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# MAKIVIK NEWS

ᐱᕈᐱᐱᐱᐱ WINTER 1994/95 ISSUE ᐱᕈᐱᐱᐱᐱ 33

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## The Evolving Shape of Inuit Culture



# LPAD<

# MAKIVIK NEWS

WINTER 1994/95 ISSUE 33

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BOB MESHNER

Danny Echaloak gets some instruction from Daniellie Aculiak on igloo construction. But Inuit culture, which is alive and healthy in Nunavik, includes more than learning traditional skills. Stories pages 5-31.

### What is this?

## CONTEST

Identify what this strange looking thing is. Write down what you think it is on a **POSTCARD**. (No faxes or phone calls. Entries must be mailed.)

**JOM 1M0**

February 24, 1995.

### BONUS PRIZES!

2 superb T-shirts from the movie *Kabloonak*, and 2 *Kabloonak* photos as seen on page 12.



BOB MESHNER

You could win \$100 if you identify what this strange looking thing is. Write down what you think it is on a **POSTCARD**. (No faxes or phone calls. Entries must be mailed.)

Mail to:  
**Makivik News Contest, Inukjuak, P.Q. JOM 1M0**

Drawing will be held in Inukjuak on Friday February 24th, 1995.

## CONTEST WINNERS

Identifying these water supply pipes. *Kabloonak* posters and T-shirts were won by Lizzie Gordon, Jobie Nungaq, Alicee Nowra, and Minnie Kasudluak.



BOB MESHNER

Paulusie Lucassie of Kangirsuk won \$100 by identifying these water supply pipes. *Kabloonak* posters and T-shirts were won by Lizzie Gordon, Jobie Nungaq, Alicee Nowra, and Minnie Kasudluak.



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**Mary Palliser, President of the Avataq Cultural Institute since August 1992, is seen here inside the Inukjuak museum. She was re-elected Avataq President December 2nd. Story and photos by Bob Mesher. Drawings by Tumasie Kudluk, courtesy of Avataq Cultural Institute.**

