# 2023-24 Annual Report

## Country Food Distribution Program

Department of Economic Development and Transportation

## Sector Overview

Harvesting plays many roles in Nunavut society and is an important component 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 fresh, high quality, nutritious, and often locally procured.

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

One goal of the department is to improve the viability of the harvesting economy. 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 the harvesting economy through two schedules: Schedule A – Community Harvesting Transfer and Schedule B – Community Harvesting Infrastructure.

Schedule A provides applying communities annual contributions for the purpose of improving the local harvesting economy and country food distribution system. Eligible activities under this schedule include community-identified initiatives that will improve the viability of the local harvesting economy (e.g., harvester skills development). Additionally, where the utilities or maintenance costs of the local community freezer or other country food infrastructure are not covered by another Government of Nunavut department, this schedule provides an additional $10,000 for utilities, basic maintenance, and small improvement costs per year. The department may approve

utilities and maintenance costs above $10,000 if program funds are available.

Under Schedule A, each community is initially eligible for $30,000. Depending on program subscription, additional contribution agreements may be made to applying communities on or after October 1.

Schedule B provides applying communities contributions for the renovation, construction, or expansion of infrastructure that supports the harvesting economy. Examples of eligible activities under this schedule include repairs and upgrading of existing community freezers, community markets or cut and wrap facilities; design, purchase and installation of country food, community market or cut and wrap infrastructure.

Under Schedule B, the maximum funding amount for this program is $400,000 per year, and, subject to the availability of funds, up to $800,000 per project.

## Spending Report: Schedule A

In 2023-24 communities used Schedule A to finance local harvests for at-risk members of the community, and to pay for community feasts or country food related events that promote community wellbeing. Schedule A was also used to support the operations and maintenance of community freezers across Nunavut.

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. A total of 26 applications were funded to a total of $578,941.

## Spending Report: Schedule B

In 2023-24, the Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers in Kimmirut completed their Community Freezer Refurbishment project, and the Mittimatalik HTO Commissioned their community freezer project. The Hamlet of Rankin Inlet purchased the materials for their community freezer project in. Total support for these three projects was $653,091.

## Detailed Spending Report: 2022-23

| Recipient | Project Description | Community | Amount ($) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Schedule A** | | | |
| Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq | Purchase Country Food | Qikiqtarjuaq | 30,000 |
| Igloolik Hunters and Trappers Association | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Igloolik | 40,000 |
| City of Iqaluit | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Iqaluit | 25,000 |
| Hamlet of Pond Inlet | Purchase of Country Food /Equipment | Pond Inlet | 40,000 |
| Hamlet of Baker Lake | Firearm Safety Course | Baker Lake | 5,841 |
| Hamlet of Baker Lake | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Baker Lake | 15,000 |
| Hamlet of Baker Lake | Community Freezer Operations Support Power Subsidy | Baker Lake | 40,000 |
| Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Chesterfield Inlet | 10,000 |
| Hamlet of Coral Harbour | Purchase Country Food | Coral Harbour | 6,000 |
| Ikurraq Food Bank Society | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Rankin Inlet | 25,000 |
| Ikurraq Food Bank Society | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Rankin Inlet | 30,000 |
| Hamlet of Naujaat | Country Food Distribution | Naujaat | 18,000 |
| Hamlet of Naujaat | PAL Course | Naujaat | 6,200 |
| Hamlet of Naujaat | Country Food Distribution | Naujaat | 23,000 |
| Hamlet of Whale Cove | Country Food Distribution Fish | Whale Cove | 5,000 |
| Hamlet of Whale Cove | PAL Course | Whale Cove | 10,400 |
| Hamlet of Whale Cove | Community Freezer Operations Support Power | Whale Cove | 28,000 |
| Hamlet of Cambridge Bay | Purchase Country Food | Cambridge Bay | 30,000 |
| Gjoa Haven Hunters | Distribute Food Safe Packaging | Gjoa Haven | 16,500 |
| Gjoa Haven Hunters | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Gjoa Haven | 30,000 |
| Gjoa Haven Hunters | Community Freezer Operations Support | Gjoa Haven | 10,000 |
| Hamlet of Kugluktuk | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Kugluktuk | 30,000 |
| Hamlet of Kugaaruk | Community Freezer Operations Support n | Kugaaruk | 10,000 |
| Hamlet of Kugaaruk | Purchase of Country Food for Distributio | Kugaaruk | 30,000 |
| Taloyoak Umaruliriringut | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Taloyoak | 30,000 |
| Hamlet of Taloyoak | Purchase of Country Food for Distribution | Taloyoak | 35,000 |
| **Subtotal Schedule A** | | | **578,941** |

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Schedule B** | | | |
| Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers | Community Freezer Refurbishment | Kimmirut | 160,357 |
| Mittimatalik HTO | Commissioning Community Freezer | Pond Inlet | 20,828 |
| Hamlet of Rankin Inlet | Community Freezer Project | Rankin Inlet | 471,906 |
| **Subtotal Schedule B** | | | **653,091** |
| **Total CFDP** | | | **1,232,032** |
| **Canadian Agriculture Partnership** | | | |
| Qikiqtaaluk Corporation | Canadianization of vessel Celtic Voyager | Iqaluit | 250,000 |
| Hamlet of Rankin Inlet | Community Freezer Project | | 356,654 |
| **Total CAP** | | | **606,654** |