



MEETING SD 100-19-21

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021
COMMITTEE ROOM 'A' / TELECONFERENCE
10:30 AM**

AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Public Matters
 - a) Technical Briefing on Food Security
5. In-Camera Matters
 - a) Wrap-up discussion
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
7. Adjournment



Detailed Agenda

Item	Recommendation
4. Public Matters	
a) Technical Briefing on Food Security	<i>For Information/ Discussion</i>
5. In-Camera Matters	
a) Wrap-up discussion	<i>For Discussion</i>

Members Telemerge Information	<p>Teleconference Information</p> <p>Join from another GNWT videoconference System: GNWT Boardrooms > Legislative Assembly > GNWT Committee Room A</p> <p>Join via Web Browser: https://join.telemerge.vc/gnwt/#/?conference=38071</p> <p>Join by Phone: 1-647-946-6433, Conference Pin: 45260, ID: 38071</p> <p>Join by Pexip Infinity App (Iphone or Android): vmr.gnwt.committee@telemerge.vc</p> <p>PIN: 45260 ID: 38071</p> <p><u>Please note that Google Chrome is the preferred browser when joining Telemerge.</u></p>
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Food Security in the NWT

A coordinated and strategic approach

Presentation to the Standing Committee on Economic
Development and Environment

December 1st, 2021

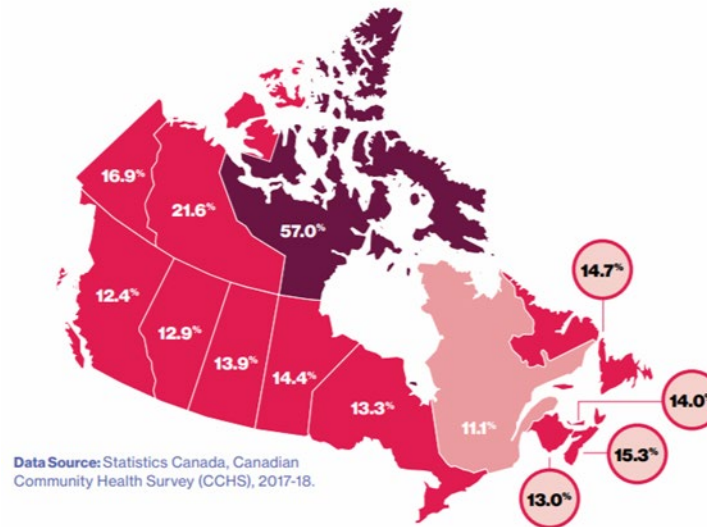


Food Security

The Northwest Territories (NWT) has the second highest rate of food insecurity in the country.

Concerns about existing food security issues in the NWT are being exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation and environmental - emergency events.

Household Food Insecurity *BY PROVINCE & TERRITORY*





19th Assembly's Food Security Mandate SD 100-005

ITI has been tasked to lead departments to:

Increase food security through locally produced, harvested, and affordable food:

- Support the development of the food industry
- Increase country food harvesting
- Work with Canada to increase the flexibility of the Nutrition North Program to better serve NWT residents

Increase food security through locally produced, harvested, and affordable food

Increased local food production can support the GNWT's goal to improve food security across the territory.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Support the development of the food industry	Review and amend regulatory framework to remove barriers that impede NWT residents from developing food production businesses	Completed Fall 2022	Regulatory changes implemented
	Implement a meat inspection regulatory framework for locally produced and sold meat products	Spring 2023	Locally produced meat is available for purchase
	Complete construction of a fish plant in Hay River	Fall 2023	Fish plant construction completed
	Review and amend the Northern Food Development Program, to ensure supports are provided for greenhouses and community gardens	Spring 2021	Supports for greenhouses and community gardens improved
Increase country food harvesting	Work with and support Indigenous governments to develop and deliver culturally-appropriate harvester support programs, such as a Harvester Mentorship Program	Summer 2022	New harvester support programs delivered
Work with Canada to increase the flexibility of the Nutrition North Program to better serve NWT residents	Work with Indigenous and community governments to make recommendations for improvements to the Nutrition North Program	Fall 2021	Recommendations provided to Canada to guide their work

This work will be led by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment with support from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Lands





Food Security:

SD 100-006

Cross Departmental Responsibilities

Department	Program / Responsibility
EIA	Advancement of Nutrition North
ENR	Climate change adaptation programming / research, sustainability initiatives, and harvesting programs, collaborative wildlife management, country food initiatives and research, mentorship and training
HSS	Anti-Poverty Fund, early childhood development programming, Nutrition North education initiatives, Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, legislative and policy development
ITI	Canadian Agricultural Partnership and advancement of the territory's commercial agriculture and fisheries sectors, the Northern Food Development Program.





