

SECTION 4 • SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT & OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 VALUED SOCIOECONOMIC COMPONENTS

Following is a list of the valued socioeconomic components (VECs) in the project area as identified by the scientific and traditional knowledge gathered to date. Each is of important cultural or economic significance and is intimately connected with one or more of the other components, as well as with valued ecosystem components.

- archaeological sites (graves, tent rings, etc.)
- traditional use areas
- employment/training
- traditional/current lifestyle.

4.2 REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

On 1 April 1999, the Northwest Territories was officially divided into Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The division was the result of the *Nunavut Act* from the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). In February 1999, the residents of Nunavut elected 19 members to their first Legislative Assembly.

The regional offices of the Nunavut government are divided between Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay. Kugluktuk has the regional offices of the Department of Education, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and Sustainable Development, and Cambridge Bay has the regional offices of the Departments of Community Government and Transportation, Finance and Administration, Health and Social Services, Human Resources, Justice, and Public Works and Services.

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) represents the Inuit, and implements the Inuit obligations of the NLCA. Its office in Cambridge Bay is responsible for coordinating land management issues throughout Nunavut.

4.3 THE HAMLET OF BAKER LAKE

The Hamlet of Baker Lake is located 92 km (by winter ice road) to the south of the proposed mine site, in the geographical centre of Canada. It lies on the northwest shore of Baker Lake, 160 km east of the treeline, near the mouth of the Thelon River.

Until the mid-1950s, most Inuit still lived on the land in areas surrounding Baker Lake. The *Utkuhiksalingmiut* came from the Back River; the *Hanningajurmiut* from the Garry Lake area; the *Akilinirmiut* from the Thelon River area around Beverly Lake; the *Qairnirmiut* from the lower Thelon River, Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet; and the *Harvaqtuurmiut* from the Kazan River area. These groups share a history of life lived almost exclusively inland, relying on the resources of the barrenlands (mainly caribou and fish). A nursing station and federal school were built in 1956 and 1957, respectively, and children between the ages of 6 and 16 were brought to Baker Lake to attend

school. During the ensuing two decades, more and more Inuit settled in the community of Baker Lake, which now hosts a population of approximately 1,242 people consisting of 91% Inuit and 9% non-Inuit (see Table 4.1). The Hamlet is accessible by barge and by air year round with regular daily service from Rankin Inlet.

Baker Lake is unique in that it represents Nunavut's only inland, non-marine Inuit community. Inland Inuit are descendants of the Thule-Caribou Inuit who, until very recently, followed a nomadic lifestyle, moving with the seasons and the migratory animals on which they depended. Almost entirely dependent on caribou, their custom was to travel vast distances to hunt the migratory caribou herds in the fall, trap fox for pelts to trade in the winter, ice and spear fish in the spring, and hunt caribou and fish in the summer. The inland Inuit currently integrate both traditional and modern lifestyles.

Table 4.1: Baker Lake 1996 Community Profile

Category	Number
Total population	1,242
Persons in school	350
Elders (over 65 years)	52
Children 5 years and under	197
Population under age 24 years	>50%
Inuit able to work	593
Inuit working full-time	164
Inuit unemployment rate	71.38%
Non-Inuit able to work	50
Non-Inuit working full-time	46
Non-Inuit unemployment rate	8%
Total community unemployment rate	66.3%

(Report of the Community Planning Advisor, August 1997)

4.4 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Cumberland strongly supports using traditional knowledge to understand the existing environment and the interaction between ecological systems. Cumberland also recognizes the value of using traditional knowledge to help predict potential impacts and develop mitigation technologies.

Traditional information has been collected during public meetings and site visits by Elders to the camp. Traditional studies were also undertaken in 1998 to determine traditional use and traditional ecological areas within and around the Meadowbank project area. The study was accomplished by way of interviews with thirteen local Inuit Elders (men and women) from the Meadowbank area in association with the staff at the Inuit Heritage Centre in Baker Lake. An archaeologist (Deborah Webster) and heritage consultant (Hattie Mannik) were also consulted.

