

VERBATIM

**Lazarussie Epoo**

My name is Lazarussie Epoo, I live in Inukjuak. This is where I live. I use to live somewhere else but here has always been my home.

***Question 1: Did you want to go up there?***

Actually, I never mentioned that I wanted to go; I was asked if I would go with them up there, with the people leaving, and I really wanted to go because I was hearing that there are a lot of animals. I really liked animals back then. All kinds of animals, all of them. I wanted to be where there are animals to hunt.

I was asked by the qallunaak, (the government) the police; we hadn't had any social workers yet at the time.

And when I was asked I really wanted to, and I was anxious to go

You had to listen to your parents; back then, you listened to your parents! And my parents were alive then. It was about this time, there was no more ice, I was asked when there was still ice. And I really thought I was going to go, then I was not allowed to go. They only told me later on that they don't want me to go.

My younger brother was not capable of taking care of himself yet but I was. I was a boy, I mean a man, it was probably like that because of that.

All of my relative and Juani, and Alec, those people, like Minnie and all that family, my cousins, nephews and my uncles all left. I was left behind because I had parents that I had to listen to. So that's why I didn't leave.

***Question 2: Did you see the C.D. Howe ship?***

I was here when the CD Howe arrived. I was not here when they got on, I must have been at the camp, so I did not see them get on.

***Question 3: What news did you receive from the people who left?***

It was like I lived in the same village by what was written and recorded, they are there in Qausuittuq; my cousins, Jackusie, Andrew, Simionie, Laimiki, the young guys that I grew up with here. We were enjoying the animals here and they left. They were happy to be leaving because there was going to be animals. And you must know, only the ones that said yes, the ones that wanted to leave, left. The ones that didn't want to go didn't go. And they had meetings. And from the meetings I knew I was going to leave because of what was being said.

And they were talking about all the animals that are there, polar bears, foxes through writing and tape recordings. And that there was no store, but whatever was arriving they said they would just take, not buy them and nothing was even written down (from what they took). The Qallunaat up there were not quite the same, although they were getting the polar bear skins and fox skins, they were not giving them money. And they were saying they would just gather and take whatever they wanted (Inuit). So that's what they were saying about that while they are there through writing and tapes.

I never heard anything bad about it, so I don't know. And the other ones that were left behind here, I don't know if they were getting the same messages as I got. So I don't know, I was never told if it was scary (life threatening) to live there. And I wanted to go with my friends; I wanted to work with them over there.

I did hear about them having a hard time, and they were suppose to come back if they wanted to after two years, but only if they want to. That's how it was going to be, they would have the opportunity to come back after two years. They were lied to so that's when it got hard for them.

***Question 4: Do you remember when some of them came back to Inukjuak?***

I remember Andrew, Allie Patsauq, they arrived with no belongings. Like this, this small piece of material as a bag. Andrew arrived and that was the only thing he had. And Alec arrived with nothing, him and his wife.

***Question 5: Did you talk with them about what happened over there?***

Yes, I spoke to them, I had grown up with them, and after they came back I spoke to Andrew and he said, they sold everything they had, every little thing they had before they left. And they used that to come back; that was the cost to get back.

**Question 6: Were they angry?**

They were, but then, they had no choice, and they were being refused when they wanted to leave. Only some of them could...and the others were working. And Jakusie was paid by his job with the army.

**Question 7: Do you feel people were different when they came back from Resolute?**

No, no difference. They were still speaking their dialect. And it doesn't stay dark here, day light comes and night time comes. That was the thing they were talking about. And they still had their personality, their way of life when they came back.

I don't know if the people of Inukjuak were happy when they came back...but what we found weird is when they didn't want to pay the people anymore. When they said they would get paid after moving back by the government. That was the only thing strange. And while living there, many had passed away, and people here had died as well.

I don't think about them anymore, I use to think about it while they were still alive, Andrew and them. They were being worked on, but didn't seem like it was a big deal of importance. I thought they weren't being treated seriously enough. They were not given enough money, they were suppose to get more, and still haven't gotten more. This needs to be worked on, dealt with, it seems unfinished, not finished. They came back on their own, with their own money by selling all of their belongings.

**Question 8: What do you think about the government's apology?**

I did not agree with how it was handled, we say to each other «sorry» as human beings. It didn't seem enough. I didn't agree with it, I thought of it but didn't say anything about it. There is nothing anywhere to know more about this. No way to see when exactly they left. There will be something up there to show that they were there, there are still survivors. It's not done yet with the government, its not done yet. IT must be completed.

I use to talk to them while they were trying to get it going, to move forward. We didn't know they were going to a very small amount of compensation. They agreed to it, but the amount was too small. I have told some people that they need to fight it more, to get more. I have told the ones taking care of this, but never said anything personally to the government. They must have the papers of the ones who took care of this. I can tell them that they have not done this right. That it is not done and that they need to finish it.