

CUMBERLAND
RESOURCES LTD.

MEADOWBANK GOLD PROJECT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FRAMEWORK REPORT

APRIL 2005

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SECTION 1 • INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

Cumberland Resources Ltd. (Cumberland) is proposing to develop a mine on the Meadowbank property. The property is located in the Kivalliq region approximately 70 km north of the Hamlet of Baker Lake on Inuit-owned surface lands. Cumberland has been actively exploring the Meadowbank area since 1995. Engineering, environmental baseline studies, and community consultations have paralleled these exploration programs and have been integrated to form the basis of current project design.

The Meadowbank project is subject to the environmental review and related licensing and permitting processes established by Part 5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. To complete an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the Meadowbank Gold project, Cumberland followed the steps listed below:

1. Determined the VECs (air quality, noise, water quality, surface water quantity and distribution, permafrost, fish populations, fish habitat, ungulates, predatory mammals, small mammals, raptors, waterbirds, and other breeding birds) and VSECs (employment, training and business opportunities; traditional ways of life; individual and community wellness; infrastructure and social services; and sites of heritage significance) based on discussions with stakeholders, public meetings, traditional knowledge, and the experience of other mines in the north.
2. Conducted baseline studies for each VEC and compared / contrasted the results with the information gained through traditional knowledge studies.
3. Used the baseline and traditional knowledge studies to determine the key potential project interactions and impacts for each VEC.
4. Developed preliminary mitigation strategies for key potential interactions and proposed contingency plans to mitigate unforeseen impacts by applying the precautionary principle.
5. Developed long-term monitoring programs to identify residual effects and areas in which mitigation measures are non-compliant and require further refinement. These mitigation and monitoring procedures will be integrated into all stages of project development and will assist in identifying how natural changes in the environment can be distinguished from project-related impacts.
6. Produce and submit an EIS report to NIRB.

1.2 SCOPE OF THIS REPORT

This plan has been prepared by Cumberland Resources Ltd. (Cumberland) to address the terms of reference, as issued by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the environmental assessment of the Meadowbank Gold project. This Public Involvement Framework Report outlines the history of public involvement in the project to date (Section 2), as well as Cumberland's future plans for ensuring and actively soliciting public involvement in the project's future.

SECTION 2 • PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TO DATE

As shown in Table 2-1, Cumberland's record of public consultation has been comprehensive and varied since initial exploration activities began. In early 2004, Cumberland opened a liaison office in Baker Lake to ensure the public has a forum in which to discuss any questions and concerns. In that same year, a local Inuit man, Peter Haqpi, was hired to communicate with local residents in their own language on Cumberland's behalf.

Table 2-1: Community Meetings & Involvement

Year	Description
2004	<p>A community Liaison Office was opened in Baker Lake in early 2004. Michael Haqpi, a Baker Lake resident, was hired as Community Liaison Officer. Mr. Haqpi's role is to disseminate information on the Meadowbank project to the local community and respond to any questions or concerns Baker Lake residents may have about the project. The office also contains a Resource Centre, which provides information on mineral exploration, mining, and mining-related activities. A quarterly newsletter provides updates on activities at the Meadowbank site and general information on exploration, mining, and mine processes. The Baker Lake office also provides information on possible employment opportunities at site, both present and future, and collects résumés from individuals who may be interested in obtaining employment.</p> <p>On March 25th, a presentation was given to the Hamlet Council by Gordon Davidson (Project Manager, Exploration). At that time the council was updated on exploration plans for the 2004 field season and was informed of the delay for the completion of the feasibility study. The feasibility study was delayed due to the escalating costs for raw materials (steel, fuel, etc.) required for development. The delay in completion of the study will allow development alternatives to be examined that might reduce the capital costs required to bring the project to production. The feasibility study is now scheduled for completion in fourth quarter of 2004.</p> <p>A tour of the Meadowbank site was completed on June 7th with several representatives from Baker Lake. The tour group consisted of: David Simailak (MLA), Robert Seeteetnak (Hamlet Council), Samson Arnawyok (Hamlet Council), and Rod Rudia (RCMP).</p> <p>On September 16th, a representative of Cumberland Resources (Jeff Kellner, Manager of Camp Operations) attended the Kivalliq Science Camp in Baker Lake and engaged students in a discussion about mineral exploration and mining activities. Information on possible employment opportunities was also provided.</p> <p>To date, between 3 to 10 Inuk have been working at camp during 2004, and a total of 15 local employees were hired by Cumberland Resources in 2004. Duties ranged from cook's helper to geological, survey, and environmental technicians to heavy equipment operators and construction labourers.</p> <p>Tercon's Senior Equipment Operator/Trainer, Ms Noella Champagne, conducted training sessions at the Training Center in Baker Lake that were open to all persons interested in possible employment at the mine. Training focused on job safety and familiarization with a mine operating environment and the equipment. Emphasis was on the equipment that was being transported at that time, namely: 50 tonne trucks, mobile crushing plant, excavator, 966 loader, and service equipment.</p> <p>Several meetings with Arctic College personnel to further establish the scope and objective of planned training programs for local residents.</p>

