



Բազմակուսակցական ղեկավարները և Կանադայի վարչապետը Կոնգրեսում հանդիպում են Օտտավայում:

photo: M.McGoldrick

The the provincial premiers and the prime minister meeting at the last constitutional conference in Ottawa. As you can see, rewriting the constitution is a big job.

Մեծ ճգնաժամի ժամանակահատվածում Կանադայի վարչապետը

ԼԱԺ ԼՐԺՈՒ ԳԵՐ

(ՎՃԼԳ)...ԱՐԺԿ ԿԳԸ արևելա-նոստրի Կանադայի վարչապետները և Կանադայի վարչապետը հանդիպում են Օտտավայում:

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Բնականաբար Վանկուվերում ՎԼԺԿ հեղինակը Կանադայի վարչապետը և Կանադայի վարչապետը հանդիպում են Օտտավայում:

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bNA^b maacL^c b^cL^uC d^cALN^u d^cAG^r
Kativik Regional Government head office in Fort Chimo.

Regional Government to move from Chimo??

staff report

(Fort Chimo)...Well informed sources state that it is highly likely that the Kativik Regional Government will move its head quarters out of Fort Chimo to another community in Northern Quebec.

At the first sitting of the Kativik Regional Council in Koartak on August 30th of last year, it was decided that the Regional Government's head offices would be located in Fort Chimo. However, with the location of both the Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Government in Fort Chimo, the question of over-centralization has been raised at various levels.

At the moment the Regional Government operates out of a small office with a small staff in Fort Chimo. But it will soon expand its operations and increase its staff once the Regional Government starts to take over and adminis-

ter the programs now handled by the agencies of the provincial and federal governments.

The possibility of the Regional Government relocating is supported by rumours that it will move within a year and that Inukjuak is seriously being considered as a new home for its head offices.

Apparently the high cost of moving and obtaining the necessary funds will be a major consideration in any decision to relocate.

Official word on whether or not the Regional Government will move, and to where, will probably come at a meeting to be held in Payne Bay during the week of February 26. This meeting, which was postponed from February 5, will be attended by top representatives of the different organizations to discuss the question over centralization and the location of head offices in Northern Quebec.

editorial

ABOUT THIS NEWSPAPER

I am taking advantage of this occasion to explain what ATUAQNIK is, and how this newspaper will operate.

The first point I would like to make is that Atuaqnik will operate as an INDEPENDENT publication serving the Inuit of Northern Quebec. Here, I am stressing word independent because it means that Atuaqnik different from all the other publications that have been produced in Northern Quebec.

Independent means that we are not controlled by one organization alone. In other words, Atuaqnik is not an information publication of one organization that prints the news and information from only one source. Instead, Atuaqnik will try to write about everything that is important in Northern Quebec and will try to provide information about all the organizations that effect the territory, on an equal basis. However, it is important to remember that we will try to provide information and news that the readers want.

There is also one other important point about Atuaqnik. Because of our status as an independent publication, we will attempt to write about all the view points on matters that arise. For example if there is an issue, we will try to get the opinions of the organizations and leaders concerned so that our readers will have a complete picture of discussions and decisions that are going on.

Although the independent Atuaqnik isn't directly under any organization, we are responsible to our readers. Therefore we feel that your participation in the newspaper by letters or by sending your opinion about out articles is very important.

As editor I would like to personally state we would appreciate your comments about the newspaper. If you have criticism of certain parts of the publication, you will help by letting us know so we can improve, and by indicating you support Atuaqnik, we will know that we are going in the right direction.

NO MEMBERSHIPS

Because Atuaqnik is attempting to serve the entire Inuit population of Northern Quebec, readers will not have to be a member of any organization to receive or to write to the newspaper.

For the first few issues, Atuaqnik will be available free of charge to allow people to become familiar with the new publication. However, we will soon start charging for the newspaper to help pay the cost for its operations. When this happens, people will be able to buy the paper in their communities. We are now working an arrangement to sell Atuaqnik through the Co-ops. The price of the paper will probably be between 25 to 50 cents per copy, but we wish to consult the Co-ops before setting in a final price.



At the moment Atuaqnik is funded through the Makivik Corporation. However, Makivik recognizes the independent status of Atuaqnik and they support the idea of an independent publication that is described earlier. As soon as we are fully set up, we will be looking for additional sources of funding.

I would like to take this opportunity to state that Taqralik Magazine is now also an independent publication. Taqralik will now be a feature length magazine that will come out four times a year. It is published by the same staff of Atuaqnik. We will give more details about in the near future.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading this new publication and we look forward to your comments.

Alec C. Gordon
Editor

Atuaqnik is a newspaper for the Inuit of Northern Quebec. It is published by the same staff of Atuaqnik. We will give more details about in the near future. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading this new publication and we look forward to your comments.

PART-TIME TYPIST WANTED IN FORT CHIMO FOR TAQRALIK/ATUAQNIK. WORKING HOURS AND SALARY TO BE DISCUSSED. TYPING SKILLS IN INUKTITUT AND ENGLISH REQUIRED. HOWEVER ON THE JOB PRACTISE IS POSSIBLE. IF INTERESTED CALL 2657 OR DROP BY OUR OFFICE.

Chicoutimi trip turns back Maybe next year?

By William Tagoona

In the last issue of *Atuaqnik* we covered a story about (6) six men who were to travel to Chicoutimi by Skidoo. Unfortunately after (8) eight days of fighting the slushy slow and warm winter weather, the team turned back for Fort Chimo, the starting point of the expedition.

