



# Table of Contents

---

- 3** Land Acknowledgment
- 4** Introduction
- 5** Report Methodology and Measurement
- 6** Market Basket Measure (MBM)
- 7** Child and Family Poverty by the Numbers
- 14** Inuit Child First Initiative / Jordan's Principle
- 15** Recommendations
- 16** Conclusion
- 17** How to Support Community Organizations in Nunavut





# Land Acknowledgment

This report is presented by Amautiit Nunavut Inuit Women's Association, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing self-determination for Nunavut Arnait (Inuit Women) in all areas of life. Nunavut means "Our Land" and we hope to convey the intricate relationship between the land and our people.

Nunavut was created as a territory on April 1, 1999 and is 21% of Canada's total area. It is only accessible by plane or boat. It comprises 25 communities and 80% of those living in Nunavut are Inuit. The most populated community, Iqaluit is only a 3 hours plane ride away from Ottawa, and has around 8000 people. The least populated community in Nunavut is Grise Fiord, which has 144 residents. It takes at least 3 flights to get to Grise Fiord and costs thousands of dollars. The largest community by land area is Kugluktuk which spans almost 540 km<sup>2</sup>, while the smallest is Kimmirut which is 2.3 km<sup>2</sup>.

It is impossible that statistics can capture the reality of life in each of these communities when they are so different. And so, this report acknowledges the efforts of women throughout Nunavut as well.

Inuit women are key bearers of traditional ecological knowledge, having learned from their elders about sustainable practices that have been passed down through

generations. This knowledge encompasses everything from harvesting practices to understanding animal behavior and seasonal changes, which are essential for managing resources responsibly.

Women often serve as the primary educators within families, teaching children about their cultural heritage, language, and the importance of the land. Through storytelling, arts, and traditional activities like sewing and hunting, they instill a sense of respect for the environment and a responsibility to protect it.

Through traditional arts and crafts, as well as sustainable harvesting practices, Inuit women contribute to local economies while promoting the use of natural materials. These economic activities not only sustain families but also highlight the value of the land and its resources.

In summary, the role of women in Nunavut is integral to the preservation of the land. Their knowledge, leadership, and cultural practices are essential for fostering a sustainable relationship with the environment, ensuring that future generations can continue to thrive in harmony with their surroundings.

