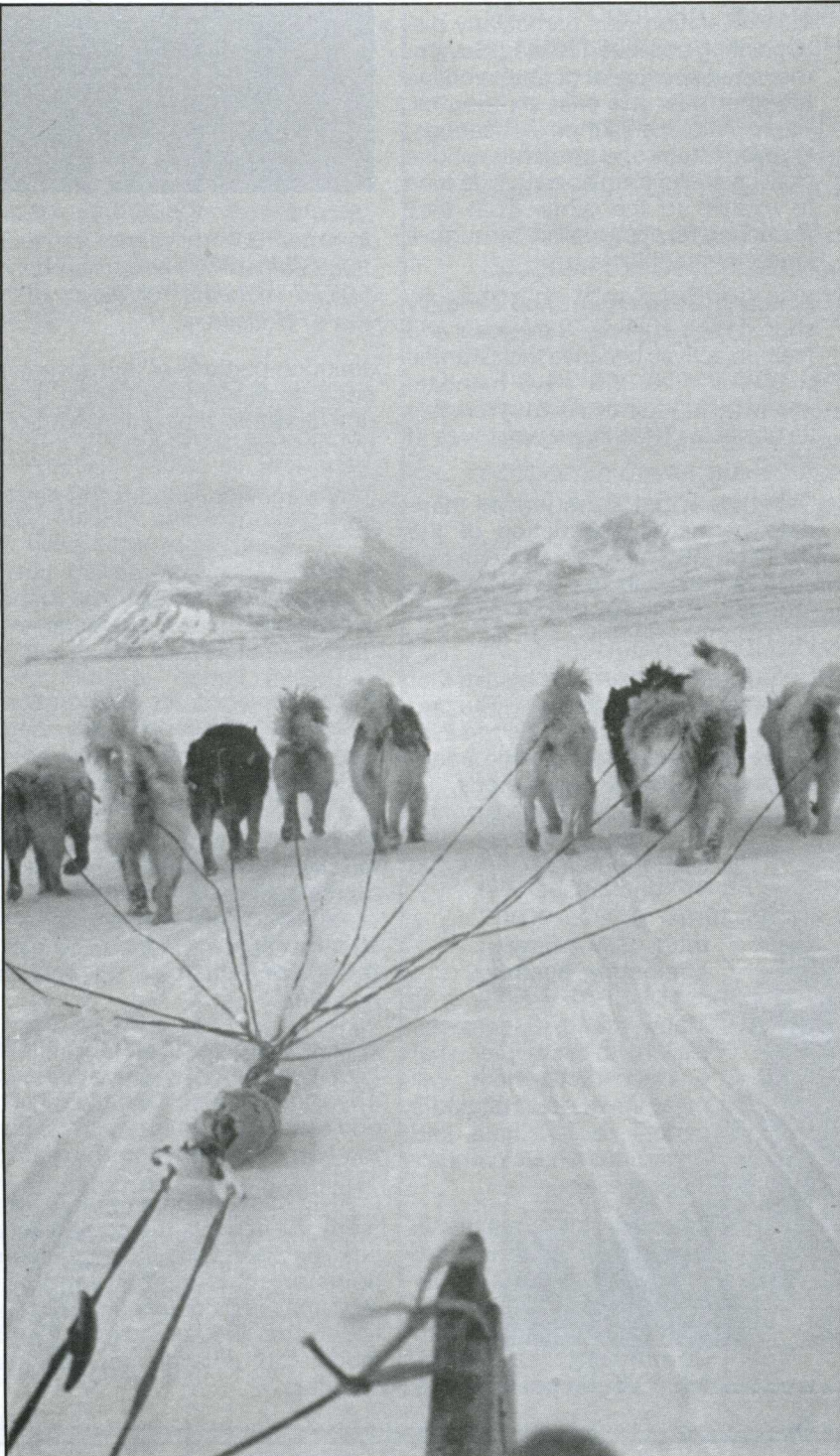


NUNAVUT

A REPORT ON LAND CLAIMS FROM THE TUNGA VIK FEDERATION OF NUNAVUT

Government team gets new mandate

Last month, TFN finally found out how the new federal claims policy, announced a year ago, will affect negotiation of the Inuit claim . . . 2



NUNAVUT is a report on the progress of TFN's land claims negotiations. We are at Room 1200, 130 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6E2, Phone (613) 238-1096.

