



Government of
Northwest Territories

September 27, 2024

DENNY RODGERS
MLA, INUVIK BOOT LAKE

Oral Question 233-20(1): Food Security

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on June 04, 2024, regarding Food Security.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is committed to ensuring that eligible communities are well-informed about the harvester support programs. The Community Harvesters Assistance Program (CHAP) is a key initiative delivered by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) to financially assist hunters and trappers by offsetting capital and operating costs of harvesting activities. This program facilitates sustainable livelihoods and promotes the traditional economy of the Northwest Territories (NWT) by providing annual funding to Indigenous governments and organizations, Renewable Resource Boards, Renewable Resource Councils, and Hunters and Trappers Committees. Each organization decides how to best use the funds to support its members, whether for hunting and trapping, promoting traditional practices, land-based livelihoods, or enhancing food security.

The CHAP program is delivered through ECC's regional offices and is advertised through a variety of methods, including social media, digital platforms, newspapers, radio, and posters. Additionally, ECC staff promote these programs in their regular communications and interactions with Indigenous governments and organizations, Renewable Resource Boards, Renewable Resources Councils, and Hunters and Trappers Committees within their regions.

Additionally, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada administers the Harvesters Support Grant, which enhances access to country foods by funding traditional hunting, harvesting, and food sharing in eligible communities. This federal program is administered by land claim organizations, self-government recipient organizations, and eligible communities. In the NWT, the Tł̨ch̨ Government, Sahtu Secretariat Inc., Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Dél̨ Renewable Resource Council, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Tsiigehtchic/Gwichya Council, Sambaa K'e First Nation, Łutsel K'e First Nation, and Nahanni Butte Dene Band, manages the Harvesters Support Grant.

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Regarding the support for community food banks in Inuvik, the Anti-Poverty Fund is a proposal-based funding opportunity that supports various aspects of poverty reduction, including food security. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, several organizations in Inuvik received Anti-Poverty funding related to food banks and food security:

- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's Oven-Ready Suppers for Struggling Families program - \$30,000;
- Inuvik Native Band's ING Indigent Food Supports program - \$30,000; and
- Inuvik Youth Centre's IYC Drop-in Service program - \$30,000.

We are currently in the process of finalizing funding recipients for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and remain committed to continuing our support for food security initiatives in Inuvik and across the NWT.

Thank you for your interest in these important issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J. Simpson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.J. Simpson
Premier

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Director, Legislative Affairs and House Planning