

## **IMOOSHI NUTARAJUK- Grise Fiord**

Where and when were you born?

Imooshie Nutarajuk, born in Arctic Bay in August 1950.

Can you describe the areas you used to frequent during the different seasons and what you did there?

When you were a child? When you were youth? When you were a young adult? Now?

I lived in Arctic Bay as a child and youth was at Grise Fiord.

Do you think the weather has changed since you were a child?

How has it changed? When did you first notice changing in the weather?

I do spend time outdoors to learn more about the weather. During a bad weather, when some good weather appears, usually when it happens like that, weather usually gets better. That is not so today. It is now hard to predict the weather anymore. You can not predict the weather anymore because it is constantly changing.

In the past, you were able to travel where you want to go after the weather has cleared up without too much to worry about. Today, you can not do just exactly what you want to do because the weather is changing constantly.

### **Temperature**

Have you seen any changes in how warm or cold the weather is in this area? During which season? Is the temperature the same as it was in the past?

Can you remember times when it was extremely hot or extremely cold?

I grew up in this area and learned more about the environment here. It use to get cold here in the past, you have to wear a jacket all the time. You couldn't wear just a t-shirt. There are mosquitoes today. Every year, it get warmer. The ice caps have changed, because large part of them has melted.

### **Weather Patterns**

Is there any change in the amount of rain this area receives? But is there some thunder storms? What about snow? Has there been change in the prevailing wind?

Blizzards didn't happen very regularly in the past. In fall, winter and spring the blizzard comes but not with a very strong force.

Every year it get warmer. A crust of ice use to form on the water at night and today that doesn't happen anymore.

There is more rain today than in the past. Whereas before it use to snow. With snow some part of the ground and accumulate in some areas.

Some people have heard the thunder more than once during heavier rain fall.

The prevailing wind doesn't seemed to have changed very much although we get stronger winds from the east. We use to get strong winds at times. Now, we sometime get without warning as though even when the wind isn't suppose to come.

### **Seasonal Changes**

Has the length of any of the Inuktitut seasons changed over time?

Upirngaktsaaq, upirngaaq, aujaq, ukiaktsaaq, Ukiaq and ukiuq.

Fresh water Ice

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of lakes and rivers in this area?

Has the thickness of the Ice on fishing lakes changed over time? Does it get thick as it use to?

Has

there been any change to quality if ice?

River flows seems to come later in season from the ice caps. We don't hear much of the rivers anymore. There was once a heavy rain fall.

### **Sea Ice/Polyna**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of the sea ice?

Does the ice get thick as it did in the past? \_ Is there any changes in the distance to the flow-edge during different

seasons when compared to the past?

The sea ice is not the same as before. It looks as though some smoke of pollution has settle on to it. The down wind of puddles on the have collected that dirt.

There is no scheduled time for the ice to leave so the ice break up is never on the same time, year after year.

The thickness of the sea ice is never the same.

The flow edge is at the general area where it always is.

## **Terrain/Permafrost**

Is there any evidence of permafrost changing in the area? Has there been any change in the wet areas? Unusual areas of erosion or areas of accelerated erosion?

This spring the snow started melting right away. It didn't even form crust at nights as it usually does.

Rivers use to flow with more stronger force about five years ago. That time with very strong rivers flowing, erosion of the land happened more then.

There are certain areas where leads usually form throughout the ice. Leads didn't form at usual areas, they formed elsewhere.

## **Snow**

Is there any changes in the amount or depth of snow that this area is receiving? Are there any seasonal changes in the quality of the snow cover?

## **Travel/Camping**

Have changes in freshwater ice, sea ice, terrain, snow conditions or water levels affected travel at different times of the year?

## **Wildlife**

Are there new animal species being seen in the area? Fish? Birds? Insects? Are the native species being affected by changes in the weather, for example migratory patterns of health? Are these affects impacting on the hunting fishing and trapping?

There small flies that I noticed for the first time that were here. We now have some mosquitoes. In birds, we do see some trumpeter swans today.

## **Vegetation**

Are there new species of plants being seen in the area? Are the native species of plants being affected by changes in the weather? Are these affects impacting on animal species that depends on these plants? Are your gathering activities affected?

Not much have changed in a way of vegetations but now we have been getting crow berries. We use to have mainly blue berries.

## **Water Quantity and Quality**

Are there changes in water in levels in rivers and lakes? Is the water quality as good as in the past?