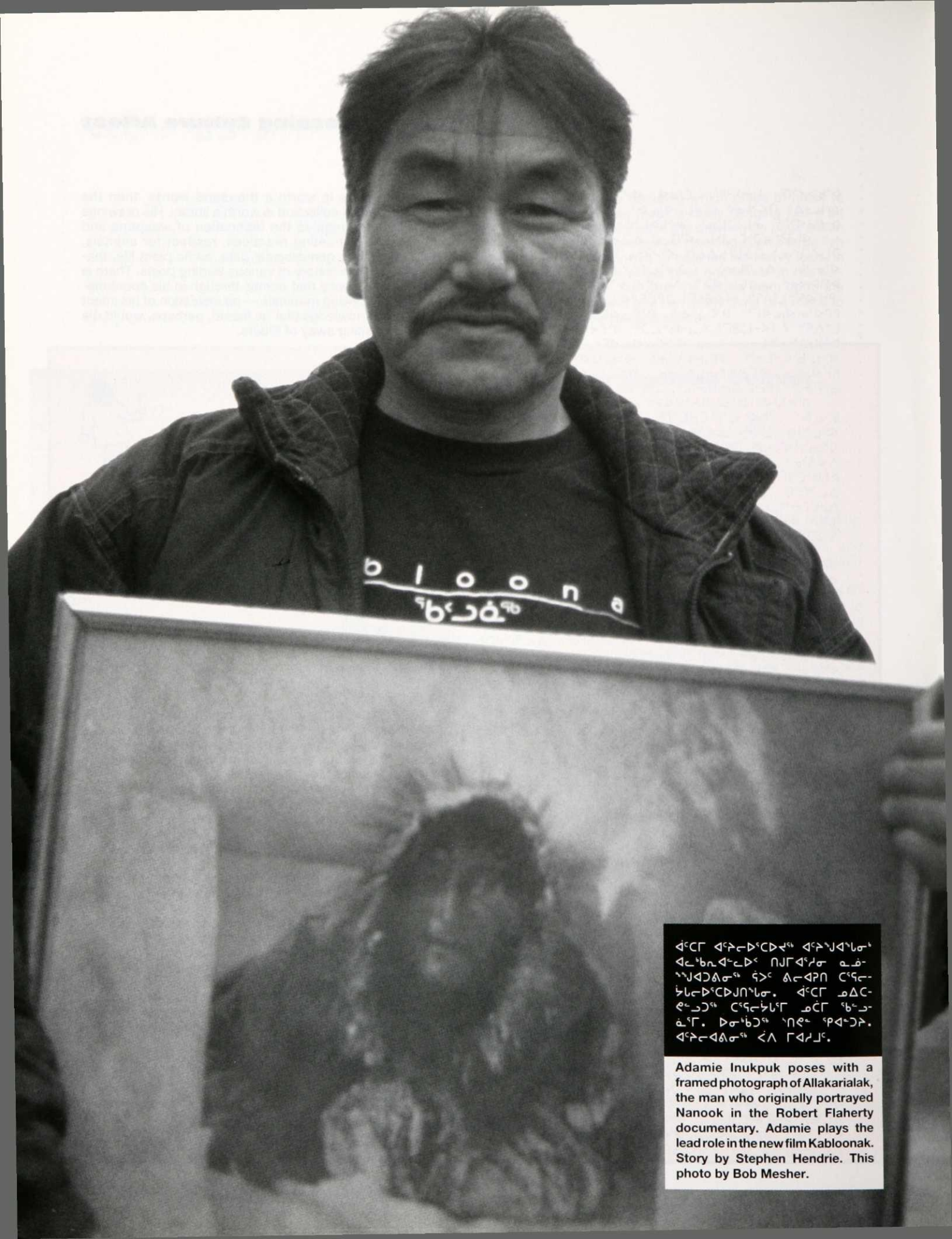












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Adamie Inukpuk poses with a framed photograph of Allakarialak, the man who originally portrayed Nanook in the Robert Flaherty documentary. Adamie plays the lead role in the new film Kabloonak. Story by Stephen Hendrie. This photo by Bob Mesher.













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Elisapee Inukpuk provides a learning experience for these girls who observe how Inuit dolls are made. Story and photos by Bob Mesher.











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# Puvirnituk's Monumental Masterpiece



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Peter Boy Ittukalak carving the cover design of Taamusi Qumaq's dictionary into his granite masterpiece of a mother and her child. Story and photos by Bob Mesher.









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Yup'ik Chuna McIntyre from Alaska performs a drum dance accompanied by Marie Meade, during the World Inuit Artist's Showcase held in Inukjuak August 4-5, 1994. Story and Photos by Stephen Hendrie.













# Constitutionally Speaking

The last time we published this column was exactly two years ago (*Makivik News* #25, Winter 1992/93). The Charlottetown Accord had died a miserable death in a resounding 'No' vote nation-wide, save for the Inuit Arctic region, where the opinion was overwhelmingly on the 'Yes' side. "Yes, we want a renewed Canada," the Inuit said in unison. So the debate is back, in another guise, though not so unfamiliar that we can't recognise it.

To re-cap. Charlottetown was voted down in October 1992 in a national referendum. The federal Tories went down to the worst electoral defeat in Canadian history a year later. Jean Chrétien was elected Prime Minister of Canada with a majority Liberal government, while the Bloc Québécois formed the official opposition. Chrétien promised that he wouldn't talk about the Constitution. Now it looks like he might have to. More recently, in Quebec, the separatist Parti Québécois won the provincial election on September 12th by a much slimmer margin than they had expected. They ran on a clear platform of independence, and thus we have the return of the constitutional debate.

