



Pre-Budget Submission 2024



About Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is the national representative organization for the 65,000 Inuit in Canada, the majority of whom live in Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit homeland encompassing 51 communities across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Northwest Territories), Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Québec), and Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador). Inuit Nunangat makes up nearly one third of Canada's landmass and 50 percent of its coastline. ITK represents the rights and interests of Inuit at the national level through a democratic governance structure that represents all Inuit regions. ITK advocates for policies, programs, and services to address the social, cultural, political, and environmental issues facing our people.

ITK's Board of Directors are as follows:

- Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- President, Makivvik
- President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- President, Nunatsiavut Government

In addition to voting members, the following non-voting Permanent Participant Representatives also sit on the Board:

- President, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada
- President, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- President, National Inuit Youth Council

Vision

Canadian Inuit are prospering through unity and self-determination.

Mission

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami is the national voice for protecting and advancing the rights and interests of Inuit in Canada.

Introduction

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's 2024 pre-budget submission focuses on specific high-priority areas that align with Government of Canada commitments, policies and initiatives as well as current Ministerial mandate letters. It builds upon meaningful investments in previous budgets while advocating for additional funding to close major outstanding gaps. Inuit-specific investments contained within an Inuit-specific section of the Budget are recommended as follows:

- 1. Implementing the Inuit Nunangat Policy**
- 2. Building on the success of Inuit-Crown Partnership**
 - \$5 million over 2 years
- 3. Infrastructure**
 - \$75.1 billion over 35 years for a portfolio of 115 projects amounting to \$55.3 billion in capital over 10 years and approximately \$793.7 million annually for operations and maintenance for the next 25 years
- 4. Food Security**
 - Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy: \$100 million over 4 years
 - Inuit Nunangat School Food Program: \$1.79 billion over 15 years
- 5. Tuberculosis Elimination**
 - \$131.6 million over 7 years
- 6. Inuktitut reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening**
 - \$1 billion over 10 years
- 7. Supporting implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People**
 - \$50 million over five years
- 8. Research**
 - \$30 million over 5 years

Inuit Nunangat

Inuit Nunangat is the Inuit homeland in Canada, made up of 51 communities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Northwest Territories), Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), and Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador). Inuit Nunangat encompasses 40% of Canada's land area, its entire Arctic coastline (at least 72 percent of Canada's overall coastline), and significant offshore areas. It is a distinct geographic, political, and cultural region that is recognized by the Government of Canada through its new Inuit Nunangat Policy. The region is co-managed by Inuit and the federal government through democratic governance structures established by comprehensive Inuit land claim agreements. Inuit residing outside of their homelands are also an important part of the national Inuit governance structure through their connections to their respective regional rights holding organizations.



1. Implementing the Inuit Nunangat Policy

Budget 2024 should be structured in a manner that is consistent with the [Inuit Nunangat Policy](#) by including a standalone Inuit-specific section. From an operational perspective, an Inuit-specific budget section would also create immediate efficiency, transparency and cost savings, resulting in more immediate positive impacts and benefits for Inuit that in turn benefit all Canadians (as opposed to a six month-plus post-budget process to determine implications of pan-Indigenous investments for Inuit). This approach has proven to create efficiency, cost savings and more immediate positive impacts and benefits for Inuit that in turn benefit all Canadians.

2. Building on the success of Inuit-Crown Partnership

Budget 2024 should build on the success of the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) by committing to pursue legislation establishing the Committee as a permanent bilateral mechanism. Such a policy statement would reflect the federal government's stated ambition for the Committee and provide the basis for work on implementing Measure 8 of the [UN Declaration Act Action Plan Chapter 3: Inuit Priorities](#). Continued federal support for advancing reconciliation between Inuit and the Crown should transcend partisan politics. ICPC was established in 2017 and has proven pivotal for ensuring that federal investments, programs and initiatives that are intended to benefit Inuit are both more impactful and effective, and respect and support Inuit self-determination. Legislation is necessary to ensure that the Committee continues to be utilized beyond the current government to create transformational change that benefits Inuit and, in turn, all Canadians.

Budget 2024 should also allocate \$5 million to support completion of ICPC deliverables, as well as federal UN Declaration Act Action Plan commitments that are intended to be implemented through ICPC. ICPC deliverables are jointly determined by Inuit and the Crown and their status is the primary indicator used to evaluate the Committee's annual progress.

ICPC Deliverables and ICPC-linked UNDRIPA Action Plan measures

2a. Federal Inuit education policy (Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations): Both the ICPC Education, Early Learning and Skills Development working group and the UN Declaration Act Action Plan include commitments to co-developing a federal Inuit education policy by 2024.

2b. Impact study on federal housing investments, including barriers to accessing funding (Infrastructure Canada and Indigenous Services Canada): This ICPC Infrastructure working group deliverable is needed to improve the impact and efficiency of federal allocations for housing in Inuit Nunangat. It is sufficiently complex that dedicated resourcing is required to secure dedicated capacity for completing the study.

