

**THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF DIAMOND MINING: LEARNING  
FROM THE  
LUTSEL K'E COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING**

Presentation by:  
Gloria Enzoe and Marie Catholique  
May 2, 2003

The survey that we are reporting on is part of a larger community health monitoring project that began in Lutsel K'e in 1996. The study was funded by the West Kitikmeot Slave Study Society. Indicators were developed based on interviews with each household in the community. A qualitative and quantitative survey was developed to monitor many different kinds of indicators about self-government, healing and cultural preservation. The other people who have worked on this project in the last seven years are Angie Lantz, Evelyn Marlowe, Dennis Drygeese and Brenda Parice. Dr. John O'Neil from the Aboriginal Centre of Health Research at the University of Manitoba, helped us develop this survey so that we could be confident about the way that we asked the questions and about interpreting the results. (See attached Community Based Monitoring Questionnaire).

In addition to this larger health monitoring questionnaire, we have done qualitative research on the impacts of mining employment. The survey results we will present today are from 2001 qualitative semi-directed interviews with mine employees and their families. These results tell you about the quality of the employment (based on the experiences of the employees) and how this employment has affected families in our community. We focused on families because that is the impact that employees have talked about the most.

#### **Definition**

When we are talking about the mining sector, we are mainly talking about employment with the existing Ekati and Diavik diamond mines. Of the 20 people we interviewed, over half of them were employed full-time (60%). Part-time, casual and seasonal jobs represented only 15% of the employment.

#### **Quality of Employment**

We asked the mine employees - What do you like about your job?

- Teamwork (31%)
- Training and skill development (28%)
- Enjoy the Work (Tasks) (18%)

Another question was - How could your job be improved?

- Better work schedule (23%)
- Better teamwork (17%)
- Unknown/Nil (15%)
- Child Care in the Community (13%)

We also asked the mine employees - If you are no longer working, why did you leave your job?

- Family problems (30%)
- End of Contract (25%)
- Still Working (20%)
- Too few Aboriginal People (5%)
- Health Reasons (5%)
- Did not like the work/place (5%)
- Perceived Racism (3%)

**We also talked to families about the Impacts of Employment on the Family**

We asked them - How has the employment benefited the family?

- Help pay bills on time / groceries (59%)
- Income for skidoo, boat, quads, vehicles, furniture (23%)

We also asked - Is work affecting your family? How?

- No (30%)
- Breakdown of Relations with Children (27%)
- Not enough time with Children (23%)
- Increasing responsibility and pressure on spouse (14%)
- Breakdown of relationship with spouse (7%)

In summary, the results of the survey tell us about the importance of family in our community. These results also tell us that mining employment may be negatively affecting family life. In order for our community to benefit, rather than be negatively affected by the proposed De Beers diamond mine, we recommend the following:

**Family time:** Employment in the mining sector creates stress within the family. The 2 week rotation schedule separates parents from their children and spouses from each other. Our research has revealed many different emotional, mental as well as physical health problems resulting from this separation. De Beers Canada should work with mine employees as well as health and social service resource people in our community to help mitigate these effects. (See presentation by Lutsel K'e Health and Social Services)

**Investment in Day Care:** The Government of the Northwest Territories is responsible for funding education in our region. Childcare for children under school age is a major issue. If employees do not have responsible childcare, it creates stress and anxiety in them as an individual and in the family. They are more likely to miss work or quit their job for that reason. For our community to benefit from the proposed De Beers Diamond Mine, further work must be done to ensure.

**Time "On the Land":** The other major impact of the diamond mining industry relates to traditional land use. Our community is based on a land-based way of life – caribou hunting, fishing, berry harvesting and trapping. The land is part of our identity. Employees working at the diamond mines report spending less time on the land (and their

families) than do other members of our community. This can be cause for emotional stress and anxiety.

**Conclusion:**

Many of the health issues we have talked about are not about physical illnesses – they are issues of emotional stress and anxiety. There is no outward sign that employees and their families or other members of our community may be suffering. However, emotional stress and anxiety can lead to many other social problems and physical health effects in our community. These impacts may not be visible today or tomorrow – but maybe next year or in five years. Children growing up without safe childcare facilities and the absence of one or more parents will surely have devastating impacts on our community in the future. By sharing this information with you today, we hope that you will consider how the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Canada, De Beers Diamond Mine as well as the other mines can help us deal with these health issues before we see a health crisis in our community.

