

VERBATIM

**Minnie Killiktee**

Minnie Killiktee Kristensen. I am from Inukjuak. I now live in Grise Fiord. We also lived in Iqaluit for quite a while. I did for a while, I don't know how many years.

***Question 1: When were you relocated?***

Me, it was 1953. That's when I was brought here. The main memory I have is in 1953 when we were on the C.D. Howe ship for a long time apparently on our way here and we finally made it here. I arrived here in '53. 1974, I went to Iqaluit. 1998, I came back here and I've been here ever since. Because I wanted to be here. When we lived in Iqaluit, I was longing for part of this place.

***Question 2: Do you like living in Grise Fiord?***

When you get used to it, you get used to it. We are not afraid to face it and we know it more now and since we first came here, the climate was changed dramatically. I don't know, I cannot say "This is the reason why I can't part away from Grise Fiord". I can't say that about it. I really feel it is my land.

Why I can't part away from it? I can't name the reasons why but I have been to other places like Iqaluit and Inukjuak. I have even tried moving to Inukjuak but I ended up coming back here for some reason, I long for this place.

***Question 3: Did you try to go back to Inukjuak?***

For about three to four months I was there. I'm not sure I have it written somewhere. I like it there and if I was alone, I would live there but my children and my grand-children were the reason why I came back.

**Question 4: Were you in Inukjuak during the healing week?**

Yes, when I was there with the others, I was healing too. It was good. I thought it was good because it brought back memories I had forgotten. I used to try to forget although I wasn't supposed. I have regretted that my parents were too lenient

Soon after we came here, they could have probably tried returning to Inukjuak. I regret my parents did not make that effort. I have a lot of relatives in Inukjuak, but I am not accustomed to them. This is how I think: Why were we the specifically chosen ones? Why did my parents agree?

The thing I regret most is the fact that we were relocated when there was a nurse and a teacher. Because I was taking part of the learning at school. Coming from Inukjuak and being brought here, we arrived when there was absolutely nothing. Just rocks.

If we didn't come here, if we weren't relocated, I would have taken part in the learning at school. I wouldn't have known this. I wouldn't have known this if my parents didn't move here. I would have been a real Inukjuamiutaq I regret.

The ones responsible for the relocation didn't inform us: "This is how long you will be staying here. This is what it's like here." They just placed us here and I resent them.

The first thing is that we were moved all the way from Quebec. We survived solely because of two men, um, two sets of families because they helped us. Akpaliapik and Arnakallak came from Mittimatalik to help the people from Inukjuak, I think. Those two men helped us and that's why we survived. Because we didn't know this place since we don't come from a place where it gets this dark.

If staying here after one year, and my parents wanted to go back, it would have been sufficient. Maybe they didn't make decisions so we just ended up staying here.

I have mentioned this before but I'll say it again. When we arrived here by ship, Craig Harbour was the only place that had two Caucasian officers and some Inuit. We landed there and we stayed there for about a week. And since we couldn't live there and since they were looking for a place for us to live in, they found and chose that place and that place became our place to live.

We had to be separated too from the group going to Resolute. I think we came here first and we had to be separated. Us we came here and those people from Resolute, Simionie and them went to Resolute. They thought they were going to stay together but they were separated.

We brought all our things like sleds and dogs from Inukjuak. We brought all that. When we were in that little place, Craig Harbour was the only place with goods and had two Caucasian officers. There were people who went there to buy goods in the fall and only came back in the winter. They went to buy goods like flour, tea and sugar because that was all that was available so they were able to get those things. That was the first hardship experienced.

Not having anything. Not having a co-op. Things like flour that the ship brought were the only things we had to eat. Even airplanes were not able to reach us. Those who stayed where the two officers lived did receive supplies by airdrop.

That first hardship experienced I mentioned earlier. The trail they took in the fall became water on their way back. They had to throw away some of the goods they had bought and that's how they survived. Since airplanes were not able to reach us, although the officers in Grise Fiord were receiving supplies by airdrop, my parents didn't get any news from relatives for a very long time.

We didn't have anything, no radios. They didn't get any news. Even when relatives passed away, they only heard about it after a long time. When airplanes were able to reach us, written letters became a way of communication and that's when they finally learned that relatives have passed on.

***Question 5: What did you think of the Government's apology?***

The apology is enough but the person who apologized wasn't physically present when his letter was read aloud. I partially didn't find that sufficient. His apology letter was only read and the person who wrote it wasn't visible. That is what I didn't appreciate.

***Question 6: What are your hopes for the young generation?***

I have experienced a pleasant and unpleasant life. Others will also live through that but I do hope they will have a more comfortable life with less hardship. Those who were the first original people to be relocated are passing away. There are not many of us anymore. Our descendants need to be aware of the relocation.

They will say: "Our relatives, our grandmothers". They will definitely have to have our photos. Some ways it was pleasant, some ways it wasn't, umm but that's life. That's what we experienced.