Year	Description
2003	<p>An impact workshop was held with community organizations at the Nunammiut Hotel from March 24th to 26th. A dozen coloured plans and drawings showing mine layout and environmental study areas were displayed on the walls. Students, Elders, and members of the HTO and KIA were amongst the attendees who expressed concerns, voiced opinions and asked questions regarding potential impacts of the development project on air and water quality, fish and wildlife, local youth (in terms of the possible presence of drugs and/or alcohol at the camp), and on employment and job training. Hand-outs in both English and Inuktitut were distributed. In the course of a community visit to Baker Lake between September 30 and October 2, 2003. Nineteen community members were interviewed, including the mayor and deputy mayor, mental health nurse, RCMP constable, high school principal, social worker, the economic development officer, a representative from Arctic College, and one from Baker Lake Housing Authority, in addition to several concerned citizens. Issues centered on training, employment, and concerns regarding the possible negative effects of additional money flowing into the community as a result of the mine. Support for the Meadowbank project was overwhelming (95%), providing it delivers jobs for the community. Some concern regarding lack of information, particularly employment opportunities, was expressed.</p> <p>A series of meetings were held on Apr 24th and 25th in Baker Lake. On April 25th a well-attended public meeting was held at the Recreation Center with over 150 people in attendance. A translator provided by Cumberland ensured that everything was translated into Inuktitut. Two separate meetings were held the following day with the elders of the community as well as students at the High School respectively. In June 2003, representatives from HTO, CLARC and various regulators from territorial and federal governments were flown into camp and were given tours of the site.</p> <p>The number of local employees varied throughout the season, but generally 8 to 15 Inuk were working in the camp at any given time. There were a total of 36 local employees that were hired by Cumberland in 2003. Duties ranged from cook's helpers to geological and survey technicians to environmental technicians to heavy equipment operators and construction labourers and tradesmen. Travis Mannik and Roy Avaala of Baker Lake assisted in the 2003 fieldwork. Lucy Evo of the Inuit Heritage Center and Hattie Mannik translated summaries of the original 1999 and 2003 field reports into Inuktitut. Peter's Expediting Ltd. provided logistic support for the archaeological investigations undertaken by Webster Heritage Consulting at the Meadowbank property and surrounding area in 1999 and 2003.</p> <p>A year-end summary report was submitted to the Hamlet of Baker Lake; CLARC; HTO (Baker Lake); KIA (Rankin Inlet); KIA (Baker Lake); NWB (Gjoa Haven); NIRB (Cambridge Bay) and NTI (Cambridge Bay).</p> <p>The results of the 2003 work were presented to the Baker Lake Hamlet Council, board members of the Inuit Heritage Centre, and the Qilautimiut (Elders) Society on 6 and 7 November 2003.</p> <p>Several meetings with Arctic College personnel establishing scope and objective of planned training programs to prepare northerners for potential mine construction and operations work. Meetings identified basic skill sets that would enhance job applicants' opportunities with the mine. The basic skills included progress in the public education system, industrial safety awareness, an appreciation of work schedules, and introduction to specialized trades training as well as equipment operating.</p>

