

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



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**QAJUQTURVIK COMMUNITY
FOOD CENTRE**
A Right To Food Partner

**CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE
D'ALIMENTATION QAJUQTURVIK**
Un partenaire de Droit à l'alimentation

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been struggling to write this letter for weeks. Typically, a board president's annual letter is not all that difficult to write: praise for staff and volunteers, thanks to supporters and donors, a summary of the big achievements of the year, and hints at plans to come. The letter may mention challenges and uncertainties, but overall the tone is positive and uplifting.

Our staff continue to be beyond exemplary; we have achieved extraordinary things this year; we have exciting plans to come; and our supporters and donors make all this possible. All of that comes easily.

It's the positive and uplifting tone that I'm struggling with this year. There is, of course, a lot to feel positive about. First always is the centre's daily meal team, who once again rose to the challenge of the growing food insecurity crisis in Iqaluit. They showed remarkable resourcefulness and dedication in adapting to an impossible task: facing a community need that only seems to increase.

The centre's other programs also provided much to be joyful about. Our Inuit Women's Circle continues to draw more participants to share food, crafting, and stories. Our social enterprise, Qinnirvik Country Food Store, completed its first full fiscal year, providing citizens a steady source of traditional local foods. Our hunters' support program gathers momentum as we expand our network across the territory. These programs represent our efforts towards food sovereignty and the revitalization of a local Inuit food system.

Our programs continue to attract generous partners from around the country, like Hockey Helps the Homeless, which put on a spectacular fundraiser this year, raising \$250,000 between QCFC and Annauma Community Foundation.

However, there has been grief as well. Our staff sustained an immeasurable setback when our head chef, Carlos Foyn, suddenly passed away.

Hundreds of community members packed Iqaluit's Cadet Hall for his memorial and celebrated the joy he gave to so many, inside and outside Qajuqturvik. Carlos's spirit carries on in the centre, and our thoughts are with his family.

There is also grief for our community. As you'll read in this report, we once again broke our daily meal record, serving over 85,000 meals in 2025-26. I am proud that the team is able to produce such a high number of nutritious, delicious meals, and grateful to play a small part in this work. But I grieve that this superhuman effort continues to be necessary.

My vision for Qajuqturvik is one where positivity and pride outweigh the grief. I hope there will soon come a time when the need for emergency meals recedes, allowing Qajuqturvik to focus more on community building, food sovereignty, and restoring Nunavut food systems to the centre of the local food economy. I look forward to a larger facility that even more people come to not because they need to, but because they want to. I believe that time is coming, even if it feels far away.

We cannot get there alone. Meeting a challenge of this scale requires committed partners who share our belief that access to food is a basic human right. Right to Food, our national partner, provides the guiding principles that shape our programs and ensure everyone who enters our space is treated with dignity. The support of our funders recognizes the impact of this work, demonstrates confidence in our organization, and acknowledges the scale and urgency of the need.

As we move into 2026-27, our focus is on meeting the needs of our community members by expanding our staff, increasing our kitchen's efficiency, and, most pressingly, moving to a larger, permanent location.

Thank you to all those who have supported us this far. Qujannamiik.



Jessie Hale, President, Board of Directors



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The past year has been a sobering one for us as an organization. Once again, our daily food program surpassed last year's records, setting new highs for both single-day and annual meals served—a testament to the dedication and output of our staff, but above all an indication of the immense and growing need within our community. We served more than 85,000 meals in 2025/26, an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year. Demand for our services has grown every year that we have tracked it, for more than 20 years.

Every day at the Food Centre we see the very human, unfiltered reality of food insecurity in Iqaluit. Community members from every walk of life fill our dining hall Monday to Friday, including many you would never expect to find relying on a community food program. In a single day last September, we served 639 meals—equivalent to 7.4 per cent of the city's population. That would be proportional to producing roughly 240,000 meals in Toronto, 141,000 in Montreal, or 83,000 in Ottawa in a single day. The need in Iqaluit is greater than many people realize, and the demand far exceeds what our small but mighty team can currently provide.

