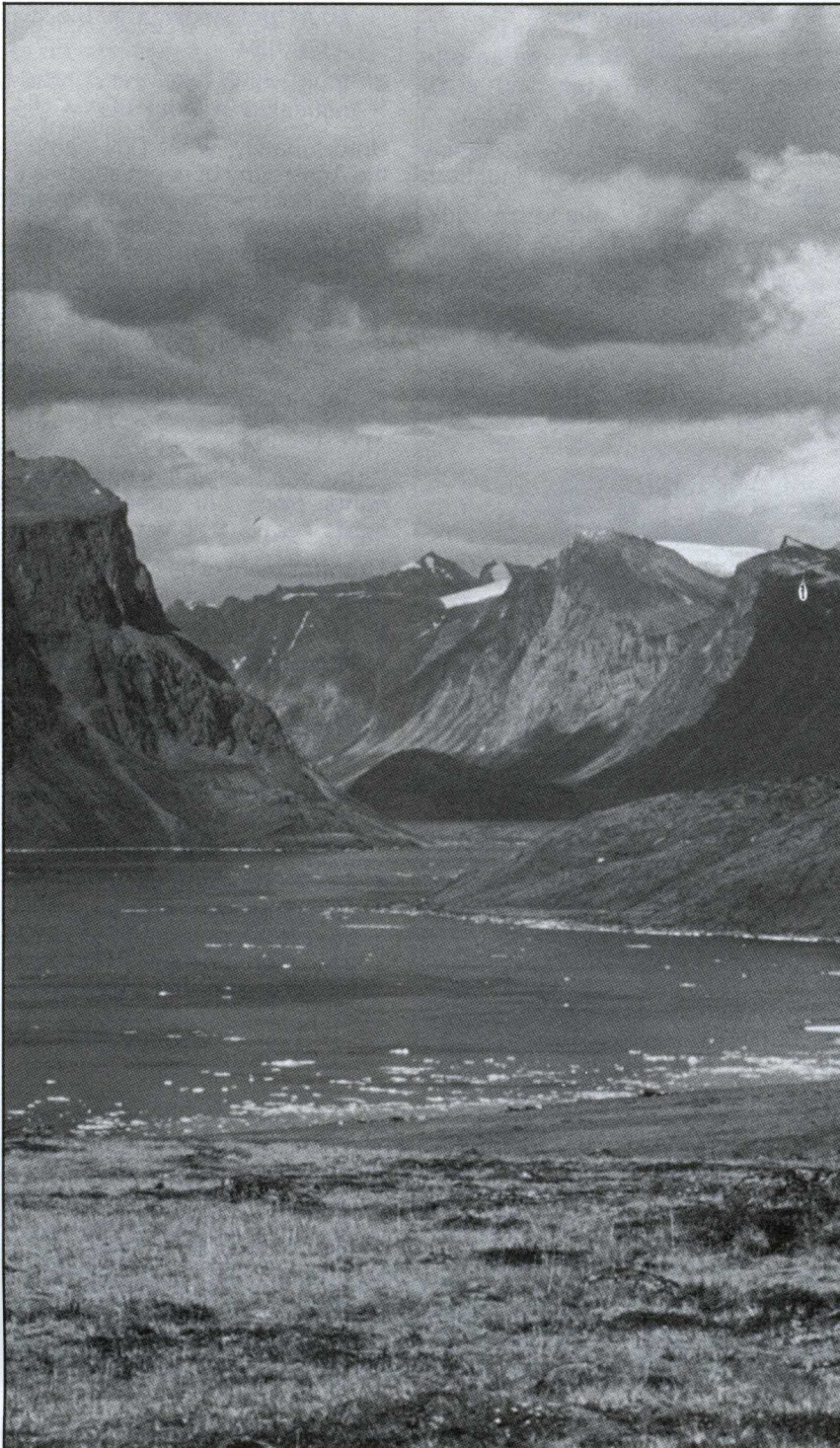


NUNAVUT

A REPORT ON LAND CLAIMS FROM THE TUNGAUVIK FEDERATION OF NUNAVUT



Keith Hay

Stories from our past...

...remind us of the importance of our culture and our aboriginal rights. In this issue, Solomon Kugak and Paul Okalik share some of their memories of the past and at the same time, share their hopes for the future.



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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"Never forget your language"

Solomon Kugak of Eskimo Point remembers spending many happy times with his grandfather.

The younger man and the older man would go hunting together and the older would teach the younger important skills.