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Keith Hay

Inuit finally feel policy's impact

Government approves federal mandate for TFN claim

Three years of arduous meetings, high expectations and frustrating delays for both TFN and Government came to a climax last month.

Inuit finally found out how the new federal land claims policy, announced a year ago, will affect their land claim.

Just before Christmas, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) issued a news release, announcing that the Federal Government had just approved a new mandate for negotiation of the TFN claim. This federal mandate replaces the one from the unsuccessful fifteen-year-old federal land claims policy called *In All Fairness*.

The new federal mandate or **set of instructions** is important because it defines what land claim topics government now considers to be negotiable and what topics government now considers not to be negotiable.

In other words, the new mandate will guide Government in its future negotiation of the entire TFN claim.

TFN President Donat Milortuk and the TFN negotiating team were briefed on the contents of the new mandate by DIAND Assistant Deputy Minister for Self-Government, Rick

Van Loon and DIAND Minister Bill McKnight.

Those briefings brought disappointing news.

What TFN learned was that the new mandate contradicts some important principles in the new claims policy.

This revelation was particularly disappointing because TFN and Government had spent a lot of time working together over the past six months. There had been lengthy meetings, detailed letters and numerous phone calls back and forth as each side tried to explain to the other what they expected to accomplish through a land claim settlement.

TFN and Government had candidly shared their agenda, their goals and their objectives because they wanted to make sure the new mandate would be as realistic and as workable as possible. They knew what was at stake.

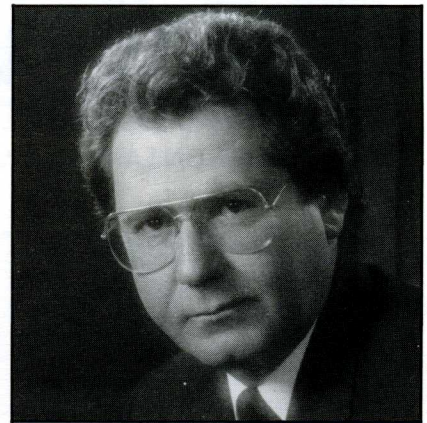
"We knew that if the federal mandate permitted negotiation of the items on our agenda, we would be able to complete our land claim in fourteen months!" says TFN President Donat Milortuk.

Unfortunately, now TFN knows that probably won't be possible. The pre-Christmas briefings have alerted Inuit to the fact that instead of broadening the scope of negotiations, as promised by the policy, the new mandate may considerably narrow the scope of negotiations.

Inuit, Gov't have competing agendas

Many months spent explaining to each other what a claim settlement will mean have not changed a certain reality: Inuit and Government have competing agendas.

"Our land claim agenda is well-known and has not changed substantially since we sat down in 1980 to begin negotiations with Government," says Milortuk. "We do not intend to



John Evans Photo Ltd.

Just before Christmas, DIAND Minister Bill McKnight announced that Cabinet had just approved a new federal mandate for negotiation of the TFN claim.

abandon portions of this agenda just because Government feels it does not fit within their interpretation of the land claims policy."

