

Looking back: The Fort Rae Heritage Project

Photos and captions provided by the NWT Archives

In 1978, a skills workshop in Behchoko (then called Fort Rae) brought together about a dozen women who worked to produce traditional objects, specifically for museums and other collections. By April 1978, five months after the project started, the group had scraped and processed about 300 caribou skins, making them into clothing, tents, and other traditional items. Many of these items were purchased by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Museum and are still on display today.

These images are part of the Native Press photograph collection at the NWT Archives and were originally published in the Native Press newspaper on April 14, 1978.

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Photographer: Tessa Macintosh

**Do you know this person? Some of these women remain
unidentified today—if you recognize someone, let us know!**



A group of women, including (left to right) Madeline Mantla, Madeline Nedli, Melanie Washie, Berna Nasken, Liza Koyina, Melanie Wedawin, unidentified, and Annie Black, display a winter tent made of caribou hide.



Liza Koyina and Madeline Mantla carry hunting bags made of dehaired caribou skin and pull a sled made of caribou hide.



An unidentified woman wears a caribou hide jacket and hood, created as part of the Fort Rae Heritage Project.



A group of unidentified women sew tents.



Annie Black and Madeline Mantla sewing with hide.