



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
Office of/ bureau de
Dennis Bevington
(Northwest Territories)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Nutrition North funding is a politically motivated shell game, says MP Bevington

OTTAWA – The \$11.3 million included in recently tabled budget documents for Nutrition North Canada (NNC) is not additional money but a politically motivated shell game, says the NDP MP for the Northwest Territories, Dennis Bevington.

"We looked at past expenditures and found the Harper Conservatives have only brought the funding level back up to what it was under the old system," said Bevington. "The Conservatives would have Northerners believe they have increased funding when that is not the case."

According to the Public Accounts the last year of the Food Mail program spent \$59,000,000. In Fiscal Year 2011-12 \$57,467,786 was spent on NNC, \$62,317,423 was spent in Fiscal Year 2012-13 for Fiscal Year 2013-14 the expenditure was \$63,879,237 with the additional money this year's NNC expenditure will be \$65,230,000.

The Conservative government needs to immediately include in the Nutrition North program the 50 fly-in, isolated Northern communities that are not currently eligible for the full subsidy as was identified by the Auditor General. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development has pegged this cost at \$7 million.

"The Conservative Government has left out 50 communities out of Nutrition North entirely. Northern and Aboriginal people face high levels of food insecurity and the Federal government is part of the problem rather than the solution," said NDP Aboriginal Affairs Critic Niki Ashton.

"The Conservatives must create an equitable program eligibility criteria for Northern communities based on their real circumstances and to provide sufficient funding to meet the needs of all Northern communities," added Bevington.