

PART A: Introduction – What is *Nutrition North Canada (NNC)*?

Nutrition North Canada is a subsidy program that seeks to improve access to perishable healthy food, as well as country or traditional foods, in isolated northern communities. It was launched on April 1, 2011 and is based on a market-driven model. The subsidy is transferred to retailers and suppliers that apply and are selected to register with the program, which then must pass on the savings to consumers. There are some conditions for communities to be eligible for the program, such as the lack of year-round surface transportation (i.e. no permanent road, rail or marine access). In some places, like Nunavut, residents are upset that non-perishable basics like flour are not subsidized under the new program. They must cope with a cost of living that can be significantly higher than many other places in Canada. You can find more facts on this program at: <http://www.nutritionnorthcanada.ca/>

PART B: The Project – Exploring NNC in Nunuvut

Nunavut has approximately 30,000 residents, with about 56% of residents under the age of 25. Statistics Canada reports that the median family income in Nunavut in 2010 was \$ 62,680 per year, which is among the lowest in Canada. Despite this, cost of living can be quite high. Due to the challenges of vast distances, a small but growing population, the high cost of materials and labour, and extreme climate, it is difficult to maintain Canada's high standards of living in Nunavut. This is one of the reasons that the federal government has included Nunavut in the Nutrition North Canada program.

In addition to subsidizing food costs, one of the goals of NNC is to provide culturally appropriate nutrition education and health initiatives, working in conjunction with the Canadian government. However, recent media attention to the NNC has questioned the effectiveness of the program, suggesting that prices have increased since its implementation, and they question why basic necessities such as flour are not being subsidized (e.g. see: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2012/06/09/north-nunavut-food-price.html>). It is unclear if the needs of Nunuvut's residents are being met, and whose responsibility it is to provide for these needs.

1. What is the weekly cost of groceries for a family of four in your neighbourhood? Please explain how you determined this. Then, compare your result with data about Nunuvut from the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada website, which has documented costs of food in remote northern communities (see: <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100035986/1100100035987>).
2. Determine the *cost of living* of an average family of four in your neighbourhood and compare it with the *household income* of an average family of four in your neighbourhood. Represent the data in two different forms. What do the results tell you? Do the different representations give different insights into the data? Please explain.

Note: Statistics Canada website offers helpful information for this question. Visit:

http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/fs-fi/index.cfm?LANG=ENG&VIEW=D&format=flash&PRCODE=01&TOPIC_ID=7

3. A local newspaper has asked you to write an opinion piece about the Northern Nutrition Canada's service to Nunuvut. Analyse the goals of the NNC program in relation to the needs of Nunuvut's residents. Your analysis should include, but need not be limited to, a critique of the subsidy package, its cost effectiveness, and its affordability.