The Kuujjuaq Greenhouse Project

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FOOD PRODUCTION
Kuujjuaq, Nunavik – QC

- Population: Approx. 2300
- Largest of the 14 Inuit villages in the region
- An administration and transportation hub

Kuujjuaq

Location

Ellen Avard, 2012
Issues related to the availability, quality and cost of fresh fruit and vegetables in the North.
Objective

• Develop a model for a sustainable, greenhouse-based local food system in Nunavik.

  - One that could target social, economic and environmental issues at the same time as it addresses food security issues.
Methodology

- Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
  - CBPR is scientific inquiry that equitably involves both community stakeholders and investigators at all levels of the research process from design to dissemination \(^{(1)}\).

The Partnership Approach

Kativik Regional Government

Researcher

Municipality

Volunteers

Greenhouse Project

Media

Observers & Supporters

Other Contacts
Project “History”

- **2009** – Preliminary Study (Qualitative Interviews)
- **2010** – Community Consultations
- **2011** – Phase One of Kuujjuaq Greenhouse Project
- **2012** – Phase Two of Kuujjuaq Greenhouse Project
- **2013** – Concluding Study (Qualitative Interviews)
  - Further project development
- 2009 -

Study revealed precedents for greenhouses & gardening in Kuujjuaq and in Nunavik

- Catholic Missions; Hudson Bay Company
- Government Farm 1950-60; Potatoes at Fort Chimo
- Community Greenhouse; Personal Greenhouses
Overall, community members thought that it was a good idea to have a greenhouse project in Kuujjuaq.
Community Feedback (meetings & consultations):

- Food production (nutrition) a good idea, but can we also use the greenhouse project for:
  - Job creation?
  - Social re-integration & horticultural therapy?
  - Activities for children and youth?
  - Flowers?

Social Economy Project

- Use greenhouse to help build “Community Capacity”
- 2010 -

- Local, regional and provincial organizations backed greenhouse pilot project development

- Greenhouse development included in “Plan Nord”

- Greenhouse development included in “Nord-du-Québec Bio-Food Network”
Kuujjuaq Greenhouse Project
Phase 1 & 2
(Planning and development of horticultural micro-projects)
Community Garden

Ellen Avard, 2012

Eva Gunn, 2012
New Greenhouse

Isabelle Champagne, 2011

Ellen Avard, 2012 & 2013
Compost
Supervised Apartments (Sept. 2013)

Marc-André Lamontagne, 2015
School – Grade 4’s visit
Daycare
Upcoming Projects:

- **Youth Garden Project**
  - KRG’s Youth Employment Services – Y.E.S.

- **Hydroponic Test**
  - Pilot Project at Kuujjuamiut Inc. office
- 2013 -

- Still a great deal of interest in the greenhouse project from community members and local leaders
  - Seen as a viable way to address food security concerns
- Will be essential to involve children and youth
- Open to alternative horticultural strategies
  - i.e.: hydroponics, aquaponics, indoor farming, etc.
- Strawberries and raspberries would be “winners”
- Keys to success:
  - Local governance
  - “Project champion(s)”
A Partnership Approach to a Problem

**Problem:** Needed good quality soil

**Solution:** “COMPOST PROJECT”

- **Multiple partners:**
  - Ungava Supervised Apartments, Local Volunteers, Université Laval
  - Local Food Stores, Construction Camps, Daycares, Nunavik Research Centre
  - Kativik Regional Government, Northern Village of Kuujjuaq, Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

**Results:**

- Created soil
- Diverted waste from landfill
- Integrated companies into the community
- Created employment for people with disabilities
Conclusion

- When local agriculture and food production are integrated into the community, food becomes part of a community’s problem-solving capacity, rather than just a commodity that is bought and sold (2).

Thank-you
- Nakurmiik -

QUESTIONS ?