



NUNAVUT FOOD SECURITY COALITION  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**



## 2013-2014 *at a Glance*

# 30

Coalition  
Member  
Organizations



# 9

Coalition  
Monthly  
Meetings

# 2

Online  
Media Stories



# 182

People  
Involved in  
the Strategy  
Development  
Process



# 2

Coalition  
Workshops

# 25

Community Roundtables  
that Informed the *Strategy*



# 4

Presentations

# 1

Public  
Document



# 1

Internal  
Document

## THE NUNAVUT FOOD SECURITY COALITION

The Nunavut Food Security Coalition is co-chaired by the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. The Coalition first met on June 26, 2012 in Iqaluit. The inaugural meeting included representatives from seven Government of Nunavut departments and four Inuit organizations. Over the following year, the Coalition engaged a broader group of partners to determine which policies, programs, and initiatives would have a positive impact on the food security of Nunavummiut. As a result, participation in the Nunavut Food Security Coalition has since expanded to include 30 organizations.

### Coalition Members

- Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. (ACL)
- Arviat Wellness Centre (AWC)
- Feeding My Family (FMF)
- Government of Nunavut (GN)
  - 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)
    - Nunavut Bureau of Statistics (NBS)
  - Department of Family Services (FS)
  - Department of Finance (DOF)
  - Department of Health (DH)
  - Department of Justice (DOJ)
  - Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC)
- Ilitaqsiniq– Nunavut Literacy Council (I – NLC)
- Ilisaqsivik Society (IS)
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA)
- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA)
- Lateral Office (LO)
- Niqittiavak Committee (NC) – Chaired by the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat
- North West Company (NWC)
- Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat (NA-PS)
- Nunavut Arctic College (NAC)
- Nunavut Development Corporation (NDC)
- Nunavut Research Institute (NRI)

- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)
- Project Nunavut (PN)
- Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre (QHRC)
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
- Tukisigiarvik Friendship Centre (TFC)

Participation in the Nunavut Food Security Coalition is voluntary and open to any Nunavut organization that shares our vision of a food secure Nunavut.

## Coalition Secretariat

Ongoing support to the Nunavut Food Security Coalition is provided by the Coalition Secretariat, including but not limited to:

- Natan Obed, Director, Social and Cultural Development Department, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Ed McKenna, Director, Poverty Reduction Division, Department of Family Services, Government of Nunavut
- Allison MacRury, Territorial Nutritionist, Department of Health, Government of Nunavut
- Sara Statham, Territorial Food Security Coordinator, Department of Health, Government of Nunavut
- Shylah Elliott, Health Policy Analyst, Social and Cultural Development Department, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.





# SPECIAL TOPIC: THE PILOT NUNAVUT FOOD PRICE SURVEY

In March and April 2013, the Pilot Nunavut Food Price Survey was conducted in 11 communities representing all three regions in Nunavut. The purpose of the survey was to capture the cost of living in communities, and to assess the feasibility of a territory-wide food price survey.

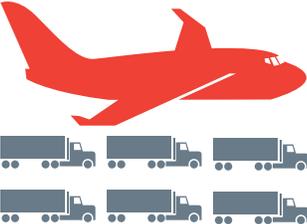
The survey was led by the Niqittiavak Committee, whose mandate is “to explore the factors that influence the cost, quality and accessibility of food in Nunavut, and to make policy and program recommendations with the ultimate goal of improving access to market food for Nunavummiut.”

The Niqittiavak Committee includes representatives from:

- Department of Family Services (Chair)
- Nunavut Bureau of Statistics
- Department of Health
- Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Department of Community and Government Services
- Department of Economic Development and Transportation
- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Surveyors were recruited from within the Government of Nunavut, and were provided with basic training in survey skills. The pilot survey was based on the Northwest Territories’ Cost of Living Survey, which has been in place since the 1980s. Surveyors collected price information for hundreds of items, including various foods and basic household goods.

Ten communities returned usable data. The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics compiled and analyzed the data in partnership with the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat. Prices are reported as an average of both the Co-op and Northern stores in each community, and do not reflect individual store prices. The published data reflect prices at the time of data collection, not the year-round prices in stores.