Ice caps are not the same anymore. We use to travel on ice caps for there were no other routes to travel. Ice caps have drastically changed. Now they are so much lower from melting and we come across

more rock where our trail use to be. More rocks are appearing. In mid 1960's, it was just ice. Our original trail is not there anymore.

We still do go up on to the ice caps, but now there are too many rocks where people use to travel.

We see much smaller amount of ice caps today where it use to be just white. You see more of the land than the ice caps nowadays.

The clear sky use to appear from the direction of Resolute Bay.

## JAYPATEE AKEEAGOK- GRISE FIORD

Where and when were you born?

Jaypatee Akeeagok

Can you describe the areas you used to frequent during the different seasons and what you did there? When you were a child? When you were youth?

When you were a young adult? Now? I was child and youth here in Grise Fiord. Yes the climate definitely changed since I was a child.

Do you think the weather has changed since you were a child? How has it changed?

The cold is changing, there is more light and it is warmer in spring time. It use to be very dark in 70's. Since mid 1980's The surface of the land has really uncovering and the sun seems to come sooner. It is not as cold as it use to be.

When did you first notice changing in the weather?

People use to heat up their ski-doo engines with stoves in order to start them. Today people are starting their ski-doods with an electric start.

When the light begin, the smoke, the mist, or fog use to create around you. Last winter, the cold came early and now the ice caps are really beginning to melt.

Within the last five or more year haven't been receiving as much of snow as we use to.

Kerosene in cold weather use to get thick, now it doesn't anymore.

Did your parent mention any changes in the weather at any time in their lifetime before you were born and started remembering?

My father use to talk about the changing condition of the snow.

How are changes in weather and surrounding land affecting your activities? What changes have you had to make as a result of these changes?

We get winds from the east now but in the past, we use to get wind from the west more. The wind is not as strong as it use to be.

In fall about eight years ago it seems to have been the last when the sun shined with a very hot hitting effect.

Animals seemed to have changed within the last fifteen years. The heaven use to be more blue but not today, the horizon would be darker.

Polar bear with cubs are now appearing in the beginning of March. We use to see them at the end of March.

We do now see some sandhill cranes. Arctic terns don't nest near by anymore on the islands where they use to nest.

The ravens came in 1970's, and now they are scavenging here.

Migrating whales have decreased in pod sizes and they seem to be skinnier today than before.

### **Temperature**

Have you seen any changes in how warm or cold the weather is in this area? During which season? Is the temperature the same as it was in the past? Can you remember times when it was extremely hot or extremely cold?

The temperature has changed drastically the cold seasons are now shorter. Warmer temperatures are longer today.

The moonshine is brighter in winter time.

### **Weather Patterns**

Is there any change in the amount of rain this area receives? But is there some thunder storms? What about snow? Has there been change in the prevailing wind? Are those kind of winds you are describing happening more recently?

The sea ice leaver sooner than before.

I have noticed two thunder storms in this area, four and six years ago. We now see fluffy soft looking clouds today.

Our community does receive more rain today than before.

There is not enough snow for the blizzard to be happening anymore.

Rivers are not flowing as hard as they use to. The water comes sooner today than before. Some rivers do dry up.

Leads (cracks) that form through the ice now form are form where they don't usually form. Even outside of the apogee of the month or severe cold days, leads do now form.

We do receive wind more times than before but not as strong as they use to be. You cannot predict the weather anymore.

## **Seasonal Changes**

Has the length of any of the Inuktitut seasons changed over time?

Upirngaksaq, upirngaaq, aujaq, ukiaksaq, Ukiaq and ukiuq.

## **Fresh water Ice**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of lakes and rivers in this area?

Has the thickness of the Ice on fishing lakes changed over time? Does it get thick as it use to? Has there been any change to quality if ice?

Lakes don't all melt (meaning the ice on lakes don't melt throughout the summer). Right up until the month of Christmas, the rivers over flow.

Lakes don't freeze as early as they use to and they don't get as thick.

## **Sea Ice/Polyna**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of the sea ice? Does the ice get thick as it did in the past? Is there any changes in the distance to the flow-edge during different seasons when compared to the past?

The distance of the flow edge differs every year.

## **Terrain/Permafrost**

Is there any evidence of permafrost changing in the area? Has there been any change in the wet areas?

Unusual areas of erosion or areas of accelerated erosion?

The land is dustier and some of the area is cover with sand so some of the land really does dry up.

Part of the land is eroding from the rivers and the wind as well as the shoreline.

