

## VERBATIM

### **Elisapee Flaherty**

I'm Elisapee Flaherty daughter of (Josephie and Rynee) Flaherty. My parents were exile from northern quebec to high arctic in 1950's. I'm relocated in Iqaluit working at Department of education, book publication and publishing teaching materials for all Nunavut schools.

#### ***Question 1: How was it growing up in Grise Fiord?***

I'm the youngest in the family. My parents have survived through the hardship of exile. The promises that they were given had oppressed them dramatically with their lives in term of spiritual needs. I'm the youngest in the family.

I experience growing up in a small community called Grise Fiord. As I said earlier my parents were exiles of the government in 1953 and 1955.

#### ***Question 3: How was your relationship with your brothers & sisters?***

Everybody went on their own way to seek education. Because I was the youngest in the family I had to stay and my two brothers stayed with me. So my brothers, older brothers and sisters that I had were already gone. I never got to know them until we started communicating either through phone or through family, their children's children.

#### ***Question 4: Do you have any advice for young people?***

I want to tell them that life, it's not just about life. Life is about you do things for yourself and to help people to go on and you look forward to the day that is coming to you. What helped me to go on in education is my teacher in high school was a really good role model. She was a history teacher and she believed in every one of us that we can become something... she said, if you really want to become something you have to seek, you got to try hard and believe in yourself. Once you get that, once you grasp that you can see what you really want in your heart. She had that motivation in classroom everyday and I think I took that. I think I took her motivation, her teaching lifestyle. It motivated me to feel better about myself. I can challenge myself to do other things.

We have to challenge ourselves to do better. So I want to tell young people education is the key to live independently, to become independent person so you can explore the world, what's going on around the world. There is a lot of opportunities in education that young people are not seeking. They may have fear in their own heart that they can't do it. But they can. I think it's the fear that stops them. Saying, "I can't do it! It's not for me. It's too challenging for me." If you have that mental image in your own heart, in your own thoughts that's when you stop and be in one lifestyle while other peers are going into higher job positions. Education taught me many things, especially in the classroom.