

Summary of University of Guelph Activities in support of the generation of Annual Wellness Reports for the Hamlet of Baker Lake

Oct 16, 2012

Background

The Hamlet of Baker Lake, Nunavut has experienced unprecedented development with the construction and opening of Agnico-Eagle's Meadowbank gold mine. As such, there is considerable interest in tracking conditions in the Hamlet of Baker Lake to ensure that, on balance, the Hamlet is becoming more well; indeed, the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) signed by Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) and the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) in 2011 requires that such monitoring be via an annual Wellness Report and Implementation Plan. AEM has embraced this assignment and committed to funding a study, to be executed by the Hamlet of Baker Lake with cooperation from Ben Bradshaw of the University of Guelph, to systematically track community wellness over time based upon indicators that are meaningful to the Hamlet's residents; this exceeds the explicit requirements of the IIBA but offers the best means of fulfilling their intent. This task was initiated in July 2012 with the arrival in Baker Lake of University of Guelph graduate student Sophie Maksimowski.

Development of Wellness Indicators

Development of the indicators will draw upon two primary data sources. The first is evidence gathered in the Hamlet of Baker Lake in 2011 by University of Guelph Graduate Student, Kelsey Peterson, and summarized in a report presented to the Baker Lake Hamlet Council on April 27, 2012 titled 'Community experiences with mining in Baker Lake'. This evidence will be reviewed by a local steering committee and the study team in order to identify community issues, concerns and hopes, which can then be translated into viable indicators of Hamlet wellness. A second source of evidence to be used in the development of Hamlet wellness indicators was generated in summer and fall of 2012 by another University of Guelph graduate student researcher, Sophie Maksimowski, who completed interviews and focus groups with Hamlet residents to identify how they perceive and define their Hamlet's wellness. Here too, the results of this work will be reviewed by the steering committee and the study team in order to add to, and refine, the draft Hamlet wellness indicators. Sophie will be returning to Baker Lake in January 2013 to complete this task.

Annual Wellness Reports

AEM's first Annual Wellness Report to be released March 31st 2013 will draw upon the findings from University of Guelph research completed in 2011 and 2012. As per Section 5 of the AEM – KIA IIBA: "The objective of each Wellness Report and Implementation Plan is to provide an overview of any impacts of the Meadowbank Mine on the wellness of the Inuit residents of Baker Lake in as much detail as practically possible, including any impacts on:

- (a) the state of the physical and mental health of the Inuit residents of Baker Lake;
- (b) the extent of alcohol and drug abuse in the community of Baker Lake;
- (c) personal and family relationships of the Inuit residents of Baker Lake, including any impacts attributable to employment at a remote work site under a rotational work schedule;
- (d) migration into or out of the community;
- (e) the prevalence and use of Inuktitut in the community of Baker Lake;
- (f) Inuit culture and traditional practices;
- (g) job satisfaction of the Inuit residents of Baker Lake employed at the Meadowbank Project;

- (h) management of personal finances by the Inuit residents of Baker Lake; and
- (i) any other aspect of the wellness of the Inuit residents of Baker Lake that the Meadowbank Mine could reasonably be expected to affect.”

Assessment of Hamlet wellness

The completion of an assessment of Hamlet wellness, based on the developed wellness indicators, is the primary task of 2013-14. This assessment will be reported to the KIA for the March 31st 2014 Annual Wellness Report, along with existing evidence of Hamlet wellness from secondary sources of information, as per Appendix 1. The assessment will derive from the administration of a census-style questionnaire that will be administered to all households in the Hamlet. This questionnaire will be developed by the study team, with guidance from the steering committee, based on the wellness indicators developed in January 2013. This household survey will be repeated on a biennial basis in order to general evidence of Hamlet wellness over time. For each year the survey is completed, the results will be included in the March 31st report to the KIA, along with existing evidence from secondary sources outlined in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

AEM shall obtain the information required to prepare the annual Wellness Report and Implementation Plan by appropriate means from the following sources:

- (a) the annual report of the Kivalliq Regional Socio-economic Monitoring Committee;
- (b) data collected by AEM from its own records;
- (c) the online Nunavut Statistics Bureau;
- (d) data available to AEM from the Hamlet of Baker Lake;
- (e) data available to AEM from KIA;
- (f) data available to AEM from other government sources;
- (g) information from ongoing discussions with the Meadowbank Community Liaison Committee; and
- (h) any other relevant sources.

Where necessary in order to ensure that the Wellness Report and Implementation Plan fulfills its underlying objectives, AEM shall also give reasonable consideration to implementing other forms of inquiry including: (i) personal interviews; (ii) focus group sessions; (iii) surveys; and (iv) case studies.

(Section L4 of the AEM – KIA IIBA)