



BEST and PROMISING PRACTISES

Principles:

1. Supports the local economy
2. Operates in an environmentally friendly manner
4. Respects and involves local communities

Practices: Local hires and purchases
Work with communities to select guides: provides training

Company: Webb Outfitting Ltd / Coppermine HTO

Website: www.fordinfo.com/fredwebb

Region:

Kugluktuk at the mouth of the Coppermine River in Nunavut. Also works with several other Nunavut communities.

Operations:

Sole booking authority for caribou, muskox, grizzly, wolf and wolverine, and fishing trips from the community of Kugluktuk in the Central Arctic, Nunavut.

Adherence to SMART Principles

1. Supports the local economy

Almost everything we use in terms of supplies (food, gasoline) comes from outside Nunavut. We're not a "fly-by-night" operation like those companies that bring in their granola bars from the South. We are dealing with a traditional-type economy – that is, another way of using a resource that local people have always used – and the same people are doing it. Kugluktuk is our home town. There is lots of wage employment in gold and diamond mines, jobs at the Hamlet office, but the people who are most valuable to us are the people who need us the most. They are the ones trying to make a living off the land.

From a community of about 1100 we have employed about 100 at one time or another. Some have stayed with us for only one trip; others have been with us for fifteen years. Most of our guides can't take advantage of UI [government unemployment insurance program] because they earn much of their year's revenues



from subsistence hunting and trapping. Many who have trained with us and have learned employment skills later go on to wage employment.

We also work with other communities in the Central Arctic.

2. Operates in environmentally responsible manner:

Often people look on sport hunting as “consumptive” tourism (something of a pejorative term). In fact, we take only a few animals based on a quota system as determined by the local Hunters and Trappers Organization. In turn, we employ guides, cooks for several days and pay them an excellent wage. In other operations we have seen – so-called non-consumptive tourism – you have only one bus driver taking out a bunch of people (low status job and only one job) for a few hours. What they leave behind are tire ruts which destroy the tundra for years to come. We believe we are more sustainable than some operators who call themselves “ecotourism” .

3. Respects and involves the local community:

We seek advice from the local Hunters and Trappers Organization on which individuals to hire as guides. We provide short informal training courses and then our guides learn almost as apprentices. (There are already families where young people have lost the traditional skills.) For our kind of business, Arctic College classroom courses don't work – especially because of their selection criteria for students. Training to be a hunting guide is best done along side experienced people. We cannot teach anyone to be an *Inuk* [singular form of Inuit]. It is a good attitude that we can work with. At the same time, the community has invested a great deal of trust in us, in becoming our partners.

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