"My grandfather was a very quiet man but when he spoke, he spoke of things that matter. He taught me more than just how to hunt," says Solomon. "He taught me about culture and about ethics".

There were three particular lessons that John Kugak taught his grandson that became three Solomon says he'll never forget.

The first?

"Never lose your language," he said.

Solomon has been thinking about that lesson a lot lately. He is a member of the TFN land claim negotiating team and on April 11, TFN tabled its position on language at the claim negotiating table.

"Since the whole basis of this claim is the negotiation of our rights, then our right to speak Inuktitut should be part of the settlement," says Solomon.

"The Federal Government position is that language rights are not something that flow from a land claim."

TFN wants to see Inuktitut protected in the claim settlement so that:

1. Inuktitut would become an official language in the claim area;
2. Statutes, records and journals of the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly would be published in Inuktitut;
3. Inuit would be able to use Inuktitut in debates in the territorial Legislative Assembly;
4. Inuit could receive services from the Government of the N.W.T. in Inuktitut;

5. Inuit could use Inuktitut in any court proceedings in the claim area; and

6. Inuit would have the right to be educated in Inuktitut.

Unfortunately, what TFN learned at the April round of negotiations is that the Government team will not negotiate language provisions as part of a claim settlement.

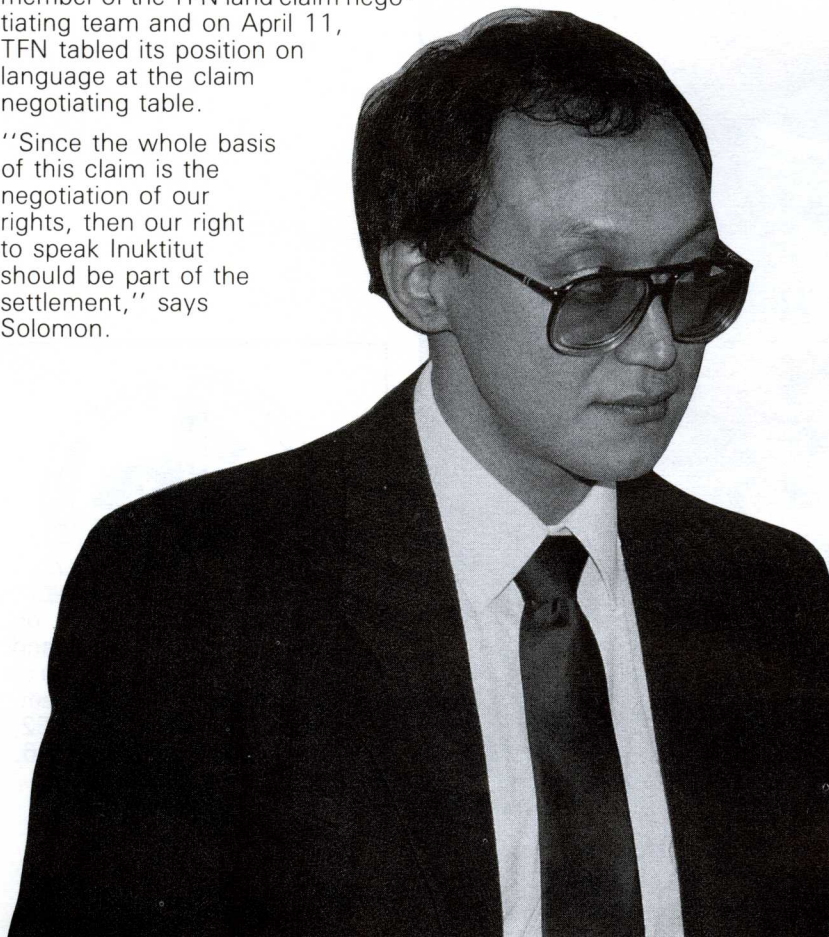
"The Federal Government's position is that language rights are not something that flow from a land claim", says Federal Chief Negotiator Tom Molloy.

TFN disagrees.

"You can't separate our language rights from our other aboriginal rights," says Solomon.

This argument is based on four principles:

- Aboriginal title includes the right to use the land to hunt, fish and trap;
- The use of the land in this way is what defines Inuit culture;
- Language is the way a culture is shared and passed on from generation to generation;
- Since a culture is not really a culture unless it is passed on over time from generation to generation, then it cannot exist without the language that expresses it.



Government agrees that language is important

Molloy agrees that language is important to Inuit and he says that Government has no problem with TFN's goals.

