

Ruth_Jack_Cole_notes

28 Nov 2017

Meeting with Catherine Cole, Jack Dibb, Ruth Varner, Kathy Duderstadt, and Jennifer Brewer

About Nunavut and indigenous peoples in Canada

- Inuk - singular

- Inuit - plural

- 85% still speak Inuktitut

- What are the "correct terms" of indigenous peoples in different nations and communities?

 - Don't use "native" or "tribe" in Canada

- Inuit -- no treaties in Nunavut -- govern their own territory

- First Nations - Indian Act - reserves - treaty with rules and obligations

- Metis -- Catherine is Metis

Recent History of Nunavut

- People didn't settle into communities until 50s and 60s

- Had to go to communities in order to provide education and health services

- During re-location some people starved, had to kill their dogs.

- Residential schools (many older people in communities remember attending these schools)

- Tuberculosis epidemic - people removed without chance to say goodbye

- "Murder of Missing women"

- "Truth and Reconciliation" -- 2008

Heritage centers

- elder/youth programs

- craft is considered art

- blur between education, culture, and environment

- Baker Lake, Nunavut - men go away to work for 10 days with 4 days off.]

 - (some come home with money, drink and are abusive)

 - Loss of traditional art and carving

- Manhood tied to being a hunter

 - Many don't want to lose the ability to hunt and fish

Importance of expertise and traditional knowledge in adapting to changing climate.

- Inuit learn by example. Share information by showing...surveys don't work.

- Alaska - anecdotal

 - Traditional knowledge of ice conditions, coastal erosion, infrastructure, and permafrost

Travel in the Arctic

- If business - plane (medical or legal travel)

- If personal - Ski-doo

Research

- Nunavut Research Institute -- <https://www.nri.nu.ca/nunavut-research-institute-nri>

- Yukon - ice patch archaeology

- Mining - paleontology - gathering so many artifacts that they need a building to put them in.

- NASA ABOVE program

- Rangers -- are an option for citizen science

- Students on Ice

 - Takes Inuit and non-Inuit young people on cruise with scientific researchers

Major concerns of Inuit

- Biodiversity

- Travel

- Not a lot of tourism -- only 6 week period

 - includes "extreme bird watching"

- Churchill

 - Increase in polar bears looking for food

 - Children not allowed out after dark

Are people in Nunavut pleased with new opportunities?

People in Alaska happy to see the money
People in Greenland also happy that ice is receding and they can look for oil and mine
Deals with Denmark for oil lease royalties to drill West of Greenland
Some people happy in Nunavut but some not
Hamlets like Clyde River are opposed to cruise ships
(tourists from cruise ships wandered right into their kitchens uninvited).
So far they are winning this battle, with support of people like Shari Gearheard.
What about the Northwest Passage?
Nunavut - self-governed. It's their land.
How much off the coasts do the Nunavut territory control in relation to nation
Mine North of Pond Inlet

Jack asked if there is resentment. Do they want the artifacts back?
Catherine said taking people to heritage institutions makes a difference.
Catherine's heritage training -- bringing people from the North to the South -- study tour of what heritage museum is
and building North-South Connection
Saw artifacts from their relatives
Realization that "Other people care about what I care about"
Heritage work important to validate people's lives
For example, master carver saw work in Ottawa and instead of wanting artifact back
said "They should have one of my works!"
When discussion restitution, recommend leaving some in the South where they have better resources to preserve
them

Ruth

Grew up in upstate New York...half high school was Mohawk.
Also encounter Sami in Sweden