

Armond Angootealuk

Question: State your name.

Armond: I am Armond Angootealuk from Coral Harbour.

Q: Where were you born?

Armond: A location close to where we are, about 17 miles from here, Manimaniq is the name of the place.

Q: Do you remember the date you were born?

Armond: My father used to say that it was on November 1, 1933.

Q: Where were you during the 1970s?

Armond: The place we call Kujjuaraluk.

Q: Have you ever attended school?

Armond: First time in 1957. We passed through Iqaluit, Hall Beach, Cambridge Bay, refueled in Yellowknife, we went to Edmonton. In the summertime on June 22 we left. It was not about learning to write and read, it was about heavy equipment, snow and sand bulldozers. I went to learn about these then.

Q: What languages do you speak?

Armond: I don't know another language other than my language. I never learned to speak English.

Q: When did you first hear about the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and what did you think of it at the time?

Armond: I began to hear about Nunavut ever since they started planning it. I mean it was not too long ago when Nunavut was being spoken of, but I thought it would be better and that there would be improvement. I don't know. It is becoming confusing now. That was my idea. to think that it would become better. as many others thought, too.

Q: At that time, when you started to hear about it, what did you think of how it would be?

Armond: The improvements, I thought of. Things will get better once we get Nunavut, when Inuit start to fix things themselves.

Q: The next question is regarding Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. What do you think is the most important value contained in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement?

Armond: I'm not certain which one. The language issue is something that I highly value. I don't want it to be totally forgotten. When we go to other places like Montreal or over to Winnipeg, they reside there, they speak in their dialect and when they converse you can tell where they come from. I don't want the dialect to be totally forgotten.

Q: How do you envision Nunavut's future and what do you think about it?

Armond: It will be the way it is for a while. However, I'm not aware which direction it will go to. I haven't given thought as to how it would turn out either, and I haven't given it thought recently.

Q: If you can say something that would be remembered by your descendants in the future, what would you say?

Armond: Today we hear of Nunavut's global warming. Our land will always be Arctic, despite the change. Equipment prices are really high and some of us struggle because of no jobs. Make the items to survive the winter, especially housing, I want them made to reflect the arctic.