

**Perry River Project
Taped at Gjoa Haven
September 2003**

**Whole Group
(English)**

**Interviewer: David Pelly
Interpreter: Ben Kogvik
Transcribed by: Ben Kogvik**

David Pelly: Do you want to start with a prayer?

David Siksik: Perhaps Apiana can open this.

Peter Apiana: Yes. All these people here at Perry River, not all were born at Perry River just some. We raised them and indicated them as part of our group, that is why they are here, so that's fine. Some were too young to know anything when we were coming. We adults are very few right now. We'll pray that we'll be kept here in good faith.

Peter Apiana gives the opening prayer.

David Pelly: Thank you Apiana. You probably know that my name is David Pelly. I'm here because you wrote to NTI, you wrote a letter to them. NTI has asked me if I could come here to listen to your stories. I'm thankful that the elders can be here to join us, following their wish to meet together and hear what you have to say, together with your children and relatives. It's up to the elders as to how you want to do this, as this gives you an opportunity to hear further the stories that were told for these listeners. That's fine, and also if you want to add anything you want to be heard. This can be recorded as well tonight. You have also been interviewed separately, telling your stories and those have been recorded. Peter, do you want to start?

Peter Apiana: Yes. The day before yesterday and also yesterday we were asked to record some of our stories. We had a recorder at our individual sessions, and we want to work together and help each other in bringing up our individual travel from, from Perry Island and some people from, also all the way from Ellice River. We want to think of the length of time that it took as well as how much in today's terms, how much fuel it would have taken, to go from Gjoa Haven all the way back to where we came from. We've gone through a lot of hard, hard times and struggled in our travels from Perry. A lot of the hard times that we went through were due to weather, very harsh weather, ice breaking up at certain times of the year. And even those of you that are the off-spring of these people that traveled, if you want to say anything in English you're more than welcome to anytime. Anybody want to bring anything up?

Clara Magaknak: I think that it would be much help and useful to us in a sense of healing to go back and visit Perry, Perry River and Perry Island.

David Pelly: Can I ask you to say your name before you start talking so that it can be a reference on the recording so that people listening will know who is talking. So please say your name each time you talk.

David Siksik: I'm David Siksik. I just want to speak very briefly. The land that we traveled through, from where we came from, and all the trials and tribulations that we went through during that time. We want to make people understand. I was also interviewed and recorded. Some of the things that we could have brought up, because I

couldn't remember them, have come to mind now. The harsh times that we had and the struggling that we went through, I think that it might help if we first of all not make recommendations as to what should or could happen, but at this time basically to bring out what we went through. There were a couple of canoes and couple of wooden in-board boats and one without a motor that was being pulled. When we finally arrived here, we did not have any funds to buy supplies or food, but we were given donations by some of the people here. I re-iterate that we did not have any money or funds or any way of trading for supplies. At that time, the teacher or the principal gave us some supplies that were donated to us that we could use, and we didn't know who to ask for assistance or any kind of help. I'll just leave it at that for the moment.

Peter Apiana: Perhaps if anybody wants to say anything in the group, you could raise your hand. That way we'll know that you want to speak up, or have something to bring up.

Don Magaknak: The day before yesterday I was interviewed and recorded on this issue. There were some things I skipped over during the interview. From where we came, all the way to Gjoa Haven, there were a lot of things that I can't remember, but later on my recollections bring them back. I don't have a whole lot to add to what I stated the other day, but I want to at this time thank David and the group for the opportunity to have been able to bring this up.

Peter Apiana: You don't have to worry about where to start. If anything comes to mind, bring it up. It doesn't have to be in any particular order.

Annie Magaknak: I'm Annie Magaknak. I also want to speak to the issue. When we started traveling from Perry River, Perry Island, we weren't given any warning that we had to go. I did not know the trail at all or the land that we were going to be traveling by. I was fairly young at that time, but my husband knew more about the land than I did. When we just started moving to the community of Gjoa Haven, I can remember and recollect the travel that we took. Each time that my husband brought something up it reminded me of the time that we had. Thank you very much for being able to talk.

Peter Apiana: I would also like to speak again, Peter Apiana. Before when David Siksik spoke, I went through exactly the same things that he did. During my interview, I skipped a few things that I didn't immediately remember about the trip. When we started moving here, those three and my family, to Gjoa Haven. I can remember some things after the interview because it was such a long time ago. I do not remember at all ever receiving family allowance for my child at that time. Magaknak's, Halluqtaalik's and any of the families that moved here, I do not remember or recollect whether they received any family allowance of any kind, or any kind of assistance. I don't remember that at all after we moved here. We indicated that it took about seven months to travel, and if we were to receive the family allowances for each and every one of those seven months, and if those

were missed for some reason, I do not remember at all, but still I don't recall whether we did in fact receive them or not, but we started receiving some assistance in the community. And thereafter each of the families started receiving their normal family allowances on a monthly basis. Based on how many children each of the families had, that's basically how we used to receive our family allowances, as set by the government. And also throughout the year, Ray Mercer started getting me to sign forms. He indicated, he told me that I have to sign some applications or forms and when I was done he asked me, "Are you now a resident of Gjoa Haven?" and I indicated yes I am, and it seems that from then on we started receiving some assistance to supplement our supplies in food that we needed. I forgot to mention the other day during the interview the aspect of possibly not receiving any of the family allowance that we could have received during that time that we traveled, during the winter and summer that we traveled. If we did not receive them, we should have been given them on a retroactive basis. Those families that traveled all had children. That's it for now.