One day last fall, I fell into a brief state of despair, unable to bring myself to leave the house or even cook a meal. A friend brought me food from the Food Centre: a simple meal of roast chicken, rice, and vegetables. When I opened the container, I was overwhelmed with gratitude. It was such a beautiful expression of care and love to receive such a meal. I broke down crying.

In that moment, I felt immense pride in our team. Every day, they prepare hundreds of meals for members of our community. If those meals give someone even a small measure of the comfort and care I felt that day, then they are doing something truly extraordinary. Feeding one another is among the most fundamental expressions of love and care we have as human beings.

The next day I returned to the Food Centre and ate a beautiful bowl of muskox stew. I remember thinking: this is what we do—we care for one another through food. I thought that not as the Executive Director, but simply as someone using the services we provide.

If we can prepare 639 meals in a single day with the team and facilities we have today, imagine what could be possible with the people, space, and resources to match the need. We know it is possible. As an organization, we are uniquely positioned and experienced to make that vision a reality. With the right support, we can ensure that everyone in our community has dignified access to nutritious food every day. In a country as prosperous as Canada, that should be an achievable goal. And if we know we can meet that need, then it is a moral imperative that we do so.

Of course, we cannot accomplish that alone. Meeting a challenge of this scale requires committed partners who share our belief that access to food is a basic human right. Right to Food, our national partner, provides the guiding principles that shape every one of our programs and ensure that everyone who enters our space is treated with dignity. The support of our funders recognizes the impact of this work, demonstrates confidence in our organization, and acknowledges both the scale and urgency of the need.

And so we look to the future with hope. We envision a future where Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre has the people, space, and resources to meet the growing needs of our community—not simply by serving meals, but by caring for one another through food.



Joseph Murdoch-Flowers, Executive Director

PROGRAMS



Daily Community Meal

Once again, demand for this program increased as it has every year since its inception. This year we served 85,091 meals to over 40,000 visitors – that's equivalent to over 10 meals for every resident in Iqaluit. We serve a fresh, hot, and nutritious lunch Monday to Friday for both dine-in and take-out. Diners often take extra servings home for their families. We also broke our record for meals served in a single day: 639. For our small but mighty staff, this is an incredible feat. But more importantly it points to an ever-growing need amid the long-standing food security crisis that grips our community.

FOOD ACCESS

Piruvtuviniiit Box Program

Fresh produce is made accessible to the community on a sliding pay scale through our Piruvtuviniiit Food Box. Each box is filled to provide 4 people with fresh produce. Boxes generally include 18-22 different fruits and vegetables. This year we sold 2,683 boxes serving about 10,700 community members.





INUIT WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Our Inuit Women's Circle provides an uplifting and collaborative atmosphere where Inuit women build cultural skills in a safe environment. This year, the program drew 1,024 participants over 145 sessions. Women met two or three times a week to share food and participate in activities like sewing sealskin parkas and mitts, cooking, beading, and embroidery. When the weather allowed, programming was held outdoors for land-based activities like berry-picking and gathering heather to build a fire. Mary, our coordinator, and her assistant start every session by preparing a meal, which the women gather to share over conversation.





Rather than being delivered through a single program, our Country Food Access program is delivered through a number of other programs. It is made publicly available through the Qinnirvik Country Food Store, which operates as a brick-and-mortar store out of the Food Centre, providing affordable and regular access to traditional Inuit food. This year, the first full year of Qinnirvik's operation, we acquired 4,866kg of country food from nineteen hunters across Nunavut.

Country Food is also delivered through our Quaag Corner program. This is a drop-in program designed for Elders, where free country food and a space to gather is provided once a week.

COUNTRY FOOD

Our Daily Meal program regularly incorporates Country Food, as does our Community Food and Inuit Women's Circle programs.



