

# BEST NEWS STORY

I was pleasantly surprised with the quality journalism in the papers published in the Indigenous communities, which, predictably, brought to surface stories and information of wrongdoing on the part of police and authorities. But I was also less impressed by the weakness of emphasis on news writing style by some other papers whose news items lost a lot of impact, and value, because of misplaced emphasis in their story leads. All in all, I feel privileged to have been given the chance to read and assess many fine news stories. Thank you.

YEAR 42 • NUMBER 18 • July 31, 2015

# NUNATSIAQ NEWS

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**Water under the bridge**  
Team readies to float Maud — 13

**Downed pilot lives after bear battle, night on ice floe**  
"Of course I must finish what I started. And I can do it again"

**DAVID MURPHY**  
If you consider each element of Sergey Ananov's unimaginable story — surviving a crash landing in Arctic waters, fighting off polar bears on an ice floe, a search for a glimmer of hope, and a last, dying flare — every part of it seems impossible.

On July 25, Ananov, a Russian citizen, crash landed between Igloolik and Nauyasuk in the Davis Strait while attempting a record-breaking solo flight around the world with a helicopter that weighs less than one tonne.

People don't usually survive air crashes, alone, into the middle of fog-covered Arctic waters.

"In tropical conditions, you have a lot of time. But here, first day could be your final day. I managed two days," said Ananov, on the phone July 27 from the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Pierre Radisson.

Ananov started his trek around the world June 13 in Moscow. On his forty-fifth day, he took off from the Igloolik airport en route to Nauyasuk.

The 49-year-old ran into mechanical problems at the worst possible location — over the wide Davis Strait.

A belt that transfers power from the chopper's engine to the rotor blades snapped. Ananov started spinning. Ananov could just barely make out a large slab of ice below him where he aimed his landing.

Ananov didn't hit the ice, but instead maneuvered a soft crash landing into the water.

While descending, with the helicopter's blades still spinning, Ananov tilted the aircraft left so the blades entered the water first. He was sitting in the cockpit, on the right side.

Almost immediately, the cabin began sinking.

Ananov undid his seat-belt, opened the door, reached for a life raft under his feet, and attempted to swim out of the cockpit.

"But my leg was stuck. And the life raft was stuck. So I need to dive into the water to undo my leg and my life raft. So it was not easy. But I had no time to take anything from the cabin," Ananov said.

The Russian adventurer eventually struggled free and swam to a nearby ice floe with his next sun hat on.

"Very cold. It was very cold. But under stress situation, you don't really imagine that. People just swim in ice for pleasure. In Russia this is I never did so," Ananov said.

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**DAVID MURPHY**  
*Nunatsiaq News*

A very well-told story of a breathtaking adventure with all the elements of a news story as well as the excitement of the event fully reflected. Congratulations.

**JOSHUA GRANT**  
*the Nation*

Told with a captivating narrative despite the last minute updates that had to be added. It made me remember the days when I was a news service reporter racing against time while trying to put all the details in the story accurately. Well done!

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**news**

## A mother's frantic search

### Disappearance of Mistissini teenager ends in relief for many across Eeyou Istchee

by Joshua Grant

A Mistissini teen missing for three weeks in a suspected human-trafficking case walked into a Montreal police station January 15 to the immense relief of people across Eeyou Istchee.

Lynn Iserhoff came to Montreal December 18 and checked into a women's shelter in the city, but disappeared three days later. Her mother, Cynthia Neeposh, had suggested the shelter as a means of getting established in Montreal.

Neeposh had planned to travel to Montreal to surprise Lynn with a visit shortly after New Year's and hoped to bring her back to Mistissini. She assumed things were going well in Montreal as Lynn had checked in to the women's shelter and was receiving help and support from the workers there.

But when Neeposh called the center in the New Year she learned her daughter had not been seen since December 21. "They never called me," Neeposh noted.

Now, Neeposh is overjoyed that her daughter is safe. "I'm overjoyed and I'm just so happy," she said in the hours following her daughter's reappearance. "I'm grateful to all of the media and all of the people who shared the news that my daughter is safe. I'm so grateful for helping me look for her. Lynn is with me now and I'm so grateful for her safe."

A series of disconcerting phone calls with her daughter began January 10, Neeposh revealed to her mother. She was frightened for her safety. "I was so alert, a nationwide missing alert was issued for the 18-year-old woman after Montreal police started an investigation into a suspected network of human trafficking in the city.

Neeposh immediately flew to Montreal. She spoke to *the Nation* at hotel La Tour Belvedere when she was convinced that Lynn was being held against her will.

