

*Minister's
Annual Report
on
Poverty
Reduction*

2013-2014





Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction | 2013-2014

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Poverty Reduction division

Department of Family Services

Government of Nunavut

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Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk Photo: Michel Albert

Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the first *Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction*.

Nunavut's poverty reduction initiative was launched in the fall of 2010, co-sponsored by the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction* was created in 2011 after a year of public engagement. *The Makimaniq Plan* provides a process for Nunavummiut to reduce and prevent poverty with a commitment to work together and help one another through collaboration and community participation.

In *Sivumut Abluqta*, our government's mandate document, we share this commitment to "stepping forward together." Our focus on building healthy families through strong and resilient communities relies on investing in community-based solutions to improve health, social well-being and local economies.

This Annual Report describes 65 different programs, policies and initiatives delivered by our departments and territorial corporations that contribute to reducing poverty in its many forms. The details of our many poverty reduction efforts in this report is an essential first step to developing more effective programs and services.

We are committed to using our limited public funds to ensure that our programs and services enable Nunavummiut to live healthy and productive lives. This focus includes program review and assessment, and the measurement of program outcomes. Over the past year, we have worked collaboratively to develop indicators to measure our progress in reducing poverty.

In future annual reports, we will use these measures to ensure we are using government resources wisely – determining what programs are working well, what needs improvement, and where we should refocus our resources to strengthen programs and services.

The reduction of poverty in our territory will be an important measure of our success in providing the combination of programs and services that support Nunavummiut in times of need, but also challenges and encourages them as they work to build communities and livelihoods, educate and train themselves and raise their families. This is the path forward we envision in *Sivumut Abluqta*.

Sincerely,

Honourable Jeannie Ugyuk
Minister of Family Services
Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction.

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Executive Summary



Enoapik Sageatok, 2013. Photo: staff

"When I was a young woman, I was taught to support other members of the community, to help other people. Not to just see what's going on, see them experiencing hardships, but to help them too. This is the law of the Elders. The only way we can have a healthy community now is by supporting each other."

Enoapik Sageatok (Iqaluit),
2011 Elders' Gathering on Poverty
Reduction in Arviat

Inuit tradition leads to collaboration to address poverty

Tradition of Sharing

Inuit traditionally relied on their own collective efforts and abilities to achieve a good life. People did not consider themselves poor – the idea of 'poverty' was not part of the Inuit worldview.

At an Elders' gathering on Poverty Reduction held in Arviat in 2011, Elders talked about the tradition of sharing, a foundational practice to ensure everyone had enough to survive. Inuit thrived together, and faced hardships together. People assisted those who needed help.

Today, there are many reports¹ and information in the media on poverty-related issues, such as Nunavummiut's reliance on income assistance and public housing, or challenges with food insecurity. But together, we can change this reality. We can face our hardships by working together to address the underlying causes of poverty on our path to improving the social and cultural well-being for all Nunavummiut.

Engagement process leads to collaboration and action

As a government, we recognize that we cannot solve poverty alone. In 2010, we partnered with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. to initiate the public in an engagement process on poverty reduction. Participants in the engagement process agreed that to them, poverty meant not being able to live well as individuals, as families, and as communities.

Respecting the Inuit worldview, participants in the process did not focus on the question "what is poverty?." Instead participants described the necessary actions required to move toward healthy, strong and resilient families and communities in Nunavut. At the heart of the discussion was the belief that the way forward to a higher quality of life is the path of collaboration and healing.

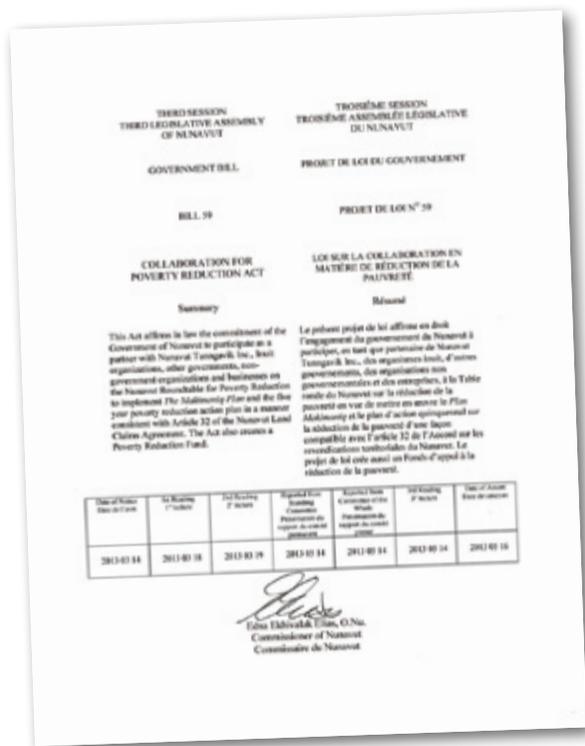
The ideas from the public engagement process were published in *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction* in November of 2011.²

¹ See *Understanding Poverty in Nunavut* Impact Economics, 2012, for a full discussion of poverty-related issues in Nunavut. <http://www.makiliqta.ca/en/resources/gn-poverty-reduction-division-0>
² *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*, Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, <http://www.makiliqta.ca/en/makimaniq-plan>

Government enacts Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act

In May of 2013, the Nunavut Legislative Assembly enacted *The Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*³ in order to ensure we work together on reducing poverty. The use of the word “collaboration” in the naming of this Act acknowledges our understanding that the government must genuinely collaborate with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and other Inuit organizations, governments, non-government organizations, the public, and the private sector to ensure we work together to improve our social and cultural well-being.

Nunavut’s 4th Assembly was elected in October 2013, halfway through the fiscal year covered in this Annual Report. Our government continues the commitment to enhancing self-reliance and improving the standards of living of Nunavummiut through collaboration as defined in the Act.



Summary of the Minister’s Annual Report on Poverty Reduction

Requirement for an Annual Report

The Act requires the Minister to table an Annual Report in the Legislative Assembly, detailing what government is doing to reduce poverty. To meet this obligation, the Poverty Reduction division in the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Family Services has prepared this report, the first *Minister’s Annual Report on Poverty Reduction, 2013-2014*.

As required in the Act, this report includes:

- A summary of the Government of Nunavut’s participation on the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (Chapter 1 in this report);
- A description of budget measures and government programs, policies and initiatives to reduce poverty (Chapter 2);
- The results achieved from budget measures and government programs, policies and initiatives to reduce poverty according to the indicators developed in collaboration with the Roundtable (Chapter 3);
- The annual report of the Poverty Reduction Fund, including a summary of projects funded by the Poverty Reduction Fund, and a description of initiatives funded by grants and contributions made under this Act (Chapter 4).

The remainder of this Executive Summary provides a brief summary of Chapters 1 to 4.

³ *The Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* <http://www.justice.gov.nu.ca/apps/fetch/download.aspx?file=Consolidated+Law%2fCurrent%2f635261587889531250-1491637182-consSNu2013c12.pdf>

Government's participation on the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

Chapter 1 of this report, "Working Together" includes a summary of government activities with the Roundtable since 2010 and focuses on our collaborative efforts for 2013-2014.

Through the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction we continue to engage with the public, organizations and the private sector to understand the issues, and take action together to address the underlying causes of poverty.

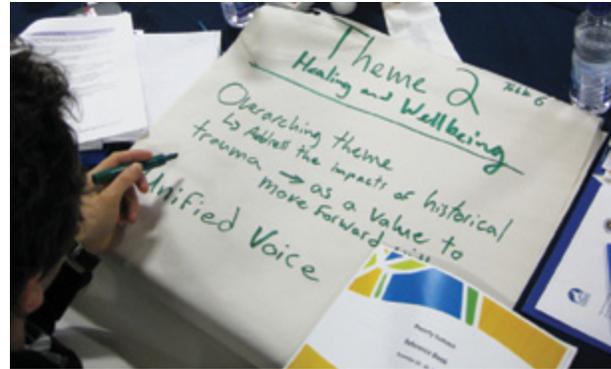
Government programs, policies, initiatives and budget measures

The *Act* requires the government to report on programs, policies, initiatives and budget measures that contribute to poverty reduction each year. They include both the government's social safety net programs *and* programs that support Nunavummiut in building skills, health, and effective community decision making.

Chapter 2 of this Annual Report, "Government Initiatives," contains seven sections, listing 65 government programs, policies and initiatives organized according to *The Makimaniq Plan* themes⁴ for action.

- Collaboration and Community Participation (2.1)
- Healing and Wellbeing (2.2)
- Education and Skills Development (2.3)
- Food Security (2.4)
- Housing Access (2.5)
- Income Assistance (2.6)
- Community and Economic Development (2.7)

By grouping government programs according to the Makimaniq themes, we can easily see how various government efforts contribute to the achievement of the priorities identified in the public engagement process.



Participants develop Makimaniq themes, 2011. Photo: staff

Measuring the effectiveness of government programs

The *Act* requires that we report on results achieved from the budget measures and government programs, policies and initiatives to reduce poverty according to the indicators developed in collaboration with the Roundtable.

While each department continues to evaluate its own individual programs, it is currently a challenge to report on the collective impact of the various government activities listed in this report.

This report does outline, however, the government's social safety net programs that help vulnerable Nunavummiut in meeting their basic needs. The report speaks to the health and community justice programs that are available to help us heal. It also describes the programs and services that are available to help individuals and families build capabilities and improve livelihoods through social, educational and economic development opportunities.

⁴ *The Makimaniq Plan* highlighted six themes as a "holistic approach to poverty reduction." In this Annual Report, Theme 5: Housing and Income Support, has been divided to create two themes: Housing Access and Income Assistance.

As described in Chapter 3, work is underway to develop and implement a performance measurement framework that will help us understand what is working, what needs to be improved, what programs need to be better coordinated together and what gaps need to be filled from a territory-wide perspective.

In the future, we will monitor the indicators we have identified as part of our performance measurement framework. With this data, it will be possible to evaluate the collective impact of our efforts to improve the social and cultural well-being for all Nunavummiut.

"At the heart of this plan is the belief that the way forward to a Nunavut without poverty is the path of collaboration and healing."

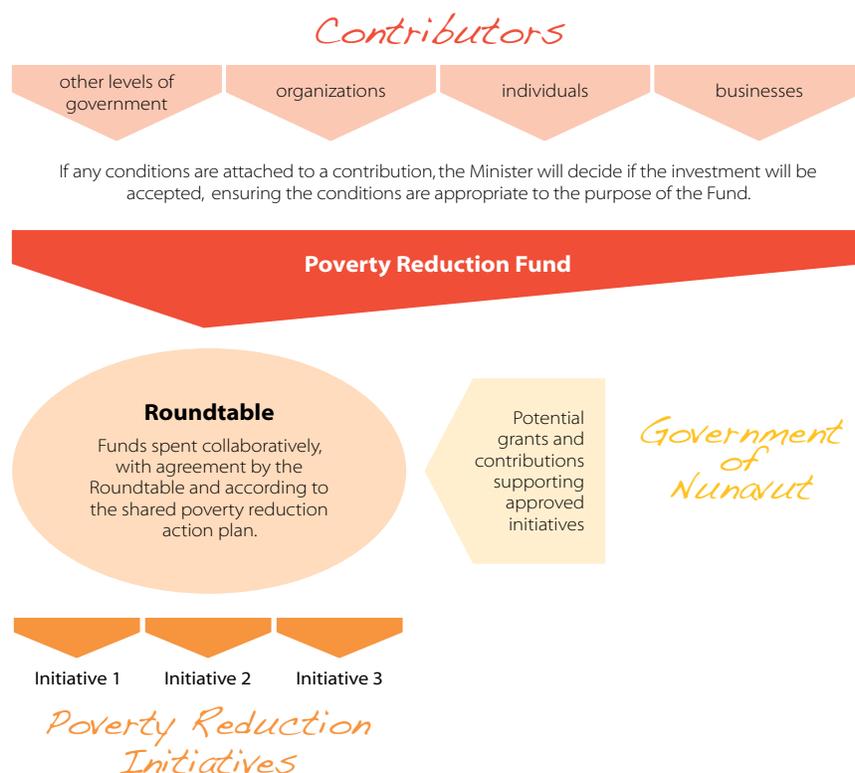
- *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction* p. 1

Poverty Reduction Fund

In Chapter 4, we provide details on the Act's Poverty Reduction Fund. The Fund creates a mechanism for individuals, organizations and the private sector to make donations to support the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction to collaborate in implementing *The Makimaniq Plan* and the forthcoming Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan. The Fund is also intended to support community-driven poverty reduction initiatives.

With the creation of the Poverty Reduction Fund process, those who wish to be proactive in contributing financially to poverty reduction have a mechanism that is supported and protected by government, and at the same time guided by a collaborative process.

Poverty Reduction Fund structure



CHAPTER 1: *Working Together*

*"Without limiting any rights of Inuit or any obligations of Government, outside of the agreement, Inuit have the right as set out in this Article to participate in the development of social and cultural policies, and in the design of social and cultural programs and services, including their method of delivery, within the Nunavut Settlement Area."*⁶

- Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, Article 32

Government's participation on the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

The *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* requires the Government of Nunavut to report on our participation in the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction as part of our Annual Report.

The Roundtable is a forum for organizations that are committed to a shared understanding of poverty and a shared approach to reducing poverty. The purposes of the Roundtable are to:

- Provide leadership and oversight for the implementation of the Makimaniq Plan, and support collaboration and innovation on the issues identified in the Plan;
- Extend the Makimaniq Plan by preparing a long term (five year) poverty reduction action plan for Nunavut and ensure full public participation in the planning and implementation of poverty reduction measures; and,
- Support community-driven initiatives and the initiatives of local networks of community organizations engaged in poverty reduction.⁵

Activities prior to April 1st, 2013

Because this is the first Government of Nunavut *Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction*, we have included a brief summary of activities in which the government participated between 2010 and April 1st, 2013, prior to the time period officially covered in this 2013-2014 Annual Report.

⁵ Memorandum of Understanding on the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, <http://www.makiliqta.ca/en/resources/news/nti-and-gn-sign-mou-nunavut-roundtable-poverty-reduction>
⁶ Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, p 223 http://www.tunngavik.com/documents/publications/LAND_CLAIMS_AGREEMENT_NUNAVUT.pdf

Public engagement process: 2010

In keeping with the rights of Inuit to participate as defined in Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. joined with the Government of Nunavut in 2010 to co-sponsor a public engagement process on poverty reduction. The engagement process started with community dialogues throughout the territory.

The issues and ideas generated from the community dialogues were then discussed at regional gatherings held in Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, North Qikiqtani and South Qikiqtani to decide on “options for action”.

The public engagement process started in 2010 is an important and significant accomplishment that prioritized true participation and engagement of Inuit in the discussion of social and cultural policies, programs and services related to poverty reduction, in line with Article 32 of the *Nunavut Land Claim Agreement*. Public Engagement honours our Inuit Societal Values, notably Aajiiqatigiinni: decision making through discussion and consensus.

Public engagement is focused on encouraging community participation in identifying what issues to consider, proposing possible solutions and in making decisions collaboratively on the best path forward.

The Poverty Reduction Division has, in its partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik on the poverty reduction initiative, worked to develop, build understanding of and coordinate the application of this approach to our work in improving the social and cultural well-being of all Nunavummiut.

The Makimaniq Plan: 2011

The Poverty Summit was held in Iqaluit in November of 2011, where ‘options for action’ were finalized and published in *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*.

As a member of the Roundtable, the Government of Nunavut participates in contributing actions towards the achievement of the goals outlined in the plan. Working together and helping one another - Piliiriqatigiingniq/ikajuqtigiingniq - we pledged to review this plan to confirm our commitment to these priorities.⁷

Chapter 2 of this Annual Report presents the Government of Nunavut’s work to help achieve the goals outlined in *The Makimaniq Plan*.

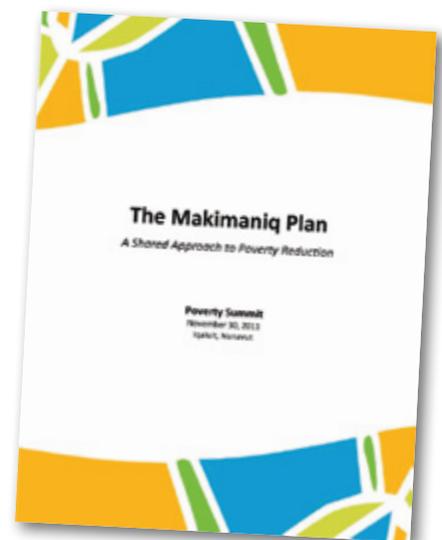
Roundtable engagement process will continue



Kitikmeot Regional Gathering, 2011. Photo: staff



Kivalliq Regional Gathering, 2012. Photo: staff



⁷ *The Makimaniq Plan*, p 1

The Creation of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction: 2012

In October 2012, the Government of Nunavut signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. to establish and support the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding administrative costs of the roundtable are borne by the Government of Nunavut. Through the Department of Social and Cultural Development, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. contribute staff, staff travel and in-kind resources to the initiative.