4.4.1 Current & Traditional Use Areas

According to the Elders of Baker Lake, the area between Baker Lake and the Meadowbank site was most commonly used as part of a transportation corridor between Baker Lake and the Back River, their traditional winter hunting and fishing area. While hunting and fishing activities were, and still are, conducted near the property, these activities seem to be of an opportunistic nature while enroute to somewhere else. The Inuit also stop to camp at various lake sites—including the Portage Lakes—but these sites are not annually used. More permanent camp sites utilized by both current residents and their ancestors are further north.

Traditionally Tehek and the Portage Lakes were used extensively for fishing, fox trapping, caribou hunting, and food caching, all of which are still practiced today (see Figure 4.1). This area is also reported by the Elders to be very spiritual, and grave sites exist along the shore of Second Portage Lake. In fact, there are many grave sites located randomly throughout the area between Baker Lake and the Meadowbank study site (see Figure 4.2).

The proposed winter road is also part of a traditional transportation corridor that passes directly through Third Portage Lake. Many important historical locations are found along this route.

No permanent outpost camps or commercial tourist facilities exist in the vicinity of the proposed mine site, and no known traditional use areas occur within the footprint of the proposed development area. All traditional use areas outside of the project will be protected by future management plans developed between Cumberland and Inuit Elders, Heritage associations, and the local government. Every effort will be made to ensure that traditional sites are not disturbed or altered.

4.4.2 Archeological Study

In 1999, Webster Heritage Consulting undertook archaeological investigations at the Meadowbank site and along the proposed winter road route (see Figure 4.3). The objective of the archeological study was to inventory archaeological sites within the project area and to assess the potential impact of the various component parts of the Meadowbank project on the archaeological resources.

The area was divided into three study areas; A, B and C. Area A included the proposed mine site area (the camp and proposed plant site); Goose Island and the small islands to the south and north; North Portage area; Third Portage area; the proposed airstrip; and potential tailings and rock disposal sites B and C1. The Portage areas were traditionally used to fish, hunt, trap fox, and cache meat. Grave sites and a place of spiritual significance were reported to be in this area as well. Area B consisted of the proposed winter road from Baker Lake to the mine site. This area is mostly Crown land with a small portion of Inuit surface and subsurface land as well as some municipal land. It is currently used as a travel corridor between Baker Lake and other communities. Area C was the land outside and to the west of the proposed mine site where graves were reported to exist. There are no known archaeological sites or remains identified within 500 m or adjacent to the present project footprint. Most of the sites observed in the study area were temporary campsites less than 50 years old. Pre-Dorset and Dorset age sites were not encountered.

A total of 42 sites were recorded in the study area, two of which were recorded prior to the 1999 field study. Most sites were small with one or two features, although one site had over 15 features. Tent rings, semi-subterranean houses, *qarmait* (autumn houses), hearths, markers, caches, a fox trap, graves, lithic scatters, and some unidentified features were observed. Faunal remains were caribou. A few recent artifacts were also located.

The most common features were tent rings in camp sites that contained between one and over eight rings. Circular, oval, and square-shaped tent rings were observed. Five of the tent rings had midsections or dividers used for sectioning off the tent for different activities. There was minimal vegetation growth in the majority of rings, which indicates recent use.