## **Snow**

Is there any changes in the amount or depth of snow that this area is receiving? Are there any seasonal changes in the quality of the snow cover?

I wish that what fall on to the sea ice and on to puddle could be studied. It feels greasy.

## **Wildlife**

Are there new animal species being seen in the area? Fish? Birds? Insects? Are the native species being affected by changes in the weather, for example migratory patterns of health? Are these affects impacting on the hunting fishing and trapping?

Butterflies and mosquitoes are more abundance now.

**Vegetation**

Are there new species of plants being seen in the area? Are the native species of plants being affected by changes in the weather? Are these affects impacting on animal species that depends on these plants? Are your gathering activities affected?

As per plants, they grow early and die earlier in summer.

## **KAVAVOW KIGUKTAK- GRISE FIORD**

Where and when were you born?

Can you describe the areas you used to frequent during the different seasons and what you did there? When you were a child? When you were youth?  
When you were a young adult? Now?

In spring, the sea ice deteriorate earlier today and faster.

Do you think the weather has changed since you were a child? How has it changed? When did you first notice changing in the weather?

As for animals, the liver seems to be effected more than any part of the body. I don't notice any change on the surface of the bodies of animals. The liver of seals and caribou seems to effected in winter and summer.

### **Temperature**

Have you seen any changes in how warm or cold the weather is in this area? During which season? Is the temperature the same as it was in the past?  
Can you remember times when it was extremely hot or extremely cold?

The heat of the sun warms up the area but when it goes down, the temperature drops drastically. This is a direct result of weather changing.

### **Weather Patterns**

Is there any change in the amount of rain this area receives? But is there some thunder storms? What about snow? Has there been change in the prevailing wind? Are those kind of winds you are describing happening more recently?

There is less snow coming down today. The snow flake will now cause cloth to get wet. I really haven't notice if blizzards have changed or not.

The sound of thunder have been detected.

The wind direction have changed. The wind use to come from the direction of the north, now its coming from the east.

The wind from the north use to be stronger. Fro many years now, we have had any frightening winds that may go up to seventies and eighties.

### **Seasonal Changes**

Has the length of any of the Inuktitut seasons changed over time?

Upirngakksaaq, upirngaaq, aujaq, ukiakksaaq, Ukiaq and ukiuq.

### **Fresh water ice**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of lakes and rivers in this area?

Has the thickness of the ice on fishing lakes changed over time? Does it get thick as it use to? Has there been any change to quality if ice?

It differs every year but for sure that rivers don't flow as strong as before, sometimes they do flow stronger.

The thickness of fresh water ice have not changed too much.

### **Sea Ice/Polyna**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of the sea ice?

Does the ice get thick as it did in the past?\_ Is there any changes in the distance to the flow-edge during different

seasons when compared to the past?

Freezing of the sea ice haven't changed. When sea ice freezes, it is rougher, there is more packed ice occurring. The flow edge is now closer than before.

### **Terrain/Permafrost**

Is there any evidence of permafrost changing in the area? Has there been any change in the wet areas?

Unusual areas of erosion or areas of accelerated erosion?

The more muddy areas of the permafrost seems to be melting more. Some of the wet areas have changed because the water is evaporating more in some wet areas. Some areas have completely dried up.

The land is eroding and spreading itself all over the area as it always does.

### **Snow**

Is there any changes in the amount or depth of snow that this area is receiving? Are there any seasonal changes in the quality of the snow cover?

Snow fall differs in years, not much has changed. It really is not noticeable because it is packed up more.

### **Travel/Camping**

Have changes in freshwater ice, sea ice, terrain, snow conditions or water levels affected travel at different times of the year?

For traveling and camping, not much has changed.

**Wildlife**

Are there new animal species being seen in the area? Fish? Birds? Insects? Are the native species being affected by changes in the weather, for example migratory patterns of health? Are these affects impacting on the hunting fishing and trapping?

There is no change in birds and animals today.

The usual insects are here.

Polar bear that have been studied (tranquilized, ear tagged) aren't afraid anymore. They will run away even when they are still far away.

**Vegetation**

Are there new species of plants being seen in the area? Are the native species of plants being affected by changes in the weather? Are these affects impacting on animal species that depends on these plants? Are your gathering activities affected?

Plants were greener this year. Crowberries now do grow to larger sizes.

**Water Quantity and Quality**

Are there changes in water in levels in rivers and lakes? Is the water quality as good as in the past?

