



**Tarriaksuit**

**Shadow People**

Version 13

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Written by Isuma Collective

Kingulliit Productions

1 EXTERIOR IGLULIK WIDE VIEW DAY SPRING

We are inside the cab of a truck moving through Iglulik, and then up the hill to the cemetery. SAQPINA is driving. The camera held by her son LEO in the passenger seat. During this drive we hear a local radio show.

Over opening credits we listen to CBC North's Inuktitut-language newscast talking of the mine expansion and hearings coming up in Iglulik with call in's...one talking of the jobs people will have and the other saying that the mine is already destroying the land.

(All dialogue is in Inuktitut sub-titled in English unless indicated to be spoken in English.)

RADIO ANNOUNCER

(speaking in Inuktitut)

The Nunavut Impact Review Board is bringing the scheduled Technical Meetings, Public Hearings and Community Roundtables on Baffinland Iron Mine's proposed Phase 2 expansion at Mary River to Iglulik starting on Monday. People will be flying in to be intervenors and present as community members.

CALL IN'S

IGLOOLIK RESIDENT 1

Good morning I just want to say I have seen lots of photos online of the pollution at the mine and the red dust and even red animals from the dust. It makes me sick! I am not against all of the mine and the workers but I think they need to seriously fix this problem if the mine is going to keep going, or they need to slow down until that is not a problem anymore. But honestly I don't see how they can fix this problem...maybe it will just keep getting worse. What about our water and our marine life being polluted from this dust? What happens when all that dust covered snow melts every year? How do we fix this? Those are my thoughts, thank you.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Thank you for sharing your concern.  
Next caller?

IGLOOLIK RESIDENT 2

Yes good morning. I am just calling to say I hope as many people as possible come to listen and to ask questions and share their thoughts at the hearings. Sometimes I feel it's the same people who speak the loudest and say they are against it but I know for a fact lots of people are for this mine and think these photos of dust are exaggerated. But often we are afraid to speak because it can get very aggressive, you know people can get very aggressive online. Let us all be kind to one another listen to each other and not be divided in our community. Let's work together to improve our community and bring prosperity to our community for our future generations. These are good jobs for now some of the best in the community maybe later we can have better options but for now this will help our youth and young parents to feed their children and families. I think the mine can do this, it's our land it's our decision to make. Our government NTI, QIA they are here to help manage this. They understand how important our traditions are for us. We can do this if we have better monitoring to make sure our voices are respected. Those are my thoughts Thank you God bless you all.

Truck comes to the top of Cemetery Hill. We look down at the arctic community of Iglulik - a cluster of distant houses on the shoreline of sea ice. Truck comes to stop before a grave with a wooden tombstone. The ground still looks dug up with a few plastic flowers lying there.

SAQPINA turns off the truck and radio and turns to her son, LEO.

SAQPINA

We are visiting your auntie.

SAQPINA with son, LEO, gets out. Saqpina sees Leo going the wrong way, makes a noise and gestures with her hand for Leo to follow her counter clockwise around the wooden tombstone.

Then they stand by the grave for a moment. On the wooden tombstone is the name - Beverli. This is the grave of Saqpina's sister Beverli who died 6 months previously . How she died is still mysterious and something happened that police are still investigating. The camera gives a sense of a spirit there.

Camera pulls back to a wide shot of the scene and then up as if the spirit is retreating.

FADE TO BLACK

**FILM TITLE**

2 INTERIOR TENT CONTINUOUS DAY SPRING

BEN (mid-30s) inserts the rusted-looking gas tank into a battered two-burner Coleman stove, pumps the tank and lights it up. When the flame goes down he puts a small dented kettle on the burner to boil water. The tent is small but is equipped with all the necessities: a large cooler filled with freshly caught fish, a little box with some canned foods, biscuits and tea, jug of water. A caribou skin covers the floor with his mattress pad and sleeping bag on top. At his feet is a plate with some cut up fish and pilot biscuits. Ben is unusually experienced for a young hunter these days; raised by his grandparents still living on the land in an outpost camp until he was already a young man before they finally moved into Iglulik.

The wind is blowing hard outside. As water in the kettle starts to boil, Ben prepares his cup of tea and takes some bites of fish. Suddenly he looks up, listening. Over the noise of wind blowing outside and the Coleman stove inside we hear what sounds like a 4-wheeler. Ben listens, thinking. He takes a small metal tin out of his pocket and lights up a joint. He smokes half the joint as the 4-wheeler sound comes closer, pulls up outside and stops. We hear slow footsteps against the loose rocky ground outside the tent.

Ben's older sister BEVERLI (late-30s) ducks in through the tent door wearing town clothes. Not even a jacket in this chilly spring afternoon. All dialogue in Inuktitut.

BEN  
(softly to himself) Uakadlanga!  
[Oh my goodness]

Ben looks at Beverli curious, shakes his head and then inhales his joint.

BEN (CONT'D)  
 (exhaling smoke)  
 Bad weather for driving around.

Ben hands the joint to Beverli.

BEN (CONT'D)  
 What happened to you Sister?

Ben stares at her as Beverli slowly smokes the joint.

BEN (CONT'D)  
 Everyone wonders...

They sit quietly. Wind blows; kettle heats up on the burner; Beverli patiently finishes the joint before speaking.

BEVERLI  
 (quietly)  
 There are so many abused women here  
 with me...

Ben cuts off a piece of fish and pops it into his mouth. He passes the fish and knife to Beverli.

BEVERLI (CONT'D)  
 (in the same quiet voice)  
 ...Miss my girls... take care of them

The kettle now is steaming on the stove. Ben looks away from Beverli and takes out a second chipped tin cup from his kit, drops a tea bag into it and pours her a steaming mug of tea. Ben picks up his own cup, blows on it, looks up at Beverli. Beverli sits quietly, doesn't reach for her tea. Finally...

BEVERLI (CONT'D)  
 Too late little brother. I'm  
 already dead.

They look at each other. Beverli nods, gets up and ducks out the tent. Ben keeps watching the door after she's gone. He looks down at her untouched steaming tea cup. We hear the 4-wheeler start up again and drive off, the sound slowly vanishing in the wind.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAQPINA and UVILUQ are sisters. SAQPINA is calling about the live show UVILUQ is doing before leaving for the airport the next day to go to Iglulik. The live show is about the NIRB hearings coming up in Iglulik the next week, and also on the death of their sister BEVERLI who was found dead on the street in Iglulik six months before. Beverli had worked in the mine close to town and then had quit saying she had been harrassed. Both Saqpina and Uviluq have been trying to get answers from the RCMP and people about what happened and so far they are not getting answers on why she died in the snow on the street. They suspect her partner, Eric, was involved. Beverli was repeatedly abused by her partner Eric, and everyone thinks he had abused her that night she was found dead on the street. Their brother Ben now has Beverli's 2 little kids, as Eric is unable to look after them with his mother's house already overcrowded.

We see UVILUQ at home in her Montreal apartment cooking food for her kids. SAQPINA is at the Kinguvaagsat -TV office in Iglulik. UVILUQ and her daughter CORA start eating. Uviluq starts putting food into various plastic bags to take.

UVILUQ

You nervous about going home?

CORA

Sorta of... hard to leave my friends here.

UVILUQ

You have friends there and lots of cousins.

CORA

Is always a little strange at the beginning... Make sure you bring some granola bars.

Uviluq's phone rings. Uviluq and Saqpina talk about the live show Uviluq will be doing, and about the NIRB Hearings in Iglulik. UVILUQ plans to go to Iglulik with CORA the following day to cover hearings and also be an intervenor. They also talk about how they want to try and find answers about their sister Beverli's death.

UVILUQ

(concerned, anxious) Hello sister

SAQPINA

Hello to you

UVILUQ

Did you think talking on the live show about Beverli is ok?

(MORE)

UVILUQ (CONT'D)

There are so many rumours about what happened.

SAQPINA

People need to start asking about her again as nobody is doing anything.

UVILUQ

When I come home let's get some answers about what happened to her. Eric is still walking around like nothing happened. Beverli was in trouble so many times with him...afraid she would lose her kids if she asked for help... she couldn't get free of him.

SAQPINA

Is hard, her little girls are missing her so much. Child welfare knows Ben will keep them, but is crowded for sure.

UVILUQ

What does Ben think?

SAQPINA

I don't know. He's always going out hunting, never says much about Beverli.

SAQPINA shrugs and shakes her head. It makes no sense. In the background we hear Saqpina's radio tuned to the localcommunity radio station Uqallavik [the place for talking]where people call in to offer things for sale, share fresh country food, tell stories, comment or complain about something. The phone rings. Announcer picks it up.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Hello Uqallavik.

An angry woman's voice on the radio makes SAQPINA and UVILUQ stop talking and listen.

ANGRY RADIO VOICE

I am complaining about that drum dancing and ajaja singing coming from Apajata's house.

(MORE)



## RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Inuit who are religious, we are shocked, with this COVID disease coming all over the world and here in our Inuit communities, we have to pray more and respect God and not worship Satan like drum dancing and shamanism talk.

The caller abruptly hangs up. Like the radio announcer, Uviluq and Saqpina are momentarily speechless. Then...

## RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Okay....Well. Thank you. Now some music.

Music starts to play on the radio. UVILUQ and SAQPINA both shake their heads at the caller.

## SAQPINA

Apajata is a strange character. I never understand him, but this drum dancing is pretty serious. It's almost like he's starting a new religion.

## UVILUQ

How can it be a new religion? Our ancestors have been drum dancing for thousands of years!

## SAQPINA

I know but Apajata sounds like he did back when he was preaching Pentacostal, only now he's talking about shamans and ajajaat.

SAQPINA pauses, letting the news sink in for UVILUQ.

## SAQPINA (CONT'D)

Apajata says the virus is a curse, for taking too much, not respecting our traditional teachings. That our land is sick from mining, pollution, chemicals in our country foods, the balance is out of order.

## UVILUQ

But this COVID came from China! What does this have to do with Inuit?

SAQPINA

That's what I asked Apajata. He just laughed and said, 'What is China anyway?' He lives in his own reality.

UVILUQ and SAQPINA look at each other like: Who knows what's going on these days? COVID virus, people murdered, mining. Inuit on the radio talking more Christianity and The End of the World? Hesitantly, UVILUQ suddenly changes the subject.

UVILUQ CONT'D

I'm having strange dreams...

SAQPINA

(raising her eyebrows)  
What dreams?

