

VERBATIM

Ipelee Patsauq

My name is Ipelee Patsauq, I was born in Resolute Bay in the old town site and I moved to Inukjuak with my grandparents, probably around 1971. I grew up in Inukjuak. The first two years were really hard, but they started accepting me in the community only after a couple of years.

Question 1: When did you come back to Resolute Bay?

I tried coming back here in 1994 with my wife, but she wanted to go back to Inukjuak ... we went back to Inukjuak in 1995. And then I came back here in 2007 and I've been here ever since.

Question 3: Do you feel at home here?

Not really, it's still pretty much the same as what I was feeling when we first moved to Inukjuak. I think to be discriminated here a lot too in Resolute now. It's kind of a very complicated situation Resolute Bay is in right now. A lot of corruption, organized crime... When I became the Planning and Land administrator, I had to make sure all the records were straight and up to date. I found some inconsistency concerning my work. So, I decided to make a report out of it and ever since then I've been... some harder time than I did when I was in Inukjuak.

Question 4: What do you know about the relocation?

I've only read about it when my mother and my dad tell me a little bit about it, I only know most about it through reading about it.

That my father, his side is from Inukjuak; my mother's side is from Pond Inlet. Ever since I can remember, they used to have a really good time outside, like the whole the community seems like... but by the time I was four, I think that's when liquor was introduced to the community,

they started drinking a lot so it was mostly us kids grow up on our own. I guess we felt secured because our parents were always there, but then again they were always drunk too.

I kind of see on facebook that there is a lot of us young people that were born here, they seem to have kind of animosity or something. They're kind of holding a grudge. I would say it's because of memory, where they grew up and where they are now. It was not always that bad when we were growing up here. The only big problem I had was, looking at drunk people, seeing them passed out on the floor. I don't consider those to hold a grudge on anything, it's just life I guess.

Question 5: How were you treated in Inukjuak?

I didn't go to school until a year later after we landed in Inukjuak, but our first year, our first summer, kids my age and a little bit older, they used to give me these cold stares, they wouldn't stop looking at me, I would start getting nervous. I kind of just walk away, but they kind of would follow and say these kinds of words like: «you're not from here, you go back!» And months later, when I was starting to play outside a little more, some older people they kind of sneak up on us to bully us, take me up like that and say: «Aibillie» and they tell me to speak Inuktitut only. When I said yes, they would get a little rougher, when I said yes in English...they would get a little rougher. Sometime they would even sneak up and try to beat us up. When I catch them I would start to run away, enter any house that has adult in them.

That don't seem to be loving and welcoming, always giving us smile, saying « hey you guys are new, welcome», things like that. I use to speak English only when we first moved to Resolute, that's why I was being discriminated so much. People around my age or older, they always use to say: « you're Inuk, you speak Inuktitut ». I started learning Inukjuak's dialect, so I started speaking more Inuktitut, I started getting more friends. Everything ended up kind of okay.

Question 6: Was there any tension between people from Inukjuak and Pond Inlet?

No, that's only going today. In those days everybody was there to help each other. Whenever I'm having conversation with anybody that is from Inukjuak or Pond Inlet, let's say for instance I'm talking with a person who's parents are from Inukjuak, this person would say, «those people from Pond Inlet think they know everything, they want to have control of everything». And then I'm speaking to someone from Pond Inlet, they say the same thing! They're against each other or something, I don't know why.

Question 7: Can you tell us what it was like when you went back to Inukjuak?

I started making my own breakfast when I was in kinder garden. Five. The stove was about this high and me I was kind of cooking like that, smash the eggs, watch them. Sometimes I would get splash on my face.

Question 9: Do you have a family today?

I got married in 1995, I got two sons. I think they prefer to live in Inukjuak because they grew up there and they have more friends there. My son came with me back in 2007 but I think this town is too small for him and he was getting a lot of calls from friends, so he decided to go back to Inukjuak.

Questions 10: Ultimately, what are the consequences of the relocation for you?

I think I'm in limbo, with no sense of home anywhere. But I've got two communities, I feel more capable of living in. That's Inukjuak and Resolute Bay, but in both communities I've had a really really hard time.

Question 12: Where do you feel most at home?

I kind of really don't have a sense of belonging. Sometimes I really really miss Inukjuak, mostly because of the hunting grounds I know because up here we're on an island, there's only seal, beluga, polar bear, that's about it, there also fish too. I don't go much hunting here in Resolute anymore.

Question 13: What is your relationship with your mother like?

Today she still see us as little kids when we left to Inukjuak, so today I'm not happy at all that she sees me as a little boy. Her love is so big. I even started telling her, I've never been loved that way and I feel funny because you're treating me so good. I even told her to stop trying to spoil me.