Sarah Ullikattaq: My name is Sarah Ullikattaq. I was interviewed the other day as well, again like the others I forgot some things. We seemed to have taken eight months during the traveling that we did without any supplies, other than what we could catch out on the land. We traveled for a fairly long time trying to get here. I probably missed a lot of things during the interview, but it's hard to go back and remember. That's it for now.

Annie Magaknak: I want to bring up something. I'm Annie Magaknak. I don't recall at all about receiving any family allowances, only until we started staying in Gjoa Haven for quite some time. It seemed that time we received six dollars per child, and I had one child at that time, so I received six dollars, and you couldn't get very much for that. I remember filling out applications for that and it happened such a long time ago, so I forgot a lot of things. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

Don Magaknak: I want to speak again. I'm Don Magaknak. The issue of the family allowances, when I was interviewed the other day, perhaps the length of time that it took us, depending on how many months to travel. Then after arriving in Gjoa Haven and we were finally given some forms to fill out and sign, to apply for family allowances, after we arrived here. I don't recall when or how things happened, perhaps we were too distraught at that time, and we struggled too hard to reach Gjoa Haven. I know that it's very hard even in today's lifestyle to obtain anything without financial or monetary assistance. That's what I wanted to add to what I've said already. Thank you.

Peter Apiana: There were some young couples that did not have any children at that time, I know that for sure, such as David and Alice. I can also support them in any way that I can if I need to.

David Siksik: I'm David Siksik. When I was interviewed the other day, I spoke about my step-father's old age pension. It took an extremely long time for him to receive any

pension and when it finally came, they were just the normal amount and not anything that looked as if they were retroactive to any years that he should have been allowed to receive them. At that time, as was indicated time and time again, without family allowances, without any assistance of any kind, even after we arrived in Gjoa Haven, for quite a long time thereafter it was extremely hard because we didn't have anything to buy with after we moved to Gjoa Haven. I know that I brought this up already before, but I did not bring up the issue of family allowances because at that time I, myself and my wife did not have any children when we moved here. Thank you.

David Pelly: Thanks David.

Don Magaknak: I've got things to bring up still.

David Pelly: Say your name please.

Don Magaknak: I'm Don Magaknak. The day before when I was interviewed there were things that I could have brought up, such as the family allowances, the old-age pensions, I think are two very important issues that we should have noted. They used to receive family allowances and old-age pensions on a monthly basis at that time. Both the child taxes, as we call them today, and family allowances were two main sources of income for unemployed people at that time. When we finally started receiving family allowances and old-age pensions, I think there were just a few people that were eligible for them. I do not recall them being made retroactive to any time that we should have received them, especially taking into consideration the seven or so months that we traveled.

Peter Apiana: That's how it seems to be. I'm Peter Apiana. That's how it seems to be, if I was not the only one that did not receive the family allowances, that would have had a right to have received them at that time, and if there were other families should have received them and did not. I did not know that other people had to wait for a long time for any kind of financial assistance, whether it was through the family allowance program or otherwise. We were interviewed on an individual basis, without having any of the other group members with us. I thought, during that interview, I thought that perhaps I was the only one that did not receive family allowances for my child or children. But tonight I find out that there were other families that were in the same predicament. There are many things that we forgot, and there are three families that arrived here, again we did not have anything to purchase any food or anything that we needed. All of us had nothing in our pockets. We traveled from Ellice River and some from Perry, Perry Island and Perry River. We were forced to move to a community that we did not know anything about, we didn't know land. The issue of family allowances and old-age pensions was almost foreign to us. Prior to leaving it might have been possible that I might have had a family allowance or child tax for my child, and the elders that were eligible for old-age pensions may have received them, before we left, but I have no knowledge of that. But for certain, during those months we traveled, any of those federal funds that we could receive, we did not receive, and I would guess probably very close to a year or more to receive any of this funding, whether it was retroactive or not and I'm assuming that it

wasn't. But some us, I know for sure, that I can speak for myself that that's what we went through. If we looked at it today without any kind of assistance it would be extremely easy to guess that it was an extreme kind of hardship that we went through, and I'll leave it at that for now.

