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**JOIN US IN  
NOURISHING OUR  
COMMUNITY!**

## A Look Inside Our Kitchen

It's that time of year again – snow is falling, winter is settling in, and we're kicking off our annual fundraising campaign. It's when we reach out to you – our friends and supporters – [to ask for your support with a gift towards our general fund.](#)

Contributions like yours go towards our operations: the everyday, behind-the-scenes work that keeps Qajuqturvik running, serving hundreds of warm and nutritious meals prepared, with care by our staff, day after day.

What does that actually look like? Let us give you a glimpse!

Staff came in around 8:30am today to start prepping for our 11:30am lunch service. Each day they prepare two full meals: a meal for dine-in guests, and a separate meal for takeout. At around 11:15 Kitchen Manager Jamie is adding the final touches to a roast, served with mashed potatoes, gravy, and veggies, while Brad is whipping up his famously-fluffy bannock. Everyone pitches in to make sure the soup and bannock are packaged before we open the doors. By 11:30, a line up at the door has formed, but everyone is patient. "No pushing, Elders first,"

Brad says. Vanessa and Nancy have set up the meals on trays, while Felix and Sara pack extra to-go meals, knowing that many will bring meals back to family and friends.

As one group of diners finishes up, others stream through the door, line up for their trays and wait for their turn. The dishes pile up quickly but Dennis, in the dish pit, is up to the task. We have budgeted and planned for approximately 550 meals today. Whatever is leftover is kept in the community fridge and will be available for who needs it tomorrow. We never throw food out.



This rate of 400 to 600 meals is a new high for us – the need for meals in our community has steadily grown every year since we opened. Last year we served about 70,000 meals, but we’ve already surpassed 80,000 this year. And while the numbers grow, our staff remains constant – day in, day out, they pour their labour, care, and love for the community into every dish.

Serving this number of meals in one day is not a number we take lightly. It’s a number that tells a story about the realities of life in Iqaluit, a city where **food costs three times more than the national average; where housing insecurity shapes nearly every decision families make; and where the rising cost of living presses hardest on those who already face the most barriers.** This work happens in a context of ongoing colonial policies and systems that make

food insecurity in Nunavut not an accident, but the predictable outcome of decades of underinvestment.

And yet, every day, our kitchen team shows up.

They prep, chop, lift, haul, clean, organize, troubleshoot freezers, and repair what's been worn down by constant use. They greet people by name. They notice when someone hasn't been in for a few days. They hold together so many of the invisible threads that keep our community connected.

This is what community care looks like here. And it takes a lot.

A lot of labour.

A lot of heart.

And a lot of people behind them.

When you support us, you're not "fixing hunger", because we know hunger is not an individual problem, it's a systemic one. You're standing with a team and a community who are building solutions rooted in care for one another, and working towards a day when food insecurity in our community is gone.

[Donate Today!](#)

**Your gift today goes directly to making this work possible**, from paying for salaries, rent, utilities and office supplies, to buying thousands of kilograms of food and ingredients that are flown in from Ottawa, and supporting hunters to provide country food for our programs.

We invite you to work alongside us! **If you are able (and haven't already), please donate today**, and tell your friends about the important work we do – work we couldn't do without supporters like you!

With gratitude,

The Qajuqturvik Team

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TO MAKE A  
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**YOUR SUPPORT STRENGTHENS  
OUR WORK IN THE KITCHEN!**

**Donate Today**



**Our mailing address is:**

655 Mattaaq Crescent, Iqaluit NU, X0A 3H0

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