

The importance of Indigenous peoples in the Barents cooperation



MS. INE ERIKSEN SØREIDE

Ms. Eriksen Søreide is currently serving as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway. She served as Minister of Defence from 2013 to 2017. Prior to this, she served as member of the Storting (Norwegian parliament) for 12 years. From 2009 to 2013, she chaired the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. In the same period, she was also Head of the Delegation for Relations with the European Parliament as well as Head of the European Consultative Committee. Ms. Eriksen Søreide

has a graduate degree in Law from the University of Tromsø.



MS. AILI KESKITALO

Ms. Keskitalo is the current president of the Sámi Parliament in Norway for the term 2017-2021. She lives in Guovdageaidnu. Keskitalo has represented Norwegian Sámi Association (NSR) at the Sámi Parliament since 2005. She was elected the first female president in 2005. Ms. Keskitalo has a master's degree in Public Administration from Copenhagen Business School.



MS. HELENE HELLMARK KNUTSSON

Ms. Knutsson is serving as the Head of County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, a position she has held since August 2020. Prior to this, she was a member of the Swedish Parliament, working as the deputy chair of the Committee of Industry and Trade between 2019-2020. From 2014 to 2020, she held the position of minister for Higher Education and Research in the Swedish government. She studied history, economics, and statistics at the University of Stockholm.

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MR. MICHAEL MANN

Mr. Mann has been EU Special Envoy for Arctic matters since April 1, 2020. Prior to that, he spent two and a half years as the EU's Ambassador to Iceland. Between 2011 and 2017, he was head of Strategic Communications at the European External Action Service, doubling up as Chief Spokesperson to High Representative/Vice President Catherine Ashton from 2011 to 2014. Mr Mann worked as a European Commission Spokesperson between 2002 and 2011, covering a wide range of portfolios. He began his career in Brussels as a journalist, working for the Financial Times, Reuters, and Bloomberg News, among other media.



MS. MALIN BRÄNNKÄRR

Ms. Brännkär has served as State Secretary to the Minister of Justice of Finland since 2019. Prior to this position, she worked as a municipal manager in Kronoby municipality, Finland, between 2016-2019, as a senior advisor in the Swedish parliamentary group between 2015-2016 and as special advisor to the ministerial working group in Ministry of Defence between 2014-2015. From 2011 to 2014, she worked as a special advisor to the Minister of Justice. Ms. Brännkär holds a master's degree in Law from the University of Helsinki.



MR. TUOMAS ASLAK JUUSO

Tuomas Aslak Juuso, or Gáijjot Ánte Issáha Duommá, is the President of the Sámi Parliament in Finland. Before he was elected as a President in 2020, Juuso was elected the 2nd Vice President of the Sámi Parliament for the parliamentary term 2016-2019 and had actively worked for the rights of indigenous peoples for more than 15 years. Juuso has chaired the United Nations (UN) Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, been a member of the Global Indigenous Coordination Working group of the UN world Conference on Indigenous People and been promoting the rights of indigenous peoples in many other ways, such as by negotiating at the UN level.

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MR. JONAS ERLINGUR JONASSON

Mr. Jonasson currently holds the position of Director General within the Directorate for Bilateral and Regional Affairs in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland. Within the Foreign Ministry, he has previously worked as Director General of the Directorate for International Development Cooperation (2019), Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (2018) as well as the Permanent Representative of Iceland to FAO, WFP and IFAD (2014-2018) among other positions. Between 1987 and 1992, he worked in the private sector. Mr. Jonasson holds a master's degree in Ecology and population genetics from the University of Oslo.



MR. TIMUR TSYBIKOV

Mr. Tsybikov currently serves as Head of the Department of State Policy in Inter-ethnic Relations within the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs. He has previously worked as Minister of Culture of the Republic of Buryatia and been a member of the Government of the Republic of Buryatia. He has also held positions within the private sector and academia. Mr. Tsybikov has a master's degree from the Russian Presidential Academy of Public Administration in Moscow.



MR. YURI KHANTAZEYSKIY

Mr. Khantazeyskiy is currently serving as the Vice President of Raipon on the north-western federal district and as President of Nenets people NGO "Yasavey". He has held the position of Deputy Head of the Administration of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug (NAO) for the Affairs of the Nenets and other small-numbered peoples of the North since 2013. Mr. Khantazeyskiy previously headed the Directorate for the Affairs of Indigenous Minorities of the Far North and Traditional Activities of the Administration of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Mr. Khantazeyskiy has a degree in State and Municipal Administration from the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration.

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MS. HELENE ÖBERG

Ms. Öberg has served as State Secretary in the Ministry of Culture in Sweden since 2019. Between 2014-2019, she served as State Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Research. She has previously worked as County Council Commissioner for the Swedish Green Party in the Stockholm County Council (2014), as a convener on National Board of the Swedish Green Party (2011-2014) and as a group leader for Swedish Green Party in the Stockholm County Council (2010–2014).



MR. PER OLAF NUTTI

Mr. Nutti, whose Sami name is Ella Nilsa Biete Ber Ovlá, has served as president of the Sami Parliament of Sweden since 2017. He has previously served as a member of the Saami Council between 2011-2015, and as member and vice president of the Sami Parliament of Sweden between 2013-2017. He has also served as chairman of Kónkämä Sami village in three rounds during the years 1989-2006. Mr. Nutti has devoted himself to reindeer herding all his life and is an avid artist, craftsman, and fisherman.



MR. NIKITA AGEEV

Mr. Ageev, a Kildin Sami, is currently serving as a member of the Barents Regional Youth Council. He is also a member of the Kola Sami Association and a member of the Sami youth organization “Sami Nurash”. He actively participates in the life of the Sami youth in the Kola region. Mr. Ageev is an active user of the Kildin Sami language, and currently studies philosophy at the Herzen Russian State Pedagogical University.

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MR. YURI BEZDUDNYJ

Governor Bezdudnyj has served as the governor of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug since September 2020. Between April and September 2020, he worked as acting governor of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. He has previously held the positions of Deputy Governor of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug (2019-2020), Deputy Head of Administration, Odintsovo Municipal District of Moscow (2014-2019), Vice President of Interactive Bank LLC (2013-2014), Deputy Head of the Bryansk City Administration (2007-2012). From 1987 to 2007, he worked for the military service in the State Security agencies. Mr. Bezdudnyj has a Master of Business Administration.



MR. TOMAS NORVOLL

Mr. Norvoll is serving as Chair County Council of Nordland, Norway, a position he has held since 2013. In 1993, he was elected to the Norwegian Parliament representing the Labour Party and served two terms. After his time in the Parliament, he worked as a senior adviser in the private sector. In 2011, Mr. Norvoll was elected to the County Council. He studied public politics and administration in Tromsø.



MR. MIKA RIIPI

Mr. Riipi is the County Governor of the Regional Council of Lapland. He started in this position on March 1, 2013. He has previously been the Mayor in Posio, town secretary in Haapavesi and senior adviser in the Municipality department at the Ministry of the Interior.