Nunavut Food Security Coalition creation: 2012

The Nunavut Food Security Coalition was established in June 2012.

The Poverty Reduction division serves as co-chair with NTI of the Coalition. Administrative and coordination support is provided by the Territorial Food Security Coordinator in the Department of Health. The vision of the Coalition is that *“all Nunavummiut will have access to an adequate supply of safe, culturally preferable, affordable, nutritious food, through a food system that promotes Inuit Societal Values, self-reliance, and environmental sustainability.”*⁸

The Coalition brings together the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Regional Inuit Associations, grocery retailers and non-governmental organizations.

Today, the Coalition is a task group of the Roundtable.

Past (2011-2013)

-  Community Dialogues (Jan-Jun 2011)
-  *Issues and Ideas for Change* (May-Jun 2011)
-  Territorial Elders Gathering (Apr 2011)
-  Regional Roundtables (May-Jun 2011)
-  *Options for Action* (Sep 2011)
-   **Poverty Summit: The Makimaniq Plan (Nov 2011)**
-  Regional Gatherings (May-Jun 2012)*
-  *Regional Gathering Reports* (Jun 2012)
-  *Understanding Poverty in Nunavut* (Aug 2012)
-  NTI and GN: *MOU on the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction* (Oct 2012)
-  Nunavut Food Security Symposium (Jan 2013)

2013-2014



Next Steps (2014-2015)

-  Spring 2014 Roundtable Gathering (Rankin Inlet)
-  Fall 2014 Roundtable Gathering (Iqaluit)
-  *Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan*
-  *Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction 2013-2014*
-  *Homelessness Action Plan 2015-2017*



⁸ *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan, 2014-2016* p 4, <http://www.makiliqta.ca/en/action-plans/food-security-strategy-and-action-plan>

Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction: Government participation 2013-2014

From April 2013 to March 2014, our government has continued to directly support the work of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. We have invested in significant administration and coordination support to continue the comprehensive engagement process and to help achieve the objectives of the Makimaniq Plan.

First official Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

The first *official* Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction gathering took place in Iqaluit in June of 2013 only one month after the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* came into force. The Roundtable was convened and co-chaired by the Honourable Monica Ell, Minister of Family Services and Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction (Government of Nunavut) and by Jack Anawak, Vice-President Responsible for the Inuit Social and Cultural Development Advisory Committee (Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.).

The Roundtable called for the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan, required under the new Act, to be an extension of *The Makimaniq Plan*, but with greater emphasis in three areas:

- Healing and well-being;
- A broad-based approach to child development (*inunnguiniq*), with an emphasis on parenting skills; and,
- Progressive change of the income support system to remove the welfare wall.

The Roundtable forum prioritized creating a space and opportunity to seek the guidance and wisdom of Elders. A special Elders' Council was included as part of the agenda, asking Elders what they envision for the future and what they thought our priorities should be as we plan and prepare for the future.

An update on the work of the Food Security Coalition was also provided during this meeting.

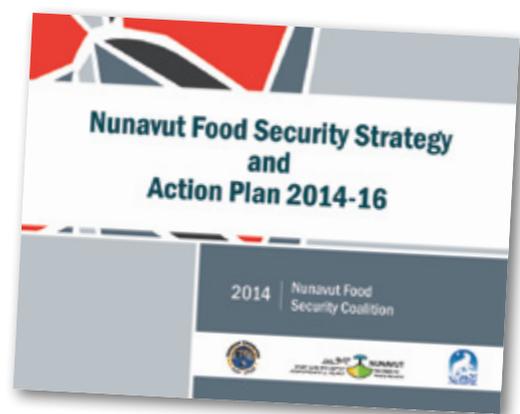
Although Roundtable meetings are semi-annual, the Fall 2013 Gathering did not take place

because of the General Election in late October. In November Premier Taptuna announced that Jeannie Ugyuk would assume the roles of Minister of Family Services and Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction. In this capacity, Minister Ugyuk became the government Co-Chair for the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2016 approved

The Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-16 was formally approved by all members of the Coalition by March 2014. The Actions outlined in the plan focus on four components of food security: availability, accessibility, quality and use. Examples of actions in the plan include facilitating access to country food, developing relationships with commercial partners, exploring measures to reduce the cost of and increase access to store-bought food, exploring and promoting the potential for local food production, supporting community efforts that improve access to food for those who are most vulnerable to hunger and advocating for food security measures through policy and legislation.

The Government will continue to work with its Coalition partners in implementing The Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-16 in the coming two years.



Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan and measuring progress

The *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* commits the Government of Nunavut to collaborate with other members of the Roundtable to develop a Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan, including the development of indicators to measure progress in reducing poverty, and a government monitoring program.

In December 2013 the Poverty Reduction division sponsored a "Theory of Change" workshop to begin to identify desired outcomes for the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan and the kinds of changes needed to reach these outcomes. A second workshop in February 2014 established a preliminary listing of indicators of poverty reduction.

Creation of "Secretariat to the Roundtable"

Early in 2014 a Secretariat to the Roundtable was formed, made up of staff from Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., to draft the Action Plan. The Action Plan will be based on:

- *The Makimaniq Plan*, the extensive records of the community and regional dialogues held in 2011 and 2012;
- the results of *The Makimaniq Implementation Plan* prepared in 2013; and
- the direction provided by the Spring 2013 Gathering of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

The Action Plan will express the Roundtable's consensus on the actions that should be prioritized to achieve the desired outcomes of healthy families and strong and resilient communities.

The public engagement process for the preparation of the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan includes Roundtable gatherings in Rankin Inlet in the spring of 2014, and in Iqaluit in the fall of 2014.

Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Summit, June 2013

Participants call for Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan themes to emphasize:

- healing and well-being;
- a broad-based approach to child development (inunnguiniq), with an emphasis on parenting skills; and,
- progressive change of the income support system to remove the welfare wall.



Roundtable Meeting, 2013 Photo: Ron Wassink

Administration and Coordination support to the Roundtable

The Poverty Reduction division within the Department of Family Services supports the Roundtable on behalf of the government. This division was created as part of the new Department of Family Services on April 1, 2013, and assumed responsibility for the work of the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat, and for the government's homelessness initiatives program, formerly delivered by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Poverty Reduction division is led by a director, with two additional staff dedicated to the administration of the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*. The budget allocated for this work, including the three staff positions, was \$1.1 million in 2013-2014.

The Poverty Reduction division works closely with the Department of Social and Cultural Development at Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. providing administrative and coordination support to the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

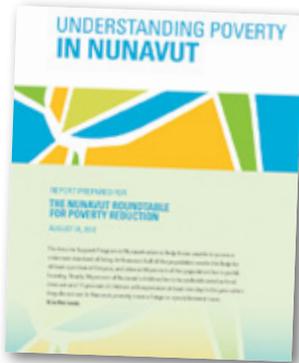
At the Spring 2013 Roundtable, participants called for improved communications with communities on the implementation of *The Makimaniq Plan*. The Poverty Reduction division provides support for the production of an occasional newsletter and a website at www.makiliqta.ca, for the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. Both were redesigned in 2013-2014.



Minister Ugyuk participates in Roundtable meeting, 2014 Photo: staff

Research⁹

Research completed from 2012 to 2014 provided important information to support the Roundtable discussions, the work to draft the Five Year Action Plan and the development of poverty reduction programming.



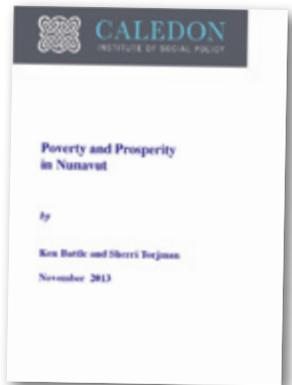
Understanding Poverty in Nunavut

Understanding Poverty in Nunavut is a report commissioned by the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat for the Roundtable as a contribution to the territorial discussion about how to best measure poverty and support the implementation of *The Makimaniq Plan*. Produced by Impact Economics, the report thoroughly examines poverty in the territory, and explores the complex relationships between the social, economic, political, historical, and geographical factors that influence Nunavut's development. This research report was released in 2012.



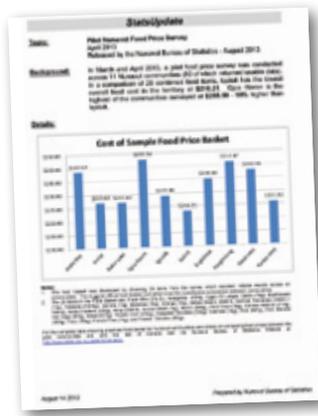
The Makimaniq Implementation Plan

In January 2013 the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat commissioned North Sky Consulting to prepare *The Makimaniq Implementation Plan*. The report was completed in August 2013. It reports on progress with implementation of *The Makimaniq Plan*, and proposes a governance structure for the Roundtable to promote the collaboration necessary for action on the plan's principal themes and objectives.



Poverty and Prosperity in Nunavut

Poverty and Prosperity in Nunavut: The Caledon Institute of Social Policy was engaged by the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat to examine Nunavut's welfare programs. The report details a 'made-in-Nunavut' social policy system inspired by Nunavut's unique history and values, and geared to its social, demographic, economic and political characteristics. The paper is intended to launch an exchange of ideas on "a new social vision" for Nunavut. This report was released in November of 2013.



Food Price Survey

With the support of the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics undertook a pilot food price survey in eleven communities in March 2013. The results were published in the summer of 2013. The Poverty Reduction division continued this support in 2013-2014, and in March the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics administered a more comprehensive food price survey in all 25 communities.¹⁰

Profile of Homelessness in Nunavut

In November 2013, the Poverty Reduction division commissioned "A Profile of Homelessness in Nunavut." The study included an analysis of the causes of homelessness, an assessment of the resources available to combat homelessness, a representative survey of those experiencing homelessness, and a "point-in-time" count of persons coping with "absolute homelessness" in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. The count was conducted in February and March 2014.

⁹ All research reports are posted at www.makimaniq.ca under Resources/Commissioned Studies
¹⁰ Visit www.stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Economic%20prices.aspx to see food price survey results

CHAPTER 2: *Government Initiatives*

Selecting programs, policies and initiatives for inclusion

What is a 'government poverty reduction' program?

This Annual Report focuses on both our government's social safety net programs¹¹ and the wider range of programming that empowers individuals, families and communities with the skills, health and decision making responsibilities needed to attain strong, healthy, and resilient families and communities.

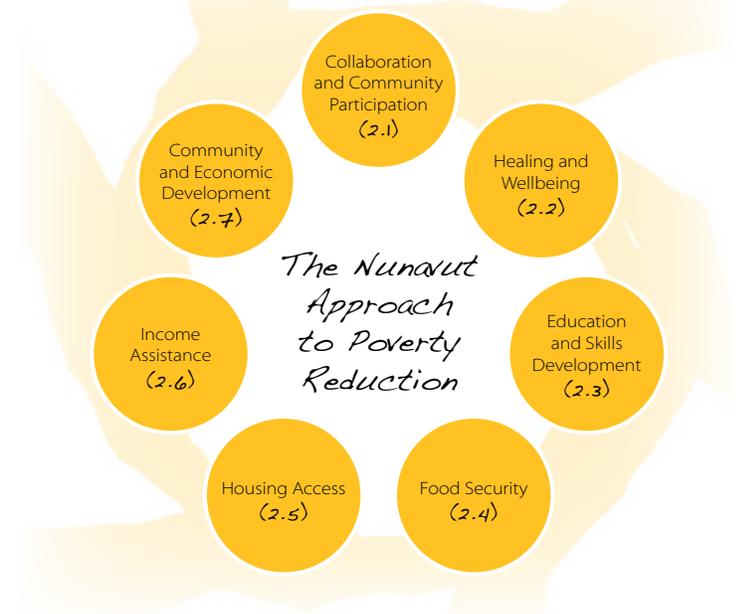
We have chosen this inclusive approach to demonstrate not only how government programs help vulnerable Nunavummiut in meeting their basic needs, but also to show how government programs address the root causes of poverty and help Nunavummiut to change their circumstances to build self-reliant lives.

Makimaniq themes provide structure for government program reporting

The Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act calls on the Minister to monitor whether budget measures, programs, policies and initiatives of the Government are consistent with *The Makimaniq Plan* and the forthcoming Five Year Poverty

Reduction Action Plan. Our report is organized according to the Makimaniq themes¹² that provide the areas for action to reduce poverty as identified in the public engagement process used to create the plan.

The Makimaniq Themes



¹¹ In October 2011 the Government of Nunavut published "Nunavut Social Safety Net Review" a study commissioned to provide "an objective and detailed review of the effectiveness of social safety net programs and services currently offered by the Government of Nunavut." The review sets out a "Nunavut Inclusive Growth Model" to organize government social and economic programs. Nineteen social safety net programs, which "provide protection for the most vulnerable," were included in the study.

¹² *The Makimaniq Plan* highlighted six themes as a "holistic approach to poverty reduction." In this Annual Report, Theme 5: Housing and Income Support, has been divided to create two themes: Housing Access and, Income Assistance.

A section on each of these Makimaniq themes follows, (sections 2.1-2.7) providing a brief description of 65 government programs that contribute to achieving these priorities. By grouping programs according to the Makimaniq themes, it is easy to see how government programs in different departments dovetail into each other, and see progress as government departments increase their collaboration with each other.

Multiple dimensions of poverty

The research report, *Understanding Poverty in Nunavut*, commissioned by the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat¹³ in 2012 documents an internationally accepted definition of poverty, incorporating three dimensions of poverty:

- a) *Financial Poverty*: not having enough income for basic needs - food, shelter, and clothing;
- b) *Capability Poverty*: lacking the skills or health needed to live a long life, attain an adequate education (formal or traditional), or participate fully in the economic life of their community;
- c) *Social Exclusion*: the process of marginalization through barriers to participation in economic, political, civic or cultural life¹⁴

Programs addressing dimensions of poverty

To determine which specific programs, policies and initiatives to include in our first Annual Report, we developed a method to identify if and how a government program is addressing one or more of the dimensions of poverty defined in *Understanding Poverty*.

Working on the basis of these approaches to understanding poverty, the Poverty Reduction division reviewed the legislation and business plans of Government of Nunavut departments and crown corporations responsible for programs and policies that relate to the Makimaniq areas for action. The listing of programs and services was

then shared with each government department, asking managers to consider if their programs addressed one or more of the dimensions of poverty in the territory.

Each program description in the tables in the following pages lists how the program helps to reduce poverty according to our method, specifying either *financial support*, *building capability*, *social inclusion*, or a combination of these approaches.

Collaboration and community participation

The *Understanding Poverty* report identifies a fourth dimension in addressing poverty – by using participatory methodologies, where people who are experiencing poverty are able to fully participate in defining what poverty is, and what policies and actions are needed for poverty reduction¹⁵. The Roundtable engagement process is founded on this understanding, recognizing the importance of participatory methodologies to develop policies and actions that work.

Collaboration and community participation are central to solving poverty-related issues in the long term. In Nunavut, it is critical that Inuit culture and decision-making processes are included in the process. Under Article 32 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Inuit have the right to participate in the development of social and cultural policies, and in the design of social and cultural programs and services.

Where government programs are actively engaged in collaboration and community participation, their listings include the phrase “*collaboration and community participation*”, in an effort to recognize programs that seek to address challenges through meaningful participation by those directly affected as a means for long term change.

¹³ Until March 31, 2013, the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat in the Department of Economic Development & Transportation was responsible for the government's poverty reduction initiative.

¹⁴ *Understanding Poverty in Nunavut*, p 13-18

¹⁵ *Understanding Poverty in Nunavut*, p. 18

Budget measures

The Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act requires government to report on the budget measures associated with poverty reduction. Where possible, we have included the budget amount quoted in the 2014-2017 Government of Nunavut Business Plan, or have included a portion of the budget as identified by the manager providing the information on the program. This budget measure includes funds that were budgeted to be spent in fiscal year April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014, and are listed beside each program.