Fresh water is still very good to drink.

**General**

Any additional comments or notes?

People seems to get cold more often today and there are more people with arthritis.

## **LARRY AUDLALUK- GIRSE FIORD**

Where and when were you born?

Larry Audlaluk (LA) was born at Uugaqsirvik, Nunavik in October 6, 1950.  
Annie Manumi Audlaluk (AMA) was born at Cape Dorset, Nunavut in 1953.

Can you describe the areas you used to frequent during the different seasons and what you did there?

When you were a child? When you were youth? When you were a young adult? Now?

Annie went to high school in Iqaluit and lived there until she became an adult there at Iqaluit then from Iqaluit I moved to Grise Fiord. Here in the High Arctic, the weather has affected my skin within the since between 1970's and 80's.

LA When I was a baby we were moved to the old camp across from where Grise Fiord is situated today from Northern Quebec. As a child, we lived across from the community then they moved us to where the community is now located today.

Do you think the weather has changed since you were a child? How has it changed?

AMA I now have grand children here in Grise Fiord. When did you first notice changing in the weather?

AMA Today's weather is definitely not the same as before. Within the last three years especially, things in our shed have felt so dull to tough as though they coated with a flat paint feeling. A crust of ice used to form on water in spring and part of summer. Today that crust of ice doesn't form anymore.

LA In cutting marine mammals, the liver of some marine mammals don't look appetizing these days, not just the skins.

AMA The cloths out on the cloth line don't really bleach the they use to. Instead, it seems as though there is seems to some sort of a very fine coating that you can feel with your hand.

Did your parent mention any changes in the weather at any time in their lifetime before you were born and started remembering?

AMA & LA We don't remember our parents mentioning anything about climate changing.

How are changes in weather and surrounding land affecting your activities? What changes have you had to make as a result of these changes?'

Has the severe cold reduced in time?

AMA & LA Yes.

Temperature

Have you seen any changes in how warm or cold the weather is in this area? During which season? Is the temperature the same as it was in the past?

Can you remember times when it was extremely hot or extremely cold?

LA Before 1980's when we travel on snowmobiles in winter time the cold and the fume from the snowmobile use to last for longer period of time. Today the winter months have decreased so that the very cold weather is much shorter now.

AMA In spring time the weather is much warmer now, I want to spend more time outdoors but I have to indoors to work on things that needs to be done.

LA I think it is warmer now than before. We use to have snow blindness where it was very hard to keep our eyes open because they would be sore. We don't have that today. In some years, the warmth would come sooner and other years the it didn't.

### **Weather Patterns**

Is there any change in the amount of rain this area receives? But is there some thunder storms? What about snow? Has there been change in the prevailing wind? Are those kind of winds you are describing happening more recently?

LA We receive some good rain in some years and other years, we don't.

LA Yes there was a thunder either in 1987, 88 or 89, I'm not sure just exactly which year it was. The rain would start but then it would become a mist, then it would end up snowing. It rains more now since 1989. I really notice that it would snow more in the month of May. It use to snow more than anything else. It now snows less than before.

LA We don't see real blizzard as it use to anymore. Up here in the high arctic it is dry. It snows more in September, October, May and June. The strong wind does come at times but there is no great deal of wind occurring in Grise Fiord.

LA In some years, we sometime get wind in summer time. The wind nowadays comes from all directions. We use to get more wind from the east and from the northwest.

### **Seasonal Changes**

Has the length of any of the Inuktitut seasons changed over time?

Upirngaktsaaq, upirngaaq, aujaq, ukiaktsaaq, Ukiaq and ukiuq.

### **Fresh water Ice**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of lakes and rivers in this area?

Has the thickness of the Ice on fishing lakes changed over time? Does it get thick as it use to? Has there been any change to quality if ice?

AMA What use to be stronger river are more like streams today. Larger rivers are now just rivers now, the flow have decreased.

LA The ice on lake are thinner today than before. The ice caps are reducing in sizes.

### **Sea Ice/Polyna**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of the sea ice?

Does the ice get thick as it did in the past? Is there any changes in the distance to the flow-edge during different seasons when compared to the past?

LA During the ice break up, pieces of ice use to linger for longer periods of time, today that doesn't happen anymore. The ice does freeze later today than before. During the ice break up, the ice just seems to melt today within the last couple of years.

LA The sea ice is also thinner now and the flow edge is closer now.

### **Snow**

Is there any changes in the amount or depth of snow that this area is receiving? Are there any seasonal changes in the quality of the snow cover?

