

EVALUATION OF LABRADORITE GEMSTONE POTENTIAL OF THE NAIN AREA, LABRADOR

by

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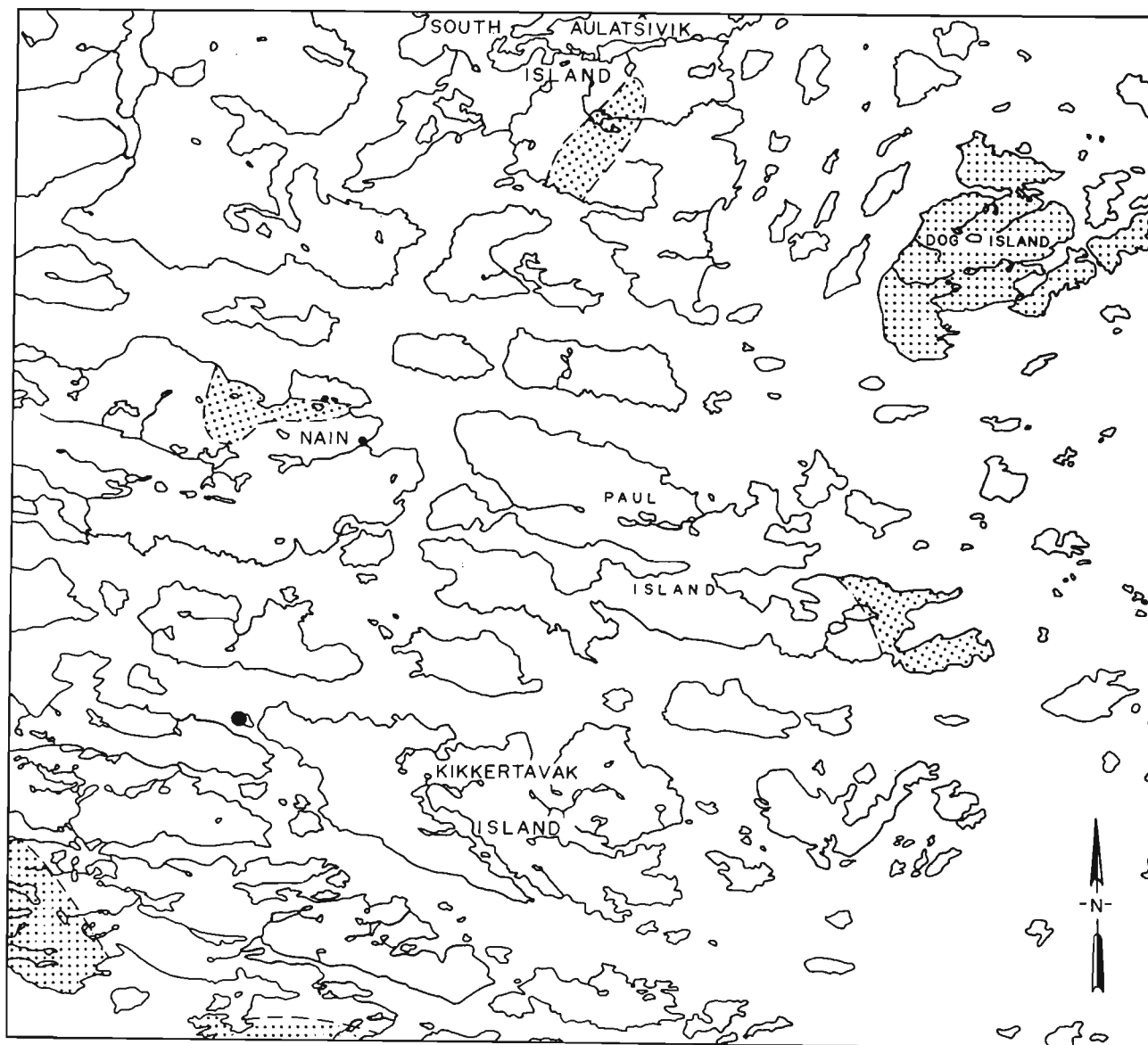
During the 1979 field season, the coastal area between Nain and Kamarsuk was examined for labradorite of gem grade.

The Nain area has been known as a source of labradorite since it was first discovered here in 1770 by a Moravian missionary. A quarry was opened on Tabor Island in 1953 by the International Grenfell Association and further work was done by Brinex in the period 1961-64. At present, a quarry permit is held by the Nain Crafts Council, which is removing small amounts for the local craftsmen.

During the summer, all of the shoreline of the mainland between Nain and Kamarsuk and of the islands offshore was examined for pegmatitic, chatoyant anorthosite. Numerous occurrences were discovered or reexamined having

labradorite in crystals up to 50 cm in diameter and colors of blue, green, yellow, bronze, purple and red. In some of the locations, the quality is as good as or better than the material already mined from Tabor Island. In addition, the colors other than blue-green were discovered to be more abundant than previously recognized.

Based on the field work, it is concluded that there is an abundance of labradorite in the Nain area suitable for gem purposes; however, its true value will only be known after further tests to determine the cutting and polishing properties. In any case, there is enough good quality material available from the Grenfell Quarry (Tabor Island) to supply the needs of the local craftsmen for some time to come.



Area Covered by Labradorite Gemstone Survey, 1979

- Grenfell Quarry (Tabor Island)
- Nain Anorthosite
- ▤ Non Anorthositic rocks (mainly adamellite)

0 10 20
Kilometers