UVILUQ

(pause...)  
Being a young girl in a house, a man drumming and women singing.

SAQPINA

(stunned) You were there. That was real.

UVILUQ

What do you mean?

SAQPINA

We were both there! Me too, I just remembered that time a few days ago, being there with you. So strange, we're both having the same memory.

Behind SAQPINA we see her front door open and BEN comes in. He's dressed in hunting clothes carrying a piece of fresh caribou meat he puts down on the kitchen table. SAQPINA turns to see who it is.

SAQPINA (CONT'D)

Ben just came in with some fresh meat.

UVILUQ

Lucky you.

SAQPINA turns to BEN.

SAQPINA

I'm on Zoom with Uviluq. Come say hello to her.

BEN looks startled and confused. He starts to come in further, then seems to change his mind and stops.

BEN  
(uncomfortable) No....can't talk  
now...

With a strange look, BEN turns and leaves as abruptly as he came in. SAQPINA turns back to the screen with UVILUQ. The two sisters are puzzled, sharing the thought that something weird or at least confusing has just happened.

UVILUQ  
What was that about?

SAQPINA  
Have no idea.

They look at each other.

UVILUQ  
He looks like he saw a ghost or  
something.

CUT TO:

4 INT. APAJATA'S HOUSE EVENING

SAQPINA is getting ready to do an interview with Apayata on the ajaja singing and drum dancing. Serious looking she goes over her notes for the interview.

SAQPINA  
(Going over to LEO) Are we all set  
to record soon?

LEO  
(LEO notices she has a  
serious expression. He  
removes his ear buds and  
says with an open mouth,  
joking)  
What did you say?

SAQPINA  
Are we ready to go on the live  
show?

LEO (with a serious face not smiling. As if he could not hear what Saqpina said because her voice was too low.)  
Hai (What?)

SAQPINA (annoyed)  
 ARE WE READY TO GO ON LIVE AND ARE  
 WE SET?

LEO (now with a big smile)  
 Yes, we are ready when you want to  
 start filming.

SAQPINA notices he was just playing with her. They both smile and start to laugh and go back to work.

5 INT. APAJATA'S HOUSE EVENING

APAJATA (60s) is one of those elder Inuit whose strange ways don't fit either the traditional life of the past or the modern assimilated present. Inside Apajata's house in Iglulik looks like an outpost camp from the 1950s or a sod house from even earlier. Scattered around are dog harnesses, skinned furs, harpoons, fish spears, tools, a 30-30 Winchester rifle and scraps of wood from the dump piled here and there. No TV but Apajata's kitchen always has a piece of fish, seal or caribou meat out on a cardboard ready for anyone to eat.

Apajata still trains dog-teams for hunting while almost all hunters now use snowmobiles. Despite government warnings for people to maintain 'social distancing' during COVID-19 in the past year, Apajata began drum dancing in his house in Iglulik. Now with windows open in warmer weather, people can hear him all over town. At first a few elders dropped in to join the drumming and singing; then gradually some of the younger people came to listen and learn.

About four Inuit are gathered in Apajata's house: JOSEPHINE, and PACOME are elders in their 60s. TERRY is part of a younger generation in their 30s, more assimilated and fluent in modern life than their elders, yet still hoping to keep alive Inuit skills of hunting and living on the land. SAQPINA (about 40) is a local filmmaker who works on Isuma and Tarriaksuk film projects. A skilled camera woman and video editor, Saqpina is Uviluq's sister and helps direct Kinguvaagsat-TV's live webcasting from Iglulik.

This evening she's hosting a live webcast from Apajata's house. Saqpina's oldest son, LEO, is the cameraman.

APAJATA, and PACOME tighten and test the large, skin covered drum. JOSEPHINE lights a seal oil lamp that adds a golden glow to the room.

TERRY watches the elders talk quietly among themselves, waiting for the drumming to start.

PAKAK as a spirit helper is in the distance also drumming. SAQPINA fixes a lapel mike to her shirt and holds a second mike in her hand as she turns to the camera.

SAQPINA

(To the camera) Are we ready?

LEO

(Behind the camera) Go ahead.

SAQPINA

Hello everyone. Welcome to Tarriaksuk-TV live webcast from Iglulik. My name is Saqpina and I'm here at Apajata's house where some Inuit are doing drum dancing. People are complaining in the community. Before they start I want to ask Apajata a few questions.

SAQPINA and the camera move to where PACOME now tests the drum and APAJATA signals it sounds right.

SAQPINA (CONT'D)

Apajata, Inuit are coming together in your house for drum dancing, can you explain why you do this when people complain about it.

APAJATA

We're just being Inuit. It's what Inuit always do.

SAQPINA

Well drum dancing was banned for a long time as against Christianity and even now a lot of religious people don't approve of drumming and singing the old songs. They think it sounds like shamanism.

APAJATA

Religious people? Me, I am religious people. I am very religious. My religion is Inuit, I believe in our ancestors from before us. Drum dancing is very religious to me.

SAQPINA

Do you mind when people call in on the radio to complain?

(MORE)

## SAQPINA (CONT'D)

With COVID still going on down South some Inuit say it's a punishment for sin, that Christianity has to be even stronger now to protect Inuit against it.

## APAJATA

(laughs)

I don't know. People like to complain about me... but Qallunaat died from sicknesses a long time ago. Those people believe in Christianity two thousand years, Inuit maybe only one hundred years. If Christianity can't protect people in the world, how will it protect Inuit in Iglulik?

Behind Apajata, Pacome bangs a few times on the drum.

## SAQPINA

Thank you, Apajata, for sharing your thoughts with us. Now let's hear some drumming and singing.

They drum dance and sing. All ajaja songs in the film are from the audio CD Unikaat Sivunittinnit: Messages from the Past, recorded by Iglulik Isuma Productions in 1991. As one of its earliest film projects, Isuma gathered a dozen elders born between 1900 and 1930 to discuss, remember and perform twenty-five of the most important ajajaat passed down through countless generations of ancestors. Often instructional, spiritual, obscure or poetic, ajajaat carried meanings or messages (unikaat) to help Inuit live and survive in a 4000 year-old oral culture without a written alphabet before missionaries invented one to translate their Christian bible. Singers sing the ajaja while a drummer dances in short steps drumming rhythmically, shouting out a breath when feeling tired or overcome with emotion.

CUT TO:

6 INT. LIVE SHOW ISUMA OFFICE MONTREAL DAY

We see UVILUQ and crew before the show getting set up. UVILUQ on air updates about the NIRB hearings to happen in Igloolik next week for 5 days. She will be there to cover them and also be an intervenor and Saqpina will also be an intervenor.

UVILUQ interviews Eva ,former Commissioner of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

UVILUQ

Hello Mary, Thank you for being part of the Live today. In our shows we always try and inform and consult with our viewers and experts. Like to ask you a few questions on the new report connecting mining and violence against women. There has been some recent research showing increased violence against women from the Tilt Mine, can you tell us how it relates to mining in the community? We also have a clip from someone talking about their experience.  
(Leah)

EVA

Well in this research women in the Tilt Mine have said that since the mine opened, there has been increased domestic violence due to more alcohol and drugs coming into the community, more language conflicts, racism, and sexual harrassment at the mine, and conflicts caused by increased loss of traditional practices. But it's not all negative, this same research showed 50% of women were happy when they thought of the future of the community. 21% felt proud thinking of the future while 43% felt worried.

UVILUQ shows a clip of Leah talking about her experiences in the mine.

UVILUQ (takes a deep breath)  
These are interesting findings to think about, and I hope you will watch next week when we explain these in more detail.

(pause)

These are difficult things to talk about. We are also dealing with hundreds of years of colonial violence and trauma that we must heal from together as communities.  
(MORE)

UVILUQ

We are seeing this right now in my own community of Igloolik, a woman died in the street this spring, and still the family does not have answers of how it happened. They are searching for answers but are not getting them from the justice system and the police. These are very difficult things to discuss publicly so we will be respectful and not name names. Thank you for watching, see you next week.

MAIA

And we're offline. Great show Uviluq.

UVILUQ nods softly, but her face is distraught. She stares out in the distance, lost in her thoughts. Tears well up in her eyes as she takes a deep sigh.

MAIA (CONT'D)

You doing alright?

UVILUQ

I..I - I just need to take a breath.

Maia, masked, comes close and puts her hand on Uviluq's shoulder. Intimacy between close friends during COVID still feels strange and awkward.

UVILUQ (CONT'D)

(holding back tears)

It just makes me so mad, and so sad. So much violence against women, it happens all the time in our communities. We talk about it but we need change now. And there's nothing to support the people who want to make change. I just want to be back home and get some answers. Not knowing is driving us crazy.

CUT TO

7 INTERIOR BEN'S HOUSE DAY

Ben and family watching the tv of Uviluq on her live show. Ben turns off the tv.



BEN

They are going through enough  
already.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. AT THE SHORE IGLULIK MORNING SPRING

TERRY, JONAH, TANYA and a few helpers pack up a spring sled on shores of Iglulik, getting ready to take off hunting on Baffin Island. They load tents, fishing nets, sleeping bags and rifles in the boat, and pack Coleman stoves, tin cups, and kettles into boxes along with some fish, home-made bannock, pilot biscuits and sealed jars containing sugar, tea bags, instant coffee, peanut butter and jam. BEN helps the hunters lift up a large barrel of gas into the back of the boat. Ben is not going on this trip but has come to help his friends pack. Ben and some other observers gathered to watch them go, including ERIC (40s) and JIMMY (30s), are dressed for town instore-bought clothes.

SAQPINA stands watching holding her microphone as this is being filmed for another live webcast by Tarriaksuk-TV. As Ben and Terry tie off the sled, Saqpina turns to the camera.

SAQPINA stands watching, holding her microphone for a program for Kinguvaagsat-TV. As Ben and Terry tie off the sled, Saqpina turns to the camera.

SAQPINA

Good afternoon and welcome...we are here on the shore at Iglulik. I'm here with Terry and Jonah, who are leaving to set up the camp for the summer family program.

You two have been going out a lot these days?

TERRY

Yes it's been great. Being out on the land so much and working with the community. Yesterday we caught two seals with some youths.

SAQPINA

That's great to hear! How about you Jonah?

JONAH

It's been nice, this spring I was having a hard time after losing my job, but working this spring and summer - it's been a great experience.

SAQPINA

You were at the mine right?

