

# **2015-16 Annual Report**

## Country Food Distribution Program

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## Sector Overview

Harvesting plays many roles in Nunavut society and is a very important piece of the northern economy.

Much of Inuit culture flows from experiences on the land and working with products of the harvest. The values and relationship developed from working on the land form the core of the Inuit Societal Values that guide and inspire the work of the Government of Nunavut.

Experience on the land is important for developing interpersonal relationships and contributing to mental health and wellbeing. Traditions surrounding country food are an anchoring force in Nunavut's culture and heavily influence community wellbeing.

Harvesting contributes to physical health as well. Country food is the freshest, highest quality, and most nutritious food available in Nunavut. The Department of Health strongly recommends that Nunavummiut "eat country food as often as you can."<sup>1</sup>

Improving the ability of harvesters to provide food to the community is one of six themes in Nunavut's Food Security Strategy and Action Plan. The department's programming is expected to have a direct impact on the rate of food insecurity in Nunavut.

Working within the conservation system, our mandate at the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is to contribute towards improving the viability of the harvesting economy. The value of the harvest is greater than the cost of harvesting. However, in the current economy very few hunters are financially rewarded for their contributions to their communities.

Our goal with the Country Food Distribution Program is to help improve the economic viability of harvesting through encouraging and supporting economic development initiatives that build on and add value to the harvesting sector.

The program's investments in the local harvesting economy will promote and support the use of harvesting skills and community-based solutions to enhance access to nutritious food throughout the territory.

## Program Report

### Current Approach

The Country Food Distribution Program supports two aspects of the harvesting economy. Schedule A provides a \$30,000 annual contribution to communities to support locally identified initiatives that will improve the viability of the harvesting economy with additional funding available to pay for operation and maintenance. The projects funded by this schedule are developed by the local municipalities or Hunters and Trappers Organizations based on locally identified needs and opportunities, and must support local harvesters. There is also funding under Schedule A to pay for maintenance and utilities costs for community freezers.

Schedule B provides funding for investments into harvesting infrastructure. These funds primarily support the construction or renovation of community freezers, however they can also be used for other community identified harvesting infrastructure. The department works in partnership with interested municipalities during the application and project development process to help ensure the results are feasible projects that meet communities' needs.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.livehealthy.gov.nu.ca/en/food-0>

## 2015-16 Spending Report: Schedule A

In 2015-16, communities used Schedule A to directly finance local harvests where the food is distributed to at-risk members of the community, and to pay for community feasts or country food related events that promote community wellbeing.

These projects impact local food security, and help to create a grassroots commercial system that will scale to take advantage of future opportunities surrounding country food. In the short term, this could include meeting the institutional demand for country food at local schools, health centers and other facilities.

In the medium term, the department is advocating for local hunters to be eligible for equal access to the subsidies provided under the Nutrition North program. The systems that communities are developing under schedule A will help lay the ground work to achieve this goal.

These types of projects represent continuity with the prior version of the Country Food Distribution Program. Direct funding to hunters to help pay for feasts and distribution to the community was the most accessed activity under the former program.

## 2015-16 Spending Report: Schedule B

The community of Kugluktuk accessed the program to pay for repairs to their freezer, and community freezer projects were initiated in Sanikiluaq and Arviat. Both projects took place over the course of two years. Activities in 2015-16 included the design, purchase of materials, prefabrication and some site preparation. Both freezers were completed in the fall of 2016.

The Sanikiluaq freezer used a prefabricated building design. It is 26' x 40'; with half used for cold storage, and the other half a processing room and washroom. The building is pre-wired to accept solar panels, and sits on screw-jack piles.



1 Sanikiluaq Community Freezer

The Arviat freezer is built with insulated and reinforced shipping containers which are buried under a man-made gravel hill. The freezer is bear safe and will help mitigate the attraction of polar bears to the community.



2 Arviat Community Freezer

**Detailed Spending Report: Schedule A**

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Hamlet of Arctic Bay</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Arctic Bay	\$10,400
<b>Ikajutit HTO</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Arctic Bay	\$9,893
<b>Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Qikiqtarjuaq	\$31,860
<b>Clyde River HTA</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Clyde River	\$19,266
<b>Hall Beach HTA</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Hall Beach	\$10,000
<b>Municipality of Igloolik</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Igloolik	\$32,579
<b>Toonik Tyme Society</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Iqaluit	\$5,000
<b>City of Iqaluit</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Iqaluit	\$5,000
<b>Municipality of Kimmirut</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Kimmirut	\$6,718
<b>Mayukalik HTA</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Kimmirut	\$7,920
<b>Pangnirtung HTA</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Pangnirtung	\$2,553
<b>Total Proponents: 11</b>	Total Qikiqtaaluk CFDP:		\$141,192
<b>Hamlet of Baker Lake</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Baker Lake	\$30,000
<b>Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Chesterfield	\$30,000
<b>Hamlet of Coral Harbour</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Coral	\$20,000
<b>Kivalliq Arctic Foods</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Rankin Inlet	\$30,000
<b>Hamlet of Naujaat</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Naujaat	\$31,734
<b>Arviq HTA</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Naujaat	\$5,000
<b>Hamlet of Whale Cove</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Whale Cove	\$11,985
<b>Total Proponents: 7</b>	Total Kivalliq CFDP:		\$158,720
<b>Hamlet of Gjoa Haven</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Gjoa Haven	\$29,970
<b>Kugluktuk Angoniatit Assoc,</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Kugluktuk	\$30,000
<b>Hamlet of Kugaaruk</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Kugaaruk	\$10,000
<b>Kurtairojuark HTA</b>	Payment to Hunters for Harvesting	Kugaaruk	\$29,350
<b>Total Proponents: 4</b>	Total Kitikmeot CFDP:		\$99,320
<b>Total Proponents: 22</b>	Total Schedule A		\$399,232

**Detailed Spending Report: Schedule B**

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Hamlet of Arviat</b>	Community Freezer	Arviat	\$475,180
<b>Hamlet of Kugluktuk</b>	Freezer Repairs	Kugluktuk	\$14,478
<b>Municipality of Sanikiluaq</b>	Community Freezer	Sanikiluaq	\$223,878
<b>Total Proponents: 3</b>	Total Schedule B		\$700,536
		<b>CFDP Total</b>	<b>\$1,099,768</b>