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HEAD OF THE UUMMANNAQ CHILDREN'S HOME AND DIRECTOR OF THE UUMMANNAQ POLAR INSTITUTE (UPI)

Summary

Since October 1985, Ann Andreassen is head of the Uummannaq Children's Home in Greenland, one of the biggest state foster-homes in the country, dedicated in the healing of young people victims of family neglect and abuse. In order to improve the therapeutical and educational work at the Children's home, her vision has always been to involve the whole community, the local Inuit culture and diverse international resources. At the beginning of the International Polar Year (2007), she founded the Uummannaq Polar Institute (UPI) to contribute in the preservation of the local Inuit culture and promote educational programmes for children and teenagers. The UPI functions hence as a permanent workshop with inspiring alternative educational means such as dog-sledge expeditions, study-travels, scientific work, film-making, music such as orchestral practice, theatre and art. The principal objective is to reconstruct sustainable well-being and edify an autonomous ground for personal development of Inuit children and teenagers by introducing cultural, environmental and scientific resources in this remote Arctic community. One of the main international achievements of the UPI is « Inuk », an internationally awarded Greenlandic feature film of which she is producer. In her international work, she has been participating in numerous projects with different academic and scientific institutions such as the Alfred Wegener Institute (Germany), the research centre Cultures Environment Arctic Representations Climate of the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France) and the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution (USA). For her 30 years work and success with child care and education, she has personally won several prizes, including the prestigious Ebbe Munck Price in Denmark in 2013 and Nersornaat, the highest medal of the Government of Greenland.

PUBLICATIONS

- "Children On Thin Ice - When Care and Culture Help Heal Greenland's Neglected Children", avec Jean-Michel Huctin, Internord 21, sous la dir. de Jean Malaurie, CNRS Editions, 2011.
- "People On Thin Ice: The Need for Education and Research in Greenland", *Climate Change and Sustainable Development in the Arctic Region*, UNESCO Publishing, 2009.
- "Børn på tynd is", avec Jean-Michel Huctin, *Børn og unge i Grønland - en antologi*, MIPI, Ilisimatusarfik, Milik Publishing, 2007.