



House of Commons



Hon. Rebecca Chartrand
Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs

Minister Chartrand,

The rate of hunger in Nunavut should be a national embarrassment. The cost of food is out of control. Today, 42 percent of Inuit children arrive at school hungry – more than anywhere else in Canada. I hear from single mothers who survive on less than \$1,100 a month, nowhere near enough to feed their children. The hunger crisis grows worse by the week.

The external review of Nutrition North, led by Aluki Kotierk, is not scheduled to deliver its final report until 2026. So many families will remain in poverty during this long investigation. Communities need action now. I urge you to request an interim report and expedite the review so immediate recommendations can be implemented.

Since restrictions on the Jordan's Principle/Inuit Child First Initiative began this year, the situation has become more urgent. Families have even fewer supports. Every day, people post requests for food on social media. I have raised these urgent issues multiple times in Question Period:

1. Oct. 28, 2025 <https://youtu.be/h4dW-vFuXW8>
2. Sept 18, 2025 <https://youtu.be/qQ5mmnh9yLo>
3. June 16, 2025 https://youtu.be/p_gPqAEh1u0
4. June 6, 2025 <https://youtu.be/89WmLxi5J8E>

There are serious concerns about grocery pricing. People are saying the North West Company increased food prices when food vouchers were issued through ICFI, then kept prices high even after the program stopped. These high costs affect all residents, not just those using vouchers, and create even more hardship. Meanwhile, other stores have not raised prices in the same way. These discrepancies remain unexplained. Is the current review exploring this issue?

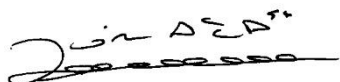
I recently met with the CEO of the North West Company to address serious concerns about the high grocery costs. Aluki Kotierk was appointed to lead the review in February, but North West Company was not interviewed until October. Why the delay? Why did it take months to speak with the largest grocery retailer in the north? These delays raise questions about whether this review will lead to any meaningful change for Nunavummiut.

I urge you to:

1. Expedite the Nutrition North review.
2. Instruct the reviewer to deliver an interim report with immediate recommendations for action.
3. Ensure the review investigates price increases and differences between retailers.

Far too many Nunavummiut are in poverty. We cannot wait years for the review to be complete and recommendations to be implemented. We need federal support programs. We need action now.

Taimakalauq ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Idlout", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Lori Idlout, MP