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TAQRALIK

*newsletter of the
makivik corporation*

FIRST CLASS

JUNE 1981

Makivik Holds Strategy Meeting

The Makivik staff and executive, along with top representatives from the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), and the Kativik School Board (KSB), held a strategy meeting on a number of important issues that the Inuit of Northern Quebec will soon have to deal with. These ranged from the severe housing shortage to the Inuit system of decision making.

The meeting opened with a discussion on the recently held Elders Conference in Payne Bay. Makivik President Charlie Watt explained how an annual Elders Conference could play an important role in overseeing the many decisions by the numerous organizations and bodies in Northern Quebec that will affect the future of the Inuit.

He described how the conference would enable a very important part of the Inuit society to participate in the decision making process, as well as providing support for the major decisions of the other Inuit organizations. In this sense, the role of the annual Elders Conference is comparable to that of the Senate in Canada's Parliament.

It was proposed that an Elders Conference be held once a year in November and that top leaders of the other organizations in Northern Quebec make a point of attending. The Elders would then review the general direction of the past year and the conference would be able to take positions for the Inuit as one.

The many implementation problems



Lizzie York, Office Manager of Kativik Regional Government, was one of those present at Makivik's Strategy Meeting.

were discussed at some length. For the most part, the meeting focused on the housing crisis and the urgent need for proper airstrips in the communities.

The discussions with the Federal Government's transport people and their proposal to improve the airstrips were reviewed. It was decided that still more would have to be done to convince them that the poor facilities will require even greater upgrading. With the housing situation, it was agreed to continue to do everything possible to obtain the 500 houses the Kativik Regional Government says are needed to satisfy existing requirements.

Generally, the meeting believed that the best way of overcoming the implemen-

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tation problems is to maintain existing efforts and negotiations with both the federal and provincial governments. The federal government has already indicated some willingness to review the implementation shortcomings. On the provincial side, it was felt that it would be in the best interest of everyone to find new approaches to improving relations and understanding with the Quebec government, rather than continuing to fight over past issues.

The transfer agreement and Hydro-Quebec's new responsibility for providing electricity in the communities were also discussed. The meeting expressed some concern over what rate Hydro may charge for private homes and public or commercial buildings. It was emphasized that the rate should be the same as in the south.

One of the Makivik Executive pointed out that while Hydro does not want electricity used for heating purposes in the north (where most of the electricity will be coming from), it is encouraging conversion to electric heating in the south.

A decision the meeting was quick to agree on was the establishment of the long needed Implementation Committee. Initially, this committee will be composed of the main bodies established under the Agreement, (KRG, KSB and Makivik). Through the committee they will be able to co-ordinate their efforts in trying to overcome the numerous problems with the implementation process. It was made clear that in due time the membership of the committee could be easily expanded to include the Federal and Quebec governments. It has been argued that this would greatly increase the effectiveness of the committee.

Makivik's relationship to the other signatory parties of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was clarified. Mark R. Gordon said that Makivik from now on would no longer intervene on behalf of other organizations unless there is a request for intervention on a specific issue from the organizations in question. He said that such a request for action on specific matters would eliminate duplica-

tion or unnecessary interference.

The meeting also spent a fair amount of time reviewing the issue of relocating part of the Great Whale River community and the Hydro developments in that region. It was explained that work on these issues was done through two main bodies. These are; the Co-ordinating Table, which deals with the effects and decisions concerning the actual hydro project and the Relocation Committee which is working on the possibility that some of the community will decide to move to the Richmond Gulf area.

It was reported that progress was being made on an agreement with the concerned governmental bodies and agencies about the conditions and terms of the relocation. In this way, the Inuit of Great Whale will be in a better position to make their decision when they hold a vote on whether or not to move.



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Constitutional Wrangling Continues on Aboriginal Rights

The changes to Canada's constitution recognising Inuit aboriginal rights and providing various other protections for Inuit and other Native peoples are still threatened.

The Federal government which presented the changes following negotiations with Inuit leaders and other political parties has been deeply divided on this issue. A group of senior civil servants has tried very hard to have the elected politicians throw away these amendments because they would give native people more independence from government administrators. Prime Minister Trudeau refused to do that.

