

# 'WHO GETS LABRADOR : US OR THEM'

## Cast of characters:

Amos Winters who is the Narrator (Labrador)  
William Rochasak who is Joe Farce (Ottawa)  
Eugenia Hunter who is Muckluk John (Ottawa)  
Albert Abel who is Mr. Smallfalls (Nfld)  
Sandra Flowers who is Mr. Hank Foust (New Lab Party)  
William Hunter who is Rene Le Quack (Quebec)  
Clara Winters who is Ms Fanny Fillet (LIA)

Labrador, as a geographical and political component of the greater entity known as Newfoundland and Canada, is facing many doubts and questions as to its future direction, especially in regards to development, identity, and independence. This play attempts to present to the audience some indication of the possible forces that may be confronting Labrador in the 80's. It is indeed a time of change - a time of questions, discussions, doubts, and confrontations. What will exactly happen?

This play has been the result of ideas and opinions generated amongst the students and staff at the community school in Hopedale. The actual script was compiled and written by Eugene Flynn, Language Arts teacher, and Miss Sally Beckett has rendered her assistance in the area of costume and design.



## RECITATION

I remember long ago ..... when snowdrifts moved over  
the land disturbed only by the numbing cold.

Feeling the dashing waters surround my canoe.

As I quickly made my way upstream, always delighting  
in the peace and beauty of this land.

Listening to my fellow trappers' gripping tales of a  
land untouched by man.

They say we are a rare breed but I can't say for our  
family. I worked hard for every pelt that I hauled home to  
family.

And every fish that touched the bottom of my boat.

I know I was an honest and contented man.

Thinking back -- It was a good life, a very simple  
life -- fresh air, hard work, and happy families.

Yes, I can recall those days with great pride and

Back then we always treated our resources with respect  
be they water, land, wildlife or hunting grounds.

And our minerals were left buried beneath the rock

Each man was proud to work and live and take only what  
was needed.

And always satisfied with what the land could give.

Now they want our hunting and fishing grounds but they  
don't seem to care. They want to take. What have they got  
give.

Oh they say it is "changing time" and they say they  
will look after us.

But I don't want any government check or house.

I have two strong hands and am able to feed my family  
and build my own house.

Oh Changing times and the days of the trapper  
are disappearing.

As the young folk sip another beer and just brood  
the past.

3T I: SCENE I

(The narrator appears on stage alone, dressed as an "Old Timer" Labradorian, and recited a recitation on the old days in Labrador and the "changing times". Following the recitation the narrator removes the outer layer of traditional clothing to reveal "Labrador" displaying all of her riches and resources - signs of hydro-power, off-shore oil, mineral rights, forestry, fishery and land claims. He then begins to explain to the audience the purpose of the "who gets Labrador committee meeting" which is about to take place.

The Narrator (Labrador) begins:

As you all see my name is Labrador - now if you just stop for a minute or two and roll the name Labrador over a few times in your head I'm sure most everyone here will get a warm feeling right from their head down to their toes. Well anyway, this here who gets Labrador committee you'll all be meeting shortly are here to determine what lies ahead for me - LABRADOR. Myself now, I don't know who gave this bunch of Know-it-alls the right to determine me destiny, but you know how that governments crowd gets on when they come together at one of them there fancy meetings. Why they feel that their power comes directly from the man up above and all the decisions to be made will be the right ones for all of us to abide by. Oh but watch for that there glow in their eyes - the greed and lust to get more and take all at the expense of everyone who cherishes this life given piece of land that we all call home. Oh, and to recall once more, the days when the old folks moved across this great land to borrow what they needed to live and survive, and then these smart fellers, with brains enough to burn, comes along and the only thing they have on their minds is development, development, and more development, and pretty soon after the dollar bill is discussed, everyone forgets that once the blood is taken from the veins, I becomes bare and lifeless, while some fellar in Ottawa or New York lines his pocket - (Short Pause) - WHAT A WAY TO GO. AND OH YES! Then there fellows have the gall to pretend that they are doing all of these great deeds for the good of all mankind, pretending that they're getting nothing out of it. Anyway, without further delay we'll get on with this meeting and find out what really all them brains, when put together in one pile, can come up with.

(As the narrator refers to each character they appear on stage and go to their respective positions, New Labrador Party representative, Mr. Hank Foust, appears on stage.)

Now this first fellow you'll be confronted with is from that New Labrador Party, which had its hey-day back in the days of Mr. Bindgis. We haven't seen hide nor tail of him for years. Now this fellow is a very concerned politician - but one who has an unusual interest in the highways and and transportation in this area. Yes! We'll turn the rivers into new highways for all to take bus tours of the Labrador countryside on a Sunday afternoon. However, the motives aren't entirely selfish - Ladies and Gentlemen, meet Mr. Hank Foust.