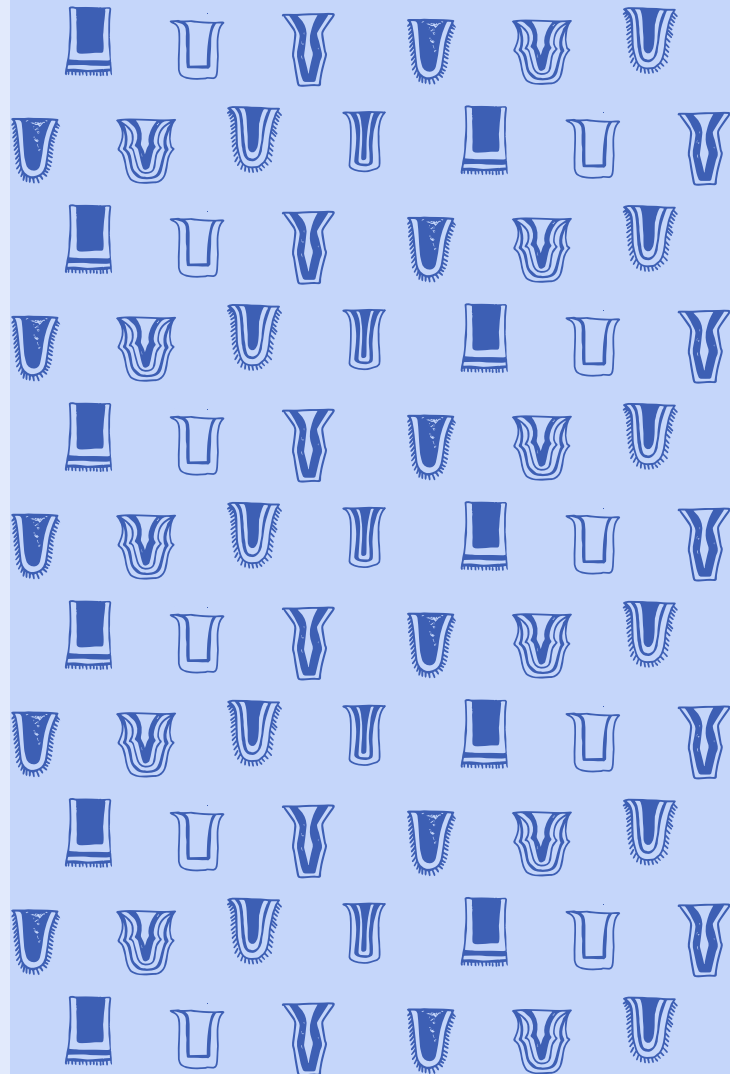
# Introduction

The launch of last year's poverty report card made waves in the news as more of Canada heard what Inuit have been proclaiming for decades - financially, there is not enough support for families in Nunavut. The story of Nunavummiut (people of Nunavut) was shared and then seemingly forgotten.

The 2024 Nunavut Poverty Report Card is distressing. More children are going hungry. More families are struggling. The territory is hurting.

This year's report card centres on statistics from 2022 as collected by Statistics Canada. These statistics reflect life coming out of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mask mandates were still in effect in Nunavut, a sign that the pandemic was still very real, and yet there were no more COVID support payments.