Report to be published every year

Because this is our first *Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction*, there may be government programs and initiatives we have missed in our summary. But there will be another Annual Report in 2015 - it is a requirement of the *Act*. So it is our hope to build this list of government programs as their managers work to identify how programs truly help to reduce poverty – collaboratively.

Program descriptions included in this report are intended as an overview of the program, policy or initiative. Information is listed on how to find out more information through specific reports or by contacting departments.



2.1

Collaboration and Community Participation

Participants in the public engagement process that developed *The Makimaniq Plan* agreed that no single organization – even government – working alone, can be as effective in reducing poverty as when organizations work together. Everyone saw the value of piliriqatigiingniq/ikajuqtigiingniq (working together and helping one another) to meet our shared desire to reduce poverty in Nunavut.

Three key goals were outlined in the plan under this theme:

- a) continued improvement of working relationships between the government, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Regional Inuit organizations;
- b) increased support for community action;
- c) poverty reduction legislation.

Formalizing and improving working relationships

The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction in October of 2012, following the publication of *The Makimaniq Plan*. This agreement for collaboration established that the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. can fulfill the requirements of Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement with respect to poverty reduction, and work together with other partners on the implementation of *The Makimaniq Plan*. The Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction continued its work throughout 2013-2014, supported by both NTI and the Poverty Reduction division of Family Services. (See Chapter 1 for more details.)

Other government agencies are also working collaboratively with Inuit organizations, regional and community groups to find ways to reduce poverty. For example, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation convenes Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee meetings, bringing together Inuit organizations, mayors, project proponents and government departments to discuss the socio-economic impacts of major projects in affected communities. Open dialogue helps identify ways major development projects can benefit community members – including those living in poverty.

Community Health and Wellness Committees (CHWC) identify priorities

Many Nunavut CHWCs choose to use community wellness dollars for developing nutrition programs, such as Community Prenatal Nutrition Programs or nutrition programs for youth. Students in this Apex cooking club learn to make meatballs for the local soup kitchen – learning about nutrition and cooking while also participating in community service.



Nanook School students Photo: Sarah Brandvold

Community participation

Many government departments are working to find ways to genuinely collaborate at the community level - understanding that community participation is a key step on the road to self-reliance. *The Makimaniq Plan* calls for more support for community organizations engaged in poverty reduction activities.

The Department of Health provides funds to every hamlet to set up Community Health and Wellness Committees, who are dedicated to finding ways to better identify community health priorities, and create action plans to solve health and wellness challenges facing their community.

The Department of Family Services funds advocacy organizations that represent the views of people whose voices may not otherwise be heard. The *Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council* ensures women's perspectives from communities are included on issues of poverty, violence, and wellness. The *Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society* ensures the views of the disabled are included in the conversation.

The enactment of the Representative for Children and Youth Act created the Office for the Representative for Children and Youth, an independent office of the Legislative Assembly, which works to ensure that children and youth receive the supports they need and that their voices are heard. The Office has the power to make recommendations for policy change.

Poverty reduction legislation

When the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* was enacted in May 2013, a major government commitment to poverty reduction was fulfilled. Consideration of "legislation to mandate collaboration... to reduce poverty" had been called for in *The Makimaniq Plan*. Legislation that focuses on the requirement of government to purposefully collaborate in its efforts to reduce poverty is a unique approach in Canada.

Next steps

The Makimaniq Plan identified some specific objectives under the collaboration goals:

- Support the establishment of a working group for the implementation of Article 32;
- Support the establishment of a committee in every community composed of representatives of government departments and RIAs;
- Create a territorial organization to support the initiatives of local networks.

Together, there is work to be done. The Poverty Reduction division will continue to work in collaboration with the Roundtable members towards implementation of these specific collaborative objectives.

For each of the themes included in this Annual Report, we have identified many more government initiatives that involve extensive collaboration and community involvement as people work together to address healing, wellness, food security, housing, community development and income assistance challenges.

In years to come, we expect to see an increase in collaboration between government departments, and between the government and Inuit organizations, non-governmental organizations and communities across Nunavut.

Collaboration and Community Participation – Programs, policies and initiatives

Department of Culture and Heritage

Community Radio Stations Funding

Supporting better access to information and encouraging community dialogue

The Department of Culture and Heritage provides grants to community broadcasting organizations to cover their operating costs, and to improve community broadcast communication systems throughout Nunavut.

Division: Heritage

Poverty reduction through: social Inclusion

More information: <http://www.ch.gov.nu.ca/en/GrantIntro.aspx>

Budget: \$150,000/year

Nunavut's Language Legislation

Ensuring language is not a barrier to access services, learning or work

The *Official Languages Act* guarantees Nunavummiut the right to communicate and obtain services in the official language of their choice. The Inuit Language Protection Act guarantees that positive action by government and non-government organizations will be taken to reverse language shift, to strengthen the use of Inuktitut among Nunavummiut and to ensure Inuktitut is used as a language of education, of work and in day to day services. The implementation, management and monitoring of Nunavut's language legislation by the departments of the Government of Nunavut and public agencies is coordinated by the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Division: Official Languages

Poverty reduction through: social inclusion

More information: <http://www.ch.gov.nu.ca/en/LangIntro.aspx>

Budget: \$5,000,000

Department of Economic Development and Transportation

Socio-Economic Monitoring Committees

Bringing communities and proponents together to discuss the effects of major projects in each region

Economic Development and Transportation convenes two Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee (SEMC) meetings a year in Baffin, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. The SEMC invites interested Nunavut and Federal government representatives, Inuit organizations, Mayors from affected communities, Hunters and Trappers Organizations, and proponents of major projects in a region to discuss the socio-economic effects of major projects and work together to improve opportunities in the region as projects go forward.

Division: Minerals and Petroleum Resources / Division Operations

Poverty reduction through: collaboration and community participation

More information: www.nunavutsemc.com

Budget: \$100,000

Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Representative for Children and Youth Act

New Act gives voice to Children and Youth concerns

The enactment of new legislation on September 17, 2013, created the Representative for Children and Youth, an independent office, to advocate for the rights and interests of children and youth, and to advise the Legislative Assembly and the Government of Nunavut on matters involving children and youth. The Representative is also mandated to facilitate communications between children and youth and other designated parties.

Division: Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Poverty reduction through: social inclusion

More information: <http://www.justice.gov.nu.ca/apps/fetch/download.aspx?file=Consolidated+Law%2fCurrent%2f635523520295781250-810881137-consSNu2013c27.pdf>

Budget: costs covered by department's Operations and Management budget

Department of Family Services

Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Coordination

Family Services is the lead department supporting Roundtable's work

In partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Family Service's Poverty Reduction division provides administrative and coordination support to the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. The first official gathering of the Roundtable was held in June of 2013, with approximately 70 people including community members and representatives of Government, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Regional Inuit Associations, Hamlet Councils, community organizations and businesses attending. Members provided input into the framework for the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan. Workshops in December of 2013 and February of 2014 started to define desired outcomes for the Five Year Plan and the indicators to be used to measure our progress towards poverty reduction.

Division: Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction through: social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: <http://www.makiliqta.ca/>

Budget: \$300,000

Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act

Passing of new Act in May of 2013 emphasizes the role of collaboration

Consistent with Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the principal path chosen by legislators to reduce poverty is to work together and help one another in collaboration. The Act ensures a continued commitment to poverty reduction through the development and implementation of a Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan through public engagement. This co-management approach, expressed in the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, is unique in Canada.

Division: Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction through: collaboration and community participation

More information: <http://www.justice.gov.nu.ca/apps/fetch/download.aspx?file=Consolidated+Law%2fCurrent%2f635261587889531250-1491637182-consSNu2013c12.pdf>

Budget: \$429,000

Department of Family Services - continued

Social Advocacy

Funding for organizations supporting women and persons with disabilities ensures all voices are included

Family Services provides core funding to the *Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society* and to *Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council*. Both organizations work to foster community inclusion in their advocacy work, and are active participants in poverty reduction discussions. Makinnasuaqtiit promotes self-determination and independence among those with diverse disabilities and Qullit advances the goal of equal participation of women in society.

Division: Children and Family Services, Social Advocacy

Poverty reduction through: social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: www.qnsw.ca and www.nuability.ca

Budget: \$420,000

Department of Health

Community Health and Wellness Committees

Continuing support for community-led health and wellness planning and participation

The Department of Health provides each hamlet with a \$10,000 operating grant to support a Community Health and Wellness Committee (CHWC) that identifies and addresses community health and wellness priorities. The CHWC initiative aims to increase the participation of Nunavummiut in the development and delivery of community health programs in Nunavut and follow best practices for social inclusion – key to long term poverty reduction.

Division: Population Health

Poverty reduction through: collaboration and community participation

More information: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/health>

Budget: \$250,000

Open discussion forums on impact of mining in communities

The Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee (SEMC) ensures local voices are heard in assessing the impact of mining and exploration on communities. Twice a year in each region, Economic Development and Transportation brings community members and major project developers together to discuss developments' effect on education, jobs, poverty, crime, health, culture and other socio-economic issues. Together, they look at ways to ensure local people benefit from development.



Kivalliq SEMC meeting in Arviat, fall 2013 Photo: staff

Healing and Wellbeing

2.2

The theme of healing and wellbeing emerged in *The Makimaniq Plan*, as people discussed the long term effects of colonization, residential schools, and rapid change in Inuit society on their wellbeing. Incidents of child abuse, family violence, substance abuse and suicide are the outward signs of a population in need of healing on their path out of poverty.

The overall goals set in *The Makimaniq Plan* included:

- a) Support for community-driven actions through community wellness plans;
- b) Incorporating local resources in addressing mental health and addictions;
- c) Creating a territorial interagency committee to better integrate and administer wellness-related funding.

People who are unwell and are in need of healing may not be capable of providing for their families effectively. They may find it difficult to participate fully and productively in the life of their communities. They may face challenges getting their children to school, who in turn miss learning the literacy and numeracy skills required to work in the modern economy. Intergenerational poverty can set in, and can be difficult to turn around.

Healing and wellness programs are delivered by the Departments of Family Services, Health, Justice, and Nunavut Arctic College. Programs that address healing and wellness – can be considered as helping to increase people’s ‘capability’ – a key determinant in reducing poverty.

“As I heal, I will help my community. We are talking about poverty reduction in our communities, but before we can help our communities, we need to help ourselves first to heal.”

- Joanasie Muckpa (Pond Inlet)
2011 Elders’ Gathering on Poverty Reduction in Arviat



Inmates and Elders behind the Rankin Inlet Healing Centre. Photo: staff

Healing for inmates a priority in Rankin Inlet Healing Centre

The design of the new centre was based on a community engagement process. The front of the centre (building in the background) faces the community, inviting people in to get involved in assisting in the healing process.

Many offenders were victims themselves and need to heal. As part of the healing process, Elders in Rankin Inlet teach inmates igloo building skills behind the healing facility.

Community-led initiatives

The Department of Health is working with communities to increase community control of how healing and wellness is delivered.

Health manages a significant contribution from Health Canada specifically to support community-based wellness programming. Health works with Hamlets, District Education Authorities and Community Health and Wellness Committees to set community priorities within three areas:

1. **Healthy Children, Families and Communities** – funds help create healthy family and community environments in which children and all community members can thrive;
2. **Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention** – funds are used in part to support healthy eating programs with an emphasis on the development of knowledge and skills for selecting, preparing, and eating healthy store-bought and country foods; and
3. **Mental Health and Addictions** – funds are used to support programs that encourage the well-being of youth, individuals, and families by increasing awareness and understanding of mental health issues and addictions.

On the basis of this planning, communities can apply for community wellness funding. Each community determines how they want to use the community wellness funds allocated to their community. Funds are also used for community visits, skills development, and resource dissemination.

Suicide prevention has been identified as a top priority in communities, so it is no surprise that over 565 people took the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) Training delivered by Nunavut Arctic College last year. In these short workshops funded by Health, people learn how to identify, intervene and help prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Health also funds the Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit Embrace Life Council (IIKELC) who focus on community-led suicide prevention initiatives.

Incorporating local resources into healing programs

There are many people in communities who have healing skills that are not recognized in formal mental health or addictions programs. The Makimaniq Plan called for the incorporation of community-based informal networks and formal community-based care with existing territorial services.

The Department of Justice is a leader in reaching out to community. Innovative healing programs offered in the halfway houses in Iqaluit and Kugluktuk reach out to community members to help in the healing process, as offenders are supported by Elders, clergy, hunters, artists, and even business owners on their path to wellness. The outpost camp program helps offenders learn skills on the land they never had the chance to learn growing up, and the healing that takes place can transform someone's life. Justice officials recognize that most offenders were victims themselves, and healing is job one.

The Community Justice division's work in applying the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* is based on first ensuring people in abusive situations are safe, and then linking people to a trusted community member to resolve conflict through the Community Intervention Order process.

Justice Committees work to divert offenders from the court system through alternative justice, and often involve requirements to participate in healing programs to prevent further offenses. Justice Committees, in collaboration with the Community Justice Outreach Workers (CJOWs) plan, organize and deliver crime prevention/healing programming that is often accessed by children, youth and families. For example: teaching youth how to make traditional tools, on the land hunting or fishing trips, parenting programs, or in school presentations by the CJOWs and Justice Committee members.

The Department of Family Services funds shelters for women and children fleeing abusive situations. Shelters are community-based organizations offering safe and secure housing, along with counseling and education services. See "Housing Access" page 43 for a list of services and policies that work to provide housing to the most vulnerable in Nunavut.

The Makimaniq Plan speaks to formal community based care as one of the critical pieces in allowing for "the appropriate care to be given by the appropriate care givers."¹⁶ In 2013-2014, the Department of Health provided additional psychiatric nursing coverage in Baffin communities and increased capacity at the Akausisarvik mental health Treatment Centre in Iqaluit with six new inpatient beds, an increase in front line staffing and increased service delivery to outpatient day program clients. The Cambridge Bay Mental Health Treatment Facility also opened in 2013.

Next steps

The Makimaniq Plan called for methods to make it easier for communities to access wellness-related funding in order to properly fund and sustain community-driven initiatives. The Plan also called for the creation of Wellness plans in every community.

Our government offers a wide range of programs in communities that contribute to healing and wellbeing, involving the Departments of Health, Justice and Family Services, as well as Nunavut Arctic College. In this Annual Report these programs are presented together, so that the potential for their alignment and collective impact in the community is more evident.

¹⁶ *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction* p.4, <http://www.makiliqta.ca/en/makimaniq-plan>

Healing and Wellbeing – Programs, policies and initiatives

Department of Family Services

Extended Support Agreements for young adults in care

Legislation change means youth in care can get support after age 19

Amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act* that came into force in May 2013 allow individuals in the care of the Director of Children and Family Services to opt to receive support while transitioning into adulthood, up to the age of 26 (raised from 19). Extended Support Agreements are developed in cooperation with the family and/or young adult to determine what services will meet the individual's needs, such as counseling, parenting programs, financial support, drug or alcohol treatment or mediation of disputes.

Division: Children and Family Services / Child Welfare

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information:

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/children-family-services>

Budget: to be assigned in 2014-2015

Department of Health

Cambridge Bay Mental Health Treatment Facility

Providing increased support and treatment for mental health

A 12-bed mental health facility opened in Cambridge Bay in October 2013 for client referrals, out-patient day programming and drop-in support for mental health clients. Residential services began in February 2014. The programs and services delivered at the facility are evidence-informed and reflect Inuit societal values.

Division: Mental Health and Addictions Division

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion

More information: www.livehealthy.gov.nu.ca/en

Budget: \$ 2,065,000

Community Wellness Funding for mental health and addictions

Supporting community-led mental health and addictions programming

The Department of Health works with Community Health and Wellness Committees to help them determine priorities for addressing mental health and addictions in their communities. Through an agreement with Health Canada and with these priorities identified, communities are able to access community wellness funding. Each community determines how they want to use the mental health and addictions funds. Communities have chosen to support cultural, land activity, suicide prevention, anti-bullying, youth mentorship, youth skills development and after school recreation programs.

Division: Population Health

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: www.livehealthy.gov.nu.ca/en

Budget: Portion of \$12,500,000

(From Health and Wellness programming funds, Health Canada Health Portfolio Contribution Agreement)

Department of Health (continued)

Suicide Prevention Support

Funding for community-led joint action for suicide prevention initiatives

The Department of Health provided funds to the Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit Embrace Life Council (IKELC) to undertake a number of suicide prevention initiatives, including a media campaign, Red Cross Respect ED, and resource development in the area of bullying prevention. The mission of the Embrace Life Council is to support the mental health and wellness of Nunavummiut through mental health and wellness promotion, training, program delivery and collaboration on community initiatives.

