

Member of Parliament Dennis Bevington questions the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Bernard Valcourt about the Nutrition North Program

November 26, 2014

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite the minister to come to Lutsel K'e or Fort Good Hope in my riding and repeat what he just said here.

Anyone trying to feed their families in remote communities will say that Nutrition North is not meeting their needs. Why has the minister ignored them for so long? Why did the NDP have to get the Auditor General to publicly embarrass him before he would agree to act?

Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs:

Mr. Speaker, again, the fact is that Nutrition North has resulted in an approximately 25% increase in the average annual volume of healthy food being shipped to northern and remote communities.

A food basket for a family of four has gone down by \$110 a month, and this is only in the first two years. If that does not count, the further investments we just announced last week will see an increase of \$11 million a year, so that in the next two years we will spend \$130 million for subsidies.