This report card does not capture the reality of living in Nunavut; these photos do not convey the true beauty, and these statistics underrepresent our community. It is well known among First Nations, Inuit and Metis that due to the ongoing effects of colonialism families may not participate with Statistics Canada. We continue to urge the government to work with First Nations, Inuit and Metis organizations to incorporate Indigenous data sovereignty into their collection of data.





# Market Basket Measure (MBM)

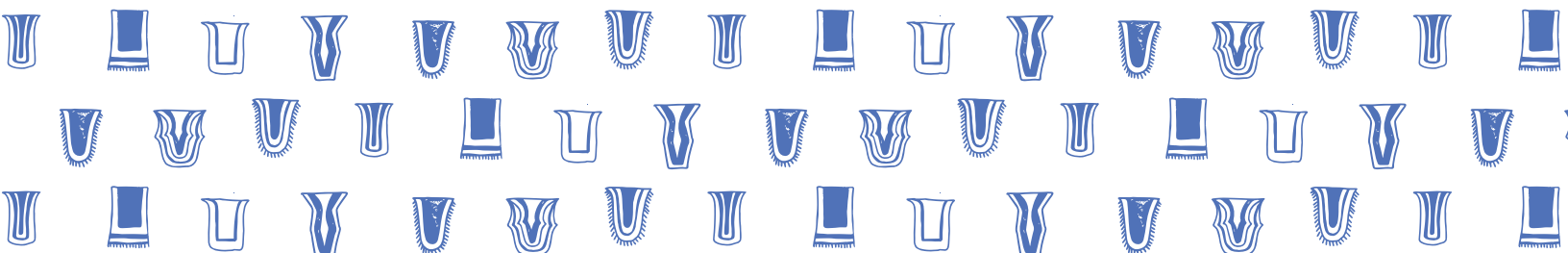
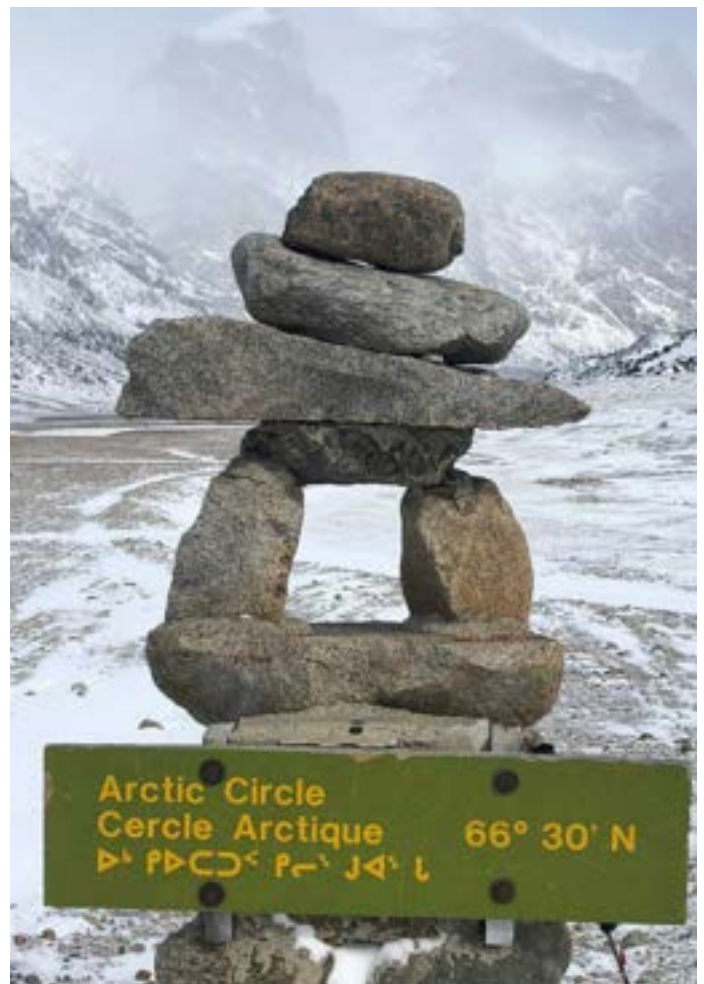
The Market Basket Measure (MBM) was adopted as Canada’s Official Poverty Line in 2019 following the release of Opportunity for All – Canada’s First Poverty Reduction Strategy. According to the MBM, an individual or family is considered to live in poverty if their disposable income is insufficient to purchase a predetermined basket of goods and services required to achieve a modest, basic standard of living.

