

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mary May Simon, born in Kangirsualujuak (George River), Nunavik (Northern Quebec), joined the CBC Northern Service in 1969 and worked as a producer/announcer of Inuit radio and television programs until 1973. She has held a number of positions with the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and since 1991 has been a Board Member. In 1978, she was elected Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Northern Quebec Inuit Association (which later became the Makivik Corporation). In 1979, Simon was elected First Vice-President of Makivik Corporation with responsibility for political development for the Inuit of Northern Quebec, and for the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. In 1982, Simon was elected President of Makivik Corporation. From 1980 to 1983, she was an Executive Council Member of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) and served as its President from 1986 to 1992; since then she has been Special Envoy to the ICC. In 1992, Simon was awarded an Honourary Doctorate, Doctor of Laws, from McGill University. In 1993, Simon was appointed co-Director (Policy) and Commission Secretary of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. In 1994, she was named Commissioner of the Nunavut Implementation Commission. Mary Simon has been honoured for her work through appointments to the Order of Canada, the National Order of Quebec, and the Gold Order of Greenland.