*(BP, May 1, 2003)*

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  - Child Care in the Community (13%)
-

Community-Based Monitoring Final Report (2001)

### Community-Based Monitoring Youth Survey on Community Health (August 2000)

 Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gender \_\_\_\_\_

 Interviewee Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Would you be interested in a job in the mining industry?	Yes No	1 2
2. Would you be interested in a job in the community?	Yes No	1 2
3. How many nights have you spent out on the land in the last six months?	0 1-5 nights 6-10 nights 11-20 nights over 20 nights	1 2 3 4 5
4. Have you contacted a drug and alcohol worker in the last six months?	Yes No	1 2
5. Has the community been able to provide you with adequate drug and alcohol services in the last six months?	Yes No Not Required	1 2 3
6. Would you like to see a Health Worker for any of the following:		
a) Parenting Support	Yes No N/A	1 2 3
b) Relationship issues	Yes No N/A	1 2 3
c) Money problems	Yes No	1 2
d) Grieving	Yes No	1 2
e) On going Support for Sobriety	Yes No N/A	1 2 3
f) Violence / Sexual Abuse	Yes No	1 2
g) Personal Issues	Yes No	1 2
h) Other	Yes No	1 2
7. How many meals of caribou meat did you eat in the last week?	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 or more	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8. Did you get this meat from the community	Yes	1

*Community-Based Monitoring Final Report (2001)*

freezer?	No	2
9. Have you eaten any caribou liver, kidney, heart or head in the last week?	Yes No	1 2
10. Did you go to Fairy Falls this past year for spiritual reasons?		
a) Spring	Yes No	1 2
b) Summer	Yes No	1 2
11. Do you think your current house is over crowded?	Yes No	1 2
12. Do you think your current house is need of repair?	Yes No	12
13. In the last six months, how often did you participate in:		
a) Drum dances,	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 or more	1 2 3 4 56 7
b) Hand-games	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 or more	1 2 3 4 56 7
14. How many traps did you set in the past six months?	0 1-20 21-40 40-60 60-80 80 or more	1 2 3 4 56
15. Did you go hunting for geese / ducks in the past six months?	Yes No	1 2
16. Did you go out to make dry-fish in the past six months?	Yes No	1 2
17. Did you go on the fall hunt to Antilley Lake this past fall?	Yes No	1 2
18. Do you know the place called BetsiGhie?	Yes No	1 2
19. Are you concerned about the long term environmental impacts of mining in the area?	Very concerned Somewhat Concerned Not Concerned	1 2 3
20. How many caribou have you harvested in the last six months?	None 1-10 10-30 More than 30	1 2 3 4
21. How many times have you volunteered for a	0	1

Community-Based Monitoring Final Report (2001)

community project (e.g. BINGO) in the last six months?	1-10 More than 10	2 3
22. How many public meetings have you attended in the last six months?	0 1-10 More than 10	1 2 3
23. How would you rate the services of the following organizations:		
a) Band Council	Excellent Good Fair Poor	1 2 3 4
b) Health Centre	Excellent Good Fair Poor	1 2 3 4
c) Drug/Alcohol Programs	Excellent Good Fair Poor	1 2 3 4
d) Coop	Excellent Good Fair Poor	1 2 3 4
e) Renewable Resources	Excellent Good Fair Poor	1 2 3 4
f) School	Excellent Good Fair Poor	1 2 3 4
h) Elders' Care	Excellent Good Fair Poor	1 2 3 4
i) Municipal Services	Excellent Good Fair Poor	1 2 3 4
24. Do you speak Chipewyan at home?	Yes No	1 2
25. How would you rate your current state of health?	Excellent Good Fair Poor	1 2 3 4
26. Are you confident that your children will have a good future?	Yes No N/A	1 2 3

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27. How would you rate community's support for youth activities?		Excellent	1
		Good	2
		Fair	3
		Poor	4
28. Do you feel that your education in Lutsel K'e has prepared you for further education and training?		Excellent	1
		Good	2
		Fair	3
		Poor	4
29. Are you willing to move out of town to further your education?		Yes	1
		No	2



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## Community-Based Monitoring