The Northern Market Basket Measure (MBM-N) was recently implemented by Statistics Canada. The 2023 MBM-N thresholds for Nunavut are presented in Table 2. The thresholds for Nunavut are for a reference family of five (two adults and three children), while other regions are for a family of four (two adults and two children). The MBM-N thresholds for Nunavut regions are roughly twice as high as the CFLIM-AT threshold for five people.

**Table 2. Market Basket Measure (MBM) thresholds for Nunavut and select rural regions, 2023**

Region	2023 MBM Threshold
Nunavut, Baffin (excluding Iqaluit)	\$116,368
Nunavut, Kivalliq	\$102,122
Nunavut, Kitikmeot	\$108,582
Nunavut, Iqaluit	\$121,791
Newfoundland and Labrador, rural	\$50,597
Ontario, rural	\$48,674
Saskatchewan, rural	\$48,105
Northwest Territories, Beaufort Delta	\$84,516

*Source: Statistics Canada. (2024). Table 11-10-0066-01 Market Basket Measure (MBM) thresholds for the reference family by Market Basket Measure region, component and base year.*

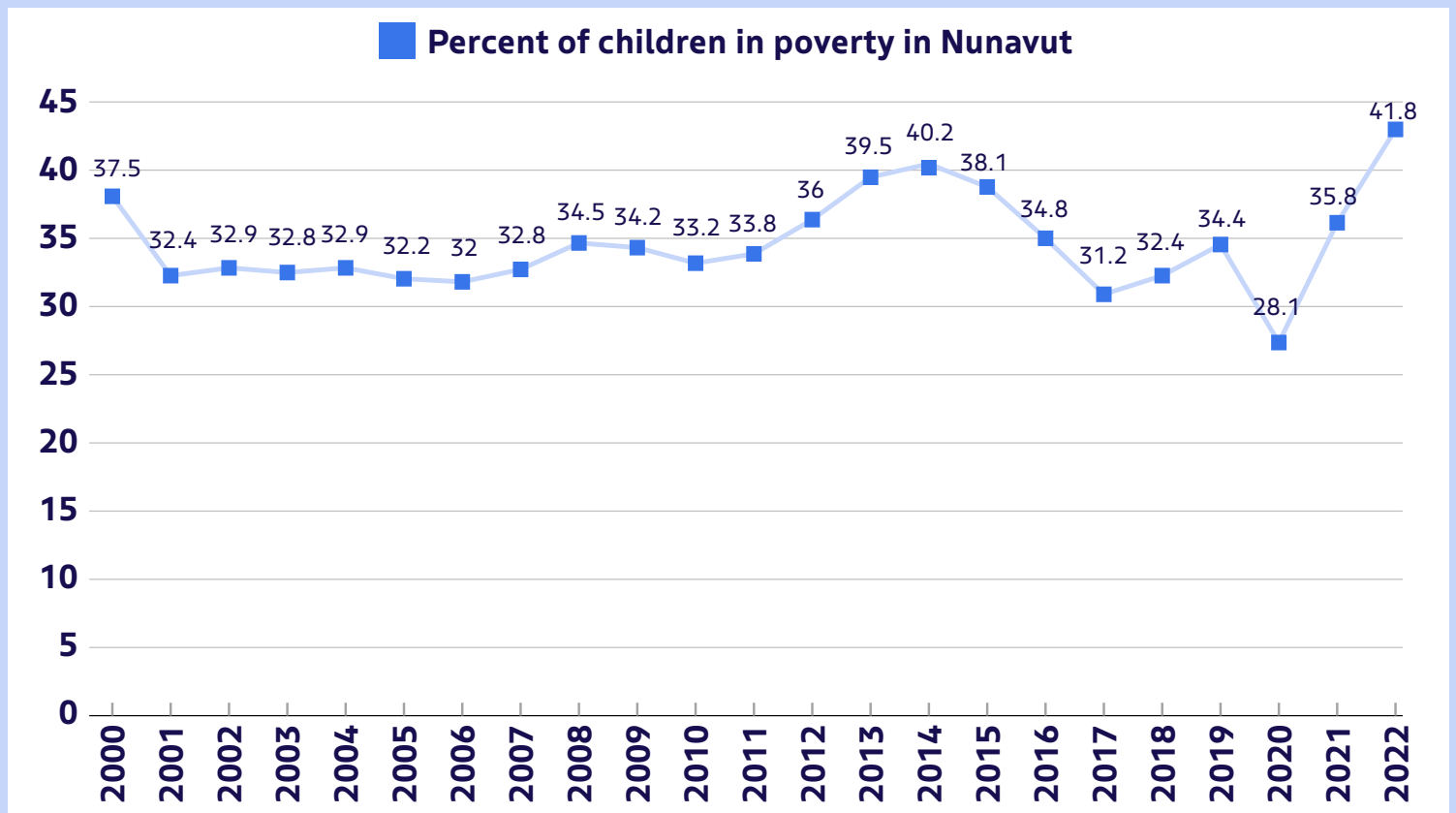


# Child and Family Poverty by the Numbers

In 2022, there were 15,990 children 0-17 years old living in Nunavut. 6,680 of those children lived in poverty.

In 2022, Nunavut saw the highest child poverty rate on record for the territory. From 2020 to 2022, the child poverty rate increased over 10 percentage points, jumping to 41.8% in 2022. Canada's rate of child poverty was 18.1%.

Figure 1. Percent of children in poverty in Nunavut, under 18, 2000 to 2022



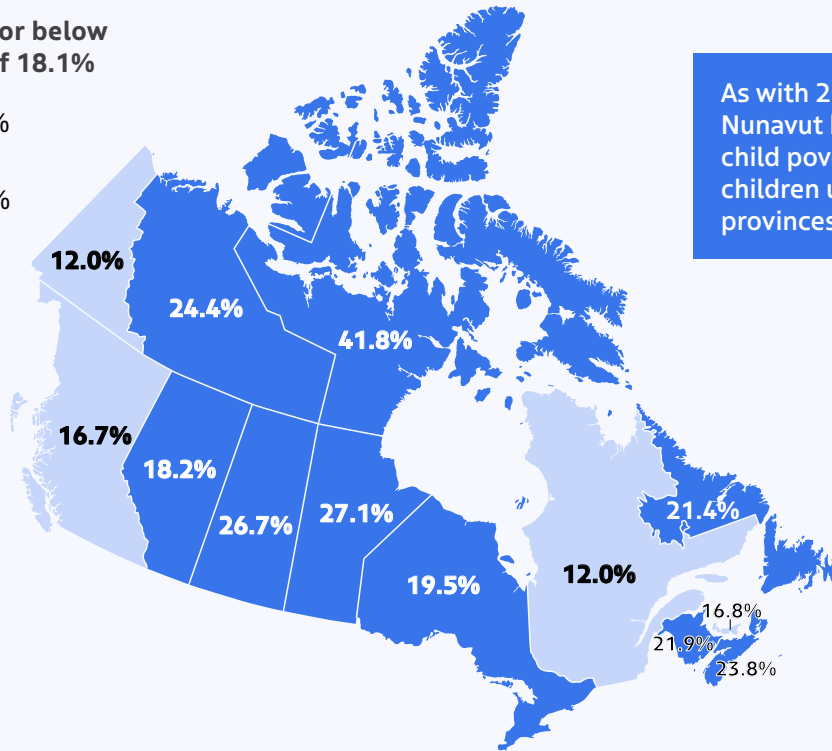
**Source:** Statistics Canada. (2024). T1 Family File. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependents based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition.



