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 Candidates for self-government

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 Charlie Watt consults community leaders

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 Arctic pollution

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 High Arctic memories

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 Grande Baleine hydro project

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 Offshore negotiations

Arctic pollution an international problem

A study conducted during 1988 in the Hudson Bay communities found that Inuit women's breast milk contains five times more PCB's than the amount detected in southern women. PCB's are thought to cause liver disease and cancer.

PCB's (poly-chlorinated biphenyls) have been used in transformer insulation for nearly fifty years. When PCB's leak from their containers, they are absorbed into the environment and travel through the water cycle. They enter the food chain, and are most heavily concentrated in the fat, liver, and kidneys of marine mammals and fish. PCB's can be transmitted through mothers' milk to their babies.

The Kativik CRSSS has established a PCB monitoring Task Force, and will keep Nunavik Inuit informed.

The **ozone layer** is the region of the atmosphere that protects the Earth from the Sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays. Excessive exposure to UV radiation can cause skin cancer.

The ozone layer is damaged by *chlorofluorocarbons*, chemicals that have been used in spraycans (for paint, deodorant, hairspray), in refrigerators, and in foam products.

Makivik News spoke to ICC president Mary Simon on the increasing concerns about pollution in northern Canada.

Makivik News: The Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) has asked for an international agreement on trans-border pollution which is damaging the North. What would be the practical purpose of the agreement?

Mary Simon: To provide a mechanism for countries to deal with chemicals. If there is an international agreement, they would be able to reduce different chemicals, so that they will be eliminated eventually.

Makivik News: How would this agreement be enforced?

Mary Simon: By the countries that are signatories to the agreement.

Makivik News: Have you had support from any government sources for this proposal?

Mary Simon: It seems that the federal government is talking about something similar. There is going to be a conference in Finland with all the Arctic rim countries later this year to deal with the environment. We're trying to get the Canadian government to take a lead role and make sure that Arctic pollution is on the top of the agenda at that meeting.

Makivik News: Some scientists met in Ottawa at the end of February to discuss the tests that found high levels of PCB's and other pesticide contaminants in the Arctic. Were there Inuit at that meeting?

Mary Simon: We tried to participate in those meetings, I and John Amagoalik of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC), but they didn't want any political people at that meeting. They said we

could appoint a scientist on our behalf, and that's what we did. We appointed Dr. Berkes from Brock University. He's done work with Northern Québec Inuit on mercury, and he's also done some work for the Crees.

We've also had discussions with Dr. Nantel who was involved in the Northern Québec study on women's breast milk. He attended the meeting of scientists also.

Makivik News: Have you had any contact with the new federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs on this issue?

Mary Simon: John Amagoalik had a meeting with him. It's difficult to say how interested he (the Minister) is in the issue, but certainly the Department is very much involved in the research that is being undertaken right now.

Makivik News: How can Inuit play a constructive role, perhaps at the community level?

Mary Simon: That's one of the reasons why we keep insisting to the Government that we have to be active participants in the whole process. We want to make sure that the Inuit affected are getting all the proper information.

ICC and the ITC have a very active role to play. We're trying to get ITC to deal with the Canadian issue, while ICC is trying to take on the international context. We're going to try to get the whole issue discussed in Greenland and Alaska, and press the governments in those countries to become more active on Arctic pollution.

This issue is not contained in Canada. The same type of pollution problems are probably happening in Greenland and Alaska, but there's not much interested being generated in those two countries. I'll continue working at the international level to push for this international agreement.



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PCB's have been found in Inuit mother's milk

Makivik News: Are you concerned that the current lack of clear information may cause panic at the local level?

Mary Simon: Of course I am concerned. We've been saying to the Government that they are taking much too long in putting together an information package that can be presented to the people. The people really want to get the information as soon as possible.

Makivik News: We know that damage to the ozone layer is caused by aerosol sprays and other things containing chlorofluorocarbons (including refrigerator coolants and foam products). As of July 1st, the Ontario Government has banned the manufacture, sale, and use of all these products. Is there any plan to remove these products from northern stores?

Mary Simon: We wouldn't be involved in that. It would be up to the Government to do something. The new Minister of the Environment is calling for Canada to eliminate ninety percent of those chemicals. I think they're just starting to develop a strategy as to how that will happen.

