



*National Aboriginal Health Organization  
Ajunnginiq (Inuit) Centre*

Lily Amaroalik,  
Inuk Nurse, Iqaluit (2007)  
interviewed by Martha Flaherty

Audio Clip 1

MF: Please give an example of how you use Inuit cultural knowledge and practices in assisting births today.

**Being able to speak in Inuktitut, I think had a big, big . . . being able to understand every word she [was] saying to me, instead of having to go through an interpreter . . . I think that really helped a lot of mothers . . . with the comforting part because they weren't stuck trying to find a word, or interpret .... There wasn't any miscommunication. I think that's comforting, where she can speak in her own language, and someone being able to understand what she was saying. So, I think that is a big comforting measure and just informing them that we are there to help, and offering them as much help as they need for resources for prenatal and postnatal.**

MF: Please give an example of one of the most important things you learned from your Western midwifery training that you use in your practice.

**That I use today? I think a lot of it is teaching. Like as a mother, you aren't supposed to drink, you're not supposed to smoke, you're supposed to eat healthy. But actually seeing the effects every day, almost every day of what the outcome can be when you [are] doing that. As a mother, even me, I still smoked when I was pregnant. Seeing the consequences afterwards, I guess a lot of teaching is necessary, but we just don't realize how much can go wrong, without knowing what could go wrong. I guess just knowing a lot of things can go wrong, kind of makes me ...**

Audio Clip 2

MF: Do you feel there are any conflicts between your Inuit cultural knowledge and practices and Western midwifery knowledge and practices? Please describe. (Examples: food; positions; exercise etc.)

**Yes, very much. I had one incident where I could've actually been kicked out of [the] nursing course, because of my cultural practices. Because as Inuit, for instance, I'd been there for my cousin's birth . . . I was there with her. I told my instructor**



