

Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-16

2014

Nunavut Food
Security Coalition



Nunavut Food Security Coalition

The Nunavut Food Security Coalition met for the first time June 26, 2012 in Iqaluit. The meeting included representatives from seven departments of the Government of Nunavut as well as four Inuit organizations. Participation in the Nunavut Food Security Coalition has since expanded to include the following organizations:

- Arctic Cooperatives Ltd. (ACL)
- Arviat Wellness Centre (AWC)
- Feeding My Family (FMF)
- Government of Nunavut
 - Department of Culture and Heritage (CH)
 - Department of Economic Development and Transportation (EDT)
 - Department of Education (EDU)
 - Department of Environment (DOE)
 - Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA)
 - Nunavut Bureau of Statistics (NBS)
 - Department of Family Services (FS)
 - Department of Finance (DOF)
 - Department of Health (DH)
 - Department of Justice (DOJ)
 - Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC)
- Iilitaqsinig – Nunavut Literacy Council (I – NLC)
- Ilisaqsivik Society (IS)
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA)
- Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA)
- Lateral Office (LO)
- Niqittivak Committee (NC) – Chaired by the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat
- North West Company (NWC)
- Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat (NA-PS)
- Nunavut Arctic College (NAC)
- Nunavut Development Corporation (NDC)
- Nunavut Research Institute (NRI)
- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)
- Project Nunavut (PN)
- Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre (QHRC)
- Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
- Tukisigiarvik Friendship Centre (TFC)

Participation in the Nunavut Food Security Coalition is voluntary and open to any Nunavut organization that shares our vision of a food secure Nunavut.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
A Call to Action: The Food Security Crisis in Nunavut	2
Rates of Food Insecurity in Nunavut	2
The Impact of Food Insecurity on Health and Well-Being	2
The Complexity of Factors Influencing Food Security in Nunavut	2
The Collective Will to Act.	3
Our Collective Vision, Our Collective Responsibility	4
Guiding Principles	4
Strategic Areas for Action	5
The Role of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition	6
1. Country Food	7
2. Store-Bought Food	8
3. Local Food Production	9
4. Life Skills	10
5. Programs and Community Initiative	11
6. Policy and Legislation	12
Conclusion	13
Action Plan 2014-16	15

“Inuit have long lived to survive – it is in our blood to find food and help others when someone goes hungry. Inuit all over the north have understood the word ‘hunger’ from the past to this day. It is handled through patience, through acceptance, and through innovations. Hunger was fought by our ancestors, and we can fight it again today using different techniques.”

Feeding My Family
(2013)

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations (2003)

“We want Nunavut to be food-secure, meaning that all Nunavummiut, at all times, will have physical and economic access to sufficient, nutritious and culturally-relevant foods.”

The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction (2011)

INTRODUCTION

Nunavummiut share a commitment to address what is considered to be a food security crisis¹. In fact, the 2007-2008 Inuit Child Health Survey states that 7 in 10 Inuit preschoolers in Nunavut live in food insecure households². Access to healthy and affordable food has been a challenge for Nunavummiut for many years, and this issue has emerged as a major political and public concern.

In 2009, the Government of Nunavut released a statement of priorities, *Tamapta*, which emphasized the importance of meeting the basic needs of Nunavummiut, including affordable, healthy food. As part of these priorities, the Government of Nunavut announced that it would prepare and implement a poverty reduction strategy³.

In 2010-2011, the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction undertook an extensive public engagement process to inform a territorial poverty reduction plan. This process included efforts to understand the experience of food insecurity among Nunavummiut. As a result, the poverty reduction strategy, *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*, called for “those in leadership roles that deal with food security to work together for the benefit of all Nunavummiut.” *The Makimaniq Plan* included a commitment: “We will establish a Nunavut Food Security Coalition... and develop a territorial action plan on food security.”⁴

The *Nunavut Food Security Strategy* is the result of this commitment. Prepared by the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, the *Strategy* is derived from the poverty reduction public engagement process that was used to prepare *The Makimaniq Plan*, the recommendations outlined in Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.’s *2010-2011 Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society*⁵, the thousands of statements from Nunavummiut documented in the Government of Nunavut’s *Qanukkanni* report card⁶ and on social media, the evidence from academic and government research, as well as the Nunavut Food Security Symposium⁷.

The *Nunavut Food Security Strategy* reflects over two years of collaborative effort, and describes the actions that must be taken to improve food security in Nunavut.

¹Wakegijig, J., Osborne, G., Statham, S., Doucette Issaluk, M. (2013). Collaborating toward improving food security in Nunavut. *International Journal on Circumpolar Health*. 72: 21201.

²Egeland, G.M., Pacey, A., Cao, Z., Sobol, I. (2010). Food insecurity among Inuit preschoolers: Nunavut Inuit Child Health Survey, 2007-2008. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 182:243-248.

³GN (2009). *Tamapta: Building Our Future Together (2009-2013)*, p. 11.

⁴Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (2011). *The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*, p. 6.

⁵NTI (2012). *2010-2011 Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society: The Status of Inuit Children and Youth in Nunavut*.

⁶GN (2009). *Qanukkanni: What We Heard*.

⁷Nunavut Food Security Coalition (2013). *Nunavut Food Security Symposium Record of Proceedings*.

A CALL TO ACTION: THE FOOD SECURITY CRISIS IN NUNAVUT

Rates of Food Insecurity in Nunavut

While food insecurity affects populations worldwide, it is a particularly urgent public health issue for Nunavummiut. Rates of food insecurity are at critical levels in the territory (Figure 1). The Inuit Health Survey reported that nearly 70 per cent of Inuit households in Nunavut are food insecure⁸. This is over eight times higher than the national average and among the highest documented food insecurity rates for an indigenous population in a developed country^{8, 9}.

