

VERBATIM

Alacee Nungak

I am Alacee Nungak. I was born in 1930. I was born at that time. I was born in 1930. I can talk? But what shall I say? I'm from Inukjuak. I had four children. We had four children when they relocated us. Yes, they took us to the ship in the evening, at 8PM.

We went to Fort Churchill. We set up a tent there. We sailed again from there. We came here first. Then sailed by a large ship, then on to the High Arctic. So far, far away. Going to somewhere to a place I had no idea of. We thought it would be a great place. Then... We were at sea for a very long time; we suffered hunger.

We finally made it to Resolute. It was a long way in the ship. A very long, long time in the ship. Then we arrived to that awful place. We were so frightened. Terribly frightened. There was nothing. Nothing but nothing. It was already pretty cold. We got water from the ice. I couldn't comprehend how we would ever eat. There was nothing. No food resource. Nothing. We were lent a tent by the first relocates when we arrived at Resolute.

We didn't know what we would eat. There were no food resources. For ice, to drink from, we had to get these along the shore. My daughter-in-law...Her father got seals, so that's what we ate. We were so frightened to arrive there. It was desolate. I'm telling the absolute truth. No stores. There were white people. We had help sometimes from the military. They gave us small quantities of food.

We left this wonderful place. Inukjuak, we went far, far away. We just didn't know what we would eat. There is nothing for fire. Not even little pieces. We had our wood stove. We had a stove. We had brought it. How... how? We had it. We had brought a wood stove. But how would we make tea? That was our question!

We were so afraid. Levi's brother Salluviniq, had a tent. They had a tent. They lent it to us. We had no idea what we were going to do. They used to write to us. So we knew all their news. We knew things that had happened. After our arrival, the military gave us help. They gave us some pieces of wood. But... The RCMP Constable was extremely intimidating. He suppressed activities. He was so intimidating the Policeman.

I always wanted to come back here to home. I always wanted to come back. This is beautiful. This is beautiful Inukjuak. I really wanted to return. We left three of our kids. Three of us are back there. They don't know this place. They didn't want to come. We left them.

Back then the school kids, walked a long way to school. This one was a social worker, this one was the biggest, so he lead the way to school. And they were so poorly dressed. And they always had to wonder what they would eat. But they went to school. I remember vividly. We wanted to come home. I wanted.

I had always wanted to come home. So we returned. It has no vegetation. Not even a little. Rocks, rocks, and nothing. We were desperate to come home. And the stupid men seemed reluctant to come back home. Then Levi finally relented. So we came back to Inukjuak. Our eldest, his sister she didn't want to live there. So when she went away to the hospital, she decided not to come back. She did not want to live up there. Philip's sister, Annie, she never came back to Resolute.

It was great when we came home! Joyful to come here. I never wanted to be up there. We never did. Three of us are still up there. They couldn't come here. We had four little ones when we were relocated. Four little children. We had four little children. I'm talking about this one. About them. We see them. They've come here a few times. Then I would follow them back there, but only after we're settled here. Sometimes we used to go south to meet. I'm fine. I don't mind too much. They do call.

Question 1: What did you think of the government's apology?

I can't talk, so I didn't. I went to see them when they came. I saw them. But we couldn't speak. I just cried and cried. We were grateful to see them. I just cried. I cried a lot. So I couldn't speak. It was great that they came here. I was grateful. I've talked enough. Enough.