### Adult Survey on Community Health (January 2001)

 Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gender \_\_\_\_\_

 Interviewer Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you currently employed?	Full - time Part-time Casual Seasonal Not Employed	1 2 3 4 5
2. Have you had a job lasting more than a month in the last six months?	Full - time Part-time Casual Seasonal Not Employed	1 2 3 4 5
3. Are you employed in the mining industry?	Yes No	1 2
4. Have you left a job in the mining industry in the last six months?	Yes No	1 2
5. Would you be interested in a job in the mining industry?	Yes No	1 2
6. Would you be interested in a job in the community?	Yes No	1 2
7. Have you made any major purchases (over \$2000) in the last six months to support you and your family in on the land activities?	Yes No	1 2
8. Have you made any major improvements to your home over \$1000?	Yes No	1 2
9. How many nights have you spent out on the land in the last six months?	0 1-5 nights 6-10 nights 11-20 nights over 20 nights	12 34 5
10. Have you contacted a drug and alcohol worker in the last six months?	Yes No	1 2
11. Has the community been able to provide you with adequate drug and alcohol services in the last six months?	Yes No Not Required	1 2 3
12. Would you like to see a Health Worker for any of the following:		
a) Parenting Support	Yes No	1 2
b) Relationship issues	Yes No	1 2
c) Money problems	Yes No	1 2
d) Grieving	Yes No	1 2
e) On going Support for Sobriety	Yes	12

Community-Based Monitoring Final Report (2001)

	No	
f) Violence / Sexual Abuse	Yes	1
	No	2
g) Personal Issues	Yes	1
	No	2
h) Other	Yes	1
	No	2
13. How many meals of caribou meat did you eat in the last week?	0	1
	1	23
	2	45
	3	67
	4	
	5	
	6 or more	
14. Where do you usually get your caribou meat?	Community Freezer	1
	Family Member Other	
	People in the Community	2
	I hunt myself	3
		4
15. Have you eaten any caribou liver, kidney, heart or head in the last week?	Yes	12
	No	
16. Did you go to Parry Falls this past year for spiritual reasons?		
a) Spring	Yes	1
	No	2
b) Summer	Yes	1
	No	2
17. Do you own your own home?	Yes	1
	No	2
18. Do you think your current house is over crowded?	Yes	1
	No	2
19. Do you think your current house is need of repair?	Yes	1
	No	2
20. In the last six months, how often did you participate in:		
a) Drum dances	0	12
	1	34
	2	56
	3	7
	4	
	5	
	6 or more	
b) Hand-games	0	12
	1	34
	2	56
	3	7
	4	
	5	
	6 or more	
c) How many traps did you set in the past six months?	0	12
	1-20	34
	21-40	56

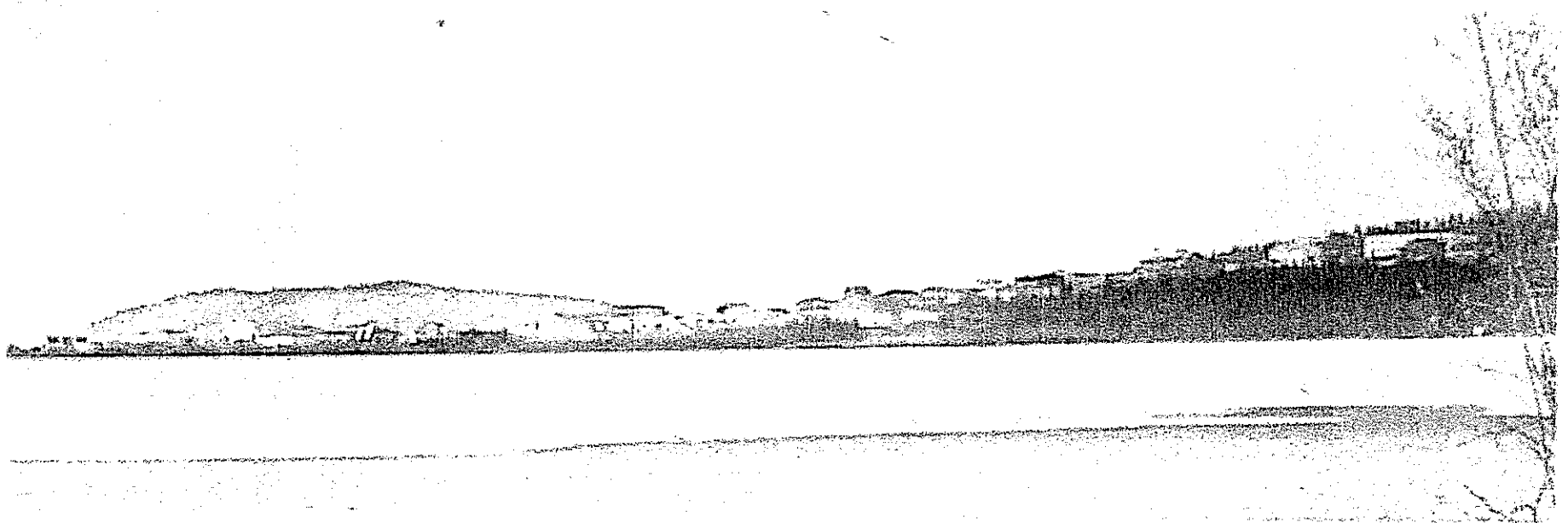
Community-Based Monitoring Final Report (2001)