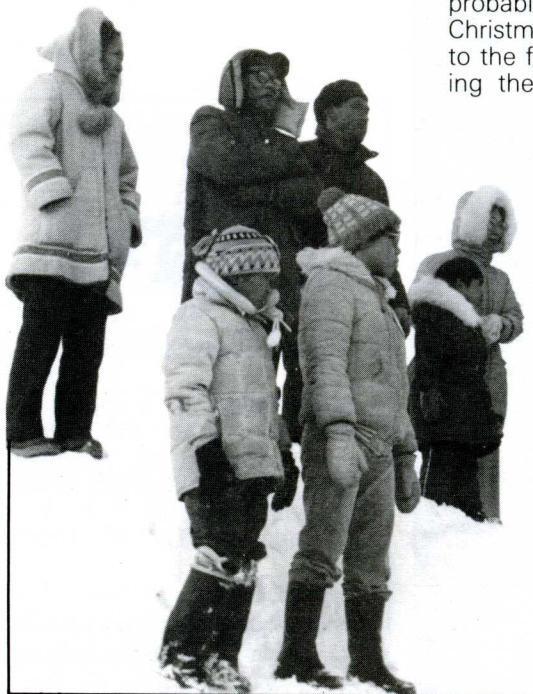
TFN's agenda includes the negotiation of:

- shared decision-making powers with Government to manage Nunavut's land, water and offshore resources.
- opportunities for economic and social development.
- an amount of cash compensation and an amount of Inuit land.

TFN and Government have come a long way in negotiating the first item on the agenda: shared management of Nunavut's land, water and offshore resources. In fact, this part of the claim settlement is practically complete.

Now, the key question facing Inuit is how will the new federal mandate affect agreements already initialled and how will it affect negotiation of the two other items on the agenda.

DIAND has confirmed that Government still accepts the agreements it has initialled with TFN on shared decision-making for land and resource management but it has cautioned that the agreements may be much too detailed for the new mandate.





Lynda Chambers

The new mandate provides Federal Chief Negotiator Tom Molloy with a set of instructions that will guide him when he begins claim talks with TFN again this month. The mandate defines what topics Government considers to be negotiable and what topics Government not to be negotiable.

"A claim settlement can **guarantee** Inuit membership on a management board but *its structure and operational details must be designed through public government*," said DIAND Minister Bill McKnight in a May 1987 letter to TFN.

TFN has also learned that Government wants to make significant changes to the proposed Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)—changes that would reduce the effectiveness not only of this important development screening process but the entire management system being negotiated through the claim.

As for the second item on TFN's negotiating agenda, Government has told it that many of the guarantees it wants for Inuit economic and social well-being are just not negotiable!

For example, it has rejected two initialled discussion papers on *equity participation* and wants to limit the application of *Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements*.

It says it does not want to negotiate TFN's proposed hunter income support program or the involvement of Inuit in the design and delivery of economic and social programs. It does not see a claim settlement as the appropriate place to protect language rights either.

The story so far...

Three years ago, Government announced it would review its comprehensive claims policy.

Two years ago, a Federal Task Force, headed by Murray Coolican, released its recommendations for a new policy in a report called *Living Treaties, Lasting Agreements*.

And a year ago, DIAND Minister Bill McKnight announced his ambitious new federal policy on comprehensive claims in the House of Commons.

TFN congratulated Mr. McKnight. Inuit were happy because the policy seemed to broaden the range of topics that could be negotiated as part of the Inuit claim.

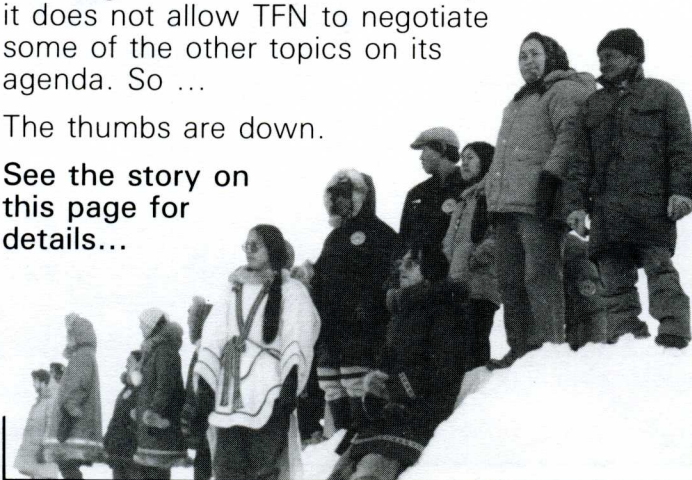
The policy states that *land claim settlements are more than real estate transactions*. It says that settlements should *encourage the self-reliance and economic development as well as cultural and social well-being of aboriginal people*.