The Impact of Food Insecurity on Health and Well-Being

Everyone in Nunavut experiences the impacts of food insecurity in some way. Most predominantly, food insecurity directly affects individual health and well-being. Food insecurity increases the risk of chronic disease, impacts mental health, and lowers learning capacity¹¹. Food insecurity in Nunavut also has broader indirect consequences; because food insecurity can affect families and communities, it poses a threat to overall social stability, cultural integrity, and economic development. All Nunavummiut, even those who are food secure, are affected by the negative impacts of food insecurity.

The Complexity of Factors Influencing Food Security in Nunavut

The Nunavut Food Security Coalition has outlined four components of food security: availability (enough wildlife on the land or groceries in the store), accessibility (adequate money for hunting equipment or store-bought food, and the ability to obtain it), quality (healthy food that is culturally valued), and use (knowledge about how to obtain, store, prepare, and consume food). These components must be fulfilled simultaneously for food security to exist, yet are influenced by many complex factors in Nunavut (Figure 2).

Governments and academic institutions have invested in the research needed to understand the interconnected determinants of and potential solutions to food insecurity in Nunavut. It is widely acknowledged that this critical and complex issue is larger than the mandate of any one organization. A collaborative approach is essential.

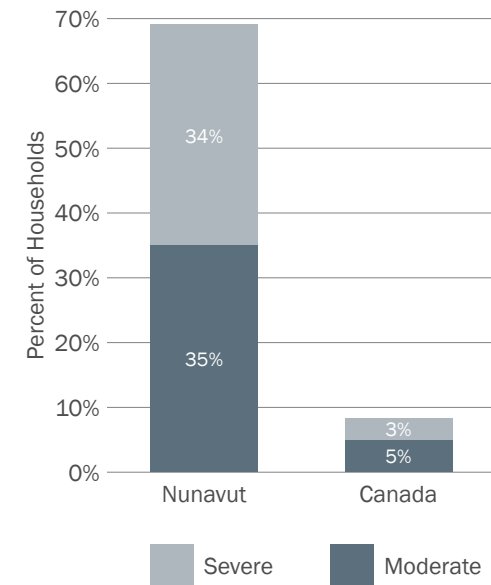


Figure 1. Rates of food insecurity in Nunavut⁸ compared to the rest of Canada¹⁰.

⁸ Rosol, R., Huet, C., Wood, M., Lennie, C., Osborne, G., and Egeland, G.M. (2011). Prevalence of affirmative responses to questions of food insecurity: International Polar Year Inuit Health Survey, 2007-2008. *International Journal on Circumpolar Health*. 70(5): 488-497.

⁹ Pardilla, M., Prasad, D., Suratkar, S., and Gittelsohn, J. (2013). High levels of household food insecurity on the Navajo Nation. *Public Health Nutrition*. doi:10.1017/S1368980012005630.

¹⁰ Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey, 2007-2008.

¹¹ McIntyre, L. and Tarasuk, V. (2002). Food Security as a Determinant of Health. Public Health Agency of Canada.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large family sizes • Increased human population • Inadequate grocery supplies • Changing wildlife stocks • Variable distribution of wildlife • Changing environmental conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High costs and low incomes • Gambling and substance abuse • Transportation delays • Weakening sharing networks • Changing access to hunting grounds • Climate change
Availability	Accessibility
Use	Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of traditional knowledge • Limited food preparation skills • Limited budgeting skills • Low literacy rates • Language barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited nutritional knowledge • Unhealthy store-bought food • Poor wildlife health • Food spoilage • Environmental contaminants

Figure 2. The four components of food security and some factors affecting them.

The Collective Will to Act

Food security has become both a political and public priority in Nunavut, with government departments, Inuit associations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and Nunavummiut working toward a common vision of a food secure Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut has called for action on food insecurity through the *Tamapta* mandate¹², the *Nutrition Framework for Action*¹³, and the *Public Health Strategy*¹⁴. Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.'s most recent *Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society*¹⁵ explores how high levels of food insecurity contribute to the poor health status of Inuit children and youth, and suggests recommendations for action.

Food security is a priority for every community in Nunavut. Each one uses its wellness programs to address the issue. In addition, there are many other local initiatives that enhance food security. The Feeding My Family advocacy group¹⁶, launched in May 2012 as a Facebook page, has connected and given voice to thousands of Nunavummiut who struggle to obtain healthy and affordable food. The group's activism for food security has mobilized public opinion that the issue must be addressed, and has provided a sense of urgency to the work of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition.

This type of collaborative action is essential to improving food security in Nunavut. The *Nunavut Food Security Strategy* proposes a collective vision and a common agenda so that all of our efforts can be coordinated and sustained, leading to greater impact.

¹² GN (2009). *Tamapta: Building Our Future Together (2009-2013)*.

¹³ GN (2007). *Nutrition in Nunavut: A Framework for Action*.

¹⁴ GN (2008). *Developing Healthy Communities: A Public Health Strategy for Nunavut (2008-2013)*.

¹⁵ NTI (2012). *2010-2011 Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society: The Status of Inuit Children and Youth in Nunavut*.

¹⁶ <http://www.feedingmyfamily.org>

OUR COLLECTIVE VISION, OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The Nunavut Food Security Coalition's collective vision for the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy* is as follows:

All Nunavummiut will have access to an adequate supply of safe, culturally preferable, affordable, nutritious food, through a food system that promotes Inuit Societal Values, self-reliance, and environmental sustainability.

