



**SAMUEL CENTRE
FOR SOCIAL
CONNECTEDNESS**

Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness Fellowship Program

Partner Organization: Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre

Project Title: The Correlation Between Income, Food Insecurity & Social
Connectedness in Iqaluit, Nunavut

SCSC Fellowship 2023:

Project Proposal

Partner Organization: Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre

Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre (QCFC) aims to strengthen health, belonging and food sovereignty in Iqaluit, Nunavut by utilizing the power of food, tradition and community. Beginning as a traditional, volunteer-run soup kitchen in 2008, Qajuqturvik (“a place to get soup” in Inuktitut) is now Iqaluit’s hub for nutritious, affordable food and provides a variety of food access, food skills, and advocacy programs in Nunavut’s capital. Nunavut has the highest rates of food insecurity in Canada with almost half of households experiencing food insecurity. Qajuqturvik follows the community food centre model developed by Community Food Centres Canada and is one of 15 CFCs across the country. As the first Northern community food centre, Qajuqturvik serves as an example of how the CFC model can be adapted for Northern and Indigenous communities.

QCFC advocates for a food sovereign Nunavut and prioritizes country food in all our programming. QCFC works with hunters across Nunavut to provide nutritious country food for our programs. We also advocate for policy measures that support the territory’s hunters, such as a basic income. QCFC believes that food security will not be achieved in Nunavut without food sovereignty.

Learn more at: www.qajuqturvik.ca

Location of the Project: Iqaluit, Nunavut (open to remote candidates)

Depending on the successful applicant, this project may involve in-person work in Iqaluit Nunavut.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Section 1: Description of the Project

The Community Meal is QCFC's original and most accessed program. This emergency food access program is currently serving more Iqalumiut than ever before in the organization's history. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, QCFC's team witnessed the impact of income-based resources on our community members and QCFC's Community Meal program. 2022 saw the end of income-based resources (ex/ CERB) and a higher cost of living, resulting in higher demand for this emergency food access program beyond levels that are sustainable. QCFC strongly believes that income-based solutions are the most effective means to address food insecurity in Nunavut, where the cost of living is 2 to 3 times the national average. QCFC is currently working closely with many levels of government to advocate for effective income-based solutions to address this crisis in Nunavut and hopes to see improved policies as a result.

In order to create spaces and environments that foster belonging, we must tackle people's basic needs which includes access to nutritious and traditional foods. Food insecurity can lead to social isolation, anxiety, and physical health issues, all of which prevent participation in community. At QCFC, we strive for a time when people are accessing our services to connect with one another, to learn from one another and to bond over a meal rather than because of acute need. By advocating for long-term solutions to address food insecurity through methods that increase autonomy, QCFC aims to increase belonging for all Iqalumiut.

The Fellow will work closely with the QCFC team to determine whether there is a correlation between income benefits and demand for Iqaluit's largest emergency food access program. This project will assist QCFC's efforts to advocate for income-based solutions meant to meaningfully address food insecurity in Nunavut, and build belonging for all Iqalumiut.

Section 2: Goals of the Project

1. Understand the relationship between income-based resources available during/post pandemic and the impact on Iqalumniut who access emergency food access programs
2. Through analyzing pre-existing and new data sets the fellow will create comprehensive timelines detailing when food access programs are most in-demand and what factors impact this?
 - a. The Fellow may look at how income assistance programs impact QCFC visits on a monthly basis, across a year, and across several years.
 - b. The Fellow will also explore how feelings of belonging are impacted throughout this continuum
3. Understand how food insecurity impacts people's sense of belonging at QCFC
4. The research will inform an advocacy campaign focused on effective income-based policy approaches to address food insecurity in Nunavut.

Section 3: Guiding Questions

1. How did pandemic-related income benefits, like CERB, impact how Iqalumniut experiencing food insecurity accessed food? What impact did this have on wellbeing?
2. What impacts did the end of pandemic-related income benefits have on emergency food access programs in Iqaluit?
3. What type or amount of income benefits were most effective at reducing demand on emergency food access programs in Iqaluit?
4. What is the relationship between food insecurity, income insecurity, and belonging?

The intended audience of the research is territorial and federal government officials responsible for policy decisions as well as the general public in Nunavut.

Section 4: Key Deliverables

- 1 blog post (500 – 1,000 word), posted to SCSC’s website.
- A Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) in support of the Final Output
 - The Fellow will work collaboratively with the SCSC program manager and QCFC staff to design a relevant community outreach/connecting activity. This may interact with people directly (ex/an event) or seek to engage the public with the issue (ex/webinar).
- A Final Output (2 parts)
 - A visual representation, and timeline charting the relationship between food insecurity rates and income assistance in Nunavut. This timeline will be overlaid with primary research on people’s experiences of belonging and connection at critical inflection points to encourage a human-centric narrative.
 - A policy-oriented written accompaniment, exact format to be determined with partner organization supervisor.
- A Final Presentation with the Fellowship Cohort

Applicant Information:

About the Fellowship/What the Fellowship Offers

The Fellowship empowers young people, recent graduates, and people with lived experience to engage in meaningful research and community action. At the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness our mission is to build connectedness within and between communities through partnerships, research, programming, learning initiatives, and advocacy. Belonging is central to our work, and the Fellowship offers the opportunity to apply the lens of ‘Belonging’ to intersectional issues, writing, and problem solving.

This is a paid full-time opportunity from May 8 – August 28 2023 [16 weeks]. The Social Connectedness Fellowship is a research and community action summer program focused on understanding & integrating social connectedness.

SCSC Offers:

- Competitive wages
- Work with national & international community partners
- Capacity building, skills development, & mentorship
- Meaningful work where your research has impact

Equity Statement:

The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness is an equal opportunity employer, and we encourage applicants to apply even if they do not meet all the criteria. We believe all candidates have something to bring to the organization and the role. If you have skills outside the job description that you think can benefit the project, let us know in your cover letter. We encourage all equity-seeking groups such as immigrants, Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, women, young people, 2SLGBTQ+ community members, and people with disabilities to apply. Please let us know if you need any accommodation throughout the application and interview process and we will be happy to support you.

Key Attributes and Skills in the Applicant:

- Applicants should hold or be in the process of earning a post-secondary diploma or degree in a relevant field (quantitative science or social sciences) with one year of relevant experience in research methods and data analysis, or an equivalent combination of education, training, and lived experience.
- Good knowledge of research methods, data analysis methods, and assessment.
- Strong data analysis, report writing, and presentation skills.
- A strong sense of direction, and ability to work independently on projects
- The ability to speak Inuktitut is considered a strong asset.
- Knowledge of Inuit communities, culture, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and experience working in a northern cross-cultural environment are considered assets.

Priority will be given to beneficiaries under the Nunavut Agreement and to Inuit living within or outside of Inuit Nunangat.