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# MAKIVIK NEWS

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## Climate of Unity and Strength























































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Annie Gibeault chooses country food for her guests at a patient transit house in Montreal. She is one of a number of housekeepers committed to ensuring that patients from Nunavik are comfortable in the South. Story and this photo by Bob Mesher.







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ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ.



ᐊᓂ (ᐊᓂᐸᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ) ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ.

for five years. "I don't need to," she says. "Everyone comes here." The Stones have been working at the transit house since November, 1989. Bill Stone, who retired from a civil servant's position ten years ago, met his wife Mary while working as a radio operator in Inukjuak in the 1950s.

The second Makivik-owned transit house in Lachine is staffed by Bob and Annie Gibeault, and Susie and



BOB MESHIER

ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ ᐊᓂᑦᐸᓄᓂᓄᓂᐅᑦ.

Manfred Kettler. The Gibeaults had been house parents at a residence for the Northwest Territorial vocational students in Ottawa when they heard of the planned pilot project for a patient transit house in Lachine. Ten years later, they continue to devote themselves to hosting Inuit from Nunavik who are unfortunate enough to require medical care in the South, but lucky enough to be their guests. Caretakers at most of the transit houses are adamant that their own one is the best.

When asked what is involved in operating a patient foyer, Bob Gibeault says, "We do everything from A to Z. You have to be a 'jack of all trades and a master of none'. It is just the same as in a home where you do everything for your own family," he says. In 1987, the house was closed for four months and completely renovated after it had been severely damaged by fire.

Guests at the Lachine transit house are age 16 years and older. They receive many terminally ill patients and, being the only patient transit house with a wheelchair ramp, they also care for patients who have problems with walking.

Annie (nee Nungak) appreciates the interaction with other Inuit that her occupation provides. She is originally from Inukjuak but moved with her family to Resolute Bay at the age of eight. "We help each other. It is a two-way street between us and the patients. Sometimes the best



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Fair to say, most of those who operate privately-run transit houses deserve much credit for the care they provide for Inuit patients. As well, housekeepers visited by Makivik News all expressed their appreciation of the chance to know their patients and to learn about the Inuit culture from them.

Patients who have gotten comfortable at a particular transit house and need to return for Montreal appointments will frequently request to stay there again. This has been the experience of Helen Wilson, who has been hosting patients for the past five years. "Up until now, I have had exactly 958 patients and escorts staying at my place," she recently told Makivik News. Sometimes patients are so insistent to stay there that they say they



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will even sleep on the floor if necessary, says Helen. (Zoning and safety rules, however, permit no more than nine guests in a transit home at a time.)

Micheline Theroux and Gigi Lepage have been operating a transit house together since July, 1991. They get a lot of patients from Salluit, and talk about the friendships which have developed between them and people from Nunavik who have stayed with them. The enthusiasm that these two women have for their guests is evident in the way that they have remodeled the house to create warm and open living quarters. Escorts and patients who are able often chip in to help with chores and maintenance. Micheline says they frequently go for outings in the city, and she makes it a point to take first-time guests on a car tour of Montreal.

Mina Tukai, a long-term patient from Inukjuak, has lived at the Makivik-owned transits for nearly ten years,





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Cleaning up the site at Port Burwell (Killiniq) began this summer following studies conducted in past years. Story by Larry Watt. Photo by Michael Barrett.