Addressing the food security crisis in Nunavut is a collective responsibility; both individuals and organizations have a role to play. The Nunavut Food Security Coalition understands that no single entity has the resources and capacity required to effectively address the complex issue of food insecurity. We must all work together to do more with what we have.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Nunavummiungulluta, like all peoples, have the human right to adequate food, including the right to feed ourselves and to participate in decisions about our food system.
- Nunavut has a food system consisting of country food and store-bought food; both are essential to our food security.
- Food must be accessible and affordable for everyone.
- Achieving food security must be done in a manner consistent with Inuit Societal Values, principles of conservation and sustainability, and the rights of Inuit as enshrined in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.
- Food insecurity in Nunavut is a complex problem that requires collaborative solutions through the application of piliriqatigiinniq/ikajuqtigiinniq (working together for a common cause) and tunnganarniq (fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming, and inclusive).
- The best approach to achieving food security is through qanuqtuurniq (being innovative and resourceful), which involves strategic use of our existing resources.
- Food is central to Inuit culture, which relies on the use of the Inuit language to transfer traditional knowledge related to harvesting, sharing, preparing, and consuming food.
- Food production is an important part of the Nunavut economy, for which producers, including harvesters, must be able to pursue a sustainable livelihood.



STRATEGIC AREAS FOR ACTION

Through the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy*, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition will seek to address many of the key determinants of food security through a wide range of initiatives, programs, and policies.

The Coalition has identified six key themes around which the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy* is structured: Country Food, Store-Bought Food, Local Food Production, Life Skills, Programs and Community Initiative, as well as Policy and Legislation (Figure 3).

For each of these themes, we have articulated the Coalition’s mission (what we are going to do) supported by our rationale (why we are going to do it). We have also defined several objectives (how we are going to do it) that will help achieve our collective vision of a food secure Nunavut. The appended *Action Plan 2014-16* describes in more detail the priority actions that the Coalition will undertake to implement the *Strategy*. The *Action Plan* also outlines the key partners who will have a significant influence on the successful implementation of the *Strategy*.

Figure 3. The Nunavut Food Security Coalition’s six food security themes



1 Country Food

Mission

We will promote country food as a foundational food for Nunavummiut.

Rationale

Country food has excellent nutritional value, plays a critical role in Inuit culture, and contributes to strong, sustainable, self-reliant communities. However, there is concern that country food is becoming less prominent in our contemporary diets. Some factors affecting country food include loss of traditional knowledge, high costs of harvesting equipment, rapid population growth, pervasive poverty that constrains the pursuit of traditional activities, changing food preferences, and changing climatic conditions that restrict access to harvesting areas and impact wildlife. Preserving the ecological integrity of Nunavut food resources is a key component of a sustainable food system in Nunavut, and is therefore of concern to food security.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Support harvesters so they can pursue traditional livelihoods.
- 1.2 Help ensure that Nunavummiut who are most vulnerable to food insecurity are able to access country food.
- 1.3 Promote the continuation of informal country food sharing networks.
- 1.4 Explore sustainable commercialization of country food.
- 1.5 Improve community-based infrastructure that provides harvesters with places to store, prepare, share and, as appropriate, sell their harvests.
- 1.6 Seek a balance between the needs of Nunavummiut and the principles of wildlife conservation.
- 1.7 Encourage consumption of a wider variety of country food.

2 Store-Bought Food

Mission

We will support a food supply chain that promotes the availability and affordability of store-bought food that maximize nutritional and economic value for Nunavummiut.

Rationale

Store-bought food is playing an increasingly prominent role in our contemporary diets. Store-bought food has a significant impact on well-being, with poor food choices resulting in poor health outcomes. As such, retail environments that offer affordable and nutritious store-bought food are essential. Retailers have a role to play in improving food security by supporting healthy food choices and encouraging food skills development. Similarly, Nunavummiut have a role to play in the food choices they make.

Objectives:

- 2.1 Develop and/or maintain working relationships with commercial partners to improve food security.
- 2.2 Support promotion of healthy eating.
- 2.3 Develop and implement a territory-wide price survey in order to regularly compare food prices in Nunavut communities over time.
- 2.4 Explore measures that reduce the cost of and increase access to store-bought food throughout the entire food supply chain.
- 2.5 Explore measures to increase healthy food options and choices in stores.





3 Local Food Production

Mission

We will explore and promote the potential for local food production in Nunavut.

Rationale

Local food production goes beyond country food, and involves growing, harvesting, and distributing foods not traditionally produced in Nunavut. This requires innovation, but has the potential to enhance local availability of foods and increase self-reliance of communities. Other northern jurisdictions have demonstrated viable greenhouses, composting systems, farms, fisheries, and bakeries that may have similar success in Nunavut. The resourcefulness of people exploring new ways to grow food in Nunavut should be supported.

Objectives:

- 3.1 Promote innovation by supporting research efforts and project initiatives that explore ways of producing food locally.
- 3.2 Develop a 5-Year Plan for Nunavut's Growing Forward Program.
- 3.3 Explore the financial and operational viability of local food production in Nunavut.
- 3.4 Empower Nunavummiut to produce food locally.

4 Life Skills

Mission

We will support efforts to increase the ability of Nunavummiut to improve their own food security by gaining and utilizing life skills, including language, literacy and numeracy.

Rationale

It is important to have an understanding of the impacts of food choices on our health, our environment, and our communities. Nunavummiut have a long-standing intricate knowledge of how to obtain, store, prepare, and consume country food. However, there is concern that these skills are not being transferred to younger generations, or that similar skills related to store-bought food are not being acquired. As such, it is important to provide opportunities for skills and knowledge development related to both country food and store-bought food. For change to occur, foundational skills such as language, literacy, and numeracy must be strengthened.

Objectives:

- 4.1 Create a network of people involved in the development and transmission of life skills, including content experts and educators.
- 4.2 Support the transfer of life skills using both formal and informal methods of learning.
- 4.3 Promote the development, sharing, and distribution of learning resources.
- 4.4 Support Nunavummiut by providing resources, training, and encouragement.
- 4.5 Incorporate life skills into existing programs wherever possible.
- 4.6 Make life skills programming available to broader audiences that include a diversity of ages and genders, with a specific focus on marginalized community members.





5 Programs and Community Initiative

Mission

We will support community efforts that improve access to food for those who are most vulnerable to hunger.