Well, TFN waited before giving its thumbs up or thumbs down on this policy. It wanted to see first how the policy directly affected the Inuit claim. After all, announcing a policy is one thing, implementing it is another. What started out as a step in the right direction could not be judged until the foot fell.

The foot fell just before Christmas when Government announced its new mandate for the TFN claim. Although this new mandate endorses most agreements initialled so far, it does not allow TFN to negotiate some of the other topics on its agenda. So ...

The thumbs are down.

See the story on this page for details...



When it comes to the third item on TFN's negotiating agenda—land and cash—it seems that Government is insisting that Inuit settle for amounts set by precedents in the Inuvialuit (COPE) settlement.

The Inuvialuit settlement was reached under the old land claims policy—a policy that Government and aboriginal people have already rejected as too narrow and restrictive. TFN doesn't think it makes

sense to use the Inuvialuit settlement as a standard against which to measure the Inuit claim.

So despite a promising new claims policy and the high hopes of the past year, TFN now realizes that Government is more than ever committed to balancing and trading off items on TFN's agenda.

Next month, TFN leaders are scheduled to meet with leaders from the

two other northern land claims groups—the Council for Yukon Indians and the Dene/Metis Negotiating Secretariat. They, too, have been disappointed with the federal mandates dealing with their claims. Together, as the Northern Aboriginal People's Alliance, they hope to prepare a strategy to deal with the failure of a policy that looked so good a year ago.



TFN and Government have come a long way in negotiating shared management of Nunavut's land, water and offshore resources. In fact, this part of the claim settlement is practically complete.

Quick Takes

Five Inuit were honoured in the tenth Annual Apprenticeship Awards program recently. **Enoki Iqittuq** of Hall Beach is the first recipient of the Ken Watchorn Award. He wins it because of his performance as a registered apprentice in the Housing Maintainer Trades program. **Jawlie Akavak** of Lake Harbour topped his class in the Minor Electric Appliance Repair Course. **Johanasie Apak** of Clyde River earned an NWT Housing Maintainer Trade Advisory Committee's Special Award. The Fred. S. Jones Memorial Award for top third-year Housing Maintainer was awarded to **David Iblaut** of Eskimo Point. And **Eddy Mala** of Cambridge Bay received the John Tologanak Memorial Award for top marks in the third year housing maintainer apprenticeship.



The Native Theatre School is on again this summer, from July 4 to August 27. The School, sponsored by the Association for Native Development in the Performing and Visual Arts, teaches voice training, movement, clowning, improvisation and script-writing to aspiring actors. The eight-week session culminates in the creation and touring of an original play by the participants. Interested? Call (416) 972-0871.

Here's a chance to see your words in print. There's a new magazine about to be published called *The Trickster*. It's billed as a small literary quarterly devoted to new writing by Native people and to criticism of Native literature. If you've got some poetry or prose up your sleeve, send it and a short biography to **The Trickster, 204-9 St. Joseph Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1J6.**



Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief is a documentary film by Tlingit filmmaker Carol Geddes about the crucial role of Native women in historical and contemporary Native societies. You'll meet five Native women of various ages and backgrounds. There's a band chief, a government Minister, a crew member of a fishing boat and a lawyer. A copy of this film is now available from the National Film Board.