Makivik News: Thank you for this interview.

High Arctic exiles remember

At a recent meeting in Inukjuak, the Québec Inuit who moved to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay in the 1950's revealed new details of their difficult lives in the High Arctic.

Mary Echalook: Ross Gibson of the RCMP was quite a frightening man, with his red face and red hair. He promised us that we could return to Inukjuak after a couple of years, and so we decided it would be best not to anger the man.

Samwillie Eliassialuk: When the annual sealift came, all the men had to unload the policemen's coal and supplies for the year. They did not pay us for this work. They said that we were working for our tickets back to Inukjuak.

Once I had to guide two policemen by dogteam from Grise Fiord to Resolute Bay. We got separated along the way in a very bad storm, and I had to find them. They were in bad shape and would have died had I not tracked them down.

When we finally arrived in Resolute, they went to Ottawa for their holidays and I had to feed their dogs for a month. Because I had saved their lives, they came back from their holidays with two gifts for me: a knife and a cheap watch.

Simeonie Amagoalik: Whenever the policeman and his friends wanted to go polar bear hunting, I had to act as their guide. I never got paid for those times. They would not even drink with me when they had their evening drink, saying "You're just an Eskimo!"

Lizzie Amagoalik: Once Bob Pilot, of the RCMP, came in from Grise Fiord by dogteam with two Inuit men. They had shot fifteen polar bears along the way, and Bob Pilot got nine bears himself. Because he had no woman, the Inuit women in Resolute had to clean and tan the skins for him. Cleaning and tanning skins is very hard work! I remember that we had sore arms for weeks afterward.

Sometimes my husband was gone by dogteam for months at a time, helping the geologists. We were always hungry. We had to look through the white man's garbage for food for our children. We had to take clothes that had been thrown away, for our children.

When the policemen found out that we were living off their garbage, they got very angry at us and told us to stop. We asked, "How are we going eat?" They replied that the women should go seal hunting. It got so bad that the community had to once share a polar bear head for food.

Mary Echalook: The women in Resolute were Ross Gibson's seamstresses for nine years. Whenever a visitor wanted a piece of skin clothing, Ross would come to us and say, "My friend is leaving tomorrow, I want you to make these things for him. Have them ready by tomorrow morning."

So I stayed up all night, sewing for him and his friends. I never got paid for this hard work, although he once gave me a stick of gum.

Some of the Inuit exiled to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay returned to Québec with their children in 1988. Makivik continues to pursue their outstanding claims with Canada. ■



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Lydia Kalluk, Resolute, September 1963



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Resolute men and a military officer, December 1962



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Lizzie Amagoalik, Resolute, June 1961

Inuit and Hydro-Québec meet: Grande Baleine Project discussed

Inuit representatives of Kuujjuaraapik, Umiujaq, Inukjuak, and Makivik have been meeting with Hydro-Québec to get information on Hydro's plans for the Grande Baleine hydroelectric project. Unlike the earlier La Grande project, Grande Baleine directly concerns the lands and resources used most by Northern Québec Inuit.

Because of the increasing demand for electricity by customers in the United States, Hydro-Québec may need to produce power at the Grande Baleine complex as early as 1997. The proposed project will include a total of eleven generators at GB-1, GB-2, and GB-3. GB-1, the largest, will handle a capacity of 1,211 cubic metres of water per second, and will produce 1,978 megawatts of electricity.

The Government of Québec has not yet approved the Grande Baleine project. Hydro-Québec has to first update its old studies, and carry out some new ones. Hydro plans to set up four surveying camps in the project area this summer. They propose that a road be built from LG-2 to GB-1, and then along the coast to Kuujjuaraapik.

An airport will be built between GB-2 and GB-3. Another airport will serve GB-1, but its location has not yet been determined. At a recent meeting in Kuujjuaraapik, Hydro-Québec representatives were anxious for an opinion from the Inuit representatives on the question of this airport's location, and Hydro has suggested three possible options:

- upgrade the existing Kuujjuaraapik airport;
- build a new airport a few miles from Kuujjuaraapik;
- build an airport at GB-1, 40 miles from Kuujjuaraapik.

