

VERBATIM

**Anna Nungaq**

I'm Anna Levi Nungaq. They moved us. We were the second group, we were moved in 1955. I grew up here, moved out but I've always come back here, so now I'm still living here.

I was about maybe eight months old. I don't remember coming here. I start remembering when my dad was making their own home. They were building that big red house. I remember getting some sod with my older siblings from where they use to have... we use to cut off moss. That's when I first remember.

***Question 1: What was Resolute like back then?***

Kind of scary. My dad use to hunt all the time, summer or winter. So there use to be my mom, two older sisters, my older brother. I don't know where. He uses to be out all the time. So I remember men started coming. They were acting weird. But my other sister Minnie, she use to have a mouth so she was able to get them out of the house by talking to them. She had a big mouth. My mother and the older sisters they were quiet, scared and didn't know what to do. But Minnie was our strongest.

***Question 2: There was a bar in Resolute back then...***

You know after the red house, when they moved us up to those new houses, my dad started drinking. He was one of the worst drunks. We grew up him being drunk all the time except Sunday. Maybe even Sunday because he use to work with polar shelf with the white man. My mom use to tell him to shut up but he never. So all of us, both seven of us, eight of us younger ones as soon as we could, we followed my dad to drinking. As soon as we could. Even before we could go to the bar. We became alcoholics like them. My mom never but she still was following him to the bar. As soon as I turned eighteen, I went straight to the bar. But then I was already alcoholic.

***Question 3: Have your parents ever talked about the relocation?***

My mom is the one who... I remember her saying: « I want to go home, I want to go home.» She always wanted to go home. As soon as my dad had a stroke and couldn't work anymore, they went straight down. Back home to Inukjuak. She' home now.

***Question 4: Did you try going back to Inukjuak at some point?***

After his second stroke, I went down. I moved down in 1992, if I could help him up. I tried to help him out. When my mom goes out I tried exercising him: « Dad you want to back hunting? You remember you use to take me out. You want to go? » «Yeah, ok, then just exercise. » He got tired of me doing that to him every day. My mom told me not to exercise him anymore. I couldn't do anymore for him. I went back here. There is too many people in Inukjuak. And it's quieter here. It's the only place without bug and less people.

***Question 5: When did you learn about the relocation?***

Along the way when I was growing because my mom always talked about wanting to go home. She was alone. She had no sisters or brothers to help her. She had no relatives, just us kids.

***Question 6: Was the relationship like between the people of Inukjuak and Pond Inlet?***

With those Pond? No, we use to fight. Summertime mostly we could throw rocks at each other's. Some kids still have scars on their faces, some people have two faces. When you see them: « Hi! Hello! » Some people hug you, you know. It's more friendly now. We all could talk to each other now without throwing rocks.

***Question 8: What did you think of the government's apology?***

I don't care about it. It's a little bit too late. They should have done it two years after, three years after. When he was apologizing, me and my mom we were in the car. We couldn't hear anything that he was saying. Whoever wrote that down. I don't even know his name.

***Question 9: Where does the rest of your family live?***

The others, the adopted one still live there. She came here once. Sarah and Matthew are here. Jopie and Julia with my mom. Three brothers are down there. I tried to pay my way back me and my son. 200 buck short we got stuck in Iqaluit. Trying to come back here. End of my rope, no more money. I had to go to, they told me to go to social services. They brought us here.

***Question 10: What do you hopes for the next generation?***

I wish they would have healing places where they could go to. They go crazy when they drink. I use to do that too but not as bad now. I use to pass out outside, wherever. But some of my

relatives I always think we would get us. You want to go out for healing? Instead of here, so they would come out of town so we could have some healing sessions. That's what I want, so they could talk it out. Because they still come to me when they are drunk, go nuts and start getting mad at me. It wasn't my fault! It's going on right now. We always turn to it when we have problems. It's been our life.

***Question 11: Would you like to say anything else?***

My mom's getting old. I wanted to be easier to go see her now and then. She doesn't want to come here anymore. It's getting too cold for her here, right? It's hard to go see her every year. At least once a year. She's getting half blind too. Sometimes she uses to ask me if I could escort her to hospitals for her eyes, for whatever. She calls: « Ana I need escort ». I ask the health center they started laughing at me.

I just want sessions out of town. Gathering, healing sessions where we could talk. That would be great.

***Question 12: Can you still feel the effects of the relocation?***

It's still going down but like my son he's doing very well. He's been promoted. He's casual now working in a mining place near Baker Lake. He's doing very well. I'm so glad he's not going in and out of jail like I use to. He doesn't into that kind of... I'm so happy for him. But some of my relatives I see them just following. Some quit their job and what not, some are still mad, mad : « Why did my parents do that? » « How come I was neglected ». They are still like that. My brothers, they are still hurt. Because five younger brothers I had. They went through hard time. As soon as me and Sarah we could be out of the house, my brothers were the next to take the shit. They've been hurt too. That was bad.

When my mom started to get... it was awful. That was the worse. They use to have a lot of companies up there. They use to have lots of parties. That's all I say. I had a good childhood but my dad started drinking, that's when I just got tired of him. I wasn't sexually abuse or anything. I'm glad I didn't go through that.

My siblings weren't being physically abused. It was the mental. My parents couldn't talk about anything. Not much when we were young. That's when we were growing up; we didn't really know how to express our feelings. We were really never taught to talk. It was hard for us to get it out. Yeah I have good memories going out alot hunting with my dad. All the time. Everywhere, anywhere. That was the fun part of it. When he died, most of the young people « Anna I use to go hunting with your dad! » « Anna, I remember when we use to go to the dumps by dog team in winter time. » They use to bring frozen banana, oranges, apples. Some kids use to come over and have some. They use to thaw out. They are old but they are still the only things we could have as fruits. That's why we use to go dumps. That little dump too. The smallest spring summer

the guys use to be there. So that was our second dump. We use to go there by dog sled just before the ski-doos came. Sometimes, us kids, use to walk across Resolute Lake. The ski-doo comes looking for us kids. They lose us. We were trying to walk to the dumpsite.