

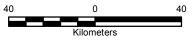
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 14 Compiled: TL Date: 9/17/2014 Scale: 1: 1,750,000

Data Sources: Natural Resources Canada, Geobase®, Nation Topographic Database, AREVA Resources Canada Inc.Natural Resources Canada, Caslys Consulting Ltd.

Department of Environment (Government of Nunavut

**FIGURE 3.6-7**LAYERED CARIBOU CALVING AREAS WITH IDENTIFIED IQ CALVING

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT** VOLUME 3 - PART 2





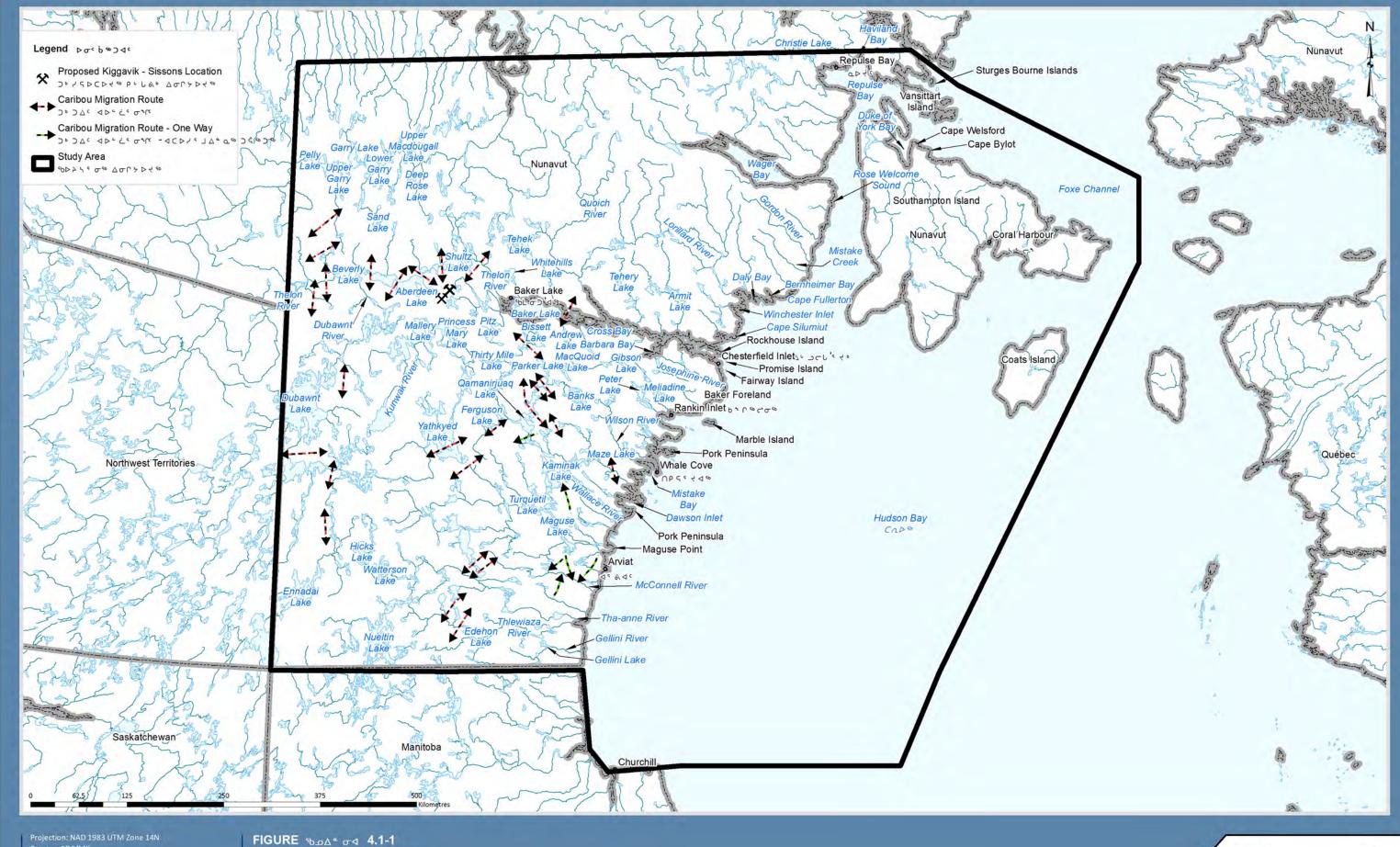
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## 4 Results for the Kivalliq Communities