David Pelly: This is David Pelly. Along these lines of thought about acquiring social assistance after arriving in Gjoa Haven, it would be useful, in completing the picture, if some of you could explain your circumstances before the Perry Island post closed. By which I mean, were some of you able to support yourselves while living in that area of Perry River through fox trapping, but as a result of leaving your fox traps behind, because of the load, did you find that when you got to Gjoa Haven that it was the first time that you needed to request social assistance? I'm wondering, to summarize my question, I'm wondering whether the move actually created a situation where it was the beginning of requiring social assistance, that previously perhaps was not there because of the fox trapping. If that's so, or if that is wrong, I'd like to know that too. You should explain to me. I think that David is ready to answer that.

David Siksik: I'm David Siksik. When the post closed at Perry Island, the Hudson's Bay post, there was no store manager, there were no more supplies. We could not purchase anything any more. There was a little bit of flour and sugar that were given to my step-parents and the parents of the other families. I can't say all of them, but I know that my step-parents were given a 50 pound bag of flour. I think there was some tea, about ten pounds of sugar. I think there was a couple of small cans of baking powder and a little bit of lard, maybe four pounds of lard. And thinking back, we had to leave our traps at Ellice River. We knew at that time, during those years prior to moving here, there were no jobs available. The only way to make any kind of money was trapping, and after we moved here we did not have any more traps. We had to leave all of our traps. They were heavy and we had to leave many traps behind, and when we got to Gjoa Haven we had no more traps. Nobody gave us any traps. If we stayed at Perry Island or Perry River, I know that we could have continued our trapping, but because there was no more store manager and the store closed, it was not even possible to have help even if we had stayed back and trapped. And prior to moving to Gjoa Haven, I had never received social assistance at all. After moving to Gjoa Haven, I don't know how many months I had to wait and finally when I was given social assistance, I was given about thirty dollars on a monthly basis. I can remember that very clearly. It didn't seem small to me at that time because there was no other recourse, there was no other source of funding. Even if we thought it was small, we couldn't refuse it, we had to take it, we had no choice but to take it. That's all I have to say until later.

Don Magaknak: I'm Don Magaknak. Issues that are spoken to, I can't refute any of the things that were brought up by the others, because we all went through the same thing, but I can speak directly to exactly my own experiences. We all stayed together during our travels, sometimes we spread out a bit. Again, we left the post because it had closed, the store had closed, and whatever was brought up truthfully. I speak to the truth as I had experienced it as well. The issue about leaving our traps and our trap lines is in fact what had actually happened. When we arrived into Gjoa Haven and actually became a part of

the community, we were not given any traps. There was no way to continue our trapping. Foxes seemed to not be able to bring in very good prices today, therefore I don't even trap myself today. Those issues, those things that are brought up by the rest of the group is exactly what happened. I don't have much more to say right now, but I'll again speak up if I remember something. I can continue to speak all night as I start remembering things, but even if I don't speak all night that's fine as well.

Peter Apiana: I'm Peter Apiana. Earlier, we spoke to some issues and concerns that we had. Whether or not there was no stove, an oil-burning stove that we had left behind. My father had to leave an oil stove behind. I always looked after it. I had to leave a very good stove in excellent condition behind, the building, everything. I'm wondering if it still stands or whether it was demolished or taken away? The same for the traps. What became of them? When we had to move to a different community that we knew nothing about. We knew nothing about the hunting grounds of this area, we didn't know where to go or what to do, and that added to the turmoil and the hardship that we went through, and that really affected all of us. Again the old-age pensions and the family allowances or child taxes may have been omitted for certain families for several months, I think that has to be brought up. And we know that whatever we're asking for and the people that are listening to these recordings have to keep in mind that we had certain possessions that we had to leave behind. There may have been funds that we were allowed to receive that we had to forego. Those are just a couple of examples were given, the family allowances and the old-age pensions. When we speak about our travel, our moving to Gjoa Haven from Perry River, Perry Island and Ellice River, we have to keep in mind every month that we had to endure the hardship and the trials and tribulations we went through. That's how we were treated a long time ago. If somebody became ill, there was no way to contact anybody, we had no source of communication with the outside world. For how many months, nobody cared whether we became ill. It has to be understood that we went through a lot of hard times, a lot of turmoil, a lot of sacrifice. If we went through the same thing today, none of us would be very happy at all. I'll leave it at that for now.

Annie Magaknak: I'm Annie Magaknak. From where we came from, or just before we started coming here, we had a very limited amount of supplies. There as a little bit of milk for the children. It was very, very difficult because the kids had nothing to eat. And I had kidney problems during that time when we were traveling. When we finally reached Gladman Point, Cam-2, there was no health center or nurse to go to. It was very, very difficult. That's all I have for now.

Clara Magaknak: I'm Clara Magaknak. When you left Perry River, do you know why the store was closed, why you moved to Gjoa Haven? Was there a store here in Gjoa Haven, was it open? Why was the store closed in Perry River, that's what I want to find out, and also when you moved to Gjoa Haven was there a store here that was open?

