
visitor might conclude that Inuit, except for living in a cold climate and wearing unusual styles of winter clothing, have become thoroughly assimilated by Canadian society and no longer have a distinctive economy, society, and culture.

Yet every Inuit community, from the largest to the smallest, is joined by close attachment to its environment. In every community, the beach front is lined with small motorized canoes for summer hunting and travel, while in winter, snowmobiles, towing long sleds, can be seen leaving town before daylight to put in a full day of hunting. The office and service people, when their work day is complete, often spend their after hours in traditional tasks, the men hunting for a few hours for seals, and the women sewing skin boots, or *kamik*, and preparing traditional foods.

Snowmobiles, sleds, drying seal, caribou and polar bear skins, and racks of meat are to be seen near every home, along with the artifacts and tools of a people who live close to their land. An absent snowmobile and sled is a clear sign that the men of the house are away hunting. When the weather is clear, even if cold and dark, some men may make hunting trips lasting for several weeks and covering a thousand kilometres.

The interior of an Inuit home often shows the mixture that makes up every-day life. There will be an electric stove and refrigerator, a television or stereo set, a wall rack with four or five rifles and shotguns, a seal skin being prepared so that waterproof boots can be made, children's drawings hung on the wall, and parts for an engine that is being repaired by the owner. Adults and children take their meals as they wish, eating protein-rich seal meat or fish, vegetables from the store, and bread or biscuits.

Summer days

In summer, when the sea is ice-free and children are on their summer holidays, entire families will move away from the town to live in tents on the land maybe as much as 300 km away. If the man must work, the summer camp will be placed only 15 or 20 km away so that he can commute to his job. If there is no need to be close at hand, then families may move by boat as much as 300 km and live away from town for several months.

Unlike the winter rhythm of the community, summer camp allows each person to keep his or her own time. For the men, this often means travelling out to hunt at night when it is cooler and more comfortable, and when, with the long daylight, animals are active. For the children, summer camp is a time to play, pick berries, begin to learn the skills of their parents, and indeed, to become Inuit.