

Food Insecurity in Inuit Nunangat

Presented by Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre

Food insecurity among Inuit in Canada is one of the longest lasting public health emergencies in Canadian history.

77.6% of adult Inuit in Nunavut are reported to be food insecure.

The average weekly cost to feed a family of four in Nunavut, even after subsidies, exceeds \$400 CAD, which is two to three times the national average, making it the most expensive in Canada.

Inuit in Canada face the highest documented prevalence of food insecurity among an Indigenous population in a developed nation.

Food insecurity in Inuit Nunangat has been linked to high rates of suicide, which is 9 times higher among Inuit than the national average.

The suicide rate rose in direct correlation with the economic collapse that the sealskin industry experienced when the European Economic Community banned sealskin and sealskin products in Europe in October 1983.

RECOMMENDATION #1: CREATE AND ADEQUATELY FUND SALARIED POSITIONS FOR HUNTERS IN INUIT NUNANGAT

New policies that recognize Inuit hunters as essential should be developed and hunters should be paid fairly for the vital work that they provide. Ultimately, the key food producers in the most food insecure region in Canada should not have to live in poverty in order to provide their communities with food. These positions and accompanying policies should be developed in cooperation with regional Inuit organizations and other local governments.

RECOMMENDATION #2: CREATE AND ADEQUATELY FUND TARGETED BASIC INCOME IN INUIT NUNANGAT

Just like anywhere else in Canada, food insecurity in the North is not a food problem – it's an income problem. There is a wide income gap between Inuit and non-Inuit in Inuit Nunangat. Non-Inuit earn almost 4 times the amount as Inuit in the region

RECOMMENDATION #3: DEVELOP INFRASTRUCTURE IN INUIT NUNANGAT

Inuit organizations have identified that substantial investments in infrastructure are urgently needed. For example, Nunavut has very little marine infrastructure, despite so much country food being found in the sea. The entire territory has 1 small craft harbour. In comparison, to the land-locked province of Saskatchewan, which has 12 small craft harbours.

RECOMMENDATION #4: RECOGNIZE INUKTUT AND OTHER INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF CANADA

Inuit traditional knowledge is embedded within Inuit languages, such as Inuktitut and Innuinaqtun. This traditional knowledge includes essential knowledge about traditional hunting practices, place names, and Inuit culture, law and worldview. Currently, Canada only recognizes the colonial languages of French and English as official languages nationally.

Qujannamiik! Thank You! Merci!

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