

## **Chapter 2**

### **Elders' Guidance On Taking Care Of Wastes From The Native Village Of Chefnak's Solid Waste Plan**

## 2. ELDERS' GUIDANCE ON TAKING CARE OF OUR WASTES PROPERLY

### ***Elder Guidance:***

We interviewed our Elders and our Elders took part in the Nelson Island Consortium meetings. They told us what we needed to do to keep our community safe and clean and protect our subsistence. We have recorded their words and have their tapes. Their words included rules about taking care of wastes in the subsistence areas and also how to live life properly so that we will not have these problems. Their rules are about respect and how this will bring good opportunities and help when we need it. This plan is based on their words and explains how to carry out what they say as it relates to our wastes.

### ***Elders' words:***



**Dennis Panruk- 'Panruk':** *born in Cevv'arneq on January 24, 1910:*

- ✦ *Back then our ancestors believed in keeping our environment clean.*
- ✦ *Do not wait for others to tell you what to do if you have already heard what you were told to do. Kinguketuq- It has a good ending.*
- ✦ *In the mornings, they were told not to lie around because all the dust would go on them from people walking in and around.*
- ✦ *Nowadays, we hear of different things and different sicknesses that people are getting.*
- ✦ *Dangerous equipment that is going to be reused should be properly placed where people wouldn't come across to prevent injuries.*
- ✦ *Didn't like the location of the dumpsite since it was too close to the village, but nobody listened to him. On warm/hot days we see the land with heat waves, the odor is too strong it could harm the people.*
- ✦ *The Elders/leaders would have to plan for a new dump. It's a priority to face, where the dump wouldn't be too close to the village and where the wind (N) wouldn't blow towards the village. The community as a whole would have to agree on the new site.*
- ✦ *Dump- cover- surrounding first with sacks.*
- ✦ *When the snow melts at the dump, it is really bad and you know that kids like to play around. The melting snow that's coming from the dump goes down towards the river and becomes intact to the children and their clothing and it goes with them where ever they go.*



**Maria Kairaiuak- 'Naivvkuk':** born in Cevvarneq on October 31, 1928:

- ✦ *If a person is not searching or asking for advice or word of knowledge, that person is like as if he is sleeping*
- ✦ *Subsistence catches were to be enough for winter storage and even more when they were to celebrate dance festivals*
- ✦ *All subsistence food that is able to be dried were to be worked on right away, even if the hunter had brought home only one catch*
- ✦ *If we see trash on the ground, pick it up and dispose of it properly.*
- ✦ *Long ago babies were not deformed or such, but nowadays more babies are born not normal. It was rare back then.*
- ✦ *If one who is talking a good way of living, stop and listen.*
- ✦ *When I became aware, I never found anything lying around (trash). We didn't have much like what you have now (food, clothes, boxes, etc...) the way of our living was quiet and our people were quiet. We were told to do things and would obey right away without any conflict.*



**David Jimmy, Sr. - 'Akagalria':** born in Kawarelegalik on February 6, 1940

- ✦ *Was an operator for the dumpsite under City back then*
- ✦ *Dug trenches/ditches for the trash, compacted them, and covered them with a bulldozer*
- ✦ *It was good when they use to cover the trash; there was no windblown trash.*
- ✦ *Some appliances should not be damaged so people could reuse them for parts.*
- ✦ *No scattered trash was visible back then because we didn't have as much wastes generated as there are now.*
- ✦ *Before the dumpsite, they had drums near the river where trash was burned. They dumped the ashes in the river and that is why trash was never littered. They would burn the trash in the drums when the wind was not blowing towards the village. Tanks are not disposed, they are rotting where they are.*



**Theresa Abraham- 'Paniliar'** : born in Cevvarneq on April 9, 1941

- ✦ *Work as a community and strive*
- ✦ *It would be good if we had only one person who hauls honey buckets to the lagoon and one person who hauls the trash to the dumpsite, so they wouldn't be improperly disposed.*
- ✦ *Don't really like using chemicals in honey buckets but everybody uses them so they wouldn't smell awful in the houses.*
- ✦ *When human wastes are dumped in the lagoon, it leaches to the river and is not safe for our food- fish. And since people dump where ever they please that is a problem because they are dumped anywhere now.*