		40-60 60-80 80 or more	
21. Did you go hunting for geese / ducks in the past six months?		Yes No	12
22. Did you go out to make dry-fish in the past six months?		Yes No	12
23. Did you go on the fall hunt to Artillery Lake this past fall?		Yes No	12
24. Do you know the place called BetsiGhio?		Yes No	12
25. Are you concerned about the long term environmental impacts of mining in the area?		Very concerned Somewhat Concerned Not Concerned	12 3 4
26. How many caribou have you harvested in the last six months?		None 1-10 10-30 More than 30	12 34
27. How many time have you taken a youth caribou hunting in the last six months?		0 1-10 More than 10	12 3
28. How many times have you volunteered for a community project (e.g. BINGO) in the last six months?		0 1-10 More than 10	12 3
29. How many public meetings have you attended in the last six months?		0 1-10 More than 10	12 3
30. How would you rate the services of the following organizations:			
a) Band Council		Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34
b) Wildlife, Lands and Environment Committee		Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34
c) Health Centre		Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34
d) Drug/Alcohol Programs		Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34
e) Coop		Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34
f) Renewable Resources		Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34

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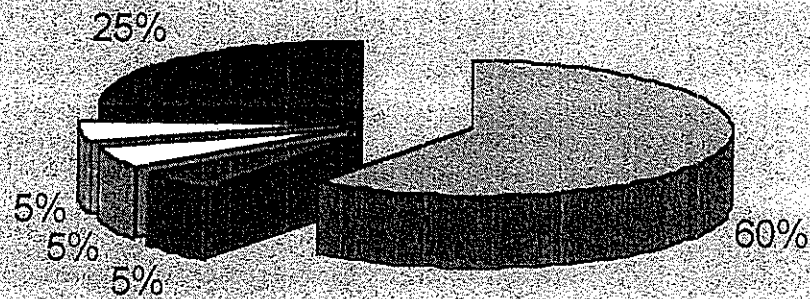
g) School	Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34
h) Elders' Care	Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34
i) Municipal Services	Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34
31. What percentage of your groceries do you buy at the Lutsel K'e Coop?	All Most Some None	12 34
32. Do you speak Chipewyan at home?	Yes No	12
33. How would you rate your current state of health?	Excellent Good Fair Poor	12 34
34. If you have any children Are you confident that they will have a good future?	Yes No Not Applicable	12 3

# Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation Community-Based Monitoring



Lutsel K'e, Spring 2001  
Photo Credit: Jeanette Lockhart

## Are/were you employed?



■ Full-time(60%)

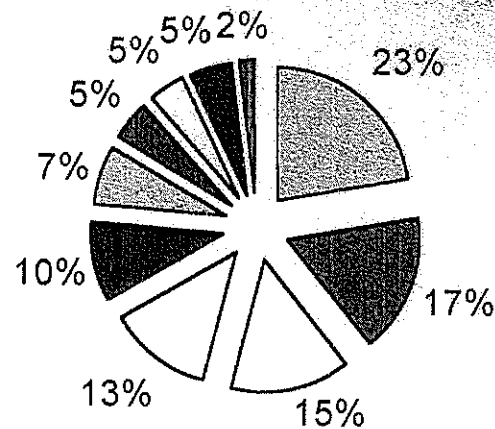
■ Part-time(5%)

□ Casual(5%)

□ Seasonal(5%)

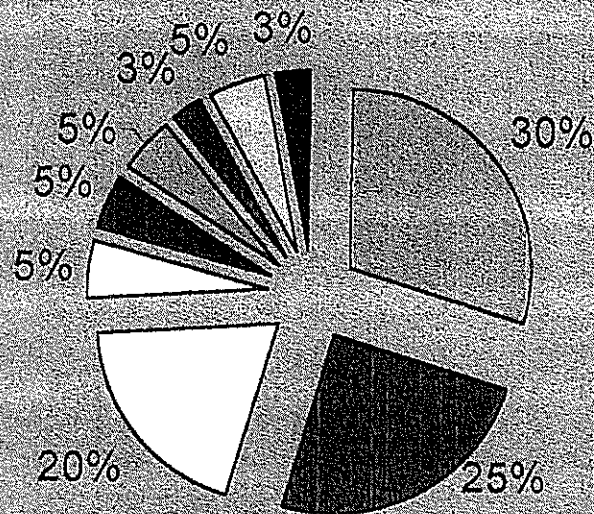
■ Work in the past(25%)

