

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern NDP MPs Formally Request Auditor General Investigate Nutrition North

OTTAWA – Six Northern New Democrat MPs have written to Auditor General Michael Ferguson after all three territorial legislative assemblies voted unanimously for an audit of the Conservative's failed Nutrition North program.

New Democrat MPs Dennis Bevington (Western Arctic), Romeo Saganash, (Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou), Niki Ashton, (Churchill), Jonathan Genest-Jourdain (Manicouagan) Christine Moore (Abitibi – Témiscamingue) and Carol Hughes (Algoma – Manitoulin – Kapuskasing) have written to the Auditor General asking for a wide-ranging financial and operational audit of the program. Since Nutrition North was initiated to replace the old Food Mail program food prices across Canada's North have skyrocketed.

“We are responding to the clear calls from Northerners that this program has failed to deliver on Conservative promises to help lower the high cost-of-living in the North,” said Dennis Bevington. “While Northern, Conservative MPs remain silent on this issue, the NDP will speak for their constituents.”

“One just has to look at the pictures on the Facebook page ‘Feeding My Family’ to see that this program has done little to keep prices down,” pointed out Romeo Saganash.

“It is unfortunate that the Conservative MPs from across Northern Canada are unwilling or unable to speak for their constituents. Northerners deserve better than MPs who are deaf to their concerns,” added Jonathan Genest-Jourdain.

“Nutrition is the foundation of a good health. It is to my mind scandalous that Northern families risk undermining their health because of food prices being too high, or because quality of fresh food available is too low. It is particularly odious to think that kids and seniors may not have access to basic food,” said Christine Moore.

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