JONAH

Yeh. COVID hit and they sent us all home. Money was tight for a while. I was feeling so restless, so I joined up with Terry.

SAQPINA

So what do you think of the new hearings starting, would you go back to work at the mine?

Jonah feels a little uncomfortable about the question.

JONAH

I will go to watch the hearings if I'm not working. I think it is important to listen. I liked the job there, but I have some concerns.

Saqpina senses that the conversation is near the end. The boat is packed and they are ready to go.

SAQPINA

(smiling)

Well, it looks like a perfect day to be out! Thanks for talking to us, wishing you a great trip.

JONAH & TERRY

Thanks!

Camera cuts and they are off air. BEN and ERIC are finishing to upload the last things.

SAQPINA

(to Terry)

Hey it would be great to find a time to go film you guys at the camp, if that is okay with everyone of course.

TERRY

Atii, let's do it.

Sagpina apologizes to Jonah for making him uncomfortable with the mining questions. Eric overhears them.

ERIC

Sometimes Sagpina I wish you would not try to find only the negatives about mining on your show. There are some good jobs there. With good pay and maybe some training for the future.

JIMMY

Even with a grade 12 it's mostly kitchen and janitor jobs.

ERIC

How can we live in today's world without jobs? I don't have money for a boat, for a new machine.

JIMMY

(joking)

Go round up all the loose dogs and make a dogteam. Everyone a different color and size. No need for machine.

JONAH

Yeah! With a chi wa wa lead dog

TERRY

You'll scare all the animals away.

The guys laugh, but Eric is silent.

ERIC

Without mining jobs what will anybody do? We can't sell seal skins any more because of Greenpeace.

Everybody laughs. Terry looks at Eric.

TERRY

Really? It's mining jobs or nothing? You really believe that?

BEN

Hey Eric let me ask you something. When are you going to bring in food for your daughters. How about winter coats?

ERIC

Heh I lost my job at the mine with  
Covid. What am I supposed to do?

BEN

What happened with my sister?

Other people listening start to look uncomfortable. SAQPINA  
moves forward as if to ask BEN to give back the mike.

BEN (CONT'D)

... what happened to my sister?

Now everybody is very nervous. Everybody knows Inuit acting  
angry are dangerously close to losing control.

TERRY

(points to the sea)  
Plenty of food over there...

Eric and Ben stare at each other in a furious stand-  
off. There's a dangerous pause. Finally...

ERIC

(furious)  
You know I have no money right now.  
I can't take them right now.  
There's no space in my  
mother'shouse.

ERIC walks away leaving BEN, SAQPINA and LEO looking very  
upset. LEO looks at SAQPINA.

SAQPINA

...don't worry...

LEO starts nervously packing up.

DISSOLVE TO:

9

INT. IGLULIK AIRPORT SUMMER DAY

Iglulik's airport rebuilt in the 1990s is one large waiting  
room brightly lit by a wall of windows facing the runway.

People stand around. Far back we see Ben standing without  
speaking. Farther off is PAKAK as spirit with a drum.

Public Hearings on NIRB's environmental assessment of  
Baffinland Iron Mine's Phase 2 Mary River expansion are now  
about to resume in Iglulik and people from NIRB and  
Baffinland are also on the plane about to land.

About twenty Inuit men and women, younger people and elders, some in traditional clothes, others in modern dress, watch through the windows as the plane lands, circles and pulls up to park. It drops down its stairs and people start to come out. The first passengers from the plane to enter into the waiting room are a half-dozen mining and construction workers, then some business and government agency-types from the South for the hearings. The southern passengers drift back toward the far wall to wait for their baggage to come out.

Now UVILUQ and CORA and a few other Inuit passengers dressed in modern clothes enter and are surrounded by friends and family. CORA is filming the whole thing. SAQPINA comes forward to greet and hug UVILUQ.

UVILUQ

I'm home finally. Oh so good to see everyone. Cora's filming for a school film

SAQPINA

That's great - she can work with LEO.

Behind UVILUQ are two representatives from the mining company. The woman, MOLLY, smiles at Uviluq.

MOLLY

Happy to be home?

UVILUQ

(smiles back politely) Very much

MOLLY

(extra friendly) See you later.

UVILUQ

See you...

Picking up MOLLY and her colleague is an older Inuk man, PETER (mid-50s) also with his mining company jacket. He and UVILUQ look at each other and smile.

UVILUQ (CONT'D)

(Inuktitut) Hi Uncle

PETER

Welcome home The two hug.

UVILUQ

I'll come visit soon.

PETER  
You're welcome anytime.

PETER welcomes MOLLY and the others mining reps

PETER (CONT'D)  
(English) Welcome to Igloolik!

UVILUQ notices BEN in the distance and nods hello to them. Then she notices PAKAK even further off and looks startled. Keeps turning now and then to see if he is still there.

PAKAK fades in and out. The southern workers and agency types pick up their baggage as it rolls out on the conveyor belt and walk away right through the spirit of PAKAK. UVILUQ raises her hand to try and say stop to them but they move through him and out of the airport. CORA moves around filming and starts to dance around UVILUQ with the camera.

CORA  
Mom say something like Welcome to Igloolik. For the start of my film here.

UVILUQ  
(to the camera) Welcome to my home. Can I look at the footage? Rewind to the beginning of us arriving.

CORA and UVILUQ look at the footage. Uviluq is looking for Pakak. PAKAK does not appear in the footage.

FADE TO:

10 INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE EVENING

Opens inside the house. After arriving in Iglulik, UVILUQ goes with SAQPINA and BEN to visit MADELINE. Madeline is Uviluq's aunt, her mother's sister, a respected elder and advisor whose house has the comfortable look of a large canvas wall tent setup by elder women when they go camping on the land. Everybody sits with a cup of hot tea from the kettle on the stove. Uviluq hasn't seen Madeline in person for over a year, while COVID-19 kept people separated from families all over the world.

UVILUQ  
Been so long since I could come home. I was so home sick. Covid sure makes life tough. I wanted to show you the place we are living in now, is beautiful.  
(MORE)

UVILUQ (CONT'D)  
 (Uviluq shows Madeline  
 photos of her life in  
 Montreal)

UVILUQ CONT'D  
 I got used to it over time,  
 here...keep you warm when you're  
 cold. (Gives Madeline a beautiful  
 wool scarf she brought from  
 Montreal.) Nothing like caribou  
 though!

UVILUQ CONT'D (CONT'D)  
 Saqpina I brought one too for you.

Hands a bright scarf to SAQPINA.

UVILUQ CONT'D (CONT'D)  
 And for my big hunter brother a  
 knife.

BEN smiles and takes the knife she hands him.

CORA comes over to MADELINE and gives her a little bag she  
 has sewn for her.

CORA  
 This is for you grandmother. I  
 sewed it and it took a long looong  
 time.  
 (laughter)

UVILUQ  
 She sure complained but wanted to  
 make you something.

MADELINE  
 Little one, this is a good gift.

I will keep my pills in here. You know that every stitch you  
 make has your thoughts and heart in it, so this is a gift of  
 your thoughts of me and your heart in coming all this way to  
 me to visit (Hugs CORA) You are special to me as you are named  
 after my mother. (looks around at everyone)

Are you hungry? - eat.

A little nervous to talk seriously in this group, Uviluq takes  
 a deep breath and looks over to MADELINE. People are finished  
 eating. Kids leave when UVILUQ tells them to go out and play.

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
 Go on. Tell me.

UVILUQ

(another deep breath) There's something I wanted to ask you about, but I couldn't talk about it by telephone. I'm so relieved to be here now.

MADELINE

Yes, of course. (waits)

Go on!

UVILUQ

I've been having these strange dreams. Or maybe not dreams. Maybe memories? Or something reminding me what I already knew before?  
(confused)

I don't know what they are. (hesitates)

And some of it seems...forbidden I mean, our elders are religious, I know they think shamanism is wrong but now it feels like I'm supposed to learn more about it. Or even remember it myself? (shyly) Are you shocked?

MADELINE

(pauses) No...

UVILUQ

Is it okay to ask people about these things now? To learn more about shamans and their beliefs?  
(pause) Is it safe?

MADELINE

Are you afraid?(Uviluq look at her)  
It's smart to be careful. Until you know why you want to understand it. Is it for yourself? Or to help Inuit?

UVILUQ

I want to make sure people are protected. But feels like I'm supposed to understand.  
(MORE)

UVILUQ (CONT'D)

With everything happening in front of us, Beverli dying, sickness, mining, it feels like Inuit need all the help we can get.

(MORE)



UVILUQ (CONT'D)

That's one reason I had to come  
back to Iglulik now.

MADELINE

What about Beverli?

UVILUQ

(hesitant)

I also dreamt about Beverli.

MADELINE

(pause)

How?

UVILUQ

Sometimes memories from when we  
were all young together, other  
times she is running in the night  
and in trouble...

They drink their tea silently thinking. Talking about this  
kind of subject makes everyone uncomfortable; Inuit know  
words can be powerful, can attract attention. BEN looks very  
disturbed.

UVILUQ (CONT'D)

Auntie...

MADELINE

It's okay for you to ask these  
questions but I don't think I feel  
comfortable talking about them.

SAQPINA

What about Apajata?

MADELINE

Yes, maybe you should ask Apajata?  
People are drum dancing and talking  
about shamanism. He'll be  
comfortable to talk about it.

UVILUQ

Inuit shamans kept us alive  
formillenia...

SAQPINA

(laughs)

We know, we've been live webcasting  
from Apajata's house on  
Kinguvaagsat, it almost seems like  
church services sometimes, holy  
rolling ajajaat.

The women all laugh but Ben is not laughing, he looks even more uncomfortable.

UVILUQ

I know I have to see Apajata. He's been in my dreams too, there's something going on there too.

Madeline seems not too surprised but keeps busy with her hands sewing, not wanting to say any more. There's an awkward pause, then Ben suddenly speaks up.

BEN

Beverli came to me.

UVILUQ and SAQPINA look surprised. MADELINE watches BEN very carefully.

UVILUQ

You saw her in a dream?

MADELINE

Let him tell us.

BEN

When I was out hunting...sometime. Or it felt like I was out hunting. I mean it happened, or maybe I dreamed it, I don't know. Maybe last month...

Ben doesn't know what to say...

MADELINE

(gently) What did you see?

BEN

Beverli came in a storm this spring. I was in a tent waiting for the water to boil for tea and she came in. Just after she died.