The Inuit representatives felt that it was too early to express their choice, because there had not been sufficient consultation with the affected communities. The Inuit representatives will inform Hydro-Québec of their communities' wishes only after proper consultation.



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Some of the Inuit community representatives

Hydro-Québec maintains that construction at GB-1 will have to begin in 1992, and work on the road linking LG-2, GB-1, and Kuujjuaraapik is scheduled for Spring 1990. According to Hydro's timetable, the airport will need to be ready by 1991.

Hydro-Québec plans studies

Hydro-Québec claims that it wishes to conduct studies in collaboration with the Cree and Inuit communities at Great Whale River. Hydro has started to plan studies on water quality, caribou and fish populations, archaeological sites, manpower and job opportunities, and mercury pollution.

Hydro has announced that it will spend \$300,000 over 18 months for a mercury study in the territory affected by the Grande Baleine complex. Because of the very dangerous consequences of mercury pollution, this amount is completely unacceptable to the Inuit representatives.

Environmental impacts must be reviewed

Hydro-Québec conducted environmental impact studies on the proposed Grande Baleine project in the late 1970's. Possible impacts of Grande Baleine may include a decrease in water flow or drying up of the Great Whale, Little Whale, and Nastapoka rivers, increased flow in the Coats River, and changes to the marine environment at the river estuaries.

Construction of roads, airports, and work camps may damage the natural environment. High voltage power lines carrying electricity to the south are also a serious danger to wildlife and people. The lines radiate electricity into the atmosphere, and the corridors through which the lines pass are normally sprayed with poisonous herbicides.

A Hydro-Québec representative admitted that the Grande Baleine project has not been submitted yet to the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (EQC). The EQC is the procedure established by the JBNQA to review development projects in territory north of the 55th parallel on based on the total environmental and social impacts. Developers must submit their proposals for EQC review before any licenses can



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Mayors Epoo and Niviaxie, Charlie Kowcharlie, and Isaac Anowak

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be issued. The EQC makes recommendations to the provincial Minister of the Environment, who can then require changes to the project under review.

The EQC procedures were not completely respected in the earlier La Grande project. Hydro-Québec now seems to want to divide the Grande Baleine project into several small phases in order to avoid a comprehensive review by the EQC. Hydro-Québec maintains that this fragmented approach is because of time constraints, and because of increasing demands from Hydro's customers.

Destruction of cultural heritage feared

Avataq Cultural Institute foresees that development related to the Grande Baleine project will speed up the disappearance of the Inuttit language, traditional values and unique Inuit lifestyle, and will weaken Inuit unity. There is also a real danger of destruction of archaeological sites in the area to be affected by the hydroelectric complex.

Avataq has proposed that a fund be established as partial compensation for damages to the Inuit cultural heritage resulting from Grande Baleine. Avataq forecasts a need for approximately \$35 million to protect and support Inuit culture in the affected area over the next ten years. This amount would allow Avataq to establish museums and cultural centres in the communities, start an Inuit language institute, and build a central Nunavik Cultural Centre.

Social impacts expected

The proposed road linking Kuujjuaraapik and, possibly, Umiujaq to the south would bring an influx of thousands of construction workers over eight years. The non-native population of Kuujjuaraapik is certain to increase permanently. This may radically change community life, and may lead to serious social problems. It will become almost impossible to control incoming illegal drugs and alcohol.

Traffic in and out of Kuujjuaraapik will increase, with resulting traffic accidents. There are serious concerns about the noise caused by heavy road traffic disturbing wildlife habitats and Inuit hunting grounds.

