

Michaele Berman 1973

douglas pringle & michaele berman ask all CANADIANS to:

FIGHT GLOBAL CRIME

The first act of aggression by Whites against the Native Peoples of the North was the European-based whaling industry. In precontact times, Eskimo peoples lived a comfortable existence in whalebone and-skin houses, inside the rib cage of the giant whales. The igloo which is recognized as a characteristic dwelling was actually an EMERGENCY shelter used when travelling, hunting, migrating.

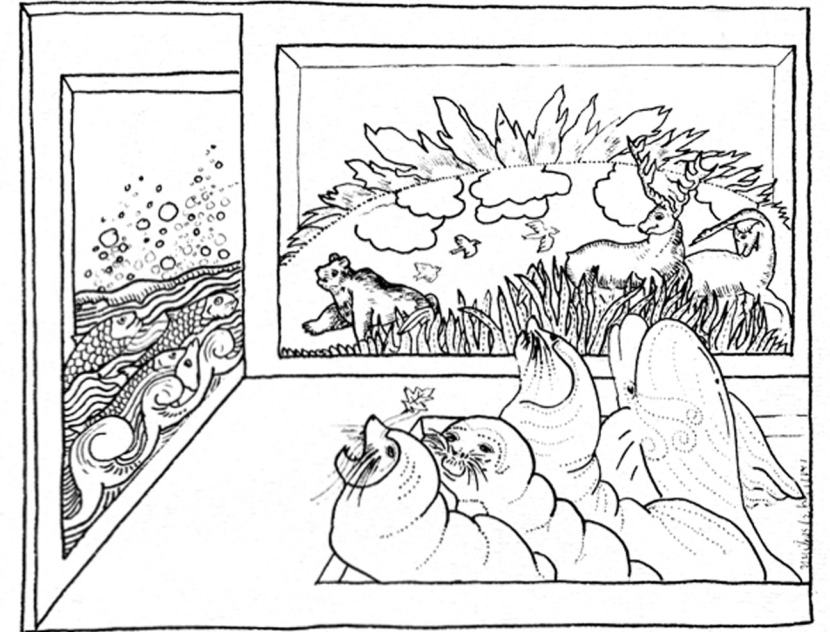
A century ago, this symbiotic man/whale culture had been eliminated, and emergency measures became a permanent phenomenon. Native Peoples were forced to hunt small animals, which require migration after herds, and which provide no potential building materials. Rasmussen reported that after a ten-year period at the turn of the century, Hudson's Bay settlements had a 95% population change; the stability of a delicate natural symbiosis had been permanently damaged.

The James Bay Project is a foolish and irreversible second act to this anti-ecological horror show. Five years ago, we were told that uranium was the answer to the world's power demands; now the Flood has been proposed.

Present scientific opinion is that whales have larger and more sophisticated brains than human beings. They are the mirror race to man, meeting us at the water's surface; they use sound as we use sight. Whales have never attacked humans unprovoked, and the suggestion has been made that they react to whalers as we do to insects carrying a deadly disease; they will not acknowledge us as masters, only as pests.

Canadian Identity is founded on the crystalline lesson of the polar environment. The government's recent commitment to restore the whale population suggests an eco-awareness totally lacking from the James Bay proposal. Native Peoples and the wilderness they occupy deserve first priority.

STOP THE JAMES BAY PROJECT



drawings by Michaele Berman 1973