

Member of Parliament Dennis Bevington questions the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs about the Nutrition North Program in the House of Commons

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Mr. Speaker, the nutrition north program is another failure and symbolic of the Conservatives' failed Arctic policies. Now the minister's department has put out a tender for a consultant to help him out with nutrition north, not now but next fiscal year.

The reality is that parents across northern Canada are going without food and elders are scavenging in the dumps.

Canadians in southern Canada have begun sending food to northerners through organizations like Helping our Northern Neighbours.

Why are the Conservatives delaying action on this immediate crisis?

Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development)

Again, Mr. Speaker, the government is indeed taking action. We indicated to the House and to northerners that we would implement all of the recommendations of the Auditor General.

The fact remains that the NDP may grandstand and try to make political points and play politics with the fate of northerners, but the fact is that the results are clear.

Since the implementation of the nutrition north program, perishable and nutritious food shipped to northern Canada has gone up by 25%. The cost of a food basket for a family of four has gone down by \$110 per month. That is quite a significant achievement.