This was the second year of operations for this program, which aims to diversify our community meal offerings while bringing in an ever-growing and more inclusive demographic of our community. One series in this program, called QCFC Presents!, features community-based chefs who are provided a commercial kitchen and the necessary support to show off their own culinary skills and passions. Another series saw a collaboration with the Nunavut Black History Society and included four feasts during Black History Month.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

It also includes one-off events, such as a Pride Potluck in June, and the first-ever Iqaluit's Got Bannock bake-off event, for which we provided caribou stew. In total, well over 2,000 people enjoyed these events.

This program is in line with our aim to expand our daily lunch meal service to weekends and evenings. They are offered on a pay-what-you-can basis and serve as a general fundraising effort while at the same time engaging diverse community members.





FOOD ADVOCACY

Qajuqturvik's advocacy work focuses on increasing our capacity to meet the needs of daily meals in Iqaluit, access to country food, promoting the cultural and human right to food, and addressing food insecurity by increasing peoples' incomes. This advocacy is carried out through a variety of activities: public speaking engagements, media interviews, attending conferences, hosting events, and opening its doors to prominent visitors.

Qajuqturvik continues to enjoy a very strong relationship with the media, both regionally and nationally. In total, we received 44 media requests this past year, giving dozens of interviews or written responses. This further strengthened Qajuqturvik's reputation not only as an authoritative and frontline source of the food insecurity crisis in Iqaluit, but also as a leading voice in the food sovereignty movement for Inuit. Interviews also covered cultural events, community feasts, and partnerships with local organizations and governments.

Our Executive Director was also invited regularly as a speaker at conferences across Canada. This includes speaking engagements at universities, Inuit organizations, and at summits on food, poverty, and traditional food sources. These speaking engagements furthered Qajuqturvik's mandate to work with relevant partners in advancing food security and sovereignty for Iqaluit, especially Inuit.





EVENTS & VISITS

Qajuqturvik's advocacy efforts are also furthered by the events we host and attend, and by the visitors we host.

This year's events included an all-candidates debate during the federal election, cultural skills workshops throughout the year, a pan-Arctic Vision pop-up concert, and tuberculosis and nicotine cessation workshops.

We were also incredibly humbled and grateful to be chosen by Hockey Helps the Homeless as one of two beneficiaries of a massive fundraising effort undertaken in Iqaluit to bring hockey heroes to the North while raising funds for our organization.

Qajuqturvik continued to be a beacon for high profile visitors to Iqaluit. Visitors this fiscal year included our federal MP, visiting federal ministers, and territorial leaders, as well as researchers and Inuit activists with mandates overlapping with QCFC's.