"Our problem is not in what you are trying to achieve but in how you propose to achieve it," he explains. "We can't guarantee language rights in a land claim settlement that will give those rights Constitutional protection."

TFN met with Government for another round of negotiations earlier this month and Solomon and his colleagues were hoping that Government had taken another look at the important language issue.

"My grandfather could never have taught me the things he did without our language," says Solomon. "What we are proposing is simply that Inuktitut be given the same status as English and French, not all over Canada but just in our claim area."

The two other lessons John Kugak taught his grandson?

One was to get an education.

"You can't survive and keep your own culture unless you learn the quallunat way".

The other?

Never play patik!



Government cannot limit aboriginal rights

Paul Okalik lives just twelve miles south of the Auyuiittuq National Park Reserve. He, his family and others in the community of Pangnirtung have always hunted, fished and trapped in the area surrounding their community nestled on the southeast shore of Baffin Island.

"I remember when Parks officials first came to our community to discuss establishing a park on the Cumberland Peninsula. When we agreed to the park, they promised we would have hunting rights in that area. Now, we find out a decade later that an amendment to the National Parks Act through Bill C-30 could mean that Government has the ability to limit our hunting rights," says Okalik.

Okalik is a former TFN claim negotiator for the Baffin region (see **Quick Takes**). He was in Ottawa last month to appear before a special Parliamentary Committee reviewing proposed amendments to the Parks Act.

He joined TFN's Keewatin negotiator Solomon Kugak, Director of Research Terry Fenge and Legal Counsel Elizabeth Thomas to submit a brief detailing first, how Inuit see the role of parks and second, why TFN objects to some of the proposed amendments in Bill C-30.

Parks must fit Inuit way of life

Inuit want existing and future national parks in Nunavut to fit into and support their way of life. This means that Inuit must be able to continue to hunt, fish and trap everywhere in Nunavut, including national parks. It means that future national parks should be located where they will protect wildlife and wildlife habitats. And it means that Parks must provide Inuit with social and economic benefits.

TFN objects to parts of Bill C-30 because it does not adequately support Inuit uses of the natural environment and it gives the Minister of the Environment the authority to allow or to prohibit traditional activities in national parks.

Okalik and Kugak objected strongly to this at their hearing and reminded Committee members that it is the aboriginal right of Inuit to hunt, fish and trap in national parks in Nunavut. They noted that Bill C-30, if passed

without TFN's recommended changes, would be unconstitutional.

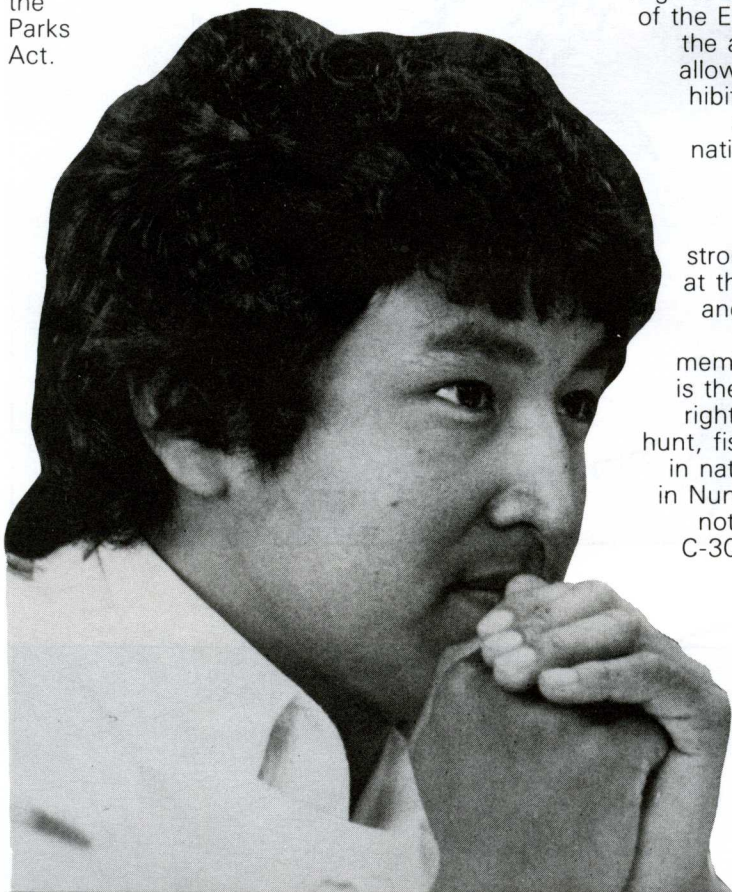
The TFN delegates also pointed out to the Committee that Inuit, after their land claim is settled, will jointly manage with Government all national parks in Nunavut. And they recommended that the Minister of Environment include marine parks in the new National Parks Act. Inuit will want to be involved in making decisions about how and where in Nunavut these type of parks should be established because Inuit are a marine people.

