

Road to Nunavut – David Serkoak

Nunavut Highlights:

- Introduction: Myself, an Ahlarmiut survivor of “Forced Relocations”
 and Starvations of 1950s
- Grew up in Eskimo Point (now Arviat), Whale Cove
 And Rankin Inlet and attended Federal Day School
- Not allowed to attend Residential Schools by my parents
- Leaned to write Inuktitut using Bible
 Leaned English on my own (play, streets, work
 and attending adult night classes 69 – 71)
- In 2 of Farley Mowat’s 1st two books (People of the
 Deer and Desperate People)
- Become a teacher, VP, principal (high school,
 Nunavut Arctic College and at NS in Ottawa
- YOUTUBE: Back in 58
- Social History
Inuit Independent and Individualistic and sociable
 Several families can stay together for weeks, Months or years
- Love to visit and received visitors with joyous and often lavish
 hospitality
- Land and sea belonged equally to all
- Values Sharing (part of survival and Inuit culture)
 Food
 Possessions - wanted something simply took it without asking
 for permission
 Borrowed items are returned sooner or later, No time limit
 Sharing wives, children to childless couples (adapted)
- 1950s Federal Gov’t relocate many Inuit by force in NWT,
 Northern Quebec and Labrador

1962 Eastern Arctic Inuit given the “right” to vote in federal elections for first time

1967 NWT Council moved from Ottawa to YK

Project Surname for Eastern Arctic

1970 COPE – Committee for Original People’s Entitlement was formally incorporated

1971 ITC - Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (now Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami) or ITK
The newly formed Inuit Org. said they can help fellow Inuit
I phoned them about my problem with Gov’t policy

Ivan Mowat (ITC) – Helped me to settle my job and

Married a non-Inuk, my new wife lost her housing rights because she married me a local man, NOT entitle to Gov’t housing.

A short legal approach ends the discrimination (Rankin-Eskimo Point)

1975 Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry headed by Mr. Justice Thomas Berger. (1977 findings recommend 10 yr. delay)

1976 The Inuvialuit slit from ITC / ITK to negotiate a separate land claims due to development pressure in the Beaufort Sea area (COPE)

1976 NWT Leg. Council becomes NWT Leg. Assembly

1980 ITK – passed a resolution calling for creation of Nunavut

1982 Plebiscite on division in the NWT, supported by 56%

1990 Signing of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement –in- Principle

1995 Nunavummiut vote to make Iqaluit their future capital

1997 Interim Commissioner of Nunavut was appointed by Feds.

1999 April 1st, Nunavut is officially created as a new Canadian Territory

Map of Canada was revised

Nunavut – Means “Our Land”

Nunavut is just over 10 years old this year, the youngest territory in Canada and is the first self-governing indigenous territory in North America

Weather	Jan – Feb	-35 and up
	Summer	Plus 10

Daylight / Darkness

	Nov – Jan	24 Hour Darkness
June – July		24 Hour Daylight

Population 33,303

Long before we were all born in this room many groups made presence in the Arctic.....changed Arctic / Inuit forever

Explorers , Traders, Whalers, Missionaries

Regions

Kitekmoet

Kivalliq

Qikiqtaaluk

26 Communities / Transportation is by Air (roads limited)
by ship

Food Prices Cheez Whiz \$29.00

Turkey \$90.00

Cigs. \$14.58 - \$19.00

Education Grade 12 in communities
 K – 3 Inuktitut
 Arctic College / Trade School
 Inuit Cultural School
 Teacher Education
 Nursing / Law
 Environmental Tech

High Tech TV / Internet / Phone

Social Issues Drug & Alcohol / Housing / Education
 Services can't keep up with growth
 Crime high in some communities

Hunting / Sewing / Carving still popular
 Mining
 Tourism

27 Nunavut Communities