Division: Mental Health and Addictions/Population Health

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: www.inuusiq.com

Budget: \$264,000

(Funds for this program come from both federal and territorial funding)

Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy - Mental Health and Addictions Services

Collaborating in a focused and active approach to suicide prevention

The Government of Nunavut continued to partner with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Embrace Life Council, the RCMP and communities in the implementation of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy. The implementation of the NSPS action plan is supported by a continuum of care delivered by the department of Health. The Mental Health and Addictions services provide a client-centred, comprehensive continuum of care which include assessment, counselling, treatment and referral services to those individuals and families experiencing emotional distress and/or psychiatric disorders. This includes providing support and assistance to communities and groups to better understand and deal effectively with primary, acute, and/or emergency mental health issues, suicide ideations and attempts, self-harming behaviours, high stress, self-esteem and wellness issues, including addictions that limit personal functioning and well-being.

Division: Mental Health and Addictions Division

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information:

[http://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/files/NSPS_final_English_Oct%202010\(1\).pdf](http://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/files/NSPS_final_English_Oct%202010(1).pdf)

Budget: \$14,004,000

(The figure above includes the Department of Health's total budget for the delivery of mental health and addictions services, including compensation and programming.)

Department of Health and Nunavut Arctic College

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) Training

Two-day workshops teaches suicide first aid intervention

Health provides funding to Nunavut Arctic College to deliver ASIST training in communities throughout Nunavut. Open to the public, this program teaches participants how to identify, intervene and help prevent the immediate risk of suicide. This training is an integral component of Nunavut's Suicide Prevention Strategy. In 2013-2014, 565 received ASIST training.

Division: Mental Health and Addictions / Nunavut Arctic College: Community and Distance Learning

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: www.arcticcollege.ca/health/item/5827-uqaqtigiiluk-talk-about-it

Budget: \$ 170,000

(Funds for this program from Suicide Prevention Strategy above)

Department of Justice

Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA)

Nunavut families use tools in FAIA legislation to resolve family conflict, based on traditional Inuit values

If there is immediate risk of danger, a family member can apply for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) that separates the offender for a period of time set by a Justice of the Peace (JP) to keep everyone safe. If there is no immediate risk, families can apply for a Community Intervention Order (CIO), getting assistance to work with trusted community members toward resolution. FAIA tools help keep families together safely, emphasizing practical solutions guided by those involved.

Division: Community Justice

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: Contact Community Justice Outreach Worker. Also see *Nunavut Legal Information Manual for Violence Support Services 2014* <http://ywcacanada.ca/data/publications/00000064.pdf>

Budget: part of Community Justice budget below

Community Justice Program

Justice Committees led by community members focus on restorative justice

The Minister of Justice appoints well respected community members to sit on Justice Committees in all 25 communities. Committee members work with offenders who can be diverted from the court system to participate in a restorative justice program. Work is ongoing toward creating a Nunavut restorative justice program that also includes victims. Committees also identify healing programs that help people at risk avoid offending in the future, accessing some funds from the department as a crime-prevention measure. On occasion, Justice Committees may receive "community referrals" from parents, schools, or Family Services for youth who may require support from the Justice Committee and who are below the chargeable age of 12.

Division: Community Justice

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: CommunityJustice@gov.nu.ca Tel: 867-975-6363

Budget: \$2,711,900

(\$411,900 of these funds are provided by the Federal Department of Justice - Aboriginal Justice Strategy Division)

Uttaqivik (Iqaluit) and Ilavut (Kugluktuk) Healing Centres

Halfway houses in regional centres focus on healing and support programs

Low security offenders reside in a structured setting in Iqaluit or Kugluktuk to heal, learn new skills, connect with community supports, and work in the community while completing their court-mandated sentence. In total, approximately 33 residents were served in Iqaluit's 14 bed Uttaqivik facility and approximately 38 residents were served in the 12 bed Ilavut facility in 2013-2014. The average approximate stay was 92 days.

Division: Corrections, Adult Institutions/ Adult Healing Facility-Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre (KIC)

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: Nunavut Corrections Headquarters (867) 975-6500 or the centres directly: Uttaqivik - (867) 979-2494, Ilavut - (867) 982-5870

Uttaqivik: \$979,000

Ilavut: \$1,867,000

Department of Justice (continued)

Rankin Inlet Healing Centre

Community input helps to design a correctional facility focused on healing

The new 48 bed correctional facility in Rankin encourages community members to connect with inmates in their healing process. The majority of staff in the centre speak Inuktitut, and programs involve Elders and community members who assist offenders to heal and gain new skills. Approximately 103 incarcerated Nunavummiut were provided services in 2013-2014, to help them prepare for life in their communities upon completion of their sentences.

Division: Corrections, Rankin Inlet Healing Centre

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: Nunavut Corrections Headquarters (867) 975-6500 or the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility directly (867) 645-2305

Budget: \$6,138,000

Outpost Camps

Offenders live on the land with families to heal and learn skills

Low security offenders who qualify for the outpost camp program go to Kimmirut or Baker Lake from 2 weeks to 6 months to live with a family who provides traditional healing and Inuit living skills on the land in all seasons. In total, 22 tujumiaq (visitors) were supported in 2013-2014, with an average stay of approximately 62 days. After completing their sentences, many former tujumiaq stay in touch with their host families.

Division: Corrections, Alternative Home and Outpost Camps

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion

More information: Please contact Nunavut Corrections Headquarters (867) 975-6500, or the Manager of Alternative Homes and Camps directly (867) 975-6514

Budget: \$1,305,000

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

In the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy, the Government of Nunavut committed to providing training to better equip people to help those at risk of suicide. The ASIST program - a two-day workshop teaching suicide first aid intervention - is funded by Department of Health and delivered by Nunavut Arctic College. The prerequisite for taking ASIST training is emotional readiness. ASIST is for anyone interested in helping to save lives from suicide.



Cape Dorset ASIST Training graduates. Photo: Nunavut Arctic College staff

2.3

Education and Skills Development

The Makimaniq Plan recognizes that improved educational outcomes are linked with greater success in the workforce and in society. Our government also sees education as the key to assisting people to move out of poverty in the long term. Nunavummiut who obtain credentials such as certificates, diplomas or degrees are better prepared and more likely to obtain employment.

Early childhood education, the role of parents in supporting their children's learning, and developing strong literacy skills in school are the first part of the solution. The second part is ensuring everyone has access to opportunities for learning and skills development – particularly those who face barriers to employment through lack of academic credentials or training. Makimaniq overall goals were expressed as follows:

- a) Develop a comprehensive early childhood education plan
- b) Increased support for parents
- c) Workforce development

Early Childhood support programs

Many studies have shown that investing in programs for children aged 0-6 can better prepare children for success in school, ultimately helping to offset the long term effects of poverty. Early Childhood Education efforts are an excellent investment in Nunavut's future.

The Department of Education provides funds directly to community organizations that develop programs serving at-risk youth in the Healthy Children Initiatives program. The Department of Health has developed a handbook for people in communities to use to prepare children diagnosed with learning disabilities for school (to be published). These are examples of programs for community organizations to help meet the needs of young children in our communities, in addition to day care programs.

"Problems arise because we do not know enough. Once we are more aware of things, we can learn to do things. We are not passing on enough information right now from the elders. We need to open up and spread the knowledge that we received, especially in the classrooms."

- Louis Angalik (Arviat)
2011 Elders' Gathering on Poverty
Reduction in Arviat

Early childhood quality care key to lifelong learning success

Programs teaching quality care to Early Childhood Educators, and programs that directly support locally run programs are examples of poverty reduction initiatives aiming to build capabilities of our youth to exit poverty in the long term.



Day care centre, Iqaluit Photo: Sarah McMahon

Nunavut's day care workers need access to training, support, and mentorship to make the most of our children's day care learning opportunities. In 2013-2014, Nunavut Arctic College with funding from Public Health Canada, launched an innovative on-the-job blended program for training day care workers in quality Early Childhood Education (ECE). Delivery of quality ECE has been shown in studies all over the world to substantially improve the educational outcomes for children, regardless of income – a key reduction initiative.

Supporting parents through literacy programs

While the Department of Education's K-12 services are important for all Nunavummiut, we have highlighted some specific programs that consciously work to address the needs of families who require additional support in order to assist their children to succeed in school.

We know children raised in homes that promote family literacy grow up to be better readers and do better in school. Tell Me a Story is a Department of Education program that provides books to babies in Nunavut. This "first library" will promote family literacy by introducing children and families to books of all kinds, and help instill a love of reading and storytelling.

The bags of books provided to families include books in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French. Funding for the books was provided by the Department of Culture and Heritage, and the books are being distributed in conjunction with the Department of Health.

Parents and other caregivers are children's first and most consistent teachers, there to support and educate them from birth through all their years of schooling. The role that families have in students' academic success must continue to be recognized and supported. To that end, the Department is

developing It Starts At Home, a family engagement initiative to encourage parents and families to get more involved in their children's education.

Coupled with the new Balanced Literacy program initiated by the Department of Education, these initiatives aim to provide better literacy tools and promote family involvement to help children succeed in school.

Workforce development

The Makimaniq Plan identified the need to develop and deliver more formal and informal workplace education, mentoring and development programs.

The Department of Family Services' Career Development division has multiple labour market programs and services designed for workplace education. The Targeted Training Initiatives program, provides funds for eligible employers, institutions or training providers. The Adult Learning and Training Supports (ALTS) program provides funds to individuals for workplace-based training and sector training initiatives. Employment Assistance Services also helps people with employment counseling, and to better connect individuals to employers and jobs. A new initiative in 2013-2014 encourages and assists Nunavummiut with disabilities to access labour market training and the workforce.

The Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) grants and loans programs help all students pay for many of the costs associated with attending full-time certificate, diploma and university courses. This program aims to ensure that financial need is not a barrier for people to attend higher education at accredited institutions. There is also a Government's Apprenticeship Unit, which supports skilled workers and apprentices on their way to becoming journeypersons.

"Men... face obstacles today because their grade levels are low. In previous years, we did not have applications. It was all training on-the-job and learning through experience. Back then, there were no resumes or applications. It was more that people knew you and they knew if you were reliable."

- Aiolah Takolik (Taloyoak)
2011 Elders' Gathering on Poverty
Reduction in Arviat

'Upgrading' programs designed for Nunavut

There is a huge need for academic readiness programs (commonly referred to as 'upgrading') programs that help people gain the essential skills they need in order to move on to further training or enter the workforce. *The Makimaniq Plan* also called out for more programs that teach traditional skills in conjunction with oral language and literacy skills.

In 2013-2014, Nunavut Arctic College's Community Programs and Distance Learning division piloted a new Adult Basic Education program that did both: incorporating Essential Skills people need for jobs that exist in Nunavut while also reaching out to Elders and community members to learn traditional skills and cultural knowledge that builds student confidence and helps them successfully complete their studies. The Innarnut Ilinniarniq - Enhancing Adult Basic Education (ABE) in Nunavut is an innovative program that meets a critical need in the fight against poverty. These ABE students (who themselves have experience with poverty), gain confidence, skills and knowledge that they need to move onto higher learning and employment.

Ensuring adults have the opportunity to complete high school is also an effective way to help combat poverty - particularly in Nunavut, where 60 per cent of the population aged 18-64 do not have their high school diploma¹⁷. The Young Parents Stay Learning program helps parents with day care costs as they attend high school but most struggle to graduate even with day care support. Many young people who dropped out in grade 11 or 12 to parent or help their families will be ready to complete their last few missing high school credits when they are older. In 2013, the new Pathway to Adult Secondary School (PASS) program was launched so adults could study their high school English, Math and Science courses via distance learning, with local facilitators and supplied technology to assist them. PASS is the result of a significant collaborative effort between the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College.

Employers have called for more efforts to ensure Nunavut's labour force has the necessary literacy, numeracy and essential skills to succeed in the workplace. The PASS program is but one example of the Government's commitment to address this pressure and ensure that Nunavut's labour force is literate and skilled.

Next steps

The Makimaniq Plan had also called for the development of a comprehensive early childhood education plan. We have included many of the programs in this Annual Report so that opportunities can be more easily identified for collaboration between government departments and the community in reaching this objective.

Expansions in literacy programs, parental engagement and supports, and workforce development will continue in collaboration with non-governmental agencies, educators, and the private sector.

¹⁷ 2014-2017 Government of Nunavut Business Plan, page III-12. Statistics Canada, Selected 2006 Census Data on the Aboriginal Identity Population, Publication 89-636-x.

Education and Skills Development – Programs, policies and initiatives

Department of Culture and Heritage

Nunavut Public Library Services **Community libraries help strengthen literacy and access to information**

The Department of Culture and Heritage provides operational funding to ten community libraries, and purchases library materials relevant to the north and Nunavut's communities. The Service makes the acquisition and distribution of Inuit language materials a priority to foster literacy in the Inuit languages.

Division: Nunavut Public Library Services
Poverty reduction through: building capability
More information: www.publiclibraries.nu.ca/

Budget: \$1,245,000

Departments of Education, Culture and Heritage, and Health

Tell Me a Story **Encouraging parents to read and tell stories to children at an early age**

This program provides a bag of culturally-relevant children's books in all of Nunavut's official languages to new parents to encourage reading and storytelling in the first years of life. As an early intervention tool, sharing stories through books increases children's capacity and helps build a strong foundation for learning. Led by the Department of Education, Tell Me a Story is a collaboration between multiple departments. The books were purchased in 2013-2014.

Division: multiple programs
Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation
More information: Communications Division, Department of Education Ph: (867) 975-5667

Budget: \$398,800

Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College

Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy Implementation – Pathway to Adult Secondary Schooling (PASS) Program **Adults access nationally recognized high school education with innovative delivery**

The PASS program helps adults over 19 obtain the last few high school courses they need to earn their high school diploma using online learning tools with local in-person support. Students study Alberta-based curriculum approved by the Department of Education, delivered by Arctic College in their community. In its first year, 26 students enrolled in seven communities. The PASS program is offered collaboratively between the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College and is geared towards ensuring that Nunavummiut have the requisite skills to find employment.

Division: Education - Adult Services / Nunavut Arctic College - Community Programs & Distance Learning
Poverty Reduction: building capability, collaboration and community participation
More information:
<http://www.arcticcollege.ca/en/education-programs/item/5838-pathway>

Department of Education: \$623,000
Nunavut Arctic College: \$1,113,000

Healthy Children Initiative

Community initiated support programs for children aged 0 - 6

The Healthy Children Initiative funds two specialized programs to support at risk children from conception to age six. Community Initiatives funds early childhood programs proposed by community organizations, selected by regional committees made up of Education, Health, Inuit organization representatives and cultural advisors. Supportive Services funds children with different abilities to access special supports as needed.

Division: Early Childhood Services

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: contact regional Early Childhood Officers

Budget: \$595,000

(Note: budget is normally \$908,000)

It Starts at Home: Family Engagement Initiative

Families are encouraged to play a lead role in their children's education

Research shows that strong connections between parents and schools have a positive impact on students' school experiences and academic achievement. A media campaign launched in 2013-2014 along with development of promotional items, encourages families to support their children's active participation in school, while providing motivation and support at home.

Division: Advisory and Administration/Policy and Planning

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: Adult and Early Childhood Learning Services and Educational Initiatives Division Ph: (867) 975-4857

Budget: \$187,750

Balanced Literacy Strategy

Investment in K-12 literacy aims to increase graduation rates, post-secondary participation

Balanced literacy is a comprehensive approach to literacy development that features guided reading, guided writing and word study to help students master each level of text difficulty before moving to the next level. Initial resources were purchased in 2013-2014, and teacher training and roll-out of the program are planned for grades K-4, 5-8, and 9-12 in future years.

Division: Curriculum and School Services

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information: Curriculum and School Services Division Ph: (867) 975-5641

Budget: \$1,395,160

Literacy Funding

Supporting literacy projects through funding of community literacy organizations

Literacy funding is provided to develop and deliver local projects that will help people increase their reading and writing skills and raise awareness of the importance of literacy in all official languages of Nunavut. Working closely with the Iilitaqsiq Nunavut Literacy Council, the Literacy division provides funding for a wide range of projects that work to support literacy activities for families, communities, and resources used all over Nunavut. The division works to connect literacy initiatives both inside and outside government.