## How can/could have your job be improved?



- Better work schedule (23%)
- Better team to work with (17%)
- Nothing (just started work) (15%)
- Child care back home (13%)
- More pay (10%)
- Eliminate racism (7%)
- Wildlife Tech. year around job instead of seasonal (5%)
- Health and safety concerns (5%)
- Could have kept me as a supervisor, when I change jobs (5%)
- Hire more people from Lutsel K'e (2%)

### If you are no longer working, why did you leave your job?

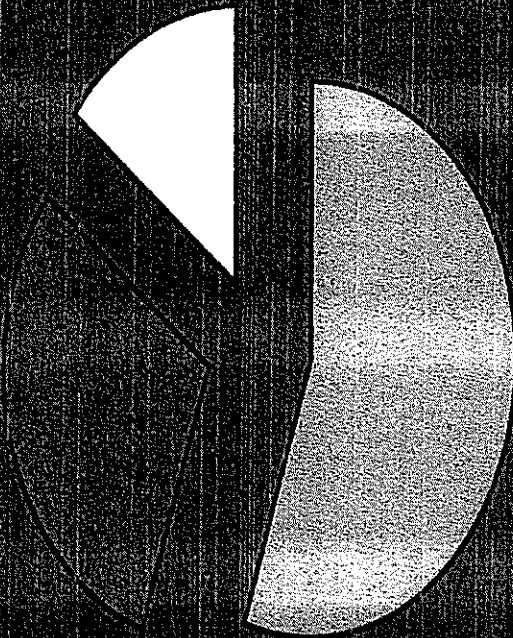


- Family problems (30%)
- End of job/contract (25%)
- Still working (20%)
- Not much aboriginal people (5%)
- Due to health reason (5%)
- I was on a training position (5%)
- No Promotion (5%)
- Did not like what was happening there (5%)
- Racism (3%)



Is/was there any promotion in your job?

15%

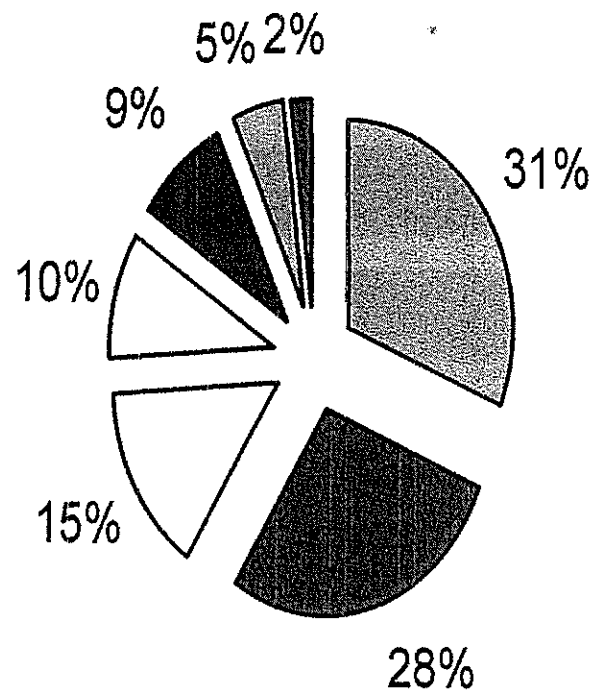


□ No, seasonal job(55%)

■ Yes(30%)

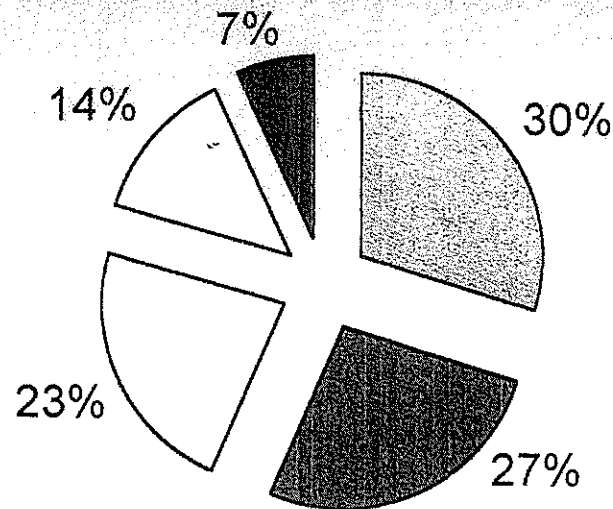
□ Don't know(15%)

