# Day 2 Transcript: Noah Papatsie

**Alison Whiting:** Welcome back everyone. We will be starting the next session shortly. We do apologize for the lack of ASL interpretation during part of Marie Hélène's presentation earlier. We are looking at adding that in during post-production and it should be available in the recording. Just a reminder, information about how to submit questions and how to access French captions can be found in the chat. Our first speaker this hour is Noah Papatsie. Noah was born and raised in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Noah has a rich career in broadcasting and local politics. He worked with Inuit broadcasting for many years and later became counselor for the city of Iqaluit from 2013 to 2015. He is the present chair for the Disability Advisory Committee and we welcome Noah to the stage.

**Noah Papatsie:** Yeah. Thank you. Uh my name is Noah Papatsie, born and raised here in Iqaluit, Nunavut. It's great to be part of this conversation on accessibility parks. Great to meet everyone. More we understand our distance the better. I'm looking forward to the conversations we'll be going through.

Uh we have 25 communities in Nunavut. So, looking forward to more information, process how we can work together and have an accessible future. Iqaluit, Nunavut, we have a population of 37000 people in Nunavut. Iqaluit is the capital city. We have about 8000 people altogether. All across Nunavut we have 25 communities and we have indeed parks within our communities. In Iqaluit, Nunavut, we have Sylvia Grinnell Park and as well as in other parks, it gets more beautiful the more we get out there the better. More more we understand the languages the better. Uh especially for safety reasons and as well as for more information within our language uh we can interpret with each other and respect the land as well as understand the languages that are given.

As we go across through the land there's different names, places where things grew or more such as especially for more information for better search and rescue. In case in case of uh parks needs to search for people, it is important that we understand each other within each languages. Uh especially within the parks, Parks Canada needs to have assistance or guidance within these territory uh to understand uh more of the guidance through the uh the whole trail, within or outside the trail are more accessible the better too.

As well uh within uh countryside or within the city side, countryside may be a little bit different but more we work on this the better with the terrain. Uh the terrain might be a little different but more we work on this such as you know there's today, there's assistive technology that can help us out in our day-to-day lives. It is good that there's a comment out there but more we learn it the better. Safety the better because uh day-to-day life is important. As soon as we go out the door from our home, safety's number one priority especially going out in the field. So it is important in the parks uh you know if we have a safety guide uh who understands the languages, places, uh roads, terrain um or even animal life up here in Nunavut.

We have polar bears. Uh that are around uh you know on a daily basis that are being monitored daily in different parts of Nunavut. Like I said earlier, we have 25 communities and most of our polar bears are within Nunavut really. So today they're getting closer and closer due to different uh climate or different um different information. Such as you know they're being bothered with by ships or you know they travel on a daily basis. So it's important that we understand where we live, where polar bears exist as well, as foxes, wolves. That we need to understand that safety precaution is important and that we understand how and to to respect the animals. Uh that we live together on a daily basis.

So each community has its own unique way of um addressing each other. Um you know like I said earlier we have 8000 people within Iqaluit capital and within each other communities places most places are between three thousand fifteen hundred five hundred to eight hundred people. So the more you go the further they go the less community within the community but are taking a huge responsibility making sure our territory is respected, provinces are respected, communities are respected. More we work together the better for safety reasons on a daily basis. Information is important like I said earlier in the beginning information is important important within the parks within our languages especially for visitors who are starting to understand our territory or wants to more understand of our territory.How we can work together with accessibility information Disability Services.

So for me for I as a vision impaired blind person um it has been important that I understand the terrain myself. Uh I've been in the field like I said I'm born and raised here. I was not blind all my life but I had an accident but I have learned to navigate on a daily basis on independent living skills. So it is important we understand the independence of each individual's life and Disability Services more than better. So on a day-to-day, life safety is number one. Understanding each other's number two, educating each other's number three and number four listening loudly while we work together the better. Thank you.

**Alison Whiting:** Thank you Noah. Uh we have a few questions come in from the audience. Uh someone is wondering if you can describe some of the safety precautions that you take uh when you go out into the parks.

