Costs and Benefits of Northern Greenhouses
Cost of Healthy Eating

- AANDC reported cost of food in some northern communities more than double the cost in south Saskatchewan
- Median family income in northern Saskatchewan approximately half of the median income of Saskatchewan

High Food Cost + Low Income = Food Insecurity
Profit = TR - TC
Points to Consider

- Typical community less than 1000 people
- Current consumption levels low
- Young, poor population
- Export potential is limited
- Unclear what sustainable price is
Heat Requirement

Peak Requirement

July  Aug  Sept  Oct  Nov  Dec  Jan  Feb  March  April  May  June
Heat Requirement

Peak Requirement

Surplus Capacity

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July  Aug  Sept  Oct  Nov  Dec  Jan  Feb  March  April  May  June
A Full-Cost Accounting Model for Developing Healthy Communities

Proactive Interventions
- Early Childhood Supports
- Early Intervention Health Initiatives
- Prevention Strategies
- Schools and Advanced Education
- Sports and Recreation
- Arts and Culture
- Church Communities
- Community Engagement Activities

These strategies are extremely cost effective ways to enhance healthy communities, but interventions may be difficult to quantify and challenging to access funding.

Healthy Communities
- Healthy citizens
- Balanced Lifestyle
  - Physical
  - Mental
  - Social
  - Spiritual
  - Environmental
- Vibrant Communities
- Employment Opportunities
- Profitable Businesses

It is necessary to think of full cost accounting when paying for interventions for healthy communities.

Reactive Interventions
- Hospitals
- Unemployment Insurance
- Welfare Programs
- Jails
- Traditional Model Food Banks and Soup Kitchens

These interventions are typically extremely expensive for taxpayers and do not provide the ideal quality of life for recipients.
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“food is a holder of culture, a marker of identity, a source of physical and mental health, a way to nurture the planet, and a means to connect with each other”

Nick Saul, President of Community Food Centres Canada
A Different Lens

- Food is not just food
- Community leaders need to be fully engaged
- Need a “whole of government” approach from senior levels of government
- We need to build a rigorous “weight of evidence” case to support the development of local food production capacity
Thank You