

interaction between Euro-Canadians and Native peoples in British Columbia.

The book is also very useful for the numerous figures, maps, and illustrations that are included in the essays. Some may want to criticize Harris for simply bringing together in a book a number of previously published essays. However, this collection is much more than that, for essays that did appear before have been reworked in some form or another. In this sense the book is very much a reflective effort. It gives readers the opportunity to examine how a well-known Canadian scholar has reworked some of his scholarship after reconsidering his previous work. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in British Columbia, the concept of colonization, or historical geography.

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McDonald, Miriam, Lucassie Arragutainaq and Zack Novalinga: *Voices from the Bay: Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Inuit and Cree in the Hudson Bay Bioregion*. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Arctic Resources Committee; and Sanikiluaq, NWT: Environmental Committee of Municipality of Sanikiluaq, 1997, ISBN 0-919996-75-2 paper CDN\$ 41.14 (taxes included).

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) refers to the body of knowledge accumulated over generations by Indigenous people with respect to their environment. Recently, a series of papers have come out in the academic journal *Policy Options*, in an attempt to describe and distinguish the nature and utility of TEK. Much controversy and confusion surround this series of articles; thus, it is quite fortunate that a book dealing specifically with TEK from an Indigenous perspective is now available. *Voices from the Bay* is an important and timely piece for several reasons:

1. A TEK project of this magnitude covering such a wide variety of topic areas has never been done before.
2. TEK of two Native groups, Cree and Inuit, were consolidated.

3. A voice was given to the Native people themselves at a time when much confusion exists regarding the "true" nature of TEK.

The book itself is a compilation of Indigenous knowledge with respect to the Hudson Bay Lowland region, which includes both Hudson and James Bay. The strength of the book relates to the presentation of mostly primary material in the form of numerous quotations. Synthesis is at a minimum. This is an important point to note because if one expects an analysis of TEK, one will be disappointed. The book is a compilation, a collection of primary source material with little critical analysis.

The text is organized under seven main headings: Introduction; TEK of Ecosystem Components; Environmental Change and Its Significance to Inuit and Cree; Indigenous Perspectives on Development; Future Needs; Afterword; and Appendices (A-F). Numerous maps summarizing information and visually pleasing pictures are found scattered throughout the book.

Overall, the book is easily accessible and will interest people from a variety of fields (e.g., wildlife management and education). However, I have several criticisms. First, the Hudson Bay food web illustration presented in Figure 5 (p.20) is incomplete and confusing. Several species of wildgame mentioned in text (e.g., muskrat, p.22) or presented in other figures (e.g., sharp-tailed, spruce, and ruffed grouse, in Figure 7, p.23) are omitted in Figure 5. I realize that the authors wish to present a holistic view of the food web and that is why interconnections are presented in a circular format, but the connecting arrows are very difficult to trace in some relationships. Moreover, some important relationships are absent. For example, ducks are not connected to pebbles and gravel. Waterfowl in general have to ingest pebbles and grit, storing this material in their gizzards, to aid in the grinding of their food. Sometimes lead pellets used in harvesting game birds are ingested by the birds, being mistaken as grit. The ingestion of only one lead pellet can and does cause lead poisoning of waterfowl in the western James Bay region. Thus, this linkage is important because it shows how Indigenous harvesters and sport hunters affect the environment by depositing lead pellets and how the environment in turn affects the wildlife.

My second criticism is that explanatory captions should have been added to all figures and tables. A reader should be able to look at only the figure or table without referring to the text, to understand what was done. In their 1997 abbreviated version of the book (*Northern Perspectives* 25 [1]:1-16), several captions have been added that clarify the corresponding illustrations. I do not understand why the authors did not include more informative captions in their larger work.

A minor point that would help in cross-referencing is that the first time a plant or animal is mentioned, the scientific name (Latin binomial) should

be given, as well as the common name, to prevent confusion. Common names sometimes differ regionally but there is only one accepted scientific designation. For example, in Appendix E (pp.93-94), snow and blue goose are treated separately when in reality they are members of one species (*Chen caerulescens*) with different colour morphs. In addition, even subspecies must be distinguished because the information in Appendix E (pp.93-94), where it is stated that Canada geese in the western James Bay region used to arrive in the spring at the end of April but now arrive in the first part of June, is incorrect. The large Canada goose (*Branta canadensis interior*) still arrives during the latter part of April, while the giant Canada goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) arrives during the first part of June. These birds are of a different subspecies. It is important to note that First Nations people of the western James Bay region know the difference between the subspecies of Canada geese and their arrival times. Large Canadas are just called "geese" while the other subspecies is referred to as "giants".

Finally, one topic area that was not fully explored, except for one passage in the book (p.95), was the declining numbers of large Canadas and the increase of "wavies" (snow geese) in the western James Bay region. Population changes in these two species of birds have great cultural and economic repercussions for the Cree of the region and should have been explored more thoroughly.

Nevertheless, I believe that *Voices from the Bay* is an extremely valuable book and highly recommend it for the general public and academics. As L. Bird of Peawanuck asserts (p.69):

It is important to distribute these materials that we have put in writing. We should give them to the young people so they are informed of why our Elders sat here... we must educate our children to adjust more easily and faster than we do, but still not to lose our Ancestral respect of our land and environment, both spiritually and materially... We should make sure [copies] exist in each community and for each group that is involved in the public, like politicians or even companies that are interested in our region. So they may understand what we are talking about. What we want them to know is how much we care for the place we live in, the land and everything.

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