LA Today there is less snow for sure since 1972.

### **Travel/Camping**

Have changes in freshwater ice, sea ice, terrain, snow conditions or water levels affected travel at different times of the year?

LA Forming of the ice along the shore comes much later in the fall than it did in the past.

### **Wildlife**

Are there new animal species being seen in the area? Fish? Birds? Insects? Are the native species being affected by changes in the weather, for example migratory patterns of health? Are these affects impacting on the hunting fishing and trapping?

LA There have been very few snow geese but now we see more. We now see more mosquitoes, whereas in the past, there were none.

LA We sometime see very uncommon birds today at the size of snow bunting.

LA Marine mammals seems to have less blubber today.

**Water Quantity and Quality**

Are there changes in water in levels in rivers and lakes? Is the water quality as good as in the past?

LA The ice caps are now reducing in sizes because we see more of land where ice use to be.

**Fire**

Has there been any change in the frequency or length of tundra fires?

There are no tundra fires.

**General**

Any additional comments or notes

No additional

## **LYMEEKE KAKKEE – GRISE FIORD**

Where and when were you born?

Lymeekee Kakkee was born the west of Pangnirtung in September 2, 1937.

Can you describe the areas you used to frequent during the different seasons and what you did there?

When you were a child? When you were youth? When you were a young adult? Now?

I was a child in Pangniqtuuq, Tugarjuaq and Qikiqtarjuaq. As for my adult life, I have live at Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangniqtuuq and Grise Fiord.

How are changes in weather and surrounding land affecting your activities? What changes have you had to make as a result of these changes?

I have witnessed the change of the winds here in 2002. At times the wind would just about to start then it would do down even before it starts.

We never had any instruments for the weather watch, know the formation of the cloud for the changing of the weather is what we have used. Also knowing when the apogee of the month will occur for it usual bring a bad weather.

We live only in tents today away from communities. In predicting the weather for the day and knowing which way the earth is turning is how some of us can judge the weather.

### **Temperature**

Have you seen any changes in how warm or cold the weather is in this area? During which season? Is the temperature the same as it was in the past?

Can you remember times when it was extremely hot or extremely cold?

The cold temperature has changed. When the days is clear, it use to be very clear. Today there is some haze in the air which takes away the clearness of the air.

The heat of the sun warms up the area but when it goes down, the temperature drops drastically. This is a direct result of weather changing.

The cold has definitely changed, it certainly is getting warmer. It doesn't get very cold out on the sea ice anymore until when you go on to the land. As a child, you notice much more of the cold.

### **Weather Patterns**

Is there any change in the amount of rain this area receives? But is there some thunder storms? What about snow? Has there been change in the prevailing wind? Are those kind of winds you are

describing happening more recently?

Today, it rains more than before. Not much of the snow settles on to the ground as it used to (meaning that something else keeps the snow away, like the wind).

I have never notice any thunder happening up here.

Some of the prevailing winds have changed directions. Qimugjuit (snow bank caused by an object to form), uqalurait (formation of ripple like shape caused directly by the wind, were the guides when traveling because the face the same direction.

If a spring has a good weather conditions, that means the summer season will not be so good. People called it kiaktuniq (weather that plants for the next season).

### **Seasonal Changes**

Has the length of any of the Inuktitut seasons changed over time?

Upirngaksaq, upirngaaq, aujaq, ukiaksaq, Ukiaq and ukiuq.ü

### **Sea Ice/Polyna**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of the sea ice? Does the ice get thick as it did in the past? Is there any changes in the distance to the flow-edge during different seasons when compared to the past?

The sea ice does melt earlier these days and it doesn't have as much of flexible strength as much as it used to.

### **Terrain/Permafrost**

Is there any evidence of permafrost changing in the area? Has there been any change in the wet areas?

Unusual areas of erosion or areas of accelerated erosion?Ice caps are melt drastically.

### **Wildlife**

Are there new animal species being seen in the area? Fish? Birds? Insects? Are the native species being affected by changes in the weather, for example migratory patterns of health? Are these affects impacting on the hunting fishing and trapping?)

The organs of the animals have changed.

### **Health**

Has there been a change in the health of the community that you attribute to changes in the weather? Has there been a change in the health among the local population?

People have been told not to eat animals that may have abnormal formation in them.

## **MINNIE KILLIKTEE- GRISE FIORD**

Where and when were you born?