Peter Apiana: I'll answer. Yes. Clara Magaknak, the young lady, asked. She wasn't born before we left Perry Island. Perhaps some of us don't remember but I seem to have

heard that the Perry River people or the Perry Island people, some of the families moved to Cambridge Bay. There were about five families that moved towards Gjoa Haven, while other family members moved to Cambridge Bay. I heard that the population was too small where we came from to call it a community, a large enough community to be in jobs if any jobs were available, and I believe that's why the store was closed. They told us that the population was too small to run the store. Some people started to move to Cambridge Bay and that caused the population to decrease. For those of us that were left behind, some of them, some of us, or some of our relatives, moved to Cambridge Bay and about five families or so moved to Gjoa Haven. I don't know exactly how many people there were but there were about five heads of the families that traveled to Gjoa Haven. We can think of them as five separate families. Perhaps I didn't reply to her question properly but that's how it was.

David Siksik: This is David Siksik speaking. I'm just wondering whether the interpreter needs a break. We could probably take a short break.

David Pelly: All right, if we can re-convene. Does anybody want to pick it up from where we left off? Clara did you get as much answer as you wanted?

Peter Apiana: This is Peter Apiana. There is perhaps something that I didn't speak to. This is Peter Apiana. My in-laws, we followed them from Ellice River, going down the Ellice River. They finally heard that we would be moving, when we reached them. There weren't eight months. There were seven months for all of us.

Sarah Ullikattaq: For me it was eight, eight when we were coming here.

Peter Apiana: That eighth month for you. You probably heard at the same time when you went over there.

Sarah Ullikattaq: When we heard we went here.

Peter Apiana: Seven, not eight.

Sarah Ullikattaq: It was eight. That I haven't forgotten.

Peter Apiana: It wasn't eight. Seven, that's the dispute that I have.

Sarah Ullikattaq: It was seven, eight, that's what I know.

Peter Apiana: These people all know that well. Magaknak and I know it well. From April or the month of May.

Annie Magaknak: I remember we started traveling when the school kids got back home to Perry in the month of May. That's when we started traveling.

Peter Apiana: We all depended on the little outpost, the store at Perry Island, to supplement our food, our country foods. That's basically it.

David Siksik: I'm David Siksik. It's very hard to bring up anything. That's why we have the long pauses, without somebody chairing the session and asking leading

questions and I think that it's difficult in a group session like this, whereas the other day, when we were interviewed individually, it was easier to carry on. But now tonight since we're together, we don't know who wants to speak up next etc.

Peter Apiana: I know that it's difficult. I'm Peter Apiana. I spoke earlier and David also spoke. There were probably about five separate families. We were each given 50 pounds of flour, nothing else, two 10-pound bags of sugar, four one-pound lard packages and some baking powder. There was about four gallons of gas, and that was thought to sustain a family for a month. There was some milk as well, but not much else. There was a little bit of tea, I don't know how many packages, but there wasn't much of anything else besides those staples that we were given, I'm assuming, by the government. When we received any help back then, we were given for half a month about 25 pounds of flour and two gallons of gas. Nothing much else besides those staples, that's what we carried from such a long distance and those diminished and were gone right away. I mean, long before we even reached the one-quarter way mark. We could have arrived earlier, possibly could have arrived earlier, but ice conditions didn't allow us to do that. We broke into a small group of three people to take a little bit of gas along with us and tried to reach Gjoa Haven. During the summer we could sustain ourselves with country food from the land. We weren't nearly starving but the kids were going through a hard time without some of the necessary milk and other products that they needed. I don't know exactly how far it was that we had to leave the rest of the group behind, to try to reach Gjoa Haven. During my personal interview, I didn't exactly pin-point from the boat where we had to leave the rest of the group behind to reach Gjoa Haven. I was thinking that perhaps even to be given 45 gallons of fuel to compensate for the journey if we could be assisted. As we had indicated there was nobody to help us, there was nobody that we could go to ask for help. Those types of things should be taken into consideration. Also when NTI came to town, to Gjoa Haven, to hold their AGM, there was a lot of delegates here in the community hall, it was packed. I was asked to speak to the assembly, there were so many people there that were listening. And when I was finishing my presentation I didn't pin-point who I wanted to help me, but I indicated that anybody in this assembly I would ask for your assistance. I want any of you that can help us, to help us, and perhaps that's where NTI started to form a plan as to how they could go about this and to have this recorded. We want to be heard. It has to be heard even if we don't directly speak to the community here, it can be recorded and written and the stories can be passed around. Only when everything is collated and put all together, that's when the stories should be published or could be published. If anybody else has anything further to add they can.

Don Magaknak: I'm Don Magaknak. I want to bring up one more thing. I know that whatever I've brought up already has been recorded. Some of the things, I may have forgotten. I want to say one last thing. I can be approached later on to bring up other things. But this ordeal that we went through will be heard, I know that. I don't want it just to be heard. If some action can be taken, if we can be assisted from whomever. The ordeals and the hardships and the trials and tribulations we went through, through our travels from such a long distance, there was a lot of hard times during that travel. If we

can be assisted, that's what I would like to see come out of this. I don't want to bring up too much more. I'll sit and listen.