Figure 4.1: Traditional Land Use – Fishing, Hunting, Caching & Caribou Migration

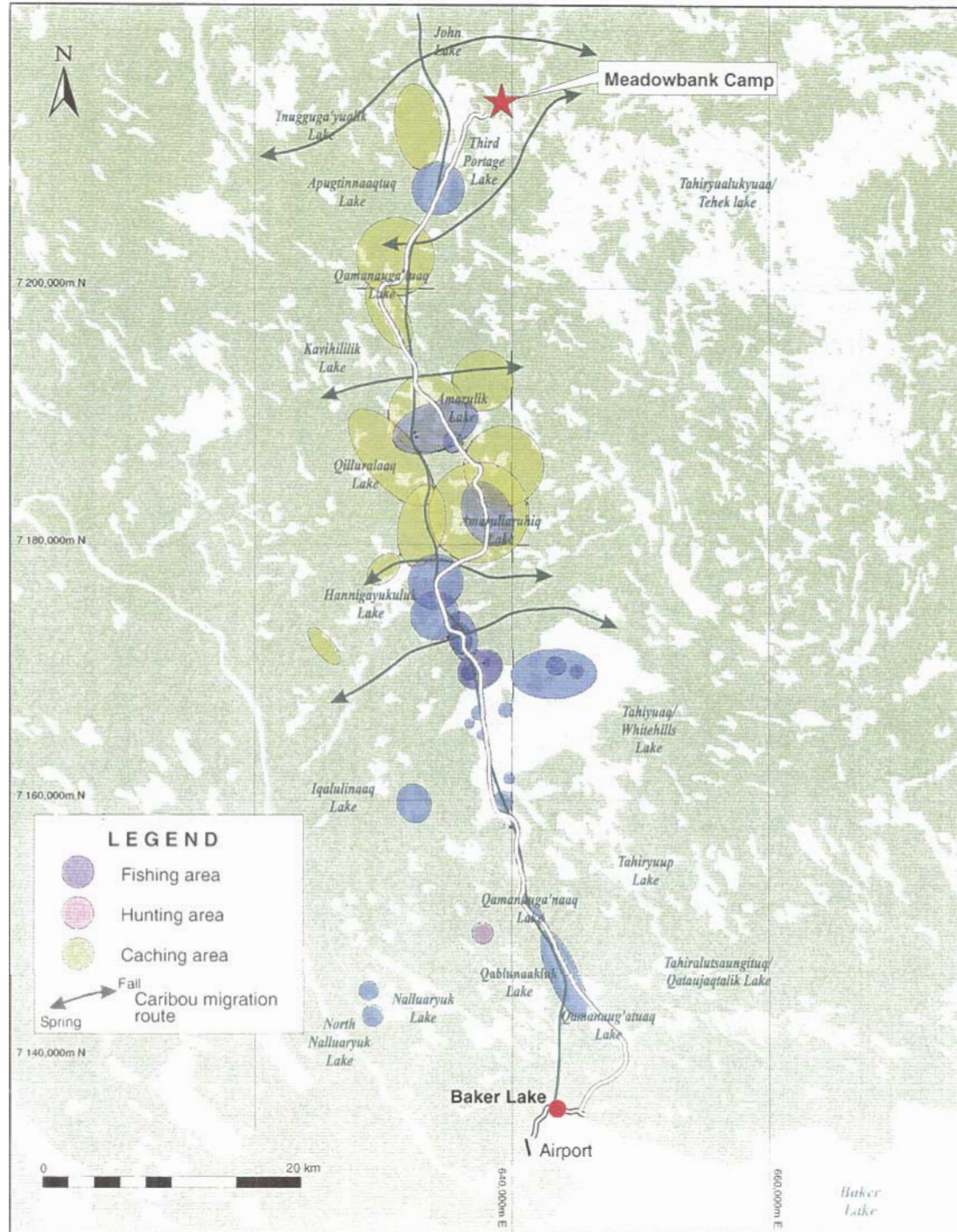


Figure 4.2: Traditional Land Use – Graves, Spiritual Areas, Birth Island, Tent Rings & Camps

