

Open Space, Food Secure Canada Assembly
Saturday October 15th, 11:00-12:30pm
DRAFT NOTES

Northern Food Summit Discussion

Attendees:

Larissa Lychenko, York University, City of Whitehorse
Mary Jane Johnson, Kluane First Nation
Helen Stappers, Council of Yukon First Nations
Jennell Majeran, Northern Healthy Foods
Carla Johnston, Carleton University
Franco Naccarato, Greenbelt Fund
Jocelyn Cheechoe, Moose Factory Co-op
Jennifer O'Connor, Student
Craig Scott, Ecology North
Brittany Curry-Sharples, Due North/Meal Exchange Working Group
Marc-Antoine Fortin Robitaille, Société du Plan Nord
Tensin Lama, University of Toronto
Judy Halladay, Health Canada-First Nations & Inuit Health Branch
Elsie De Roose, Northern Nutrition Association
Daniel Kanu, Food Matters Manitoba
Tracey Williams, Yellowknife Food Charter
Katelyn Friendship, Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research
Norma Kassi, Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research
Jody Butler Walker, Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research
Molly Pratt, Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research

Scoping the North-How do we define North?

- In Alberta: North of Edmonton
- In Ontario: North Bay/North of Sault Marie
- In BC: North of Prince George
- The greater the dependence on the land, the more “north” it is
- North of 60 degrees latitude
- “North” is based on accessibility and whether a community is fly-in only or has food that is shipped, or trucked in, has a higher cost of living and if people have a connection and dependence on the land. (This also means rural and remote)
- If there is a Northern Store.
- North is the three territories
- Line of discontinuous permafrost

Logistics of a Summit

- The North is vast, travel is expensive-use web technology to have a conference and host conversations. Have localized sessions as a way to engage leaders.
- Do not have to meet face-to-face; use technology and then once the work is done regionally (i.e. in 2 years), then meet to pull it all together.

Scoping of a Summit

- We need to set goals and objectives for the Summit. Are we focusing on developing a Northern Food Strategy? An Indigenous Food Strategy for the North? Is the point to inform the National Food Policy? If the goal is a northern strategy, what will be the outcomes? Will it feed people?
- It is important to keep it localized, so each region and work on their own pieces and then bring it together. Can learn and share from each other and model in other regions.
- Each region has different government structures, which also has to be taken into account (another layer of complexity). Governance and program issues across the North are diverse.
- Summit with both the grassroots and the grass-tips coming together.
- There is opportunity now for federal discussions, and this needs to be taken advantage of.
- Essential to talk to local community leaders and leadership to see what they want to do.
- In the territories, we need to educate our communities and bring leaders up to speed on food insecurity and water issues.
 - * Importance of trade and sharing between communities/Nations
 - * Importance of intergenerational knowledge sharing and revival of land-based skills, cultural revitalization with youth
- Identify common elements and common understanding –sharing what we know.
- Acknowledge the uniqueness of the regions and communities but educate each other and have an umbrella of common understanding (key common themes across the North)
- Pillars to Food Security: Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Biodiversity, Harvesting, Growing, Processing, Distribution, Sharing
- Food is culture
- Find a way to communicate pan-northern to determine issues of commonality
- Have short-term, medium, and long-term goals

Need to Define:

- What are the roles of Southerners in this process?
- What are the short/long term goals, purpose and outcomes of a Summit?
- A process to engage local leadership.