In the few months since the PQ election, the statements that have emerged from Premier Parizeau make it clear that he intends to stick to the agenda to hold a referendum on the question of Quebec sovereignty sometime in 1995, which is what the party said it would do during the election campaign.

In Nunavik, Inuit are revisiting territory they have been to in 1980 when the first referendum on independence was held. At that time Inuit held their own referendum. At the time of writing, there has been no decision as to whether this will repeat itself, as there has yet to be an announcement from Quebec for the date of the referendum.

More pressing on the Inuit Agenda are the day-to-day matters germane to eking out a living in Nunavik. In the years since the 1980 referendum, the Inuit organizations have matured and developed to the point where they are the engines of the economic, social, and political development of the region. To this end the achievements are numerous, and progress, albeit slow, is measurable. For its part, Makivik has maintained the funds for the beneficiaries of Nunavik, and has created and managed new subsidiary companies well enough that they make some profit.

Currently on the agenda for Makivik are a series of formal negotiations relating to development and political projects. These include talks with Falconbridge Limited regarding the Raglan Nickel Mine, Hydro-Québec regarding the proposed Great Whale project, the Government of Canada regarding the Inuit of Nunavik claim to the off-

shore areas of Northern Quebec, and the Quebec Government regarding the creation of a Nunavik Assembly.

There are other series of negotiations that Makivik is working on, but these are the main ones, and have been worked on steadily for many years. With the election of the Parti-Québécois to power, and its publicly stated desire to hold a referendum, the Inuit Agenda is being subjected to all sorts of pressure to speed up, shift gears, go this way or that way—as is usually the case when the South wants to make a big decision.

The proposed Great Whale Hydro project is a case in point. Makivik followed a practical path regarding this project, never publicly opposing or supporting Great Whale. Its goal was to obtain as much information about the project as possible, both in its direct negotiations

with Hydro-Québec, and in its participation in the environmental review process. Readers will recall that Makivik signed an Agreement-in-Principle on April 14th, 1994. Suddenly, on Friday the 18th of November, Premier Jacques Parizeau announced that the project would be put "on ice" indefinitely. Parizeau made the remarks in the context of an emotional rebuke to statements made earlier that day in Washington by Cree Chief Matthew Coon-Come. Although put "on ice" indefinitely, the project was not canceled. For this reason, Makivik will continue its work towards negotiating a Final Agreement with Hydro-Quebec, as well as participating in the Environmental Review Process until the project has officially been canceled, and both Hydro-Québec, and the Environmental Review Committees have been formally notified.

Based on the conflicting response of some government ministers, union leaders, and business groups, the decision to shelve Great Whale was clearly part of a political agenda geared towards preparing the terrain for the upcoming referendum. While Quebec is renovating its agenda, Inuit continue with the business of developing their region.

Inuit did not make frequent boisterous declarations during the Quebec election campaign, or in the months following the election of the PQ. Makivik intends to consult with the population, and with the leaders of all Nunavik organizations before making the sort of grand declarations that southern reporters are hoping for.

So far, Makivik has publicly stated that it intends to carry on with its agenda, as noted above. It has also stated that Inuit would prefer a united Canada. This should come as no surprise to anyone, considering the history of political relations between Inuit and southern governments.

Welcome back to the debate. Merry Christmas. ☺



















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SYLVIA CLOUTIER

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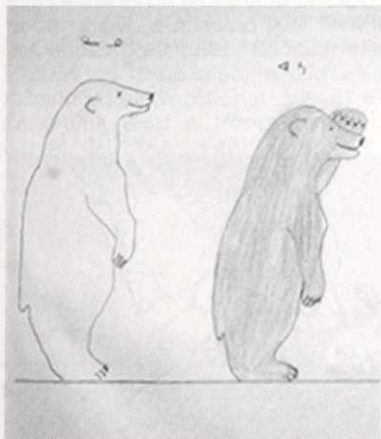
# YOUTH

## National Inuit Youth Conference

By Sylvia Cloutier

**O**n November 18th, 1994, Inuit youth from all regions of northern Canada gathered in Kuujuaq for the first ever National Inuit Youth Conference—the beginning of a great movement in working together towards the destination of a more prosperous future.