According to Remy Gendron, the organizer, the party left Fort Chimo and travelled 12 miles before they had to camp for the night, which was due to their late start in the day. The next day they covered a good distance of territory. By this time the weather was

turning quite warm for the time of year. The snow became very wet and sticky and very difficult for snowmobiles, hauling equipment, to travel on. On the lakes water formed between the ice and the snow. So what was happening was that the team would head for an area of snow that looked perfectly normal. Before they knew it the snow machines and the sled would sink into the slush. The group also used much of their energy pulling skidoo's out of the soft snow which Remy said was "very sticky" from the warm weather.

The distance the team travelled became less and

less everyday as the snow and slush conditions became worse. They also used twice as much gas as they had anticipated due to the slow travel. Finally on the 6th day and after approx. 140 miles, the team covered a distance of one half mile. The snow and slush was just too difficult for the team to go any further.

Just the day before, Mark Elijapik and Reno Syr had left the group to get more gas from Chimo, since the gas supply was getting a little low to reach Schefferville. The trail to Fort Chimo was already broken so the two men expected to reach Chimo in one day and catch up to the team the following day with the gas supply. But, good fortune was not with the two men. About 40 miles after they left their companions, their Skidoo sunk into the slush and was impossible to pull back out. After hours of struggling Mark and Reno gave up and

was sheltered in. The last remaining member of the team was on his way back to Chimo. When Reno was picked up he hadn't realized that the expedition had turned back and was obviously not happy with the decision his companions had made.

Remy Gendron, who is an officer with the QPP in Chicoutimi and is also originally from Chicoutimi, says that if not for the unusual warm weather in the area, they would have made it. They had also anticipated in reaching Schefferville within 4 days, but in the 8 days the expedition had't even reached the half way mark to Schefferville.

Remy said that two men went back on the trail recently to pick up the other Skidoos that had been left behind. The two men got stuck several times and were able to pick only one of the Skidoos out. After all the machines are back in Chimo they will be up for sale to the public.

comment

INUIT MUSIC, IN TRANSITION, NEEDS ASSISTANCE

By some accounts, contemporary Inuit music and the people who compose and perform it form one of the most important cultural expressions in the Inuit Arctic today. It is at least true that the new music is a very vital part of settlement life.

Yet this new music, and the sometime partially powerful lyrics which accompany it is not actively encouraged either by public or private agencies. In contrast massive support is given the "Inuit Art Industry" which has helped some Inuit to develop technical skills and international reputation for art forms, which although clearly valid, are not integral parts of Inuit cultural life. Via institutions and specialists whose motives are mostly historico-anthropological, traditional musical endeavors (drum dancing and throat singing) receive large support in comparison to the developing music.

The result is almost drastic, and can be heard by listening to the recordings of contemporary Inuit music which are produced regularly by the C.B.C. Northern Service. Musical and sound quality are low, and this lack of "quality control" is reflected in the wily-nily approach taken in recruiting musicians. Most any one who claims to be a songwriter/singer will be recorded. To those Inuit who work to achieve artistry, technical skill and discipline in their music this is a dangerous arrangement. By making poor recordings the Inuit public-at-large (including young musicians) is given little to appreciate, and to set as examples. It is well known CBC is not in the music recording business and that their effort to broadcast Inuktitut music for the Inuit audience is appreciated. What we need are professionally recorded Inuit music which can compete and be enjoyed by people who do not speak Inuktitut. If this were to be done, an example would be set for other musicians who are trying to upgrade their musical talents. Support is needed here in Canada for Inuk Musicians.

In direct contrast, the remarkable artistry of Sume and Rasmus Lyberth, from Greenland, can be partially attributed to the financial and artistic support system for performing artists that the Greenland Government provides. Canadian Inuit musicians simply do not have comparable incentives, facilities or financial support.

Maybe it is too early in time to ask for support, but for some musicians it is not too early to begin the work of promoting the new music. There is some excellent material coming out from Inuit musicians which should be made available to the public professionally before it all dies away. It could happen and it could be done.

The author, William Tagoona, is also an Inuk composer and singer and feels the problem of being an Inuk musician.



and set up camp. Since they did not have a tent with them, they dug a hole in the snow and covered the top with a tarp for shelter. The next day Mark decided that the only alternative left was to snowshoe back to Chimo, since they thought the other team had continued further. What they didn't know was that the team had camped and were reconsidering whether to continue or to turn back.

On the 8th day the team decided against continuing the expedition and started back for Fort Chimo. On the way back they met up with Mark, who apparently had walked 25 miles, and picked him up. They didn't have enough gas to turn back and pick up Reno, so they continued on to Chimo. The five men made it to Chimo that night on two Skidoos with hardly any gas to spare.

The next day a Beaver was chartered to search and rescue Reno, from the blizzard that was slowly coming in. After about 45 minutes of circling, the pilot, Billy May spotted the camp Reno

Remy concluded that he was very impressed by the Inuit's ability to navigate and live on the land and that he would be willing to go anywhere with an Inuk as a companion. Remy said, "I learnt a lot from the trip".

Everyone asks if the team plans to try again. Indications are that the trip may be a possibility next year. Who knows?

In the last issue of ATUAQNIK there was a mixup of two photographs in the Chicoutimi story. The names of Mark Elijapik and Issac Angnatuk were switched around. So if you switch the two names around, the correct name will go with the face.

There is another skidoo expedition travelling in Northern Quebec. The expedition started in Montreal and has been travelling through the Hudson Bay coast. At the time of this article the expedition party were in Deception Bay waiting to travel to Fort Chimo.