**Air freight in Nunavut is  
6 to 10 times more expensive  
than ground freight in other  
remote regions.**

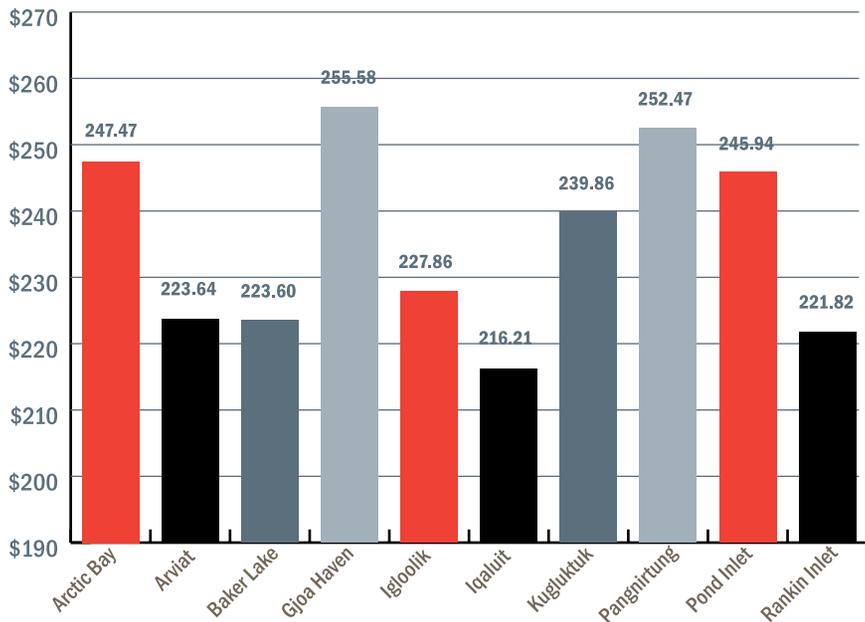
Photo Credit: Sara Statham

When comparing the cost of a sample food basket of 28 items<sup>1</sup>, Iqaluit has the lowest overall food cost in the territory at \$216.21. Gjoa Haven is the highest of the communities surveyed at \$255.58.

After securing funding from the Department of Family Services, a territory-wide Food Price Survey was completed in February and March 2014 in all Nunavut communities. The survey was conducted by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics staff and Government Liaison Officers, who received training in survey methods in Iqaluit in February 2014. It is expected that the results will be published by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics in the summer of 2014.

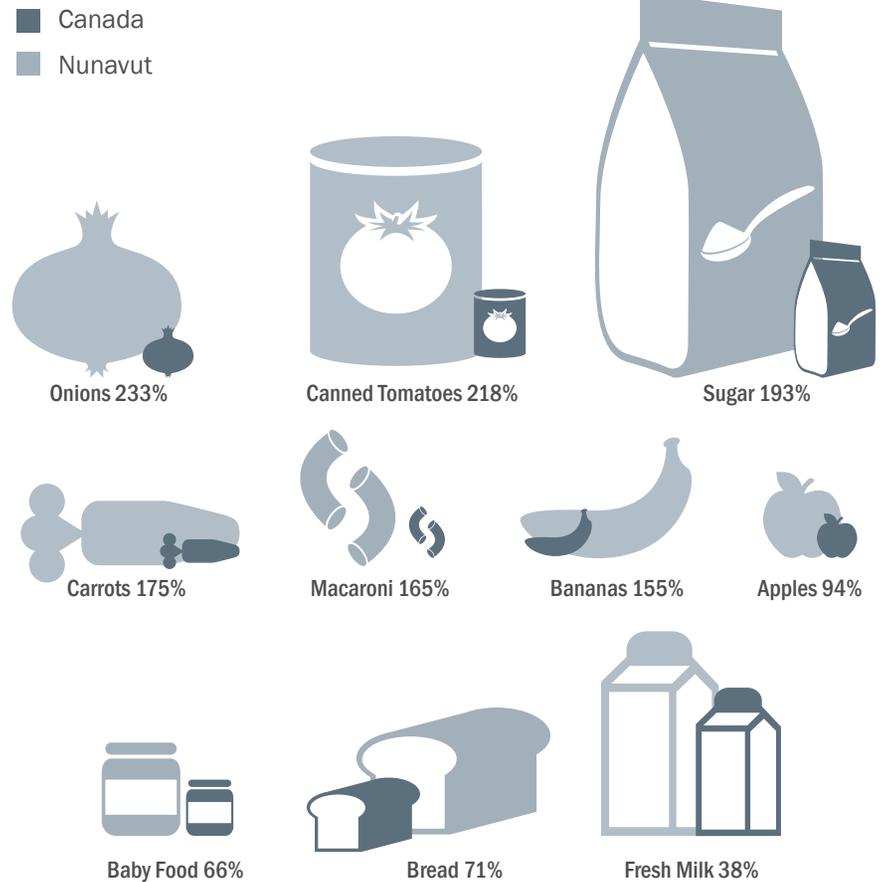
The Nunavut Food Security Coalition is grateful that these Nunavut Food Price Surveys have been conducted, as they are a source of essential information on food prices and the cost of living – both of which are important determinants of food security.