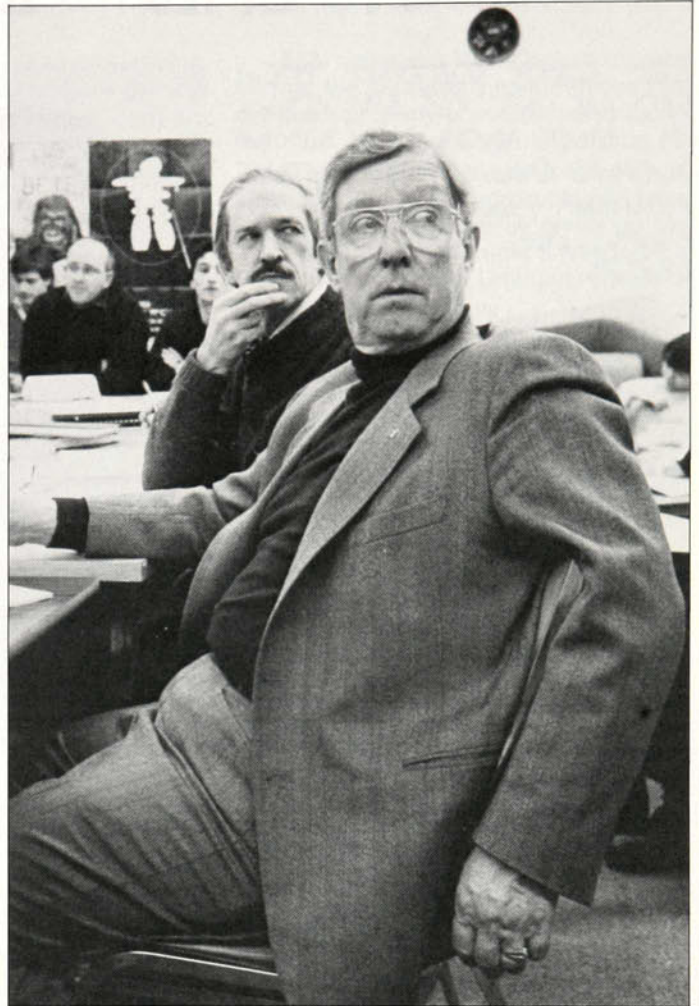
These are a few of the reasons why some of the Inuit representatives prefer that the road and airstrip be routed inland, to avoid direct access to the communities and to coastal hunting grounds.

Job Opportunities?

The Grande Baleine project will require an average of 2300 workers on-site each year over eight years. Inuit and Indians are supposed to have contract and employment priority for projects developed by government agencies. This is clearly stated in chapters 8 and 29 of the JBNQA.

The Inuit representatives feel that it is now time for Inuit to get higher profile jobs, including in management positions. However, there are fears that it is becoming too late to plan training for skilled jobs, and that Inuit workers may be stuck doing unskilled manual labour.

Hydro-Québec's Vice-President of Indian and Inuit Affairs, Robert Brunette, admitted that only one Cree has a permanent job related to the La Grande complex, although Hydro aims to eventually employ 150 Crees. Hydro-Québec's Department of Indian and Inuit Affairs currently has no Inuit employees.



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Robert Brunette, Vice President of Hydro-Québec's
Department of Indian and Inuit Affairs

Economic Benefits

Makivik accepts the Grande Baleine project, but wants Inuit to get maximum benefit from it. Neither of the Inuit communities at Kuujjuaraapik and Umiujaq have yet said that they accept the project. The Crees at Great Whale have stated that they completely oppose the project.

The road and airstrip will be built primarily to make Hydro-Québec's work easier. It remains to be seen whether the road will bring lower prices for southern goods sold to northern consumers. The largest merchants and suppliers continue to be southerners, so they would be the first to benefit from lower transport costs. The road may help expand tourism opportunities, but Inuit may not have sufficient financial resources to take advantage of these opportunities.

Inuit representatives want to know more about the real economic benefits. Some think the project is inevitable, but also feel that experts who promise a trouble-free future are not to be trusted. The Inuit elders are very concerned, and insist on thorough consultation with their communities. ■

Offshore talks break down in Ottawa

The Inuit of Nunavik have always used the offshore areas of James Bay, Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, and Ungava Bay for traditional activities. We travel and hunt in these areas, and share the wildlife with our neighbours. Nunavik's area of offshore use can extend as far as 100 miles from our coastline.

Because of Canadian laws, the offshore areas and islands near Nunavik are under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories' government. The Inuit of Nunavut have used some of these same areas for traditional activities, and have also shared the natural resources. For example, the Inuit of Sanikiluaq travel and hunt in the same offshore areas as the Inuit of Kuujuaapik, Umiujaq, and Inukjuak, and have strong traditional ties with Nunavimmiut.

