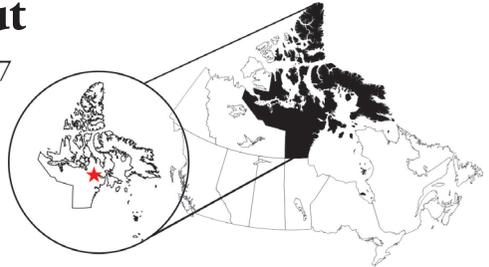


Baker Lake, Nunavut

Population Rank: Canada . . . 1,457
Territory . . . 4

Proportions: 1:2
Adopted: 1985



DESIGN: The flag of the Hamlet of Baker Lake (Qamani'tuaq) is a Canadian pale design of red-white-red with a circular device in the centre, three-fourths the height of the flag, in black and white. A rope-like ring encloses a central disc of white on which is a complex line drawing in black. Four geometrical objects project from the centre, their faces lined with horizontal hatching, each bearing an object in white silhouette. At the upper left a rectangle bears a human figure; at the upper right an irregular pentagon bears the head of a caribou; at the lower left a semicircle bears a fish; and at the lower right a triangle bears a hammer. Above and overlapping the upper two objects is a circle with twelve short rectangular rays emanating from it and an upraised arm and fist inside.

SYMBOLISM: The central device is a circular version of the village's ovoid logo. Its features are a potpourri of local importance, depicting "Man in his Relationship to his Environment" (as described by Mike Mullen, Baker Lake settlement secretary). The figure of a standing man, arms down at his sides, represents "Man". The head of a male caribou with full antlers represents the large herd of Thelon caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*)—the main reason

for existence of what most consider the only inland Inuit community. The fish represents the Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*), an important subsistence fish. The chisel-point rock hammer represents local mining, primarily for gold—which brought employment to many Inuit subsistence hunters, who thereby earned a new living in an industrialized society. The creatures that live upon the land stand symbolically above the fish in the water and the precious rocks underneath the soil. Above all is the shining, bold-rayed sun, enclosing a clenched fist representing the strength and autonomy of the Inuit. The outer circle also recalls the sun.

HOW SELECTED: Unknown.

DESIGNER: Unknown, but within the community. The lozenge-shaped civic logo was altered to fit the central square by Rob Butler, graphic artist at Inkit Graphics in Yellowknife, NWT.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: All such NWT/Nunavut civic flags were designed or modified in 1985 for the Northwest Territories Exhibition Hall at Vancouver's Expo '86, at the initiative of heraldry enthusiast Michael Moore, then a deputy minister at the NWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). The side-bar colours of these Canadian pale designs vary from dark blue, to green, to brown, and to bright red. The ovoid civic logo of Baker Lake is likely derived from a Canadian Community Newspaper Association logo, awarded in 1983 to *News North*, the primary newspaper of the entire Canadian Arctic, and printed on its masthead for many years.

In 1762, Captain William Christopher of the Hudson's Bay Company sailed up Chesterfield Inlet and named the lake for Sir William Baker, an HBC governor. With Nunavut's territorial autonomy in 1999, Inuit-language place names have been given to municipalities and geographic sites. Some municipalities have officially changed to Inuktitut names, while for others they remain secondary appellations. Qamani'tuaq means "Where the river widens", denoting where Chesterfield Inlet broadens out into a "lake".