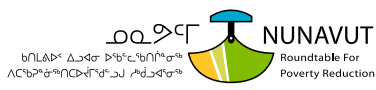




NUNAVUT FOOD SECURITY COALITION  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013**



## 2012-2013 *at a Glance*

**11**  
Coalition  
Member  
Organizations



**8** Coalition  
Monthly  
Meetings

**1** Symposium



**6** Thematic  
Discussions

**135** Symposium  
Participants



**3** Public Events

**19** Online Media Stories



**1** Public  
Document



**1** Internal  
Document

**3** Presentations

## THE NUNAVUT FOOD SECURITY COALITION

On June 26, 2012, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition was established to develop a long-term, ongoing, inclusive, and sustainable approach to food security in Nunavut. The Nunavut Food Security Coalition consists of seven Government of Nunavut departments or corporations and four Inuit organizations. The goal of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition is to engage a broader group of partners to determine which policies, programs, and initiatives are most likely to have a positive impact on the food security of Nunavummiut. The Nunavut Food Security Coalition is co-lead by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat housed in the Department of Economic Development and Transportation (EDT), and the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS).

### Coalition Members

- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA)
- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA)
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
- Department of Culture and Heritage (CH)
- Department of Economic Development and Transportation (EDT)
- Department of Education (EDU)
- Department of Environment (DOE)
- Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA)
- Department of Health and Social Services (HSS)
- Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC)

### Coalition Co-Leads

- Natan Obed, Director, Social and Cultural Development Department, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Ed McKenna, Director, Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat, Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut
- Jennifer Wakegijig, Territorial Nutritionist, Department of Health and Social Services, Government of Nunavut



## BACKGROUND

Nunavummiut share a commitment to address what is considered to be a food security crisis.<sup>1</sup> The 2007-2008 Inuit Child Health Survey states that 7 in 10 Inuit preschoolers in Nunavut live in food insecure households.<sup>2</sup> Access to healthy and affordable food has been a challenge for Nunavummiut for many years, and this issue has emerged as a major political and public concern.

In 2009, the Government of Nunavut released a statement of priorities, *Tamapta*, which emphasized the importance of meeting the basic needs of Nunavummiut, including affordable, healthy food. As part of these priorities, the Government of Nunavut announced that it would prepare and implement a poverty reduction strategy.<sup>3</sup>

In 2010-2011, the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction undertook an extensive public engagement process to inform a territorial poverty reduction plan. This process included efforts to understand the experience of food insecurity among Nunavummiut. As a result, the poverty reduction strategy, *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*, called for “those in leadership roles that deal with food security to work together for the benefit of all Nunavummiut.” *The Makimaniq Plan* included a commitment: “We will establish a Nunavut Food Security Coalition... and develop a territorial action plan on food security.”<sup>4</sup>

Established in June 2012, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition is the result of this commitment. Over the past year, the Coalition has worked to engage a broader group of partners to determine which policies, programs, and initiatives are most likely to have a positive impact on the food security of Nunavummiut.

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- <sup>1</sup> Wakegijig, J., Osborne, G., Statham, S., Doucette Issaluk, M. (2013). Collaborating toward improving food security in Nunavut. *International Journal on Circumpolar Health*. 72: 21201.
  - <sup>2</sup> Egeland, G.M., Pacey, A., Cao, Z., Sobol, I. (2010). Food insecurity among Inuit preschoolers: Nunavut Inuit Child Health Survey, 2007-2008. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 182:243-248.
  - <sup>3</sup> GN (2009). *Tamapta: Building Our Future Together (2009-2013)*, p. 11.
  - <sup>4</sup> Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (2011). *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*, p. 6.



Photo Credit: Department of Health and Social Services

## SPECIAL TOPIC: BUILDING MOMENTUM ON FOOD SECURITY IN NUNAVUT

From the local to the international scale, 2012-2013 brought much attention to the critical issue of food insecurity in Nunavut. As a result, improving food security has increasingly become both a political and public priority, with government departments, Inuit organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and Nunavummiut working toward a common vision of a food secure Nunavut. Recent activism has built momentum on food security in Nunavut and has provided a greater sense of purpose to the work of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition. A few key events from this past year are highlighted below.

### UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food's Mission to Canada

In May 2012, the issue of food insecurity in Canada was internationally highlighted by the state visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Dr. Olivier De Schutter. This event marked the first United Nations investigation of food security in a developed country. The purpose of the mission was to examine the way in which the right to food is being realized in Canada. After meeting with municipal and provincial authorities, political party officials, communities, and aboriginal groups, De Schutter concluded that, "Canada has long been seen as a land of plenty. Yet... rates of food insecurity are unacceptable."<sup>5</sup> In his End of Mission Report, De Schutter was particularly disconcerted by the severe food insecurity faced by aboriginal peoples, recognizing that a long-standing history of political and economic marginalization has left many with considerably lower levels of access to food compared to the general population.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, he suggested that Canada's system "presents barriers for the poor to access nutritious diets and that tolerates increased inequalities between rich and poor, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> De Schutter, O. (2012). Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on the right to food: Visit to Canada from 6 to 16 May 2012 – End of Mission Statement. Accessed 20 March 2013 from [http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/201205\\_canadaprelim\\_en.pdf](http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/201205_canadaprelim_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> De Schutter, O. (2013). Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter – Addendum – Mission to Canada. Accessed 1 March 2013 from [http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/20121224\\_canadafinal\\_en.pdf](http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/20121224_canadafinal_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> De Schutter, O. (2012). Canada : National Food Strategy can Eradicate Hunger Amidst Plenty. Accessed 1 March 2013 from <http://www.srfood.org/en/canada-national-food-strategy-can-eradicate-hunger-amidst-plenty-un-rights-expert>

## Establishment of Feeding My Family

Coinciding with the Special Rapporteur's recommendations and the Federal Minister of Health's subsequent dismissal of his recommendations<sup>8</sup>, there was major public mobilization around the issue of food insecurity in Nunavut. This momentum was largely propelled by the creation of the Feeding My Family advocacy group. The group was created by Leese Papatsie, a mother who wanted to raise awareness about the fact that she, like many other Nunavummiut, struggled to feed her family. Since its creation in May 2012, over 20,000 people have joined the Facebook group, which provides a forum for discussing hunger in the north.



The average household in Nunavut spends **three times more money** on groceries each month than the average household in Canada.



**7 in 10 Inuit adults are food insecure.**

## Food Price Protests

Several protests against the high food prices in Nunavut have been staged throughout Canada, from large southern cities such as Ottawa<sup>9</sup> to small northern communities such as Grise Fiord.<sup>10</sup> Rallying against the high cost of groceries, this is the first time that a territory-wide protest has been held. Other Nunavut communities involved include Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Clyde River, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, and Pond Inlet. These protests are unexpected yet momentous, as "Protesting is not something Inuit traditionally do. Inuit are taught [to] not cause disruption to others."<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Globe and Mail (2012). Health Minister labels UN food representative 'ill-informed'. Accessed 1 March 2013 from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/news-video/video-health-minister-labels-un-food-representative-ill-informed/article4184412/?from=4243673>

<sup>9</sup> Nunatsiaq Online (2012). Ottawa residents learn about Nunavut food prices. Accessed 1 March 2013 from [http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674ottawa\\_residents\\_learn\\_about\\_nunavut\\_food\\_prices/](http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674ottawa_residents_learn_about_nunavut_food_prices/)

<sup>10</sup> Nunatsiaq Online (2012). In Nunavut's most northerly community, people protest Aug. 25 against high food costs. Accessed 1 March 2013 from [http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674in\\_nunavuts\\_most\\_northerly\\_community\\_people\\_protest\\_aug\\_25](http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674in_nunavuts_most_northerly_community_people_protest_aug_25)