**Figure 2. Child poverty rates by province and territory, under 18, 2022**

Child poverty rate above or below Canada's national rate of 18.1%

- Above 18.1%
- Below 18.1%



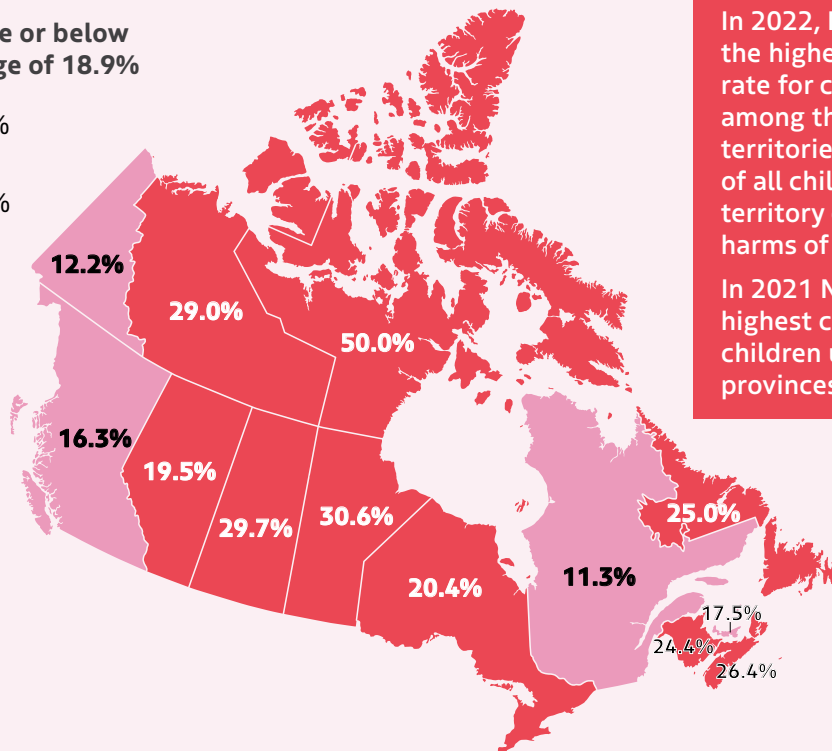
As with 2021, in 2022 Nunavut had the highest child poverty rate for children under 18 among the provinces and territories.

Source: Statistics Canada. (2024). T1 Family File. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependents based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition.

**Figure 3. Child poverty rates by province and territory, under 6, 2022**

Child poverty rate above or below Canada's national average of 18.9%

- Above 18.9%
- Below 18.9%



In 2022, Nunavut also had the highest child poverty rate for children under 6 among the provinces and territories, at 50%. That's half of all children under 6 in the territory experiencing the harms of childhood poverty.

In 2021 Nunavut also had the highest child poverty rate for children under 6 among the provinces and territories.

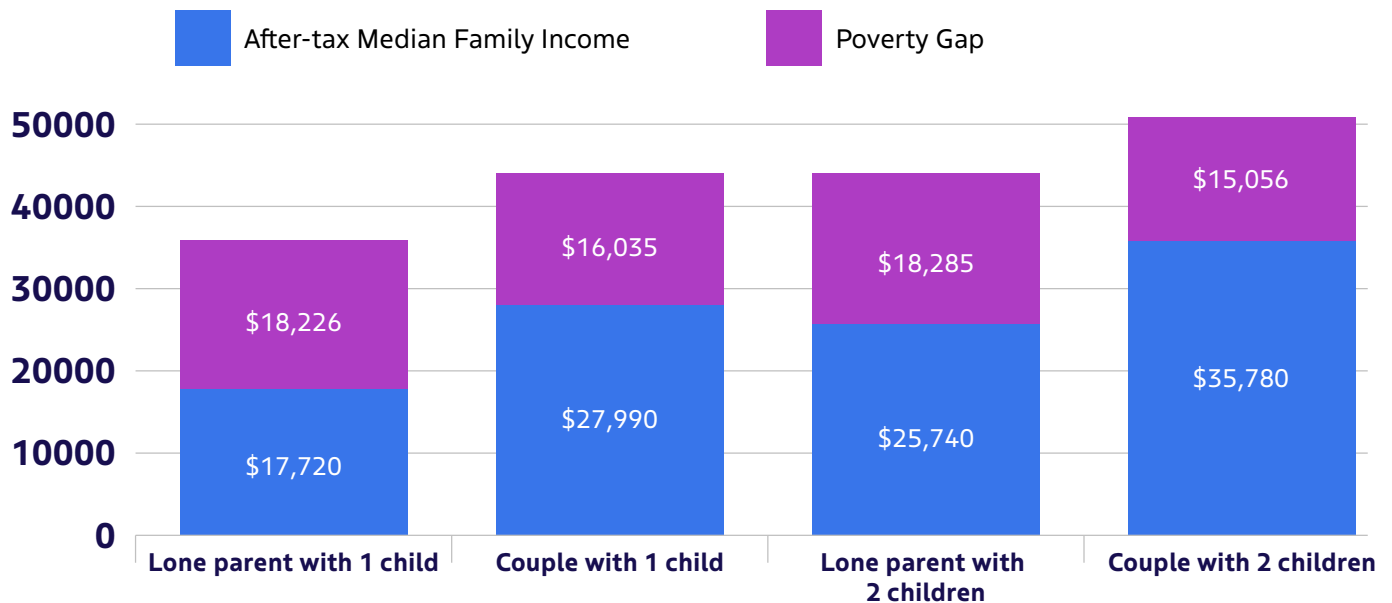
Source: Statistics Canada. (2024). Centre of Income and Socioeconomic Well-Being Statistics, Annual Income Estimates for Census Families and Individuals (T1 Family File), Custom Tabulation.





