (below) provides further nomination and selection process details.

UArctic Members are now invited to submit nominations to the Nominations Committee - Secretary, Outi Snellman [Outi.Snellman@uarctic.org](mailto:Outi.Snellman@uarctic.org) by **February 1, 2021**.

Thank you for your engagement.



**Outi Snellman**

Vice-President Organisation  
UArctic International Secretariat

## **UArctic Bylaws – Section 3.1.3 – Committees of the Assembly of UArctic**

The Committees of the Assembly are the Membership Committee, Nominations Committee; and the Indigenous Issues Committee. Together, the Officers of the Assembly and the chairs of individual Committees form the Assembly Executive Committee (Toyon).

The Assembly is empowered to create other Committees to address the Assembly's general responsibilities. When a new committee is formed, the chair and members are appointed by the Chair of the Assembly based on Assembly nominations. Those serving on committees are normally member representatives or alternate representatives of the Assembly. A Committee Chair may, however, appoint other individuals to serve on a committee in cases where they bring needed expertise. Initial appointments are subject to ratification by the Assembly. Subsequent committee chairs and members will be elected by the Assembly from nominations made by the Nominations Committee. Nominations may also be made by any member at any meeting in which an election takes place. Each committee member is elected for a three-year term, renewable once.

Each Assembly committee develops its own rules of procedure, which outline in more detail their composition, procedures and responsibilities.

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## **2021 Indigenous Issues Committee Nominations and Selection Process**

Nominations and the subsequent selection of new members to UArctic's Indigenous Issues Committee will be handled as follows:

1. An open call for nominations will be made to all UArctic member institutions and organisations.
2. Nominated individuals must have an Arctic Indigenous background, and should be engaged members of their community, with preferably a good understanding of education and research issues in their respective regions. Consideration will also be given to community elders, as well as senior students enrolled at a UArctic higher education member institution.
3. Submissions for nominations are to include:
  - a) the nominees' full name, gender, nationality and cultural background;
  - b) e-mail address and phone number;
  - c) CV or short biography; and a
  - d) Written statement of interest from the nominee (maximum 200-300 words).
4. The deadline for nominations is **February 1, 2021**. Soon afterwards the Nominations Committee will review all nominations and develop an initial slate of candidates. Those included in the initial slate will be contacted to ascertain their willingness to serve and to obtain additional information about their qualifications (if needed).
5. In the weeks following the deadline, and based on the slate of nominations received, the members of the Assembly Executive Committee (Toyon) will confirm the candidate(s) whose nomination will go forward to the Assembly for a final vote. All candidates will be contact and informed of their status.
6. The final proposal on nominations to the Assembly will be prepared by the Assembly Executive Committee in time for a final decision at the May 2020 meeting of the Assembly of UArctic.