The three women watch BEN very carefully.

BEN (CONT'D)

She only stayed for a moment, she said she was dead, missed her girls...talked about abuse.

UVILUQ, SAQPINA and MADELINE look at each other.

MADELINE tries to make up her mind whether to talk about this or not.

MADELINE  
(To Cora) Go Play

MADELINE (CONT'D)  
(in a quiet voice)  
It's hard on women here. Hard on  
men too but our men get angry and  
beat women ... so much alcohol and  
drugs...because of mining...

We've seen miners coming in since the 60s but now it gets  
worse.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. MADELINE'S HOUSE

The three are outside, Saqqina and Uviluq stunned after Ben's  
dream.

UVILUQ (LOOKS AT BEN)  
...Ben?

BEN  
She had a hard time at the mine,  
and a hard time at home. No justice  
anywhere ... everyone talking  
bullshit.

UVILUQ  
And your dream? I mean what you  
saw?

BEN  
Who knows what I saw? I'm tired of  
all this spirit talk. Why a spirit  
to tell us what we really know?  
(flicks cigarette away)

Ben spots a kid down the road speeding on a BMX bicycle. A  
younger little kid is behind him on the back wheel.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Those are my boys. I gotta go

BEN (CONT'D)  
(Ben forces a smile) Sorry I'm in a  
shitty mood sister. Welcome home,  
it's good to be together again.

UVILUQ (NODS)  
The two sisters watch as Ben walks  
off.

(MORE)

UVILUQ (NODS) (CONT'D)  
 UVILUQ keeps her eye on him, still  
 going through everything that just  
 happened.

UVILUQ (CONT'D)  
 What a first day back.

SAQPINA (O.S.)  
 Yeah...I'm worried he's gonna do  
 something crazy. He sees everything  
 in black and white.

Camera holds close on sisters' face as they watch Ben walk  
 away.

INT. HOUSE (FLASHBACK a few months before) 2.12

Outside a house party. BEN is standing outside, Beverli comes  
 outside and she has a black eye. ERIC follows her.

BEN walks over to ERIC and looks like he is going to fight.  
 Someone comes out and pushes them apart. ERIC stumbles off.

BEN  
 He's doing it again?

BEVERLI does not reply. BEN puts his arm around BEVERLI and  
 they walk off.

12 EXT. IGLULIK STREET DAY

Uvilug is walking on a street, with CORA filming, lost in her  
 thoughts. Various scenes of people hanging around, doing  
 groceries, house cleaning, fixing up front of houses, parents  
 walking with children.

A pickup truck pulls up next to her. The driver, TANYA, a  
 cheerful looking woman in her late-thirties wearing  
 sunglasses leans out the window. Two teenagers are in the  
 front and two in the back seat of the truck with her, staring  
 at their phones. Couple more kids in the back of her pickup  
 truck. Back is full of camping supplies. They all look at  
 CORA.

TANYA  
 Hey ladies!

UVILUQ  
 Tanya! I thought you were out of  
 town.

TANYA

Leaving soon. We're bringing these kids to the point. Two boats leaving today.

UVILUQ

That's great!

TANYA

(turning to Uviluq's daughter - in English)

Hey beautiful, you're so grown up now! Let me see you.

CORA (BASHFUL BUT PUTS THECAMERA DOWN)

Hi

TANYA

And your older daughter is here too?

UVILUQ

She's still at school and working for the summer.

TANYA

Right the university girl. Good for her. Come for a ride?

UVILUQ

Sure!

TANJA tells one of the teens to scoot in the back. UVILUQ sits up front and they drive off. CORA, in the back seat with the other two teenagers, looks uncomfortable. Starts to film as they bounce along.

13 EXT. ROAD OUTSIDE OF IGLULIK

Wide shot of the truck driving along a narrow dirt road. Town of Igloolik and the cemetery hill now far in the distance, way behind the hills of Avaja are shining in the afternoon sun. Not far from town but already the atmosphere is different. More quiet, more serene.

14 INT. TRUCK

UVILUQ

Going to Siruajuk?

TANYA

Nearby yes

UVILUQ

How long you going to be out there?

TANYA

We've been there all summer! Back and forth with different families.

TANYA (CONT'D)

We got funding from NTI and Hamlet. May-June, break for July, now back there for 2 weeks. Maybe go nunagpa.

UVILUQ

Could we come film for Kinguvaagsat TV?

TANYA

Of course! I know Saqqinaq wants to come.

UVILUQ turns to one of the kids in the backseats.

UVILUQ

Do you like being out there?

GIRL

At first I was kinda bored. But I like it now. There's always something to do.

TANYA

With this camp, we also pay hunters and their families to come out and harvest for the community. Everything distributed equally.

UVILUQ

Lots of people want to be out right? But boats, machines, gas, gear, lots can't afford it.

TANYA

Exactly. It gives families the chance to be out on the land. And to feel like they are working towards a positive benefit for the whole community.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. IGLOOLIK POINT SPRING

Truck pulls up next to a row of tents and cabins. The place is bustling with activity. Kids playing games, women drying fish, other hanging around the front the their cabins talking and enjoying the sun.

Everyone helps unload the truck and brings stuff down to the shore to get ready for when the boats arrive.

Some of the kids crowd around two elder ladies. One gives them some treats. The other, Tanya's grandmother MARY is skinning a seal while giving orders to the men who are bringing stuff from inside various cabins to the shore. Like most traditional things Inuit do, cleaning seal skins is much harder work than it looks when older women seem to do it so effortlessly.

UVILUQ sits by them and they smile. No words needed to share their happiness to see each other.

MARY

Oh you are home again...you are here to film again?

UVILUQ

Here again...I am going to the NIRB hearings. How are you doing here?

MARY

Siurajuk is my home. I would like to live there all the time. If I had someone to help me.

OTHER ELDER

(laughing)

We used to do all the work, now we need help because we get sore quickly.

MARY

Nowadays everyone wants town things, they get uncomfortable with hard work.

UVILUQ

But with a project like this, do they feel good after? They learn more?

MARY

They seem kinder to each other. They help each other more.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

They observe and listen to their elders more. They understand our stories and traditions better this way.

OTHER ELDER

They understand better why we did things the way we did.

UVILUQ

Even if you can't be a hunter or live on the land all the time, I think we can learn a lot from these experiences. How to feel better about ourselves...

MARY

Yes.

UVILUQ

My kids live in the city, I wish they had this chance.

MARY

This place will always be here for them.

UVILUQ

And with mining and ships coming in all the time? What will happen to our land? To the marine mammals?

Mary is silent for a while as she continues scraping the seal skin.

MARY

Who knows...

Scene of kids playing by the shore, helping a man pulling his fishing net, taking out the freshly caught fish. The man smiles kindly at them as he teaches them.

ELDER WOMAN

This spring we found lots of sick fish, up by Gifford. That's really concerning..., makes me worried.

The kids continue helping, one of the fish falls back in the water. They all giggle and shout, pointing. A boat is arriving from hunting. Leo...

CUT TO:



16

EXT. ON THE LAND SPRING CAMP LATER

SAQPINA and LEO are doing a live Kinguvaagsat-TV show with LEO on camera following BEN, TERRY, JONAH and PAUL JOSH walking on the land behind the camp. All one can hear is the sound of wind and some birds in the distance. Ben and Jonah point along the vast expanse of tundra and rolling hills.

SAQPINA

Tell us about the caribou and how the mining is affecting hunting.

BEN

I remember as a child from here you could see caribou. They would be close.

JONAH

Yes or they would come even closer heh? Coming up from that side.

BEN

We'd see signs of them here. We'd know where to go.

(to Jonah)

I wouldn't know where to find them now. You?

(Jonah shrugs)

PAUL JOSH

(embarrassed laugh)

It's been so long since I've seen a caribou I wouldn't even know what they look like anymore.

The young men all silently scan the horizon taking in the huge and beautiful landscape.

JONAH

Global warming is good news for mining companies. Their shipping season is a lot longer. More months mining and prospecting, helicopters flying around all the time, all the noise and dust in the air must scare caribou away. Last year I went up that way to Pond Inlet with my uncle. We thought we might see some on the way. Nothing. But you know what we did see? Dust.

(MORE)

JONAH (CONT'D)

Red dust. On the snow! Everywhere...  
We were kind of lost, looking for  
the right way in a whiteout. Then  
we started to see this red dust on  
the snow. We were so startled. We  
said it must be from the mine, so  
we followed the dusty snow till we  
arrived close to the tote road. We  
were happy we weren't lost anymore!

BEN

It's about land.

SAQPINA

What do you mean?

BEN

The answer is in the land...

17 INT. FURNACE ROOM SAQPINA'S HOUSE AFTERNOON

SAQPINA, UVILUQ, TANYA and MARY smoke a joint in the furnace room. Most Inuit women have personal experience with domestic violence or sexual harassment, directly or through friends and family. Sexism and harassment at the mine and domestic violence in the community are much bigger concerns for women than they seem for men. But what can they do about it? Going to RCMP or Social Services for help often leads to women losing their children into the child welfare system, where the first response to family violence is to remove children from the home 'for their own safety.'

UVILUQ

Since the change to quallanut  
handling family crisis, there is a  
change in how family situations are  
handled. We need to reclaim how  
family situations are resolved.

TANJA

Our justice systems need to be  
Inuit ways, not quallanut ways.

UVILUQ

All these women gone or silent...  
So many people dead or murdered.  
Mostly women.

SAQPINA

(Gently and sad ...slowly)  
Remember... Beverli said to us,  
that it would be her dead or him.

UVILUQ

(Squeezes nose...angrily) Not him.

UVILUQ CONT'D

Nothing happened to him. The  
coroner won't give any details.  
It's all silent about what happened  
to her. No evidence the RCMP say.  
We all know he beat her up over and  
over...and yet he gets off as they  
say he had an alibi for that night.

SAQPINA

One time she called in on the  
radio, she was angry and drunk,  
talking about men abusing women.  
Everyone knows what goes on but  
stays quiet. She said we should  
speak of what is happening and the  
community needs to work on getting  
help to try and stop all this  
violence and pain. She talked a bit  
about the mine and how she kept  
getting so much fucking trouble  
from men there. But she was so  
drunk the host cut her off.

UVILUQ

So nobody makes any changes and we  
never get any help. Millions of  
dollars made in the mines around us  
from rocks...and no money ever to  
help with mental health or a  
woman's shelter here or a youth  
centre or anything. Do they think  
we aren't human or deserving of  
more help? We got left with the  
misery of alcohol and drugs and  
anger...we need to listen to one  
another... talk.