2c. Co-development of legislative and/or policy framework enabling the sale of Inuit country foods in Inuit Nunangat and supporting the expansion of domestic and international trade of these foods (Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada): This UN Declaration Act Action Plan measure is intended to help improve Inuit food security by affirming the right of Inuit to sell and trade certain country foods both domestically and internationally.

3. Closing the Infrastructure gap by 2030

Improving the quality and availability of priority infrastructure in Inuit Nunangat is critical to the wellbeing of Inuit society. The Inuit Nunangat infrastructure deficit is rooted in decades-old patterns of severe underfunding and political exclusion of Inuit rights holding institutions in the region. This situation has disproportionately impacted Inuit individuals, families, and communities, contributing to poor health and educational outcomes, high costs for basic goods and services, and extreme vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change. With this budget, the Government of Canada has an opportunity to invest in a portfolio of Inuit Nunangat infrastructure priorities leading to improvements in air, land, and marine transportation, digital connectivity, clean energy production and transmission, water and waste management, as well as community infrastructure for education, cultural revitalization, justice, food sovereignty and security, shelter, and recreation. Improvements in these areas will support national priorities for Arctic sovereignty and security, regional economic growth, reconciliation, and climate change, among others.

Building on past federal commitments, Inuit are seeking to transform historical patterns and build the next generation of priority infrastructure projects according to Inuit-determined needs. Through Budget 2021, the Government of Canada committed \$517.8 million over four years in distinctions-based infrastructure funding for Inuit to support our most urgent infrastructure priorities. In Budget 2022, the Government of Canada committed \$845 million over seven years for Inuit housing. These were important initial steps towards fulfilling the Government of Canada's commitment to close the infrastructure gap between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of Canada on an accelerated basis, but they were not proportional to the breadth and depth of the gap. We believe a

more robust, long-term, and flexible investment is required to achieve our shared goals.

To support the Government of Canada to deliver on its commitment, Inuit have developed a highly comprehensive and detailed assessment of Inuit Nunangat infrastructure needs. Our analysis included strategic, economic, operational, and financial considerations for a portfolio of 115 Inuit-determined projects. Each project was accompanied by professionally prepared estimates of the costs required to design, build, operate, and maintain it over its lifecycle. We estimate an initial capital investment of \$55.3 billion over 10 years and \$793.7 million annually afterwards for ongoing operations and maintenance will be required to narrow the Inuit Nunangat infrastructure gap. The total investment to deliver these projects over 35 years is estimated to be \$75.1 billion. This is in addition to the remainder of the Budget 2022 preliminary housing needs assessment that called for a distinctions-based investment in Inuit housing of \$3.04 billion over 10 years to address Inuit core housing needs. Analysis based on changes to Statistics Canada's Raw Materials Price Index and its Building Construction Price Index suggests this amount increased approximately 36% in 2022-23, to \$4.13 billion, since the figures were first prepared.

4. Improving Food Security through self-determination

All people have a right to adequate food and yet there is no coordinated approach by the Government of Canada that directly addresses the persistent public health crisis of Inuit food insecurity in Canada. Inuit in Canada experience the highest documented prevalence of food insecurity of any Indigenous people living in an industrialized country. According to the 2017 Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 76% of Inuit aged 15 and over living in Inuit Nunangat experience food insecurity.¹ This extremely high prevalence of food insecurity reflects the significant challenges experienced within our food system and highlights the magnitude of persisting and interconnected social and health inequities, including poverty, the high cost of living, climate change, inadequate infrastructure, intergenerational trauma, and systemic racism. These complexities have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and global inflation, highlighting the need for an Inuit-led, sustainable, and multi-faceted approach to address the issue of food insecurity across Inuit Nunangat.

Until Inuit assume a position to shape a concrete, distinctions-based and whole-of-government approach to food security, sustainable access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food will not be achieved. Publicly released in July 2021, the [Strategy](#) sets a vision to end hunger and support the development of a sustainable and inclusive Inuit food system. The Strategy identifies coordinated actions that are required to overcome the multiple and interrelated factors that drive Inuit food insecurity.

¹ Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2017, custom tabulation prepared by Statistics Canada for ITK.

An associated [Implementation Plan](#) was published in December 2022, which anchors the Strategy in specific, measurable, and time-bound deliverables that are relevant to the diverse circumstances. Together, the Strategy and its Implementation Plan outline a course of action for Inuit organizations and partners to come together and address this multidimensional and persistent gap in policy. While the federal government has committed to supporting the Strategy through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, no resources have been dedicated to date. An initial investment of \$100 million over four years for the implementation of the Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy would ensure that the solutions identified to effectively address the priorities of Inuit communities are established.

The mandate letters for the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada established a commitment to work with Indigenous partners, provinces, territories, and stakeholders to develop a National School Food Policy and explore how more children can receive nutritious food at school. As described in the Implementation Plan, the creation of a national school food program is a key action to building a sustainable food system and committing to a healthier future generation. A study conducted in Nunavut revealed that 70% of Inuit households with young children experience food insecurity.² School food programs would provide significant support to children and their families.