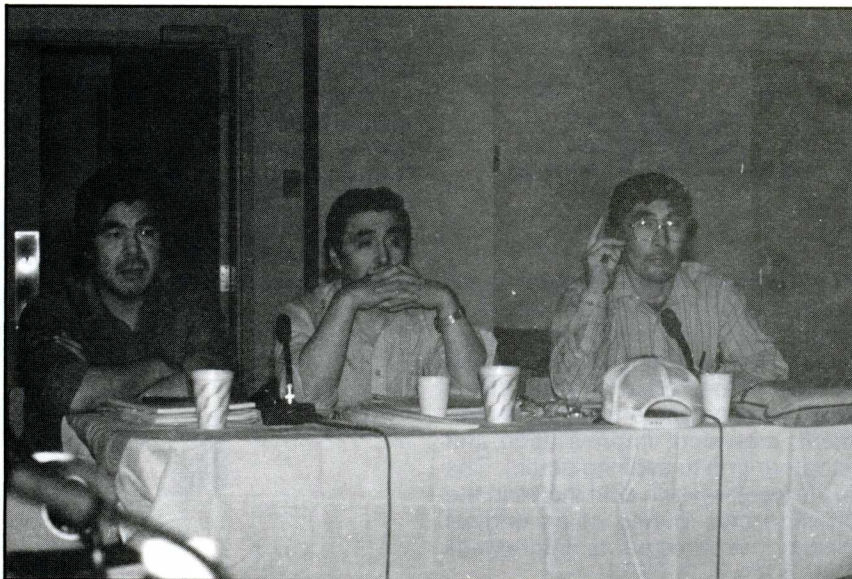
QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How do we make changes to the maps that TFN has given our hamlet councils and hunters & trappers associations?

These maps, showing how and where Inuit, wildlife and third parties use the land in and around your community, are *working copies*. So if you see that there is some important information missing, you can add it directly to the map. And if you see wrong information on the map, feel free to take it out. The maps belong to you now. They are tools for you to use when the land ownership negotiations begin and the land identification committees are set up.

Middletown is a small midwest town in Cleveland, midway between Cincinnati and Dayton. Every year, the people in Middletown hold a three-day celebration called Middfest International. The idea is to feature the culture of a country and give everybody an opportunity to learn and be entertained. This year, Canada was the theme. And it meant that young artist Matoo Michael of Lake Harbour flew down to Middletown to do a carving demonstration. Now, three of his works sit in the midwest town of Middletown.

Quick Takes



Katheryne Parker

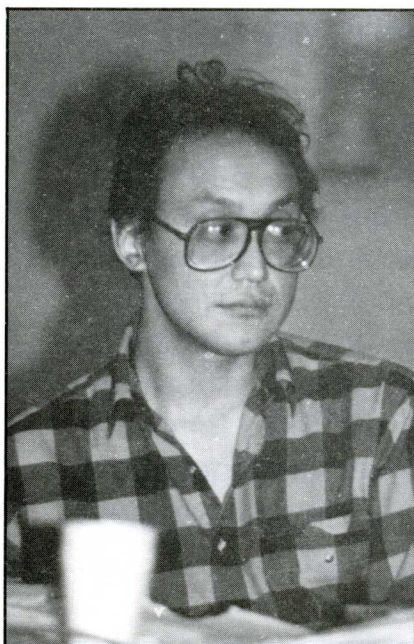
The Canadian Council for Native Business is looking for Native delegates to attend two Conferences scheduled for this summer. One-hundred young people, 17-24, will be sponsored to take part in the 1988 National Native Youth for Business Workshop. And fifty Native artists or craftspeople will be sponsored to take part in the 1988 National Native Arts and Crafts in Business Workshop. The workshops, to be held in Ottawa the last week of June, are designed to encourage Native economic development.



TFN's President Donat Milortuk (centre), Vice-President Jack Kupeuna (right) and Secretary-Treasurer Louis Tapardjuk (left) have been re-elected for another two-year term. In the next issue of *Nunavut*, we'll show you the new structure of the Board and who's who.



Solomon Kugak (below) of Eskimo Point has joined the TFN negotiating team. He'll represent the Keewatin region in talks with the Federal Government. Kugak is no stranger to land claims. He's sat on the team before, as a Nunasi Corporation delegate. And in August, Kugak was contracted to narrate a TFN television production about the progress of claim talks. You can reach Kugak by dialing (819) 645-2874



Katheryne Parker

They'll provide first-hand information from expert speakers on how to plan and set up a business. And they'll give everyone a chance to network with other Native people. For more information, contact Shelle Brant at (416) 977-0008.



