

# **2019-20 Annual Report**

## Country Food Distribution Program

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## Sector Overview

Harvesting plays many roles in Nunavut society and is a very important piece 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 the freshest, highest quality, and most nutritious food available in Nunavut. The Department of Health strongly recommends that Nunavummiut "eat country food as often as you can."<sup>1</sup>

Improving the ability of harvesters to provide food to the community 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.

Working within the conservation system, our mandate at the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is to contribute towards improving the viability of the harvesting economy. The value of the harvest is greater than the cost of harvesting. However, 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 two aspects of the harvesting economy. Schedule A provides a \$30,000 annual contribution to communities to support locally identified initiatives that will improve the viability of the harvesting economy with additional funding available to pay for operation and maintenance. The projects funded by this schedule are developed by the local municipalities or Hunters and Trappers Organizations based on locally identified needs and opportunities, and must support local harvesters. There is also funding under Schedule A to pay for maintenance and utilities costs for community freezers.

Schedule B provides funding for investments into harvesting infrastructure. These funds primarily support the construction or renovation of community freezers, however they can also be used for other community identified harvesting infrastructure. The department works in partnership with interested municipalities or HTAs during the application and project development process to help ensure the results are feasible projects that meet communities' needs.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.livehealthy.gov.nu.ca/en/food-0>

### **2019-20 Spending Report: Schedule A**

In 2019-20 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. One community used funds for a firearms safety course.

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.

### **2019-20 Spending Report: Schedule B**

The Clyde River HTA finished the constructions of their community freezer, and funding was provided to the Mayukalik HTA and Mittimatlik HTA for freezer upgrades and renovations.

### **2019-20 Spending Report: Canadian Agricultural Partnership**

The department signed the Canadian Agricultural Partnership in 2018-19 which provides funding towards community freezers.

In 2019-20 the funds were earmarked for projects in Baker Lake and Sanirajak, however both projects were postponed due to the outbreak and shutdowns caused by COVID-19. As a result the department did not use the Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding.

**Detailed Spending Report:**

Recipient	Project Description	Community	Amount
<b>Schedule A</b>			
Municipality of Cape Dorset	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Cape Dorset	19,809
Municipality of Clyde River	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Clyde River	21,063
Iviq Hunters and Trappers Association	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Grise Fiord	13,682
Municipality of Igloolik	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Igloolik	30,000
Hamlet of Pangnirtung	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Pangnirtung	30,000
Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization	Bowhead Hunt	Pond Inlet	29,390
Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Qikiqtarjuaq	25,000
Hamlet of Arviat	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Arviat	30,000
Hamlet of Baker Lake	Firearm safety training	Baker Lake	16,552
Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Chesterfield Inlet	30,000
Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Association	Bowhead, Beluga, Geese Hunts, Firearms Safety Course	Coral Harbour	39,330
Hamlet of Naujaat	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Naujaat	18,750
Hamlet of Whale Cove	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Whale Cove	17,900
Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers Association	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Cambridge Bay	30,000
Hamlet of Gjoa Haven	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food & Freezer Operations	Gjoa Haven	40,000
Kurtairojuark Hunters and Trappers Organization	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Kugaaruk	30,000
Hamlet of Kugaaruk	Community Freezer Operations	Kugaaruk	10,000
Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Kugluktuk	28,520
Hamlet of Kugluktuk	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Kugluktuk	10,000
Spence Bay Hunters & Trappers Association	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Taloyoak	30,000
Hamlet of Taloyoak	Purchase & Distribution of Country Food	Taloyoak	20,000
<b>Subtotal Schedule A</b>			<b>\$519,997</b>
<b>Schedule B</b>			
Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Association	Completion of Community Freezer	Clyde River	544,480
Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers Association	Community Freezer Renovation	Kimmirut	119,650
Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization	Community Freezer Upgrade	Pond Inlet	66,231
<b>Subtotal Schedule B</b>			<b>\$664,130</b>
<b>Total CFPD</b>			<b>\$1,184,127</b>

Note: This reporting shows Kinngait as "Municipality of Cape Dorset", this is because the Contribution Agreements in this report predate the municipality's name change.