TFN's ideas and recommendations received a lot of support from the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society; the N.W.T. Land Use Planning Commission; and other groups who appeared before the Committee. Dr. Brad Morse of the University of Ottawa teaches aboriginal rights and constitutional law. When he appeared before the Committee, he also expressed his support for TFN's position that clauses of Bill C-30 dealing with traditional activities are unconstitutional.

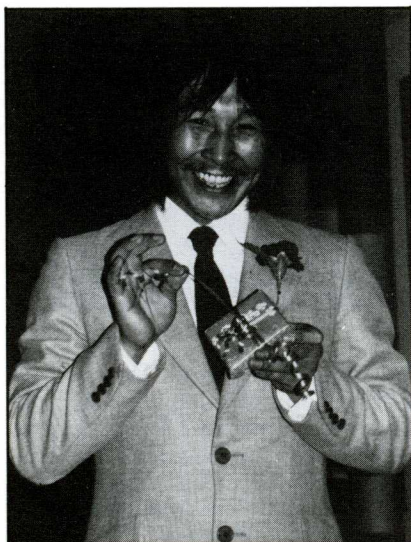
What now?

Amendments to Bill C-30 are now being considered by the members of the review committee. After these amendments have been discussed, the Bill will be referred back to the House of Commons where all Members of Parliament will have an opportunity to say what they think about it.

TFN is optimistic that the amendments it has proposed will be accepted by the Committee. The federal government needs the support of Inuit to establish additional national parks in the Arctic.



Martha Flaherty



Jennifer Hogg



Jennifer Hogg

There were smiles galore when six proud young Inuit graduated from *Nunavut Sivuniksavut* on May 16, 1988. Here, **Elisapee Nutarluk** shares her joy at receiving the Community Liaison Worker Certificate from Confederation College of Thunder Bay, Ontario. And **Michael Immoraitok** delicately plucks at the tiny ribbon on his graduation gift. *Nunavut Sivuniksavut* is a unique training course sponsored by TFN and Confederation College. Participants learn about Inuit organizations, government, politics, land claims, economics, development and different cultures. **Applications are now being accepted for the 1988/89 program. See your Adult Education Centre for details or call (613) 234-5603.**

Two new negotiators joined the land claim negotiating team this month. TFN extends a warm welcome to **John Illupalik** of Igloolik and **Meeka Kilabuk** of Pangnirtung. Representing the Baffin and High Arctic regions, John and Meeka are scheduled to be in Ottawa next month to face the Federal team across the land claim negotiating table for the first time. The topic? Taxation!



There've been some new developments on the division front. TFN's President Donat Milortuk and Vice-President Jack Kupeuna have been appointed to represent the interests of Inuit on the new Constitutional Alliance. And MLAs Steve Kakfwi, Tom Butters, Titus Allooos and Peter Ernerk have been appointed to the Alliance by the Territorial Government. The Alliance is the body that is working toward division of the N.W.T. to create Nunavut and a western territory.



Paul Okalik announced his departure from the land claim negotiating team this spring. He has headed home to Pangnirtung after seeing five agreements successfully negotiated and having spent three hectic years on the road and in the air! Paul first came to TFN in February 1985, taking the post of Baffin negotiator. When interviewed about why he wanted to get involved in the claim, he said, "History is being made through the land claim process and I want to participate in helping shape the future of the Inuit in Nunavut to the best of my ability." Paul was instrumental in drafting TFN's position paper on wildlife compensation which was tabled on June 7. We wish you success and happiness, Paul.

A group of independent academics from across Canada, each with a longstanding interest in the political development of the North, held its inaugural two-day workshop as The Consortium for Devolution Research on June 4 and 5. "Our objective is to conduct an independent review of the experience with devolution of powers from the federal to the territorial governments and to analyze the implications of devolution in the context both of the particular policy and program areas that have been affected and of other developments in the North," says Consortium member Katherine A. Graham. TFN's Bob Kadlun attended the weekend workshop to make sure the research group understood that Inuit strongly oppose devolution until their claim is settled.