### COST OF SAMPLE FOOD BASKET



<sup>1</sup> Nunavut Bureau of Statistics (2013). Stats Update Pilot Nunavut Food Price Survey. Accessed 21 March 2014 from <http://www.stats.gov.nu.ca/Publications/Monthly/Food%20Price%20Survey%20StatsUpdate,%202013.pdf>

### Food is much more expensive in Nunavut compared to Canada as a whole.



Item	Canada	Nunavut
Onions (1kg)	\$ 1.86	\$ 6.19
Canned Tomatoes (796ml)	\$ 1.49	\$ 4.74
Sugar (2kg)	\$ 3.14	\$ 9.20
Carrots (1kg)	\$ 1.78	\$ 4.90
Macaroni (500g)	\$ 1.43	\$ 3.80
Bananas (1kg)	\$ 1.69	\$ 4.31
Apples (1kg)	\$ 3.77	\$ 7.31
Bread (675g)	\$ 2.87	\$ 4.90
Baby Food (128ml)	\$ 0.84	\$ 1.39



## ACTIVITIES

### Coalition Monthly Meetings

The Coalition aims to meet on a monthly basis. During 2013-2014, the following monthly meetings were held:

- April 4, 2013
- June 25, 2013
- August 27, 2013
- September 24, 2013
- October 29, 2013
- November 26, 2013
- January 28, 2014
- February 25, 2014
- March 25, 2014

### Strategy Development Process

#### NUNAVUT FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP (APRIL 30, 2013)

The Nunavut Food Security Symposium that was held in Iqaluit in January 2013 largely informed the strategy development process. Based on the priority areas for action that emerged from the Symposium<sup>2</sup>, the Coalition began to write the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy*. The original 11-member Coalition then held an in-person meeting in Iqaluit on April 30, 2013 to review the draft *Strategy* and to begin writing the *Action Plan* (Table 1).

Table 1: Affiliation of Workshop Attendees (April 2013)

Affiliation	Number of Attendees	Percent of Total Attendees
Municipal/Territorial Government	16	80.0
Inuit Organization	4	20.0
Total	20	100.0*

\*Does not total 100.0 due to rounding error.

<sup>2</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>

## NUNAVUT FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN REVIEW

### WORKSHOP (MAY 28, 2013)

Initial feedback provided during the April workshop was incorporated into the documents. The expanded 30-member Coalition then held an in-person meeting on May 28, 2013 in Iqaluit to finalize the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy* and to review the draft *Action Plan* (Table 2).

Table 2: Affiliation of Workshop Attendees (May 2013)

Affiliation	Number of Attendees	Percent of Total Attendees
Municipal/Territorial Government	14	42.4
Inuit Organization	5	15.2
Retailer	4	12.1
Non-Governmental Organization	2	9.1
Research/Educational Institution	2	6.1
Federal Government	2	6.1
Community-Based Organization	1	3.0
Other	2	6.1
Total	32	100.0*

\*Does not total 100.0 due to rounding error.

## FINALIZATION AND APPROVAL OF THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

### (FALL 2013)

Over the summer, the Coalition worked together to finalize the content of the *Strategy* and *Action Plan*. On September 24, 2013, the final versions of the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy* and *Action Plan 2014-16* were reviewed during the Coalition monthly meeting. In the months that followed, Coalition members wrote letters of support for the documents. The various approval processes for each of the Coalition's 30 member organizations took a lot longer than anticipated. However, members of the Coalition have shown patience and understanding, and look forward to being able to publicly release the *Strategy* and *Action Plan* in 2014-2015.

## Presentations

- *The Nunavut Food Security Strategy*. First Official Gathering of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. Iqaluit, Nunavut. June 10-12, 2013.
- *The Nunavut Food Security Coalition's Nunavut Food Security Strategy*. National Inuit Food Security Working Group Meeting. Ottawa, Ontario. July 3-5, 2013.
- Development of the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-16*. ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting 2013. Halifax, Nova Scotia. December 9-13, 2013.
- *The Nunavut Food Security Coalition and Strategy Story*. Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador's Engaging Communities Project Meeting. Hopedale, Nunatsiavut. February 25-27, 2014.

## Participation

- An Exchange of Ideas with the Caledon Institute of Social Policy "Prosperity and Poverty in Nunavut: An Alternative Social Policy Framework for Nunavut". Iqaluit, Nunavut. May 2, 2013.
- First Official Gathering of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. Iqaluit, Nunavut. June 10-12, 2013.