Division: Adult Learning and Educational Initiatives

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: Visit Iilitaqsiq Nunavut Literacy Council for resources: www.illitaqsiq.ca

Budget: \$347,000

Department of Education (continued)

Young Parents Stay Learning - (Day Care Subsidy)

Supporting students with day care costs while attending high school

Parents attending high school can apply and receive funds to cover the costs of licensed child care or approved unlicensed childcare. This program encourages all young parents no matter what their income level to complete their high school studies for future success. 72 students were supported in 2013-2014.

Division: Early Childhood Services

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information: visit local schools for application

Budget: \$133,000

Department of Family Services

Targeted Training Initiatives (TTI) Funding

Supporting workplace-based training and short-term job-readiness training

The Targeted Training Initiatives program provides funding to eligible employers, institutions or training providers to enable education or training to occur in Nunavut for occupations or skills that either are or will be in demand in the near future. Nunavut Fisheries, the Training & Marine Consortium, Nunavut Arctic College, Skills Nunavut and Carrefour Nunavut have accessed this funding in 2014 to offer training and services to Nunavummiut.

Division: Career Development services

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information:

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/targeted-training-initiatives-tti>

Budget: \$307,500

Adult Learning and Training Supports (ALTS) Program

Funding for individuals to access upgrading and short-term training programs

The ALTS funding program is designed for eligible adults to enroll in training programs that increase their skills to obtain and keep employment. ALTS funded programs are usually less than a year and do not include post-secondary programs (see FANS below). Examples include literacy and numeracy, on-the-job training, workplace-based skills upgrading, and employment counseling. In 2013-2014, more than 160 Nunavummiut accessed funding under the ALTS program to help them enter the labour force.

Division: Adult Learning and Training Supports

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information:

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/adult-learning-and-training-supports-alt>

Budget: \$350,093

Employment Assistance Services

Providing career counseling to Nunavummiut seeking employment

Each year, Career Development Officers assist hundreds of Nunavummiut with resume writing, job searches and identifying programs which will aid in the development of skills. In addition, through a third-party service agreement, Carrefour delivers employment assistance services to Nunavut's francophone community.

Division: Adult Learning and Training Support

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/employment-assistance-services-eas>

Budget: costs covered by department's Operations and Management budget

Department of Family Services (continued)

Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students

Targeted funding for post-secondary education

Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) is designed to ensure that financial need is not a barrier to higher education. Grants and loans are available to students attending designated post-secondary institutions and academic programs, but FANS is not intended to cover all costs of post-secondary schooling. There are additional funding options for students with permanent disabilities and beneficiaries under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. In 2013-2014, FANS provided funding to 82 non-beneficiaries, and 290 beneficiaries.

Division: Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS)

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/programs-services/financial-assistance-nunavut-students-fans>

Budget: \$5,360,000

Canada-Nunavut Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities

New 2014 funding agreement will lead to increased work options

Through a shared funding agreement with the federal government, the Department of Family Services has increased its capacity to undertake research and to engage with partners to support persons with disabilities. The extent of barriers to employment for persons with disabilities and ways to increase the participation of Nunavummiut with disabilities in the labour force will be identified. The agreement also will fund additional supports to persons with disabilities through the various career development programs.

Division: Career Development Services

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/career-development>

Budget: \$1,249,500

(funds from the federal government must be matched by GN in order to access)

Department of Health

Early Childhood Enrichment Program Manual

How to Set Up and Deliver an Early Childhood Enrichment Program in Your Community

The Department of Health led the drafting of a handbook for communities to develop their own programming for children aged 0-5 who experience development delays and/or diagnosed disabilities. The objective of the program is to support children in reaching developmental milestones and to become school ready through community-based support for families and one-on-one assistance to children in a local setting with local trained interventionists.

Division: multiple divisions within Health

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/health>

Budget: portion of \$12,500,000

(From Health and Wellness programming funds, Health Canada Health Portfolio Contribution Agreement)

Community Wellness Funding for children, families and communities

Supporting community led programming focused on healthy children, families and communities

The Department of Health works with Hamlets, District Education Authorities and Community Health and Wellness Committees to help them determine priorities for addressing the well-being of their children, families and communities. Through an agreement with Health Canada and with these priorities identified, communities are able to access community wellness funding. Each community determines how they want to use the healthy children, families and communities funds. Communities have chosen to support parents and tots, breakfast programs for children, Prenatal Nutrition, after school recreation and cultural programs.

Division: Population Health

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: www.livehealthy.gov.nu.ca/en

Budget: portion of \$12,500,000

(From Health and Wellness programming funds, Health Canada Health Portfolio Contribution Agreement)

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program

Innovative blended training program designed for Nunavut’s day care workers

Years of research proves children who receive quality early child care before the age of 5 have much higher rates of success in school and throughout life - substantially reducing the risk of poverty. Over 70 Nunavut child care workers were trained in quality care in 2013-2014, students in an innovative ECE Applied Certificate Program that blended evening/weekend workshops with workplace training.

Division: Early Childhood Education

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information: Ellen.hamilton@arcticcollege.ca (867) 979-7299

Budget: administration costs covered by Arctic College

(3rd party funding from various sources for program delivery)

Innarnut Ilinniarniq - Enhancing Adult Basic Education (ABE) in Nunavut

Arctic College prioritizes social and cultural inclusion in new ABE program

In 2013, the College launched the culturally relevant Essential Skills program that prepares ABE students for Nunavut’s jobs, high school achievement and further study. It is designed to meet the needs of Nunavut’s adult learners most often unemployed and living in poverty. Elders are engaged in teaching language and cultural skills and mentoring students, and programs for tackling poverty are led by students who have experienced poverty as they seek to improve their individual and collective future. In 2013-2014, 246 students enrolled in ABE in 20 communities.

Division: Community Programs and Distance Learning

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: See “Innarnut Ilinniarniq: Enhancing Adult Basic Education in Nunavut” www.qfile.ca/p/25336/Public/NABE_Report/Enhancing_ABE_in_Nunavut_English_Final_lowres-20140630.pdf or visit your local Community Learning Centre

Budget: \$5,986,000

(*budget above includes Government of Nunavut investment in Community Programs only. Arctic College raised additional 3rd party funding)

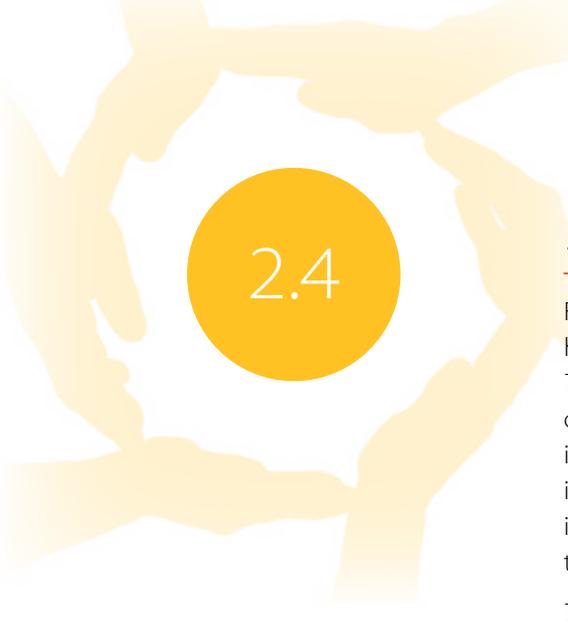


PASS student Ann-Marie Arragutainaq at the Sanikiluaq Community Learning Centre Photo: Nunavut Arctic College staff

Providing adult learners with innovative options to complete high school

Department of Education and Arctic College partnered to launch the Pathway to Adult Secondary Schooling (PASS) program to help adults over 19 obtain the last few high school courses they need to earn their high school diploma using online learning tools with local in-person support.

Nunavummiut who have completed high school are more likely to have reasonable-paying employment than in any other jurisdiction in Canada. Programs that support academic readiness is an effective way to help combat poverty.



2.4

Food Security

Far too many people in Nunavut do not have enough to eat, or do not have adequate access to nutritious, healthy, store-bought or country food. *The Makimaniq Plan* drew the link between food security and the access to country food, cultural identity, skills development and networks of sharing in Nunavut homes and communities. Food insecurity directly affects individual health and well-being – increasing the risk of chronic disease, impacting mental health, and lowering learning capacity. It poses a threat to overall social stability, cultural integrity, and economic development.

The Makimaniq Plan set out three overall goals to improve food security:

- a) Establish a “Nunavut Food Security Coalition”
- b) Enhance healthy breakfast and lunch programs in schools
- c) Increase support for community-driven food security initiatives

Research and the Nunavut Food Security Coalition

The Nunavut Food Security Coalition was established in June 2012. The Coalition produced *The Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-16*, based on two years of collaboration between many organizations inside and outside government.

Published in early 2014, the Strategy defines six food security themes: country food access, store bought food, local production, life skills, programs and community initiatives, policy and legislation. For each theme, the Strategy sets out the mission, the rationale and objectives to help create a food secure Nunavut. The Department of Health funds a full time position to coordinate the Coalition’s activities, with support from the Department of Family Services. This important strategy will help to define Nunavut’s actions on food security – an extremely urgent challenge to be met for nearly 70 per cent of Inuit in Nunavut who are considered food insecure.

The Niqittivak Committee was created in 2012 to explore the factors that influence the cost, quality and accessibility of food in Nunavut. The Department of Family Services provided coordinating services for this committee, which helped establish a food price monitoring program, and examined ways to improve access to market foods.

The Nunavut Bureau of Statistics launched the Nunavut Food Price Survey in March 2013. An accurate understanding of food prices in our communities will inform policy decisions in programs such as income assistance.

The Department of Environment conducts extensive research into wildlife populations to inform wildlife management and the sustainability of country food supplies. The department also has worked to identify and document the nutritional value of country food that was not normally included in the traditional diet, in an effort to promote new sources of food.¹⁸

“We need to let them [young men] know that country foods are good for them! Good for their bodies. Country foods reduce poverty in many ways. From this meeting, I am hoping that we will be able to tell the government that this is what we want, this is the plan that can help our young people.”

- Enoapik Sageatok (Iqaluit)
2011 Elders’ Gathering on Poverty
Reduction in Arviat

18 Rosol, R., Huet, C., Wood, M., Lennie, C., Osborne, G., and Egeland, G.M. (2011). Prevalence of affirmative responses to questions of food insecurity: International Polar Year Inuit Health Survey, 2007-2008. *International Journal on Circumpolar Health*. 70(5):488-497.

Healthy breakfast and lunch programs

The Department of Health recognizes parents and guardians have the primary responsibility to feed their children. However, in Nunavut and other jurisdictions, they are seen as a needed investment in improving child food security, overall diet quality, and nutrient intake among participants.

Many Community Health and Wellness Committees in Nunavut chose to fund school breakfast programs. As a community-driven process, these programs have been successful at improving access to a nutritious breakfast, which contributes to children's ability to learn, to participate in the social environment of the classroom and to build strong relationships.

Community driven food-security initiatives

Many of the government programs involve support for the harvesting, storage, distribution and sharing of country food – in response to community action and initiatives.

In the Kivalliq Region, regional staff with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation have worked very closely with the Nunavut Development Corporation, Department of Environment, the Hunter and Trappers Organizations and the Regional Inuit Associations to fine-tune their regional programs to properly support harvesters. For example, the Sustainable Livelihood Program provides funds for harvesting tools like qamutiks. Department

of Environment supports harvesters through their various Harvester support programs when needed, and the Nunavut Development Corporation has guaranteed a set price for purchasing country food from harvesters.

Airlines also offer discounted freight rates for the shipping of country food within Nunavut, making it possible for people to purchase and share more culturally relevant and nutritious food than they can buy in the local grocery store. At the same time, we need to ensure that wildlife populations are healthy and harvest levels are sustainable.

Next steps

The many departments involved in the creation and implementation of the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2016* will continue their work during the next two years. The creation of this Coalition and the strategy are excellent examples of the collaborative efforts made as a result of *The Makimaniq Plan*.

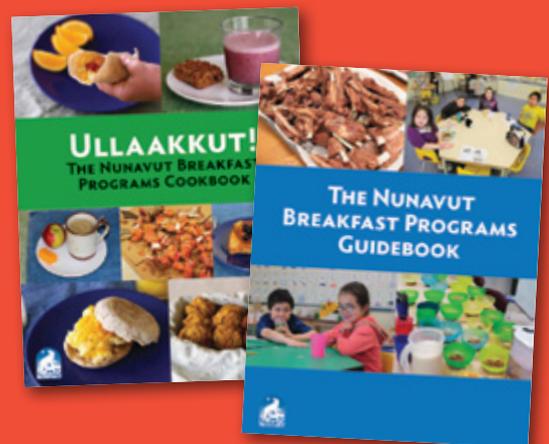
The Department of Environment is planning a review of its harvester support programs, to assess effectiveness, program scope and funding levels, and to ensure the program is appropriately targeted to active harvesters.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation will review the Country Food Distribution program.

Breakfast programs & resources increase child food security

The Department of Health recognizes parents and guardians have the primary responsibility to feed their children. In Nunavut and other jurisdictions, breakfast programs are seen as a needed investment in improving child food security, overall diet quality, and nutrient intake amongst participants.

Support provided by the Department of Health includes in-person nutritionist support, nutrition resources, such as the breakfast program guidebook and cookbook, and financial contributions.



Food Security - Programs, policies and initiatives

Department of Economic Development and Transportation

Country Food Distribution Program

Practical country food storage and distribution supports poverty reduction

The Program provides funds to community organizations for construction of facilities for storage and distribution of traditional food. Community organizations may also access program funds for various projects such as connecting youth and elders for harvesting country food to distribute to the public, and learning traditional and modern methods for cut and wrap country food processing.

Division: Corporate Management

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: gov.nu.ca/edt/programs-services/country-food-distribution-program

Budget: \$980,000

(Note: budget is normally \$1,868,000)

Sustainable Livelihood Fund

Fund for purchasing harvesting tools effective for country food supply

Harvesters can obtain up to 90 per cent of the cost for harvesting equipment (maximum value \$5,000), such as qamutiks, commercial fish nets, and traps. In parts of the Kivalliq where game is plentiful, harvesters sell country food to commercial enterprises and directly to Nunavut consumers via social media for income, while also feeding their families and others in need in their community at no cost.

Division: Community Operations/Small Business Support Program

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: gov.nu.ca/edt/programs-services/small-business-support-program

Budget: \$128,000

Department of Environment

Support to Hunters and Trappers and Regional Wildlife Organizations

Support to HTOs and RWOs permits local decision making for food security initiatives

The Department of Environment provides a portion of core operating funds to each of Nunavut's 25 community-based Hunters and Trappers Organizations and three Regional Wildlife Organizations to support their roles in the local management of renewable resources. Many HTOs and RWOs are involved in local and regional food security discussions as well as country food harvesting and distribution for the community.

Division: Wildlife Management

Poverty reduction through: collaboration and community participation

More information: <http://env.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/sh.pdf>

Budget: \$540,000

(HTOs and RWOs also receive support for operations from Nunavut Land Claim Agreement funds)

Support to Harvesters

Sustaining land-based livelihoods through access to equipment, materials and knowledge

Harvesting of wildlife plays a critical role to the livelihoods and food security of Nunavummiut. The Department of Environment provides support to individuals and recognized organizations involved in the harvesting and management of wildlife in Nunavut, including the Wildlife Damage Compensation program, the Wildlife Damage Prevention program, the Hunters and Trappers' Disaster Compensation program, the Community Harvesters Assistance program, Support to Community Organized Hunts and the WSCC Harvesters program.

Division: Wildlife Management

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information: <http://env.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/sh.pdf>

Budget: \$885,000

Department of Environment (continued)

Wildlife Research

Contributing to the management and sustainability of wildlife key to long term food security

The Department of Environment undertakes wildlife research, including scientific research, wildlife monitoring and the collection, and analysis of Inuit knowledge and Inuit societal values research. Wildlife research is critical to managing the sustainability of wildlife populations and thus sustainable food sources. It also contributes to identifying and promoting non-traditional sources of food.

Division: Wildlife Management

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information: <http://env.gov.nu.ca/wildlife/programs/research>

Budget: \$4,384,000

Departments of Family Services and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Nunavut Food Price Survey

Successful pilot collects real costs of healthy and processed foods

In 2013, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Family Services undertook a pilot Food Price Survey in 11 Nunavut communities. Its success led to expansion of the program to collect data from all 25 communities on 113 different items in March of 2014. The data provides an accurate understanding of food prices to inform policy decisions in programs such as income assistance and food security.