A [costing analysis of a school food program](#) in Inuit Nunangat was completed in September 2022 and published in March 2023 to provide a roadmap for a cost-effective, accessible, and Inuit-specific school food program to be implemented in every Inuit Nunangat school. The costing model was also revised in September 2023 to reflect inflation. The objective of this project was to develop an environmental scan of the existing landscape in schools across Inuit Nunangat, provide costing to fully implement the program and outline recommendations to inform its design and delivery. This project was undertaken through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, where Inuit partners worked collaboratively with Indigenous Services Canada – First Nations Inuit Health Branch, Employment and Social Development Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. As determined in the report and revised using inflation, ITK is seeking \$1.788 billion over 15 years to implement and maintain an Inuit Nunangat-wide school food program. This includes the cost of food, labour and training, operations and maintenance, and infrastructure.³

² Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2017, custom tabulation prepared by Statistics Canada for ITK.

³ Infrastructure costs being sought for an Inuit Nunangat-wide school food program are separate from any previous investments and the current overall infrastructure proposal appearing in this pre-budget submission.

5. Eliminating Tuberculosis by 2030

In order to move towards achieving equity in public health for Inuit, the Government of Canada needs to dedicate the necessary financial resources required to honour [commitments made in 2018 to partner with Inuit to eliminate tuberculosis from Inuit regions in Canada by 2030](#). Inuit in Canada face rates of tuberculosis (TB) over 300 times higher than in Canadian-born non-Indigenous people. This staggering and unacceptable reality has been trending upward for the last two decades. TB care is resource intensive and places an immense burden on fragile health systems in Inuit regions. This disease imposes high social and physical costs on Inuit, their families, and their communities. TB is preventable and curable. It should not be in Canadian communities. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of tailored and clear public health interventions for Indigenous regions and the critical role that Inuit representative organizations can play during public health crises in their communities when provided the resources to do so.

ITK and Inuit regional representatives have determined that an investment of \$131.6 million in funding over seven years (2023-2030) is required. This funding is necessary to maintain or scale up activities implemented under current regional TB elimination action plans and to pursue additional activities required to achieve TB elimination by 2030. This funding is crucial for breaking the cycle of TB in Inuit communities. Maintaining TB elimination will also require the substantial investments in housing, infrastructure and food security outlined in other parts of this submission.

6. Supporting the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening of Inuktitut

The legacy of residential schools continues to cast a long shadow on Inuit culture and language and has contributed to the gap in education, health and economic prosperity outcomes for Inuit relative to other Canadians. The dominance of French and English programming across Inuit Nunangat continues to be a main driver of language shift by tethering academic, social and economic advancement to English and French. Federal investment in Inuktitut is necessary to reverse language shift as well as to close the policy gap in the Crown's fiduciary responsibility to Inuit.

ITK has finalized an Inuktitut costing model associated with the Indigenous Languages Act that requires \$1 billion over 10 years for the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening of Inuktitut. This measure would reaffirm Canada's commitment to reconciliation and recognize the urgency of supporting Inuktitut by ensuring Inuit have

immediate, accelerated, and longer-term access to Inuktitut resources, that is also predictable and sustainable. This is consistent with the Indigenous Languages Act, the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

7. Supporting implementation of the National Inuit Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Inuit Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People

Budget 2024 should enable implementation of the [National Inuit Action Plan](#) by reprofiling \$50 million over five years of existing funding allocated in 2021 for this purpose, directly to Inuit Treaty Organizations. The National Inuit Action Plan sets out Inuit- and federal government-led actions needed to help end and prevent violence against Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. However, in order for these resources to support implementation of the Action Plan and to positively impact Inuit, they must be allocated in a manner consistent with the Inuit Nunangat Policy.

8. Strengthening Inuit self-determination in research

Research remains one of the last public policy areas where colonial policies remain relatively unchanged, contributing to ineffective spending that does not tend to positively impact Inuit. Budget 2021 committed \$4 million over three years to support the development of an Inuit data strategy in support of priority four of the [National Inuit Strategy on Research](#), which is focused on ensuring Inuit access, ownership, and control over data and information.

Building on this investment, ITK is seeking an additional \$30 million over five years to advance Inuit self-determination in research and phase two of the implementation of the National Inuit Strategy on Research. This investment would enable Inuit Treaty Organizations and the federal government to coordinate and align research spending in Inuit Nunangat with Inuit priorities.

ITK released the National Inuit Strategy on Research in 2018. The Strategy identifies the actions needed to enhance the effectiveness, impact, and usefulness of research occurring in Inuit Nunangat for Inuit. The Strategy outlines five priority areas: Advance Inuit governance in research; Enhance the ethical conduct of research; Align funding with Inuit research priorities; Ensure Inuit access, ownership and control over data and information; Build capacity in Inuit Nunangat research.



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