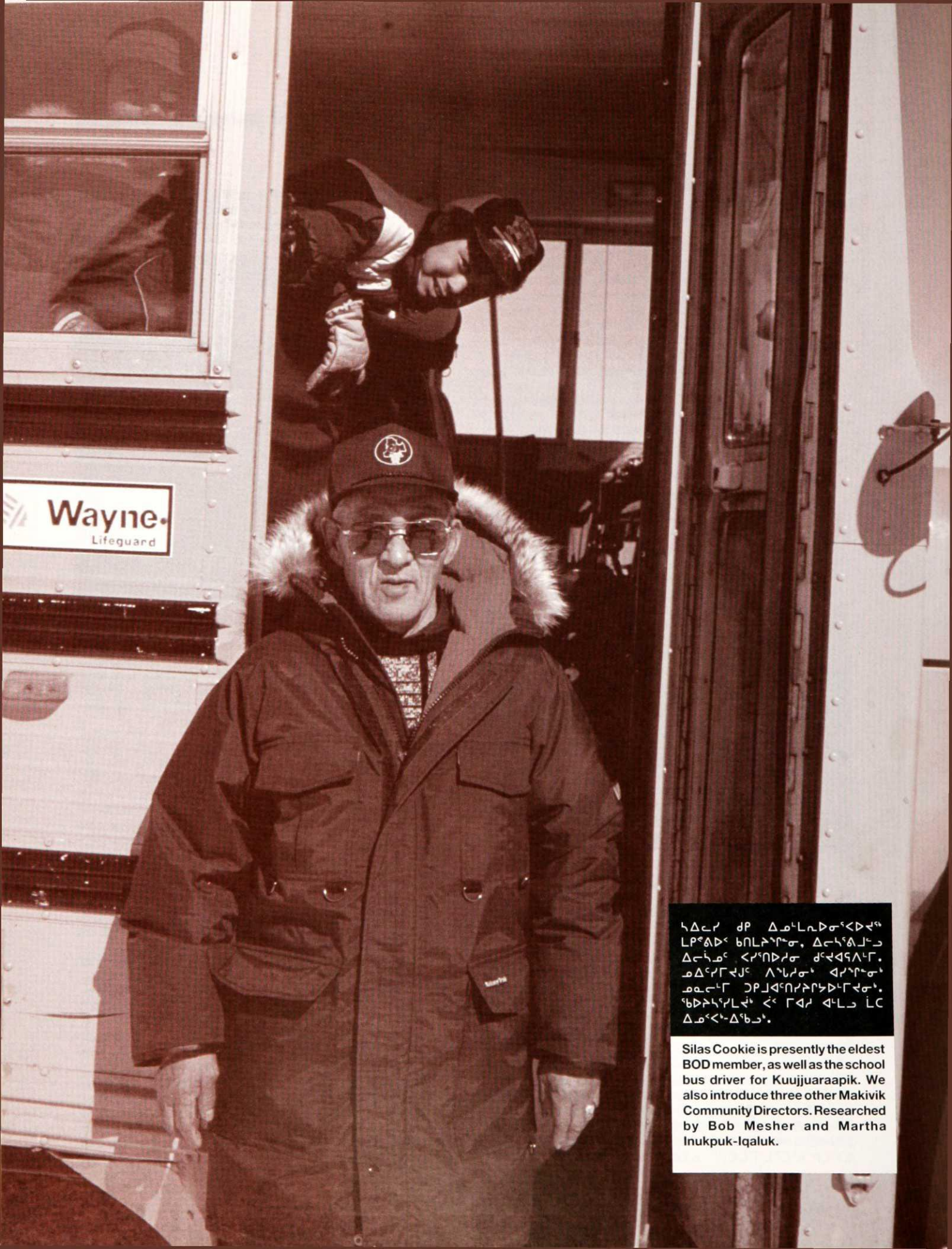












Wayne  
Lifeguard

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Silas Cookie is presently the eldest BOD member, as well as the school bus driver for Kuujjuaraapik. We also introduce three other Makivik Community Directors. Researched by Bob Mesher and Martha Inukpuk-Iqaluk.



LPAD<sup>c</sup> ከበሊትዮር ሠደራሪ: ለጠባብሎ ድምፅ ለመስጠት

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1995. Silas was on the Board for the previous term as well. "I was really happy to get elected in order to help Inuit, not just in Kuujjuaraapik, but all of Nunavik," he says. "People from all over ask about the state of Makivik, and I am happy about it. I give them as accurate information as I find possible. Makivik starts a process (of getting something accomplished) even if it takes a very long time to materialize. I just use the same process too," Silas explains.

Kuujjuaraapik has not been in the international lime-light as much since Premier Parizeau put the Great Whale hydro-electric project on ice in November, 1994. Silas was involved in the hydro negotiations when they first started, and like other local leaders during the Great Whale negotiations heyday, he was busy keeping the community up to date with the potential project as well as keeping Inuit informed of Makivik's position towards it.

