



Astrid McDonald

ASTRID (GARDLUND) McDONALD

VAGÒONLII Vananh Dì'ìlìlì 7, 1938

NIJÌN VAGÒONLII: Aklavik, NT

VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT: Karl ts'at Sarah Anne Gardlund kat hàh

VÌTSII TS'ÀT VÌTSUU: Louisa ts'at Jim Firth kat hàh

GWICH'IN: Ehdıtat Gwìch'in

TR'ÒONJIK: 1962 dàr' Aklavik gwizhìt James McDonald vatr'òonjik

VITR'IININ KAT: Lisa, Joyce, Terry, James chan ts'at Joanne kat hàh

BORN: September 7th, 1938

BIRTHPLACE: Aklavik NWT

PARENTS: Sarah Anne and Karl Gardlund

GRANDPARENTS: Louisa and Jim Firth

GWICH'IN: Ehdii Tat Gwìch'in

MARRIED: James McDonald, in Aklavik, 1962

CHILDREN: Lisa , Joyce, Terry, James, Joanne



Astrid zrit Aklavik gwizhìt chan ts'at dachan tat tr'igwìndàr' dıyùughwan kat hàh gehkhee ts'at dachaa ts'at dıjuu kat hàh 11 gidilıı vanadhındaih. Astrid t'at duuyeh dızheh danh t'ıınch'uh kwaa gwàt dıtı' hàh yee'òk nagılzrı', geetàk gwızrıh dzan nadhoh aıt'uu ts'at vadhòh ahgaaı. Nıts'òo nıınjı'adhat dıtı' loo hàh yıts'at k'agwaadhath ınlı'. Loo hàh gwıtr'ıt t'agwah'in' gık'àanjik ts'at jıdıı kheen-ıde' gwıjıdà'au geenjıt gwık'ıt t'ıdı'ıı, akòo ts'at jıdıı dānuu gwık'ıt t'ıdı'ıı ts'at dıınjıı tat vıdeezhuu gehdeeth'ak gwızhıt gwık'yıınjızhıt. Anjòo kat dānuu uudhılch'eu k'eejıt nılıı dāı' ızhuu kat ts'at tr'ıınjıı geenjıt shık vahnuu jüü dıdınu'.

1958 dàr' Astrıd zrit James McDonald yak'ādadhızhuı, au t'ee Aklavık gwızhıt 1962 dàr' nıkhàgoothıınjik. Nıkhàh zrit tr'ıının ıhłogwınlı' geedı'ı'. Jük at'at chan vıcheıı gòonlıı ıhłok gwıjüütın ts'at ıhłak gidilıı ànts'at gootsuu t'ıınch'uh. Vaghàn ıhłok gwıjüütın ts'at daankat dāı' gwàts'at, dachan tat khanaandāıı ts'at "nıjın gwızhıt gwıtr'ıt gòonlıı au gāh dhıı'au. Shık gwıtr'ıt t'agwı'ıı." Juu yahnuu. Hamlet of Aklavık geenjıt dıneht'eh k'ānahtı', Inuvık gwızhıt K'e'tr'ıjahkau Zheh danh chan, ànts'at jük drın Aklavık gwızhıt Moose Kerr School danh dıneht'eh k'ānahtıı 1994 dàr' gwàts'at chan.

Astrid veenjıt gagootr'oonahıan eenjıt ısrıts'at vah gòonlıh. Jük gweendòo

tr'ıının kat ts'at gwaandāk, school ekhe'gogoonuh kwaa, "Gıjuht'ah," juunuh, "drın gwıtak gwınyāanch'uu jıdıı tsal gık'ānohnjıı!" Astrid akòo dınuu zrit, gwıntf'òh gwıtr'ıt t'agoh'ıı kwaa ts'at gāhdāndāıı, geetàk oodzoo ts'at srudohch'uu guuzhık zheedıdınaadlok.



Astrid remembers growing up in Aklavik, living out on the land with her parents and 11 siblings. As a child, Astrid never stayed home instead she would go hunting with her father rather than skinning and stretching rat skins and being bound by the house. Astrid's father was very influential on her current beliefs and values. She learnt how to work relentlessly, to stand true to her promises, and to practice what she'd preach as a leading example; therefore, becoming a voice that is heard among her people. Elders were also influential in Astrid's youth, teaching her such ideals as to always help anyone in need.

Astrid met her husband James in Aklavik in 1958 and was married in 1962. Together they had five children. Today Astrid is not only a Grandmother to 11 grandchildren, but also a Great Grandmother, succeeding in the fifth generation of the Gardlunds. Astrid and James would often go hunting with Astrid's father Carl. Since the age of

fourteen, Astrid has been working out on the land, "Wherever I could get work, I did. I always worked." She remembers working as a secretary for the Hamlet of Aklavik, in a sewing shop in Inuvik, and today as a secretary since 1994 in Aklavik's Moose Kerr School.

Education has always been a high priority for Astrid. She advises the children of today not to quit school, "Keep going" she says, "because you learn something every single day." Astrid realises that life isn't only about hard work, "Enjoy life! Dance all night and work all day!" she laughs.