<sup>11</sup> Feeding My Family (2012). Feeding my family - a story of grassroots organizing in Northern Canada. Accessed 30 January 2013 from: <http://foodsecurecanada.org/audio/feeding-myfamily-story-grassroots-organizing-northern-canada>

## International Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Climate Justice

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada) was recently approached by GRID-Arendal (a centre collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme) to develop an Arctic food security case study for the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice. The case study will be presented at the international Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Climate Justice, which will take place in Dublin, Ireland from April 15-16, 2013. There will be 18 case studies presented at the conference; however, the one from Nunavut will be the only case study from a developed country. *The Right to Food Security in a Changing Arctic: the Nunavut Food Security Coalition and the Feeding My Family Campaign* will be presented by Leesee Papatsie, founder of Feeding My Family. The case study highlights the work of the Coalition and emphasizes the importance of developing a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach to improving food security. The conference will be attended by a range of people, from food experts such as Ertharin Cousin (Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program) to political leaders such as Al Gore (Former Vice President of the United States of America). This event will provide another important venue to raise awareness of the issue of hunger in Nunavut.



The main reasons why Inuit cannot get enough country food are: not having an active hunter in the home, not having a skidoo or boat, and the high cost of supplies to go hunting and fishing.



## ACTIVITIES

### Coalition Monthly Meetings

The Nunavut Food Security Coalition had its inaugural meeting on June 26, 2012. Since then, the Coalition has met on a near monthly basis in order to foster relationships, maintain communications, and continue the strategy development process. During 2012-2013, the following monthly meetings were held:

- June 26, 2012
- July 31, 2012
- August 28, 2012
- September 25, 2012
- November 14, 2012
- November 27, 2012
- January 10, 2013
- February 26, 2013

### Strategy Development Process

#### THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS (FALL 2012)

Informed by the poverty reduction public engagement process and the strategy development process, the Coalition identified six themes around which the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy* would be centered (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** The Nunavut Food Security Coalition's six food security themes.

To further explore and understand these themes, thematic discussions were held in fall 2012 (Table 1). The objectives of the meetings were to: 1) highlight current efforts occurring in Nunavut, 2) explore the viability of other policies, programs, and initiatives, and 3) identify knowledge gaps that should be filled in order to make responsible strategy decisions. The meetings were attended by various stakeholders who have an interest in or mandate regarding a particular theme (Table 2).

Table 1: Overview of the Six Thematic Discussions

Topic	Date	Number of Attendees
Country Food Access	October 30, 2012	26
Market Food Access	November 1, 2012	10
Life Skills and Financial Literacy	November 5, 2012	23
Local Food Production	November 19, 2012	16
Policy and Legislation	December 5, 2012	16
Programs and Community Initiative	December 7, 2012	10

Table 2: Affiliation of Thematic Discussion Attendees

Affiliation	Number of Attendees	Percent of Total Attendees
Municipal/Territorial Government	24	37.5
Inuit Organization	6	9.4
Non-Governmental Organization	6	9.4
Retailer	6	9.4
Community-Based Organization	4	6.3
Research/Educational Institution	3	4.7
Federal Government	3	4.7
Hunters and Trappers Organization	2	3.1
Other	10	15.6
Total	64	100.0*

\*Does not total 100.0 due to rounding error.

In January 2013, the Nunavut Food Security Symposium was held in Iqaluit. The goal of the Symposium was to engage a broad group of partners to determine which policies, programs, and initiatives are most likely to improve food security in Nunavut. The Symposium brought together 135 people who represented various sectors of society (Table 3). Panel discussions, presentations, and working sessions were built around the six themes identified by the Coalition. After three days of productive dialogue, Nunavut-based partners emerged with priority areas for action on each theme<sup>12</sup>. These priorities will be used to inform the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy*, which will be developed over the next few months. An associated implementation plan and evaluation framework will be developed in conjunction with the strategy to ensure that we continue to do more with what we have so we can improve food security amongst Nunavummiut.