Meanwhile, the provincial governments are having meetings in private to discuss native people. Eric Goudreau of Quebec's SAGMAI, was the host of the latest such meeting in Quebec City at the end of May. The provincial civil servants from all across Canada tried to figure out how to spend less money on native people and how to stop native people's constitutional rights from becoming law.

Although some provinces like Saskatchewan believe that native people should have some rights protected, other provinces like Quebec say that the Federal Government should not try to protect native people.

The Quebec government, according to Mr Goudreau who represents them on Native Issues, wants to have the power over Native people taken away from the Federal Government. But Quebec seems less interested in paying the costs of those responsibilities once it has acquired them.

When the constitution was written more than one hundred years ago, it was decided that Native people would have special protection. This protection was included because when the provinces want to develop lands and resources, native people often have different ideas about development and want to protect their living environment.

It is interesting to see that while



all these "experts" try to establish in private what is good for native people, it is very important that the constitutional talks promised by the Prime Minister, since 1979, take place because it is clear that certain people in both governments have no desire to see any changes occur.

Another source of difficulties for native constitutional rights comes from native people themselves. Some groups of Indians, especially in Western Canada, say that they do not think the Federal Government should make changes now in the constitution, they think that more guarantees are needed first. The Inuit agree that more guarantees are needed, that is why there is now a constitutional clause which ensures that Inuit and other Native groups will be able to negotiate with government leaders at constitutional conferences in the future.

Because the provinces are trying very hard to prevent the federal constitutional changes including the Native rights changes from becoming law, native groups who oppose the changes may make people think that native people don't want to be protected. That is why Inuit have said clearly that they want aboriginal rights protected in the constitution the way it was agreed on January 30, 1981.

Canada Holds International Symposium on Renewable Resources

The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, the Man and Biosphere Program and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation held an International Symposium on Renewable Resources and the Economy of the North.

This conference was held from May 3 to 8, 1981 in Banff, Alberta. Josipi Agma and Lorraine Brooks of Makivik's Research Department and Sammy Ekoomiak from Kativik Regional Government attended the conference.

There were approximately 100 participants mainly research scientists and policy planners. Most of the circumpolar countries were represented including the Soviet Union, Sweden, Finland and Norway. Delegates were also present from Great Britain, Australia, France and several other countries.

The main objectives of this symposium was to discuss the most recent advances, discoveries and problems in the field of Northern Renewable Resource Management and Utilization with particular attention focused on the Canadian North.

There were several workshops held but the most relevant one was concerning the Co-operative Management of Caribou in the north. Several working groups presented papers, one of particular interest was entitled "Caribou, Management of a Vital Resource".

As a result of the workshop on caribou management, chaired by Dr V. Geist of the University of Calgary, a series of recommendations were made to the Canadian and provincial governments.

The first recommendation was that the economic, social and cultural importance of caribou to native people be recognized and that the governments support education, research, management and legislation.

Other recommendations were; that re-

gional caribou management boards be established to advise the governments on all aspects of the caribou herds; that the United States and Canada should have an international agreement on the migratory caribou herds; that long term studies be initiated to determine the nature and effect of air pollution on caribou; and that additional wildlife be introduced to suitable habitats north of the 60th parallel. This could be done with reindeer, bison, elk and mountain sheep.

One of the more concrete suggestions was that the Yukon Quartz Mining Act and the Yukon Placer Mining Act should be revised and updated. As of now both of these acts encourage extensive mining rather than recognize the value of renewable resources as a vital resource to native people and all Canadians.

Other areas of discussion were the setting up of an international network for co-operation in Northern science; planning for future management of northern resources; and marine biological research particularly in the Hudson Bay System.

The working group paper on caribou management mainly discussed the herds in the N.W.T. and Alaska. One of the groups conclusions was that a primary objective of caribou management must be to ensure that human activities do not cause an extreme decline in caribou herds. Unfortunately this has already occurred. The arctic herd in Alaska has declined from 242,000 in 1970 to only 70,000 in 1974.

Discussions were held on the Kaminuriak caribou herd in the Baker Lake area. The herd is declining and most probably overhunted and with the presence of mining exploration in the area, it is felt that this can adversely affect the herd.