Food Security: The Need for a Coordinated and Strategic Approach ^{SD 100-007}

- The federal Food Policy for Canada is coordinating Food Security efforts, a coordinated GNWT approach will allow for strategic application to federal and potentially NGO funds.
- Both businesses and communities have limited resources but require support to increase food security.
- GNWT Departments are working together to create pathways for food security support through the Interdepartmental Food Security Working Group.





Food Thresholds – Market Basket Measure

SD 00-008

Province	2019 Food Threshold
Newfoundland and Labrador, rural	13,401
Prince Edward Island, rural	12,966
Nova Scotia, rural	12,939
New Brunswick, rural	13,050
Quebec, rural	11,634
Ontario, rural	10,982
Manitoba, rural	11,377
Saskatchewan, rural	11,462
Alberta, rural	12,757
British Columbia, rural	11,868

NWT Region	2019 Food Threshold*
Beaufort Delta	20,709
Sahtu	22,682
Tłjchq	16,716
Dehcho	17,558
South Slave	16,144
Yellowknife	12,755

*Preliminary

Source: Statistics Canada

Government of
Northwest Territories

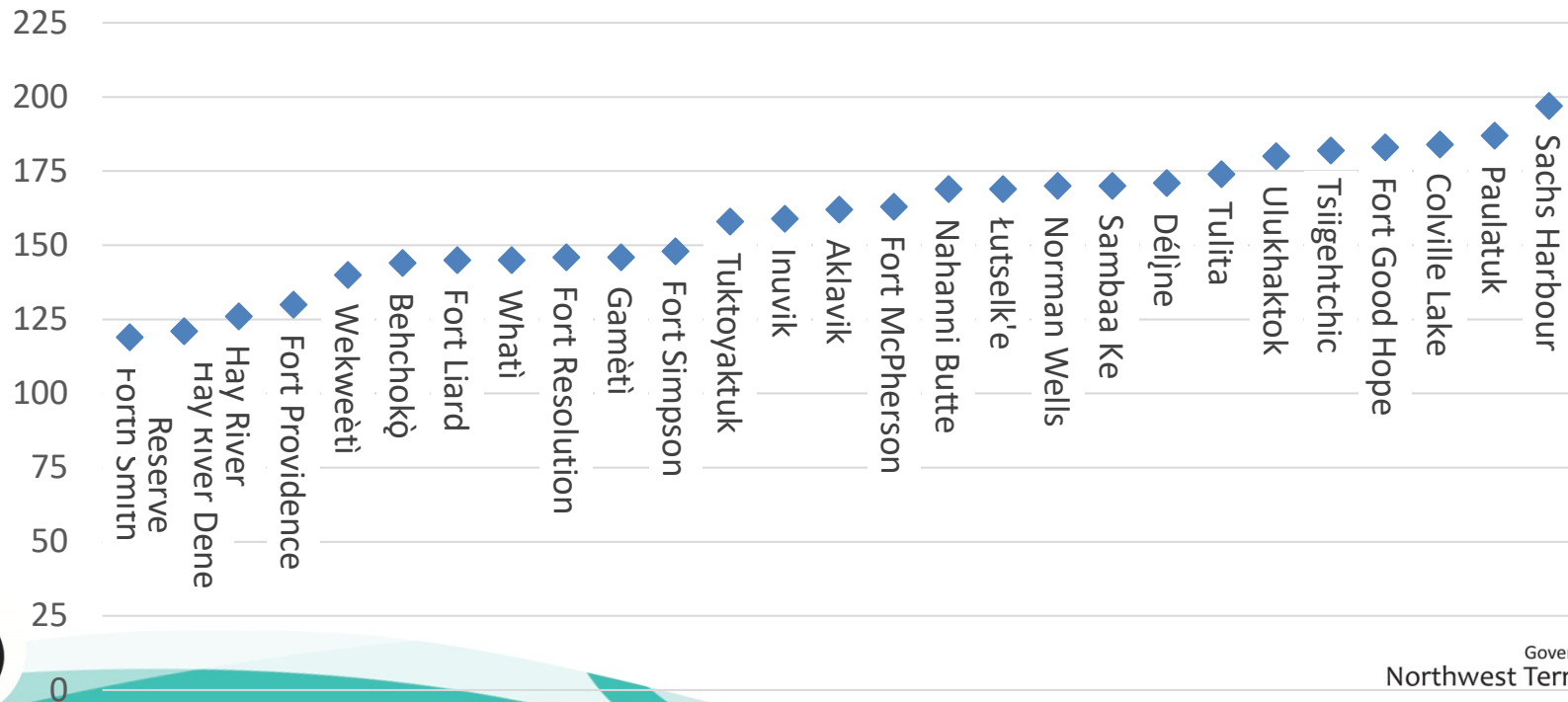




2019 Community Food Price Index

SD 100-009

Yellowknife = 100



Government of
Northwest Territories

Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics



Food Security: Pandemic Focus

- Departments worked to address issues around Food Security
- Specific work with other governments occurred to identify potential avenues for the GNWT to advance food security collaboratively.
- Since the pandemic the federal focus has been on food charity for Canadians experiencing food insecurity with the Emergency Food Security Fund, Surplus Food Rescue Program and the Rural and Northern Capacity Fund





Country Food Security

- Key ENR food security initiatives:
 - ENR Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan 2019-2023
 - Community Harvesters Assistance Program (CHAP)
 - Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation
 - NWT On the Land Collaborative





Country Food Security

- Key ENR food security initiatives:
 - Trapper Training at North Slave Correctional Centre
 - Hunter Education in high schools
 - Take a Family on the Land program



Nutrition North Update

- In April 2020, Canada launched the Harvesters Support Grant, co-developed with IGO partners to improve access to traditional foods and lower the high costs of hunting and harvesting. The Harvesters Support Grant is delivered through Nutrition North Canada.
