

Nutrition North Canada (NNC) began on April 1, 2011, as a replacement to the former Food Mail program based on the findings of a series of reviews and evaluations of the former program.

NNC addresses weaknesses in the Food Mail program's operations, including food eligibility, program awareness, transparency and accountability on shipping and food prices, delivery logistics, and the need for a focus on access to culturally appropriate food in the North.

Since NNC's implementation in 2011, the Government of Canada has invested \$53.9 million annually in food subsidies and \$2.9 million for community nutrition education activities. Between April 2011 and March 2014, the cost of a food basket for a family of four has dropped approximately 7.2% or \$137 per month.



Nutrition North Canada Savings

Item	Rankin Inlet (Kivalliq)			Tuktoyaktuk (Beaufort Delta)		
	Cost Before NNC (March 2011)	Cost After NNC (March 2015)	Savings	Cost Before NNC (March 2011)	Cost After NNC (March 2015)	Savings
Milk – 2% 2L	\$7.29	\$4.29	\$3.00	\$8.49	\$6.09	\$2.40
Cheese – 300 g medium Cheddar	\$8.59	\$8.49	\$0.10	\$8.99	\$8.59	\$0.40
Eggs – 1 dozen large white	\$4.39	\$2.59	\$1.80	\$4.89	\$3.99	\$0.90
Bread – sliced white, 567-570 g	\$4.19	\$2.54	\$1.65	\$4.54	\$3.89	\$0.65
Apples – 3lb bag	\$7.09	\$7.75	\$0.66	\$11.69	\$8.27	\$3.42

According to the most recent data available, the Revised Northern Food Basket decreased 9.2% between March 2011 and March 2014 for Rankin Inlet and 13.8% between March 2011 and March 2014 for Tuktoyaktuk.

The NNC registered retailer North West Company provided the food price data used in this table.

By replacing the former Food Mail program, Nutrition North Canada provides increased access to nutritious food for people in isolated Northern communities.

Category	Former Program: Food Mail	Current Program: Nutrition North Canada
Nutrition: Does the program target its funding to nutritious perishable food?	No Funding targeted less nutritious items and non-food items.	Yes The Subsidized Foods list focuses on the most nutritious and perishable food. It was developed in conjunction with Health Canada to encourage and support healthy eating on a community basis.
Transportation efficiency: Does the program encourage efficiency in the delivery of perishable food?	No The program was designed to ship "mail" not food.	Yes Retailers and suppliers optimize the efficient delivery of nutritious, perishable food to diminish spoilage and lengthen shelf life.
Program accountability: Does the program ensure the subsidy is passed on to consumers?	No There were no requirements for retailers or transporters to provide their sales information to the Department.	Yes AANDC closely monitors retailers and suppliers' compliance with regards to the obligations under their funding agreements, including verifying that they are passing on the value of the subsidy to customers. Compliance Review Reports are posted to the NNC website . As of April 1, 2015, a new clause will be added to funding agreements that specifies that recipients must provide all the information on eligible items, including current profit margins and profit margins over time.
Program transparency: Does the program have open and transparent operations?	No The program was not designed to collect data.	Yes Data and reports are available on the NNC website for community members and interested individuals.
Engagement: Does the program have a means to regularly involve Northerners in guiding the activities and direction of the program?	No There was no governance structure within the program that enabled the participation of the communities served by the program.	Yes The NNC Advisory Board gives Northerners a direct voice in the program. When the Advisory Board holds meetings in the North, it always includes a public meeting portion to hear directly from northern residents and communities. Board members are also Northern residents.
Awareness: Does the program ensure program awareness in the communities?	No Retailers were not required to support in-store communications about the program or demonstrate the dollar value of the subsidy being passed on to the consumer.	Yes In-store communications show the dollar value of the subsidy in each community. Also, culturally-appropriate retail and community-based nutrition education initiatives are offered.
Country food: Does the program subsidize country or traditional foods?	No The transport of country food between northern communities was not subsidized.	Yes Country foods processed by federally regulated plants in the North are eligible for retail subsidy under NNC. This subsidy supports more efficient distribution of country foods among eligible communities.
Monitoring: Are there controls in place to ensure that northern retailers are using the subsidy for its intended purpose?	No There were no monitoring or evaluation exercises that ensured the subsidy was being passed on to consumers.	Yes NNC funding agreements require that retailers and food suppliers attest that the subsidy is being passed on to consumers and they must submit to audits as required. As of April 1, 2015, funding agreements will include a new clause that specifies that recipients must provide all the information on eligible items, including current profit margins and profit margins over time.