



## Holy Family St. Albert SSVP Conference North of 60 Project - With Ulukhaktok - 2025 Report

In the spring of 2025, SSVP North of 60 Project volunteers from Holy Family Parish and St. Albert Parish, filled a sea container with donated food and goods for Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories. Community members and supporters participated generously. The 3400 km shipment was trucked to the Tuktoyaktuk port, then loaded onto a marine barge.

Two unprecedented storms hit the Arctic coastal communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour in the late summer, delaying the barge's arrival to Ulukhaktok to September 10. The barge arrives once a year. For the rest of the year, supplies and fresh produce are flown in.

Upon arrival in Ulukhaktok, Coop and Northern Grocery Stores unloaded their year's supply of nonperishable food items. Local businesses and residents collected their respective orders, such as boats, ATVs, and sleds, while the Hamlet received its vehicles and construction materials. The yellow SSVP, North of 60 Project sea container from St. Albert was forklifted from the dock to the hamlet office where it was emptied. Recipients of the North of 60 Project were:

- Darlene at the food bank reported that the food bank shelves were full again. Food bank support is the North of 60 Project's highest priority. 20-30 families access the food bank twice a month. Food prices can be 4-5 times higher than central Alberta. Most Ulukhaktok residents find it difficult to make ends meet.
- Laura at the Ulukhaktok Community Corporation, part of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation invited residents to come shop (for free) for fabric and sewing items.
- The Brighter Futures received furs and fabrics to use in their upcoming classes.
- The Health Centre was appreciative of the activity and craft items sent to the Elder's group.
- Sewing machines, musical instruments, household items, quilts, and Brooklyn Bundles (baby and childrens' clothing), were to be distributed to those in need, from the Hamlet Office.
- Hockey and sports equipment were sent to the Hamlet's ice and fitness arena for general use.

The Hamlet of Ulukhaktok shipped many bins of metal and hazardous materials on the barge's return trip to the mainland for disposal.

### Life in Ulukhaktok

For a few summer months the Beaufort Sea's Northwest Passage opens for cruise ships to stop by Ulukhaktok, pop 450. Locals go on board the ship and passengers come ashore to be entertained with traditional drumming, drum dancing, Arctic sports, jigging, fiddle music, stories, local foods and a market with prints, sculptures, and crafts. Uukhaktok residents are hired as wildlife monitors, coordinators and tour guides.

Wildlife around Ulukhaktok include polar bears, muskox, caribou, fox, wolves, whales, birds, and seals. The weather can be extreme with cold and strong winds, up to 100 k/hr but is balanced with peaceful, serene and calm days. 110 children attend the modern K-12 Helen Kalvak School. Many families spent the summer at their cabins on the land, picking berries, collecting eggs, fishing and hunting. Hunting and ice fishing with sleds continue in the winter. Traditional food from the land and sea is shared with the elders and with those who are not able or who cannot afford to go out to the land and sea. Skins are sold and used for sewing outerwear. Sleds and ATVs are the most common family vehicles. The sun sets for 2 months in December and January and never sets in June and July. The ocean, lakes, bluffs, and landscape are postcard perfect. Residents embrace and pass down the beautiful culture, language, love of family and community support.

Following are some messages, received in September 2025, from Ulukhaktok:

*\*Thank you so much for doing all this for our Community each year, so much excitement. Our community is forever grateful for all your hard work and many hours put in by your volunteer group. Kindest Regards*

Emily Kudlak

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*\*Koana for the all the help given by you and your group. Our community appreciates it very much. I am so excited to open up the container. It's like Christmas time. Koana from the bottom of my heart. Koana/Quana*

Darlene Nigiyok, Receptionist and Food Bank Coordinator Hamlet of Ulukhaktok

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Sincerely and many thanks to the many hands who had a part in making the 2025 project successful and in serving our neighbors and friends to the North.

Linda Tutt, Chair,  
Holy Family St Albert, SSVP  
North of 60 Project  
[LinLartutt@gmail.com](mailto:LinLartutt@gmail.com)

### Sponsors and generous donors

Edmonton Quilt Guild Freson Bros Brooklyn's Bundles

Grannies of Alberta (Stephen Lewis Foundation)

Southgate Dental Centre



Photos:

Donation collection at St Albert Parish; Louise and Linda sort and pack donations.

Vincentian volunteers pack the sea container at Holy Family Parish.



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Photos by Roald Amundsen Cruise Ship: Mary Kudlak drums, Jimmy Memogama leads the drum and drum dancers, print making demo, fiddle/guitar music.





Photos:

- North of 60 Project sea container is unloaded at the Hamlet of Ulukhaktok Office and Food Bank.
- The North of 60 food fills the Food Bank shelves.
- Karla Kuptana and daughter with Ulukhaktok and coastline in the background.