The depth of poverty also increased from 2021 to 2022. The poverty gap, or the difference between the poverty line and a family’s after-tax median income, widened in 2022 for all family types. That means families are living in deeper poverty that is harder to exit. In 2022, an average lone parent family with one child living in poverty in Nunavut would need more than twice their income to reach the poverty line (Figure 5).

**Figure 5. Depth of poverty in Nunavut by family type, 2022**

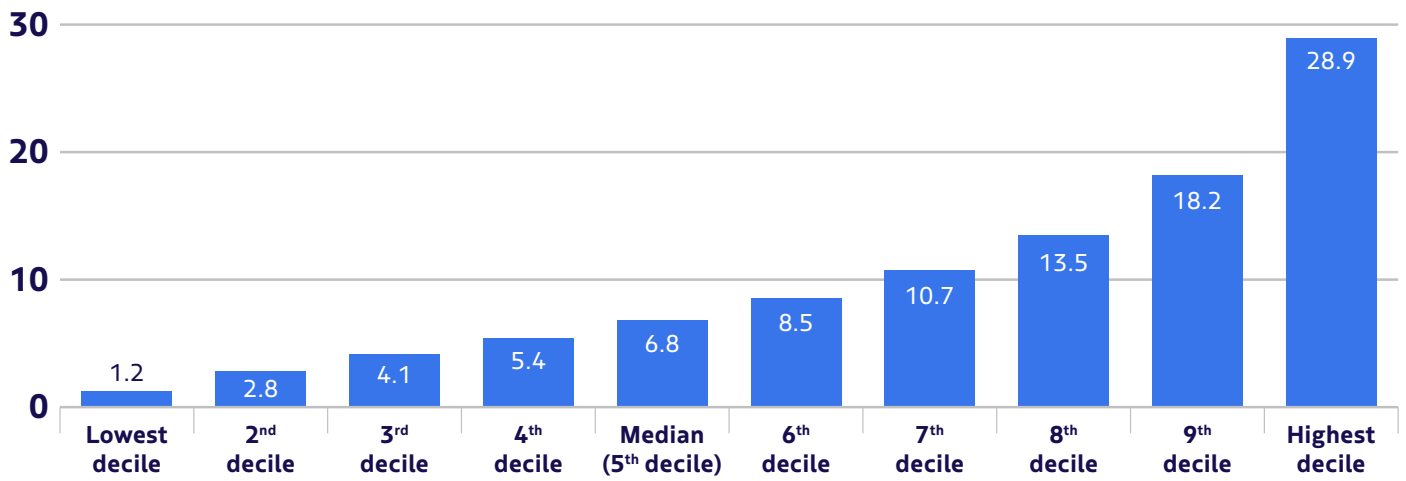


**Sources:** Statistics Canada. (2024). T1 Family File. Table: 11-10-0020-01 After-tax low income status of census families based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family composition.

Statistics Canada. (2024). Technical Reference Guide for the Annual Income Estimates for Census Families, Individuals and Seniors. T1 Family File, Final Estimates, 2021.



