



Summer Research

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Chesley Mesher weighs fish as part of ongoing research to monitor wildlife. Kuujuaq researchers were also busy studying beluga whales this summer. Story by Bob Mesher. Photo by Gregory Kaminski.



YOUTH

Second World Indigenous Youth Conference

By Sarah Airo

Darwin, Australia was the location for the Second World Indigenous Youth Conference this year. The conference was hosted by the Larakia aboriginal people from Darwin, Northern Territory of Australia.

Indigenous people from 29 countries attended the meeting from July 5th to July 11th of 1993. Ten Inuit people represented Nunavik: Brenda Epoo, Aloupa Kulula, Larry Watt, George Berthe, Sapina Snowball, Sarah Airo, Sylvia Cloutier, Sheila Cloutier, Tunu Napartuk, and Charlie Arngak. Jimi Onalik from Rankin Inlet, NWT also participated with the Nunavik group. Makivik Coordinator-Trainer Bertran Michaud was the animator for the whole trip.



Inuktitut text describing the group photo, mentioning individuals like Tunu Napartuk, Jimmy Onalik, Sapina Snowball, Aloupa Kulula, Brenda Epoo, George Berthe, Sylvia Cloutier, Larry Watt, Sheila Cloutier, Sara Airo, Park Ranger, Bertran Michaud.

Nunavik Youth travelers downunder posing at Kakadu Park in front of ancient aboriginal drawing on rock (front L-R): Tunu Napartuk, Jimmy Onalik, Sapina Snowball, Aloupa Kulula, Brenda Epoo (behind Aloupa), George Berthe, (rear L-R): Sylvia Cloutier, Larry Watt, Sheila Cloutier, Sara Airo, Park Ranger, Bertran Michaud.

Each day Keynote speakers gave an extensive international perspective on various topics, and placed the issues into general historical and political context. Two youth speakers gave a youth perspective on the issues raised. The meeting took place at a large gymnasium called the Marrara stadium. Traditional and Cultural aboriginal performances were also held every

ference but I will refer to some of the major topics under them which I thought were important. The major issues that were brought up were: Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Social Issues, Indigenous Women and Society, Culture and Education, and the Environment and Development.

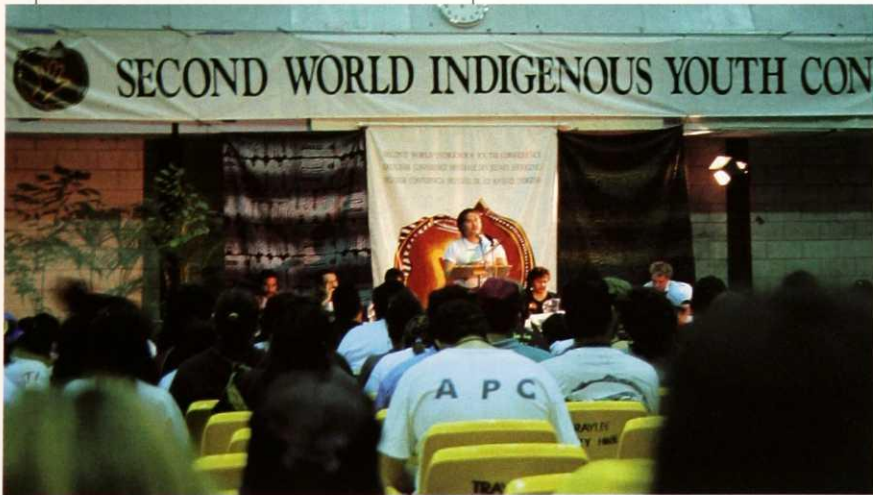
The Speakers

The issue on the first day was "Indigenous Peoples' Rights." The Keynote speaker was Michael Mansell, National Secretary of the Aboriginal Provincial Government. "Sovereignty or Self Determination" was the main topic of his discussion.

One of the interesting points he raised was related to Government-owned lands. It is a fact that the Government made so much money from the land, and never took time to fully understand or recognize the aboriginal Australians. This situation was affecting the aboriginal people in many ways, one of them being destroying land by opening mining sites. Not only did this harm the people and the land, but also the animals.

Moana Jackson, the Wellington Maori Legal Services Director spoke on the second day, in the morning. His topic was "Indigenous People and the Law" Moana justified the need to reclaim Aboriginal Law, especially since this law has existed for such a long time. From my own personal perspective, Aboriginal Law is a good idea but not necessarily best for all aboriginal peoples of today. I have this position because as Inuit people we are adapting, and have lost important traditional aspects such as Shamanism.

Inaria Kaisiepo, from the Foundation of Papua Peoples also spoke. Her topic was "Repression and Indig-



"CLAIMING OUR FUTURE: THE REALITY OF WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE'RE GOING" was the theme of the conference. This International conference was to bring indigenous people together to bring and exchange their experiences, feelings, ideas, wisdom, and their cultural beliefs. They discussed indigenous peoples' rights, social issues, indigenous women and society, culture, education, environment and development.

evening following the conferences.