- In July 2021, Canada announced four new appointments to the Nutrition North Advisory Board, all of whom are northerners, and three of whom are Inuit women. This includes a member from the NWT, Dr. Sarah Jane Cook.
- In August 2021, Canada responded to requests from the Premier and NWT communities for the program to be expanded to communities with seasonal access. Five additional NWT communities are now eligible for the Nutrition North retail subsidy.





ITI Update

- Working with Commercial operators to expand their production
- Start engagement on the New Policy Framework Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (replacing the CAP 2023)
- SCEDE update in new year re implementation and amendments under CAP for food security programming
- Building of CFIA approved Hay River Fish Plant





Notice of Motion 37-19(2): Creation of a Northwest Territories Food Security Strategy

- **Tabled on June 4th 2021, the Motion included requests that the GNWT:**
- Prioritize the development of a Food Security Strategy and coordinate this with the income assistance review
- Identify principles for NWT food security
- Review the effectiveness of all Government of the Northwest Territories food security funding programs
- Implement community based food security coordinators in the most food insecure communities
- Remove all of its legislative regulatory barriers to facilitate regional sharing of harvested meat or other food products
- Pilot an initiative immediately that improves the effectiveness of community-based freezers, kitchens, and food preparation and food storage programs
- Develop and implement tracking of local food production, and set targets
- Create a clear point of contact in the Government of the Northwest Territories to track community concerns and advance initiatives





Notice of Motion 37-19(2): Creation of a Northwest Territories Food Security Strategy SE-100-016

Response: Tabled Nov 22nd 2021

The GNWT is supportive of the intent behind this Notice of Motion and commits to continued interdepartmental collaboration to advance the principles behind it.

- This includes a commitment to have Departments work together on the development of a strategic approach to food security, including staff a Senior Advisor position that will continue the momentum created during 2020-2021





Next Steps

- Ministers have agreed to establish the Senior Advisor position at HSS, as part of the Anti-Poverty unit.
- Development of a strategic approach to food security will take place alongside renewal of the Anti-Poverty Action Plan, which ends in 2022.



Questions?