Minnie Killiktee born at Inujjuaq, July 28, 1940.

Can you describe the areas you used to frequent during the different seasons and what you did there?

When you were a child? When you were youth? When you were a young adult? Now?

I grew up in Inujjuaq, Nunavik.

There no mosquitoes, today there are some. When we moved here, it use to be very dark, for two years now, there is little bit of light we can see. (referring to winter).

Do you think the weather has changed since you were a child? How has it changed?

I now have experienced a time that one I of seal skins that I was preparing (cleaning) burnt from the sun (referring to like how our skin some time burn in the sun).

Today, we see white clouds (fluffy clouds) that looks to be like warm climatic clouds.

Did your parent mention any changes in the weather at any time in their lifetime before you were born and started remembering?

My mother did talked about weather changing and I did not remember exactly what she was referring to, but she talked about it.

### **Temperature**

Have you seen any changes in how warm or cold the weather is in this area? During which season? Is the temperature the same as it was in the past? Can you remember times when it was extremely hot or extremely cold?

Yes both the cold and warm seasons have changed. There was a time when it was very cold in winter time but the kind of cold spell that we use to get doesn't really happen like it use to. The cold in this part of the north seem to have moved.

### **Weather Patterns**

Is there any change in the amount of rain this area receives? But is there some thunder storms? What about snow? Has there been change in the prevailing wind? Are those kind of winds you are describing happening more recently?

There wasn't much rain at all, now we see more rain.

The snow has also changed. Today we get larger flakes coming down.

We use to get strong blizzards, today, blizzard are not as strong as before.

I have never notice any thunder storms in this part of the north.

We get wind from the same direction. We do receive more often than the past.

We receive less snow today than before.

### **Seasonal Changes**

Has the length of any of the Inuktitut seasons changed over time?

Upirngaksaq, upirngaaq, aujaq, ukiaksaq, Ukiaq and ukiuq.

### **Fresh water Ice**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of lakes and rivers in this area?

Has the thickness of the Ice on fishing lakes changed over time? Does it get thick as it use to?  
Has there been any change to quality if ice?

Lakes use to have more snow on them, today there is less snow on lakes and the river flows aren't as strong anymore.

### **Wildlife**

Are there new animal species being seen in the area? Fish? Birds? Insects? Are the native species being affected by changes in the weather, for example migratory patterns of health?  
Are these affects impacting on the hunting fishing and trapping?

There are more bees and mosquitoes in both smaller and larger sizes.

We get same birds as we use to, although I have heard that some people do sometime see birds that are different one in awhile.

There fewer birds now and people don't get eggs at all from what I hear.

### **Vegetation**

Are there new species of plants being seen in the area? Are the native species of plants being affected by changes in the weather? Are these affects impacting on animal species that depends on these plants? Are your gathering activities affected?

Vegetation are now growing to larger size today to a healthier sizes.

### **Water Quantity and Quality**

Are there changes in water in levels in rivers and lakes? Is the water quality as good as in the past

Yes the climate is changing

**Fire**

Has there been any change in the frequency or length of tundra fires?

There are no tundra fires.

**General**

Any additional comments or notes

It has been said that the climate will change, it is happening today.

## **RYNEE FLAHERTY- Girse Fiord**

Where and when were you born?

Rynee Flaherty I was born at Inujjuaq.

Can you describe the areas you used to frequent during the different seasons and what you did there?

When you were a child? When you were youth?

When you were a young adult? Now? I live in away from Inujjuaq than move to Inujjuaq.

Do you think the weather has changed since you were a child? How has it changed?

I have noticed that the weather has changed. It use to be very dark here. The sun use to get too hot while days are getting longer.

Did your parent mention any changes in the weather at any time in their lifetime before you were born and started remembering?

My grandfather use to say that the weather will change somehow. In early summer before the time the the ice usually leaves it will go. The warmth has effected the environment too much and the sun is too hot. It does cool right down at night fall so that it gets chilly.

How are changes in weather and surrounding land affecting your activities? What changes have you had to make as a result of these changes?°

The time we were brought here it use to be cold, now today its not as cold in winter, spring, summer and fall. In summer there would a dew on the ground. Last year, it was much warmer.

### **Weather Patterns**

Is there any change in the amount of rain this area receives? But is there some thunder storms? What about snow? Has there been change in the prevailing wind? Are those kind of winds you are describing happening more recently?

We now get more rain today. In early spring we use to get a lot more snow, today its not like that anymore.

