
THE SELTZER-CHAN POND INLET FOUNDATION 2020



MITTIMA FOOD BANK

For two years, volunteers gathered at the Pond Inlet community hall every other Saturday to prepare and distribute food hampers for people in need. The local Co-op and Northern stores would deliver staples such as flour, eggs, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables etc. and the volunteers would organize and fill hampers. Later in the day, residents would stop by to pick up a 25 pound hamper. In February 2020, roughly 2000 kg of food worth about \$11,000 was distributed. Volunteers filled 100 hampers to service about 500 individuals each time.



Volunteers Rebecca Takawgak on the right, and Elisapee Kadloo set up for a food bank distribution event (before coronavirus!)
Photo courtesy of Wayne Olson

Then coronavirus hit, the community hall closed, and the system had to change. To minimize physical contact, food bank volunteers now distribute vouchers that can be redeemed at the local stores. Of course in indigenous communities, getting food is not always about going to the store. In the future, Mittima Food Bank hopes to expand its support for traditional harvesting activities, and community access to highly valued and nutritious traditional “county foods” such as arctic char, ptarmigan, and caribou, as well as whale, walrus and seal meat.

FOOD BANK PARTNERSHIPS

The foundation facilitated donations from Community Food Centres Canada’s **Good Food Access Fund** and these three organizations that raised funds for the Mittima Food Bank in 2020.



Bloor Street United Church

For the second year, the Bloor Street United Church earmarked offerings at Easter to this cause. Learn more at BloorStreetUnited.org



TAQQIQ is a new initiative that will supply menstrual products to girls and women in Pond Inlet. TAQQIQ translates to “month” and “moon” in Inuktitut (ᑕᓄᑦᑭᓄᑦ). Recognizing that the high cost of menstrual supplies can prevent women in Pond Inlet from participating fully in their studies and the life of their community, this group is raising funds specifically to purchase menstrual products to be distributed through the Mittima Food Bank. Learn more at taqqiqwomen.com



The Ayalik Fund’s mandate is to give Inuit youth “a chance to build self-esteem and confidence through challenging outdoor adventure, meeting other young Canadians, and social-cultural exploration.” With programming on hold due to coronavirus, this charitable fund helped us support the Mittima Food Bank. Ayalik is now planning its next season of Nunavut youth wilderness expeditions. Learn more at <https://ayalikfund.ca>

THE 2020 GRANTS

The Seltzer-Chan Pond Inlet Foundation is proud to report that a total of \$29,628 was distributed to the following organizations and individuals in 2020. Thanks to your generous donations, the foundation has awarded more than \$520,000 since we began supporting the people of Pond Inlet in 1999.

- Assistance to students attending college
- Music for the Future / Tusarnaarniq Sivumut
- Mittima Food Bank
- Nasivvik High School student awards

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Seltzer-Chan Pond Inlet Foundation
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Telephone: 416 932 5542
www.pondinletfoundation.org

Canadian donations will receive tax receipts.

2020 Pond Inlet Committee:

Brady Fischer (SCPIF local co-ordinator), Peter McBreairty, Karen Nutarak, David Parks and Trudy Pettigrew

Directors: Dorene Seltzer, Gareth Seltzer, Phillip King, Rosemary Waterston

HOW POND INLET IS RESPONDING TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

In March Pond Inlet implemented now-familiar measures: masks, social distancing and shuttered schools. Thankfully, by the end of March the high school teachers were able to return to school on staggered hours. Online learning wasn't an option because of poor internet access so the teachers prepared take-home learning packages. Students picked up packages outside and there was a drop box for the returned work.

In September the schools re-opened to students with extra cleaning and sanitizing precautions and staggered recess times to facilitate social distancing. Given the recent cases in other Nunavut communities, masks are again required in public places and social distancing is enforced. Travel into Pond Inlet continues to be very restricted; anyone coming to Pond must spend two weeks in an isolation hotel before flying into the community. This continues to be a very stressful time and we wish all of the residents of Pond Inlet well as they enter the months of 24-hour winter darkness.

MUSIC FOR THE FUTURE

Instructors Ameena Bajer Kolack and Greg Simm spent 29 days in Pond Inlet and four other Baffin Island communities in January and February 2020 as part of the annual Winter Fiddle Workshop. One of the 291 participants was Grade 10 student Tasha Inootik (shown on the left with instructor Ameena). Tasha explains, *"I attend the fiddle workshop because I feel more appreciated in that class than anywhere else. What I like most about it is how nice Kim, Greg, and Ameena are, and I really like how the violin sounds."*



We are very glad the Winter Workshop took place since, like so many events, the 2020 Spring and Fall fiddle workshops were cancelled due to the challenges posed by Covid-19. While disappointing, the decision was made in order to safeguard the health of students, instructors and the communities involved. As Tusarnaarniq Sivumut Music for the Future co-founder Julie Lohnes-Cashin says, *"Music is an important outlet during difficult times. We hope that our students have been able to play, listen and create music that speaks to them during this time and we hope to support some additional music programming at the high school in the very near future"*.

100% of your donation goes directly to grant recipients.

The Foundation is volunteer-operated; all administrative costs are covered by board members.