Today, this generation of youth, from their teen years to age twenty-five, are very realistic when it comes to making positive changes for the well being of our communities. Let's not forget our culture which could slowly fade away in time if we do not work towards our goal to preserve it. Let's believe in ourselves as Inuit youth to create some new ways as well as to bring back some old remedies to solve our problems and to heal ourselves. Let's make a better life for ourselves as well as for our Elders and children. We have the strength to



AVATAQ COLLECTION TK / A-15

make a difference. These are the aspirations that the delegates passionately spoke about.

During the conference, discussions were held to find solutions to the problems that we, the Inuit, face every day. Effective guest speakers



SYLVIA CLOUTIER

Newly elected National Inuit Youth Association (L-R): Karen Ketler, Tunu Napartuk, Moses Aupaluktuk.

were chosen to share their experiences about specific matters which provided ideas for discussion, helped us to understand, and broadened our minds.

The first theme of the conference was "The rights of the child", based upon a United Nations report. It stated that a child is entitled to survival, protection, and development. This convention was introduced by Brian Hill from the Canadian Youth Foundation. He asked the delegates to indicate positive and negative aspects of their communities. Several important points were mentioned, all of which affect the young Inuit of today.

Even though there were more negative than positive issues, recognizing these matters is a step towards improvement and change. These issues are considered as problems to the communities and are in definite need of solutions. The loss of language and traditional culture, the gap between the youth and the Elders, school drop outs (due to pregnancy as well as other reasons), suicide, substance abuse, STD's, boredom, teenage pregnancy, dealing with unsupportive adults, being caught between two worlds, youth unemployment, crime, and the lack of independence were some of the problems discussed.

Some of the good things that were mentioned included the encouragement to obtain an education, opportunity for self-government, political involvement for youth, cultural restoration (pride!), community organizations' willingness to listen, and the healing circles. Another important point that

a delegate spoke about during a personal interview was the fact that this new formation of a National Youth Association will be a breakthrough towards the recognition of Inuit youth on a political level. This brings great hope and aspiration to the minds and hearts of our young people across the North—knowing they will be heard, supported, and taken seriously by the governments and other important organizations. These positive points are to be encouraged and developed.

The idea of leadership training for youth as well as parents seems to be one of the solutions to preventing low self-esteem and social dilemmas in the communities. Workshops should encourage confidence and pride in the lives of the Inuit leaders of the future. George Berthe believes "We are all leaders and we need a change from our Qallunaat to Inuit leadership in order to start taking control."

When the theme of education was brought up, Sheila Watt Cloutier was very encouraging as she let it be known that the Inuit youth have the true potential to govern themselves. She stressed the importance of changing the educational system from one that was adopted from the Southern culture to a new system to suit, gratify, and honour the Inuit culture. One of the problems mentioned was that of young Inuit getting pregnant, having children, and then being unable to attend school. This issue is quite common and the delegates believe it must be supported.

Health is another major youth issue in terms of the awareness and







# YOUTH

## Training to Play

It is great to have a new arena or community centre in town, but it takes a person with skills in recreation to bring the place to life. The Kativik School Board (KSB) and Makivik both recognize this fact, and have been working in collaboration with young people to develop professional "Recreation Animators", and Youth Agents, respectively. The course was commissioned by the Kativik Regional Government.