The Inuit of Nunavut, represented by the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN), are now trying to negotiate a final land claims agreement with the Government of Canada, including their claim to the offshore area, islands, and resources. It is easy to see that Inuit in Nunavik and Nunavut have claims to almost the same areas. The federal government wants TFN to come to an agreement with the Inuit of Nunavik before settling the Nunavut claims.

Because of this overlapping use, Makivik and TFN signed a Memorandum of Understanding in February 1988 regarding these claims. Makivik and TFN agreed to identify the exact boundaries of the areas each group will own and manage, and to determine how the common areas will be shared. This joint management will include protecting wildlife and the environment, wildlife harvesting, and sharing revenues earned by developing nonrenewable resources (undersea oil or minerals, for example). The final agreement will protect the rights and interests of both parties.

The Inuit representatives of Nunavik and Nunavut identified three different types of areas in the offshore:

- areas of use and occupancy, which either group of Inuit now and traditionally has used;
- overlapping areas, which both Inuit groups have used and will continue sharing;
- settlement areas, which include

each group's area of use, overlapping area, and area of exclusive management and jurisdiction.

Makivik and TFN defined the map boundaries of all these areas at a meeting in October 1988. The two groups met again in Ottawa in February to decide the jurisdiction of the overlapping areas, and Makivik continued to support the idea of equally sharing management and juris-

TFN negotiator Paul Quassa explained that the Nunatsiq communities had not been properly consulted, and therefore TFN had to change its position.

"Our tradition is to share with Nunatsiq", said Inukjuak representative Jobie Epoo, "and I think we've given up too much already." "I thought it was to be a 50/50 share", added Umiujaq representative Isaac Anowak.

Moses Appaqaq of Sanikiluaq insisted that all islands will continue to fall under NWT jurisdiction. Peter Kattuk from Sanikiluaq, explaining that his community had a problem with the earlier agreement, said "We are still willing to be fair to our neighbours."

Kitsak Alashuak of Cape Dorset explained that the elders in his community recognize that they have relatives in Nunavik, but that the young people were concerned about sharing revenues. "If we listened completely to the young people," said Alashuak, "we'd have a lot more problems here today." He recommended that the proposed 50/50 revenue sharing be reconsidered.

Kuujuaapik representative Myva Nivixie told the meeting that he had fully consulted with his community after the previous meeting, and now would have to go back and inform them of the new developments.

Jobie Epoo rejected the possibility of changing the earlier agreement, and said that Nunavimmiut could not agree to less than a 50/50 deal. "You are the ones who are changing your minds," said Jobie, "and it sounds like you want more for yourselves."

Peter Audlaluk, speaking on behalf of Ivujivik, said "We wanted a 50/50 share to avoid bad feelings between us, but if you change the agreement, we will be fighting. It is not the Inuit way to fight, it is supposed to be our practice to share. I'm most concerned about the elders in my community."

Nunavik's claims to the offshore were not extinguished by the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. Makivik's position is based on land use and occupancy studies which support Nunavik claims to the offshore areas and islands.

Makivik and TFN were once very close to an agreement. The two groups are now trying to maintain a positive atmosphere for continuing discussions. ■

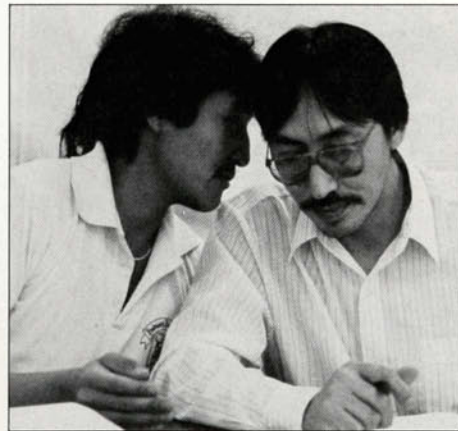


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Vice President Jackie Koneak consulting on offshore negotiations

diction. This would include 50/50 sharing of any revenues that may be generated from commercial resource development.

Both groups agreed that traditional hunting and camping could continue in all areas, but TFN rejected equal sharing of development revenues. Makivik's position was based on consultation with Nunavik communities, who agreed that the purpose of an overlap agreement is to guarantee sharing.



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Paul Okalik of Pangnirtung and TFN negotiator Paul Quassa