## What do/did you like about your job?



- Teamwork, new friends(31%)
- Training, skills, knowledge(28%)
- Like the tasks I have to do for my job(15%)
- Schedule is o.k., time goes by fast(10%)
- Income(9%)
- Was efficient and structured(5%)
- Studying Wildlife(2%)

### Is/was your work affecting your family? How?



■ No (30%)

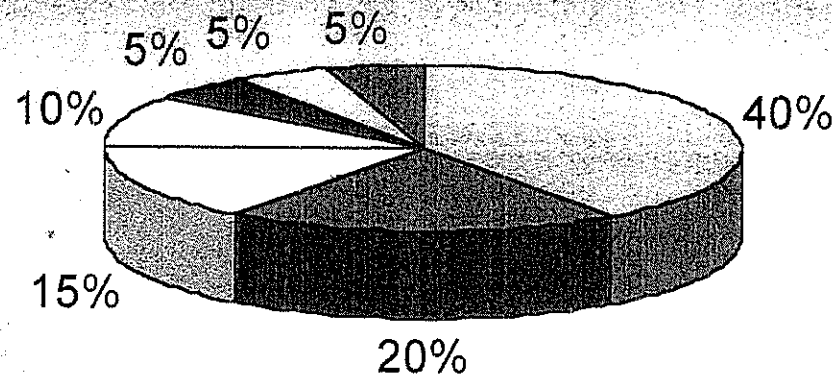
■ Breakdown of relationships with children (27%)

□ Not enough time with family (23%)

□ Increased responsibility and pressure on spouse at home (14%)

■ Breakdown of relationships with spouse (7%)

**Do you think employment at the mines affects people's traditional way of life? How?**



- ☒ Yes, not enough time to go out on the land (40%)
- ☒ No, it depends on the way the person handle it (20%)
- ☐ Yes, now days people are working at the mines and not going out on the land (15%)
- ☐ Caribou migration (10%)
- ☒ Has already been affected before the mine started by other community, parent etc. (5%)
- ☒ Yes, because you are away from home (5%)
- ☒ Yes and No, its all depends on what we want to make a living (5%)



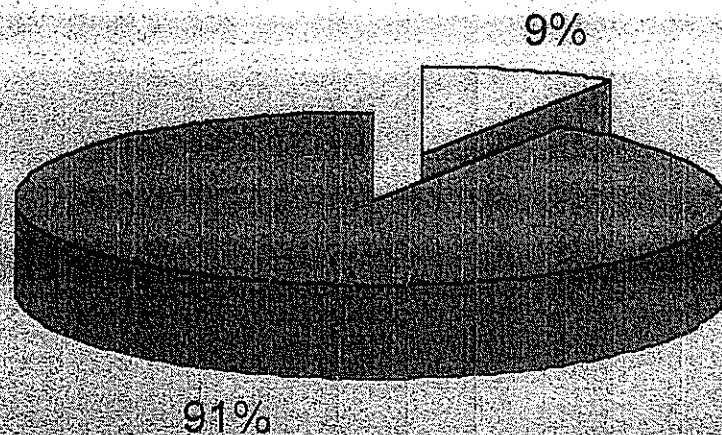
***Wildlife Lands***  
***&***  
***Environment***

***Information Collected by***  
***Evelyn Marlowe***

***Presented by***  
***Marie Catholique***

Mining Employees Spouses Questionnaire Results was gathered in November 2001.  
November 2001 Total Interview 11.  
Question #1

### What is/was your spouse work schedule?

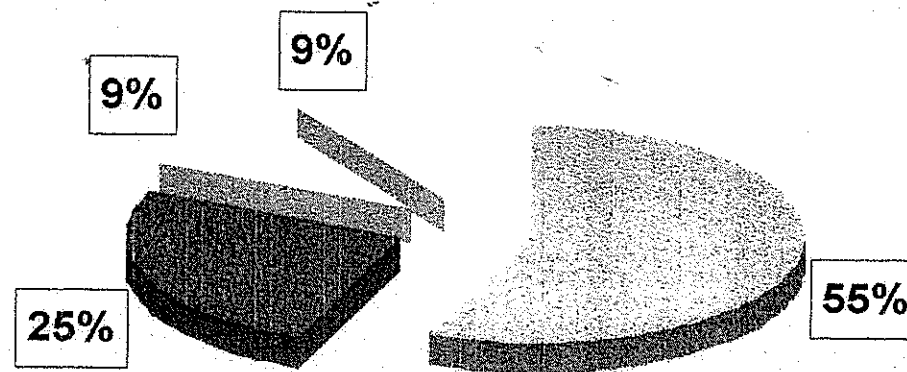


- ☐ Three weeks at work and one week at home.(9%)
- ☒ Two weeks at work and two weeks at home.(91%)