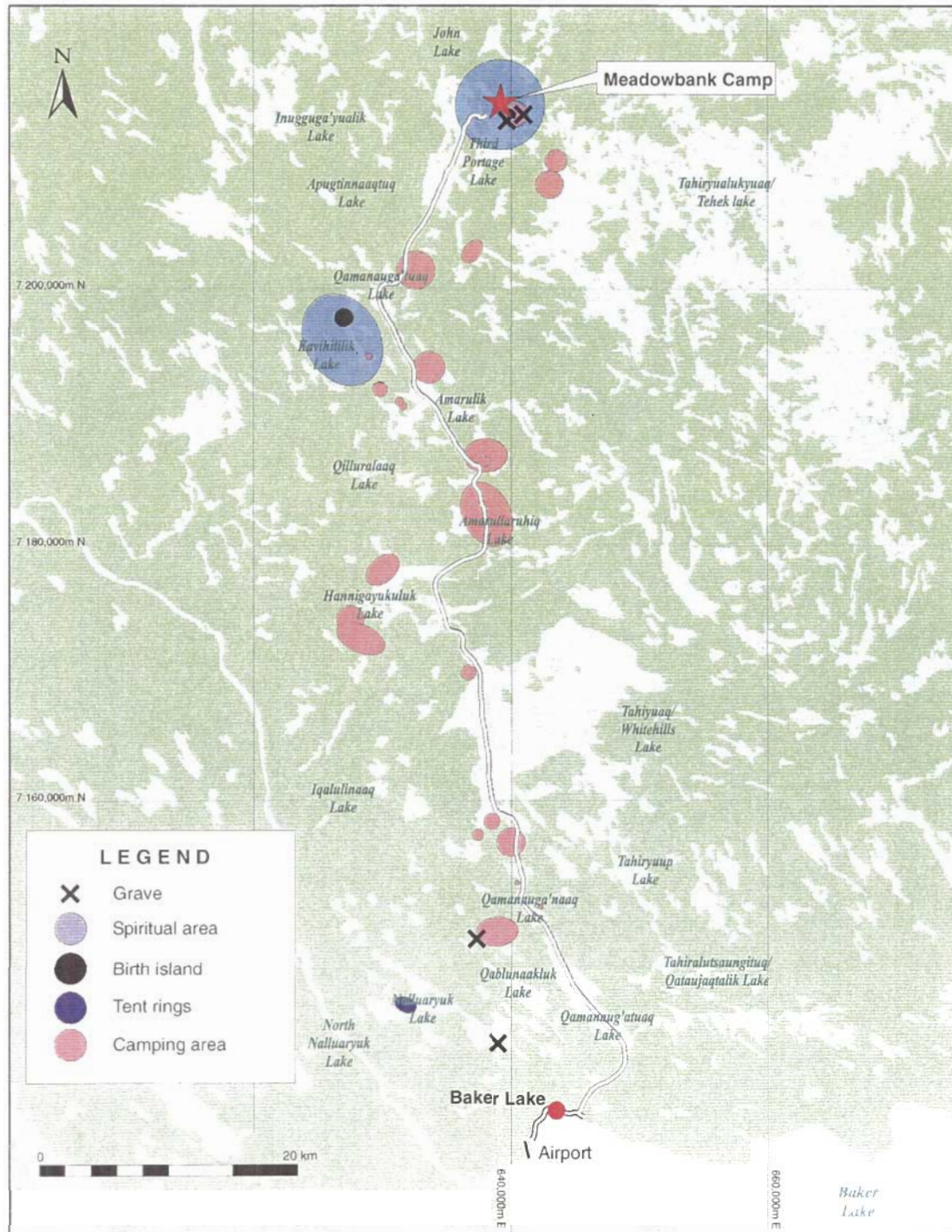