Table 3: Affiliation of Symposium Attendees

Affiliation	Number of Attendees	Percent of Total Attendees
Municipal/Territorial Government	50	37.0
Inuit Organization	23	17.0
Research/Educational Institution	11	8.1
Non-Governmental Organization	10	7.4
Private Sector	9	6.7
Community-Based Organization	6	4.4
Federal Government	4	3.0
Hunters and Trappers Organization	3	2.2
Other	19	14.1
Total	135	100.0*

\*Does not total 100.0 due to rounding error.

<sup>12</sup> Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (2013). Country Food and Sustainable Community Initiatives Identified as Key to Food Security. Accessed 1 March 2013 from <http://www.news.gov.nu.ca/2013/january/jan24a.pdf>



## PUBLIC EVENTS

### Films for Thought (January 22, 2013)

The Nunavut Food Security Symposium began on January 22, 2013. To build awareness around the topic of food security and the Symposium, Astro Theatre and the Nunavut Food Security Coalition hosted a “Films for Thought” evening. The event was open to the public free of charge, and included various food-related documentaries.

### Community Feast (January 24, 2013)

The Nunavut Food Security Symposium came to a close on January 24, 2013. To celebrate the end of the successful event, a community feast was hosted by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Approximately 150 Iqalummiut attended and enjoyed country food at Inuksuk High School.



Photo Credit: Ron Massink



**The main causes of food insecurity are: unemployment, low income, and high food costs.**

### UN Special Rapporteur Report Launch (March 4, 2013)

Almost one year after the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food conducted his mission to Canada, Food Secure Canada hosted a webinar with De Schutter and 50 communities across Canada, which allowed the nation to engage in a live dialogue about food security. In partnership with Food Secure Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. held an event in Iqaluit.<sup>13</sup> Participating in this conversation helped local food groups become a part of the greater food movement in Canada, as all provinces and territories were represented. During the webinar, De Schutter discussed his findings and emphasized that a national food policy would pressure the government to ensure that food is a fundamental human right to all communities in Canada. Two days after the webinar, the Government of Nunavut issued a news release in which the Honourable Peter Taptuna, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat, stated that, “On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I welcome the report of Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food.” He further stated that, “This report makes strong recommendations on how to address the issue of food insecurity, many of which would complement efforts made by the Government of Nunavut and our partners in the Nunavut Food Security Coalition.”<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Nunatsiaq News (2013). UN food rights envoy available at webcast event in Iqaluit. Accessed 1 March 2013 from [http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674un\\_food\\_rights\\_envoy\\_available\\_at\\_webcast\\_event\\_in\\_iqaluit/](http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674un_food_rights_envoy_available_at_webcast_event_in_iqaluit/)

<sup>14</sup> Government of Nunavut (2013). Government of Nunavut Welcomes Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right To Food. Accessed 31 March 2013 from <http://www.news.gov.nu.ca/2013/March/2013-03%20NR14%20GN%20Welcomes%20Report%20on%20Right%20to%20Food%20-%20ENG.pdf>

## Presentations

- *Gathering Strength: Collaborative Action and Evidence-Based Strategies Targeting Food Insecurity in Nunavut*. 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health. Fairbanks, Alaska. August 5-10, 2012.
- *Collaborating Toward Improving Food Security in Nunavut*. ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting 2012. Vancouver, British Columbia. December 10-14, 2012.
- *Collaborating Toward Improving Food Security in Nunavut*. Canadian Polar Commission Board Meeting. Iqaluit, Nunavut. March 6, 2012.

## Participation

- Regional Roundtable on Poverty Reduction. Iqaluit, Nunavut. September 20, 2012.
- ArcticNet IRIS-2 Eastern Arctic Scientific Meeting. Iqaluit, Nunavut. November 6-8, 2012.
- Conference Board of Canada's Canadian Food Strategy Consultation. Iqaluit, Nunavut. March 14, 2013.

