National Aboriginal Health Organization
Ajunnginiq (Inuit) Centre

Kim Moorhouse,
Midwifery student, Inukjuak (2007)
interviewed by Martha Flaherty

Audio Clip 1

MF**:** What is the birth that scared you the most? What happened? Let’s say in your community?

ᐋᒃ, ᐃᓚᖕᒐᒍᑦ ᓲᒍᒻᒥᔪᒍᑦ, ᖃᑦᑕᒥᔪᒍᑦ. ᐃᓚᖕᒐᒍᑦ ᓄᑕᕋᑦᓴᓃᑦ ᑕᒫᓂᖅᑭᐳᐊᖅᑲᑳᓲᒍᒻᒪᑕ, ᑖᓐᓇ ᐊᑦᑕᓇᓲᒍᒻᒥᔪᖅ ᐊᐅᓈᓗᐊᑲᓪᓚᓕᑐᐊᖅᒪᑦ ᐊᕐᓇᖅ. ᐊᑯᓂᓗ ᐃᕐᓂᓱᒃᓯᔪᑦ, ᓄᑕᕋᖅ ᐊᓂᑲᓪᓚᑐᐊᕐᒪᑦ ᐊᓂᕐᑎᓇᖕᖏᑐᑲᓪᒪᐅᓕᓲᒍᒻᒥᒪᑦ ᐊᕐᓯᕈᓲᒍᒻᒥᔪᑦ.

Yes, we experience that sometimes in our community. Once in a while ladies will have tubal pregnancies, or when the woman hemorrhages. Sometimes a woman has a long labour, or if there is an unexpected sudden delivery and the baby can’t breath ... yes, sometimes it’s hard what we have to go through.

LC: ᖃᓄᐃᓕᐅᓕᕋᔭᕐᐸᑦ ᑕᐃᒪ?
MF: How would you handle these?

ᑕᒫᓂᕐᑭᔭᕆᑦᓯᑐᐊᕐᒪᑕ ᐊᓂᐊᓯᐅᑏᑦ ᐊᐅᓪᓚᑎᑦᓯᓲᒍᕗᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᕐᑕᐅᓂᐊᕐᑎᓪᓗᒋᑦ ᐊᓪᑐᕐ ᓴᐅᓐ. ᑕᒫᓂᖅᑭᓚᓇᑐᐊᕐᒪᑦ ᐊᐅᓪᓚᑎᑦᓯᓲᑦ ᒪᓐᑐᕆᐊᓪᒧᑦ ᑐᐊᕕᕐᓇᑐᒃᑯᑦ.

When we suspect it is tubal pregnancy, it’s handled by nurses with an ultra sound test. Once they know for sure it is tubal pregnancy than they are medevaced to Montreal.

LC: ᒪᑯᐊᓂ ᒪᑭᑕᖕᒑᕐᑐᑦ?
MF: What about breached?

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ᒪᑭᑕᖕᒑᕐᑐᖅᑲᑐᐊᕐᐸᑦ, ᐃᓛᒃ ᖅᑲᐅᔨᒪᓪᓚᕆᑐᐊ ᒪᑭᑕᐅᔪᐊᐱᐅᑉᐸᑦ ᓇᔾᔨᐊᖓ ᐊᐅᓪᓚᑎᑦᓯᑐᐃᓐᓇᓲᒍᔪᒍᑦ. ᑭᓯᐊᓂ ᖅᑲᐅᔨᒪᓪᓚᕆᖕᒋᑐᐊᕋᑦᑕ ᐃᓕᖅᓯᓯᒪᒐᓱᐊᓲᒍᒻᒥᔪᒍᑦ ᖅᑲᓄᐃᓕᐅᕐᑐᓴᐅᒻᒪᖕᒑᑕ

Once we know for sure it is a breached baby, they are sent out right away. But we are still taught how to handle these kinds of problems just in case it becomes an emergency.

Audio Clip 2

MF: Please give an example of how you use Inuit cultural knowledge and practices in your maternity care work today.

ᐊᒥᓲᐃᑦ ᐊᑐᕐᑕᐅᓲᑦ ᑕᒫᓂ. ᓄᑕᕋᖅᑕᓯᖅᑐᓗᒍᓗᐊᖑᐊᖅ ᓲᖅ, ᓲᕐᓗ ᐅᑎᖕᒑᕐᓗᑎᑦ ᐱᓱᖅᑲᑦᑕᖅᑯᔭᐅᓇᒃ ᒪᑭᑕᐅᔪᒥᒃ ᓄᑕᕋᖅᑖᑐᐃᓐᓇᓇᐊᖅᑲᕋᕕᑦ. ᑲᑕᒻᒦᑯᑖᖅᑲᑦᑕᖅᑯᔭᐅᓇᑕᓗ ᐊᑯᓂᐅᓗᐊᖅᑐᖅ ᓄᑕᕋᖅ ᐊᓂᒐᓯᐊᑦᓴᕈᐊᖅᒪᑦ. ᑕᐃᒪᖓᓗ ᓂᕆᑦᓯᐊᓂᒃ ᓂᕆᑦᓯᐊᖅᑯᔭᐅᓲᑦ, ᓂᖅᑭᑐᐃᓐᓇᕙᓪᓗᓂ ᐱᐅᓂᖅᓴᐅᑎᑕᐅᑦᓯᑎᒃ ᑕᐃᒪᓐᖓᑦ.

We use many traditional ways here in our community. For example, pregnant women should not go out the door backward, because you could have a breached baby. We were also always taught to eat nutritious food, eat country food, and always told us those are the best foods.

MF: Please give an example of one of the most important things you learned from your Western midwifery/maternity care training that you use. …

ᐃᓕᓴᕐᑕᑲ, ᐱᒻᒪᕆᐅᑎᓂᕐᐹᑲ ᐅᐃᒻᒪᓇᕐᑐᓕᕆᓂᕐᒧᑦ ᐃᓕᓴᕐᓯᒪᔭᒃᑲ.

I take my training very seriously, especially how to handle emergency cases.

MF: Do you feel there are any conflicts between your cultural knowledge and practices and western midwifery/maternity care knowledge and practices? Please describe.

ᑎᓲᙱᑦᑕᕋ, ᐱᒋᐊᕐᓂᓕᒫᑎᒍᑦ ᐃᑲᔪᕋᓱᐊᓲᒍᒐᑦᑕ ᑕᒪᐃᓐᓂᒃ ᐊᑐᓲᒍᒐᑦᑕ ... ᐃᓚᖅᑯᓯᙱᓐᓂᒃ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐊᒻᒪ ᖃᓪᓗᓈᑎᑐᑦ ᐊᑐᕋᓱᐊᓲᒍᒐᑦᑕ ᐃᓱᐃᓪᓕᒍᑎᖃᓗᐊᓲᙱᑦᑐᖅ.

I don’t look at it that way, we tried our best to incorporate the best of both ... Inuit way and Qallunaat ways, so we don’t usually run into big problems.