

Ilkoo Angutikjuaq

Question: When did you hear of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement?

Ilkoo: I first heard about it around 1980.

Q: What did you think of it at the time?

Ilkoo: We were told and informed that we would be more prosperous once we got Nunavut. But up to today with prices so much higher, it just seems to get more difficult even after we got Nunavut.

Q: What did other people in your community think?

Ilkoo: Those of us who are a bit older seem to think about it in a similar way. Once we had Nunavut we would be getting compensated for things. Yes, we get a measly \$150 a month, but I think most of us have thought that it would become easier to acquire things.

Q: Do you remember who worked on the agreement?

Ilkoo: Yes, John Amagoalik was one of the decision-makers and Paul Quassa used to be president. I know quite a few of them.

Q: What were they saying about the NLCA?

Ilkoo: We heard from them that once we had Nunavut it would be more convenient and we would be consulted more on local legislative decisions. Once we had Nunavut we would get more of what we want, that is what they told us.

Q: What did you believe would happen?

Ilkoo: Not all the things that I believed have come to being to date. We have not benefited much from it, but we are finally starting to be consulted about things, only in 2000s. We are just starting to be asked how things can be improved in our communities. It seems to have just started around 2000. We get asked questions.

Q: Why did you think that way?

Ilkoo: Since we got Nunavut, part of the things we talk about to date are starting to be implemented, but not all of them, but we get consulted more than before.

Q: What do you think about the land claims agreement now?

Ilkoo: I don't mind it much, but I think sometimes that we here in our community should have more say in our resources such as wildlife, that is what I think sometimes.

Restrictions on Inuit with some wildlife seem to be excessive with Elders around who are longing for things they used to eat, for example bear cubs, caribou calves and other things. Animals, such as caribou, are seemingly decreasing in our area and in late summer or fall, caribou have a lot of fat. One would like to see organized caribou hunts to where there are more caribou.

Q: What do you believe is the most important Inuit qaujimajatuqangit value contained in the NLCA?

Ilkoo: They are all important

Q: Do you think any Inuit values are left out?

Ilkoo: I don't see anything that is lacking, but it's the laws we asked to be implemented. We are told that they are still the same as before with no changes. Perhaps it's because they are a government and we know that governments take a long time

Q: What is your vision of Nunavut?

Ilkoo: I have empathy for the young people today. It's no wonder that they get into mischief with what is available today. Sometimes I dream of spending time out on the land in the spring with no worries and I am proud of the ones who are normal and try to spend time on the land. As we live in one place all the time now, even as an adult it gets monotonous staying in one place. It is a good thing about some Elders being taken to their original homeland. That seems to be a good thing. I try to do things with my own children, even though they are not perfect. I tell them to try different things to help other people so that they will be helped in return. Instead of just talking to them, we should be doing things with them, then they would have things to do other than mischief or drugs/alcohol and try to help us more. We should be heading them off before they commit crimes and show them kindness. Some of the younger people or even older people can better themselves. It gets difficult to provide for your family.