Year	Description
2002	<p>Favourable economic conditions made 2002 a busy year: an active program of exploration, drilling, and environmental baseline monitoring was pursued, and several site visits and meetings were held.</p> <p>On May 2nd, a meeting was held with 23 Elders of Baker Lake at the Elders Centre, during which Cumberland presented a translated slide show of its 2001 activities and 2002 plans, and reviewed the past five years of environmental studies and plans for the 2002 Environmental Program. The following day, Cumberland made two similar presentations at the Nunammiut Lodge, attended by representatives from the HTO, CLARC, KIA (Baker Lake), and the general public including prospectors. The presentation included a detailed description of the proposed new camp, the primary airstrip construction, and locations. There was a 30- to 45-minute question period following both meetings.</p> <p>Site visits to camp by David Aksawnee (HTO Chairman), Phillip Putumiraqtuq (HTO Secretary/Treasurer), Josiah Nuilalik (Elder), Norman Attungala (Elder), Joe Niego (Wildlife Officer/Mayor) and Jacob Ikinilik (Elder) were organized.</p> <p>A meeting was held with the Baker Lake HTO on September 19th to discuss findings of the wildlife and fisheries studies, and to collect local knowledge from the HTO members. The meeting was well attended by both HTO members and Cumberland officials. The hunters and trappers expressed concern regarding the impact of noise on wildlife, notably caribou.</p> <p>The number of local employees varied throughout the season, but generally 5 to 10 Inuk were working in camp at any given time. There were a total of 30 local employees that were hired by Cumberland Resources in 2002. Duties ranged from cook's helpers to geological and survey technicians to environmental technicians to heavy equipment operators and construction labourers and tradesmen.</p> <p>A year-end summary report was submitted to the Hamlet of Baker Lake; CLARC; HTO (Baker Lake); KIA (Rankin Inlet); KIA (Baker Lake); NWB (Gjoa Haven); NIRB (Cambridge Bay); and NTI (Cambridge Bay).</p>
2001	<p>A public meeting was held on April 20th for members of the general public and HTO, the Elders, Hamlet Councillors, Mayor, and Glen McLean, MLA for Baker Lake.</p> <p>The number of local employees varied throughout the season, but generally 2 to 5 Inuk were working in camp at any given time. There were a total of 8 local employees that were hired by Cumberland in 2001. Duties ranged from cook's helpers to geological and survey technicians to environmental technicians to heavy equipment operators and construction labourers.</p> <p>A year-end summary report was submitted to the Hamlet of Baker Lake; CLARC (Baker Lake); HTO (Baker Lake); KIA (Rankin Inlet); KIA (Baker Lake); NWB (Gjoa Haven); NIRB (Cambridge Bay); and NTI (Cambridge Bay).</p>
2000	<p>After the prefeasibility study report showed that more resources or a better gold price were required to economically develop the mine, only a minimal amount of exploration work was conducted in 2000.</p> <p>The number of local employees varied throughout the season, but generally 2 to 5 Inuk were working in camp at any given time. There were a total of 8 local employees that were hired by Cumberland in 2000. Duties ranged from cook's helpers to geological and survey technicians to environmental technicians to heavy equipment operators and labourers.</p> <p>A year-end summary report was submitted to the Hamlet of Baker Lake; CLARC (Baker Lake); HTO (Baker Lake); KIA (Rankin Inlet); KIA (Baker Lake); NWB (Gjoa Haven); NIRB (Cambridge Bay); and NTI (Cambridge Bay).</p>

Year	Description
1999	<p>Two meetings were held in Baker Lake. The first was convened in the Hamlet Chamber on April 12th. Participants included the mayor, William Noah; various council members; HTO representatives; the director of the KIA, Edwin Evo; and members of the general public. Affairs focused on overview activities for 1998 and 1999, a review of local expenditures, as well as projected construction, transportation, processing, and employment issues related to the mine. The second was held in the Igloo Hotel and included Nunavut's MLAs. A field trip to the mine site followed and was attended by Premier Paul Okalik and Ministers Jack Anawak, Peter Kilabuk, and Kelvin Ng. The objectives of the meetings were to present the current status of the mine site and encourage public interaction. Discussions centered on concern for local employment and the protection of caribou and fish. There was general agreement among the local Inuit to proceed with mine development providing there are environmental and social protection measures in place and providing there will be significant economic gain by the community.</p> <p>The number of local employees varied throughout the season, but generally 2 to 5 Inuk were working in camp at any given time. There were a total of 8 local employees that were hired by Cumberland in 2001. Duties ranged from cook's helpers to geological and survey technicians to environmental technicians to heavy equipment operators and construction labourers.</p> <p>A year-end summary report was submitted to the following: Hamlet of Baker Lake; CLARC (Baker Lake); HTO (Baker Lake); KIA (Rankin Inlet); KIA (Baker Lake); NWB (Gjoa Haven); NIRB (Cambridge Bay); and NTI (Cambridge Bay).</p> <p>Travis Mannik of Baker Lake and Jeff Tabvahtah of Nunavut Environmental Ltd. in Arviat provided field assistance in 1999, and Jose Attutuvaa volunteered his time in the evenings.</p> <p>Prior to starting the 1999 fieldwork, discussions about the project were held with Counsellor David Webster on behalf of the Baker Lake Hamlet Council; Mr. Webster is also the manager/curator of the local museum.</p> <p>An archaeological permit was not issued for the work in 1999, but a letter of authorization was received from Leah Oak, the Director of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth of the Government of Nunavut, dated 14 July 1999. The survey program was conducted from 21 July to 1 August 1999.</p> <p>Hattie Mannik, a traditional knowledge specialist, assisted Deborah Kigjugalik Webster (of Webster Heritage Consulting) with the interview of Elder Silas Kalluk of Baker Lake at the time of the 1999 survey.</p> <p>Lucy Evo of the Inuit Heritage Center and Hattie Mannik translated summaries of the original 1999 and 2003 field reports into Inuktitut.</p> <p>Peter's Expediting Ltd. provided logistic support for the archaeological investigations undertaken by Webster Heritage Consulting at the Meadowbank property and surrounding area in 1999 and 2003.</p>
1998	<p>Two meetings were held at both the HTO/KIA office and at Hamlet Chambers on May 1st to provide project development and environmental studies updates and to identify the primary concerns of the Inuit residing near the Meadowbank property. Mine development, wildlife protection, employment and job training, and the financial needs of the local community were the primary topics of discussion. A mock-up of the proposed airstrip was presented. All of these meetings were well attended. Attendees included: Cumberland officials; Nunavut Environmental Ltd.; Mayor, David Tagoona; KIA director Edwin Evo; and the HTO representative, Harold Etegyuk.</p> <p>A year-end summary report was submitted to the following: Hamlet of Baker Lake; CLARC (Baker Lake); HTO (Baker Lake); KIA (Rankin Inlet); KIA (Baker Lake) NWB (Gjoa Haven); NIRB (Cambridge Bay); and NTI (Cambridge Bay).</p> <p>A traditional study consisting of interviews with eight local Inuit Elders (men and women) was undertaken in October to determine traditional use and traditional ecological areas within and around the Meadowbank project development boundary.</p> <p>The number of local employees varied throughout the season, but generally 3 to 6 Inuk were working in camp at any given time. There were a total of 15 local employees that were hired by Cumberland in 1998. Duties ranged from cook's helpers to geological and survey technicians to environmental technicians and labourers.</p>