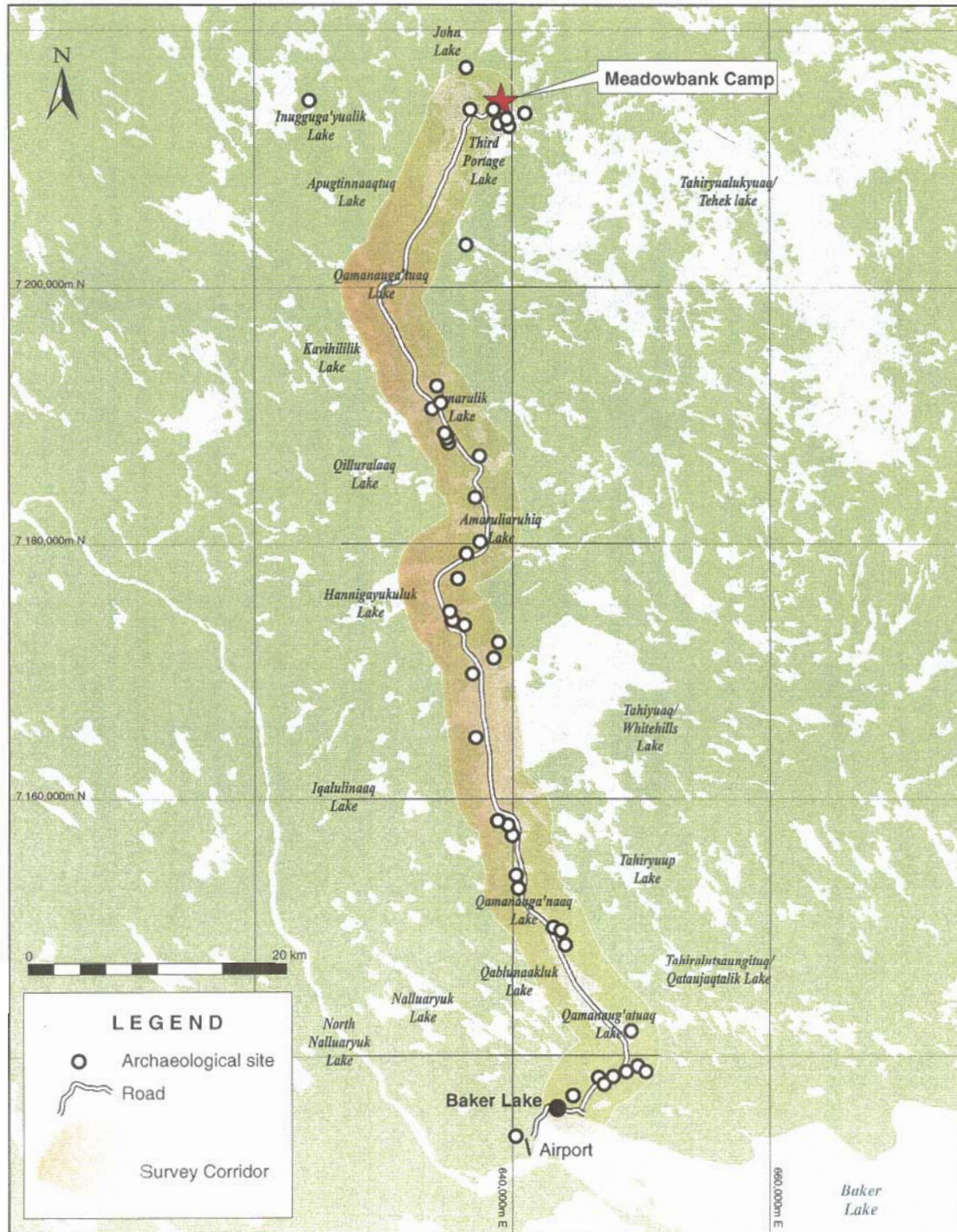