After the Premier's announcement, and even today, some still wonder if this super project will ever come about. "Some people thought it was permanently stopped, while some thought it was only temporary," he says.

Silas explained, "The potential hydro project is still a big concern because of the possibility of county food being contaminated. The elders are

really vocal about it. The influx of (a large number of outside workers) could result in the young people being affected negatively by the possible wider availability of alcohol and drugs or potential diseases being brought up. The older generation is alarmed by these dangers and they are holding firm for the young peoples' sake. The Elders are also concerned that we will not have fresh water if the project goes ahead. There is no water reservoir nearby. When the tide is high the river becomes saline. Even though the project is on hold, it does not change the people's mind."

For the past five years, Silas has been employed as the local school bus driver. "When Kativik School Board was formed, I did janitorial work for one year. Then, using a regular truck, I began picking up children," he says.

Silas recalls his first salaried employment with the Canadian army in 1955. He went to Yellowknife to train for construction work. Following a four-year period in a Hamilton hospital, Silas returned to work for the army as a fuel truck driver. "I have not slowed down up to now. I changed employers throughout the years but I continue to hold a steady job," he says.

With his various political concerns, Silas has to travel quite frequently, and communicates with the rest of





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As a person who has lived in the Arctic region for a long time, I know how it was, starting from NQIA. It was very poor at that time. But I can see that Makivik is a really big organization now. And very highly respected by the governments and other bodies," she says.

She expects no major changes in her life as the result of her husband, Zebedee, becoming the new Makivik President. She says, "It seems the same as before, (when Zebedee was the First Vice President). Jeannie also jokes, "but there will likely be more phone calls for me to answer as my husband's 'free receptionist'."

Jeannie, who was born in an igloo between Aupaluk and Kangirsuk, has lived in Kangirsuk nearly all her life. She enjoys sewing by hand, playing the accordion, and hunting and fishing with her husband. The Nungaks have a special camping area about five miles south of Kangirsuk.

Jeannie also describes the need for beneficiaries in Kangirsuk to take a more active and positive approach to Makivik. "I would very much like to get them to look at particular issues, to work together and support Makivik as much as possible. Some really feel that Makivik is far away from them, so I would like to have them come to recognize it well," she explains.

Jeannie has watched the evolution of Makivik since the very beginning. "There have been a lot of changes. I know how it was, starting from NQIA. It was very poor at that time. But I can see that Makivik is a really big organization now. And very highly respected by the governments and other bodies," she says.

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**Paulossie Angatookalook**

Paulossie Angatookalook, the Makivik board member in Chisasibi, sees the fact that most of the Inuit in the community do not understand Inuktitut as a limiting factor, especially for their future leaders. "I have been trying to ask the younger people if they could do something more. The problem that they always have is that they cannot read Inuktitut and they cannot understand the language," he says. Paulossie, whose first language is Inuktitut, feels that this is partly why he was asked by his community to sit on the Makivik BOD again. He regained the position last February by acclamation.

Another reason was likely because he, more than anybody else, is most familiar with the local housing situation — a file that he has pursued ever since he has been on the Makivik BOD. Since the Inuit of Chisasibi, and their houses, were relocated from Fort George Island, the need for improved homes and increased housing units has become more urgent. As reported previously in *Makivik News*, Makivik has agreed to finance the building of these homes, and then ask for government compensation for the project. Paulossie is also the chairperson for the newly-formed Chisasibi Inuit Housing Committee. They have made an accurate door-to-door survey of specific housing needs and it is hoped that some modern architectural plans which were designed especially for the northern climate will become a more concrete reality. "The Cree people invite us to use their skating rink and the other public services. They provide all of this, except for the new houses," he explains.

Paulossie was born and raised in a small settlement that existed about fifty miles north of Kuujuaaraapik. He move to Kuujuaaraapik at the age of fourteen and moved to Chisasibi in 1971, the home grounds of his wife and "favorite person", Lillian.