Alice Siksik: I'm Alice Siksik. I don't want to be too quiet. I don't often speak up in even a small group like this. I as well was interviewed. Just after I arrived home from Inuvik, from a boarding school, it didn't seem like I spent very many hours at home at Perry Island. We started traveling. Some of the elders are here tonight, and I just want to ask, just thinking about our situation today. They started traveling, we know that today when you're preparing to go out and be on the land for, say, a month, you prepare and plan for what you're going to be taking along, and what you're going to be leaving. Perhaps I mentioned that 1966 was the year that I indicated that my parents left. Apparently it was 1967 when they started making the move to Gjoa Haven. Arrived here in the year of 1968. I thought I remembered that as the year that we left in '66 when I was interviewed the other day. I was very young at the time when they moved. I wanted to ask whether, whether the group had to move a certain amount of supplies before the rest of the family moved, and kept going back and forth in that manner or not?

David Siksik: When we started traveling by boat, when we couldn't travel any more by dog-team and sleds. We had to bring part of the family and then go back and get the rest, and we kept coming across ice packs and our route was endangered by ice floes, and we had to keep stopping all the way. We had to keep going back and forth because we couldn't carry everybody in the boats. Some of us were left behind, then later on caught up to the rest of the boats. I just wanted to clarify that that was how we traveled.

Peter Apiana: I'm Peter Apiana. We didn't have a lot of fuel. There were two motorized boats that had to go back and forth. People, the whole group, didn't travel all together at the same time during the summer. We had a lot of dogs also to carry in the boats. We carried a few people and some dogs went ahead. Perhaps there was close to about sixty dogs altogether. Don Magaknak and I estimated that there would be about that many dogs involved. And again I indicated that there was very little gasoline for the motors. We didn't carry very much food supplies, meat, on the boats, but we carried only the necessities that we needed to set up camp and to protect ourselves from the raging storms and weather. There was an extra boat that we had but it didn't have a motor. I probably used the most gas but my boat didn't have to go back and forth that time, but I remember there were two boats that had to keep going back and forth. Once we started doing the actual move we didn't have to go back and forth too often. Once we set up a system, I think that was basically how it happened.

Clara Magaknak: Are you going to ask for help financial assistance for enduring the hardship and for being forced to move?

Peter Apiana: Yes, exactly. That's exactly what we've been discussing during our interviews. But, earlier in tonight's session, we tried to fill up some of the gaps that we

may have forgotten in our interviews. I seem to recall that there was possibly two old age pensioners, and I don't remember how many people that had children, that would have had family allowances. It seems like, you know, if we don't do anything about this, the government will say, well it happened, it happened, we'll do nothing about it and forget it. I have two daughters that are probably both older than Clara but they seem to be speechless all the time.

David Siksik: I'm David Siksik. I also want to bring up again the aspect of the family allowances and the old-age pensions while they're being spoken to. We all understand that we were away from any kind of stores or any outlets for at least seven months. But in addition to the waiting period that we all had to go through in Gjoa Haven, the seven months were surpassed by several more months, and the government funding the old man received and old-age pension of just over 300 dollars. I don't know how many months. I indicated that the old-age pensions seemed to not be much higher than the normal amount, so I'm thinking that there was no retroactive payments of any kind.

These were recorded and it would be great if they could be published, either published in a newspaper or a magazine article. I think that if they take into account or consider the months of child tax and old-age pensions that people should have received, that they didn't receive during the time that they were traveling and waiting, in the waiting period that they had to go through in Gjoa Haven. Perhaps we could indicate that that should be taken into account. I think somebody also mentioned that it should be taken into account how much fuel we would have used. I don't know whether we made a claim as to how much for any amount, if any would be given to assist each of the families with this. And I think that each of the forms that we filled out, the stories that we wrote out, I don't know what will become of them. I just wanted to bring those up. Thank you very much.

Annie Magaknak: I'm Annie Magaknak. David came into the community to record. We all indicated that we want some assistance. These men had put together a request for any kind of assistance that we can get and they looked for a source mainly to try to help them out. The interviews will be listened to, through the recording. I know for a fact that in today's society, the white southern society relies on facts and evidence and I hope that these recordings will serve as that for this purpose.

David Pelly: This is David Pelly speaking. Perhaps this is the appropriate point for me to just to go over with you what the product of this work is going to be. The tape recordings, the actual tapes will be handed over to NTI eventually. There will also, by the way, be copies put into the archives, which means that they will be preserved for any of you who need to have access, forever. So they'll be retained in the archives. As soon as I leave here, in a couple of days, I'll be finding somebody who can take these tapes and transcribe them onto paper, on a computer, in English, Inuktitut syllabics and Inuinnaqtun or Roman orthography. And that will take a little time, of course, as there is a lot of work for someone to listen to all the tapes and write it down in three different languages, but eventually that will get done. They will give it to me and I will then have it printed and bound together as a volume, and each of you will receive a copy of that volume. So, the important point that I want to make is that, that will be the end of my

job. You will have full copies of all the information you've recorded, and each of you will have everybody else's, and at that point it's up to you what you're going to do with it. Okay? I'm not here to give you advice on that or suggestions. I've heard from you the sort of ideas that you have and all I can say is that you will have the evidence that Annie is referring to and it's up to you what you do with it at that point. Does everybody understand that process? Are there any questions?

