

# Country Food Cargo: Transport Infrastructure & Imagined Futures in Nunavut

Katrin Schmid, University of Vienna

## Introduction

Nunavut's infrastructure is heavily shaped by extractive industries, often prioritizing resource development over essential needs like food security and local transportation. This research explores how transport infrastructure affects food sovereignty in Nunavut, a territory with no agriculture and no connection to the national highway network.

## Methods

- Ethnographic fieldwork in Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord
- Over 170 semi-structured and open interviews, including 60+ recorded conversations
- Participation in community meetings, cultural events, hunting trips, meals and crafts...
- Three future scenario workshops and two focus groups.

## Conclusion

Decisions about transport infrastructure are also decisions about Nunavut's future. This research highlights the need to align infrastructure planning with community needs to strengthen food sovereignty as well as northern communities. Policymakers must recognize that food security is intricately tied to mobility, infrastructure investment, and self-determination in the North. Addressing these concerns can contribute to a more equitable and self-sufficient future for Nunavut's communities. By sharing findings through public presentations and accessible reports, this study aims to contribute to informed policymaking and empower local voices in infrastructure development.



## Objectives

1. Examine the role of transport infrastructure in supporting or hindering access to country food.
2. Identify the affordances and obstacles among actors and infrastructure in the movement of country food.
3. Explore how Nunavut residents envision future development, focusing on the role of transport infrastructure.

## Findings

- Transport infrastructure determines food availability and affordability in remote communities.
- Political decision-making on infrastructure occurs in the South, while its effects are felt locally.
- Communities seek more sustainable and locally controlled food distribution networks.
- Limited infrastructure investment exacerbates food insecurity and dependence on external suppliers.
- Local knowledge and traditional practices play a crucial role in ensuring food sovereignty despite logistical challenges.

## Next Steps

- Public presentation at the Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit, and Kimmirut hamlet council
- Executive summary for policymakers and organizations
- Community-oriented reports in print and video formats
- Academic publications, including dissertation and journal articles

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