

## VERBATIM

### **Paul Amagoalik**

My name is Paul Amagoalik, I live here in Resolute Bay. I was born in 1953 and lived here all my life. When my parents were shipped off from Inukjuak apparently my mother was pregnant with me and I guess the authorities didn't know about it, they didn't find out my mother was pregnant until I was born, the next day. So I was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, but didn't find out until the next day, the captain was so excited and that he asked them, my parents to name me after him, so they named me Paul after the captain.

#### ***Question 1: What do you know about your family's story?***

I didn't really understand what the relocation until I was about nine or ten years old. That's when I started realizing what was happening or what had happened. So all the information I get about the relocation was the stories from my parents and uncles and grandparents.

That they lived in a different world, that they lived in a sustainable world, that they could live on a happy life, but when they were asked to move up here, they were told they were going to be here for only two years with an option to stay if they want, but after two years they wanted to come back down to Inukjuak but they were downrightly refused to go back, they were just asked to see if they could convince their other relatives to come instead which happened in 1955.

#### ***Question 2: How was it growing up in Resolute?***

I just grew up as every kid would I just tried to learn as I was growing, live life here as much as it was given to us. As far as I know we were alive but we didn't know what was available so we didn't know what we were missing, don't know.

First time I went to school was here in Resolute when I was six years old, they set up a school system about two miles from the village and it was suppose to be a federal day school but all the children went to the school. That was maybe from when I was six until I was thirteen I did my schooling here and then when I was thirteen I went over to Churchill Manitoba back in 1965 and stayed there for another three years and then I quit school for a couple of years and then

when they opened up the residential school in Iqaluit I went to school there for another two and a half years.

Right now I'm mostly involved in local politics, regional politics and local business ventures and whatever I can do to help the community keep moving.

***Question 3: Do you think your community is still suffering from the relocation?***

I'm sure it does yeah, what they missed, opportunities they would have had, although we're well off here, it's very hard to live here because so far away, isolated and expensive. The most harsh that we have right now is isolation and expense of living up here.

We had to learn how to hunt, learn how to hunt, learn how to catch food, but the only thing we knew was country food, we didn't know much about vegetables and fruits until we got in contact with southern people. Whatever came up was new to us. So we didn't know what we were missing until we started realizing with the new technology that we could see outside the world, look what we have been missing. So it's hard to say what you have been missing when you haven't been through it.

***Question 4: How big is your family?***

I had two brothers and two sisters, mother and father.

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

I don't know. It was not that they apologized, it was not that they admitted that they did wrong, but other thing they realized how much they really affected our lives when they apologized from what they had know or heard, but not what we've experienced. What we experienced and what they heard was completely different, so apology can be thin layered but...it might mean well but still exactly what they are apologizing for is very vague.

***Question 7: Do you feel like Resolute Bay is changing?***

It could. There's possibilities of changes, they can make development up in the High Arctic. I can see more activities happening up here than before. Opportunities are here but they are not easy to come by. They can come in by fast and they can go fast. It's a mixed feeling, the

ecological north can only sustain so much, so small compare to the rest of the world makes the world even smaller when you're on top of the world, or any damages up here could be devastating. We don't mind economic development non renewable, as long as it is well maintained and operated properly with our involvement and it's happen before and it can happen again that if we are directly involved and understand each other with the developers I think we can things working up here.

***Question 10: Do you have children?***

I had two boys but the younger one committed suicide, I got only one living in Pond Inlet right now. Started a family over there. And besides I've got grandchildren too.

***Question 11: What are your hopes for the young generation?***

Nowadays, they got better opportunities we're trying to make sure of that. When I was growing up we had no opportunities, no chance of bettering our life except manual labour work or seasonal work which could not always sustain our cost of living. So with the next generation growing up, hopefully the education system will improve their learning ability and hopefully they can grow up to have better education than we did and there are opportunities now, better trainings and opportunities will grow as long as they are well educated. So I see a better future than what we had.

Just try to live each day as it comes, just try to make a better tomorrow than we had yesterday. Best we can do for now. Well just to let the world know that wherever they may be they've got a good life wherever they are because living up here is like frozen world. I hate to say this but I'm really hoping global warming comes fast so we can get warmer too. I shouldn't say that but it's my point of view.

The earth axis might have tilted a little bit but what we see here is very visible in slight changes because we're right on top of the world and every little tilt we can feel that. So there's been a change. There is a little bit more daylight then there use to be. Usually the sun disappears in the middle of November but it's twilight until the middle of December, when there's only about two hours of daylight in December and then we suddenly started getting up daylight started come back mi January and finally see the sun first week of February. So from the middle of November to the beginning of February no sun. Although it's not completely dark, you can see twilight during the day. 24 hour daylight? It usually start end of April, 24 hours of daylight. But

the 24 hour sun start about second week of May, until second week of august. That's the 24 hour sun.

***Question 12: The dark season must be tough on people?***

It depends on the person I guess. 24 hour daylight it's good for us, we can do a lot more than 24 hour dark. Where in 24 hour dark it's hard to see. Although you can work out there it's very limited daylight. If you're not doing much and you don't keep busy and you're stuck in the house for that dark season, people will go mentally unstable, although not mad but temporarily insane, I wouldn't say insane maybe a little bit mad. We were always told to go out, do something out there, do some work, go out hunting, each day passes) and slowly things will improve, that was always our mentality, that things will improve.

When you start to get depressed you try to go visit family and friends, try to be with other people through that so at least you can share your problems or maybe find a little bit of entertainment to kill some boring nights away sometimes.