Peter Apiana: What Annie brought up, was something that I personally didn't think about. We didn't confer with every family member when we decided that the small group of us would look for ways that we could bring this out and when I brought up our predicament to NTI's Assembly last fall, I was told that we can have access to some funding. We ourselves are unable to write things down, or record things, even when we tried to ask some of our family members if they could try and help us by writing to certain people. We also thought about going out of the families to other people to try to get some help. We want to record this and publish it in paper format, but some of us are illiterate and that's why we have David Pelly here to help us, and we're extremely grateful that you're here, that you're able to help us with this. We found it very difficult to find a good secretary to help us and I know for a fact now that this will be heard. It will be published, and I was told by the NTI Assembly that once we start publishing this that perhaps it would be easier to access some assistance and perhaps funding for what we went through. NTI indicated that they would appoint or find somebody to record this and they indicated to me that at some point and time, somebody would come. Therefore, I believe that David came this spring for a brief time in June? All these things that we thought about, David will ensure that they're recorded and transcribed and published. This has been in the back of our minds for years and years, and we indicated that we wouldn't be going back to this time and time again, but it would be a one-time shot. But we would try to find assistance. David indicated that he's not the source or that he doesn't have the answers, he can only make recommendations, if asked. Perhaps when this small job is over, I don't know what's ahead for him, but I don't think he has a steady job with NTI as a freelance journalist. I don't have a whole lot left to say. I don't know exactly what more I can add to this.

David Siksik: I'm David Siksik. I just wanted to ask that prior to this we tried to look for ways to be assisted monetarily. We're not adept in dealing with finances, perhaps in the future after this is done, perhaps we could look at, you know, where we're going to go from here. If, say, a pot of money is put out, sometime in the future, who would be looking after it, how it would be divided etc. I don't think any of us here in this group are too capable of financial matters.

Peter Apiana: I brought this up the other day as well. Perhaps we could do it through the Hamlet. We, the three of us, are the main people that started requesting for some assistance in this. Perhaps as it is with some other sources of funding for various different projects, quite often in small communities it's handled and dealt with through the Hamlet. But, perhaps us that started asking for assistance, initially we indicated if we can be given some assistance, we're not going to be the ones that are going to be dealing

with it directly in terms of dividing up the funds if there is any given. It should normally be done by an outside agency or some person or body that would look after the funding. I don't know yet, there are many options. But it has to be done properly with integrity, honesty and divided up properly. We can make a recommendation as to how it can be done. This is where it's directed to, these are the people that are involved and we can recommend how it can be done, and I think basically that's our initial recommendation as to how it can be done.

David Siksik: Another question. I'm David Siksik. I know it's not going to happen right away but those people that we want to help us, just for instance, say that if an agency or somebody decides to help, what if they want a share of the funds or want to be paid for doing the work?

Peter Apiana: This is Peter Apiana. If the funding has to be divided up, we have to be there to ensure that it's done properly. We're not going to just pick anybody out there to help us with it. It can be divided up and looked after properly. The co-op is another source. I have my doubts about whether or not it would be done very properly through the co-op. If we have a pot of money that has to be divided up, then it has to be divided up properly. Say, for instance I would not be able to take that whole pot of money if it was given and put it in my own pocket. I'm not sure. If we just leave it as a whole sum in, for instance, the co-op, and then any of the group members would be able to go and use it at their discretion, then that would not work either. The same for holding it in, say, the Northern Stores. Perhaps it would be safer there, but who knows? Perhaps it would be a better source to keep a bulk of money if one had it, but that could be questioned as well.

Clara Maganak: If you're going to have a secretary, ... I'm going to say it in English. If you guys need a secretary, you should appoint someone who can write in both English and Inuktitut. Whoever you appoint as the secretary should be able to understand our dialect. I would recommend that whoever is going to be the secretary could be working out of Gjoa Haven or reside in Gjoa Haven. They could be a couple of people to look after these groups of people from both sectors, the group that moved to Gjoa Haven and also the group that moved to Cambridge Bay. Our relatives have a lot of options for people that could be used as secretarial managers to assist these groups. I have a hard time speaking in Inuktitut sometimes. I think that if we use our own dialect we could understand each other a lot more, whether it's either in Cambridge Bay, we can use the same dialect in both communities. We have to trust that secretary or who's here, the person needs to understand and be able to write in our dialect. I think that it's best if we get our own secretary that we can understand and who can understand us. I think that it would be easier to understand and we could depend on that person and we could trust that person. It's understandable that we would want a good secretary so I'm asking about that.

Annie Magaknak: I'm Annie Magaknak. My daughter has a hard time speaking in Inuktitut, but I think that if we can get helped financially, I think that if there is a pot of money that we can be given, it needs to be divided and we need to understand how it's going to be handled. That's how exactly how I was thinking as well, that it could be handled that way.

