

Member of Parliament Dennis Bevington questions the Nutrition North Program.

November 25, 2014

Mr. Speaker, in June 2013, six NDP MP's called upon the Auditor General to audit the nutrition north program. He did and found a program in deep trouble, underfunded, improperly assessed, out of control.

He found that aboriginal affairs could not tell if the program was really bringing down the cost of food in Canada's north. He also indicated that the program was unfairly distributed to many families and many communities.

Could the minister defend, in any way, the lack of management of this vital program for northerners?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development).

Mr. Speaker, the NDP may choose to criticize the bureaucrats who administered the program, but the results are clear.

Under the nutrition north program, the average volume of healthy food being shipped to these communities has gone up by almost 25% in the first two years of the program. Furthermore, for a family of four, the food basket has gone down by \$110 a month. That is significant.