Figure 4.3: Archeological Survey Area & Locations



Semi-subterranean houses were located at one site in Area B and were constructed of heavy quartzite slabs. Caribou bones and bullet-making material were associated with the site. Qarmait were located at two sites in Area B and were roofed with skins supported by wooden poles. Six hearths or fireplaces were located at four sites in Areas A and B outside of tent rings. Some were built in the shelter of a boulder. Markers were observed at six sites in Areas A, B, and C and were constructed of one or more stones placed usually on a boulder to indicate an important place. Caches, found both open and closed, were used to conceal and preserve provisions and/or tools. Caribou meat was often stored there in the fall. One stone fox trap, a tower trap or *ublihaut*, was observed in Area B. Lithic scatter in the form of quartzite flakes were located at three sites in Area B. Eight sites in Areas A and B had unidentified features.

While over 16 graves sites were reported to be in Area B and over three in Area A, only six were identified in the survey; five were bearing crosses and the names of the deceased. None of the graves had the traditional white quartzite stone at the north or south end to indicate the sex of the individual buried at the site.

Various historic artifacts were observed at the sites, which included tin cans, net floats, sled cross slat, glass bottles, and a metal scraper blade with two holes drilled at one end in which to secure a handle.

As a follow-up to this fieldwork, one Baker Lake elder, Silas Kalluk, was interviewed to help date a particular site.

4.5 SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Kivalliq communities are expressing concern over a stagnant economy, growing unemployment, increasing dependency on government programs, and limited opportunities for development. Unemployment in the region is among the highest in Canada, and the government provides over 80% of the revenue requirements through employment or social assistance. Apart from government employment, the next largest revenue generator is tourism, although this represents a small portion of the economy. The cost of living is high and there is minimal opportunity for employment. Fortunately, the residences of Baker Lake can still rely on country foods to supply a large portion of their household resources.

Baker Lake has a young population, most of whom were born after the relocation of the people from the land into an urban community. This has resulted in a partial loss of traditional lifestyle and a need for more jobs. The young generation has inherited a strong respect for both the land and the wage society but is caught halfway in between. Their lack of training, education, and opportunities has resulted in a regional crisis for the Inuit. A community profile for Baker Lake is provided in Table 4.1. A detailed baseline social and economic survey will be conducted this winter/spring (2003) to update the current database.

4.6 LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

A relatively small local labour supply exists in Baker Lake and other nearby northern communities. Reinforcing this labour base with additional supervisory personnel and craft labour for mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation work will be necessary.

Developing the Meadowbank project would help the local area by providing employment and training opportunities and through local expenditures. To date, Cumberland has spent \$4,884,019 in the region (see Table 4.2 overleaf).

Cumberland is committed to hiring as many local residents as possible. During the field season in 2002, Cumberland was one of the largest employers in Baker Lake. Of a workforce of 44 people working at the exploration camp, 24 were from the local community (i.e., 54% of the camp's workforce). Similar employment averages have been maintained since 1995 when exploration activities began (see Table 4.3 below).

Table 4.3: Local Persons Employed to Date

Year	Employees
1995	3
1996	4
1997	7
1998	15
1999	8
2000	6
2001	6
2002	24

Cumberland has identified employment opportunities for locals and Northerners, assuming reasonable training success.

Discussions have been held with government agencies and educators regarding training initiatives to prepare interested locals for employment.

Table 4.2: Cumulative Local Expenditures by Cumberland

Activity	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
Wages	200,874	38,204	45,152	66,332	121,933	89,300	63,339.00	25,499.00
Expediting & Transport	481,993	69,190	44,700	192,472	285,195	233,752	156,200.00	110,000.00
Fuel	381,723	52,138	21,300	188,711	300,464	113,855	58,000.00	23,000.00
Equipment	26,288	66,819	104,800	46,323	8,246			
Food & Accommodation	226,758	37,316	77,450	95,768	132,400	100,071	93,500.00	22,000.00
Construction	22,500							
Drilling					24,798	2,310		
Aircraft	88,998			17,165	11,500	18,420	11,700.00	4,700.00
Community								
Environment	8,820		59,000	113,690	35,033	11,200		
Other	4,623					12,507	36,000.00	
Total (Kivalliq)	1,442,577	263,667	352,402	720,451	919,569	581,415	418,739.00	185,199.00
Total (Program)	6,500,000	1,285,960	1,793,922	3,253,183	3,969,095	2,883,792	2,281,000.00	910,420.00
Cumulative (Kivalliq)	4,884,019	3,441,442	3,177,775	2,825,373	2,104,922	1,185,353	603,938.00	185,199.00
Cumulative (Program)	23,077,369	16,577,369	15,291,409	13,497,487	10,044,307	6,075,212	3,191,420.00	910,420.00