**Figure 7. Percent share of after-tax income by decile for census families with children, Nunavut 2022**



Source: Statistics Canada. (2024). T1 Family File, Custom Tabulation.

This chart illustrates the income disparity present in Nunavut. Those with the lowest income only bring home a 1.2% share of income, compared to the families with highest incomes who take home 28.9% of their income.



The 2022 Indigenous Peoples Survey offers select data on meeting basic needs for Inuit children across the country. Table 3 shows the high rates of Inuit children aged 0-14 who live in households with incomes that are insufficient to meet basic household needs and whose resources cannot cover an unexpected expense. While some of the data is limited, the rates for Inuit children in the territories and in Nunavut in particular are much higher than for Inuit children living in the provinces.

**Table 3. Meeting basic household needs and unexpected expenses, for Inuit children (0-14) living in Nunavut and select other regions, 2022**

Region	Percent of Inuit children 0-14 living in households with income that is not enough to meet basic household needs	Percent of Inuit children 0-14 living in households whose resources cannot cover unexpected expense of \$500
Canada, average	42.6	52.2
Atlantic provinces, average	19.8*	31.8*
Quebec	36	48.7
Ontario	28.7*	33.4*
Prairie provinces, average	38.4*	39.0*
Territories, average	53.4	63.4
Northwest Territories	40.4*	52.5*
<b>Nunavut</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>64.7</b>

**Source:** Statistics Canada. (2024). *Indigenous Peoples Survey. Table 41-10-0061-01 Number of persons in the household and meeting basic household needs and unexpected expenses by First Nations people living off reserve, Métis and Inuit*

**Notes:** Data marked with a star (\*) signifies that Statistics Canada has labelled this data to be interpreted with caution. Regions not presented here had data labelled as too unreliable to be published.



# Inuit Child First Initiative / Jordan's Principle

The Inuit Child First Initiative (ICFI) is the branch of Jordan's Principle dedicated to ensuring Inuit children have access to the essential health, social and educational products, services and supports they need, when they need them. All Inuit children in Canada recognized by an Inuit land claim organization can request funding through the ICFI. Jordan's Principle, named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, is a child-first principle that aims to uphold human rights for First Nations children, ensuring they can access and receive necessary supports in a timely manner.

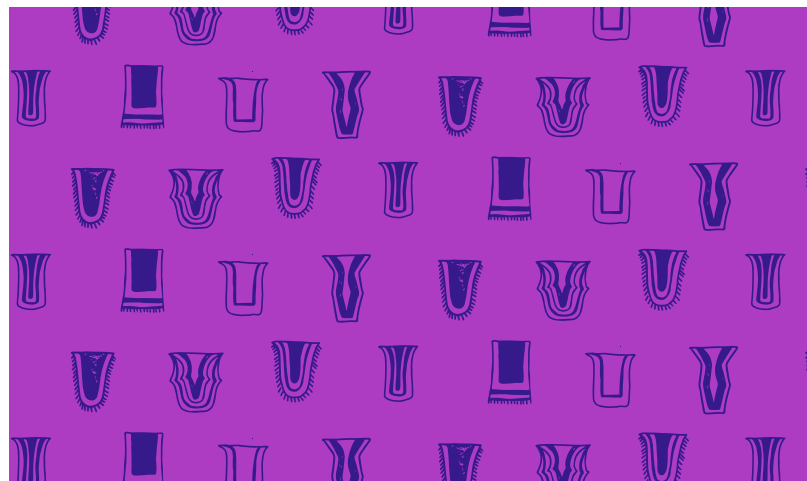
The 2022 Indigenous Peoples Survey showed that only about a quarter of parents of Inuit children aged 1 to 14 are familiar with the Inuit Child First Initiative. Further efforts to increase awareness of the program are required.

Since January 2024 there has been a move to create contracts between communities and ICFI to offer food vouchers every month for Inuit children in each community until March 31, 2025. At least 22 communities out of the 25 in Nunavut have signed agreements which allow for \$500 each month for children 18 and younger, with an extra \$250 for children 1 day - 3 years old.



## Food Insecurity

According to data from 2020, when there were COVID supports in place, 46.1% of the population of Nunavut faced food insecurity. At that time, Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre (QCFC) in Iqaluit provided more than 30,000 meals. In 2022, QCFC provided more than 60,000 meals and 1,100 emergency hampers to the community of Iqaluit. It's not hard to imagine that food insecurity continues to rise and the Jordan's Principle vouchers could meet a need for families if implemented well. The legacy of colonization and harms done to Inuit means that there is skepticism and initial comments from community participants have already indicated that prices are being increased on healthy food in a way that makes the vouchers hardly useful. Amautiit looks forward to having a more in depth report of this project next year.