Our aboriginal neighbours to the west are very close now to reaching a land claim settlement with Government. Negotiations between the Dene/Metis and the Federal teams are now in the final stages. Before actually signing an Agreement-in-Principle, they will have to meet again for another round of talks. But the past few weeks have been busy as leaders and negotiators discuss the tentative agreement with people in the communities.

Quick Takes

TFN wrote to Senator Allan MacEachen in March expressing its support for a proposed Standing Committee of the Senate on Aboriginal Peoples. "This committee would allow the Senate to have a forum for the continued consideration of issues of concern to aboriginal peoples in Canada," said TFN President Donat Milortok. In Senator MacEachen's response, he noted that he had received numerous other requests for such a committee and that "the entire question is being given serious consideration by many Senators."



The N.W.T. Association of Municipalities held its Annual General Meeting in Yellowknife, April 20-22. Delegates there passed a motion urging Inuit, Dene and Metis to settle their claims before the next federal election. "Agreements would eliminate much of the uncertainty that has existed in past years, and would create an economic and social climate that would be of benefit to all N.W.T. residents," says Pat McMahon, Vice President of the Association.



It probably comes as no surprise to most northerners that their homeland is the subject of hundreds of research projects every year. Did you know that from 1974 to 1983, at least 5,700 researchers were collecting facts about the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities in the Yukon, N.W.T., Nouveau-Quebec and Labrador. Now, those 5,700 projects are listed by title, year, researcher's name, affiliation, funding agency, amount of funding, subject and geographic location in ASTIS, the Arctic Science and Technology Information System. These projects were documented before but as part of DIAND's database. Now they are part of the larger and more accessible ASTIS network. Find out about ASTIS and its latest expansion by contacting Ross Goodwin at (403) 220-4036.

Arctic archaeologist Margaret Bertulli will travel to Sanikiluaq this month to spend six weeks documenting nearby archaeological sites. She will train three local people to help her with this work and also plans to do some community presentations about heritage issues. "We are going to Sanikiluaq because people have told us they are concerned that sites are being disturbed. They would like to see them properly documented before there is any further damage," says Charles Arnold, Senior Archaeologist for the Northern Heritage Centre.



Pingoes! Dinosaurs! Acid rain and antifreeze! From Coral Harbour to Coppermine, scientists are investigating these and other unexpected topics. The Science Institute of the N.W.T. is the organization that issues licences to scientists and others interested in doing research in the North. With the publication of *Recent Research in the N.W.T., 1986-1987*, the Institute has produced a handy guide to who's doing what, where and why. For your own copy, contact Candace Savage at (403) 873-7592 or write to the Science Institute of the N.W.T., P. O. Box 1617, Yellowknife, N.W.T., X1A 2P2.



Northern Youth in Crisis: The Challenge for Justice was the name of a Conference held in 1985. Now the resource material from that Conference is available in a binder containing a summary of the major issues discussed; the materials presented at the Conference; selected questions and answers from the workshops; and a bibliography for further reading. Write to Youth in Crisis/Northern Conference, c/o Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5A 1S6. The next Northern Conference is scheduled for March 29 to April 1, 1989 and the topic is **Preventing and Responding to Northern Crime**.



Inuit title to the land. What will it really mean? On June 6, TFN and Government reached an agreement that answers this question. They initialled a paper called *Title to Inuit Lands*. Bringing the total number of agreements to twenty, this three-page document describes the two ways in which Inuit will own land. Some land will be owned in *fee simple*. In other words, Inuit will own everything on, in and under the land. Other land will be owned in *fee simple* but Inuit will not own the mines and minerals on or under their land. A summary of this important agreement will be featured in the next issue of *Nunavut*.



The Nunavut newsletter is now being filed with the American Native Press Archives at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The Archives serves as a clearinghouse for information on American Indian, Alaskan Native and, now, Canadian Native, publications. The Archives has about 25,000 newspapers and periodicals published between 1826 and the present. It publishes a quarterly called *News Release* and a scholarly journal called *Native Press Research Journal*. Write to Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr., Archives Director, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 502 Stabler Hall, 33rd and University Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S.A., 72204 for more!

A black and white photograph of a vast, rugged landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of low-lying vegetation. A large body of water, likely a fjord or bay, occupies the middle ground, filled with numerous small ice floes. The background features steep, rocky mountains with patches of snow or ice, under a dramatic, cloudy sky.

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TUNGAVIK FEDERATION OF NUNAVUT

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