Don Magaknak: I indicated that I wouldn't speak anymore, but I'm Don Magaknak. It's taken us quite a long time to bring up some of these things, but I think that we could leave it at this for now. If we can be assisted somehow, we all have accounts in the local stores, we have post office boxes, some people have bank accounts and if we indicate that this funding, if we can get it, should be divided up and all necessary documentation be kept properly, that way whoever is looking after it can divide and put it in trust to each of the family members. That way it would not go astray, it wouldn't get into the wrong hands. We can't, for example, through the post office, we can not access anybody else's mail but our own.

Peter Apiana: I'm Peter Apiana. That's what I was trying to bring up earlier. If, say for instance, if we get some assistance financially, there are certain families, heads of families, Peter Apiana, Magaknak, Halluqtalik, Ullikattaq, Siksik, that could be named heads of family for this purpose. The documentations for everything, if we have a debt in our accounts at the stores, it's all written and they're never lost, and by the same token this would be handled properly through documentation and everything would be recorded and this could be done.

David Pelly: I've just turned the tape recorder back on and this is the second tape. There was a first one that we filled, so we're on the second tape now, carrying on with the recording of the group meeting on the 12th of September. Does anybody have anything they want to add now?

Clara Magaknak: Maybe we should try and ask if we can go visit Perry River or if it's possible if we can go back there.

David Pelly: Well I can say as a person who has done lots of oral-history collecting across the north that it is a very effective way to get more information. It may seem to you like you've told everything that has been put on tape, everything that you can remember, but I'm willing to bet that if we visited some of these spots you would remember more – it happens all the time. I've actually been there, with three men at the mouth Simpson River, and they were astonished at how much more they remembered by simply being there. So there is, from a pure information point of view, there is value in going out to the sites, that I can say as a practitioner of oral history. And I would be happy to go with you, if you wanted me to, to go visit. As you can see, it's not plugged into the wall so it can work on the land.

Peter Apiana: I'm Peter Apiana. In 1998, I believe, I had the opportunity to return to our homeland, Perry River. It is very unsettling. It is very hard, a hard experience that we went through. This process that we're going through, we started a long time ago. As mentioned by David earlier, we started talking about this quite some time ago. Again if we can access some funding, if we can be given some funding, it will be divided up based on family members and names. It would be up to each and every one of you as individuals to do what you want with it, if we can be given some money. Whatever we do with it, we're going to do in confidence, I know that. I don't think that we have to worry about whether it's going to be handled properly or not. It can be settled very quickly. I don't think that we need to discuss it too much further at this time. I'm not too sure exactly what else I can bring up at this time, perhaps if somebody else brings something else up, I can add to it.

Don Magaknak: Don Magaknak. We, as people, when we want to apply for something, we apply for certain things. We are refused, indicating that there is no funding available for certain things. It was brought up earlier that there is a source of funding that we can access, or apply for, to go see our home land. Everything costs money these days. I know that it's very useful, but right now what we're asking for is funding that we can all use on our own, and it would be up to each and every one of us to do what we want with that. It would not be funding that would be directed to a certain project or anything of that nature. I feel strongly that we are owed for going through hardship and I don't want to see that just to run away on the side, and do nothing about it. I know it's taken us an extremely long time to get to this stage, as we at first did not know where to turn, or who to approach. But, if NTI, for example, has certain funds for various things, then it would be great to be recognized and be given at least a token amount, to be recognized that we did actually go through this in our lives. I don't want to go on and on, we can go all night. We can keep going back to the same issues over and over and add things to it here and there, but I don't think we need to do that. Thank you very much.

David Pelly: Thank you Don. Clara did you have something you wanted to add?

Clara Magaknak: This is Clara Magaknak. We understand now that all these stories will be published, will be transcribed.

Peter Apiana: I can't understand a thing she says when she talks.

Ben Kogvik: Perhaps say it in English and I'll translate it.

Clara Magaknak: I just want to find out if everything is going in a book, and I'm just wondering if everything is going to be left behind now?

David Pelly: What do you mean by "left behind?"

Clara Magaknak: It's going to be in a book now, like they want it in a book? What I'm asking them is after it's published are you just going to just leave it at that?

David Pelly: Asking them?

Clara Magaknak: Yes.

Peter Apiana: Whatever we're trying to attain, what we're asking for, we'll not give up on it until there's a definite answer either way. If we get a positive answer, then that would make us feel more complete, more whole inside. Do you understand?