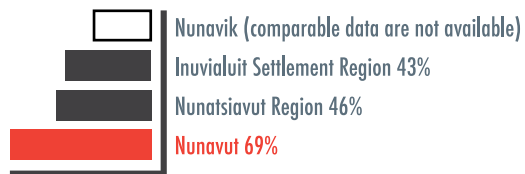
## DOCUMENTS

### Internal Documents

- Evaluation of the Nunavut Food Security Symposium

### Public Documents

- Nunavut Food Security Symposium Record of Proceedings<sup>15</sup>



**Nunavut has the highest rate of food insecurity compared to other Inuit regions in Canada.**



Students in every community have access to a breakfast program.

<sup>15</sup> Nunavut Food Security Coalition (2013). Nunavut Food Security Symposium Record of Proceedings. Accessed 1 March 2013 from [http://www.makiliqta.ca/uploads/NFSS\\_Record\\_of\\_Proceedings\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.makiliqta.ca/uploads/NFSS_Record_of_Proceedings_ENG.pdf)

## Donation of Food Act Makes Sharing Foods Easier

On February 26, 2013, The Donation of Food Act, or bill 46, was introduced by Quttiktuq MLA Ron Elliott and unanimously passed by Members of Nunavut's legislative assembly.

Elliott said that the purpose of the bill is to encourage the donation of food to our territory's most vulnerable residents.

According to the bill, "a person who donates food, or who distributes donated food, is not liable for damages resulting from disease, injury, death, or other harm resulting from the consumption of that food, unless the person intended to harm the recipient or acted recklessly in donating or distributing the food."

Iqaluit West MLA Monica Eil said that at first glance the donation of food act may be seen as not needed "given that food sharing is an integral part of Inuit culture," which she stated during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

"This bill will permit retailers, hotels, and businesses that have foodstuffs which are fit to eat to donate it without fear of possible legal action," Eil said.

"Now that there's a piece of legislation there, they would be able to and feel more confident donating," Elliott said. "So hopefully it means more food on the shelves of the food bank and more donations at the soup kitchens."

*"I was very pleased that support for my private member's bill was one of the formal priorities for action adopted at the recent Nunavut Food Security Symposium."*

Ron Elliot

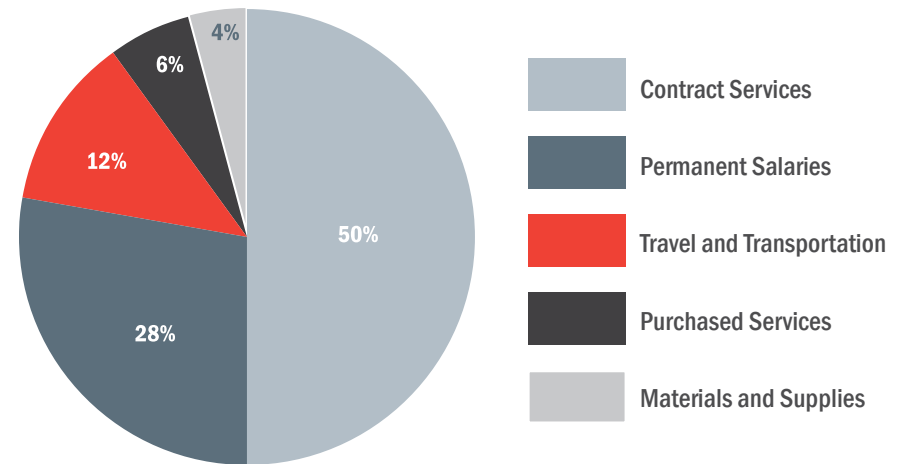


The food bank in Iqaluit has **1,062** visits per year.



Iqaluit soup kitchen serves **9000** meals per year.