Blizzard doesn't come as often as it use to and we get less snow.

People heard thunder while I was away. Once the ice left in June blown away by the wind.

We get strong wind from the east and from west, we do get wind but not as strong. We don't get strong winds anymore in winter time.

The wind misses the community, even when the wind is close by.

### **Seasonal Changes**

Has the length of any of the Inuktitut seasons changed over time?

Upirngaksaq, upirngaaq, aujaq, ukiaksaq, Ukiaq and ukiuq.

### **Fresh water Ice**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of lakes and rivers in this area?

Has the thickness of the ice on fishing lakes changed over time? Does it get thick as it use to?

Has there been any change to quality if ice?

Rivers has decrease in size since the time we arrived here. The ice on lakes still gets very thick. We use to use icebergs for water.

### **Sea Ice/Polyna**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of the sea ice? Does the ice get thick as it did in the past? Is there any changes in the distance to the flow-edge during different seasons when compared to the past?

The ice doesn't freeze as soon as it use to and it is more dangerous.

The flow edge is not at the same place every year, it differs in location. There are always lead in the ice in spring.

### **Terrain/Permafrost**

Is there any evidence of permafrost changing in the area?

Has there been any change in the wet areas?

Unusual areas of erosion or areas of accelerated erosion?

The vegetation sometimes grow very well and sometimes not. It differs every year. We get more blue berries than crow berries.

### **Snow**

Is there any changes in the amount or depth of snow that this area is receiving? Are there any seasonal changes in the quality of the snow cover?

In winter time, we get small amount of snow.

### **Wildlife**

Are there new animal species being seen in the area? Fish? Birds? Insects? Are the native species being affected by changes in the weather, for example migratory patterns of health? Are these affects impacting on the hunting fishing and trapping?

There are very few bugs here and yes we do now see some mosquitoes, snow buntings and weasels.

The skins of seal seemed to have changed somewhat. Some of the seal skins are very good anymore and some seal livers aren't good also.

### **Fish**

Are fish runs or health affected by changes in climate?

People said that there were many fish this year.

### **Vegetation**

Are there new species of plants being seen in the area? Are the native species of plants being affected by changes in the weather? Are these affects impacting on animal species that depends on these plants? Are your gathering activities affected?

We have never seen new plants.

### **Water Quantity and Quality**

Are there changes in water in levels in rivers and lakes? Is the water quality as good as in the past?...

I think rivers have not changed because there are not very many rivers.

### **Fire**

Has there been any change in the frequency or length of tundra fires?

There are no tundra fires.

## SEEGLOOK AKEEAGOK – GRISE FIORD

Where and when were you born?

Seeglook Akeeagok.

Can you describe the areas you used to frequent during the different seasons and what you did there?

When you were a child? When you were youth?

When you were a young adult? Now?

The beginning of weather change seems to have started in mid 1980's.

The first time I remember noticing thunder was to the close to the year of 1985. It was raining heavily and the hair of our children stood up during the thunder storm.

The flow edge is usually at Nuvuujaq an\_p'd Qirniqtaq which is closer to the community than in the past.

There were some lightning that happened in years 1980 - 85 and 86, when the weather warmed up more than usual. We have been getting some warmer weather that feels sharper or more direct since then.

In June and July we usually get fog. The puddles on the ice usually crust with ice so that it wear out the qamutiik planks.

Do you think the weather has changed since you were a child? How has it changed?

In 1990's the ice caps really start to melt which make rock more visitable. Certainly the ice caps are melting on Devon Island. The trail we use to go to Eureka is also melting and many rocks are on the surface now.

In 1990's livers in some animals were not good (some sort of infection) and parts of their guts (the insides) didn't look normal. Today that isn't happening anymore. Now that kind of thing seem to be dying out.

How are changes in weather and surrounding land affecting your activities? What changes have you had to make as a result of these changes?

Here in Grise Fiord the early ice break up happens in the beginning of August. There was one year when the ice didn't leave at all in summer time, yes ice condition has change.

The high tide is higher now and the low tide doesn't as low as it use to.

The caribou and the musk-oxen haven't changed at all. Sometimes there is more and other time less.

Birds like snow bunting are fewer now and there are no lapland longspur. The ivory gull are less today but since the year 2000 there seems to be more. In July 2002, there were some eggs right on ice caps.

### **Temperature**

Have you seen any changes in how warm or cold the weather is in this area? During which season? Is the temperature the same as it was in the past?