After the meetings, workshops were held every afternoon. The purpose of having workshops was to find solutions of different problems each indigenous peoples' relate to. At the end of the day the delegates met to discuss the outcomes and actions of what is needed to present to the United Nations to solve problems which aboriginal people face today.

There were various issues that were discussed throughout the con-

YOUTH

Summer Camps

In March 1993, the youth in Nunavik proposed a resolution to all members of the Makivik Annual General Meeting regarding a summer camp meeting at the site of Old Fort Chimo. Upon acceptance by the members, the trip to the summer camp was able to go as planned.

The reason behind this proposal was so that youth from Nunavik could learn how to set up a summer camp in their communities. Old Fort Chimo was chosen as the place for the meeting mainly because their camp has been operating successfully for the past 3 years.

There were many materials that the delegates studied which were covered in the meeting. Some of the information they received were: teamwork, fundraising, how to create activities, when volunteers are needed, and the role of elders.

The meeting was a success for many reasons. Firstly, the atmosphere was well suited for this type of meeting which avoided distractions to arise. Secondly, we were able to express our ideas openly. Lastly, we found the materials relevant and therefore saw the benefits of transmitting the new information to other youth in Nunavik.

The following is a report put together by all participants, detailing the activities held throughout the whole meeting.

The first day of the Summer Camp Youth meeting organized by Makivik started on August 9th, 1993. Thirteen youth from twelve communities were present.

Along with the thirteen youth delegates, Makivik was represented by its own team of four people. Bertran Michaud, Sarah Airo, Sammy P. Gordon and Billy Meeko.

Upon arrival to the Kuujuaq Youth Camp site in Old Chimo, everyone became acquainted with one another. After supper the youth met with Marc Hainuit, a recreation coordinator from Dawson College. Marc showed many kinds of activities that

young people would like. Enjoying the first day of camp, the youth easily got to know each other and prepared themselves for the rest of the week.

*Tunu Napartuk
Alouopa Kulula*

Tuesday morning Marc Hainuit talked to us about how to start a summer camp. He also talked about the roles of a camp counselor and of the recreational coordinator.

Later that morning, Peter Adams who was suppose to come to the camp but had canceled, Josée Vilandr  took the time slot and explained to us about incorporation, rules and regulations.

We brainstormed for new ideas on activities and games. We split up into teams and every team had to come up with a game. After that the games were played. Some of the games were very funny and exciting. One game was very embarrassing and we hardly knew the people that we acted in front of.

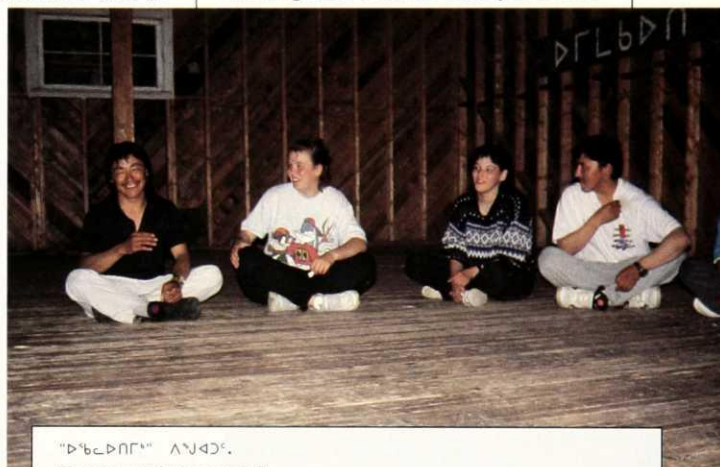
That night the guys were telling ghost stories. Three girls decided to go to the barn where the guys stayed to hear the stories. One of the guys played a trick on everyone in the barn. It was so believable that even the girls were scared too. The girls that went to hear the stories were too scared to go back to their own camp.

*Lizzie Ann Esperon
Bridget Saunders*

Wednesday morning, we got up around 8:00 am. It was a nice sunny morning with no wind but a lot of flies. After breakfast we had a meeting until lunch. We talk about planning and setting up a summer camp with Sarah and Bertran. After lunch we went swimming. Most of us swam, even Bert. We had a lot of fun. Etok Akpahatuk tried to dive from the shore and he hit a rock while going down. When he got out of the water

he had a big bump on his head and had to go to the Kuujuaq hospital. He didn't come back after that.

After swimming we went back to the meeting and talked about life skills and team work. After supper we had an up-date on the Makivik youth section. Later that night we played some games at the barn and told more ghost stories. Everyone was



"D'6c>0F*" 8N4D5.
Playing the "telephone game".

getting scared. We had the greatest time that day.

*Elijah Elijaapik
Aqaja Cain
Christine Cameron*

The first item on the agenda the first day was doing a community report and talking about how to do fundraising.

It's good when a Youth representative from each community participates and has comments about their community. It's good to know what is happening in their Youth Committee.

