

Case Study

Strengthening Indigenous Culture in Russia

Outside of the career opportunities, consultation, and environmental training associated with our operations in Chukotka, Kinross supports a broad range of social development initiatives to help local indigenous peoples strengthen and preserve their culture. Many of these are focused on revitalizing native languages of the Chukotka indigenous peoples. With support from the Kupol Foundation, educational and teaching aids, dictionaries and fiction books have been published in the Chukchi, Eskimo and Even languages. Key results from projects supported by the Kupol Foundation in 2016 and 2017 include:

- A learning guide publication for the Chukchi language that has been delivered to schools in all settlements of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug to implement Chukchi language courses
- Two public organizations – the Rodnoye Slovo (native word) society and the Inuit Subpolar Union of Chukotka – that conduct courses in the Chukchi and Eskimo languages. An Eskimo video lesson DVD was released as part of the Learning to Speak Eskimo project
- The compilation of various dictionaries was completed in co-operation with Russian universities, the Linguistics Research Institute at the Russian Academy of Sciences and linguistic experts from different



“Chukotka residents have become very interested in the Eskimo (Naukan) language courses. Those who signed up for the course attended it with great enthusiasm, and they successfully mastered a very difficult curriculum.” **A project participant**

countries. These include Chukchi, Eskimo, Russian, French, and English languages, in both physical and online formats (<http://chukdict.com/>)

- Three books were awarded prizes at the Yuri Rytkheu XII open literature contest: the “Publicist” for the section first prize won the Alexander Nefedkin award with a historical study of Chukotka; the second award “Spring at Oloy” was won by Grigory Tynankergav; and, in the “Prose” section, the third award was given to “The Polar Bear genus” by Sergey Kovry
- The “Erakor” reindeer herders festival has become an annual Chukotka event uniting 1,000 participants from all across Chukotka for trade between herders and sea hunters,

exchange of experience and traditional reindeer races. The 2018 meeting had 67 participants in the races

- A mini-factory for the manufacture of traditional clothes was started in the Keperveem settlement. Providing employment for three people, the factory is processing reindeer skins for sale and produces winter clothes for farmers, herders and hunters. In 2018, an expansion is planned for the facility and it will employ more people as the market demand for the clothes is high. “We are the only business sewing clothes of reindeer skins in more or less commercial quantities and volumes. There are no businesses such as this across Chukotka,” says Viktoriya Sitarova. To learn more (Russian only) see <http://prochukotku.ru/20180413/5821.html>.

Empowering Communities

On the 2017 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the first-ever Northern Games Competition was held at the Kupol mine, organized by the Committee of Indigenous Peoples at the site.

The Northern Games are hugely popular across the region and feature various disciplines, including axe throwing, pole pulling, triple jump, chaat (leather lasso) throwing, wrestling and jumping over a sledge. The Games were attended by

distinguished guests including elders from Ilirney village and herders of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug. These educational and cultural programs help to preserve and promote the indigenous cultures of the North, contributing to good health and well-being (SDG 3), and demonstrate the inclusion of indigenous peoples within the Company.

"We are very honoured and excited to take part in this event. I am glad to see so many contestants

and fans. Northern Games are a tradition of our people, our region; it is very important to preserve them for future generations," said Konstantin Kautvu, special guest, elder from Ilirney village.

"The fact that Kinross Gold employs indigenous peoples, such as Chukchi, Eveny, Chuvans, and Eskimos, makes me proud." Indigenous employee

[Watch the video.](#) 