Rationale

Community-based programs support the nutritional needs of vulnerable populations such as children, single parents, and elders. They also strengthen connections within communities, providing the opportunity to engage in our shared obligation to help those in need. Community initiative plays a critical role in supporting food security in Nunavut, and we recognize that action at the community level is necessary to address hunger in the short term. Community-based programs must be further supported through enhanced encouragement and resources.

Objectives:

- 5.1 Enhance and extend school nutrition programming for children in Nunavut.
- 5.2 Support a network of community-based programs and volunteers.
- 5.3 Prepare and distribute tools and resources to community-based programs to assist them in becoming established and operating sustainably.
- 5.4 Promote the formation and continuation of community-based programs that support food security.

6 Policy and Legislation

Mission

We will advocate for a strong social safety net that promotes food security through relevant policy and legislative measures.

Rationale

A local approach to improving food security in Nunavut is essential; however, there is also a need for territory-wide policy and legislation founded on Inuit Societal Values. Food security can be influenced through a variety of policy areas, including, but not limited to, housing, income assistance, education, training, employment, and transportation. All of these policy areas play a role in fostering an environment that supports food security in Nunavut.

Objectives:

- 6.1 Support the implementation of food-related regulations and legislation that enhance food security.
- 6.2 Assess the adequacy and effectiveness of food allowances provided by the Income Assistance Program.
- 6.3 Explore policy and legislative measures that will provide adequate incomes for Nunavummiut and reduce disincentives to engage in wage-based activities.
- 6.4 Explore policy and legislative measures that protect and promote traditional livelihoods.



CONCLUSION

Moving forward, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition will ensure that efforts within each of the six strategic areas for action contained within the *Strategy* translate into significant progress toward achieving our collective vision of a food secure Nunavut.

Some actions will create outcomes that improve our overall health and well-being, such as increasing the ability of Nunavummiut to meet our basic needs through our own autonomy or an enhanced social safety net, and improving health outcomes related to social determinants of health.

Other actions will be directly related to our accessibility to, interaction with, and consumption of food. Our efforts will ensure more Nunavummiut have enhanced skill sets required to obtain, store, prepare, and consume both country food and store-bought food. In addition, Nunavummiut will see enhancement of programs that help directly address food insecurity. We also anticipate that our efforts will improve access to country food to meet our desired needs, and will increase demand for and consumption of healthy foods more broadly.

Through the implementation of *Nunavut Food Security Strategy*, we expect to close the gap between household food insecurity rates in Nunavut with overall household food insecurity rates in the rest of Canada.

Our optimism is based on the sincere ways in which everyone has given their time to develop the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy*. Achieving food security in Nunavut will require action across many sectors of our society. Only by acting together, with commitment to our collective vision and shared objectives, will we be able to place Nunavut on the path toward a food secure future.

“I am very grateful that this [Nunavut Food Security Strategy] is coming together [when] I’m still alive. I am very very grateful I am the eldest of the group. I am 85 years old. I can see the future and I can leave peacefully knowing that the future generations are going to be in good hands.”

Eenoapik Sageaktook
Nunavut Food Security Symposium
January 24, 2013

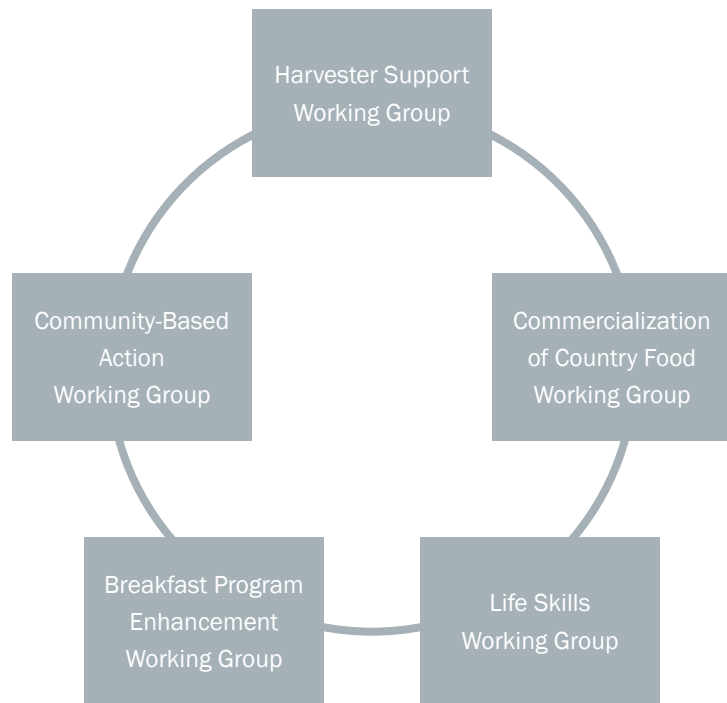


Figure 5. The Working Groups included in the *Action Plan 2014-16*

ACTION PLAN 2014-16

The *Action Plan 2014-16* offers a comprehensive approach to addressing food insecurity in Nunavut. It aims to coordinate the efforts of the many stakeholders required to successfully meet the needs of Nunavummiut. The *Action Plan* will guide the Nunavut Food Security Coalition’s efforts over the next three years. Some of the actions call for the creation of working groups (Figure 5), reflecting the belief that food security depends on coordinated activities across many sectors, rather than isolated efforts undertaken by individual stakeholders.

For each objective, the Coalition has identified key partners. These are organizations believed to have a significant influence on the achievement of these objectives. The Coalition is working to further engage organizations and align their activities. In this way, the resources we already possess can be used more effectively and will have greater impact.

The Coalition was established by seven government departments and four Inuit associations, and is co-chaired by the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Over the past year our membership has continued to grow to include the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and community groups. As actions develop, input from other stakeholders will be vital to the success of the *Strategy* and *Action Plan*.