# Recommendations

The Nunavut 2023 Poverty Report Card ended with a quote from a participant in a community conversation about poverty:

“ ”

We've been talking about this. I've been around 30 plus years saying the same stuff. **And it's just another report.**

The exhaustion is palpable. And so, we reiterate the recommendations from the 2023 report card for the following categories

- ▷ **Government programs, policies and subsidies**
- ▷ **Schools and education**
- ▷ **Effective supports for country food and hunting**
- ▷ **Build capacity for Inuit led solutions and data collection**





# How to Support Community Organizations in Nunavut

After the publication of the 2023 Poverty Report Card, many community members reached out to learn how they can assist with poverty reduction in the territory. In response, and with support from the Nunavut Association of Non-Profit Organizations, we are sharing a selection of community organizations whose mandates serve populations vulnerable to poverty in Nunavut.

While we can't fit all of the incredible Nunavut non-profit organizations in this report, we encourage you to browse NANPO's Directory of non-profits for more ways to give. [[www.nanpo.ca/directory](http://www.nanpo.ca/directory)]

**A note on donating to non-profits vs. charities:** Not all non-profits/community organizations in Nunavut are charitable organizations, however don't let that stop you from offering your support! If there is an organization you'd like to donate to, but you cannot find their donation link, we encourage you to contact them directly and ask how you can help. Most organizations will accept cash, e-transfer, and material donations.

Organization Name	Contact Info	Link(s) to Donate
Arctic Children and Youth Foundation	867-975-3221 sclark@acyf.ca	<a href="http://acyf.ca/donate-to-us">acyf.ca/donate-to-us</a>
Ilisaqsivik	1-867-924-6565 tungasugit@ilisaqsivik.ca	<a href="http://ilisaqsivik.ca/en/donate">ilisaqsivik.ca/en/donate</a>
Abluqta Society	867-793-2307 abluqtasociety@gmail.com	<a href="http://www.abluqtasociety.ca">www.abluqtasociety.ca</a>
Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit Embrace Life Council	1-866-804-2782 embracelife@inuusiq.com	<a href="http://inuusiq.com/donate">inuusiq.com/donate</a>
Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre	867-979-4863 info@qajuqturvik.ca	<a href="http://www.qajuqturvik.ca/english/donations">www.qajuqturvik.ca/english/donations</a>
One Plane Away	oneplaneawaydonations@gmail.com	<a href="http://www.oneplaneaway.ca/ways-to-support">www.oneplaneaway.ca/ways-to-support</a>
YWCA Agvik	867-979-4500	<a href="http://www.ywca-agvik.ca/contact">www.ywca-agvik.ca/contact</a>
Uquutaq Society	867-979-0266 info@uquutaq.org	<a href="http://uquutaq.org/get-involved">uquutaq.org/get-involved</a>
Ikurraq Food Bank	ikurraq@gmail.com	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/ikurraq">www.facebook.com/groups/ikurraq</a>
Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre	titiqqaq@qhrc.ca	<a href="http://www.qhrc.ca">www.qhrc.ca</a>
Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society	(867) 979-2228 connect@nuability.ca	<a href="http://nuability.ca/donate">nuability.ca/donate</a>
Northern Future Skills Development	(867) 222-9291	<a href="http://www.northernfutureskills.ca/en/contact-us">www.northernfutureskills.ca/en/contact-us</a>
Ilitaqsiniq	867-645-2121 info@ilitaqsiniq.ca	<a href="http://ilitaqsiniq.ca/donate">ilitaqsiniq.ca/donate</a>
Ikaarvik	info@ikaarvik.org	<a href="http://ikaarvik.org">ikaarvik.org</a>
Kitikmeot Friendship Society	1-867-983-3330 info@kitikmeotfs.ca	<a href="http://kitikmeotfs.ca/donate">kitikmeotfs.ca/donate</a>
Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Center	867-645-2600 info@pulaarvik.ca	<a href="http://www.pulaarvik.ca">www.pulaarvik.ca</a>



**Amautiit Nunavut Inuit  
Women's Association**

E: [admin@amautiit.ca](mailto:admin@amautiit.ca)  
[amautiit.ca](http://amautiit.ca)