**Lutsel K'e Dene Band  
Wildlife Lands, & Environment Department.  
Community-Base Monitoring Project.**

**Mining Employees Spouses Questionnaire Results** was gathered in November 2001.  
November 2001 Total Interview 11.  
Question #2

**How is this schedule affecting the family?**



- Spouses find it easier to raise children when other partner is around. (55%)
- Spouses Don't mind that their partners are at work. (25%)
- Missing their partners and giving them time to rest.(9%)
- Seperated (9%)

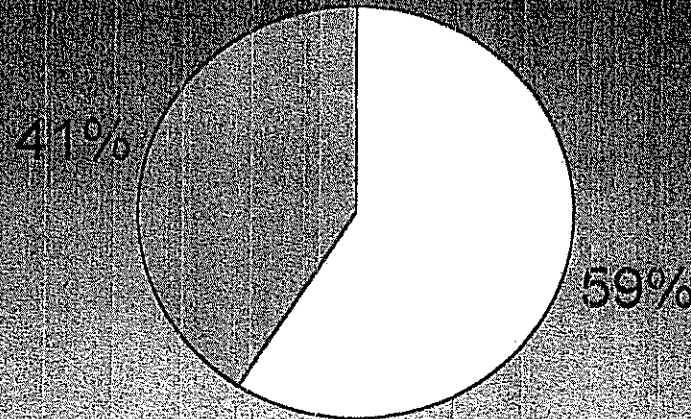


**Lutsel K'e Dene Band**  
**Wildlife Lands, & Environment Department.**  
**Community-Base Monitoring Project.**

**Mining Employees Spouses Questionnaire Results** was gathered in November 2001.

November 2001 Total Interview 11.

Question #3



■ Yes (59%)

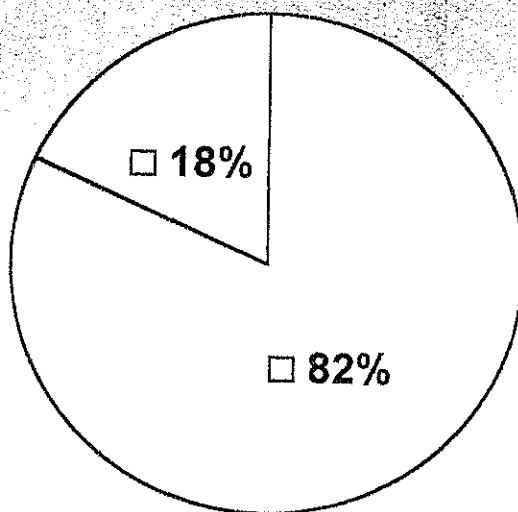
■ Doesn't really matter where their spouses work.(41%)



Lutsel K'e Dene Band  
Wildlife Lands, & Environment Department.  
Community-Base Monitoring Project.

Mining Employees Spouses Questionnaire Results was gathered in November 2001.  
November 2001 Total Interview 11.  
Question #4

Since Spouse started work at the mining sector do you think going out on the land activities changed?



- ☐ Spouse's spend more of their time at work than on the land. (82%)
- ☐ Things haven't changed with on the land activities with spouse's

Mining Employees Spouses Questionnaire Results was gathered in November 2001.  
November 2001 Total Interview 11.  
Question #5

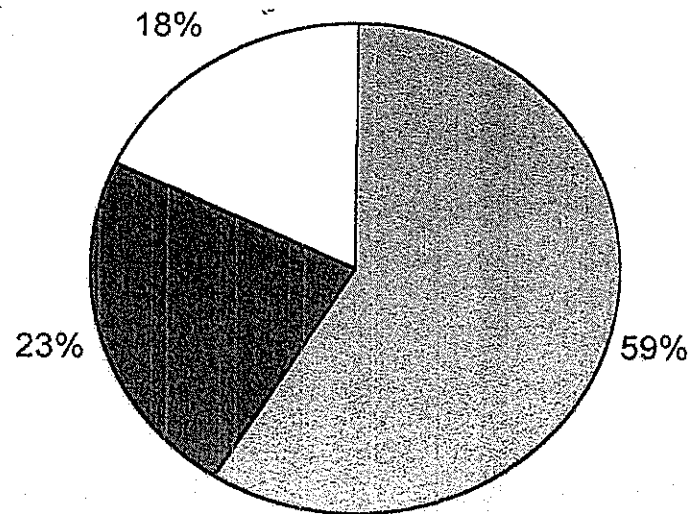
# Is/Was your spouses work affecting your family?