KSB has created a two-year Community Recreation Program that aims to develop the skills in young people to animate the sports facilities built over the past five years. For its part, Makivik has been supporting youth for the past two years with the Training and Youth Department, and the support of Youth Agents in the three

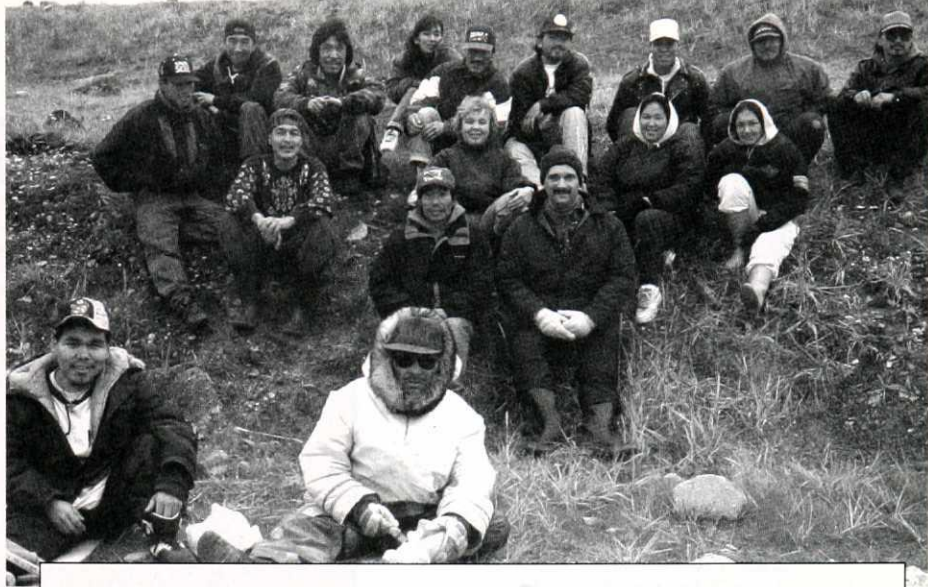


LISE COUTURE / KSB

Nunavik Communities of Kuujjuarapik, Kangirsuk, and Salluit.

Lise Couture, KSB's Coordinator for the Recreation Animation Program, started it with several courses held in Salluit during the month of October. The instructors were Linda Kupp and Guy Delorme. Makivik's Youth Co-

LINDA KUPP



ordinar Sarah Airo, and Bertran Michaud contributed their knowledge during part of the course. Students from ten communities took part.

It becomes clear from talking with Sarah and Bert that recreation goes well beyond mere hockey games or volleyball. Recreation Animation has become a profession, and our headline, *Training to Play*, sums it up in the sense that a professional animator will learn not only many new games, but also how to motivate people to play them, and more importantly, which ones the community is best suited to. Elders won't be interested in playing hockey, as youth will be, and some youth may not be interested in kamik sewing. A recreation animator will know this and tailor activities for the target groups.

Sarah and Bert spoke about some alternatives to hockey that are currently in the works as a result of this course. There is talk of hosting cinema projections, of working with TNI on a small scale and producing short TV programs. Christmas activities will become the domain of recreation animators, as Christmas is always filled with games. For youth, the organization of picnics, dances, bonfires, and other outdoor activities are

some alternatives to hockey and volleyball.

The courses included the technical aspects of being an animator, such as communicating, using a computer, writing reports, and operating all manner of office equipment. The course descriptions show that the program is completely tailored to Nunavik. One course was called *Family and General Population Clienteles and Recreation Programs*. The description reads, "Understand family and general population characteristics, interests, needs, etc.; be informed about mass recreation activities in Nunavik (Christmas, Canada Day, Easter etc.), be able to organize Christmas activities, to build an event schedule."

Other titles include, *Art Programs in the Municipality, Inuit Culture and Recreation*, and *General and Northern Trends in Recreation*. Asked what the 16 participants would come away with from attending module one (of five in 94/95), Sarah and Bert replied by saying that as a first step, the prospective Animators would take a more analytical look at the people in their communities with a view to discovering what people really want in terms of recreation, and then design programs for them. Sarah Airo says, "They all have new ideas of their own."