The organizations listed below have contributed to the preparation of the *Strategy* and *Action Plan* through their participation in the strategy development process. Each has a role to play in achieving food security in Nunavut. Each will be influential in the success of the Coalition’s work. It will be the task of the Coalition during the next three years to bring together the partners whose participation is essential to the achievement of the Coalition’s objectives, missions, and collective vision.

The broad level of support that has been provided for the preparation of the *Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2014-16* reflects the willingness of partners to work together and to coordinate their activities to ensure a positive change in the lives of all Nunavummiut.

NUNAVUT FOOD SECURITY COALITION

Objectives	Actions	Outcomes
1 Strengthen the Nunavut Food Security Coalition.	1.1 Expand the Coalition's membership and partnership. 1.2 Seek out funding opportunities to support various food security initiatives to be undertaken by the Coalition.	a By March 31, 2014 an expanded and active Coalition. b By May 5, 2014 a completed and distributed <i>Nunavut Food Security Strategy</i> .
2 Promote public awareness of the food security issue through a variety of media.	2.1 Distribute and promote the <i>Nunavut Food Security Strategy</i> . 2.2 Develop a comprehensive communications plan for the Nunavut Food Security Coalition.	c By March 31, 2015 an informative website for the Nunavut Food Security Coalition. d By May 31, 2014 an annual report for 2012-13 Coalition activities.
3 Link our efforts to other strategic actions that complement our collective vision for food security in Nunavut.	3.1 Promote food security initiatives to be undertaken by the Coalition and other stakeholders that support the vision and goals of <i>The Makimaniq Plan</i> . 3.2 Establish relationships with research institutes and academic institutions to enhance relevance of food security-related research.	e By May 31, 2014 an annual report for 2013-14 Coalition activities. f By May 31, 2015 an annual report for 2014-15 Coalition activities.
4 Utilize existing assets effectively by promoting the coordination and integration of services and resources.	4.1 Coordinate Coalition activities with efforts being undertaken by the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, as outlined in the <i>Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act</i> .	g By May 31, 2016 an annual report for 2015-16 Coalition activities.
5 Advocate for progressive changes in existing programs and policies to improve food security.	5.1 Identify and promote ways in which changes can be made to enhance food security in Nunavut. 5.2 Support individuals and organizations that advocate for progressive social change.	
6 Ensure accountability of the Coalition in the implementation of the <i>Nunavut Food Security Strategy</i> .	6.1 Establish a communication network for the Coalition and the public to share information on food security-related efforts and initiatives. 6.2 Create a publicly available annual report for Coalition activities.	

Ongoing support to the Nunavut Food Security Coalition is provided by the Coalition Secretariat, including but not limited to:

- Director, Social and Cultural Development Department, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Director, Poverty Reduction Division, Department of Family Services, Government of Nunavut
- Territorial Nutritionist, Department of Health, Government of Nunavut
- Territorial Food Security Coordinator, Department of Health, Government of Nunavut
- Health Policy Analyst, Social and Cultural Development Department, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

1 COUNTRY FOOD

Objectives	Partners	Actions	Outcomes
1.1 Support harvesters so they can pursue traditional livelihoods.	ACL, AWC, CH, DOE, DOF, EDT, IS, KitIA, KivIA, LO, NTI, PN, QIA	1.1.1 Establish a Harvesters Support Working Group to review existing harvester support programs and recommend modifications. 1.1.2 Better promote existing programs and policies that support harvesters.	1.a By March 31, 2014 an established Harvester Support Working Group. 1.b By March 31, 2015 a review of existing harvester support programs.
1.2 Help ensure that Nunavummiut who are most vulnerable to food insecurity are able to access country food.	ACL, NDC, TFC	1.2.1 Encourage and support the formation of sharing networks involving harvesters and community members most vulnerable to food insecurity. 1.2.2 Donate country food to vulnerable populations wherever and whenever possible.	1.c By March 31, 2014 an established Commercialization of Country Food Working Group. 1.d By March 31, 2016 better use of targeted funding programs that support harvesting.
1.3 Promote the continuation of informal country food sharing networks.	KitIA, KivIA, NTI, QIA	1.3.1 Host regular community feasts and community harvests. 1.3.2 Explore inter-community sharing as a means to address local country food shortages or surpluses.	1.e By March 31, 2015 new policies and procedures for country food procurement and service in government-funded facilities.
1.4 Explore sustainable commercialization of country food.	ACL, DOE, EDT, DH, LO, NDC, NTI, NWC, PN	1.4.1 Establish a Commercialization of Country Food Working Group to explore ways in which the commercialization of country food might be pursued sustainably. 1.4.2 Explore how the commercialization of country food in other Arctic jurisdictions affects food security. 1.4.3 Develop new policies and procedures for country food procurement and service in government-funded facilities. 1.4.4 Make country food more readily available for purchase in stores and at markets.	1.f By March 31, 2016 expanded interest in commercialization of less commonly consumed species.
1.5 Improve community-based infrastructure that provides harvesters with places to store, prepare, share and, as appropriate, sell their harvests.	EDT, KitIA, KivIA, LO, NTI, QIA	1.5.1 Promote infrastructure projects that support harvesting activities and traditional livelihoods. 1.5.2 Support communities to obtain and more effectively use funding currently targeted toward harvesting-related infrastructure.	
1.6 Seek a balance between the needs of Nunavummiut and the principles of wildlife conservation.	DOE, NAC, NRI, NTI	1.6.1 Identify gaps in knowledge about the current state of harvestable fish and wildlife species, and conduct research, as necessary, that involves Nunavummiut in a meaningful way and incorporates both traditional and scientific knowledge. 1.6.2 Support the sustainable management of harvestable fish and wildlife species.	
1.7 Encourage consumption of a wider variety of country food.	DOE, DH, NDC	1.7.1 Promote consumption of country food in nutrition and health promotion materials and programming. 1.7.2 Work with food processors to develop new products (e.g. turbot, whale meat, and harp seal). 1.7.3 Support exploratory fisheries to investigate the viability of new commercial species (e.g. clams, urchins, scallops, crabs, mussels).	