Division: Family Services - Poverty Reduction / EIA - Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

Poverty reduction through: financial support, collaboration and community participation

More information: <http://stats.gov.nu.ca/en/Economic%20prices.aspx>

Budget: \$146,900

Department of Family Services

Niqittiavak Committee

Interdepartmental group monitors factors affecting food prices

The Department of Family Services is the lead for the Niqittiavak Committee whose purpose 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 Committee supported the development of the Nunavut Food Price Survey and examined ways to improve access to market foods.

Division: Poverty Reduction (committee lead)

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability, collaboration and community participation

More Information: <http://gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/poverty-reduction>

Budget: costs covered by departmental policy budgets

Departments of Family Services and Health

Food Security Coalition Coordination

Health and Family Services work together to coordinate food security strategy

A full-time Territorial Food Security Coordinator was hired by Department of Health to provide support to the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, and administer the budget to provide leadership in the development, implementation and evaluation of the territorial food security strategy. The Poverty Reduction division co-chairs the coalition in partnership with NTL and also provides leadership, administrative and organizational support. Thirty-one organizations contributed to the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2016* and participate on the Coalition.

Division: Population Health (Dept. of Health), Poverty Reduction (Dept. of Family Services)

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: www.nunavutfoodsecurity.ca

Budget: \$202,166

Department of Health

Community Wellness Funding for promotion of healthy eating

Supporting community driven food security initiatives

The Department of Health works with local Hamlets, District Education Authorities and Community Health and Wellness Committees to help determine community priorities for addressing health and wellness. Through an agreement with Health Canada and with these priorities identified, communities are able to access community wellness funding. Each community determines how they want to use the healthy eating (Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention) funds. Communities have chosen to support cooking classes, healthy shopping programs and land activities focused on harvesting and preparing country foods.

Division: Population Health

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: www.livehealthy.gov.nu.ca/en

Budget: portion of \$12,500,000

(From Health and Wellness programming funds, Health Canada Health Portfolio Contribution Agreement)

Nunavut Development Corporation

Nunavut Development Corporation (NDC) country food companies

Meat and fish products harvested and distributed in Nunavut, for Nunavummiut

NDC subsidiaries Kivalliq Arctic Foods, Kitikmeot Foods, and Pangnirtung Fisheries distribute nutritious country food to Nunavut customers at the lowest possible price. NDC creates jobs in smaller communities that employ harvesters, while distributing country food in all communities. One hundred percent of all caribou and muskox and 70 per cent of all arctic char was placed back into Nunavut and approximately \$75,000 of country food product was provided for free to Elders and community organizations in 2013-2014.

Division: Territorial Corporation

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information: <http://ndcorp.nu.ca/about-us/annual-reports/>

Budget: portion of \$3,538,000

(see page 57 for more details on NDC's budget)



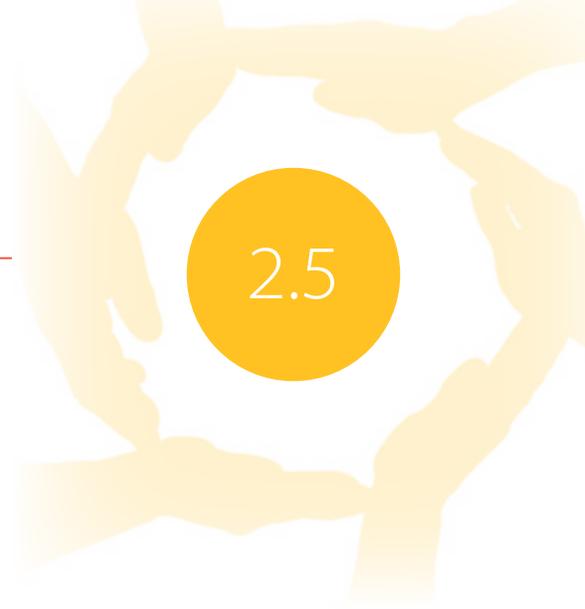
Arviat ABE program Photo: Nunavut Arctic College staff

Elder teaches adult learners how to dry fish

Elder Martha Okotak Otokalaaq collaborated with Arctic College's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program in Arviat to show adult learners how to make dried fish. Incorporating practical skills for country food preparation taught by Elders increases students' food security.

The Adult Educator reported that *"Questions and laughter filled the classroom for the two afternoons. With a new skill that the learners had gained, each participant will be able to provide nutritious and healthy food."*

Housing Access



Over half of Nunavummiut rely on public housing – more than in any other jurisdiction in Canada. We all recognize that without access to public housing, many Nunavummiut would not be able to meet their basic needs.

The *Makimaniq Plan* had two specific goals for Housing Access:

- a) Explore affordable housing options through cooperation and partnership;
- b) Multi-party inquiry and public dialogue on the history of housing in Nunavut.

Reliance on Public Housing due to lack of housing options

In Nunavut, living in Public Housing is the default option for the majority of the population. Few people – even those with jobs – can afford to build, buy or rent a private home. The biggest housing issue in the territory is that there are not enough dwellings to house all Nunavummiut. This lack of stock contributes to the high costs in the private housing market, and keeps most people in Nunavut reliant on Public Housing.

In the South, when people in Public Housing get jobs, and move out of financial poverty, they move up along the housing continuum – leaving Public Housing (social housing) and possibly moving into affordable private rental properties or purchasing low cost homes. (See graphic below comparing Vancouver’s housing continuum with Nunavut’s housing continuum). But in Nunavut, there are almost no affordable rental housing units or low cost homes for purchase available from the private sector. Instead, we continue to rely on subsidized non-market housing options, particularly Public Housing, to provide homes for the vast majority of residents.

An example of a Complete Housing Continuum



Diagram Source: City of North Vancouver / NHC

Housing Continuum in Nunavut

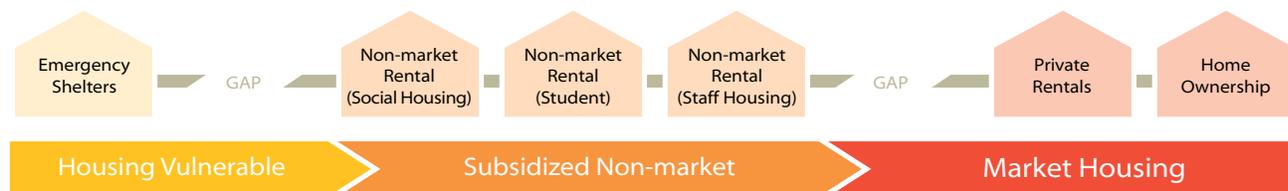


Diagram Source: Nunavut Housing Corporation

Even though people earning more than minimum wage who live in Public Housing pay higher rent than those with lower incomes, very few people are able to leap over the gap between subsidized non-market housing and market housing (private rentals or home ownership) along the housing continuum in Nunavut. This housing gap makes it very difficult for people to move out of public housing in a gradual way, and increases the pressure on Nunavut's public housing program, which faces a severe shortage of units. This shortage affects the availability of Public Housing for those living in poverty – a crisis in Nunavut.

Increasing affordable housing through strategic planning and collaboration

We recognize that working together is the best option to find ways to meet the housing challenges facing Nunavut. As part of the *"Igluliuqatigiilauqta: Let's Build a Home Together"* initiative, the NHC led the development of a *GN Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Framework and Strategy*. These documents set the context for housing in Nunavut, highlight the biggest challenges, and

establish high level goals and objectives to address Nunavut's housing crisis.

The Strategy addresses the entire continuum of housing, highlighting the need for stronger commitments to shelters, transitional, and supportive housing options, increasing public housing, strengthening the rental market and providing support for private homeownership.

The research completed for the Framework helped the Nunavut Housing Corporation obtain significant federal funds in 2013 from the Economic Action Plan. In 2013-2014, the Corporation was able to tender contracts to build 213 new public housing units in 12 communities, selecting locations based on need.

In the short term, Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to look for opportunities to invest in building more public housing for those in need. At the same time, we will continue to work together to implement the next step in the government's strategy - the development of a comprehensive action plan to increase options to meet Nunavut's diverse housing needs over the next five to fifteen years.

New Rent Scale reduces disincentive for employment

To understand how the new rent scale may encourage employment, imagine a scenario where a young couple named John and Geela reside with John's parents who are the primary tenants of a Public Housing unit. His parents make less than \$22,880/year on social assistance. John and Geela get jobs and make \$41,120/year for a total household income of \$64,000/year. Under the old rent scale, monthly rent was assessed at \$845.

Under the new rent-scale system the rent falls to \$60/month, because only the income of the parents - the two primary tenants - is assessed. These changes give the young couple an incentive to stay in the workforce, build up their skills and their savings, and work toward purchasing their own home in the future.

Old rent scale:
\$845/month (assessed on total household income)

New rent scale:
\$60/month (assessed on 2 primary tenants' income)



Public housing unit. Photo: Nunavut Housing Corporation staff

Public Housing Rent Scale Review

As low income families try to exit financial poverty by taking wage-earning jobs, their public housing rent rises. This calculation is known as rent geared to income (RGI). In the past, this process acted as a disincentive to work, discouraging those living in poverty from gaining the experience, skills, and savings needed to eventually move out of poverty.

In response, the Nunavut Housing Corporation developed a new Public Housing Rent Scale in 2013 which went into effect in February of 2014 in an attempt to reduce disincentives to employment and to support the goals of poverty reduction. The new scale includes measures such as:

- Rent will be assessed on the income of the two primary leaseholders only, (instead of including all inhabitants of a household);
- New method for calculating rent is based on a step scale that is similar to federal income tax (to ensure that low income earners are able to keep a higher percentage of their earnings);
- The minimum rent threshold will be indexed to Nunavut's minimum wage, (so those with low-paying jobs are not penalized with steep increases to rent because they took a job);
- Elders will only pay rent on the portion of their income over their community's Core Need Income Threshold (CNIT), (so Elders are not unfairly penalized for generating revenue);
- Rent increases due to income increases will be limited to 25% of the new rent assessed per year until the rent assessed total is reached;
- Maximum rents are to be reviewed to encourage tenants over-CNIT to transition out of Public Housing.

These changes are designed to ensure tenants can start to accumulate wealth and advance in their field of employment. While costing the government in the short term, architects of the new Public Housing Rent Scale believe the economic spinoffs to the community and a reduced social burden are worth the short term investment for the long term benefits to poverty reduction.

Housing for the most vulnerable

The *GN Comprehensive and Long Term Housing and Homelessness Strategy* also includes extensive discussion of the 'delivery of care' continuum, which is housing for vulnerable people within Nunavut who require supportive or transitional housing at the very start of the housing continuum. The housing continuum chart above shows gaps in housing for the most vulnerable.

A recent study on Homelessness by Family Services will be used to help develop policy for this vulnerable group, including policies and funding for Women's Shelters and Homeless Shelters.

"The costs of housing, heat, and municipal services are increasing. As elders, we do alright because we have lower rent rates and more support, but many youth do not get funding support for their homes... But, what parent would ask their child to leave because they are causing problems or not helping to pay for the monthly expenses?"

- Enoapik Sageatok (Iqaluit)
2011 Elders' Gathering on Poverty
Reduction in Arviat

There are programs in Corrections for halfway houses in Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet (part of the new Healing Facility for offenders), and Iqaluit, included in this Annual Report in the Healing and Wellness section 2.2.

The Department of Health has recently opened a Mental Health facility in Cambridge Bay, offering residential services as of February 2014.

The *GN Comprehensive and Long Term Housing and Homelessness Strategy* calls for collaborative investment and shared responsibility to support Nunavut's most vulnerable to move from dependence to independent housing. The gaps that exist in shelter services perpetuate the cycle of homelessness. By working together, we hope to create more transitional and supportive housing options to increase opportunities for Nunavummiut to move along the continuum and improve their quality of life.

Next steps

The *GN Comprehensive and Long Term Housing and Homelessness Strategy* will be implemented by using a whole of Government of Nunavut approach to create a Blueprint for Action. Housing cannot be addressed in isolation. The key to developing a Blueprint for Action will be the collaboration between various stakeholders, within and outside of the government, to ensure that housing is addressed in a thorough and holistic manner.

The Blueprint for Action will map out detailed steps needed over the next five to fifteen years. Through the collaboration structure established in the Blueprint for Action, the government will have a mechanism to define housing demand, and ensure more affordable housing options and alternatives are available to meet the diverse housing needs of Nunavummiut – including those in poverty.

The Poverty Reduction division of the Department of Family Services will complete "The Profile of Homelessness in Nunavut" to better understand the needs and ideas for solutions from those experiencing homelessness.

Next year, the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to assess the impact of the new Public Housing Rent Scale changes, and will be working closely with Income Assistance division and the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction members to determine next steps.

Leadership within the NHC is committed to continuing the collaborative process, with renewed emphasis on working with Income Assistance, Health, Family Services, Inuit organizations, hamlets, the private sector and the many other stakeholders involved. The coordinated approach of the Blueprint for Action will continue to guide our actions in working together toward solving the housing crisis.



*New Public Housing complex in Arviat, 2014.
Photo: Nunavut Housing Corporation*

New Public Housing Construction Continues

These two new public housing buildings in Arviat were built in 2014, under Government of Nunavut capital funding combined with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Investment in Affordable Housing Funding. This valuable addition of housing stock in the community will house 20 families, under the Public Housing Rent Geared to Income model.

Housing Access - Programs, policies and initiatives

Department of Family Services

Profile of Homelessness in Nunavut Study

Understanding the needs of the homeless and roots of the problem leads to action

A count of individuals experiencing absolute homelessness and a survey of individuals identifying themselves as homeless was conducted in February and March of 2014 in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Information was collected related to the causes of homelessness in Nunavut, and of the needs of those who are homeless. Meetings will be held in communities to review this work on homelessness, and the final report will help inform a Homelessness Action Plan for the territory in collaboration with Nunavut Housing Corporation in 2015.

Division: Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion, collaboration and community participation

More information: <http://www.makiliqta.ca/>

Budget: \$51,300

Family Violence Shelters Program - Saillivik Policy

Funding Emergency Shelters for women and children

Funding is provided for five Family Violence Shelters in Nunavut guided by the Saillivik Policy. These shelters offer safe and secure emergency housing to women and children affected by family violence. Counseling and education is provided to assist families in overcoming issues of family violence and in support of general health and well-being for the family unit. The current capacity of shelters is Iqaluit (21), Rankin Inlet (6), Cambridge Bay (3), Kugluktuk (4) and Kugaaruk (4).

Division: Children and Family Services, Family Violence Services

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information:

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/programs-services/family-violence>

Budget: \$2,078,368

Tunngasugvik Homeless Shelter Policy

Addressing the housing gap for vulnerable people in Nunavut

The Tunngasugvik Homeless Shelter Policy provides funding to the Sivummut House for women and children and to the Uquutaq Men's shelter. Alternative housing and financial supports to address the needs of Nunavut's most vulnerable populations will be identified through this policy framework. Both located in Iqaluit, the Uquutaq Shelter has a 20 bed maximum capacity and the Sivummut House can serve a maximum of 12 clients.

Division: Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/poverty-reduction>

Budget: \$715,000

(original annual budget of \$400,000 increased by \$315,000 through Financial Management Boards submission)

Alternative Family Care Program

Funding to assist most vulnerable to live in home environment

The Alternative Family Care Program facilitates adults with impaired cognitive function to remain in his/her home community while still receiving the various supports required to ensure maximum health and well-being. The program also supports relocating clients in southern residential care placements to return to Nunavut. Extended family members and/or unrelated community members receive funds to provide care, and in 2013-14, 5 Alternative Family Care homes were funded.

Division: Children and Family Services /Adult Support Services, Guardianship Services

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information:

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/children-family-services>

Budget: \$228,125

Administration and Maintenance to Local Housing Organizations for Public Housing

Building capacity of Local Housing Organizations (LHOs) key to long term success managing public housing

As of March 31, 2014, Inuit beneficiaries held 244 of the 293 positions filled in the LHOs funded by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. LHO costs of \$43 million for administration and maintenance for public housing, along with an emphasis on increasing the number of Inuit employees in LHOs, are important contributors to increasing a community's capacity for long term public housing management.