"I went to see my cousin Daisy and I told her my daughter called me (in distress)," Neeposh said then. Lynn had previously provided her with a phone number but no one would answer. She asked her cousin to keep calling the number and to immediately notify the police if she managed to reach Lynn.

Neeposh says her worst fears were confirmed when her cousin called back the following day.

"She said, 'You know your daughter answered. Your daughter is held as a hostage and a prostitute,'" Neeposh related.

Her daughter had indicated that several men were preventing her from leaving. According to Neeposh's cousin, her daughter said, "There's a man standing at the door, rotating, there's like seven black guys. They want me to dress like a hooker and there's supposed to be a car coming, picking me up."

Said Neeposh: "I cried, I cried, I cried and I said I can't believe it, it can't be."

Near midnight on Saturday, January 10, Lynn managed to contact her mother. "She didn't sound like herself," Neeposh related. "I could hear trembling in her voice. When you're a mother you know the voice of your child, when they're okay or when they're not okay. She sounded nervous and she said she only had a few minutes to talk. I asked her where she was, what the address was and she said she didn't know but she knew how to get to the metro from there."

Mother and daughter made plans to meet outside the Berri-UQAM station. But Neeposh waited in the cold for hours with no sign of her daughter.

"She never called back and I wondered if it was a set up."

In the following days, Neeposh kept in close contact with Alan Gull, an intervention and outreach worker from the Native Friendship Centre, scouring Montreal's meaner streets day and night for her missing daughter.

Gull said the Montreal police detective on the case had identified certain suspects and brought them in for questioning. And he offered advice to young people coming to Montreal from the North.

"There's good and bad parts of Montreal, if you're looking for the bad you'll find it," said Gull. "Go with your

**Cynthia Neeposh**

**Officer Carlo Deangels**

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# NUNATSIAQ NEWS

**Hope for the best**  
Aftermath of suicide inquest — 6

**Humble pie**  
Ex-councillor gets roasted — 5

**Igloolik inquest into cop shooting set for fall 2016**  
"He had three children and they knew he was mentally ill"

**LISA GREGOIRE**  
Four years after RCMP officers shot and killed Felix Taqquagag in front of his common-law wife and four-year-old daughter, there will finally be a coroner's inquest to find out how an altercation with a known mentally ill man could escalate into a fatality.

Nunavut's Chief Coroner, Pamela Suzumala, had been waiting for the Ottawa Police Service to complete an external investigation into the events of that night, March 20, 2012, before calling an inquest.

The OPS finally finished their investigation and handed their report to the coroner last week.

In a brief news release Oct. 29, Suzumala said she is now making preparations to hold an inquest, likely in fall 2016.

The inquest is mandatory under the Nunavut Coroners' Act because Taqquagag died during an altercation with police.

Elizabeth Kappanaiq, Taqquagag's older sister and his legal guardian after their mother died, said she hopes that the inquest will provide answers to some painful questions that have haunted her for years.

But talking about that night will be difficult for the family.

"I just want to get it over with, it changed us. I grieved that day, that week, that month. After two weeks, my anger, it was building up. If they're going to have an inquest, it's OK with me," said Kappanaiq.

Mary Gijungaj, Taqquagag's common-law partner at the time and mother of their three children, said she too has been anxious for answers.

"I always wanted to know why they did this when he had three children and they knew he was mentally ill. It's so hard," she said, crying on the phone. "My kids, they miss their father."

Born in an outpost camp with many brothers and sisters, the Taqquagag family moved to Igloolik when he was around 10 or 12, his mother was sick with cancer, Kappanaiq said.

After their mother's illness became worse when he was a young boy, Kappanaiq said, he was sent to Winnipeg for mental health treatment for schizophrenia three or four times, on one occasion staying for six weeks.

Nearly 100 people gathered at the Nunavut Legislative Assembly Oct. 29 to honour this year's Order of Nunavut recipients, from left: Tagak Curley, Father Robert Lechat and William Lyall. Dignitaries and other audience members crowded around the recipients afterward to congratulate them, including Premier Peter Taptuna, Senator Dennis Patterson, Nunavut cabinet ministers and other leaders. (PHOTO BY THOMAS ROHNER)

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**Parental guidance**  
Relations mean school success — 3

**Four? Shame**  
MLA decries small TAH increase — 9

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**LISA GREGOIRE**  
*Nunatsiaq News*

Well-told story with a balanced approach and putting in as much detail as required to understand the background to the importance of the development.



This award is sponsored by  
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Judge: Mustafa Eric, Editor, Stettler Independent, Stettler, AB • Number of entries in the Best News Story category: 30