

# Strengthening Sustainable Northern Food Systems: Federal Policy Constraints and Potential Opportunities

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## APPENDIX 1: Conceptual Approach to the Literature Review and Knowledge Synthesis

### Regional Scope:

Northwest Territories  
Nunavut  
Yukon  
Nunavik  
Nunatsiavut

### Sources:

*Academic literature:* Lit Review Google Drive (populated by team members), key academic journals (including Proquest Social Sciences, JSTOR, GeoBase, Web of Science, Caninuit, First Nations Periodical Index, Native Health Database, and Circumpolar Health Bibliographic Database), targeted searches for specific Indigenous focused non-indexed journals and Indigenous scholars.  
*Government publications:* Government of Canada Public Opinion Research Reports, Canadian Public Policy Collection, Statistics Canada data including Canadian Community Health Survey, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, Northern Economic Index.  
*Community and non-governmental research and reports:* Reports and joint publications from Food Secure Canada, the Arctic Institute of Community-based Research, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Gordon Foundation, Northern Public Affairs, Action Canada, Ecology North, the Northern Farm Training Institute, Food First Newfoundland and Labrador and others.

### General Research Questions:

What is the state of knowledge on production/harvesting, processing, distribution, consumption in the North?  
What is the current state of food production/harvesting, processing and distribution (depending on the theme you are working on) in the territories and regions north of 60°?  
According to current research, what are the environmental, social, and economic impacts of this current food system?  
What are the key underlying reasons for the current state of northern food systems? How can this be remedied?

### Theme Specific Questions:

#### 1. Production/Harvest

Includes country and traditional foods, gardening and agricultural production, community level and self-provisioning.  
Brief context: What are the key social/historical/economic/environmental/political factors shaping food production in the North?  
What foods are commonly produced/harvested in the North? What are the dominant methods and modes of food production/harvest?  
What percentage of food is produced or harvested locally/regionally in the North?  
What are the key challenges and barriers to regional food production and harvest?  
What are the key opportunities or promising initiatives that could be scaled-up or replicated across the northern region?  
What are the key commonalities or differences across the five regions?  
What are specific case studies or examples to highlight from the literature?

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## *2. Transportation and Processing*

Includes air, marine and road transportation, value-added and preserving.

Brief context: What are the key social/historical/economic/environmental/political factors shaping food transportation and processing in the North?

What are the dominant modes of food transportation both into and across regions in the North?

What percentage of food is imported into the North?

What is the current processing capacity within the North (value-added, preserving, etc.) at the household, community, and commercial level?

What are the key challenges related to existing transportation and distribution networks (e.g., cost, frequency, lack of regional distribution hubs)?

What are the key opportunities or promising initiatives that could be scaled-up or replicated across the northern region?

What are the key commonalities or differences across the five regions?

## *3. Distribution*

Includes retail markets, farmers markets, and direct consumer-producer relationships, non-market avenues (including social and community programs), and regional networks.

What are the key social/historical/economic/environmental/political factors shaping food distribution and exchange in the North?

What are the dominant modes of food exchange and distribution in the North?

What are the key challenges or obstacles?

What are the key opportunities or promising initiatives that could be scaled-up or replicated across the northern region?

What are the key commonalities or differences across the five regions?

## *4. Retail*

Including access, quality, and nutrition.

What are the key social/historical/economic/environmental/political factors shaping food consumption patterns in the North?

What are the levels of food insecurity and food prices?

What are the key issues in relation to food access (including consideration of quality, health and nutrition)?

What are the key opportunities or promising initiatives that could be scaled-up or replicated across the northern region?

What are specific case studies or examples to highlight from the literature?

What are the key commonalities or differences across the five regions?

## *5. Food Skills, Knowledge, and Culture*

Includes indigenous food systems knowledge and food provisioning skills.

What are the key issues discussed in the existing research and literature in relation to food skills, knowledge, and culture?

How does culture influence and shape issues of food security and sustainable food systems?

What are the key opportunities or promising initiatives that could be scaled-up or replicated across the northern region?

What are specific case studies or examples to highlight from the literature?

What are the key commonalities or differences across the five regions?

## *6. Food System Coordination and Networks*

Includes producer associations, regional distribution hubs, capacity-building networks, community and regional strategies, and decision-making bodies.

## *7. Policies and Programs*

What current policies exist and how do they impact food security and food sovereignty in northern regions?

What policy barriers or challenges exist? Highlight key cases and examples.

Identify policy gaps and key areas for policy intervention.