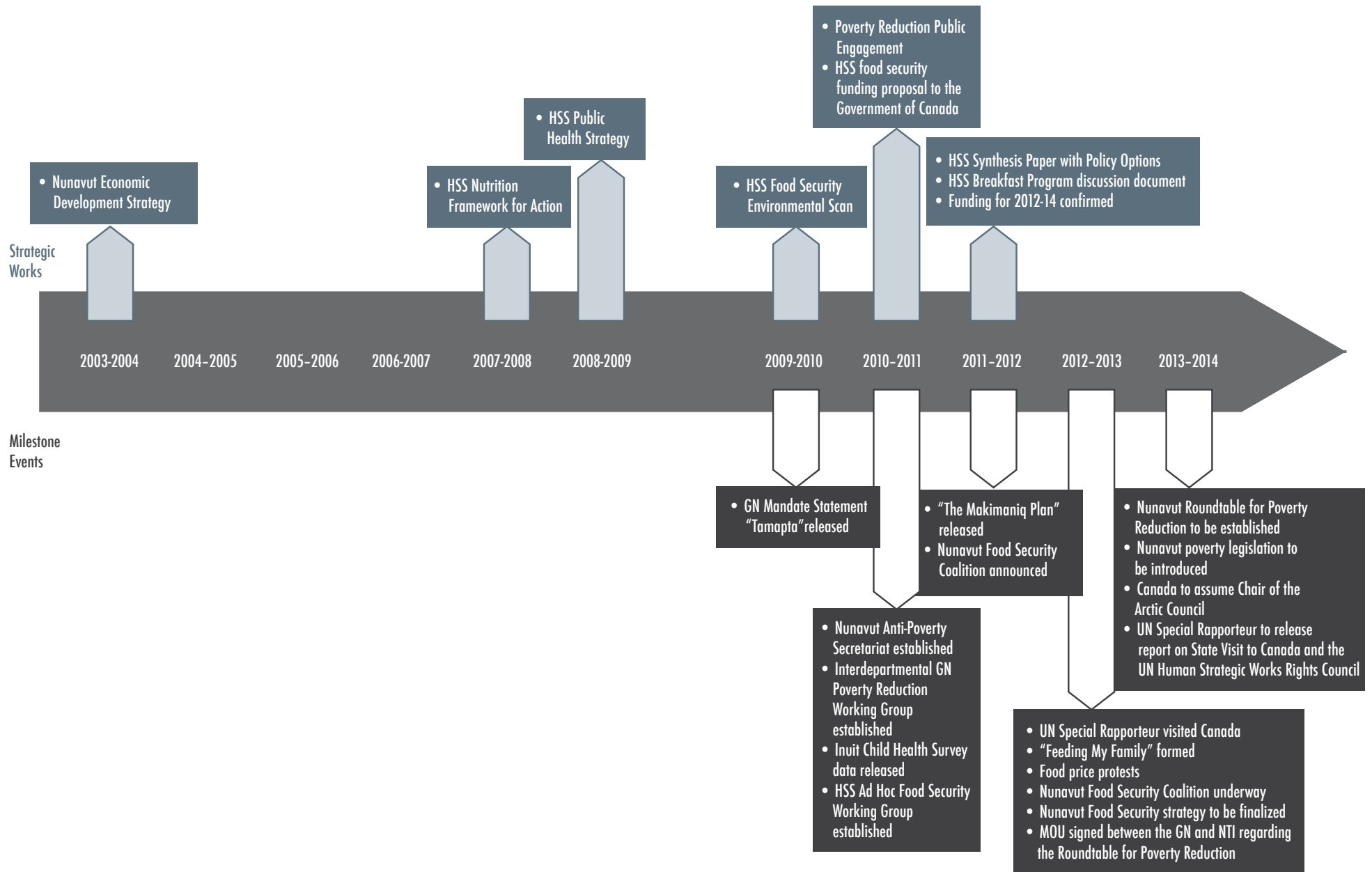
## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## THE YEAR AHEAD

The collaborative efforts and events that occurred during 2012-2013 have helped inform the development of the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy*. The Coalition is looking forward to working with its new partners and continuing the strategy development process in 2013-2014.

# Collaborating Toward Improving Food Security in Nunavut: A timeline





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