## 4.1 Community Results

The following sections summarise the results of the literature review, interviews, Elder and hunter focus group discussions, and community review meetings. This report also incorporates information related to wildlife, plants, and resource harvesting activities identified during the Socio-Economic focus group discussions for each of the seven Kivalliq communities. Figure 4.1-1 shows caribou routes identified during a review of the Nunavut Atlas (Riewe 1992), as well as place names mentioned in the following sections. Information from the Nunavut Atlas was based upon community-based research in each of the Nunavut communities (Riewe 1992). Knowledge related to changes in weather patterns has been summarised and appears at the end of this section.



Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 14N Creator: CDC/MK

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## 4.2 Baker Lake

The Baker Lake hunters and Elders described themselves as inland people, very few of whom harvest, or have an interest in marine mammals (IQ-BLH 2009; IQ-BLE 2009; IQ-BLHT 2011<sup>22</sup>). Before moving into the settlement of Baker Lake, people were centred along the Thelon River, Kunwak River (south of Mallery Lake) and Kazan River systems and inland at Beverly Lake (Freeman 1976:92,108). Baker Lake Elders had lived in various camps on the tundra in the Baker Lake region and began to move into the community prior to 1960 (IQ-BL03 2008). Elders said that they moved to Baker Lake so their children could attend school, and one Elder described the difficulty of sending children to school while they were still living in an igloo around 1969 (IQ-BL03 2008). Some Elders added that the availability of social services was also an important consideration for moving to Baker Lake (IQ-BL13 2008), while others added that poverty, and the lack of food and wildlife were also important reasons (IQ-BL08 2008; BL13 2008). One of the Elders said his family was forced to move to the Baker Lake community by the RCMP (IQ-BL02 2008).

The following sections describe the various harvesting and other traditional activities of the Baker Lake Inuit, as well as culturally important areas identified during the literature review, interviews, focus group discussions, and community review meetings. For a discussion on Inuit use of the land refer to Technical Appendix 1 F. The assessment discussion on caribou and terrestrial environment can be found in Volume 6 while socio-ecological context is discussed in Volume 9. Details from the 2008 interviews, the 2009 focus group discussions, the 2011 community review meetings and the 2014 meetings with the Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet HTOs are available in Attachment B of Appendix 3B IQ Documentation.

## 4.2.1 Wildlife and Harvesting

Figure 4.2-1 shows caribou information gathered during interviews and focus group discussions held in Baker Lake. Figure 4.2-2 shows other wildlife habitat information while Figure 4.2-3 shows identified hunting and caching areas gathered from interviews, focus group discussions and meetings.

Most Elders participating in the Project interviews said that in the past, caribou and fish were their major food source (IQ-BLE 2009). One Elder explained that fox and Arctic hare were eaten when caribou were scarce (IQ-BL01 2008), and another said that their diet was fish only, as caribou were scarce after moving to Baker Lake (IQ-BL06 2008). Another Elder explained that caribou and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> IQ-BLHT 2011: Hunters emphasized that most people in Baker Lake still depend on caribou for food

ptarmigan were their main food source, as they did not have fishing rods to catch fish in the summer (IQ-BL08 2008). Hunters emphasized that most people in Baker Lake still depend on caribou for food (IQ- BLH 2009; BLHT 2011), and that it is a major food staple for many families (IQ-BLH 2009<sup>23</sup>IQ-BLHTO 2014<sup>24</sup>).

The hunters who were interviewed in the 2011 community review meeting explained that some hunters need to go out every week in order to catch caribou to feed their families (IQ-BLHT 2011<sup>25</sup>). During the 2014 HTO meeting, members explained that they hunt all the land and that they don't have specific routes that they follow (IQ-BLHTO April 2014<sup>26</sup>, IQ-BLHTO April 2014<sup>27</sup>) *According to traditional caribou hunting practices, the first group of the migrating herd must be allowed to pass through an area undisturbed, and after a few days the hunting can commence* (IQ-BLHT 2011). Pregnant cows are not typically hunted, and calves are only hunted when Elders make a request for softer meat (IQ-BLHT 2011<sup>2829</sup>; IQ-BLE 2011<sup>30</sup>). The Elders have noticed that the caribou and other animals like to go where there is shelter, and they usually try to stay in areas where there are big lakes (BLE 2011).