2 STORE-BOUGHT FOOD

Objectives	Partners	Actions	Outcomes
2.1 Develop and/or maintain working relationships with commercial partners to improve food security.	Coalition members as appropriate	2.1.1 Work together to identify and implement food security initiatives related to store-bought food. 2.1.2 Form relationships with potential commercial partners involved in the acquisition and delivery of store-bought food.	2.a By January 1, 2015 an expanded Core Recipe Project and developed long-term delivery plan. 2.b By March 31, 2015 an established interdepartmental working group to oversee the development of school food guidelines.
2.2 Support promotion of healthy eating.	ACL, AWC, DH, EDU, QHRC, NWC	2.2.1 Support the development and delivery of more public awareness campaigns and point of purchase interventions that promote healthy food choices. 2.2.2 Repeat and expand the Core Recipe Project throughout Nunavut. 2.2.3 Create Nunavut school food guidelines. 2.2.4 Improve store layouts and advertisements to promote healthy food choices.	2.c By March 31, 2014 a long-term proposal for a territory-wide price survey. 2.d By March 31, 2015 implementation of a price survey in all Nunavut communities, pending resources.
2.3 Develop and implement a territory-wide price survey in order to regularly compare food prices in Nunavut communities over time.	NA-PS, NBS	2.3.1 Report publicly on the results of and lessons learned from the 2013 pilot Nunavut Food Price Survey. 2.3.2 Develop a proposal for an ongoing Nunavut Cost of Living Survey that includes all Nunavut communities, and conduct this survey pending sufficient resources.	2.e By March 31, 2016 a critical analysis of the food transportation network in the territory.
2.4 Explore measures that reduce the cost of and increase access to store-bought food throughout the entire food supply chain.	ACL, NC, NWC	2.4.1 Explore the factors that influence the cost, quality, and accessibility of store-bought food in Nunavut, and make policy and program recommendations. 2.4.2 Conduct an analysis of Nunavut's market food chain, including food subsidy programs, to identify ways to increase access to store-bought food. 2.4.3 Eliminate inefficiencies in the food supply chain through implementation of a food transportation management system.	2.f By March 31, 2015 better selection and quality of healthy food in stores, with an emphasis on more remote communities.
2.5 Explore measures to increase healthy food options in stores.	ACL, NWC	2.5.1 Expand the assortment and quality of healthy food in stores.	

3 LOCAL FOOD

Objectives	Partners	Actions	Outcomes
3.1 Promote innovation by supporting research efforts and project initiatives that explore ways of producing food locally.	AWC, LO	3.1.1 Explore creative ideas and lessons learned regarding northern food production in other Arctic regions, and share them with Nunavut communities. 3.1.2 Liaise with organizations that research and conduct northern food production.	3.a By March 31, 2015 an inventory of research priorities for action. 3.b By March 31, 2016 a 5-year work plan to capitalize on opportunities related to the Growing Forward Program.
3.2 Develop a 5-Year Plan for Nunavut's Growing Forward Program.	EDT	3.2.1 Better understand the opportunities for and limitations of the Growing Forward Program. 3.2.2 Form relationships with potential partners involved in local food production who would benefit from the Growing Forward Program.	
3.3 Explore the financial and operational viability of local food production in Nunavut.	Coalition members as appropriate	3.3.1 Promote research that involves assessing the cost-benefit of northern food production.	
3.4 Empower Nunavummiut to produce food locally.	Coalition members as appropriate	3.4.1 Provide information to Nunavummiut about the potential for local food production, including methods available and funding opportunities.	

