

Territorial Health Investment Fund Annual Activity Report

Clinical Nutrition Services for Chronic Disease Prevention in Nunavut

Executive Summary

Nutrition care is an essential component for the management of patients and clients in all health care settings and community programs. On the individual level, support from registered dietitians aims to improve dietary habits to promote health and prevent chronic illnesses such as high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. At the institutional level, food service overseen by a registered dietitian ensures the nutritional needs of a vulnerable population are met, decreasing risks associated with poor food safety, and increasing cost effectiveness by developing facility menus and meal plans for individuals with medical needs (e.g., diabetes). At present, there is only one PY providing nutrition care in Nunavut and there is no nutritional care or foodservice standards in place for facilities in Nunavut.

The two goals of this project are to:

1. Increase access to dietetic care to reduce the burden of chronic disease, and
2. Implement the Standards for Nutrition Care and Foodservice for Department of Health healthcare and residential facilities and ensure all individuals in residential settings have access to dietetic services.

Funding for the Territorial Health Investment Fund (THIF) arrived late in fiscal year 2014/15 (early January) due to the late signing of the agreement, so a full year of project work did not occur. However, between January and March 31, 2015, some of the groundwork required for achieving the project goals was undertaken.

The project activities relating to project goal one, *Increase access to dietetic care to reduce the burden of chronic disease*, include the (1) development of a project logic model to ensure evaluation includes measure for project effectiveness; (2) development and approval of job descriptions for the requested PY's with support from appropriate stakeholders; (3) engagement of existing Government of Nunavut nutrition care providers to enhance the project; (4) development of a communication plan to promote dietitian referral service for all regions; (5) initiate nutrition referral programs in all regions; (6) design and implement an assessment tool to track program success and failures; and (7) development of a working group to continue to assess the sustainability of the program, and, if relevant, to explore less costly alternatives. As of the conclusion of the reporting timeframe, activities (1), (2), and (3) have been completed, and action on (4) has been initiated. Activities (5), (6) and (7) have not yet been initiated. With regards to project goal two, *Implement the Standards for Nutrition Care and Foodservice for Department of Health Healthcare and Residential Facilities and ensure all individuals in residential settings have access to dietetic services*, six activities were identified. Unfortunately, as a result of the delays in funding, no activities were undertaken.

Funding Received

To complete the projects outlined in the THIF for Clinical Nutrition Services for Chronic Disease Prevention in Nunavut, the GN received \$1,040,000 in 2014/15. The agreement commenced November 3, 2014 and the funds were received January, 2015. Since the funding for year one arrived late in fiscal 2014/15, many projects had a late start. Groundwork has been laid and the sub-projects within each activity projects will begin to roll out April 1, 2015. As a result not all the funds were spent in year one. \$865,745.77 from 2014/15 has been carried forward into the 2015/16 fiscal year. The total budget for year two is \$1,905,745.77.

Financial Summary

CLINICAL NUTRITION SERVICES FOR CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION			
	2014/15 THIF Funding	2014/15 Expenses	Carry-Forward
Project Delivery	571,300.00	174,254.23	397,045.77
Project Travel	400,000.00		400,000.00
Administration	41,200.00		41,200.00
Project Evaluation	27,500.00		27,500.00
Total	1,040,000.00	174,254.23	865,745.77

THIF Progress Report

Assessment of Chronic Disease Territorial Projects and Activities 2014/15

Project Goal	Project Activities	Progress – Relevance/Performance	Performance Measurement	Expected Impact
Increase access to dietetic care to reduce the burden of chronic disease	Develop a project logic model with support from DH Evaluation Specialist to ensure evaluation includes measure for project effectiveness.	Completed	Project logic model developed and approved by key stakeholders.	These activities will provide a strong foundation, along with the Department's current work, to provide robust, consistent and accessible dietetic care.
	Develop and approve job descriptions for the requested PYs with support from appropriate stakeholders.	Completed	Standardized job descriptions prepared, positions posted for competition, screened and hired.	
	Engage existing Government of Nunavut nutrition care providers to enhance the project by offering support.	Completed/Ongoing	Nunavut Nutrition Advisory Committee extends membership to include new positions created.	
	Develop a communication plan to promote dietitian referral service for all regions.	Initiated	Department of Health operations staff aware of new service and process to refer patients for nutrition care.	
	Initiate nutrition referral programs in all regions.	Year 2	Nunavummiut across the territory have equal access to nutrition care.	

Project Goal	Project Activities	Progress – Relevance/Performance	Performance Measurement	Expected Impact
	Design and implement an assessment tool to track programme success and failures.	Year 3	Assessment tool developed and in use.	
	Develop a working group to continue to assess the sustainability of the program, and, if relevant, to explore less costly alternatives.	Year 2	Clinical Nutrition Services for Chronic Disease Prevention in Nunavut Working Group established and meeting regularly to develop sustainability plan.	
Implement the Standards for Nutrition Care and Foodservice for Department of Health Healthcare and Residential Facilities and ensure all individuals in residential settings have access to dietetic services	Nutrition Care: nutrition assessment completed on patients, residents, and inmates; nutrition care plans developed.	Years 2/3	Patients, residents, and inmates with nutrition related chronic disease conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity will have nutrition care plans in place and access to appropriate diets.	The process of implementing territorial food service standards (i.e. for nutritional care, food service delivery, menu planning and review, budgetary control, food safety) will result not only in these standards being put into place, but a system where they are regularly reviewed and updated using existing resources.
	Foodservice Delivery Standards implemented for: food preparation, food handling and hygiene, cleaning and sanitation, meal scheduling, eating areas, and food procurement.	Years 2/3	Facilities will be in compliance with foodservice delivery standards, reducing the risk of liability for the Government of Nunavut.	

Project Goal	Project Activities	Progress – Relevance/Performance	Performance Measurement	Expected Impact
	Menu Planning and Review: menus for all facilities will be planned to be nutritious, appealing, affordable and reflective of cultural preferences, seasonal availability and special dietary needs.	Years 2/3	Facility menus based on Canada’s Food Guide that includes country foods.	
	Foodservice management: with support from Territorial Dietetics Coordinator, facilities will begin adherence to the Standards for Nutrition Care and Foodservice for HSS Healthcare and Residential Facilities.	Years 2/3	Facilities will be in compliance with the standards and guidelines in the Standards for Nutrition Care and Foodservice for HSS Healthcare and Residential Facilities manual.	
	Develop an evaluation strategy/protocol in consultation with Government of Nunavut staff.	Years 2/3	Evaluation strategy developed.	