

## **Question on the high cost of living in the north.**

**February 26, 2013**

**Dennis Bevington MP Western Arctic:**

Mr. Speaker, Statistics Canada's latest report shows that consumer costs in the north have risen twice as fast as elsewhere in the country.

The report shows that the major factor increasing the price of food is the Conservative's own nutrition north program.

This flawed program has stuck northerners with overpriced, over-packaged, poor-quality food. Clearly, the government has to take action to reduce the high cost of living in the north.

The NDP has long called for a 50% increase to the northern residence tax deduction. Will the government include such a measure in its upcoming budget?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that there is no government in the history of this country—

**An hon. member:** In the world.

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt:**

Yes, in the whole world, that has done as much for northern Canadians.

Let us just look at the example of the northern jobs and growth act, which is geared especially to trying to improve the situation of people living in northern Canada.

Instead of opposing that legislation, the opposition should support us.