We also discussed about fundraising. It was good that they brought up the fundraising because most of the Youth Committees have asked money from Makivik instead of trying to do fundraising on their own.

We also discussed about volunteerism. It is important to have volunteers. And we talked about life skills and communication, which are the tools for Youth committees for the whole Nunavik region. It's important to communicate especially with the

Summer Camps

Youth Co-ordinators and Youth agents.

Finally we went through the 1993 Kuujuuaq Youth meeting minutes because we had to do some corrections and to make sure the wording was right.

*Aibillie Tookalook
Jimmy Qarisaq*

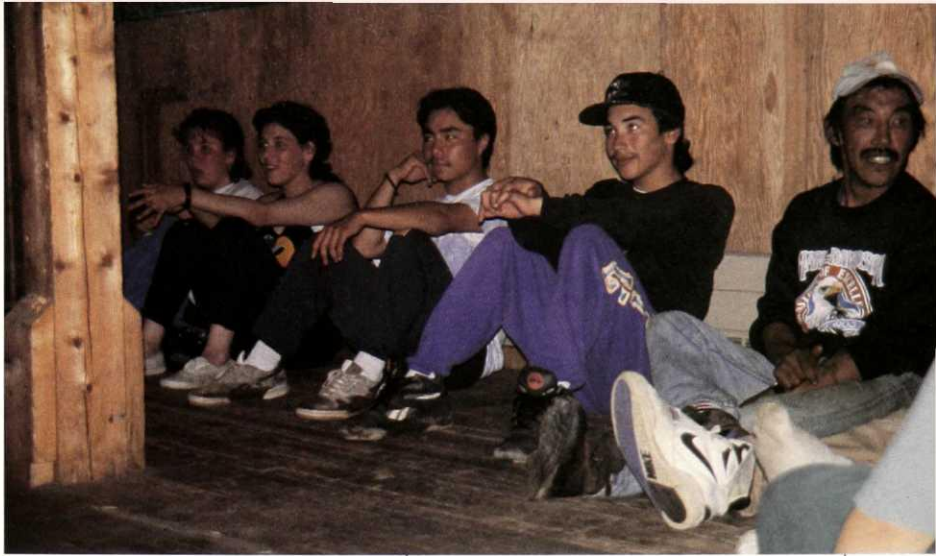
In the morning we woke up around 7:30 am and went to breakfast before going fishing. We went to the barn to get ready to go fishing and collected our fishing gear: fishing rod, rubber plastic boots, rain coat and some cameras.

We were so happy to go fishing. We were expecting a lot of big fish. On the first spot near the Makis Island (Pakkivik), we went on Amos Atsottata's boat but we only caught ugly fish. We went to an island further North to another spot but still didn't have any luck.

On our way back it started raining and was windy. We went to the island where there is a cabin so we could get out of the rain. We had lunch and we thought that we would be there for a couple of hours to wait while the rain stopped, but it continued to rain really hard. The weather kept getting worse and the waves got really high (we could have used a surf board), and the wind became really strong. Some people went fishing near the water and they caught a couple of ugly (very ugly) fish. Our camp co-ordinator (Greg) told us that we have to stay overnight. So we had to stick all together in the same cabin. When it was time to sleep the temperature was very warm and we had to take our blankets off and then within a few hours the temperature was really cold.

*Johnny Nassak
Billy Meeko*

We left Friday morning for a day of fishing but due to bad weather we got stuck at Pakkivik. It was very cold when we all got up Saturday morning and we were all hungry. Most of the people laid around the cabin to warm up and some of the people just went back to sleep because we knew we weren't leaving right away. Later in the morning we knew we needed food for lunch so most of us went fishing. We didn't have much luck,



only two people caught one fish each so the guys set up a net and later caught two fish. When everybody was back at the cabin we made macaroni and soup which was the only food there. Later in the afternoon we had a meeting in the cabin about communication and volunteerism in our community.

Late in the afternoon the weather was getting better so we were told to clean up the cabin before we left. On our way back to Old Chimo the water was rough and most of us got wet and were cold. When we made it to

Old Chimo everybody ran up to their cabin and changed into dry clothes and then had supper. After supper we did some work on communication. After that we did our reports about the days we were in Old Chimo. Afterwards we watched a slides on Australia where some youth participated in the second World Indigenous conference. After all our work we all went to party in the boys barn.

We are all going to remember this trip.

*Elisapee Saunders
Sammy Gordon*

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Nunavik Players



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Name:
Date of Birth
Place of Birth:
Hobbies:
Occupation:
Professional Ambition:
Personal Ambition:
Favorite food:
Favorite person:
Most difficult obstacle overcome:
Pet Peeve:

Mary A. Pilurтуut
November 2, 1970
Kangiassujuaq
Playing keyboard, singing, fishing, and camping
Housing Manager
To have multiple successful businesses
Write songs and travel for performances
Seafood, frozen and fresh country food with misirag
My husband Lucas
Leaving my family and freinds to study in the South
People who criticize others when they can't see themselves