Katheryne Parker

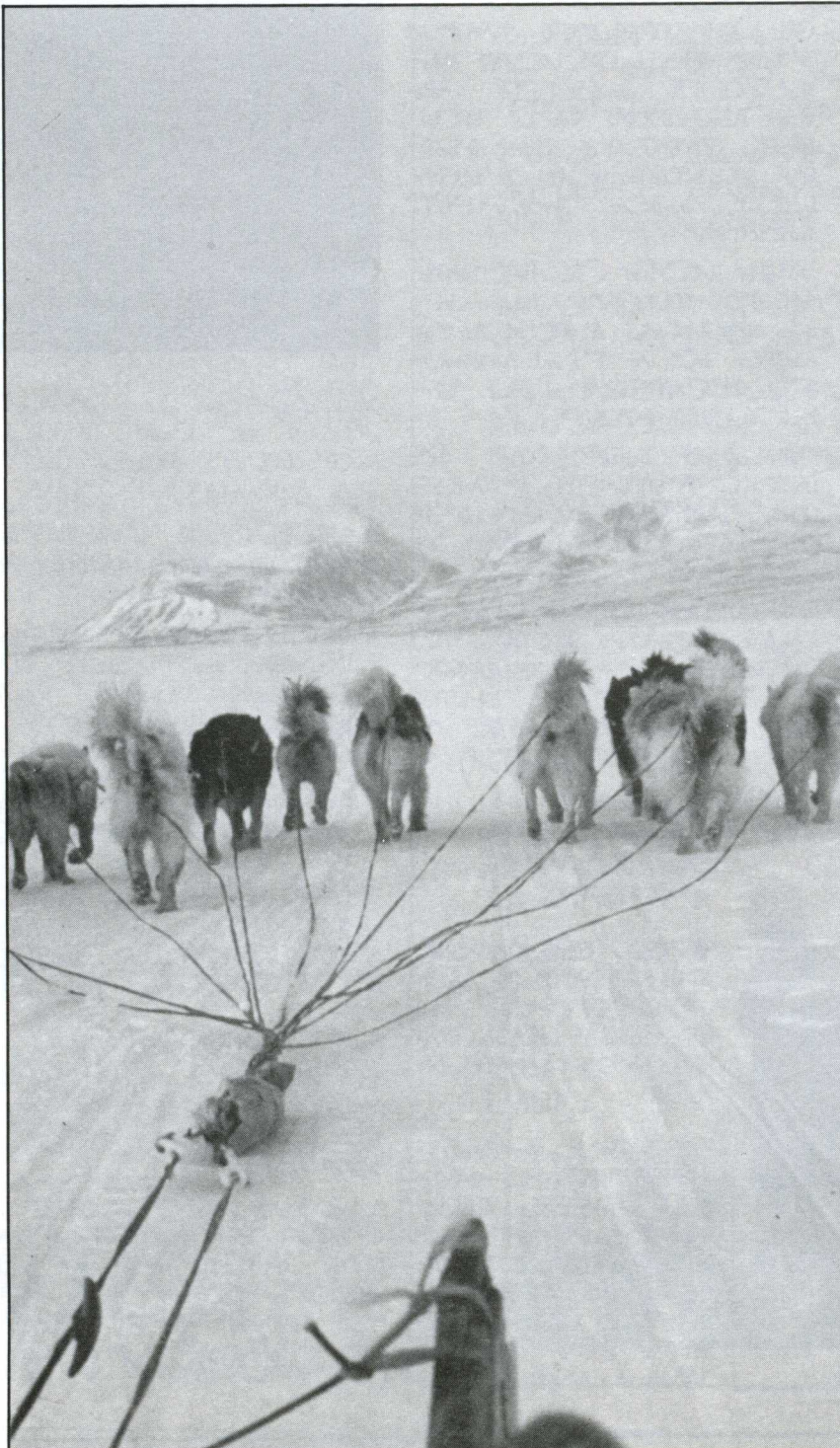
Elizabeth Thomas (above) is the other new face at TFN. Based in the Ottawa office but frequently travelling to meetings, she's taken on the role of legal counsel.

