



The Iqaluit Food Centre

Qayuqtuvik Society Annual Report 2015-16



October 27, 2016
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Message from the President

As we endeavour to address food insecurity in the community in a meaningful way, we are constantly reminded of the importance of community support. We are continually indebted to the dedicated work of our volunteers, the financial and in-kind donations of local businesses, and the support of all three levels of government. We also value the relationships we have with other not-for-profit societies and charities in the community, not least St. Jude's Anglican Cathedral who continue to allow us use of the wonderful purpose-built Iqaluit Food Centre located in the heart of the city.

This last year has seen many changes. The makeup of our board of directors has changed tremendously, with several longstanding members and volunteers leaving the community, but there have also been many new additions to offset these departures.

While providing Iqalummiut with a safe, welcoming place to find a daily meal, we have had success in implementing other activities which aim to address the root causes of food insecurity, such as after-school cooking classes, community kitchens, and workshops on food-related topics.

The most profound change has been brought about by our partnership with the Inclusion Café, the not-for-profit business arm of the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society. While they have made use of our space on a part-time basis over the past two years, this August the group, consisting of a full-time team of coordinators, job coaches and staff with a self-identified disability, has taken over the daily meal provision. This has given us much more stability in our daily operations while also ensuring a consistent level of quality in our meals.

Going forward, we are excited to share our successes with the community on whom we rely so much. We pride ourselves on serving an indispensable role within the community while also recognizing the need to do more. Nonetheless, we reap the rewards of our work daily through the smiles and words of gratitude from our patrons, program participants and volunteers.

Wade Thorhaug

President

Qayuqtuvik Society Board of Directors, 2015-16



Food provision

Every day we provide a meal to anyone who walks in the door, with lunches served on weekdays and multi-course dinners on weekends. On a typical day we will see over 50 people walk through the doors, some of whom also take meals for friends and family, though this number varies significantly and occasionally exceeds 100.

For several years we have owed the preparation and serving of our meals to the hard work of a devoted group of volunteers and key partners such as the Baffin Correctional Centre. Due to departures of some key individuals, in the summer of 2015 we made the decision to hire a part-time cook to provide the weekday lunches while the weekends were prepared as usual by a rotating group of volunteers. In August 2016 the Inclusion Café staff took over these responsibilities.

We have continued to welcome any food donations from the community, from which we make the decision as to what is usable and what is not. We are grateful to NorthMart and Arctic Ventures for providing us with unsaleable food products, and we thank the staff at Uquutaq Men's Shelter for coordinating and delivering these. A considerable amount of food waste has been diverted from landfills this way.

We have always been open to the use of country food in our cooking, and this year the Government of Nunavut Department of Economic Development and Transportation granted us funding to purchase meat from local hunters.



Activities

Since fall 2015 a weekly cooking class has been held with children from the Nakasuk elementary school. The participants, under adult instruction and supervision, assist with the preparation of a meal which they eat on site afterward.

Starting in February 2016, there have been a number of community kitchens where participants of all ages come to prepare a meal using a set of instructions.

Occasional weekend workshops have been held on topics such as composting, sprouting, and fermentation (kombucha).

In the run-up to the last federal election we organized an event around the nationwide Eat Think Vote campaign in an effort to focus more attention on food insecurity in Canada. The event was attended by a number of members of the public as well as the Liberal Party representative, Hunter Tootoo.

Several meals have been held with invitation extended to the general public, including New Year's pancake breakfast, a Community Wellness Dinner held for Mental Health Week, and a feast for Eid al-Fitr.

Partners

We are blessed with the functional and centrally-located Iqaluit Food Centre from which we conduct almost all our activities. This is owned by St. Jude's Anglican cathedral who administered the daily meal for many years and still play an important role on our board and among our volunteer base. Two other tenants share the facility and thus subsidize our operation: The Piviniit Society is a thrift shop that functions as a recycler of clothing and household items; and the Niqinik Nuatsivik Nunavut Food Bank which distributes non-perishable food items from the facility twice monthly.

Inclusion Café is a society which was formed two years ago by the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society with the aim of providing meaningful employment to persons with disabilities by identifying a demand for food catering in the city. Managed by volunteers with revenues going towards operational expenses and staff wages, the business was able to secure funding to provide for a full-time coordinator, full-time assistant coordinator, and job coaches who work alongside the staff who are hired among community individuals with a self-identified disability. In August 2016 we entered into a partnership with the group to provide use of the kitchen in exchange for the preparation and serving of our daily meal. In the coming year, we hope to see the Food Centre grow into a not-for-profit café and restaurant where meals are provided on a pay-what-you-can basis. This would help to open up the facility to wider public who can subsidize our operation simply by enjoying our meals like they would at any other restaurant.

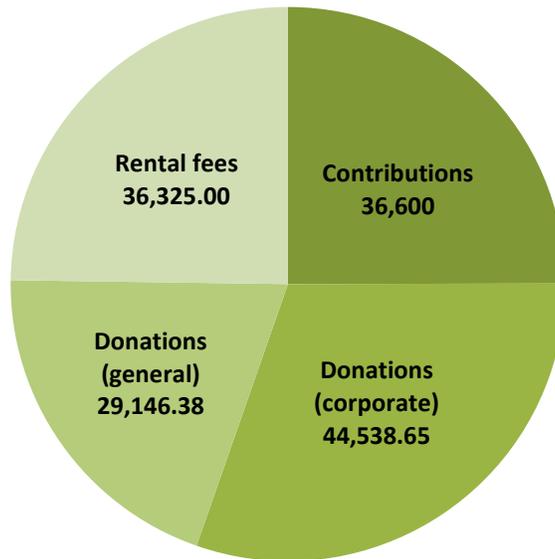


Developments

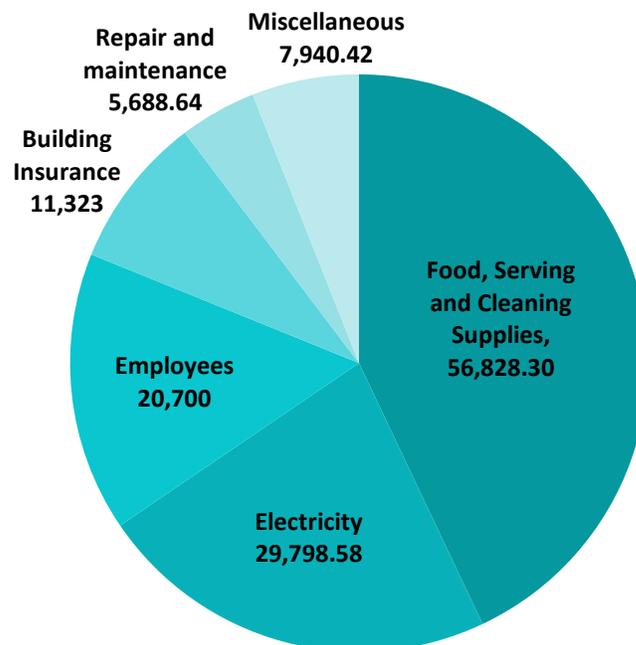
This year we were added to the city's Utilidor network thanks to a generous in-kind contribution by Kudlik Construction, Baffin Building Systems, Narwhal Plumbing and Heating, Nunavut Excavating, Tower Arctic, and the City of Iqaluit who facilitated the construction. Having a steady supply of water is crucial to our future development.

This year we made our first sealift order in an effort to reduce our operational costs. We used the excess space in the seacan to bring up a number of items that we sold as a fundraiser.

Income 2015-16



Expenses 2015-16



Thank you to our corporate donors



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Thank you to our institutional and individual donors



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