Year	Description
1997	<p>On March 24th, the Igloo Hotel in Baker Lake was the site of a public meeting with 22 members of the community. Information on the current and projected activities of Cumberland in the Meadowbank project was presented through a slide show and posters displayed in a hallway. Questions by local residents concerned dates of operation of the mine and employment opportunities for the Baker Lake community.</p> <p>From 19 April 1997 to 25 March 1998, approximately 40 Nunavummiut signed the guest book at Meadowbank Camp.</p> <p>On August 11th and 12th, Jacob Ikinilik, Elder and member of the HTO, toured the project site. Having lived in the area with his family before leaving in 1962, Mr. Ikinilik was able to provide information regarding traditional use and potential archaeological sites. He identified two grave sites and stated, at the landing strip, that his people rarely hunted in the area. He indicated he was pleased regarding the number of local people employed at the exploration camp.</p> <p>The number of local employees varied throughout the season, but generally 4 to 6 Inuk were working in camp at any given time. There were a total of 7 local employees that were hired by Cumberland in 1997. Duties ranged from cook's helpers to geological and survey technicians to environmental technicians and labourers.</p>
1996	<p>Cumberland met with 14 members of the Baker Lake Prospectors Association (BLPA) on April 1st. During discussions concerning employment, the members of the BLPA inquired whether jobs would be available at the drill sites or in equipment supply. Cumberland's representative replied that employment opportunities did exist at the sites and that two Baker Lake residents were currently working on site. He added that he would encourage contractors to hire locally. Furthermore, he offered support for the BLPA's activities in the form of hand lenses, geology maps, hammers and picks, as well as assistance with the identification of samples resulting from exploration by the prospectors. The meeting closed after discussions regarding individual prospectors' properties and the cost of a preliminary drill program.</p> <p>On April 2nd, Cumberland held two meetings with the community. The first was with 19 students at Arctic College to discuss employment opportunities in mining and geology and training opportunities in environmental science. Information was also presented concerning a proposed environmental program and Cumberland's activities at the Meadowbank project. The second meeting was held at the community center in Baker Lake with 20 adult members of the community and 30 children from the local public school. A slide presentation on the activities of Cumberland in Meadowbank was followed by a discussion of the phases of mining exploration, the risks involved, the likelihood of finding deposits, and the roles and characteristics of junior and major mining companies. Community members asked questions regarding prospecting, mineral exploration, and costs related to permitting, licensing, and drilling.</p> <p>A total of 4 local employees were hired by Cumberland Resources in 1996. Duties ranged from cook's helpers to geological and survey technicians and labourers.</p>
1995	<p>Cumberland first made contact to obtain licenses and permits for exploration work.</p> <p>A total of 3 local employees were hired as geological technicians and labourers by Cumberland in 1995.</p>

SECTION 3 • FUTURE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Cumberland is committed to furthering public knowledge about, and involvement in, the Meadowbank project through some or all of the methods listed below:

- holding communication sessions to explain the results of the EIS
- organizing information sessions on specific subjects
- establishing corporate public offices in the Region or in Nunavut
- holding open houses and workshops on project development
- meeting with government officials, interest groups, and other parties
- delivering presentations to interest groups and the public
- holding community forums
- encouraging site visits by Elders and others
- producing a company newsletter
- annual environmental reporting
- releasing project documents to the public
- establishing local monitoring committees
- providing media releases.