Can you remember times when it was extremely hot or extremely cold?

Since I have come back to Grise Fiord, I have noticed that the light seems to come earlier. Yes there is more light now. Even at night there is little bit of light over the horizon.

### **Seasonal Changes**

Has the length of any of the Inuktitut seasons changed over time?

Upirngaksaq, upirngaaq, aujaq, ukiaksaq, Ukiaq and ukiuq. All seasons have seemed to slightly changed. Summer seasons are warmer now. The warmest seasons are in June and July. The cold in winter time has changed too, although we still get long cold winter in some years.

We also receive more rain today than before. The rain seems to have started in the years of 1993 - 94 because there were heavy rain falls.

I haven't notice if the blizzard has changed or not. We get strong winds from east to west.

### **Fresh water Ice**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of lakes and rivers in this area? Has the thickness of the ice on fishing lakes changed over time? Does it get thick as it use to? Has there been any change to quality if ice?

I really have noticed that it freezes up later today than before.

Within the last two years, we have received more snow but for sure that we are now receiving less snow than before. The snow come much later in fall today.

### **Sea Ice/Polyna**

Have there been any changes to the timing of the freeze up and break up of the sea ice? Does the ice get thick as it did in the past? Is there any changes in the distance to the flow-edge during different seasons when compared to the past?

The fresh water ice has not changed but the snow is dirtier now. There seems to be like oil in ice puddle which look awful for drinking.

**Wildlife**

Are there new animal species being seen in the area? Fish? Birds? Insects? Are the native species being affected by changes in the weather, for example migratory patterns of health? Are these affects impacting on the hunting fishing and trapping?

Dogs do get sick and die from time to time. Dog getting sick seems to linger because it is happening every year. I don't know what there is that make dogs sick. I have been thinking that may seagull and ravens are transferring sickness to dogs, I don't know. Maybe foxes too?

I have not notice other animals either than seal to have changed in their body.

Polar bears seem to have less fat in them.

I also have notice the arctic terns don't hang around in this area anymore. Terns use to nest at one of the small island but they're not ,there anymore.

Larger birds are increasing in population. Yes the land has changed around here.

There were no mosquitoes before, today there are some and there are flies.

**Fire**

Has there been any change in the frequency or length of tundra fires?

There are no tundra fires.

## PADDY AQIATUSUK- GRISE FIORD

I was born at Grise Fiord in 1957.

When I was a child we went to live at Alexander Fiord. When I was a youth we went back to Grise Fiord.

We moved to Resolute Bay when I was reaching my adulthood and I am still at Resolute.

The climate has changed but I guess it is the world that is changing, I guess the darkness and the daylight have changed, we could really feel the change concerning this. When we use to go hunting at a time when it would get bright it use to be really dark and stay dark but today when we go hunting at about the same time it is not so dark anymore. My parents have never stated if there was a change in the climate. Our environment has changed and it has affected the animals I guess it has affected the animals the most. It was never like that when I was a child. I do not know if the temperature has changed or not.

It seems slightly warmer and the summers seem longer in the summer. I do not remember when the temperature started changing. In our community in Resolute it never did seem to rain that much but this year it seems to be raining so much. The snow melts sooner now and faster.

The storms doesn't seem to have changed. I have heard that it thunders but I have never experienced it.

The winds seem to be coming from the west more now and north/east.

The seasons are still the same. It is the spring and summer that I do notice that it has really changed.

I don't think the forming of ice in the lakes and rivers have changed. Seems like the ice is starting to melt faster now and the ice melts more now.

The ice still gets thick when it forms. The ice is melting more now and melts sooner now and it does not get proper ice. The ice on the sea has changed. The ice melts more as far as I know and the ice floe has not changed. I do not deal with permafrost so I do not know about it. I know that the marshy areas are starting to get discovered.

Nobody knows if there are any erosion.

The depth of snow that we get has definitely changed. Seems like the snow that falls is thinner now and softer even in the winter.

Seems like our hunting grounds melt more now.

I notice that the fowls that do come here, the species that never use to come here are starting to come here now. Smaller brandts use to come here but Canada geese come here now.

Seagulls use to be smaller too but now they are bigger.

The plants that we use to have use to be small when I was a child but today they are bigger. I guess it is because it is warmer now.

The climate change does affect the animals.

The amount of water in rivers have not changed. Water quality is still just as good.

I have never known a fire caused by nature.

I do notice that the fowl that never use to come here do come here now especially in the last few years.