TANYA

I've been reading that report on  
the missing and murdered women  
commission, where Mary is one of the  
Commissioners? It's awful!  
Native women are disappearing all  
over the place. And not just  
Canada, it's everywhere.

(MORE)

## TANYA (CONT'D)

In the States, Mexico, in the Amazon, wherever they have what they call these 'Man,' with fly-in workers and too much alcohol and no respect for indigenous women. It's been going on for a long, long time. Hundreds of years. Or more. Since Columbus.

## UVILUQ

To them Beverli is just another dead "Indigenous" woman. Not a woman, not a mother, not a sister, not a friend, not a grandmother. Just dead. There's no help anywhere in this system. We fear we can lose our kids if we complain about beingbeaten up, or try to go to the woman's shelter in Iqaluit.

## SAQPINA

Let's go upstairs. Need to check the stove.

Women walk upstairs. SAQPINA stirs a pot of fish on the stove. The other women sit down around the table. TANJA looks at both Uviluq and Saqpina.

## TANYA

Why don't you say something about this at the Hearings? The need for help, for money from the mines.

## UVILUQ

I've been wondering about it as we are both intervenors. There's so many things that need to be said, I don't know where to start. All seems connected somehow.

SAQPINA comes back to the table and puts down a plate full of steaming fish. She sits down. They eat together.

FADE TO:

18

EXT. NIGHT IGLULIK

UVILUQ is walking through Iglulik at night. In the background we hear dogs barking, young kids playing in the street, down by the shore someone fixing a boat, faintly hear a man and woman fighting. A tv on....

UVILUQ then walks past Apajata's house, caught in her thoughts. APAJATA is in front smoking. He looks at her.

APAJATA  
You look serious.

UVILUQ gives him a small smile.

APAJATA (CONT'D)  
What's on your mind?

Uvilug hesitates but she wants to talk with him, he would understand her. She's fed up and frustrated.

UVILUQ  
A lot is on my mind. This mining hearing, who speaks for our future generations? When the next deadly virus shows up will we still have no doctors? Global warming. Poisons in our country food. Violence against women. The mine and all the problems with people working there and the land.

(Smiles grimly) Is that enough?

APAJATA  
Not really. What else? Closer to home?

UVILUQ  
Beverli! I think of her all the time. Too many women live with such abuse. Sometimes I feel so powerless. So angry.

Uvilug surprises herself at how much she has revealed to Apajata. But Apajata listens and answers seriously.

APAJATA  
In our traditional ways we would not hide things. Nowadays there are too many secrets, negative thoughts, that people keep for themselves. Christians brought the idea of confession, and we Inuit understood this. But Christian confession is to the priest, so you can save yourself. Inuit confession was to the community, without judgement, so it could heal. It was for the greater good.

UVILUQ

Yes too many secrets. These days my mind is racing with memories and dreams I can't always tell what is real and not. Does that make any sense?

APAJATA

(smiles warmly) Reality is a dream.

UVILUQ

You used to ask me if I had what my family has...a connection to the spirit world.

APAJATA

I was wondering... you are struggling with this in you. But I can see from your helper there that you are closer to accepting this. (Points behind her where PAKAK is standing at a distance)

Uviluq turns and looks, not really surprised.

UVILUQ

He is always around when I am home. So he is my helper?

APAJATA

He is...to remind you to open your heart and not to hold secrets. Tomorrow...we built a qaggiq for the end of the hearings and we want the community to celebrate our ancestors and to honour those who have passed. There will be drum dancing and a performance with the Artcirq group. You could join our performance. There's something happening in you that's getting ready to come out. You have to get ready for it.

UVILUQ is startled and has no idea how to answer this. APAJATA looks at her as if he can see inside her. She starts to speak, then changes her mind and walks off. APAJATA watches her walk away down the road.

DISSOLVE TO:

19 EXT. IGLULIK STREET

BEN and UVILUQ are walking back from the COOP with bags full of food. They are going back to Madeline's house for a birthday party for CORA with the family. Close to the COOP they meet up with ERIC who is walking drunkenly.

UVILUQ  
What happened to Beverli?

ERIC  
Stop asking me. Ask the cops.  
(GETTING VERY ANGRY)

I don't know anything about it.

BEN  
(Suddenly also angry,  
shouts)  
You're drunk....

ERIC  
What's your fucking problem man?  
You think now that your sober  
you're better than me? You think  
everything Beverli did was my  
fault?  
(UVILUQ pulls on Ben to  
leave)  
This is pointless, he's drunk let's  
get out of here.

UVILUQ and BEN walk away from

CUT TO:

20 INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE EVENING

BEN and UVILUQ arrive with bags of food looking quiet. Lots of people and noise. Is a family party and feast for CORA's birthday. Lots of jokes and laughing. Kids running around.

FADE TO:

21 INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE NIGHT DREAM

Created by Camera speed and blurring of speed and time.  
UVILUQ sleeping with daughter after the party. Dreams of a woman running in the dark, past houses with lights, a woman running in fear, gasping for breath. UVILUQ wakes up suddenly startled and afraid. Her daughter also wakes up.

UVILUQ reassures her. UVILUQ talks with her to go back to sleep and then she lies there awake.

CUT TO:

22 INT. IGLULIK COMMUNITY HALL DAY

Set up of the NIRB hearings. People are talking amongst themselves as they set up places and binders. We see the NIRB hearing set up from the perspective of our live TV crew.

People talk of various parts of the hearing. We see MOLLY talking with her colleagues.

23 EXT. IGLULIK HILL DAY

Outside the Community Hall there is a little hill, with three large Innunguaq at the top, looking down on the community. These stone structures are similar to Inuukshuks but have arms and legs, which traditionally is symbolic of a place where a death or murder has been committed. Their construction angered many people in town, and the arms have been broken since to change their meaning. Most days in the summer the hill is full of laughing kids, climbing up and rolling down the hill's steep snowbanks, or riding bikes.

KIDS riding bikes and skateboards. Beverli's 8-year-old daughter YEVAH and her 4-year-old brother JUNIOR come down the hill on bikes.

They go flying down the hill a little dangerously. CORA is also there standing around with a small group of girls.

UVILUQ arrives, coming from the hearings, and stands at the bottom of the hill, staring at the Innunguaq casting long shadows on the ground. Even without the arms she has always felt uncomfortable around them, and with everything that has been going on, she can't help but feel creeped out by them.

YEVAH on her trip down the hill manages to stop close to Uviluq who starts laughing.

UVILUQ

You are crazy...that is so fast...heh is almost supper time, let's go back.

YEVAH

Oh, one more!



UVILUQ  
Ok one last time.

Yevah walks up the hill with the bike and comes down again. The tired little brother stays by Uviluq. UVILUQ calls out to CORA to come over. CORA shouts she wants to stay out. UVILUQ calls her over.

UVILUQ (CONT'D)  
You've changed, now you want to stay out. You found some friends?

CORA  
Do I have to go in?

UVILUQ  
Yes come with us.

CORA reluctantly follows, slowly walks behind not wanting to go in.

The four walk back towards Ben's house, UVILUQ now carrying the bike for the brother who is tired. Since Beverli's death, Ben and his girlfriend Roxanne have been taking care of her kids. Along with their three kids it makes the house crowded, but the cousins get along well and there isn't another place for them to go.

CONTINUOUS

24 INT. BEN'S HOUSE

UVILUQ and the 2 kids walk into the house. YEVAH and JUNIOR run to play with the other kids. UVILUQ talks with her daughter as her daughter wants to go back outside and Uviluq wants her to stay for the meal. BEN and ROXANNE are preparing food in the kitchen, while Roxanne's grandmother, SUSAN, is sewing on the floor.

BEN  
We're having supper come join us.

ROXANNE  
Yes please join, Saqpina is coming over soon I think.

Saqpina comes in carrying a garbage bag with some clothes for Ben and Roxanne's kids.

SAQPINA  
(to Roxanne)  
These don't fit my girls anymore, I thought you could put them to use.

ROXANNE

Oh sure, thank you! Grab a plate.

SAQPINA

Thank you but I'm not hungry, I'll have tea.

The kids eat gathered in front of the TV while the adults get their turn at the food.

ROXANNE

We haven't seen you in a few days Uviluq, everything alright?

UVILUQ

I've just been tired and working a lot. Kind of stressed out.

ROXANNE

How so?

UVILUQ

Kinguvaagsat is supposed to present at the hearings but I'm worried. I've heard many perspectives, I want to do justice to them. But sometimes I feel I am stirring up things I shouldn't be. After all, I don't even live here now anymore.

SUSAN

Don't worry, your heart is in the right place. I heard a little bit about mining throughout my life, in Nanisivik for example, and I had no idea how bad it could be. We were told to stop breastfeeding and feed our babies with bottles because our animals were affected. At the same time, the nurses were telling us breastfeeding is the healthiest form of feeding.

Our younger siblings were being tested to see if they were affected. I have been living my life just waiting to see if we're okay. When this mine started we believed their promises and now we don't believe them as now there is red dust. Maybe we can make them understand our food comes from the land.

UVILUQ

Thank you Susan, the impacts of the mine are unfolding. I feel very supported by my elders. You and Madeline have helped me a lot.

ROXANNE

Women sure know mining life also bring problems for families, but some of us worry about creating conflict with other families by speaking out. That's why I don't feel comfortable talking about this.

UVILUQ

I understand and respect your decision Roxanne, this is something I worry about too.

SUSAN and SAQPINA raise their eyebrows. Everyone is afraid to create conflict in such a small community, even when there are so many problems with the mine.

FADE TO:

25 INT. APAJATA'S HOUSE EVENING

JONAH drums while SUSAN and PAKAK sing an old ajaja. UVILUQ, MADELINE, SAQPINA and BEN are in the crowd at Apajata's house. When JONAH finishes, he hands APAJATA the drum.

APAJATA stands, then still holding the drum, he starts to talk.

APAJATA

When I was a kid we saw newcomers and they brought new things.

Now they bring money.

Money splits us apart. We share... us Inuit

These Kah-loo-nicers shout and beat their children if they cry or make a childish mistake, they get angry very fast, they worship money. For money, to get money, the newcomers dig up the land and put poisons in the sea, drive away land animals and kill off marine mammals people need to eat, they bring in diseases and fear to people who were healthy and peaceful.

