

# The voices of cbc

by Michael McGoldrick

The voices of Elijah Menerik, Moses Novalinga, and Arnaitok Tapkirk are heard regularly across the Arctic via the CBC Northern Service. In many ways the radio reports and programs of these three Inuit are an important part of today's Northern lifestyle and are familiar to great many Inuit households.

Yet, when you visit the CBC Northern Service offices, located in a tall sky-scraper in the "cement" world of Montreal, these three Inuit seem very far from the North. But Moses Novalinga says that this is not always the case explaining that "When you

talk to the people (through the radio programs), you feel you're right there (in the North)."

In fact, this comment by Moses sums up much of how he and Arnaitok feel about their work at CBC. But in order to find out more about these broadcaster, whose voices we have come to know through our radio sets, ATUAQNIK paid a visit to the CBC Northern Service office on a rainy Monday morning on February 26.

Many people have a difficult time getting up on Monday morning, the first day of a long work week. A dreary rainy Monday morning in a big city makes the whole situation worst. However when I dropped

into the CBC office at 9:30, I found an energetic Moses Novalinga and Arnaitok Tapkirk busily preparing their material for a radio program they were selecting the music which they would play and reviewing the newspaper articles which they would read between the songs.

The feature story of their program that day was Willie Thrasher's new record which is produced by Les McLaughlin of the CBC Northern Service. Moses and Arnaitok already had a long article about Willie Thrasher from the weekend edition of one of Montreal's daily newspapers, and were coaxing Les McLaughlin for a sneak preview of one of the new songs from the record. At first Les McLaughlin was reluctant to release any of the songs until the record was completed, but he finally gave in to the arguments of Moses and Arnaitok and provided them with one of Willie Thrasher's new songs that was already recorded.

When I first arrived at the CBC offices, I only introduced myself and tried to keep out of the way. Moses and Arnaitok were busy because their studio time was at 10 o'clock. It was also at this time that I learnt that veteran CBC broadcaster Elijah Menerik was not going to be in that day because he was on a week's vacation. Perhaps one day soon Atuaqnik will have a chance to talk with Elijah to find out more about his many experiences.

After Moses and Arnaitok had finished their studio work, which involved recording their radio program by a studio technician for broadcast a later time, I had a chance to interview them

about their work, their experiences, and their thoughts about living in the south.

Our discussion started off with Arnaitok, who was elected as the first Inuk President of the Native Friendship Centre in Montreal last October. The Native Friendship Centre, which operates a drop in centre for native peoples in a large house opposite of Montreal General Hospital, has long been popular with Indians.

However, since Arnaitok was elected president, he said "Quite a few more Inuit have been using the centre."

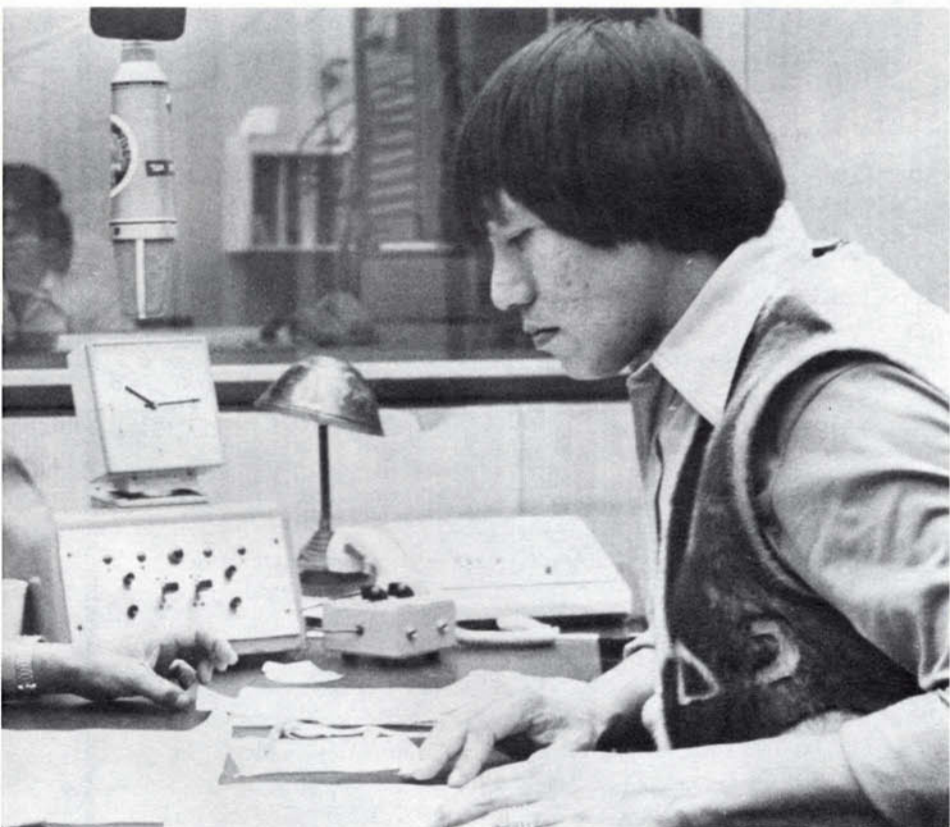
Then Moses described the function of the CBC Northern Service in Montreal. He said that it provides a "different service from Frobisher. We deal more with national and international news and never concentrate on one community."

Moses had some comments about his experiences in reporting international news. "Inuit don't want to hear about killings or big wars." He explained that "world peace....such as the Egyptian, Israeli, American negotiations" to bring peace in the middle east was more popular.

Both Moses and Arnaitok had a lot to say about their personal experience in working at CBC and living down south.

On living down south, Moses Novalinga, who has worked at CBC for four and a half years, described his feeling as "Somedays you're really down. When it's nice and sunny here (in Montreal), you start to think about what your brother and friends are doing (in the North). You really miss the social life you get up north."

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Photos above:  
Left hand corner: Moses Novalinga  
Right hand Corner: Arnaitok Tapkirk.  
Photos at the bottom of the page:  
Moses and Arnaitok doing their radio program. Also, the CBC building in Montreal, which houses the Northern Service offices as well as much of the CBC southern services for the province of Québec.