Division: Public Housing

Poverty reduction through: building capability, social inclusion

More information: See "Public Housing" at www.nunavuthousing.ca

Budget: \$43,091,000

Cost of Public Housing – Utilities, Taxes, and Land Leases

Highest utility costs in Canada key challenge to affordable public housing

The Nunavut Housing Corporation covers the costs of power, fuel, water and sewage, and garbage collection for all public housing units, of which only a small fraction can be reasonably collected from residents due to the high cost. Of total utility costs, over 40 per cent of the funds spent are for water and sewage alone – an investment that supports many hamlets' ability to provide water and sewage services to the entire community. The Nunavut Housing Corporation also covers the cost of taxes and land lease expenses related to Public Housing units in all communities in Nunavut.

Division: Public Housing

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information: www.nunavuthousing.ca

Budget: \$83,388,000

Rental Revenue from Public Housing

Public housing tenant payments provide almost seven per cent toward overall cost of housing

In 2013-2014, the Nunavut Housing Corporation budgeted to collect just over \$9.6 million dollars from public housing tenants (expressed as a negative number below, as it is income to the corporation). These funds were used to help offset the total annual Public Housing administration budget of almost \$150 million. The new Public Housing Rent Scale plan went into effect in 2013-14, and an evaluation of the program will be conducted.

Division: Public Housing

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information: *Changes coming to the Public Housing Rent Scale including the Backgrounder* January, 2013 at www.nunavuthousing.ca

Budget: \$-9,656,000

Income Assistance

Participants in the public engagement for poverty reduction process that led to the creation of *The Makimaniq Plan* called for more information about the income assistance program to support the development of solutions to the problems with the program they perceived in their communities. In order to have a full dialogue about what needed to be done, Roundtable participants called for action to increase public understanding – with the intention of supporting more informed public discussion in the future.

People also wanted to ensure income assistance programs are designed to help people exit poverty and not cause unintended consequences such as a ‘welfare wall’. As explained in *Understanding Poverty in Nunavut*, a welfare wall exists when the income assistance supports are seen as more valuable to an individual than the gains and efforts involved in taking a job.¹⁹

The Makimaniq Plan included these specific goals:

- a) Improve the income support system and related supports available to those who access income support programs;
- b) Increase the collective understanding of the income support system overall and clarification of specific policies and programs.

Addressing the ‘Welfare Wall’

Approximately 41 per cent of families in Nunavut rely on income assistance for their primary source of income. At the Spring 2013 Gathering of the Roundtable, the need to remove the welfare wall was a strong point of consensus. It was agreed that many Nunavummiut face barriers to leaving social assistance. Participants called for changes to income assistance programs to provide more positive encouragement for recipients to transition from welfare to work. They also called for better supports for individuals to help them succeed in jobs. Ensuring government programs do not inadvertently create a disincentive to work is key to supporting people who are trying to exit poverty.



2.6

“If you make something to sell, and earn a little money, then that money is taken out of your next social assistance amount. I think that is one of the reasons why people are not trying very hard to get jobs or to make things to sell. The money would only be taken away. We need to plan with our government to make sure that stops and that the way money is given out really helps people. We also need to help young people manage money and help them learn how to make a home.”

- Bartholemy Nirlungayuk (Kugaaruk)
2011 Elders’ Gathering on Poverty
Reduction in Arviat

¹⁹ *Understanding Poverty in Nunavut*, p.32

Income Assistance helps meet basic needs and links to programs to help exit poverty

The objective of the Income Assistance Program is to provide financial and other support to satisfy basic needs for shelter, food and clothing and to assist in the transition towards employment. It is a program of last resort intended to help Nunavut families and individuals meet their basic needs when for various reasons, including disability, illness, low-income or periods of unemployment, they are unable to provide for themselves.

Core financial support is provided by the Income Assistance division in the Department of Family Services, and includes Social Assistance, Day Care

Subsidy, Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit (SCSB) and the Seniors Fuel Subsidy described in the tables on page 52.

Within the current program, Income Assistance recipients (other than Seniors or the disabled) are required to participate in a Productive Choice program in order to receive social assistance. Those applying for assistance make a plan with local income assistance workers to define the supports they need to work toward self-reliance. Some require wellness activity programs such as counseling. Others may participate in career activities such as education or work experience, while others opt for volunteer activity programs.

Income Assistance Program: Benefit Types and Eligible Allowances

Benefit Type	Transitional (first time or temporary users)	Youth/Educational (18-24 years)	Adult (25-59 years)	Community Living & Support (seniors and disabled)
Food				\$344/month minimum (amount varies according to community and number of family members)
Shelter				\$450 single maximum (needs approval if higher than \$450)
Housing				Actual cost (approval required if rent higher than \$60/mth)
Utilities				Actual cost (heating, fuel, water, sewer and/or municipal services)
Damage/Security Deposit (housing/power)				Paid only if necessary for applicant to get housing/power, repayable \$25/mth*
Emergency Assistance				Actual cost of emergency need
Clothing	X			\$50/month per person in family
Furniture	X			once a year if need is demonstrated, up to amount of 1 month's food
Incidental Allowance	X			\$175/month (*must be 60 years + or holder of disability certificate)
Education Expenses & Tuition	X			Tuition up to \$1250/semester, max \$2500/yr., Actual cost of expenses (transportation, clothing, supplies etc.)

Increasing clarity of the Income Support System

The Department of Family Services was created April 1, 2013. One of the key objectives in creating this new department was to bring services that had been spread across the government together into one place, providing Nunavummiut with single-window access to the social safety net.

Family Services' Career Development Branch houses the Targeted Training Initiatives, the Adult Learning and Training Supports (ALTS) Program, and the Employment Assistance Services program. (These are described more fully in the Education and Skills Development section on page 30). By bringing these services into the same government department with Income Assistance services, we believe we can better serve individuals and families who are working to transition out of financial poverty by ensuring they have opportunities to build their own capability in order to ultimately exit poverty.

The Income Assistance Program uses a case management approach. It is the Income Assistance Worker's role to help clients assess their needs in all areas so that the person can become independent, self-reliant and productive member of their community. Last year, training for Income Assistance Workers was delivered enabling them to better support those relying on social assistance.

The Income Assistance Worker supports clients by:

- Assessing the client's need for financial assistance;
- Working with the client to identify barriers to self-reliance;
- Discussing long-term goals and short-term activities that will assist the client in meeting those goals;
- Supporting and encouraging the client as he/she initiates the productive choice plan of action.

To access income assistance, individuals are required to have a monthly financial assessment completed with an Income Assistance Worker. During the appointment, the Income Assistance Worker will discuss and investigate all available resources an individual may have access to before determining eligibility. Benefits may be provided on a case-by-case basis to those who meet various program eligibility requirements.

Next steps

Ensuring government programs do not inadvertently create a disincentive to work is key to supporting people who are trying to exit poverty.

Sivumut Abluqta responds to this issue by committing to review and reform our approach to social assistance to ensure that those who truly need the support receive it, while also investing in economic development to secure a prosperous future for all.

Our government believes self-reliance is a shared responsibility between the individual, the community and the government. As Nunavut's large cohort of young people become adults, we will continue to improve the link between income assistance to programs and services that provide Nunavummiut with the skills to participate fully in their community and the economy²⁰.

We recognize issues of poverty, hunger and homelessness are serious. They are exactly the issues that we need to resolve if we are to fulfill our vision of Nunavut. Establishing the new department of Family Services is only the first step. We need to continue our discussions with the public and with our partners to better develop our social safety net.²¹

²⁰ Business Plan Government of Nunavut & Territorial Corporations 2014-2017, page III-6

²¹ Government of Nunavut 2013-2014 Budget Address, page iii. <http://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/files/2013-14%20Budget%20Address%20ENG.pdf>

Income Assistance – Programs, policies and initiatives

Department of Family Services

Social Assistance

Program ensures everyone can meet their basic needs

Social Assistance (commonly called income support) is a program of last resort for Nunavummiut who, because of inability to obtain employment, loss of the principal family provider, illness, disability, age or any other cause cannot provide adequately for themselves and their dependents. Family Services provides monthly financial payments to help individuals meet a minimum standard of living. Any person 18 years of age and older in financial need living in Nunavut may apply for Income Assistance. In 2013-2014, almost 4400 households received support. Participants are required to participate in a Productive Choice program in order to receive social assistance.

Division: Income Assistance

Poverty reduction through: financial support

More information: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/income-assistance-ia>

Budget: \$34,337,000

Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit (SCSB)

Monthly Old Age Security cheques for Seniors include additional funds from Government of Nunavut

Nunavummiut who are 60 years of age or older and are receiving either the Guaranteed Income Supplement or the Spouse's Allowance from the federal government may also be eligible to receive an additional \$175 per month from Nunavut's Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit program. In 2013, there were 579 recipients of the SCSB in Nunavut.

Division: Income Assistance

Poverty reduction through: financial support

More information: See local Income Assistance Worker, or Family Services Regional Office, <http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/income-assistance-ia>

Budget: \$1,113,450

Day Care Subsidy

Low-income families eligible for funds to cover day care costs

The Day Care Subsidy assists low-income families to access day care for their children so they can attend school or work outside the home. Twenty-seven families were served in 2013-2014.

Division: Income Assistance

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/income-assistance>

Budget: \$502,000

Seniors Fuel Subsidy

Assisting senior home owners with high cost of fuel

The Seniors Fuel subsidy program offsets the high cost of home heating fuel to those aged 60 and over who own their homes. Seniors with a total net income up to and including \$75,000 may be eligible for a 100 per cent fuel subsidy. Seniors with a total net income greater than \$75,000 and less than or equal to \$100,000 may be eligible for a 50 per cent fuel subsidy. Those receiving income assistance are ineligible. There were 58 recipients of the Senior Fuel Subsidy program in 2013-2014.

Division: Income Assistance

Poverty reduction through: financial support

More information: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/income-assistance>

Budget: \$478,000

Community and Economic Development

2.7

We have seen rapid economic growth over the past 10 years in Nunavut, as large scale construction and mining projects got underway and advancements in the fisheries and tourism industries occurred. When measuring the money value of these initiatives, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Nunavut's economic growth has been one of the strongest in Canada over the past decade.

However, economic growth is not the same as economic development. When discussing poverty reduction, we must focus on the word "development". What incremental developments in our communities have assisted people to move out of poverty? How can we make sure communities truly benefit from economic growth? Sometimes, large scale growth arriving in a community can actually reduce community wellness overall, if communities have no control over how development occurs.

The *Makimaniq Plan* proposes that all economic development planning must reflect the interests and needs of each community – including the community's goal as related to overall wellness. The plan includes three goals:

- a) Ensure community wellness planning is an integral component of economic development;
- b) Increase daycare services to support parents' ability to access employment and training;
- c) Support capacity building for NGOs at the local level.

There are many programs in Nunavut designed to support small scale economic development and community planning.

"Many times, we elders are asked if people can buy mittens or kamik from us, and yes, they are nice and some people do sew to sell. I think we need to encourage girls and women to do more sewing. Men, too, can carve and make tools. Not everyone has such talents, but these can be used to make money. There are many other ways to make money as well, such as learning to be a mechanic."

- Atoat Akittiq (Igloodik)
2011 Elders' Gathering on Poverty
Reduction in Arviat

Generating income opportunities through economic development

The Nunavut Development Corporation's (NDC) 2013-14 Annual Report provides examples of businesses in smaller communities that create employment opportunities building on traditional skills and knowledge in fishing, hunting, arts and tourism industries across Nunavut.

"In the winter of 2013, Qikiqtarjuaq fishermen supplied Kivalliq Arctic Foods with 29,467 lbs of ice-caught char. The char from this fishery is of high quality and processed into different products to be sold in Nunavut, to Nunavummiut. The value of this fishery is immense said Todd Johnson of Kivalliq Arctic Foods. 'This fishery provides employment for fishermen during a normally slower time of the year but it also provides nutritious, traditional food to the Nunavut marketplace.'"

NDC Annual Report 2013-14, p. 13



Photo: Nunavut Development Corporation

Communities choose how to drive local development

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Community Capacity Building Program is designed to encourage people in communities to determine their own economic opportunities, and build on their unique community advantages and knowledge. The program puts funds directly into hamlets to hire economic development officers and draft community economic development plans. This program also provides funding for projects communities decide they need in order to enhance or build skills or capability in a particular economic sector. The process allows a community to select a project that fits into their community vision, obtain some needed funds to conduct the project, and assist the community to build a service or skill set the community determines.

Many communities obtain initial funds from the department, and leverage those funds to attract other investment to create programs that provide training or work for unemployed or underemployed people. Projects in 2013-2014 from communities have ranged from supporting the talented seamstresses in Coral Harbour, building tourism services in Arviat, to supporting training programs to learn cut and wrap techniques for preservation and shipping of country food, or teaching people with land skills to be driller helpers to provide seasonal work in the exploration industry.

The Department of Environment runs a number of fisheries-related programs that involve communities in determining how resources can be managed for community benefit. Coastal

Resource Inventories research is conducted in collaboration with communities and results are used by communities to examine local economic development opportunities in commercial harvesting, tourism as well as food security planning. The Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (N-CAMP) program was piloted in Kugluktuk, Coral Harbour and Igloolik in 2013 and aims to build community capacity for Nunavummiut to become stewards of their natural resources. The Fisheries Development and Diversification Program provides funding to community and industry-led fisheries research and development projects, aimed at expanding economic opportunities and enhancing food security for Nunavummiut through sustainable fisheries.

All of these diverse programs prioritize community-led initiatives that match many of the priorities in the Makimaniq plan, with an express view to reduce poverty.

The Nunavut Development Corporation's mandate is to create employment and income for residents of the Territory, with an emphasis on stimulating economic growth in small communities. The link to poverty reduction is not expressly part of their mandate. However, businesses NDC owns or invests in are largely in the tourism, harvesting, arts and crafts sectors – industries that purchase from hunters, fishers, and artists. These people often use the NDC as an important additional source of income for their families. The NDC also plays an important role in supporting food security initiatives in communities through its focus on the hub and spoke model of collecting and redistributing country food for consumption in Nunavut.

Supporting not-for-profit organizations in cultural and tourism community developments

Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, Nunavut Film Development Corporation and Nunavut Tourism are key sector not-for-profit organizations that all receive major core funding from Economic Development and Transportation.

These organizations choose how to use government funds to support their membership in improving training, skills and opportunities in community economic development. These regional and community-led organizations are able to respond to changing local needs and use their networks of people to achieve their goals.

Next steps

The Makimaniq Plan participants called for an increase in daycare services, and support for a network to link NGOs for sharing knowledge and coordination of programming across the territory.



Igloolik N-CAMP participants, 2013 Photo: staff

Promoting responsible community economic development

The Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (N-CAMP) was created to respond to the community need for developing economic opportunities while also training community members to be fully active participants in the conservation of natural resources. N-CAMP trains Nunavummiut in basic fisheries and aquatic monitoring techniques using certified training modules based on other Canadian aquatic monitoring protocols, but adapted for Arctic conditions, and incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) principles into the content and delivery methods.

Community and Economic Development – Programs, policies and initiatives

Department of Economic Development and Transportation

Tourism and Cultural Industries

Sector organizations guided by cultural product producers across Nunavut

Government investment assists Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, Nunavut Film Development Corporation, and Nunavut Tourism to directly support artists and cultural producers who rely on cultural knowledge and skills to generate income. These member-led not-for-profit organizations' training, marketing, product development and investment activities involve and support many low-income cultural producers in arts and tourism.

Division: Cultural Industries and Tourism

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: www.nacaarts.org, www.nunavuttourism.com, www.nunavutfilm.com

Budget: \$2,925,000

(GN investment into these associations provide a significant portion of each organization's budget)

Arts Development Program

Assisting visual and performing artists with funds for tools, travel and training

Recognizing that many Nunavummiut supplement their income through visual and performing arts, three different programs exist to support their income generating activities and build exposure. One program provides funds to artists for materials and tools. A second program provides funds for visual and performance artists to travel for exposure, and a third program supports innovation and training activities.

Division: Community Operations / Arts Development Program

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information: gov.nu.ca/edt/programs-services/arts-development-program

Budget: \$395,000

Community Capacity Building

Hamlets lead decision-making for local community economic development

All communities have access to \$190,000 to hire an economic development officer to administer programs that support activities the community decides best contributes to economic health, including funding training that increases employability in new sectors. The program also funds community economic development plans that often include local strategies to address poverty, food security and housing. Funds are also available for community-driven projects that help to reduce poverty, including such wide ranging projects as fixing sewing machines, improving harvesting skills or focusing on training for mining or exploration jobs.

