

independent. We need our culture, language and traditions in the process of self-determination. Under self-government we will see Inuit-owned businesses, community-run services and administrations. At meetings, we will talk about reality, not visions.

In the ideal community women's voices will be heard.

This article was written for Suvaguuq, Pauktuutit's newsletter on Inuit social and cultural issues, by Linda Archibald, a social policy consultant whose work focuses on women's and northern issues. Reprinted with permission from Suvaguuq, Volume IX, Number 2, 1994.

Definitions

Inherent Right: An inherent right is something you are born with, something that exists as a basic and natural part of something else. Aboriginal peoples have argued that self-government is an inherent right which exists for Aboriginal peoples because they were the original inhabitants of this land. The federal government now accepts the fact that the inherent right to self-government is contained in the Canadian Constitution, but it remains unclear how this right will be implemented and what exactly it contains.

Self-government: Self-government is the term used to describe governments run by Aboriginal peoples. These governments can take many forms: Nunavut and Kativik Regional Government are two examples of Inuit self-government, but they are also public governments open to all long-term residents of the region.

Self-determination: On a personal level, self-determination is the ability to make decisions freely, without interference from others. Political self-determination is the right of a nation or people to determine its own form of government. This includes control of the financial resources needed to support and maintain that government.

Jurisdiction: The power, right or authority to legislate, govern and apply laws, as well as the geographical or political limits of one's responsibility or authority. Under the Canadian Constitution, federal or provincial governments have specific areas of authority or jurisdiction. Territories have areas of authority similar to the provinces, but these are delegated from the federal government rather than set out in the constitution.

Examples of federal jurisdiction: national defence, fisheries (inland and sea coast), Indians and lands reserved for Indians, criminal law, immigration, and federal programs such as Old Age Security and Unemployment Insurance.

Examples of provincial jurisdiction: natural resources, community and social services, tourism, education, provincial jails, municipalities, hunting laws and licences, marriage and adoption.

ANNE CIMON

Shallow Words

On the street
my mother speaks loud
words,
they tumble,
stumble
from her lips,
a cascade of words
that create
a watery vale
of safety.

Her words are jagged
and colorful
as coral,
broken shells,
half-lies
that sting,
or soothe.

Some turn to look
at us,
mother and daughter,
madly pulled along
on a mild afternoon
in a torrent of words,
soon polished smooth
as glass
in the salty waves
of emotion,
the panic
of parting again.

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Nellie Dale, Quilted Wall Hanging

Photo: Yukon Government