One of the conclusions of this paper is that most of the funding for

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IMAQPIK AND GREENLAND SIGN JOINT ECONOMIC VENTURE

Imaqpiik Fisheries and Qarsorsoq Amba. of Greenland have reached an agreement to establish a company in Nuuk which will service the fishing vessels of Imaqpiik. This is the first time that the Inuit of Canada and Greenland have reached such a joint agreement.

This new company, which will be called the Eastern Arctic Trading Co., shall be incorporated under Greenlandic law with a limited liability of \$3000 and ownership shall be divided equally between the two countries.

Imaqpiik and Qarsorsoq each will invest \$3000 and in addition each party will advance the amount of \$14,000 to give the company a working capital. This amount of \$14,000 is equivalent of what Imaqpiik would have paid to a contractor in Greenland to provide similar services.

Both parties will use the services of the new company when in Greenland. The following services will be provided:

- purchase of fuel
- storage of catch
- onward freight of catch
- aquisition of spare parts and gear
- provisioning
- ancillary services

This joint venture is done in the true spirit of economic co-operation amongst Inuit. Both Neil Greig of Imaqpiik Fisheries and Dr. Ove Rosing Olsen of Qarsorsoq Amba stated that they hope this is the first of many such joint ventures between Greenland and Canada for the benefit of the Inuit.

Research To Continue Beluga Study

The Beluga Whale and Eider Duck studies of the Makivik Research Department are now completed and final reports are being prepared. Preliminary results indicated that there are more eider ducks than had been expected. However the beluga study discovered that there are fewer whales in the Nastapoka and Mucalic River areas than was previously believed. As a result, the Research Department will continue its beluga study in these two areas.

The Research Department also reports that a sub-committee of the coordinating committee has been formed with a one year mandate to establish new management principles and techniques for polar bears. They are planning a meeting with hunters in the near future to discuss this matter.

In other developments, the Research Department is now working on the land use

maps for Leaf Bay, Aupaluk, Payne Bay and Koartak. They have already completed the land use mapping for Kuujjuaq, Great Whale River and George River. These land use maps will be used to identify such things as wildlife resources, important harvesting areas and breeding grounds. As such, they will be an important tool for proper planning in the Territory.

The research department has also been very active in archaeological surveys and projects. Daniel Weetaluktuk has already submitted his 61 page archaeological report on the Sleeper and Ottawa Islands. He says that he is now working on reports on Hopewell Island and the General Offshore Islands. In addition, the report on the Inukjuak archaeological salvage report is being prepared. Furthermore, the research department is proposing surveys for the Long, Manitousuk and Nastopoka Islands.

Native Economic Development Conference Disappointing

The Kanata Institute held an International Native Economic Development Conference from May 25 to May 29, 1981 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Charlie Watt and Mark T. Gordon represented Makivik Corp.

In a meeting with representatives from the Kanata Institute a few months prior to this conference, senior staff said that approximately 1000 delegates could be expected. According to Mark T. Gordon, there were, "approximately 400 to 500 persons."

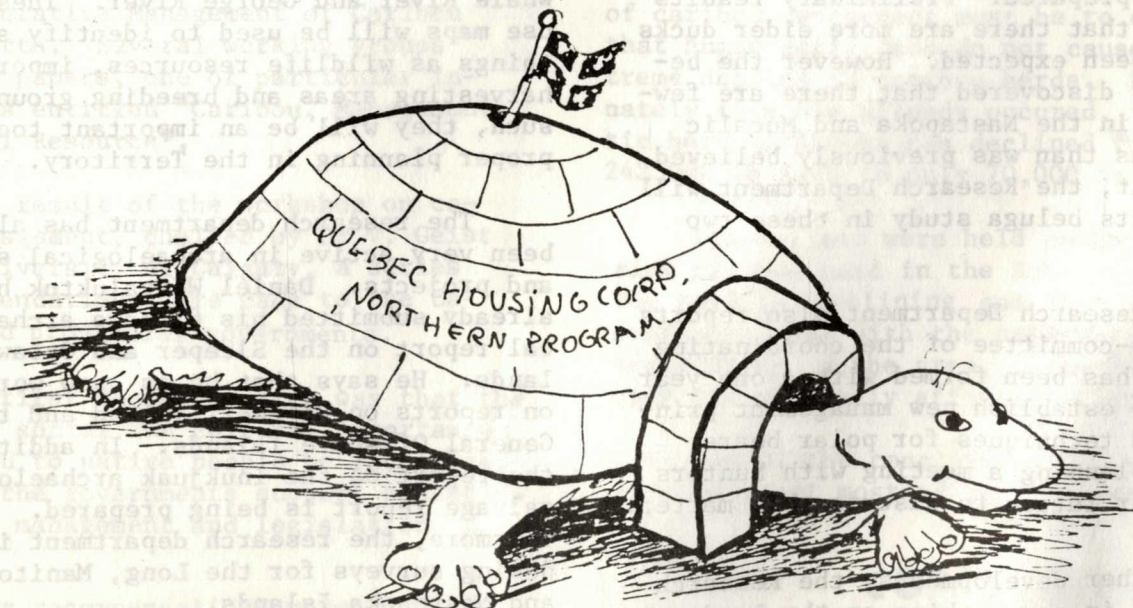
The main purpose of this conference was to have certain native organizations speak on economic development, low-cost housing construction and government programs. Also several government officials made presentations.

