

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
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How we began

What we learned

In August of this year a conference on the sealing industry was held in Yellowknife. It was attended by fur traders, Inuit hunters, politicians and government officials. They shared ideas on problems in the sealskin trade and came up with proposals that may ultimately improve the declining sealskin market.

The conference was proposed and planned by Peter Erneik, executive member responsible for the Territorial government's department of economic development and tourism, because the survival of the sealing industry seemed at stake.

Mr. Erneik brought people together from all over the N.W.T., and many other parts of Canada, to concentrate on improving the sealskin industry.

Out of the conference a five man committee developed. Composed of an Inuit majority, it was commissioned to delve into sealing problems in the Northwest Territories and, if possible, find answers.

The committee is calling itself Kissilliriyeeet, the ones who deal with sealskins. Its aim is to weed out the problems in the sealskin trade and improve both the market for sealskins and the quality of the skins themselves.

To this end Kissilliriyeeet was invited by the Hudson's Bay Company to attend its September fur auction in Montreal. This publication is a documentation of that event. It introduces the committee, highlights some of their experiences and offers suggestions that could lead to greater financial rewards for seal hunters.

In the months to come Kissilliriyeeet will become more involved in the N.W.T. sealskin trade, attempting to uncover ways that hunters may make more money from the sale of sealskins. The long hours and hard work put into seal hunting will pay off as both sealskin quality and the market picks up.

Kissilliriyeeet needs the co-operation of everyone involved to rebuild the ailing industry.

As Kissilliriyeeet succeeds, everyone prospers.

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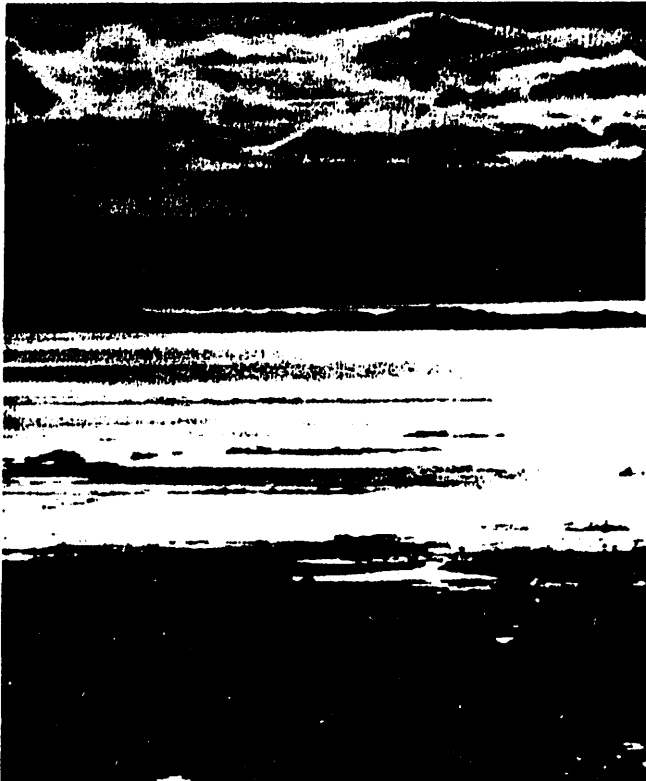
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In the photographs on these pages: 1. Kissilliriyeeet learns about sealskins from a Hudson's Bay Company official. 2. Louis Lapardjuk (left) and Ron Miligan examine damaged skins. 3. At a Quebec City laundry, Kissilliriyeeet sees how skins are stretched and dried. 4. And auctioneers keep a sharp eye out for buyers indicating their interest in skins.