The Territorial Department of Public Works and Highways has awarded a \$161,035 contract to Eskimo Point Lumber Supply, Airport Services Ltd. The contract is for land development in Eskimo Point. The Hamlet of Arctic Bay has also been awarded a contract by the Department, this one for \$323,820 to build a road between Victor Bay and the community.



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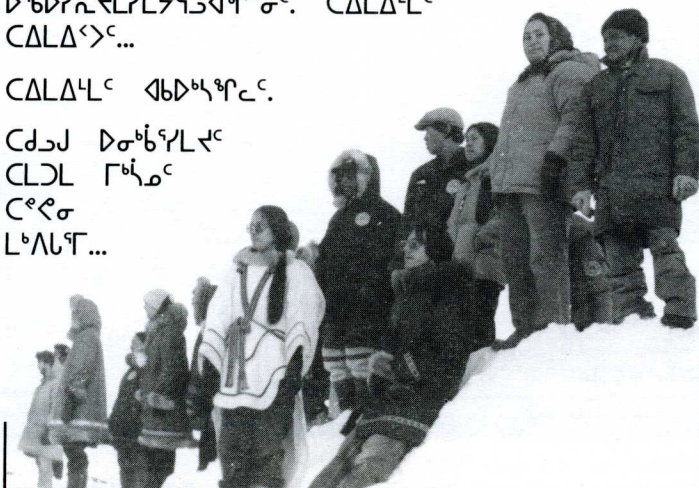
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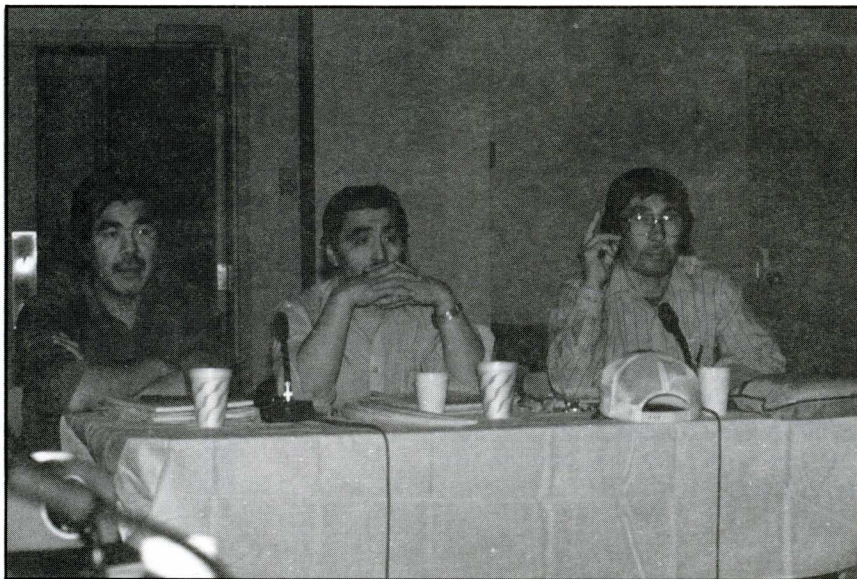
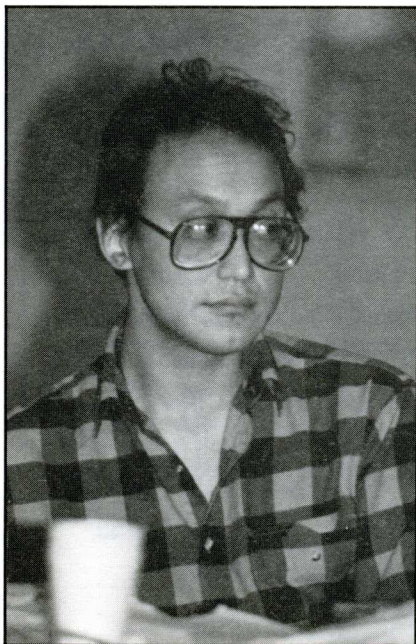
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