David Pelly: Maybe I should clarify a little bit further. The word "published" was used in English and I just want to be sure that there's no misunderstanding. The transcriptions will be bound together in a volume and produced in a number of copies. I don't have a number in my head, it might be twenty-five or thirty or something like that. It's not thousands, okay? And everyone of these people will receive a copy, and I can certainly send a few extras up to Gjoa Haven for general distribution, and NTI will get a number of copies, that sort of thing. That's the kind of "publication" that we're talking about. It's not going to be available in the Yellowknife bookstore for example. That remains another possibility. It couldn't be published as raw interview transcripts, but somebody could take it and turn it into a book, which could be published in the commercial sense of that word. That's something you might want to consider later on. Just to be clear there. Now, on the subject of publication, every one of the elders indicated to me in the form they signed, that they would be happy, or they consent to my using any of the information they gave me on tape, in my writing. And I want to explicitly ask you as a group, would you like me to do an article in *Above and Beyond* magazine. I think probably you all know that I write for *Above and Beyond* magazine in the First Air planes every issue, and if you want me to, I will. I'm confident that you have given me a good story. I'm not going to advocate on your behalf in the story, but I can tell your story in the magazine and, of course, everybody who travels in Nunavut sees that. So if you want me to do that, I will do it. If you would rather that I didn't put it in *Above and Beyond*, I will respect that request. But, I'd actually like to raise that very specific question with you. Do you want a story in *Above and Beyond* or not?

Peter Apiana: Anybody? Any thoughts on that?

David Siksik: I'm David Siksik. When we were interviewed the other day, I was asked if there was anything that I wanted left in confidence, confidential, but I think that as a general story, that it would be an ideal story that could be published in a magazine.

Peter Apiana: There's nothing to hide! I think that it would make a fascinating story about what we went through a long time ago. Sometime during the 1930 to when I was born. In some of the earlier centuries, I've seen articles and stories written about different adventures that people went through. I think that if done in that sort of format, it would be fine to put it in an article.

Annie Magaknak: I don't have much else to say. This is Annie Magaknak. I also feel that if it's published in that kind of a format, in an article, since all of us [were asked] during our own personal interviews, I don't think that there was anything that could or

should be hidden. And, it'd make this spread out a little bit more and perhaps be felt a bit more as well.

David Pelly: Okay, well, I take it..... Sarah did you want to say something? Go ahead Sarah.

Sarah Ullikattaq: Sarah Ullikattaq. I also feel the same way. I, in my own interview, I talked about my own personal childhood and history. I don't mind it being published either in a magazine.

David Pelly: Okay, I'm going to take it from that, that you would actually like me to do an article, so I will. I'll commit to doing that. I'll do an article in *Above and Beyond* sometime next year, assuming that I and the magazine both survive that long. I would also like to pick up on something that Peter said a little while ago. He was correct in saying that I'm not a full time employee of NTI. I'm just on a one week contract with NTI and it's the only contract I've ever had from NTI. Probably the only one I ever will have, I suspect, I don't know. But this is only a one week job. They hired me because of my experience with oral history, but I am as you say a free-ancer, self employed. And as far as what's ahead for me, I'm moving on to other projects, but I'll be working on this as well in the months ahead. I'm also working on a film about Gjoa Haven. So are there any other questions that anybody would like to ask me or any final comments or anything I can clarify?

Peter Apiana: He's asking what time is it? We've taken quite a lot of long time, a lot of your time. Some things we probably could add more to, perhaps we haven't formally met prior to this, we haven't had any kind of gatherings regarding this. This came kind of suddenly for a lot of us, the fact that we would go ahead and be recorded and interviewed and so on. I don't have too much else to add. Now that there are many things that we've also forgotten, some people may not have been born at the time and were raised after, born and raised after we moved to this community. When we first met a couple of days ago, or perhaps when we first met the first time, we were told that perhaps we would get an honorarium or some help to be given to be interviewed.

David Pelly: Yes. We'll deal with that once the meeting is over. If there's nothing else, I would like to close by saying I thoroughly enjoyed working with each and every one of you. I certainly have enjoyed the last week or ten days in Gjoa Haven. I've been here several times before, but this is the longest period that I've spent in Gjoa Haven and I really like this community. You can be sure that I'll be back if you'll have me, but this has been a fun week of listening to your stories. Thanks very much for sharing with me, and I wish you all the best.

Annie Magaknak: I also want to thank David Pelly for being able to interview us and I know he will be able to write a good story and article. Basically I just wanted to thank

you for being able to come here. I've seen you many times before and you have one of my grand-kids as an adopted child. I was thinking about it when we were going to be interviewed the other day that perhaps I would be too nervous to participate, and I thought that I would not even come to this meeting, but I'm very grateful that I can be a part of this. Thank you very much. I'm losing my voice so that's it for me.

David Pelly: Okay, we're all done?

Peter Apiana: This is Peter Apiana. I'm not going to speak very much, but just in closing. Perhaps five, more or less, I don't remember exactly when we started, but we endeavoured to find a solution to our needs. We discussed it amongst ourselves, we never knew that we could be assisted by someone outside of ourselves and to have someone outside come in has been extremely helpful for us. You're very easy to work with, very easy to talk to and this made it much easier on us. Even if we're refused for what we're asking for, we'll not turn our backs on it, we'll keep trying. Thank you very much. That's all I have to say. Take care.

David Pelly: Okay, thanks very much. Taima.