Next on the list here are two important fellows from that there capital hill in Ottawa. That first fellow who enters is Joe Farce. He was invited to the who gets Labrador meeting after he promised Labrador that he'd move the Nfld./Lab. embassy from Joe Batt's arm in Nfld. up to Hebron on the far northern Labrador coast.

And that second fellow from Ottawa strolling close behind Mr. Joe sort of like a guiding angel is no other than Markluk John, himself. After the war he promoted the style of the Labrador Markluk in Ottawa we figured he couldn't be all that bad as the rumours were saying. Oh, Mr. Joe Farce claims he had a pair of marklucks too, but he claims that he couldn't find the place to put his fingers so he left them in Ottawa.

That next fellow entering is from that wonder province of Quebec - Mr. Rene Le Truck. Interest in his province here was generated after he presented a set of plans for the development of a Labrador industry and the building of a new paper mill on the Churchill River, to manufacture cigarette packages. He is the only one here who has some definite plans about your boundaries - oh yes - we can't forget his promise to sell back to us our own hydro-power from that mighty Churchill River.

And last, but not least, ladies and gentlemen - this young lady who claims she fights for everyone's rights and claims, - what a colourful vocabulary she has! It's a pity that she never seems to know where to put the right colours. I never realized that a person could make words sound so confusing. She is here to represent the Labrador ~~Labrador~~ Association. To hear her talk you would think that every man, woman, and child in Labrador should be given 10,000 acres each to turn into a private rose garden. Next she'll demand that Labrador be moved further south. Meet Ms Fanny Fillet. Oh! By the way, the DIA won't have a representative here as such - these who aren't on sabbatical or retreat are on vacation in Maine.



20.

Narrator: Oh! I think that the "who gets what conference" is about to begin. (Conversation is directed at Labrador)

Mr. Smallfalls: If you remain part of this rich, wealthy, well-off, prosperous union of Nfld. and Labrador, I not only promise to Labrador one hydro-electric plant, not two hydro-electric plants, but six new hydro-electric plants all similar to the one I gave to Quebec. And I also promise to re-settle every community on the Labrador coast and move them all to Mud Lake, where they can throw away their boats and trap lines and live happily ever after.

Mr. Han

Mr. Le Quack: Ah. Ah. Excuse Si vous plait - la attention Pour une moment. Think Monseigneur Labrador of the wealth and culture if we were to disregard the boundary between Quebec and Labrador. Think of the many T.V. stations, the cigarette factories in every town, the fast cars and everyone speaking French - and think of all the electricity Quebec would sell you from the Churchill Falls - and in the near future, monseigneur, think of the new Independent Nation of Quebec/Labrador.

Mr. Joe Farce: Mr. Labrador, if I may be allowed to speak I guarantee you every dollar from the off-shore oil will stay in Nfld. I also promise to speak to you on separation all.

Muckluk John: Mr. Joe Farce meant that some of the money would stay in Labrador and that we are prepared to discuss the possibility of separation.

Joe Farce: That's exactly what I meant to say.

Muckluk John: I personally promise Labrador that I will replace CN Marine and Wordworths Oil with Chimo Shipping so as to guarantee services twice a month rather than once a month. I also promise to hook up an oil well for each community.

Ms. Fanny Fillet: (a very "emotional" speech) No, No, No, No, Don't listen to any of them. The proposals proposed are totally incomprehensible due to the lack of indept study which should have been completed before such a purposeful proposal was proposed. The Labrador Native Association owns Labrador and we have a very detailed set of plans for our land claims to the land. Everyone here will have a private gold mine in their own back gardens.

Mr. Hank Foust: I say to hell with them all. We don't need Ottawa. We don't need Smallfalls because he'll give whats left of Labrador away and we don't need that other gro crowd. (As he moves towards Labrador.) I say Tom Birdgis for premier. of our New Province of Labrador. He's arriving next week from an extended holiday in Columbia with friend, pal, and partner, Mr. John B. Boyolo. (As he attempts to lead Labrador away from the others the other members of the meeting shout and cry - NO! NO! COME WITH ME - all reachers for Labrador at the same time and strips her of her resources - as Labrador struggles to escape from all of them. They all chase Labrador around the stage to get a part of her wealth. As they all get a part they join hands and shout for joy, holding their various parts above their heads. Labrador stumbles towards the front of the stage, shaking and shouting to the audience, dressed in a one-piece long-John suit "IS THIS WHAT'S IN STORE FOR ME IN THE 80's".

Mr. Eugene Flynn