And what do we get for it? Our ancestors made tools and clothing, all the things we used, our... (in ENGLISH)

Technology.

(back to INUKTITUT)

Everything was useful, to harvest the animals we need to live on our land, for Inuit to survive. Inuit were good at living, surviving, generation after generation, our namesakes, our atiiit, stayed alive from one human body to the next. Our land was hard, life was hard, sometimes people starved, but Inuit lived here for millenia and here we are still here. What protected us Inuit? If shamans were able and spirits were real, where did they all go in this lasthundred years? How can they be gone when we Inuit are still here? All these diseases come from Qallunaat, this deadly disease COVID comes from South, but if Inuit get it here will South protect us to survive? Who will keep Inuit alive except ourselves? This much we know from our ancestors, our namesakes, from our Inuit Mind that sees and learns from our lives before us: Only our ancestors keep Inuit alive.

APAJATA hits the drum. The sound startles the whole group, stunned in silence during Apajata's astonishing sermon.

APAJATA walks to UVILUQ and hands her the drum.

APAJATA (CONT'D)  
Your turn. (Uvilug hesitates)

APAJATA (CONT'D)  
You are able...

UVILUQ takes the drum and starts beating the drum. She's a skilled drum dancer, both from her traditional upbringing and her life as an actor in Iglulik films. APAJATA starts singing. First MADELINE, then SUSAN, then SAQPINA join in the singing. UVILUQ drums, shouting out her breath, all join in to sing ajaja around her.

DISSOLVE TO:

26 EXT. 2021 BAFFINLAND HEARINGS IGLULIK COMMUNITY HALL

Sagpina and LEO are outside the hearings, carrying their camera equipment to go inside. It's early in the morning, and there aren't too many people outside yet, just a few trucks and Hondas.

PETER, the mining community representative, spots them and helps LEO bring up a heavy camera case. Molly and the other mining reps walk by quickly up the steps, not noticing the camera equipment or Peter.

SAQPINA  
(to Peter) Thanks for the help

PETER  
Community comments today, hopefully more people come than yesterday.

SAQPINA  
Yeah

PETER  
People like to complain on Facebook, but when there are events they don't come.

SAQPINA  
Why do you think that is?

PETER  
I don't know. There's lots of information to explain. None of this is simple. The effects, the monitoring, the results, it's not just all good or bad.

SAQPINA  
I see what you mean. But 5 days? With simultaneous translation with all these technical terms. That's not much time. For a project of this scale?

PETER  
But those are the government's rules, what can we do?

A man coming in overhears and jumps in.

MAN  
It's not accessible to Inuit! And then you give us only 2 days for community members to talk. And all they say is "thank you for sharing your thoughts, we will consider them."

An older woman comes up the stairs.

OLDER WOMAN

It's not Peter's fault. He's not  
the one making the decisions!

He's trying to help, and what do you do, just complain! Do you go to the office to read their documents? Do you go to their information sessions? This spring they had a information session they announced on radio but only five people came! I know because I was one who did go. Easy to complain when you don't try to understand.

MAN

They didn't even have a translator  
that last time! And try reading  
their binders - it'll make your  
head spin!

The older woman comes up to Peter and taps him on the  
shoulder.

OLDER WOMAN

Don't listen to them, I believe in  
what you are doing. Our youth need  
jobs, our men need discipline and  
structure. Here the mine is trying  
to help bring jobs to our  
community. My nephew (pointing to  
the man) talks like a bigshot but  
what has he done? Always acting  
busy, and always broke.

They all laugh at the joke, even the man. Whatever tension  
there was has been diffused for now.

MAN

(shaking his head) My aunt is  
hilarious.

She gives him a teasing wink and goes into the community  
hall.

The others follow afterward, the man holds the door open for  
the older lady.

OLDER WOMAN

I sure hope they have tea ready.

SAQPINA gives PETER a sympathetic smile. He always just  
wanted a quiet desk job, no problems or conflict, now look  
what he's gotten himself into. After a moment of silence  
PETER turns to SAQPINA.

PETER

Well, looks like some people are showing up already.

27 INT. IGLULIK COMMUNITY HALL

LEO stares at the intimidating row of 7-8 tables full of binders stretching along the side of the room. Each binder close to 500 pages of technical information. He flips through one, page after page written in English and only a small part in Inuktitut - but translated in a way that barely makes any sense to him, especially as a Inuk youth who, like many, is not fluent in reading legal terminology.

At the front of the hall near the stage a large projector is set up showing a zoom screen from the live mining feed in Iqaluit, people on the screen are filing in getting ready for Day One of the 5 days of technical hearings. PETER and a young man around the age of LEO go through the crowd distributing earpieces for the simul-translation. The mining reps are busy organizing their documents at their table.

Across from them are two tables setup for the local Igloodik working group and hunters and trappers association.

SAQPINA checks in on LEO to make sure everything is set up properly.

LEO (READING IN A BINDER)

What? They say check the website and we don't even have computers.

28 INT. COMMUNITY HALL

People returning into the community hall after the lunch break. Terry and Ben sit down next to each other. We see the formalities of the session begin. When it is time Terry goes up.

NIRB VOICE OVER

Please state your name.

TERRY

Thank you, Madame Chair. My name is Terry Uyyrak. I work for a construction company, and with Artcirq youth circus group. I am also a hunter.

(MORE)

TERRY (CONT'D)

I love living in Igloolik. Many of us still get the chance to hunt, there are still many animals, and we have elders and hunters who can teach us the traditional ways.

Terry takes a pause to drink some water. He takes some time to check his lines on his paper. Coughs a bit.

TERRY (CONT'D)

(smiling and looking around at the audience)

Sorry Madame Chair, I'm a little nervous.

NIRB CHAIR

Take your time.

TERRY

Thank you. This year my wife and I helped with an on the land camp. We worked with elders, families, hunters - we brought many youth out who don't have the chance to go out on the land, taught them traditional skills, had classrooms, made them hunt and work. Hunters were paid to distribute food. Teachers came out so kids could still keep up with school. It was great to see excitement in children's eyes out on the land, when they grow confidence and learn new things. I also felt like I learned a lot from others. I believe everyone there gained more knowledge from this experience. I am a father of three, and I remember being a youth not so long ago. There are many challenges to finding jobs for our young people, and I understand why people support the mine because it will bring jobs for our new generations. I am not against this. But I worry that these mining projects they only care about making money fast and then they will go away. They will not be affected by the consequences on the land and animals like our children and grandchildren will be. What will happen to our culture?

(MORE)



TERRY (CONT'D)

How will our children feel if they can't practice their culture? How will they feel if they can't eat country food, or sew traditional clothes, because they can't hunt and be on the land because of the destruction and pollution? Our hunters and elders are already saying we're being affected, and its just started. Imagine with this continuing and more climate change, what it will be like it 20 or 30 years?

Terry takes another pause to drink more water, turns the page he is reading over.

TERRY (CONT'D)

(smiling and looking  
around at the audience)

Sorry Madame Chair, I won't be much longer. I know there are many people signing up to speak.

NIRB CHAIR

Take your time.

TERRY

Our ancestors were powerful people who lived peacefully in good health and respecting the animals and the land that feeds them for 4000 years. They were very resourceful and wise! I am not against mining or jobs, but I am against people who say its mining jobs or no jobs. I believe we can find another way. Where are all these royalties going, let's ask more from our governments. Let's hire experts who will work and listen to hunters and elders. Let's use sustainable hunting, tourism, arts, new technology, create new small businesses to support our communities. Let's be resourceful with the land we have like our ancestors were in the past. I am amazed by Inuit! There are so many smart talented and motivated people that could do great things but they run into so many problems and lack of funding and support from our governments.

(MORE)

TERRY (CONT'D)

Can we not afford to create an Inuit world where we are healthy, fed, happy, and still protect the land and animals for future generations to survive? That's my question to NIRB, to all

Terry sits back, turns off his microphone and takes a deep breath. People clap.

29

NIRB VOICE OVER

(SCC) CHANGE BEN'S SPEECH TO SPEECH BY A WOMAN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE. SOMETHING RELATED TO QUESTIONS OF SUPPORTING WOMEN'S TRADITIONS, SUPPORTING HUNTERS, PROTECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS BY SHARING CONCERNS ABOUT ABUSE AT THE MINE, MORE ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF THE MINE?

(GR - Possible text to work from?)

I am an elder here in Iglulik and am active on behalf of women's rights and safety. Our friend Qajaq Robinson is a Commissioner on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls enquiry, we know very well how those issues affect women and girls in Nunavut and here in Iglulik. We have murdered women and girls here in Iglulik and it happens over and over. We have a murdered sister, mother of two girls, killed last year from a beating. From a women's point of view, thinking as an Inuk woman trying to follow in the footsteps of my ancestors who come before us, I ask if expanding mining on our Inuit land is better or worse for women and families?

Does mining make Inuit women safer or more in danger? Does mining improve the health of our children or make it worse? These are the simple questions I believe our ancestors lived by long before they met any foreigners. Is something good for us or bad for us? Does it help Inuit survive better or not? A researcher a few years ago in Baker Lake asked people there if mining had improved the community or not. They listed ten different ways things could be better or worse.

(MORE)

## TERRY (CONT'D)

People answered yes, in one way there was more money now, but in every other way things were worse. Worse violence, worse social problems, worse substance abuse, worse for women and families, worse social problems, worse substance abuse, worse for women and families. Many people from Iglulik worked at the Nanasivik mine near Arctic Bay before it closed, or for Pan-Arctic Oil when they were exploring years ago. We know that more money alone doesn't make Inuit lives better, and it seems to make things worse for women and children and family violence. It makes me think about how our ancestors harvested the resources they needed to stay alive. They did not take everything as fast as possible. They did not disturb the land or the animals.

They were never greedy, they did not hoard their catch or refuse the hungry to save their wealth for the future. So, I ask government and Baffinland and our Inuit leadership organizations: who is advanced, and who is behind? Is there a different way Inuit would do mining if we were the ones who did it a healthier way? Could we put family and community first instead of profit and greed? Treating women with respect instead of harassment or violence? If the land belongs to us, if the iron ore is Inuit iron ore, can't we use it in an Inuit way to benefit Inuit? And if the answer is, no we can't, that's impossible, there's no way to mine minerals that is good and safe for our women and children following IQ values of our ancestors, if that can't be done, why allow it at all? It's our land. The land is our responsibility, to take care of, since the beginning of time. It's our iron ore. If there's no way to mine it that benefits us, that takes care of the land, why do it? Why allow it? It's 2021.