- \* Breaks are good
- \* Adapting to changes when parent leaves for work or returns from work  
Examples: children not listening, routine change,
- \* It is hard for one parent to raise children alone when you have more than two children.
- \* Children miss their parents and the other way around.
- \* Spouses have to be employed to support their families to provide for their needs.
- \* Spouses that work at mines tend to drink more heavily because they have the money.

**Lutsel K'e Dene Band  
Wildlife Lands, & Environment Department.  
Community-Base Monitoring Project.**

**Mining Employees Spouses Questionnaire Results** was gathered in November 2001.  
November 2001 Total Interview 11.  
Question #6

**How has the employment benefited the family?**

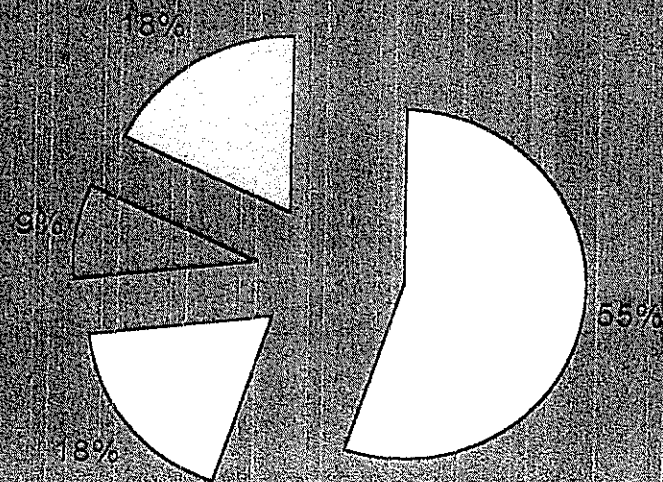


- ☒ The employments at the mines help pay bills on time also provides groceries. (59%)
- ☒ The income has provided a skidoo, boat, quads and vechiles and other items such as furniture.(23%)
- ☐ The family did not benefited anything, while spouse was employed at the mine. (18%)

**Lutsel K'e Dene Band  
Wildlife Lands, & Environment Department.  
Community-Base Monitoring Project.**

**Mining Employees Spouses Questionnaire Results** was gathered in November 2001.  
November 2001 Total Interview 11.  
Question #7

Would you want a job at the mining sector?



- ☐ Spouse's do not want job at mining sector. (55%)
- ☐ Spouse's prefer to be near their children (18%)
- ☐ Spouses prefer to wait until children are a little older.(9%)
- ☐ Yes, spouses would like a job at the mining sector. (18%)

Lutsel K'e Dene Band  
Wildlife Lands, & Environment Department.  
Community-Base Monitoring Project.

Mining Employees Spouses Questionnaire Results was gathered in November 2001.

November 2001 Total Interview 11.

Question #8

How could things be better for you and your  
Family while spouse employed at the mines?

- \* Two weeks in and two weeks out, would be better for spouses.
- \* Providing counselling to the employees.
- \* Visit to the mine would be good for spouses and their children to see their parent at work.
- \* Free telephone calls, so spouses at work can call their families.
- \* Twice a year vacation for employees.
- \* Employees should have the opportunity to take courses on parenting also on leadership.
- \* Some spouses say that there is nothing that could be better for them.

Lutsel K'e Dene Band  
Wildlife Lands, & Environment Department.  
Community-Base Monitoring Project.

Mining Employees Spouses Questionnaire Results was gathered in November 2001.  
November 2001 Total Interview 11.  
Question #9

# Is there any other comments?

- \* No more development on our area, for our future generation. Our land is more important than money.
- \* The mines should provide packages with medical expenses.
- \* Provide treatment to employees.
- \* Mining business should provide family visit, so we can visit our spouses that work at the mines.
- \* The mines keeps our men away from us and we are the ones that have to raise our children alone without our partner. We are the ones that have to look for babysitters, the mines should build a day care, so both parents can work. Instead of having one spouse work in the family.