Division: Community Operations / Community Capacity Building

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: gov.nu.ca/edt/programs-services/community-capacity-building-program

Budget: \$4,454,000

Nunavut Mine Training Fund

Preparing families for mine-site work lifestyle

The Nunavut Mine Training fund supports partnerships that provide training to Nunavut residents to take opportunities related to mineral exploration and mining. As of October 2013, over 300 people participated in a training program delivered by Iliisaqsivik Society with Baffinland for families in Igloolik and Pond Inlet to prepare for work in an industrial setting.

Division: Minerals and petroleum resources

Poverty reduction through: building capability

More information:

<http://gov.nu.ca/edt/overview-contact-information-resource-development>

Budget: \$200,000

Department of Environment

Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (N-CAMP)

Developing skills for commercial fisheries and environmental monitoring careers

The Nunavut Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (N-CAMP) provides training in sustainable basic fisheries and aquatic monitoring techniques. The program was piloted in Kugluktuk, Coral Harbour and Igloodik in 2013 and aims to build community capacity, responsible economic development, and stewardship of resources. The Department of Environment developed the program collaboratively, incorporating community input and training priorities, while working with Arctic College, federal departments and researchers.

Division: Fisheries and Sealing Division

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: www.ncamp.ca

Budget: \$100,000 per community

(Reliant on external funding)

Coastal Resource Inventories

Research contributes to economic development initiatives

The Department of Environment completed three Coastal Resource Inventories in 2013-2014 in Clyde River, Coral Harbour and Taloyoak. These inventories gather information on coastal resources and activities through community interviews, research, reports, and maps to assist in management, development and conservation of coastal areas. This research helps promote economic development opportunities in commercial harvesting, tourism as well as food security planning.

Division: Fisheries and Sealing Division

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: <http://env.gov.nu.ca/node/68>

Budget: \$125,000 per community

(Reliant on external funding)

Fisheries Development and Diversification Program

Assisting the growth of emerging fisheries and sealing opportunities

The Department of Environment provides financial assistance to Nunavut's fishing and sealing industries through the Fisheries Development and Diversification program. The program supports research and development and community led fisheries development and diversification initiatives. Projects supported through the program include exploratory fisheries for Arctic Char, Greenland Halibut, Clams, Whelks and Shrimp, purchase of fisheries equipment by HTOs and fish plants, community based fishery training courses, scientific research on fish movements in key harvesting areas, and annual scientific surveys that ensure the sustainability of fisheries in Nunavut waters.

Division: Fisheries and Sealing Division

Poverty reduction through: building capability, collaboration and community participation

More information: <http://env.gov.nu.ca/programareas/fisheriesandsealing/fsprograms>

Budget: \$525,000

Nunavut Development Corporation

Nunavut Development Corporation (NDC) business investments

Investing in tourism, harvesting, arts & crafts businesses creating jobs that build on traditional skills

As a Territorial Corporation, NDC invests in businesses that help create employment and income opportunities in sectors that build on Nunavut's existing strengths, focusing on Nunavut's smaller communities. Its nine subsidiaries and various venture equity investments generated \$8,873,100 of revenue in 2013-14, and provided income for hundreds of fishermen, hunters, seamstresses and artists.

Division: Territorial Corporation

Poverty reduction through: financial support, building capability

More information: <http://ndcorp.nu.ca/about-us/annual-reports/>

Budget: \$3,538,000

(budget above includes GN investment only. NDC raises majority of revenue from sales & investments)

CHAPTER 3: *Results Achieved*

Measuring our success

In *Sivumut Abluqta*, we have made a commitment to good governance through wise use of our resources.

The *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* requires the Annual Report to measure and report on our collective achievements in reducing poverty:

“...report on the results achieved from budget measures and government programs, policies and initiatives to reduce poverty according to the indicators developed in collaboration with the Roundtable.”

Developing a framework to measure outcomes

Everyone agrees we must all work together to succeed in reducing poverty. Our government has been working closely with NTI and other members of the Roundtable over the past year on a framework that will help us monitor and report on our progress over the next five years. This framework identifies our desired outcomes and the kinds of changes needed to reach these outcomes.

It involves multiple steps, and requires a great deal of collaboration at each stage. Developing this Framework involves making the following decisions through an engagement process:



1 Roundtable: Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction: Together, we have selected this collaborative model of change in order to meet our collective goal of reducing poverty. This is a fundamental decision that is the heart of applying the “theory of change” model that helps us make evidence-based decisions toward solving poverty together.

2 Outcomes: What results are we looking for? We have already agreed through the engagement process on many of the results or outcomes that would be indicative of strong, healthy and resilient families and communities. These inter-related outcomes will be published in the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

3 Indicators: How will we know if we met our outcomes? The *Act* requires the Minister, in collaboration with other members of the Roundtable, to develop indicators to be used to measure progress in reducing poverty. This involves establishing what we will measure, data sources and methods for collection, and is also known as a “Performance Measurement Framework”. What information will show us the collective impact of our programs? We must be able to keep collecting it year after year in order to compare if we are bringing about changes to reduce poverty. Last year, we collaborated to begin identifying outcomes and accompanying indicators, which will be reviewed and validated in the coming year by the Roundtable process.

4 Program Planning & Implementation: What programs lead to these outcomes? Once we agree on what we want to achieve and what indicators we want to use, we must look at what activities or programs are working and what needs to be improved or created. In Chapter 3 of this report we have listed the many government initiatives we believe will contribute to poverty reduction over time.

Example of applying the framework

outcomes

People agreed that increased access to country food will contribute to a decrease in poverty. So a short-term outcome could be:

“Increased access to sustainable country foods”

indicators

What can we measure that would help us know if more people get access to sustainable country food? Indicators could include:

1. *“Percentage of households by community that have access to country food, by type of food”;*
2. *“Percentage of households by community that use country food regularly, by type of food”;*
3. *“Extent to which country food supplies are sustainable, by type of food and by community”.*

Data could be collected from various sources collaboratively, including the Departments of Health and Environment, communities, and Hunters and Trappers Organizations.

programs

Chapter 2.4 of this Annual Report lists many government programs that aim to increase access to sustainable country food through storage, distribution, research and support to harvesters, including programs such as:

- *Country Food Distribution Program (EDT)*
- *Sustainable Livelihood Fund Support to HTOs (Env)*
- *Support to Harvesters Policy (Env)*
- *Wildlife Research (Env)*
- *Nunavut Food Security Coalition (Health/Fam Serv)*
- *Nunavut Development Corporation*

5 Monitoring: How can we measure our progress over time? Once we have agreed on our outcomes and what we will measure (our indicators), we need to measure our status in the first year – establishing our baseline. In future years, we will then monitor our progress – systematically gathering the data according to the indicators to see what progress we made toward the achievements of the outcomes we defined. Monitoring is a collaborative process, as each department, agency and organization will be doing its part in collecting and sharing data to measure change over time.

6 Reporting: The *Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction* is our specific effort to report back to the Roundtable and the public on what government is doing and how it relates to achieving the outcomes we have agreed to. In next year's Minister's Annual Report, we will be reporting on how government programs contribute to outcomes using the indicators selected in collaboration with the Roundtable members. The Roundtable will also be producing a report on initiatives taken by its members or collaboratively. Together, these reports will help us to collectively decide where to invest our resources to best achieve our goal of poverty reduction.

7 Evaluation, Reflection and Adjustment: In future years, we look forward to working with members of the Roundtable, to examine our progress, reflect, and adjust our efforts together toward long term poverty reduction. If we aren't progressing toward some of our goals, we will use the data we collect to help us understand why not and we will work together to adjust our approach.

Example of applying the framework

monitoring

In the future, the Poverty Reduction division will collaborate with Roundtable members and communities to continue to collect and share the data everyone agreed to measure. Over time, we would be able to see the change by community and region in how many households have access to country food, how many people eat it regularly, and the sustainability of the country food supply.

reporting

The Minister's Annual Report would include data on community access, use, and supply of country food. It will also include a listing of government programs and their budget measures.

evaluation...

The Poverty Reduction division will work with Roundtable participants, to evaluate which of the government programs are helping to increase access, use and sustainability of country food based on the data collected. Changes to various programs will be made based on the results.

Next steps

The Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction will complete the outcome and indicator work in 2014-2015, and data collection will begin so we can establish baselines for the various outcomes associated with Nunavut's poverty reduction initiative. Our various government agencies who collect important data will be closely collaborating with the Roundtable in this work, with support from the Poverty Reduction division staff.

There will be continued discussion about which data are already being collected in other monitoring processes in the territory that may add to the knowledge base needed to monitor poverty reduction.

The Framework will be a key component of the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

In future Annual Reports, we look forward to being able to report on the collective impact of results achieved from budget measures and government programs, policies and initiatives to reduce poverty.



Kivalliq Roundtable, 2012. Photo: staff



Qikiqtani Roundtable, 2013. Photo: Ron Wassink

CHAPTER 4:

Poverty Reduction Fund

New Fund supports collaboration

The Poverty Reduction Fund was officially created on May 16th, 2013, when the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* came into force.

The Act requires the Minister's Annual Report to include a full report on money received into the Fund and provide a summary of projects funded through the Poverty Reduction Fund. The Report must also describe any initiatives funded by additional grants and contributions made by the Government of Nunavut as a result of the Act.

In 2013-2014, there were no investments made into the Fund, nor any projects or initiatives funded.

Because this is our first Annual Report, we are taking this opportunity to provide more details on how the Poverty Reduction Fund works to aid in the development of the Fund and its potential for collaborative poverty reduction.

What is the Poverty Reduction Fund?

The Poverty Reduction Fund is a special purpose fund established by the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*. The Fund, like the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* as a whole, is intended to encourage and facilitate collaboration.

The Fund may be used only to:

- promote collaboration in implementing *The Makimaniq Plan*, and the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan developed by the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction; or
- support community poverty reduction initiatives.

Collaborating to build the Fund

Businesses, organizations, members of the public, and other levels of government are invited to contribute to the Poverty Reduction Fund. Those contributing to the fund are able to play a more prominent role in sponsoring poverty reduction initiatives, rather than looking to government alone to solve poverty in Nunavut.

By using the Poverty Reduction Fund process, interested parties can successfully invest in poverty reduction initiatives in all corners of Nunavut.

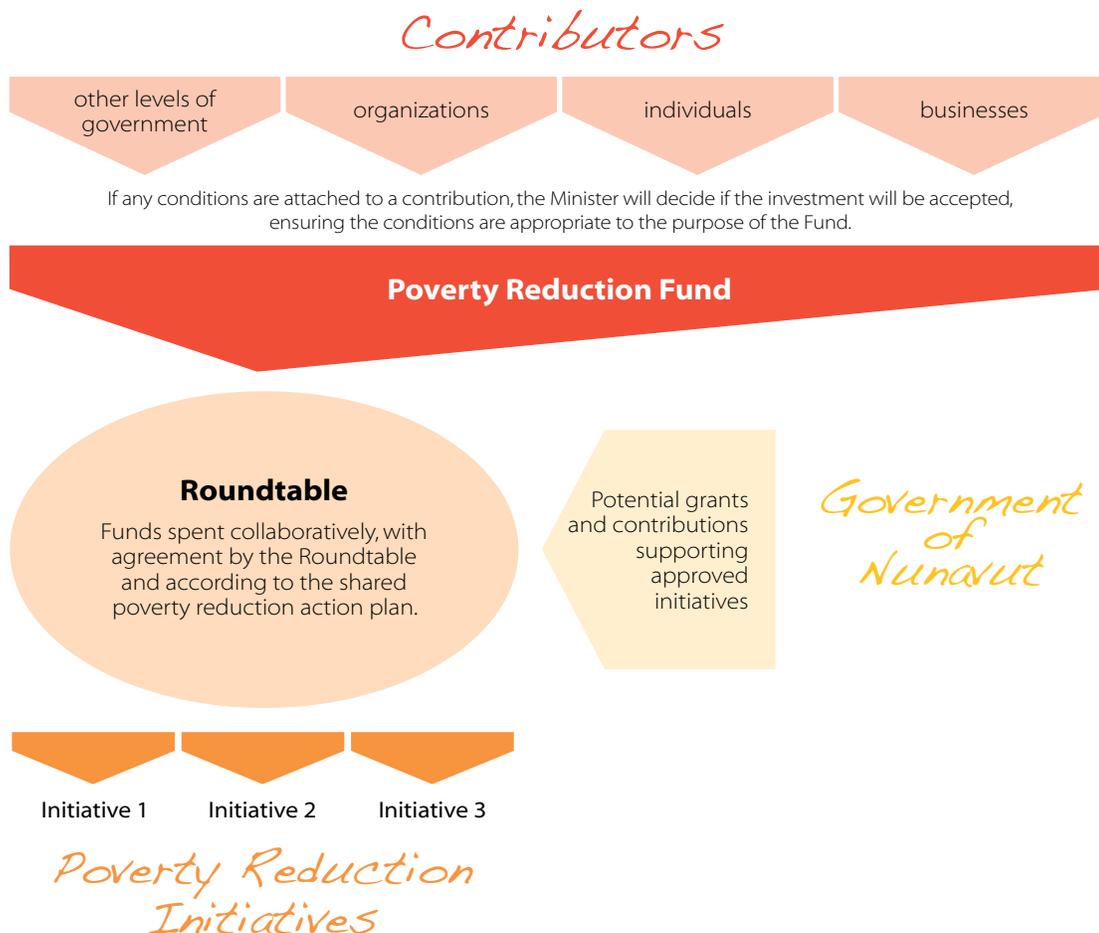
The structure of the Fund encourages members of the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, and others, to dedicate funds toward a shared purpose. Using this approach, the Fund has the potential to play a significant role in encouraging collaboration toward reducing poverty in Nunavut.

Accepting contributions to the Fund

The Minister for Poverty Reduction may accept contributions to the Fund and may make payments from the Fund on the recommendation of the Roundtable. Some contributors to the Fund may choose to set conditions on their contribution. For example, a contributor may want to help with funding to extend an existing government poverty reduction program or support a community initiative. It will be up to the Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction to determine if the conditions attached to the investment are appropriate to the purposes of the Fund.

The Fund's structure is designed so the money can be held in the Fund while the investor and the Roundtable plan how specific initiatives will be supported.

Poverty Reduction Fund structure



Government oversight ensures investments and expenditures are tracked

Any money in the Poverty Reduction Fund must be invested as required in the Nunavut *Financial Administration Act*. Any interest or income earned by the Fund stays in the Fund.

The Minister will ensure that complete and accurate financial records are maintained separately for the accounts of the Fund for each fiscal year, and included in the *Minister's Annual Report on Poverty Reduction*.

How can initiatives be funded from the Poverty Reduction Fund?

The Minister may make payments from the fund only on the recommendation of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

Unlike typical grants and contribution programs, the Poverty Reduction Fund is collaborative, and is not controlled by government alone. Under the *Act*, the Minister may spend from the Fund only with the agreement of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction and in accordance with the shared poverty reduction action plan. In addition, if the Minister accepts a conditional payment from a contributor, the Minister must comply with the conditions.

Additional grants and contributions from the Government of Nunavut

The Minister may make grants and contributions for the same purposes that apply to the Poverty Reduction Fund - to promote collaboration in implementing *The Makimaniq Plan* and the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan, and to support community poverty reduction initiatives.

If the Minister accepts the conditions of a contribution from an investor, this acceptance could trigger a collaborative arrangement with the government, so that the government also provides support for the identified initiative through a specific grant or contribution.

Any new grants and contributions from the Government of Nunavut for poverty reduction initiatives would be made from funds approved by the Legislative Assembly for that purpose during the budget process. In 2013-2014, there were no additional funds allocated.

Next steps

With the creation of the Poverty Reduction Fund process, those who wish to be proactive in contributing financially to poverty reduction have a mechanism that is supported and protected by government, and at the same time guided by a collaborative process.

There are hundreds of poverty reduction initiatives taking place in Nunavut - some are led by government, some by regional organizations, and some by local groups or individuals. We have listed the main programs run by the Government of Nunavut in this report, and have also included the names of many of the organizations being partially funded by our various departments. These are by no means all of the efforts being made to reduce poverty.

Over time, as more people learn about the Fund's design and purpose, we hope to see investments into the Fund to support collaboration between business, all levels of government and individuals as we work together to reduce poverty in Nunavut.

Contact: Poverty Reduction division in Family Services:
www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/poverty-reduction

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