

Advancing Food Security Planning across the North:
Northern Networking and Information Sharing Gathering &
Northern Food Summit Open Space
at Food Secure Canada National Assembly, October 2016

Key Action Items

Northern Food Summit Working Group

- As a group, develop short-term, medium, and long-term goals.
- Reach out to northern regions not represented at the meetings (i.e. Nunavik, Inuvialuit Settlement Region).
- Continue to plan for a Northern Food Summit; as a group, define key goals, timeline, and anticipated outcomes.

Education

- Focus on public education and advocacy (local food production, wild harvesting, access to land, traditional foods, biodiversity protection, water security, human right to food and water, food sovereignty, etc.).
- Andrew Spring to share information about Enactus and Engineers without Borders re: growing innovation in the North.

Communications

- Shift the conversation - We are talking about survival...bigger than food security.
- Find avenues to share-continue to build on the *Northern Food Security Community of Practice*, through ongoing communication opportunities (once per month video/conference call? Website forum? Other?)
- Capitalize on web technology to have further discussions and engage with others in the regions (leadership, youth, etc.).
- Develop processes for sharing and communicating more widely – how can we pull these pieces together into a format where people can share more openly with each other at various levels – local, regional, inter-territorial, nation-to-nation?

Regional Actions

- Each region to draft write-up of key takeaways from the Assembly and the meetings to raise awareness about food, water, and the national food policy. Share through local media/public spaces.
- Each region do own piece of work (i.e. identify strengths and opportunities, define needs, policies, etc.), to inform regional leadership, who could then come together. Share process (i.e. Roundtable).

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- Develop a document that outlines key regional food security initiatives for others to learn from.
- As a group, identify common elements/themes and common understanding –share what we know. Develop a document that outlines common themes across the North.

Political Actions

- Engage Indigenous leadership on the issues of food security and food sovereignty. Facilitate education opportunities and dialogue. Ask local leaders what they want to do, with respect to addressing food insecurity in the North/the region.
- Engage national Indigenous leadership (i.e. AFN, ITK) through key partnerships.
- Share outcomes and process of the northern Ontario regional Chief's meeting on food security to the group. If there have been other similar regional meetings, share as well.
- Need to engage Federal Leadership – buy-in so that anything coming out of Summit and lead-up activities are considered and supported. We need to define how we want them to engage.

Funding

- Source funding to develop community leaders on food and water (climate change) and build capacity and skills within (esp. focus on youth). Local leaders will listen to their community and local champions can lead this.

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, territorial leadership, First Nations/Inuit/Metis leadership, federal leadership.
- Where will financial resources come from to support this work?
- What is the North? Do we need to scope? (many different perspectives)
- What is the role of the federal government and how do we want to engage them?