

Arviat 2020

Raising Funds to Relieve Food Insecurity in Canada's North



The Goal is to raise \$50,000 to fill a sea container with food to supplement 30 Arviat families' annual nutritional need.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Canada (SSVP) has adopted and embraced various communities across Northern Canada since 2008 under the **North of 60** initiative (see www.ssvp.ca/north-60).

This is SSVP Peterborough's first year in supporting the community of Arviat, Nunavut. It was our intent to work with schools, service and church groups, and businesses to gather / purchase the Arviat Food List (see below).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement to social distance, the food drive has turned into a fundraiser. Food and other supplies will be purchased and sent by sea container to Arviat.

Food and other supplies will be purchased in Peterborough to fill the sea container. It will be trucked to Montreal in late August or early September. After the container is loaded on a ship, it'll depart on the once a year summer crossing bound for Nunavut. It will directly address food insecurity within the community.



Arviat (ᐱᕐᕐᕐᕐ) is the southernmost mainland community in the Kivalliq Region, on the west coast of Hudson Bay.

- Second-largest community in Nunavut
- Approximately 200km north of Churchill, Manitoba.
- The Hudson Bay Company established a trading post at Arviat in the 1921. A Roman Catholic mission was setup in 1924. In 1926 an Anglican church followed. A federal school was constructed in 1959.
- Population: 2,851 (2017); 60% under 25

- Population is 92% Inuit.
- Inhabited originally by the Paallirmiut, a coastal/inland Inuit band. In 1957, the last remaining Ihalmiut, a Caribou Inuit band, were relocated to Arviat.
- Languages spoken Inuktitut, English.
- Average temperature: (January): -25C; (July): 10C
- Arviat is accessible by sea (summer and fall), and air only. No roads lead to Nunavut.
- Two stores - Co-op & Northern
- Health Centre 3 nurses... air-vac to Winnipeg
- Elementary, High and Community College

“Weekly cost of a nutritious food basket in March of 2018: \$394. Monthly cost to feed a family of four: \$1,576. This compares to the City of Ottawa's monthly cost to feed a family of four: \$868.” Food Banks Canada

The Situation

- Approximately 42% of the population are children under the age of 18.
- 91% of the population is in housing.
- Unemployment rate in Arviat is 27.9%.
- Majority of professional higher wage jobs are held by southerners.
- Caribou hunting and fishing remain the main source of sustenance.
- Arts and crafts industry began in the early 60's and remains a vital portion of the community.
- Food prices are exorbitant and further enshrine poverty.



“Canadians living in northern and remote communities face highly elevated and in some cases extreme, levels of food insecurity. 46.8% of households in Nunavut were food insecure in 2014” Food Banks Canada

Arviat Food List



Funds collected will purchase:

- Canned Meats
- Rice, Pasta & Sauces
- Cooking Oil & Lard
- Peanut Butter & Jam
- Soups & Cereal
- Tea & Coffee
- Fruit Juice Crystals
- Household supplies
- Etc.

True to the spirit of the society's founder, North of 60 communities are our farthest home visits. The relationship begins with food, helps to alleviate struggles and face to face visits will help these Canadians know that they are not a forgotten people.

North of 60 is the start of a learning experience whereby a community is lifted up in hope, and reconciliation is fostered and grown.



About SSVP Peterborough

First established in 1886 in Peterborough, the Society served ~20,000 people (34.5% children) at our Food Pantry, redeemed \$28,142 in clothing vouchers at our three Vinnies Thrift Stores (Erskine Ave, George St & Lakefield) and distributed \$17,461 of new beds to those in need in 2019 within our immediate community. We are also a major contributor to the Lakefield Community Food Bank.

How to Donate?

Online:



<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/ssvp-arviat2020>

An Income Tax Receipt is automatically generated

By Cheque:

Pay To:

"Society of St Vincent de Paul (Peterborough)"

Please add **"Arviat 2020"** to memo line

And mailed to:

**Society of St Vincent de Paul (Peterborough)
256 Murray Street
Peterborough, ON.
K9H 2S9**

(Please include your email address)

An Income Tax Receipt will be issued for all donations over \$20.00.

Thank You for Your Support

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Peter Gruneberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Gruneberg

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul | Peterborough Particular Council | President