(MORE)

## TERRY (CONT'D)

People who say we have no choice are not telling the truth. We're not brainwashed, we're Inuit. If it's Inuit land, then we have Inuit choice what to do with it. We elect our leaders to act like Inuit. If they tell us they have no choice then we will elect ones who believe they do.  
Thank you.

People start getting up for the break.

CUT TO:

30 2.28 INT. IGLULIK ISUMA OFFICE DAY

Office full of people with lots of commotion. Uviluq is getting ready to do a special live TV show from Iglulik with an overview of the day of hearings. We see Leo working in editing the clips of Curtis and other people and elders during a past NIRB hearing. During the show Uviluq plays the (re-enacted) clip from the 2012 hearing where Curtis says "it doesn't matter what we say, the mine is going ahead and they will do what they want, that much I know". Following the clip, Uviluq talks with community people about the clip and hearings. We see growing anger and dissatisfaction with the process and the feeling they are not being heard.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. IGLULIK EVENING

UVILUQ and SAQPINA walk back in silence from work. They stop in front of Madeline's house where Uviluq is staying. SAQPINA notices UVILUQ's worried face.

## SAQPINA

Growing up in Nanisivik as a kid I saw the good and bad parts of mining life. There were some good things for sure, more activities and money for some things. But it also brought bad habits and racism which I try not to remember too much. Only recently do I feel comfortable talking about this without feeling shame.

(Uviluq looks at her)

SAQPINA (CONT'D)

I believe in you. I believe in what we are doing. It's just... there's nothing we can do about all of this. Whatever happened, happened, whatever is going to happen will happen no matter what we say about it. Or will it?

UVILUQ

We'll never know if we don't try.

SAQPINA

I've got your back. Is time for some of these things to be said. When some speak, more will come after.

UVILUQ

Thanks. I feel your love and support.

SAQPINA

You alright?

UVILUQ

Yeah, I think I'm alright. Having strange dreams... Beverli keeps coming back to me as if she is asking something from me.

SAQPINA

How does she appear?

UVILUQ

Is night in Iglulik and a cold night. I am standing on a street and then there she is running far in the distance towards me. Running so hard in the snow and barely dressed, running with such fear in her face and then she just runs past me. Just goes past me like I don't exist even though I am screaming her name but she doesn't stop, runs past, so I turn and look trying to call her name again even louder, and there she is way off in the distance pounding on a door, pounding and pounding and the door does not open...and then I wake up every time at that point in the dream... oh god it's terrible... I can't do anything for her

SAQPINA looks shocked. UVILUQ stands looking away with such sorrow on her face.

UVILUQ (CONT'D)

Now they - the group at Apayata's is talking about community justice for Eric at the gaggiq tomorrow night. Not sure how I feel about this. Does he deserve community justice? When I'm angry I just want him to go to jail for a fucking long time for what he did to Beverli. I don't know...I'm so angry at all these years of women being beaten up and killed and no justice.

SAQPINA

There are so many...how do we remember them? Their kids will forget them. If we had some help here, ways for people to get help maybe there would not be such madness...

CORA comes up to UVILUQ and asks for something to eat. UVILUQ hugs her and looks down at her and says slowly...

UVILUQ

Our people have been in trouble for years. So we are the ones who have to work hard on changing this... see you tomorrow at the last day of these hearings.

UVILUQ goes inside with her daughter.

CUT TO:

FLASH BACK SCENE

32 INT. GARAGE AT THE BAY MINE DAY

Beverli is wearing a mechanics suit with her name on, finishing up working on the engine of a large truck. She goes up to start it, it works.

BEVERLI  
Alright!

A white man (MIKE) walks up to her, another mechanic for the mine.

MIKE

That thing's been dead two weeks  
and you fix it in one day.

BEVERLI

(confidently)

What can I say, I'm good.

Mike gets close to her, a little too close. He looks around to see if anyone else is watching.

MIKE

I'm glad I got you off the tote  
road and into the shop.

Beverli is uncomfortable at the closeness, but tries to remain polite, thinking to herself "Get this conversation over with and leave"

BEVERLI

Thanks, I'm happy here.

Mike brings his arm closer to her shoulder, Beverli inches backwards, avoiding eye contact.

MIKE

Our off-weeks are coming up, I was  
thinking we could runaway on a  
little adventure - you and I? Heh  
Beverli?

BEVERLI

I've got my kids. You know that..

MIKE

(persistent)

Come on, you Inuit have such big  
families, someone can take care of  
them for 2 weeks.

BEVERLI

What the fuck does that mean?

MIKE

I'm just joking. Relax.

BEVERLI

I gotta go.

MIKE

(getting more aggressive,  
leans closer to her)

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

Why you so fixed on that deadbeat boyfriend? I see you flirt. We can have a good time.

BEVERLI

I don't flirt, don't imagine things.

MIKE

(moving even closer)  
Jesus...I put in a good word for you and you could be a little thankful.

BEVERLI

(pushing him away - yells) Stop it!

Mike looks around as if to make sure nobody is watching. Beverli storms off in a hurry.

MIKE

Fucking ungrateful bitch.

Beverli hears him but doesn't turn around. As she leaves the garage she bumps into Jonah, wheeling in a mop and bucket.

JONAH

What's going on?

BEVERLI

(flat)  
Nothing.

Jonah looks into garage, sees Mike standing there. Jonah gives him a suspicious look.

MIKE

What you staring at me for? 30 minutes I've been waiting for this spill to be cleaned!

FADE TO:

33

INT. 2021 BAY MINE HEARINGS IGLULIK HALL DAY

Land Guardians are blocking the airstrip and road at the Bay Mine. Uvilug is in the NIRB Hearings and gets a text from Jonah he and a group of hunters are protesting at the mine, blocking the airstrip and road at the mine.



The incident is happening right at this moment. People behind Uviluq, community members, you can see them talking excitedly and looking at phones. Energy is very alive and different. Representative for Mittimatalik Hunter's/Trappers Organization for Pond Inlet is trying to stay calm after hearing this news.

NIRB chair (loudly)  
Everyone please be quiet.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. IGLULIK HALL DAY

Protestors are outside the hall protesting the NIRB hearings. SAQPINA is trying to interview one of the protestors with LEO filming. TERRY shows SAQPINA a photo of the protestors at the Bay Mine.

35 INT. IGLULIK ISUMA OFFICE LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Later that day Uviluq and Saqpina have set up a live TV show about the protest at the mine. On Live Face Time Jonah talks and transmits video from his cell phone. Behind him we see hunters and skiddos.

SAQPINA  
Can you explain why the protest is going on

JONAH  
The hunters here are tired of talking to the NIRB. We don't see results. We want the world to know that our concerns and questions are not being answered.

UVILUQ  
Who is out there?

JONAH turns his camera so you can see a fairly large crowd of hunters carrying signs "PROTECT OUR LAND" "QIA LISTEN TO US!" "SLOW DOWN MARY RIVER". We see a Ranger sitting down on a skidoo.

JONAH  
We have support from some southern workers too. This is peaceful. We are not against those who work here.

(MORE)

JONAH (CONT'D)

We just want more honesty and transparency. We don't want to rush this expansion.

(Jonah's camera suddenly goes black.)

SAQPINA

Well looks like we lost them...we'll try and get in contact again.

FADE TO:

36 INT. MADELINE'S HOUSE DAY

CORA is learning how to sew mittens with MADELINE. In the background we can see the TV on with the broadcast of the hearings.

MADELINE

When I make this pattern for you I hope you will make this for your own children one day.

CORA

That's a loooooong way away. I'm really young.

MADELINE

You are...but Time runs away with you. I feel like a girl sometimes and when I look in a mirror there is this old, old woman. When you sew a pattern passed down through all our ancestors then time is an unbroken line....Here watch me do this and then you will know and remember me one day.

Cora notices the TV and a scene of the protestors at the mine.

CORA

Look they are protesting.

MADELINE

What are they doing?

CORA

(MORE)

## MADELINE (CONT'D)

They're at the Bay Mine and guess they blocked the road. They have signs...

FADE TO

37 INT. NIRB HEARINGS IGLULIK COMMUNITY HALL DAY

Security is now much tighter after the protest at the mine. We can see 2 Rangers within. UVILUQ is already within the NIRB hearing. SAQPINA enters through the tighter security. SAQPINA sits down beside UVILUQ in front of two microphones.

## NIRB VOICE OVER

Tarriaksuk Independent Television Network. Please state your name for the record.

## UVILUQ

Thank you, Madame Chair. My name is Uvilug, I am executive director of Sila Independent Television Network. I was born and brought up here in Iglulik. Now I live in Montreal with two of my children where it is safer and better to educate them today. I am here speaking as an Inuk woman in both worlds. I feel closer to my ancestors now than ever before, but I know more of the world outside than they ever knew. I also learned that in these rich countries it was their poorest people, people of color, minorities, single mothers, the homeless, who got the most sick, got the worst health care and died the most. So, I speak to you today as an Inuk woman, a single parent, who knows that we Inuit, we women, are the most vulnerable people in Canada to the health and safety dangers in our time.

## UVILUQ (CONT'D)

Inuit in Nunavut have five times the respiratory diseases and three times more overcrowded housing than anywhere in Canada. We have ten times the rate of youth suicide, and lowest life expectancy.

(MORE)

## UVILUQ (CONT'D)

We also have the fewest doctors per capita anywhere in the country. There is not one single doctor stationed permanently in any of the five communities most impacted by Baffinland's multi-billion-dollar Mary River Phase 2 project. There is only one hospital in all of Nunavut, a territory bigger than England, France, Germany and Spain combined. In the United States, the world's richest country where health care is not equal and many people live in poverty, 70% of COVID-19 deaths have been African Americans, poor people with poor health and no doctors. The Navaho Nation is third hardest hit after New York and New Jersey. Indigenous tribes in Ecuador are running away into the Amazon jungle. So we Inuit know, that if this virus, or the next virus, will kill more Canadians in the future, sooner or later we Inuit will be hit the worst. We are the most endangered species in our environment. Here in Iglulik two hundred years ago Inuit were almost wiped out by diseases brought in by two British Navy ships looking for the Northwest Passage to India. Our ancestors met them, traded with them, helped them get through the winter, and when they left most of us died. One hundred years ago one of our hunters, Nuqallaq, was sent away to a prison in Manitoba where inmates were infected with tuberculosis. When Nuqallaq got sick in prison they sent him home where he infected his friends and family. Inuit died throughout Baffin Island and by 1950s one out of seven Inuit was sent south with tuberculosis and many never came home. We Inuit know these deadly diseases come to us when people travel to our beautiful land, explorers or prospectors, government inspectors or police, teachers or cruise ships, iron miners flying in every two weeks from Alberta or Ontario.

