My Homelands,
Dempster Highway, Yukon
Our Changing Homelands Our Changing Lives

Norma Kassi
Director, Indigenous Collaboration
Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research
For Northern Health and Well-Being
YUKON, CANADA
About Us ...

- Our parent organization, AHRN-YT, was formed in 2007 as part of a tri-territorial health research network linking Northern regions.

- Our mission is to facilitate and promote northern-led community-based health research activities aimed at improving the health of Northerners.

- We incorporate the principles of Community-Based Research, Ethics, Knowledge Translation and Capacity Building into our approach with all initiatives.

- Our Priorities are: Food Security, Climate Change, Youth Engagement and Capacity Building, Injury Prevention, Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Lifestyles.

For more information visit us online at: www.aicbr.ca
Yukon is one of the most rapidly warming regions on the planet.
Hard times are coming, one day caribou and fish will be gone, then what you gonna do? You guys have to teach the younger people how to live in the future, make them strong again, only way. And look after our water-keep it clean.

Vuntut Gwitchin Elder John Joe Kaye
Healthy Lakes: Crow Flats
Summer 2006
Our Changing Homelands, Our Changing Lives
Food Security
Old Crow Grocery Prices

- 2L milk $7.35
- 10 lbs. flour $64.49
- Pampers $36.50
- Tide $21.69
- 1 doz. eggs $4.35
- 1 lb. butter $6.99
Vuntut Gwitchin Climate Change and Health Research in Northern Yukon:
What do our Changing Homelands Mean for our Health?

2008-2011

Funded by:
Our Changing Homelands, Our Changing Lives
Climate Change Workshop
January 27-30, 2009
January 2009
What We Did... Spring 2009

- Youth trained on how to do research and filmmaking
- Interviewed 35 people in the community on a long-term food security strategy
- Community Newsletter and Final Report
- Our Changing Homelands Our Changing Lives DVD
What People Said...

- Long-term storage facility for dry goods, emergency supplies, and tools
- Gardening
- Possibilities of animal farming
- Identification of where the small animals and fish are living around the community so they can be harvested during hard times
Community Action on Climate Change & Food Security Adaptation in Old Crow

2010-2011
Who did we talk to?

- Renewable Resource Council
- Elders
- Knowledge Experts
- Young Leaders
What did we talk about?

Develop plans for:

- Long-term storage facility
- Animal Husbandry
- Building cultural and land-based skills
- Fish and wildlife surveys
Next Steps in Old Crow

- Leadership and community to implement recommendations
- Community and family gardens
- Raising poultry (turkeys, chickens)
- Cultural land-based activities for youth and young mothers
Pan Arctic Results Workshop

- February 8-10, 2011; Ottawa
- Sharing of projects from across the North
- 8 projects from the Yukon
- National premiere of *Our Changing Homelands Our Changing Lives*
CROSS-BORDER DIMENSIONS OF VUNTUT GWITCHIN FOOD SECURITY (2010-2011)

Norma Kassi, Glenna Tetlichi, Brianna Tetlichi, Daniel Frost, Sheila Kyikavichik, Stan Njootli, Jody Butler Walker, Tobi Jeans, David Natcher
Vuntut Gwitchin Regional Food Sharing Network (Giving)

6200 kg of Traditional Food Given

- Old Crow
  - Fort Yukon: 734 kg
  - Arctic Village: 4251 kg
  - Venetie
  - Chalkyitsik
  - Birch Creek
  - Circle

- Whitehorse: 4251 kg
- Inuvik: 924 kg
- Fort McPherson: 83 kg
- Tsligehtchic: 62 kg
- Aklavik
- Dawson City, Haines, Pelly Crossing, Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Toronto, Halifax, Washington, DC

US/Canada

YT/NWT

Alaska

NWT

YT
Vuntut Gwitchin Regional Food Sharing Network (Receiving)

- **Old Crow**: 601 kg of Traditional Food Received
  - **Inuvik**: 130 kg
  - **Fort McPherson**: 84 kg
  - **Mayo, Haines Junction**: 55 kg
  - **Tsligehtchic**: 55 kg
  - **Aklavik**: 55 kg
  - **US/Canada**: 277 kg
  - **Venetie**: 55 kg
  - **Arctic Village**: 55 kg
  - **Fort Yukon**: 55 kg
  - **Birch Creek**: 55 kg
  - **Circle**: 55 kg
  - **Whitehorse**: 55 kg

Map showing locations in Alaska, NWT, YT, and NWT.
NOTED BARRIERS AFFECTING FOOD SHARING

- Intrusive and excessive paperwork (i.e., Import/Export Permits) and RCMP involvement (hunters).
- Requirement for Customs and Immigration notification.
- No longer a customs office located in Ft. Yukon.
- Inconsistent border enforcement which has created uncertainty among some Old Crow residents.
- Costs of air and river travel.
- Declining food sources.
- Restrictions on transporting traditional foods.

Slide courtesy of David Natcher, Ph.D.
July 2012

Water wreaking havoc
Upper Liard homes flooded; highway’s closure sees food flown to Whitehorse...

Washouts sever highway
Ariery closed south of Teslin, north of Haines Junction, stranding travellers...4,5

Some flood-stricken homes beyond salvation
Residents, officials assess flood’s devastation

Crucial highway link to the South restored

Extreme weather events may happen more often

The Whitehorse STAR, Tuesday, June 12, 2012

The Whitehorse STAR, Monday, June 11, 2012
Yukon-wide: Flooding and Food Shortages

- Road closures in southern Yukon
- Whitehorse grocery stores without food
- Huge impact on outlying communities
- Use of Hercules to ship in food
- A reality check for the Yukon
Food System Design and Planning for Yukon Territory

- Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Vancouver)
- Yukon partners, (Yukon Agriculture Association, Yukon Government, AICBR and others)
- Roadmap for Yukon’s food system to increase our ability to be self-sufficient and food secure
Yukon Food System Design and Plan

Engage breadth of stakeholders:
- Agriculture sector, agri-food businesses, Yukon community members (Indigenous and non-indigenous), NGOs, government (all levels)

To identify strategies to:
- Increase regional food self-reliance
- Enhance agriculture’s contribution to Yukon economy
  - Farming and ancillary business opportunities, generation of income, and creation of good jobs for Yukoners
- Address critical environmental challenges (climate change, biodiversity)
- Build community/social capital through agri-food

Project sponsored and funded by Yukon Agricultural Association and Canadian Agriculture Adaptation Program Council (Yukon). Research led by Institute for Sustainable Food Systems.
Canada urgently needs a National Food Policy, including:

- A children and food strategy
- A federal poverty elimination and prevention program
- A widespread shift to ecological production
- That takes into consideration the distinct needs and priorities of each of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Food Secure Canada is a pan-Canadian alliance of organizations and individuals working together to advance food security and food sovereignty.

The Indigenous Circle is a space where Indigenous People and non-Indigenous allies can share, strategize, and act to ensure food sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples.

www.foodsecurecanada.org
Mah’si Cho!

Norma Kassi
Director, Indigenous Collaboration
norma@aicbr.ca