



Typical village transportation: Inuit family on snowmobile in Pangnirtung (George Hunter)

In winter, the hunting day, even for seals, is long and hard. Usually, the men are packed for travel by 8 a.m. which, in midwinter, can be as much as three hours before sunlight. At the ice-hunting area, after a few hours of driving, a man will locate the small breathing holes, called *agluit*, which seals keep open to reach the open air. When an *aglu* is found, the hunter will wait motionless for up to an hour to shoot and harpoon a rising seal. Only one of every three or four waits yields a seal, but even one seal will mean 30 kg of meat for the community. The only distraction from the hunt comes when two or three hunters meet and pause long enough to prepare a kettle of hot tea. Finally, after eight or ten hours of active hunting, a man will begin the return journey to his home, possibly with one or two seals lashed atop his sled.

Women, during the long winter, rise early with the men. They prepare food, dress and feed the school-age children, and, after the hunters and pupils have left the house, the women begin their own day. Much of their time is spent working co-operatively with other female relatives, sharing the care of infants, cleaning and stretching skins, sewing parkas, mittens, and boots from cloth and seal or caribou skins, and shopping at the village co-operative or Hudson's Bay