



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UPR OF CANADA

Food Sovereignty in Inuit Nunangat

INUIT NUNANGAT (INUIT HOMELANDS)

- Four land claim regions make up Inuit Nunangat: Inuvialuit, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut.
- There are 47,330 Inuit living in Inuit Nunangat.
- Inuksuiti is Inuit traditional foods also referred to as country food; Country foods are important to the economic and cultural health of Inuit and come from the land and sea, including arctic char, seal, muskox, caribou, whale, walrus, clams, berries, and more.

FOOD SECURITY

- Inuit in Canada face the highest documented prevalence of food insecurity of any Indigenous population living in an industrialized country.
- Food insecurity in Inuit Nunangat is one of the longest lasting public health emergencies in Canadian history.
- Access to country food is increasingly difficult due to cost, reduced knowledge sharing and climate change; Country food now accounts for 18% of caloric intake among Inuit in Nunavut.

POVERTY

- In 2018, the median individual income for Inuit in Nunavut was \$24,768 – less than two-fifths that of the Canadian average of \$62,100 CAD.
- The cost of living in Nunavut is 2.2 times higher than the Canadian average.
- An official poverty line has not yet been established in Nunavut but recent research has shown that the poverty line for a family of 5 in Iqaluit is \$118,786 per year.



SALARIED POSITIONS FOR INUIT HUNTERS

- Hunters are essential lifelines for their communities by distributing country food through traditional sharing networks. The high cost of hunting activities are paid out of pocket and largely force hunters into poverty in order to provide food to their families and communities.
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) started the now expanded pilot project, Nauttiqsuqtiit (Inuit stewards), that has hired full-time hunters in the community of Grise Fiord. These hunters act as environmental stewards in the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area as well as harvest country food for the community.
- QIAs model demonstrates the feasibility and success of this program model, showing that with adequate and sustainable support similar salaried hunter programs could be effectively replicated across Inuit Nunangat. This can be implemented quickly with simple administrative resources as an effective means to address this long standing public health crisis.

