

Question on annual reviews ?

May 13, 2015

Mr. Dennis Bevington MP Northwest Territories:

Mr. Chair, what part of “annual reviews” does the minister not understand?

They would allow these very important changes to be made to these programs and these communities could be allowed to get some subsidy for their food.

Why is the minister talking about reviews that are going to be done in the future, when the program has been in place for four years?

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

Mr. Chair, the government has indicated its commitment to improving this program. Just last fall, we announced a further investment of over \$11 million into the program.

We believe as a government that northerners should maintain a direct voice in the nutrition north program, which is why we enlist the advice of local community members to help guide the direction of that program.

I have asked the advisory board to consider how we can improve the program. My understanding is that it is discharging its responsibility with diligence.