4 LIFE SKILLS

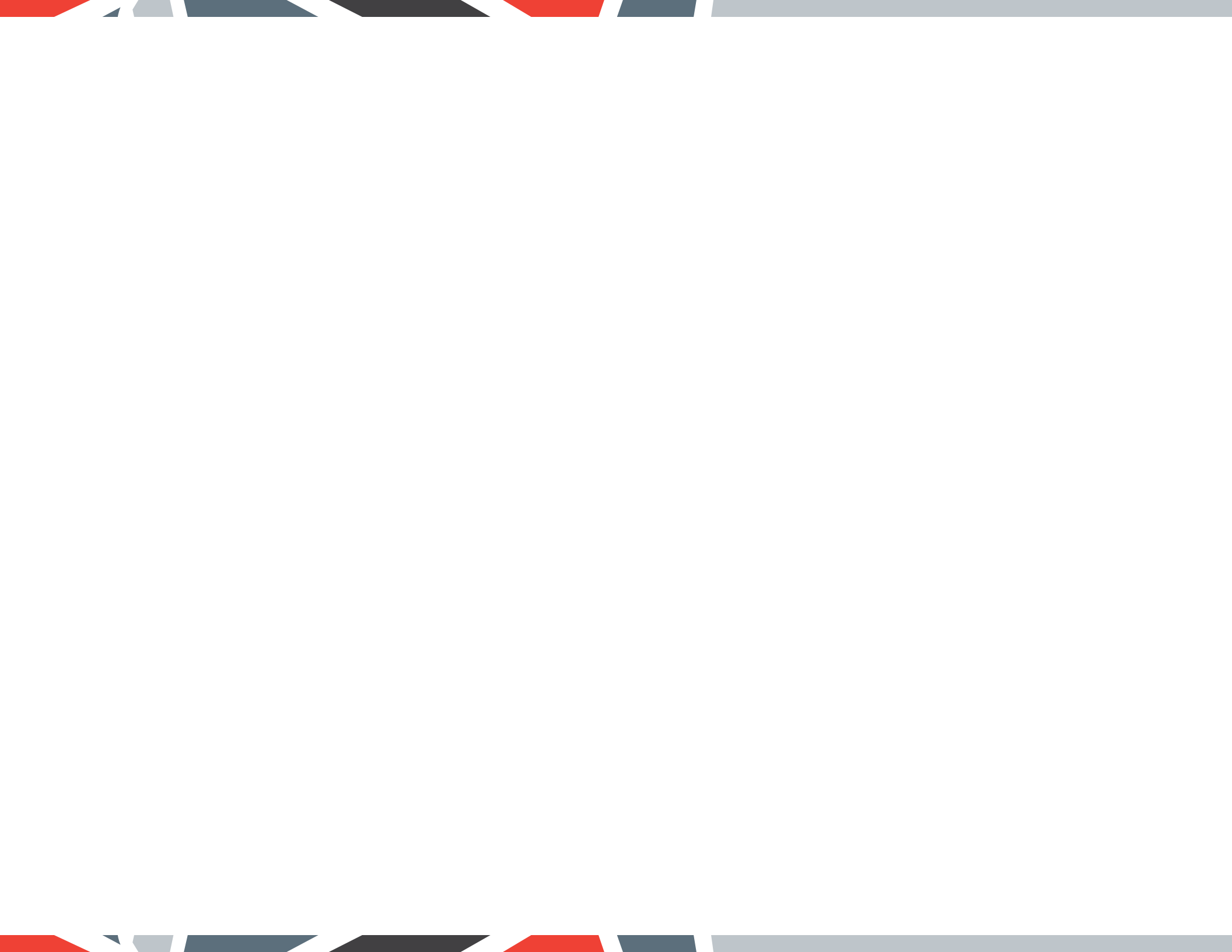
Objectives	Partners	Actions	Outcomes
4.1 Create a network of people involved in the development and transmission of life skills, including content experts and educators.	DH, EDU, I-NLC, NAC, NHC, QHRC, TFC	<p>4.1.1 Establish a Life Skills Working Group to seek ways to better align existing life skills learning resources and teaching efforts.</p> <p>4.1.2 Work together to align life skills content and delivery.</p> <p>4.1.3 Support the development and delivery of more non-formal learning opportunities that include embedded literacy.</p>	<p>4.a By March 31, 2014 an established Life Skills Working Group.</p> <p>4.b By March 31, 2014 a Healthy Living Website.</p> <p>4.c By March 31, 2016 more Nunavummiut gaining and utilizing life skills.</p>
4.2 Support the transfer of life skills using both formal and informal methods of learning.	ACL, AWC, DH, EDU, FS, I-NLC, KitIA, KivIA, NAC, NWC, QHRC, QIA, TFC	<p>4.2.1 Better utilize existing programs that involve life skills.</p> <p>4.2.2 Support family and intergenerational literacy programs.</p> <p>4.2.3 QIA Social Policy Department will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and evaluate key programs offered by QIA Social Policy Department. - Access funding through the Nunavut Hunter Support Program and other sources to develop and offer programs which support the traditional skills related to food preparation. - Create learning and language resources which support the transfer of language skills, with a focus, where possible, on country food acquisition, preparation, and storage. 	
4.3 Promote the development, sharing, and distribution of learning resources.	AWC, DH, EDU, I-NLC, NAC, NHC, QHRC	4.3.1 Make information on nutrition, healthy eating, and budgeting more readily available to Nunavummiut.	
4.4 Support Nunavummiut by providing resources, training, and encouragement.	ACL, AWC, DH, I-NLC, NHC, NWC, QHRC	4.4.1 Provide training to people whose job involves the transfer of life skills.	
4.5 Incorporate life skills into existing programs wherever possible.	ACL, DH, FS, I-NLC, NAC	<p>4.5.1 Advocate for the reintroduction of home economics in secondary schools.</p> <p>4.5.2 Enhance life skills development through various Adult Basic Education courses and programs that have been newly developed.</p>	
4.6 Make life skills programming available to broader audiences that include a diversity of ages and genders with a specific focus on marginalized members.	DH, EDU, I-NLC	<p>4.6.1 Develop, launch, and promote a Healthy Living website.</p> <p>4.6.2 Create a school-based component for nutrition and health promotion material.</p> <p>4.6.3 Promote the development of programs that engage marginalized community members.</p>	