(MORE)

## UVILUQ (CONT'D)

So, we ask: How can this multi-billion dollar mine be neighbor to five Inuit communities and still have no doctors or hospital anywhere in sight if we get sick from them? How can all that wealth in our land belong to us Inuit by law, and we still have no women's shelter in these five communities for women and children who are victims of domestic violence at home, if their husbands come home after a two-week mine shift with a big paycheck to buy alcohol and jealous of his wife when he's away. What is the sense of this industry, for us? How can there be so much wealth next to us, and we Inuit not have clean water and decent housing, a hospital with doctors and more choice for our children and grandchildren than the worst jobs in a mine?

My question today is for our Inuit leaders: What responsibility do we have to our future generations? Is it life? Or is it money? Where is this money when we have no doctors? In our over-crowded houses, when women are beaten at home and our youth have no hope and think about ending their own lives? What is money for if not to protect Life? They tell us they are saving this money for the future, and my question is: What future?

What is the sense of mining for future generations if Inuit today are too poor and desperate to survive? Is that what our ancestors taught us? Thank you Madame Chair.

UVILUQ sits back.

FADE TO:

38

INT. NIRB HEARINGS IGLULIK COMMUNITY HALL LAST EVENING

Evening of the last day of Baffinland Hearings in Iglulik. Tomorrow a charter takes NIRB Board members, Baffinland, government agency and other intervenors to Pond Inlet for two more days before NIRB recommends to the Canadian Minister if Baffinland's Phase 2 expansion should proceed or not, and what terms and conditions should be applied.

In Iglulik's Community Hall people gather for a celebration; families and community members, elders and small children running around laughing and chasing each other, Inuit and government intervenors, executives from Inuit Land Claims organizations, consultants, Baffinland executives and staff.

The MAYOR of Iglulik, the Qallunaat husband of a local Inuk woman, stands at the front of a stage set representing a traditional qaggiq, a large ceremonial igloo Inuit would build for community celebrations or special events. The Mayor holds a microphone facing the crowded hall. He speaks in English, while a translator repeats his words in Inuktitut.

MAYOR (IN ENGLISH)

Thank you all for coming this evening. Out behind the hall we have built a traditional qaggiq.

Translator repeats in Inuktitut as the Mayor waits.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Now we will close these hearings with a celebration with a performance by our well-known Iglulik circus group, Artcirq, whose first-ever Inuit circus performances have represented Inuit culture all across Canada and around the world. Tonight, Artcirq will act out the story of First Contact between Inuit from the Iglulik region and the famous Parry Expedition of two British navy ships looking for the Northwest Passage in 1822.

Translator again.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

The story will be narrated by our own Iglulik elder, Apajata Kotierq. Apajata?

The Mayor hands over the microphone as APAJATA steps forward. Apajata is dressed entirely in beautiful sealskin clothing, the hood of his parka made in the older traditional style with a sharp point. As Apajata starts to speak a group of Artcirc performers assemble behind him and stand waiting: TERRY, JONAH, JIMMY, TANYA, BEN, MARY, SAQPINA and UVILUQ,

all also dressed in traditional costumes made from caribou, sealskin, wolf and dogskin, while Uviluq wears an amauti made from eider duck skins and feathers. PAKAK as spirit is also there drumming very faintly, but removed and separate.

Apajata tells his story in Inuktitut while two other Artcirc members at the side of the stage hold up a series of large cards with English 'subtitles' - or more like title cards from an old-style silent movie - that give the gist of what he's saying without any interruption.

APAJATA

Good evening Inuit. And - welcome,  
we welcome to Iglulik all visitors  
from other communities and from  
South. Tonight we present  
Tarriaksuit -

(switches to ENGLISH)

Shadow People - (back to  
Inuktitut)

A little show to honor our  
ancestors who come before us,  
before us in the past and before us  
in the future, following and  
leading Inuit style.

As Apajata speaks, the costumed Artcirc actors act out in pantomime different parts of Apajata's story - sometimes seriously, sometimes clownishly, but always with an athletic gracefulness characteristic of their Inuit performance style. Mixed into the story narrative, actors occasionally perform circus tricks, gymnastic tumbling, juggling and sleight-of-hand, so that the audience listening to Apajata's story periodically breaks out into laughter or sudden applause.

APAJATA (CONT'D)

A long time ago when Inuit lived in  
our land knowing nothing of the  
outside world, our namesakes living  
from one generation to the next in  
our Inuit bodies, we heard rumors  
of strange beings in big ships, but  
we never saw them around here. Time  
passed around and around. Then one  
time in the fall of the year as ice  
was freezing up for winter two  
ships appeared and froze in.

(MORE)

APAJATA (CONT'D)

Inuit started to gather, some at Iglulik, the point, some here in Ikpiarjuk, the pocket, curious to see these strange visitors from another world. We learned their Bosses were named Pah-ree and Lee-yoon and they were all men, no wives, no women, no children, we wondered, how do they live like that? Are they only men where they come from? Do they live forever, or do they reproduce with animals?

Apajata asks these questions with an exaggerated quizzical look as Artciq performers pantomime their meaning. The audience cracks up laughing.

Now GUILLAUME (40s) joins the performers. One of the founders of Artciq in the late 1990s, Guillaume is a Montrealer who spent his childhood part-time in Iglulik with his father, an anthropologist. Guillaume is a trained circus performer and joins the acting and gymnastics.

APAJATA (CONT'D)

Inuit started to help them. We showed them how to cut snow blocks to put around their ships to keep them warm in the cold time ahead. Some Inuit went onto the ships and saw how they lived. They ate terrible food, almost all of it rotten. They drank alcohol more than water, and it made them act foolish or crazy. They shouted at each other all the time and sometimes they even dog-whipped another adult if he made a mistake. And they really wanted to lie down with our women, even though they lived without wives they were very happy to share ours.

Again, exaggerated and comical pantomimes cause the audience to crack up laughing.

APAJATA (CONT'D)

The Boss Lee-yoon liked to visit our Inuit camp to learn our ways and draw pictures of how we lived. Our shaman Avva was kind to Lee-yoon and traded Inuit things for useful tools like metal snow knives that were very sharp.

(MORE)



## APAJATA (CONT'D)

Lee-yoon had a wonderful long-view scope he always carried with him and when he wanted Avva's daughter as his temporary wife, Lee-yoon traded the long-view for her. Her name was Apak. She stayed with Lee-yoon on his ship.

UVILUQ acts the part of APAK, the shaman's daughter. Ben acts Avva, Guillaume is the Captain Lyon, admiral William Parry's second-in-command. SAQPINA starts to play an accordion and everyone dances.

## APAJATA (CONT'D)

Inuit learned to party with alcohol to make us act foolish and crazy like them. Some people drank until they fell down and passed out. One man froze to death when he passed out taking a pee and no one found him until the next day. But after a while people started to get sick. First the women got sick, the ones who were most friendly with Qallunaat. With coughing, hard to breathe. With sores on their skin or having to shit water all of the time. Sickesses our shamans never saw before. Avva and other shamans tried to call on their helping spirits to heal these women but the sicknesses spread all through the Inuit camp. By springtime women were dying, and children too, and then their husbands and even elders. Some families ran away but many were too sick to travel and just stayed in the camp and died. Finally, in summer the two ships came free of the ice and those Qallunaat men-without-women went back to wherever they came from. We've been told that Avva and other shamans all came to the shore at Ikpiajuk to watch them sail way. Every family had someone dead. Avva's daughter had passed away from the sickness and Avva watched the ships disappear through the long-view scope he got in trade for his daughter's life. Avva's wife Urulu lit a large stone qulliq to remember the ones who passed away in this terrible time.

Uviluq looks over to her spirit helper PAKAK drumming, then picks up a drum and starts to beat it. The slowly beating drums seems to call up the memory of those ancestors who passed away back then, but also people who have passed away since: from tuberculosis in the last century and more recent diseases since Inuit moved into towns; children who passed away or disappeared in residential schools; people who took their own lives or were killed in alcohol-fueled violence; elders medevacked to southern hospitals who never came home; people who passed away during the COVID crisis in Inuit communities and around the world. Some people in the audience begin to cry.

APAJATA (CONT'D)

And when the ships were past seeing  
in the scope, Avva and the other  
shamans put a curse on them.

APAJATA (CONT'D)

On Pah-ree and Lee-yon, on their  
two ships and all their men, on  
their children and children's  
children, a shaman curse and  
warning for all time, never to come  
back here again.

As UVILUQ continues drumming, Ben, Saqpina and Apajata begin to sing an ajaja behind her. The stage lights slowly dim and fade to darkness as the drumming and singing continue. The last light shines on Uviluq, her eyes closed, drumming. PAKAK is drumming behind her.

The audience applauds the show. Lights come back up, the performers take a bow. A crowd of well-wishers congratulates Artcirq on an excellent show: friends and family, Inuit from other communities, government intervenors and Baffinland executives in town for the Hearings come to shake hands.

MOLLY talks with PETER.

Apajata comes over to Uviluq and she finally stops drumming. They stand looking at each other.

APAJATA (CONT'D)

You drummed well. Pakak was smiling  
Uviluq stares at him

UVILUQ

You see him too?

APAJATA

When he comes to visit

UVILUQ

Sometimes I think I'm crazy living  
in two worlds, maybe my spirit  
helper knows how to lift the  
darkness, and we will find a way to  
take this curse off this town.

APAJATA

We will find our way.

UVILUQ

I just want to speak up for all  
those who did not have the chance  
to speak. Beverli died with no  
chance. I don't want that to happen  
to my daughter. I want her to have  
a chance, want us all to have a  
chance to live.

UVILUQ looks around at the mixed crowd around them, people of  
all kinds and interests in this dangerous 21st century.

APAYATA smiles sadly at her and picks up the drum. Together  
they start drumming with PAKAK mirroring the drumming UVILUQ  
is doing, people start to dance.