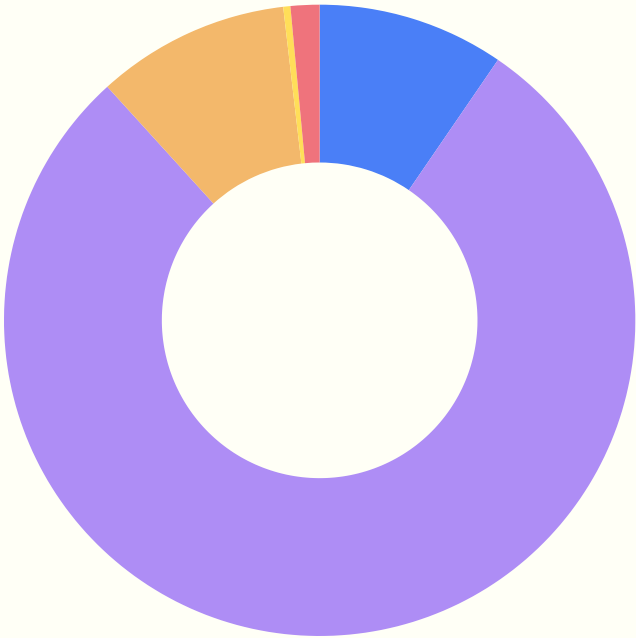


FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

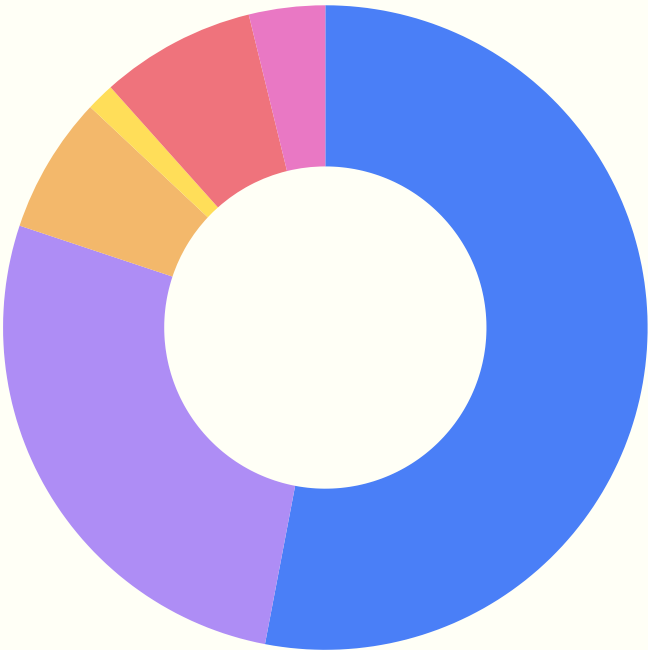
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Grants & Contributions	\$2,671,568
Fundraising & Donations	\$324,415
Other Revenue	\$335,974
Investments	\$12,431
Deferred Capital Contributions	\$50,188

Revenue: \$3.4 Million



Expenses: \$2.8 Million



Wages & Benefits	\$1,459,018
Food, Supplies, Freight	\$746,685
Professional Fees	\$189,115
Project Travel	\$38,609
Admin & Overhead	\$214,335
Other Project Costs	\$105,221

2025–2026 FUNDERS & DONORS

Canada 



Foundations

Right to Food Canada
Canadian Women's Foundation
Food Banks Canada
Annauma Foundation
Chawkers Foundation
RBC Foundation
Citi Foundation
iA Financial Group
The Gordon Foundation
United Way East Ontario
Peter Gilgan Foundation
Mazon Canada
CJ Foundation
Anonymous

Organizations

Ecclesiastical Insurance
Lichen Consulting Inc.
NuBrew Trivia Crew;
Northwestel
Quark Expeditions
Storehouse Bar and Grill
Mackinnon's Group Inc
Dillon Consulting
Abundance Canada
Montreal West United Church
St Isidore Catholic School and School Council
Iqaluit Fire Department
Church of our Saviour Anglican Church Women
Royal Canadian Legion Branch No.168
Nunavut Court of Appeal

Individual Donors

To our donors over the past year: you have once again demonstrated your generosity and commitment to care for our community. You provide more than a donation: together, we are on the front lines of the food crisis in Iqaluit, we are in the food centre celebrating with feasts, and we are building toward a future of food sovereignty and security. Every gift, whether monetary, time, or online participation, is a gesture of solidarity. Qujannamiik for standing with us and for helping to keep the joy of food at the heart of everything we do.

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

Sponsors



Community Support

Nunavut Movers
Nunavut Black History Society
Narwhal Plumbing
Boltz Electric

Tom Fitzgerald
Squeaky Clean

Volunteers

Our volunteers are a lifeforce that help sustain our operations. Whether it's to community members who show up faithfully to their shifts in our daily meal program, those who make sure our special events on weekends are a resounding success, or passers-through who want to do something good for this wonderful place we call home while on their travels, we say THANK YOU. The smiles we see on your faces, the hearts you wear on your sleeves, the generosity you exercise make it possible to believe that all of us can be the change we want to see in this world.

THANK YOU



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