

Ben Arnarjuaq

Question: First, can you tell me who you are.

Ben: Ben Arnarjuaq. In English, it is Ben Worman.

Q: State the community you live in.

Ben: In Inuktitut, it is Sanirajak and in English, it is Hall Beach.

Q: Where were you born?

Ben: I was born on the ice, from what I was told, on a strait past Igloodik. I do not have a place on the land.

Q: What year were you born?

Ben: I was born in 1925, the month of Christmas, mid-month.

Q: Did you ever attend school?

Ben: I never attended English school, but I learned the language while working with Qallunaat. I do not know if I ever took courses in Inuktitut.

Q: In the 1970s, up to 1980, where did you live?

Ben: I was here in Akunniq, on the other side, across the bay.

Q: When was the first time you heard about the Nunavut creation, when there were negotiations on the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement?

Ben: Here in Sanirajak, we started talking about Nunavut, not too long ago.

Q: What did you think of it when it was in the talks?

Ben: I did not have any thoughts on it. The only thoughts we had were when the land belongs to us, what is it going to do for us?

Q: When they started talking about creation of Nunavut, what did you think of it?

Ben: I thought once Nunavut is created, we will not have to listen to the Qallunaat and follow their rules too much.

Q: The Inuit qaujimatugangit principles that are in the agreement, which one do you think is the most consequential?

Ben: I think the most consequential is talking to the Elders so that youth can have easier lives.

Q: What would you like to see in Nunavut's future?

Ben: I would like to see that the land exists forever.

Q: I would like to ask you to say something for the future generations to hear that will be remembered, about Nunavut or the future of Nunavut.

Ben: For our future generations, I would like to tell them that they have to remember the hard work that the leaders are doing for them, that is what I would to leave with them. Nunavut, we Inuit have to take good care of it, its wildlife, and protect them from harm from the development that is ongoing around us.