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## **\$500K FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE & ON THE LANDPROGRAM DURING PANDEMIC**

**Kuujuuaq, April 23, 2020** – Funding is now available to support community organizations that run local food assistance initiatives during the COVID-19 crisis. At the beginning of the crisis and isolation measures in Nunavik, many community organizations started to mobilize to bring food to households in need. The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social services (NRBHSS) encourages those local initiatives by providing them with sufficient funding. An additional amount will be made available for the next two months and will be distributed between communities that will apply, per capita.

“While it is not a long-term solution, emergency food assistance can take the burden off people and families who are running out of food during this stressful period” stated Dr. Marie Rochette, Public Health Director at the NRBHS. “Food insecurity is already a problem in the region and COVID-19 isolation measures may have the potential to complicate things further if not recognized. Government and regional income support measures are deemed necessary and crucial to ensure people can meet their basic needs. Community organizations and non-profit organizations play a key role in providing direct help to those running out of food in this challenging time” added Minnie Grey, Executive Director at the NRBHSS.

### **Nunami on the land program during the COVID-19 crisis**

The NRBHSS Nunami team has developed an opportunity for Inuit households to go out on the land, practice Inuit skills, get country food and spend time with family. In collaboration with NVs, families can access one voucher to buy gas and one voucher for food supplies to go out on the land. This program also aims to promote social distancing and mental wellbeing.

The NRBHSS will continue to work with local and regional partners to assess food needs during the crisis and ensure the region is providing sufficient help to those at risk of going hungry.

### **For information:**

- Funds for local food assistance initiatives: [foodsecurity.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:foodsecurity.nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)
- Nunami on the land vouchers: Local NV or [nunami\\_nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:nunami_nrbhss@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

*The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire Quebec territory located north of the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.*

**Source:** Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

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