However, the conference deviated from its proposed agenda and according to Mark T. Gordon, "very little native economic development was touched upon. Also a great minority of the audience were non-natives, including many from the news media." In most of the workshops the talks were either dealing more about Indians affairs or regional matters (concerning Manitoba).

John Munro, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs made major policy announcements during one of the evening sessions. Some of these were economic aid for native economic programs, feasibility studies and other incentives. More details will be forth coming from the Minister's office.

The area that was very informative was discussions held with the Peace Hill Trust Company, which was established by four Indians bands in northern Alberta. They receive royalty payments from oil located on their land. After administering their own housing, sanitation and other programs, they decided to set up a trust company with the remaining money. It works on the same basic principals as a bank. They have been in operation for six months and it is successful. A future meeting and a visit to their Alberta office is being planned.

The conference was generally informative but it was too broadly based and not fully suited to our needs. It was a forum to exchange opinion and ideas but no definite course of action was planned.



Kigiak Limits Credit



The Makivik Executive has decided that there will be no more credit with Kigiak for anyone who has not paid up their bill with the company after a period of 60 days. In addition, after the 60 day period, Kigiak will start to charge 1 1/2 per cent interest per month on the outstanding accounts. This new policy will apply to all individuals and organizations and the executive made it clear that there will be no exceptions.

This new policy means that anyone who passes the 60 day limit will have to pay for Kigiak services, heating fuel, gasoline or other material on cash only, no credit basis.

Any questions arising from misunderstandings with outstanding accounts should be directed to Kigiak's Montreal office. The phone number is 483-1434.

Caribou Confiscated in Montreal

The Quebec Department of Fish and Game recently confiscated 500 pounds of fresh caribou meat from Buywell's grocery in Montreal. A wholesaler in Montreal has been bringing in the meat from the Northwest Territories for about two months.

The meat was federally inspected and stamped. It is legal under federal law to sell caribou but not under provincial law. It is illegal to sell the meat of animals native to Quebec. The reasoning behind this is that if it were legal, poachers would go out and shoot animals to sell to the stores.

A total of fourteen stores were raided. During their raids the game wardens even found an order from the Governor General's residence in Ottawa. The chef was informed that it was illegal and the order was cancelled.

The meat was being sold from \$4.59 to \$11.99 a pound.



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MAKIVIK CORPORATION'S Montreal office, located at 4898 de Maisonneuve West.

KIGIAK BUILDERS and INUIT LEASING are located in the same building.

New Coordinator For ICNI

Mary J. Sillett has been appointed as the new co-ordinator for ICNI. She is from Labrador and has worked with the Labrador Inuit Association and the Labrador Resources Advisory Council. Her responsibilities include directing the working group and overseeing constitutional research that will be done next year.

She is replacing Mark R. Gordon who was elected to the Executive of Makivik Corporation. Her appointment is effective immediately.

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research and management procedures will have to come from presently existing government agencies. Settlement and implementation of native claims is still too far in the future.

Even after 30 years of research, basic questions on caribou management still aren't answered. Any solution must deal with not only the biology of the caribou, but also with the social and political conditions of the north. If not, only more problems will be created.



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