

Government Orders

I am not here today to speak on the enormity of my riding and the difficulty in travelling from one area to another. Those concerns go without saying. It is what people would call part of the turf.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the four communities of Sachs Harbour, Holman Island, Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk into my riding and to encourage greater participation by aboriginal people, women and youth in the electoral process in both the north and in Ottawa.

The four communities which will be entering Western Arctic are Inuvialuit communities. They are represented by the premier of the Northwest Territories in the legislature. The riding is named Nunakput. It is with great enthusiasm that I will be working closer with her to best represent these areas. All four of these communities are on the coast of the Arctic Ocean, the third great ocean in Canada.

These communities are currently within Nunatsiaq. Once the redistricting is done they will be within Western Arctic riding. However, they have been well served by my colleague, the member for Nunatsiaq, who has served the communities since 1988 when he was first elected to Parliament.

The population of these four communities is composed largely of Inuvialuit people. Inuvialuit are western Inuit. They are distinct from the Inuit of the eastern Arctic. The Inuvialuit are descendants of the Karnngmalit or Mackenzie Inuit who lived in a rich hunting territory containing woods, barrens and seas. This area contains much of the original Thule culture with its emphasis on the beluga as the main source of food, bone, fuel and hide.

Young people make up at least one-third of the population in all of these communities. They are a very young, growing set of communities. The cost of living in these communities, as with all northern communities, is very high. The living cost differential between Edmonton, Alberta in the south and these communities is between 185 and 190. This means that an item of food which costs \$1 in Edmonton will cost between \$1.85 and \$1.90 in these communities.

Although there are many similarities between the four Inuvialuit communities, each has its own distinctive history. One of these communities, Sachs Harbour or Ikaahuk, is located on the most westerly island of the Canadian Arctic archipelago, Banks Island. Archaeologists have found Thule house ruins in several places on Banks Island, indicating that Inuit lived on those islands for hundreds and hundreds of years.

Sachs Harbour was named after the ship *Mary Sachs* of the Canadian Arctic expedition in 1913. Permanent occupation did not begin until 1929 when three Delta Inuit families sailed in their schooners to Sachs Harbour. The major attraction of the island was white fox. For more than 50 years the island has been

considered one of the best trapping areas in the entire North American Arctic. The Banks Island people were particularly well off and well educated during the Delta fur trade boom of the thirties. The first Inuk doctor was a member of the well known Banks Island Carpenter family. Education has remained a powerful source in Sachs Harbour.

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According to the 1991 census, with a population of 85 people over the age of 15, 30 had a university education or non-university education with a diploma. The people of Sachs Harbour have remained very self-sufficient in comparison to many Arctic communities. They have continued to trap. Outfitting for big game hunts for polar bear and musk ox also takes place. Sachs Harbour has an 88 per cent participation rate in the labour force and has the largest average income of the four communities which in 1991 was \$25,000 plus.

Holman Island, another community to be added to my riding, is situated on the Diamond Jenness Peninsula on the western side of Victoria Island. Victoria Island was the ancestral homeland of the Copper Inuit. During the winter they hunted on Banks Island and in the summer travelled to the centre of Victoria Island to hunt caribou. The people of Holman were taught print making by Reverend Henri Tardi, who came from Viviers, France to the settlement as an Oblate missionary in 1939.

In 1961 the Holman Inuit Cooperative was formed to retail the output and print making is now a major source of the community's income. Among the Holman artists the late Helen Kalvak is the most well known. Holman has a participation rate in the labour force of only 59 per cent.

Paulatuk is another community. This is interesting for all Canadians. Canadians seldom ask questions about the north. This is a great opportunity to let them know the constituency in which we exercise a democratic franchise is one that includes these wonderful communities. Paulatuk, the other community to be added to my riding after the redistricting, is located between the seashore and an inland lake on the Arctic coast. The name Paulatuk derives from the Inuktitut term for soot of coal. Coal is found in the vicinity and was used by the Inuvialuit inhabitants for heating.

The original inhabitants of the Paulatuk area suffered greatly from the effects of many of the outside influences brought in by some of the outside whalers. However, the early and extensive contact the people had with many of the European cultures meant they were more independent of trader and missionary influence than Inuit to the east. Many could do business in English and read and write their own language in Roman script.

Paulatuk is known for its carvers. The largest segment of the population in Paulatuk is between zero and fourteen years of age. There is a 14 per cent rate of participation in the labour