Another person that Paulossie has a great admiration for is Billy Weetaluktuk, who used to be the Makivik BOD for Chisasibi before him. Billy, his wife Mary (who comes from Chisasibi), and their family relocated to

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BOB MESHNER

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 Frost and unmistakable eyes. Paulossie Angatookalook prepared for a hunt on the frozen James Bay.

























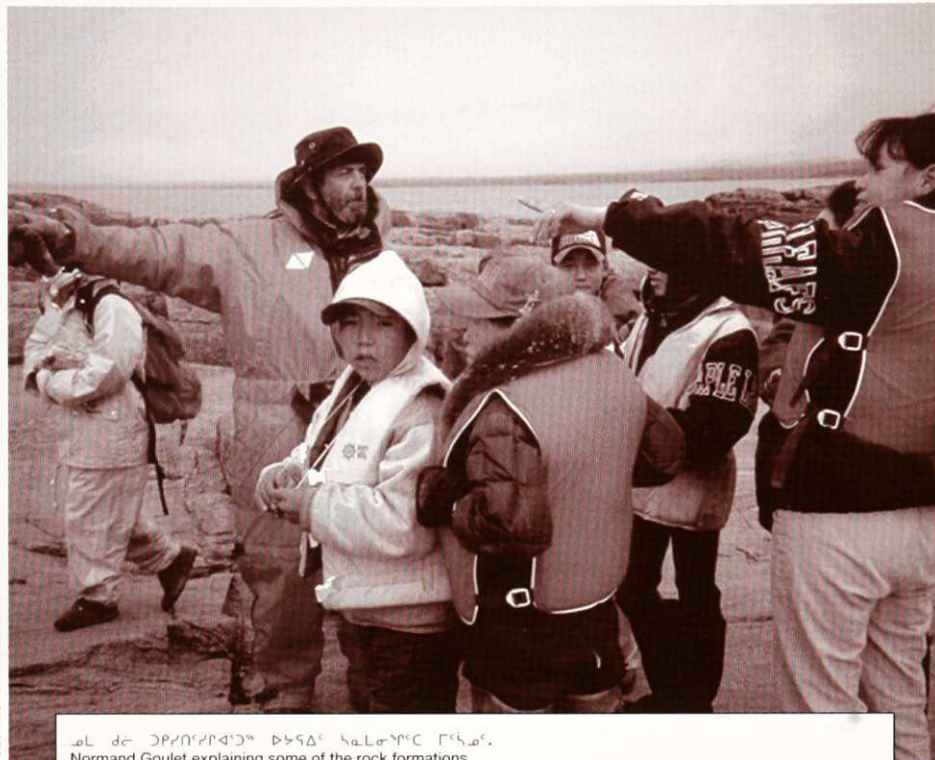
# YOUTH

## Summer Science Camp

by Diane Grenier

Last summer was the third time for the science camp at Abloviaq Fjord on the east coast of Ungava Bay, with the goal of stimulating interest in science and other academic careers. Over thirty young people from various Ungava Bay communities participated in the educational expeditions. Scientists working on various northern projects shared their enthusiasm for scientific knowledge, crucial to protecting and using the fragile but hardy northern ecosystems, with the students.

Expeditions lasted nine days, in which subjects such as archeology, biology, geology, meteorology, ecology, and energy use were learned about. The sites were reached by boat or by hiking. The Abloviaq Fjord location permitted participants to investigate a multitude of archeological sites along the



COURTESY OF DIANE GRENIER

Inuktitut text: ᓄᓴ ᓃᓚ ᓄᓂᓂᓄᓂᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᓄᓂᓂᓄᓂᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᓄᓂᓂᓄᓂᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ.  
Normand Goulet explaining some of the rock formations

length of the fjord, all the way to the magnificent Torngat Mountains. Under the guidance of archeologist Louise Bernier and geologist Normand Goulet, students found quartzite originating in the Ramah area of Labrador at a number of the

sites. This rock, which is composed almost entirely of quartz, was used by the Inuit thousands of years ago for making tools. Since quartzite has been found all the way along Ungava Bay, and also along the Abloviaq Fjord, it is conceivable that the early inhabitants used the fjord as a quartzite trading route, which forms a natural passage through the Torngats between Labrador and Ungava Bay.