According to one participant from the community review in 2011, there is a spring migration of caribou that crosses the Thelon River (IQ-BLHT 2011). Another hunter said that in July and August caribou from the Beverly herd are hunted by Quoich River (IQ-BLHT 2011). It was noted that in August and September, caribou travel to the Baker Lake area from the south-east and south-west, but they do not migrate down from the north at this time (IQ-BLHT 2011). It was reported that in December, caribou from the Kamaniriak herd are hunted south of Baker Lake (IQ-BLHT 2011).

Areas used for hunting, trapping, and other resources are dependent on the movements of the caribou. A comparison between areas used by residents of Baker Lake in the past, and areas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> IQ-BLH 2009: Because most of the people depend on caribou as a food source, they believe it is important to protect the whole environment, including migration routes, bird nesting area, and marine mammals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> IQ-BL HTO April 2014: Caribou is our priority. We are not entirely agreeing with opening the mine. There are a lot of activities such as tourism. We are concerned with the impact on our food supply.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> IQ-BLHT 2011: caribou meat doesn't last long, especially if you have a family. A biologist took all the meat from a number of caribou and on average 50lbs of edible meat per caribou. So some people need to go out every week.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> IQ-BL HTO April 2014: As a hunter and fisherman all my life, I hunt all the land and it's hard for me to tell you and document the routes I take. I just pack up and go hunt and fish.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> IQ-BL HTO April 2014: You asked where we hunt. We hunt everywhere. We hunt where the caribou go. Caribou is our priority.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> IQ-BLHT 2011: Some elders like the tender meat from calves. A hunter may take a calf in an Elder requests.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> IQ-BLHT 2011: the way some of us were raised,we don't unless you are starving. We do hunt by season: August-November before the rut we hunt bulls. After the rut, we hunt barren (non-pregnant) cows. If you have been hunting your whole life, you can tell when a caribou is pregnant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> IQ-BLE 2011: If hunted, calves are taken in September as they are more tender at this time of year

currently used is difficult as variations in caribou migration routes have occurred over the years. For example, one of the people interviewed *believes that caribou naturally change their migration patterns every few years* (IQ-BL01 2009), and an Elder explained that *while herds used to start migrating towards the southeast and cross at Annigguq Lake and the mouth of Kazan River, they now start to migrate from the southeast towards the northwest* (IQ-BL05 2008). Another Elder simply stated that *the herds do not take the same routes anymore* (IQ-BL02 2008).

The hunters from the community review in 2011 also noted that it is normal for caribou migration routes to vary from year to year, and mentioned that in 2011 Baker Lake hunters did not observe as many caribou around Baker Lake as in previous years (IQ-BLHT 2011<sup>31</sup>). The interview participants felt that exploration activities, airplanes, and transport trucks may be disturbing the caribou migration (IQ-BLHT 2011<sup>32</sup>). Specifically, the HTO representatives perceive that the Rankin Mine and the Meadowbank Mine have caused negative impacts to the caribou in the past and are concerned that a similar process will take place at Kiggavik (IQ-BLHT 2011<sup>33</sup>, also see Section3.1.6). This perception was again expressed during the 2014 meeting with the HTO in regards to a discussion on calving grounds. One member said "We don't see Beverly traditional calving because caribou have moved on; calving elsewhere now. Something impacted them to move. Thelon Basin, Shultz, Aberdeen area, heavy mining mineral exploration; this is why caribou moved". (IQ-BLHTO April 2014) Another member said he looked for the Beverly herd and one year found it far away due to industry drilling (or some type of activity) (IQ-BLHTO April 2014). The participants reported that in October and November (2011) the caribou were observed passing through the area around Baker Lake, but very few have been seen since (IQ-BLHT 2011). The participants were hopeful that the caribou would return with the spring migration, but said that only time would tell (IQ-BLHT 2011).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> IQ-BLHT: Not many caribou have come through Baker Lake this year (2010/11). There were very few caribou in the summer months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> IQ-BLHT: This year people are not finding many caribou. Exploration activities, transport trucks may be disrupting caribou migration. In Oct/Nov caribou passed right through and since then there have been very few caribou. Maybe they will come back during spring migration but time will tell.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> IQ-BLHT: Meadowbank was once an area where caribou would migrate to and thru, however there are no caribou there this year (2010/11).

