

## VERBATIM

### **Mary Flaherty**

My name is Mary Flaherty. I grow up in Grise Fjord. I'm originally born in Inukjuak and lost somewhere for few years. Now I live in Iqaluit.

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

I remember being hungry. When the school open I remember there was food for lunches, making soup for kids. But when we go home on the evening there was not food. So to go to school, can't wait to go to school in the morning so we can eat even though we were not supposed to speak our language. That's what I remember.

#### ***Question 2: How was life beside school?***

Not really good because we were different; the northern Quebec and Baffin Island people. We couldn't mix. We could not mix the language.

#### ***Question 3: What do you remember about that place?***

Cold, dark, the dogs. Nothing like... alive like... exciting like.... nothing.

We had no choice to stay up there, to go until we go to school in Churchill.

I tried to go to school in Ottawa but I didn't last long. The traffic was too much for me. Too busy! Plus I never went on the bus before. Everything goes with the money so, I didn't last long.

I went to Yellowknife for a while and I work at the hotel one time and I didn't quite like it so, I moved back to Grise Fjord and stayed up there for a few years, because I have kids.

#### ***Question 4: What was it like meeting your relatives in Inukjuak?***

Even if the people say "you are my cousin", I just usually, I just walked away or something. So I didn't know them.

***Question 5: How was the healing week in Inukjuak?***

The schedule was pretty tight so we try to go anywhere we can like the schedule (according) to follow the schedule. It was good. I got to see my cousin, which they said they were my cousins at the first place. Then they look like my mom. More related to my mom side. So I believe them and I know them. And it was getting better.

I visited some elders areas and they were talking like, I don't know these people but they were talking about when your parents or the parents left, the relocatees, we didn't know where they went. No news and wondering where they went.

Why did they move them up there? They weren't belong there? That's my question.

***Question 6: What did you think of the government's apology?***

Apologies just to say sorry, doesn't really make any difference to me. But I feel they know but it's nothing.

They put aside the money; the money doesn't by a ski-do. What's the point?

I would say instead of giving a little bit of money each year, they should have open and think about how we are going to put the money, or ask them how do you want; if they want a house, sure for those people who were regular relocatees so they have a proper place to stay, home.

***Question 7: What was it like for you when you were separated from your parents for few years?***

I remember tied down with some kind of blankets or something, somewhere in the hospital. I think Dora tells me with that and I remember. My fingers cut all the way and...It's pretty big. I always hide it.

I remember some kind of food. Somebody was feeding me every day the same thing. I remember the smell of the hospital. I remember the floor tiles. They were black and white I believe. I remember being tied down, I don't know why.

***Question 8: How old were you?***

I'm not sure, maybe two or three.

I don't know but from the memories I know the smell. When I smell something, oh I remember this! Or when I go down south I saw floor black and white and it's just I saw this and I remember. Very light music. It must have been down south when I was there.

Working. I'm working with lots of kids. And in the morning when I get up I usually sew, my hobby.