VERBATIM

Zipporah Kalluk

I am Zipporah Kalluk. I come originally from Mittimatalik, passed Mittimatalik, 60 miles from Mittimatalik.

In the summer time, in the spring when they use to go to Mittimatalik by dogteam... My father, when there had been someone that went to Mittimatalik, he came back and someone had given him papers saying we have to move here.

It was really small, but we were seeing people we had never seen before, and we didn't know how they were, the people that were here, and we didn't speak the same way..

It was so cold because it was all rock, so cold, we found out it was so cold. Our land had moss, and plenty of food, berries in the summer but here there was nothing.

And us, in Mittimatalik, we came from a place with not many people. What the elders thought? We were not allowed to speak to adults or ask them questions. We didn't know how they thought or how they felt. And were not allowed to ask them. We only knew how we felt or what our parents spoke of.

It was only us, and people from Grise Fiord on the ship, two families. People from Arctic Bay and Nelly Panippakkuttuk. Panippakkuttuks, Lydia and her spouse and her children. And the Kalluks. Ely Panippakkuttuk, Nelly.

I never heard, I was too young so I was not told about it, the reasons for coming here. They told us that we had to come here. There was a reason but I don't know what it is.

(He) didn't work at the beginning, 'cause he had to build a house out of wood. The white people that were living up there would bring wood and they build a house on their own and we got a house and only when we had a house...my father... the white people up there were from the army. He started working with them. He wasn't working so we didn't have much food.

Our dogs were brought along, and our sled, when they started going out hunting, my father and my brothers.

They started getting seals and polar bear. Yes, yes but, in the summer, the white people would help with a truck "pick-up truck" in the back of it would bring food to the "village"

they use to unload and I really liked peanut butter I would put it under my pillow and when I would wake up in the night, I would have some.

Question 1: Was there any tension between people from Pond Inlet and Inukjuak?

I could not say much, but they were saying a little bit... There was beating...I didn't know what was happening. When there was beating happening, I couldn't understand why, I couldn't figure it out.

We knew we were different from each other. From where I come from, they were very different, but for us...we are flexible. For us, we were able to adjust to their ways.

We were different, us, we were told not to listen to adults when they are talking and we were told not to speak to elders; that's how we were brought up. We never heard about anything bad, our parents were great parents. We were all loved equally as children. I don't know about my brother but that how I saw it. I was very loved and sometimes my brothers would complain.

Not growing up in Mittimatalik, and with only three houses, it was good to grow up that way. My mother, when we were alone at night, my mother was telling a story about Minnie Allakariallak who had come to visit her and she was speaking to her, and even if she didn't understand her she would respond as if she were and she would laugh along when she would laugh.

I was able to speak, now that I had a husband, and I was able to speak like them, and I was living at my in-laws. And I learned to speak their dialect. Before I had a husband, I was about seventeen or sixteen, I did go to school then when I was seventeen, I got a husband and didn't go to school anymore.

I was sixteen, around seventeen; I had gone to school for a few months then I got a husband and my new husband came to get me at my place at night, he went and got me and I needed to go to his place and my duties became many all of a sudden..

My parents didn't want me to get married. But my future in-laws would come and talk to my parents and they would be crying wanting me to marry their son. And they were giving very well made clothes to my parents. They didn't say yes right away, but they would cry and they were getting old wanting me as there daughter in-law. The kept coming, and even when they had not fully agreed to it, they still got me.

Question 2: Do you feel like Resolute is changing?

It is very different today from back then. We treat each other much better now, and know each other more, and know each other's languages, and our lives...we know each other more. Easier to live with one another that way.

Question 3: Did you ever want to go back to Pond Inlet?

No. At some points. But when my father was sick and knew he was dying. He said, being moved here was a good thing. And said to us not to move from here, even if your mother and I have perished. «Don't move back to Mittimatalik».