## Documents

### INTERNAL DOCUMENTS

- Evaluation of the Nunavut Food Security Strategy Development Process

### PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

- Wakegijig, J., Osborne, G., Statham, S., Doucette Issaluk, M. (2013). *Collaborating Toward Improving Food Security in Nunavut*. International Journal of Circumpolar Health. 72: 21201 - <http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/ijch.v72i0.21201>



In 1999, Inuit received **23%** of their daily energy from country foods; in 2008, that number dropped to **16%**.



**80%** of Inuit prefer a mix of country food and store-bought food.

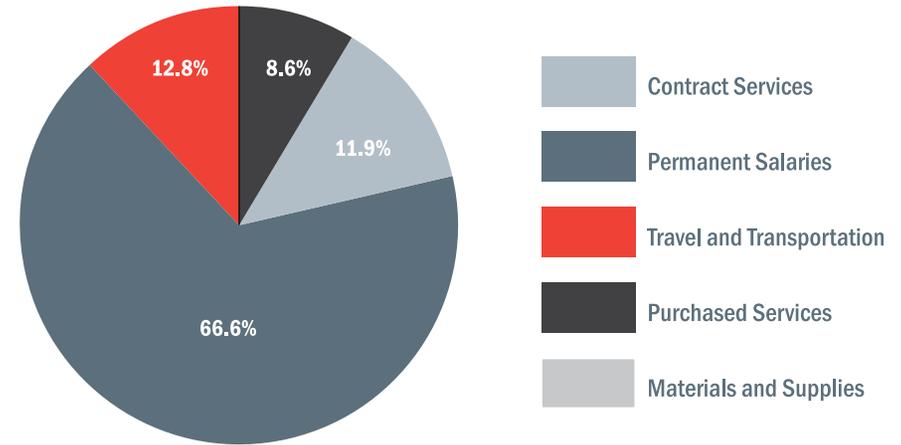
## Iqaluit Town Hall Meeting on Food Security

As part of its broader celebration for National Aboriginal Day, the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) held a town hall in Iqaluit that focused on food security. Panelists were Duane Wilson (Manager, Arctic Co-operatives Ltd.), Leese Papatsie (Founder, Feeding My Family), Jack Anawak (Vice President, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.), Monica Ell (Minister of Family Services, Government of Nunavut), and Carolyn Bennett (Liberal Member of Parliament, Government of Canada). They spoke of, and heard about, issues of food availability and accessibility in the North. The discussion highlighted questions such as whether retailers are passing along Nutrition North Canada subsidies to consumers, and whether hunters are being adequately supported in providing country food. Concerns were raised about the high cost of groceries, as well as declining wildlife populations such as the caribou herd on Southampton Island. With audiences across Canada, APTN's event raised the profile of food insecurity in Nunavut to the national level.



Photo Credit: Aaron Watkinson

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## THE YEAR AHEAD

As of March 2014, all members of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition have formally approved the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-16*. The Coalition is greatly anticipating the public release of these documents in May 2014. The Coalition hopes to increase awareness of its efforts both within Nunavut and elsewhere, forging new partnerships with organizations that share a similar passion for food security. The Coalition plans to begin formal implementation of the *Action Plan 2014-16*, and intends to further advocate for a food secure Nunavut.

## Food Security Remains a Priority for the Government of Nunavut

On March 20, 2014, The Honorable Edna Elias, Commissioner of Nunavut, opened the second session of the fourth legislative assembly. In the Commissioner's Address<sup>3</sup>, Elias highlighted the Nunavut Food Security Coalition as a "good example" of an intersectoral partnership and alliance. She stated that the government "intends to support" the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-16* that the Coalition has introduced. Elias further noted that "it is essential for our government to continue advocating for adequate policy and legislative measures that support [access to nutritious foods] at affordable prices."

On the same day, the Government of Nunavut released its new mandate, *Sivumut Abluqta*<sup>4</sup>, which acknowledges that "adequate food and housing are fundamental to the health, education and well-being of Nunavummiut." The document states that the Government of Nunavut will "promote and support the use of harvesting skills and community-based solutions to enhance access to nutritious food throughout the territory."

The Nunavut Food Security Coalition is encouraged that the Government of Nunavut, co-sponsor of the Coalition, continues to recognize the importance of improving food security in Nunavut.

<sup>3</sup> Government of Nunavut (2014). Commissioner's Address at the Opening of the Second Session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Accessed 21 March 2014 from <http://www.gov.nu.ca/eia/news/commissioners-address-opening-second-session-fourth-legislative-assembly-nunavut>

<sup>4</sup> Government of Nunavut (2014). *Sivumut Abluqta*. Accessed 21 March 2014 from [http://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/sivumut\\_abluqta\\_-\\_eng.pdf](http://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/sivumut_abluqta_-_eng.pdf)





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