**Noah Papatsie:** Thank you for the question. Yes when I go to the parks I you know I'm I was about safety. I make sure I bring you know I go out with my communication, either radio or a phone. I bring my cane with me or bring a bag full of goodies. That's important for oh we're not hundreds of snacks or other information and it's important that I understand the terrain where I'm going and making sure that I tell someone where I'm going especially. So the more we work together the better especially outside the parts or within the parks.

**Alison Whiting:** Absolutely and when you're thinking about going out to the parks are there different websites or resources that you go to to find information about the terrain and the trails and the wildlife that are there?

**Noah Papatise:** Thank you for the question. Again yes uh these past few years we have been working on getting the parks information. Not making sure we're walking on the terrains, making sure the accessibility information is there, making sure the language is is there, making sure we have science information you know. Stops such as you know going to the washroom, making sure we're or that they are there the terrain is there, making sure the rope is there. Uh having some um you know uh sites on the road, of side of the roads making sure there's markers. Those are very important and especially during the whole terrain markers are very important. And especially listening listening to what's happening out there uh nature is huge but listening to where you're going is very important. In Parks here in Nunavut at Grinell Park, we have Sylvia Grinell park it is loud it is loud because it has a thundering roar river going down to the rapids. We know where it all is but more importantly uh we get away from it. We understand where we're heading uh. So it is important we under understand our hearing around our environment.

**Alison Whiting:** Thank you and is there like one specific hazard you think that is very common and not being addressed by Parks Canada?

**Noah Papatsie:** Yes it is important that uh you know on a day-to-day basis there's people arriving and it's important that people who arrive here to remote places as we live on a remote island they are giving maps you know understanding the terrain, understanding the community. City is very important especially if you're going out and about just say for five minutes pop becomes you know dangerous situation where people need to find you. That usually happens and we want to avoid that it is important that we give these information to people who are arriving and new to our community, city. So we can understand and just see each other properly. Thank you.

**Alison Whiting:** I think we have time for a couple more questions uh given you know I know you've worked a little bit with Parks Canada and the local parks uh in Nunavut, are there strategies there to recruit and train Nunavut Rangers and park staff?

**Noah Papatsie:** Right now, in Nunavut we have parks, like all across Canada there's Parks Canada uh within these some communities, not our communities has parks but they do have uh in the future, there'll be a just a new parks but within these uh parks where people arrive such as you know people arriving from ships you know, visitors arriving. Understanding more of uh the parks, it is important that uh you know we understand you know like for Iqaluit for instance we do have a national park building where you can get information uh talk to an individual who's a park officer but more we strategize the better. So we need to make things stronger especially within the workforces or around uh Tundra Valley. Uh we need to have more uh people on the ground. Uh more understanding of the terrain, more understanding of each other, of languages especially working together with the community where they host the most information. How to be on a safety in the first place.

**Alison Whiting:** Absolutely, I think those are like some great suggestions about how we can be improving that part community collaboration and information sharing and I think we have time for one more. Uh someone from the audience says: "Thank you for sharing. How is having signs in your native language change the type of information you get when you're on the terrain or in the parks?"

**Noah Papatise:** Well okay this was very interesting. For me in the first place but um like I said I hadn't I I had an accident during my work time so I I was not blind all my life that what led to me was my accident that became my vision impairment. So that taught me a lot of uh you know things faster in a faster place, learning to be in, learning more of independent living skills. So my I understood the environment to better. So like I said earlier in the beginning, I'm born and raised here I know where things are. I know how the terrains are. I've been in the rapids. I've been at the parks uh. I I've been pretty much around. As I'm uh I used to be a hunter, father hunter, my grandfather and it's important uh we understand uh more information about the individual the better. So learning all these uh uh learning all these new life, I have uh learning about independent living skills, computer training, guide dog training, or learning how to use maps etc. has helped me a lot. So much to do my daily tasks especially communicating with the people out there who wants to understand more about accessibility and Disability Services.

**Alison Whiting:** Wonderful, thank you so much Noah. I think that's probably all we have time for right now but I'm looking forward to welcoming you back tomorrow. Noah is going to be on our panel discussion tomorrow as well so thank you so much Noah for sharing that with us today.

**Noah Papatsie:** Thank you so much I really appreciate the time uh looking forward to another session Alison. Have a great day everyone. Looking forward to more conversation.

**Alison Whiting:** Thank you.