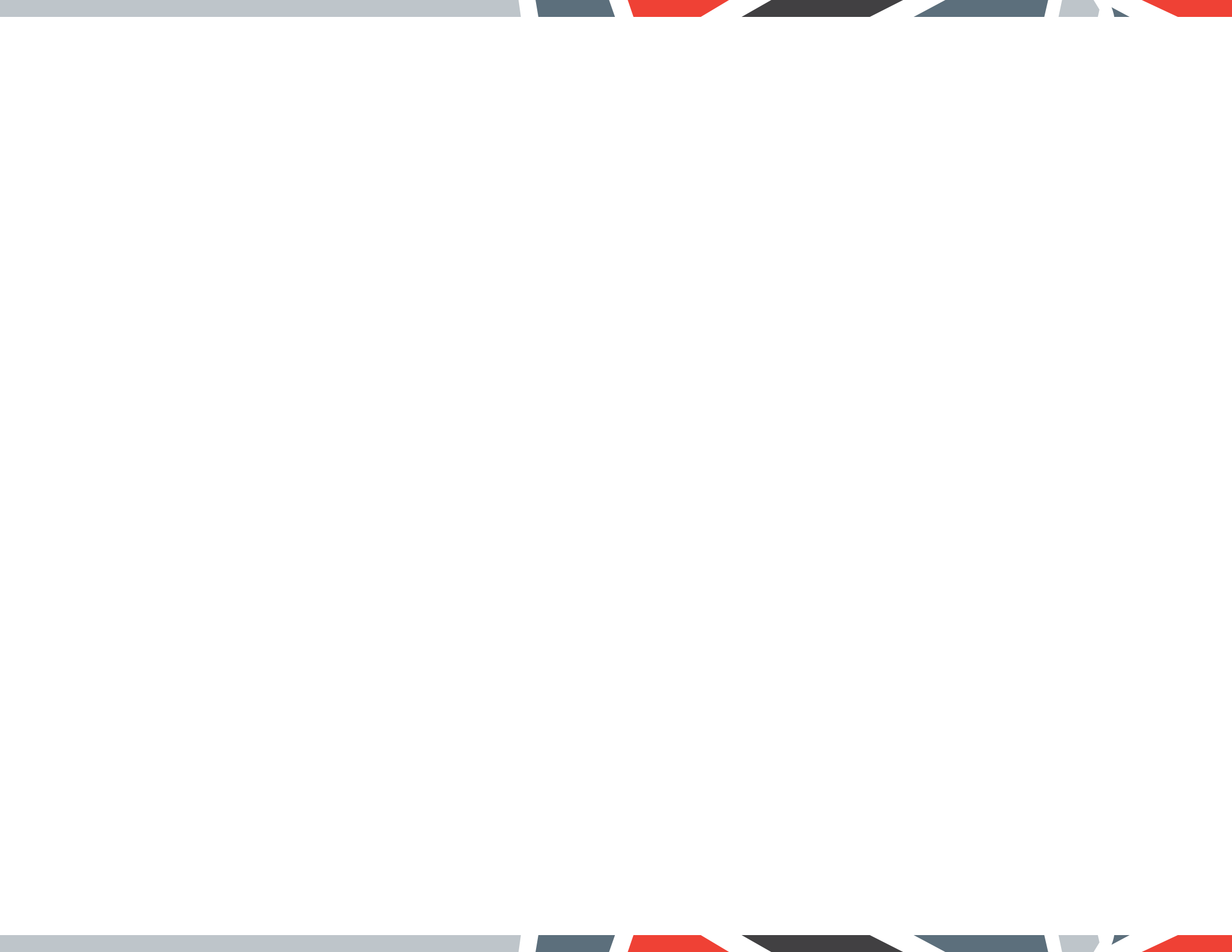
5 PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Objectives	Partners	Actions	Outcomes
5.1 Enhance and extend school nutrition programming for children in Nunavut.	ACL, DH, EDU, FS, NWC, QIA	5.1.1 Establish a Breakfast Program Working Group to explore ways in which current breakfast programs can be enhanced. 5.1.2 Inuit Organizations will work together to explore how they can support stable funding of breakfast programs or similar initiatives. 5.1.3 Release and promote the Breakfast Program Guidebook and the Breakfast Program Cookbook.	5.a By March 31, 2014 an established Breakfast Program Working Group. 5.b By March 31, 2014 a Breakfast Program Guidebook and Breakfast Program Cookbook. 5.c By March 31, 2014 an established Community-Based Action Working Group.
5.2 Support a network of community-based programs and volunteers.	DH	5.2.1 Establish a Community-Based Action Working Group to seek ways in which community-based food security initiatives can be better supported. 5.2.2 Finalize and distribute the Guide to Funding Resources for Community Programs. 5.2.3 Create a resource of Wellness Program ideas and distribute the resource to communities.	5.d By March 31, 2014 a completed and distributed Guide to Funding Resources for Community Programs. 5.e By March 31, 2015 a completed and distributed resource of Wellness Program ideas.
5.3 Prepare and distribute tools and resources to community-based programs to assist them in becoming established and operating sustainably.	Coalition members as appropriate	5.3.1 Prepare and distribute a “how to” manual for starting community-based programs.	5.f By March 31, 2016 a completed “how to” manual for starting community-based programs.
5.4 Promote the formation and continuation of community-based programs that support food security.	Coalition members as appropriate	5.4.1 Advocate for the creation of community food centres that encompass communal food preparation facilities and wellness programming. 5.4.2 Support hamlets seeking ways to create community food centres.	

6 POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Objectives	Partners	Actions	Outcomes
6.1 Support the implementation of food-related regulations and legislation that enhance food security.	ACL, DH, NDC, NWC	<p>6.1.1 Support the <i>Donation of Food Act</i> by creating community level partnerships between food retailers, country food suppliers, and community-based food programs</p> <p>6.1.2 Support the <i>Donation of Food Act</i> by sharing information with donors and recipients on the importance of food safety and safe food handling.</p> <p>6.1.3 Seek ways to improve food security policy through the revision of the <i>Public Health Act</i>.</p>	<p>6.a By March 31, 2015 community level partnerships between food retailers, country food suppliers, and community-based food programs in order to deliver qualifying food products to community organizations and programs.</p>
6.2 Assess the adequacy and effectiveness of food allowances provided by the Income Assistance Program.	FS, NA-PS	<p>6.2.1 Utilize the results of the pilot Nunavut Food Price Survey and the proposed territory-wide price survey to help align income assistance food allowances with the cost of living in Nunavut.</p> <p>6.2.2 Review the <i>Social Assistance Act</i> and Regulations to incorporate policies that account for the cost of living in Nunavut.</p> <p>6.2.3 Undertake a communications plan regarding the Income Assistance Program.</p>	<p>6.b By March 31, 2016 identification of policies that may be incorporated in legislation, regulations and policy.</p> <p>6.c By March 31, 2016 a communications plan regarding the Income Assistance Program.</p>
6.3 Explore policy and legislative measures that will provide adequate incomes for Nunavummiut and reduce disincentives to engage in wage-based activities.	DOF, NHC	<p>6.3.1 Review the taxation system to ensure its rates and structure are equitable, efficient, and effective.</p> <p>6.3.2 Implement changes to the Rent Scale system that are intended to encourage Public Housing tenants to obtain and maintain work.</p> <p>6.3.3 Through the GN Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, further develop the priority of instilling self-reliance among Public Housing tenants.</p>	
6.4 Explore policy and legislative measures that protect and promote traditional livelihoods.	Coalition members as appropriate	<p>6.4.1 Learn from other jurisdictions about ways in which traditional livelihoods may be supported.</p>	







Nunavut Food Security Coalition