Geology sessions took place during hiking expeditions in the Torngats. Students learned how the mountains were formed, and about mineral identification, erosion and glaciation. They were able to see how rock striations show that after the last ice age, glaciers moved out of the fjord in a north-west direction. The geologists also showed the students compass orienteering, and how to use topographic maps, aerial maps, and global positioning systems (GPS). The science camp base was near the Sapukait River which is visited annually by some 13000 Arctic char that migrate between the fresh and the salt water. At the end of July, participants could observe the fish heading upstream from the sea, into the lakes where they spawn. Biologist Sophie Robillard explained their migration cycle, reproductive and feeding habits, fish parasites, and the importance of managing



Inuktitut text: ᓄᓴᓄ ᓄᓄᓄᓄ ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ.  
Adamie Delisle of Salluit locating an archeological site with a GPS.

COURTESY OF DIANE GRENIER







# YOUTH

## Rising Toward the Future

by Teddy Shulman

The end of August not only marked the end of another summer, it also brought the resignation of Sarah Airo, as Makivik's Youth Coordinator. At the request of the Council of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), Makivik's training role in supporting the Youth will be handed over to Kativik School Board (KSB) and KRG's Recreation Department. Sarah will be starting a new chapter in her working career, as she has taken a counselling job in Kuujuaq's Jaanimmarik School.

It is very important to maintain communication links with the youth and we plan to continue support for the annual Youth meetings and maintain close ties with the young population of Nunavik. This fall, the Makivik Youth Department will be presenting our Board of Directors with a budget for continued support for the youth. Included, will be a proposal to replace the Youth Coordinator with a new Political Youth Liaison position.

When I consider all that Sarah has learned and accomplished it is hard to believe that she had only been working as Makivik's Youth Coordinator for three years.

Sarah commented in a recent edition of the *Makivik News* how she had to struggle to learn about the political system of the region. Well, it was a struggle that paid off. Sarah not only learned a great deal about the politics of Nunavik, but also had the opportunity to meet many key ranking government officials while working to acquire funding for various regional, national and international youth events.

When Sarah started as Makivik's Youth Coordinator she was apprehensive about attending the First Aboriginal Youth Conference in Quebec City. Since then, she attended the Second Aboriginal Youth Conference in Australia and with the confidence acquired from both of these important meetings, she became one of the organizers



BOB MESHER

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## A Decade of Student Occupancy

The Student Services Department of Kativik School Board and post-secondary students have celebrated ten years since the opening of the original Inuktalik House — a residence for first year CEGEP students from Nunavik. They are also happy to be now at a new location practically on the campus grounds of John Abbott College, in Ste Anne De Bellevue where they study.

It has taken KSB counsellors two years to find such an appropriate location. The newly-leased building can house up to 18 students and is just a stone's throw away from the College's native study centre and other academic services.

of the First National Conference held last November in Kuujuaq. Proof of Sarah's enhanced political awareness can be seen in the *Youth Committees Working Guide*, of which Sarah was a major contributor and consultant. As the title indicates, this comprehensive guide was designed to provide the youth in each community with a working model of how to democratically operate a youth committee. Youth Committee members and executives are getting a head-start on understanding the political process. Time will show Sarah's influence. Today's youth committee members have the basics and are building their self-confidence. Many have gone on to important positions in their communities. Sarah worked hard to help in

the development of the summer Youth Camps in Nunavik during her time at Makivik. She was also instrumental in the success of our five local Youth Agents. One last point to mention is the increased exposure in the Youth Section of the *Makivik News*. In spite of some difficulty, Sarah coordinated the presentation of community reports from the youth. She recognizes the importance of having positive youth role models. Besides being one herself, she was responsible for the regular feature known as "Nunavik Players." I know that Sarah will succeed in whatever she wants to accomplish — she has proven that — and even though we are not presently working together, I will consider myself fortunate to work with Sarah again in the future.









