



Nunamiut Lodge



For those readers that have been to Baker Lake, Nunavut, it is difficult to miss the tan and green Nunamiut Lodge Hotel that sits on the lake front. Originally acquired in 2001 by Nunamiut Company Ltd, a 100% Inuit-owned company, the Lodge's tag-line is "Centered on Comfort" – which fits, since Baker Lake is the geographic center of Canada. We sat down with the folks at Nunamiut Company Ltd to get the scoop on their recent expansion and this is what we learned.

Back in 2000, Nunamiut Company Ltd wanted to get into a business where they could promote tourism and provide accommodations to any group visiting Baker Lake. They put a business plan together, secured their funding and were able to purchase the Lodge from the previous owners.

The original Lodge had 10 bedrooms, a restaurant, conference room and gift shop. With the high-levels of demand, Nunamiut Company Ltd saw the need for more space so decided to expand the Lodge. In 2002, another building was purchased and renovated to become the Nunamiut Lodge Guest House. The Guest House contains five single bedrooms upstairs, each with a private bathroom. The lower floor contains a two bedroom apartment, complete with a full kitchen, bathroom and living room.

Even with the purchase of the additional building, demand levels continued to rise and as the business grew over the years, the Board of Directors decided to expand the original Lodge by adding 15 additional rooms. Construction in the North can be challenging and completion of this expansion took years of planning. Nunamiut Company Ltd worked very closely with their architects, planners and the Plan Approval Department of the Government of Nunavut. With everything finally in order, construction for this major addition began in 2011 and was successfully completed the following year – quite an achievement!

While the construction was not easy, the expansion allowed the Lodge to accommodate larger groups for meetings and for groups to stay in the same building together. This large meeting space also serves the community by providing a facility where functions for up to 40 to 60 people can be accommodated. For example, the Department of Justice uses the conference room to hold court sessions within the community. And, this demand has increased the number the jobs within the Lodge and community.

We all know that an expansion of this size requires the support of many players. So, when we asked the folks over at Nunamiut Company Ltd who have been their biggest supporters, they were quick to reply, "Our biggest supporters have been all the Government of Nunavut Departments - for example, Community and Government Services, Economic Development and Transportation, Justice, Education, and Health including the Northern Medical Unit. Additionally, Government of Canada Agencies use the Lodge – Environment Canada, Department of Justice and NAV Canada. We must also mention the Mining Industry – Areva Resources Canada Inc., Cameco, Agnico Eagle Mines, and private sector companies such as Arctic Fuel, North West Company, Avery Cooper, Kudlik Construction to mention just a few. We also have to make a special mention of Atuqtuarvik Corporation in the listing of our biggest supporters. This lending agency has been behind us right from the start. They provided us with the largest block of funding, which enabled us to purchase the Lodge back in 2001. Then, when we decided to build the addition in 2010, they also came through with the necessary funding to make that all happen."

Congratulations to Nunamiut Lodge on the successful completion of your hotel expansion! You have had a big impact on services for the community and visitors alike.