



**CIER**  
Centre for Indigenous  
Environmental Resources

# Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Security – National Survey Results

February 1, 2024



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# Overview

- Background on the national survey
- Key themes:
  - Personal health, availability, food safety and supply
  - Food security initiatives and forward-looking strategies
- Background on key informant interviews
- Major challenges and strategies
- Key takeaways

# National Survey

- CIER identified contacts involved in food security-climate change activities
- The survey was developed with NCCID and distributed online
- Purpose: To gather information on Indigenous food security and sovereignty



## Key Themes

- Personal health
- Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge
- Independence and accessibility to healthy food
- High costs of obtaining food
- Sustainability of traditional food systems



# Climate Change & Food Security

- Disruption of economic and social systems
- Issues from extreme weather events
- Food safety
- Food supply



# Food Security Initiatives



Direct harvesting of traditional foods



“Backpack” program for children



Friendship Centre “country food orders”



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# Other Strategies

- General food bank programs
- Direct subsidy payments
- Community freezers



# Forward-Looking Strategies

- Collecting Indigenous and heirloom seeds
- Supporting food security research
- Year-round greenhouses





# Forward-Looking Strategies

- Indigenous-run grocery stores
- Supporting Traditional Knowledge sharing
- Facilitating the sharing of traditional foods



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# Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Security – Interview Results

# Key Informant Interviews

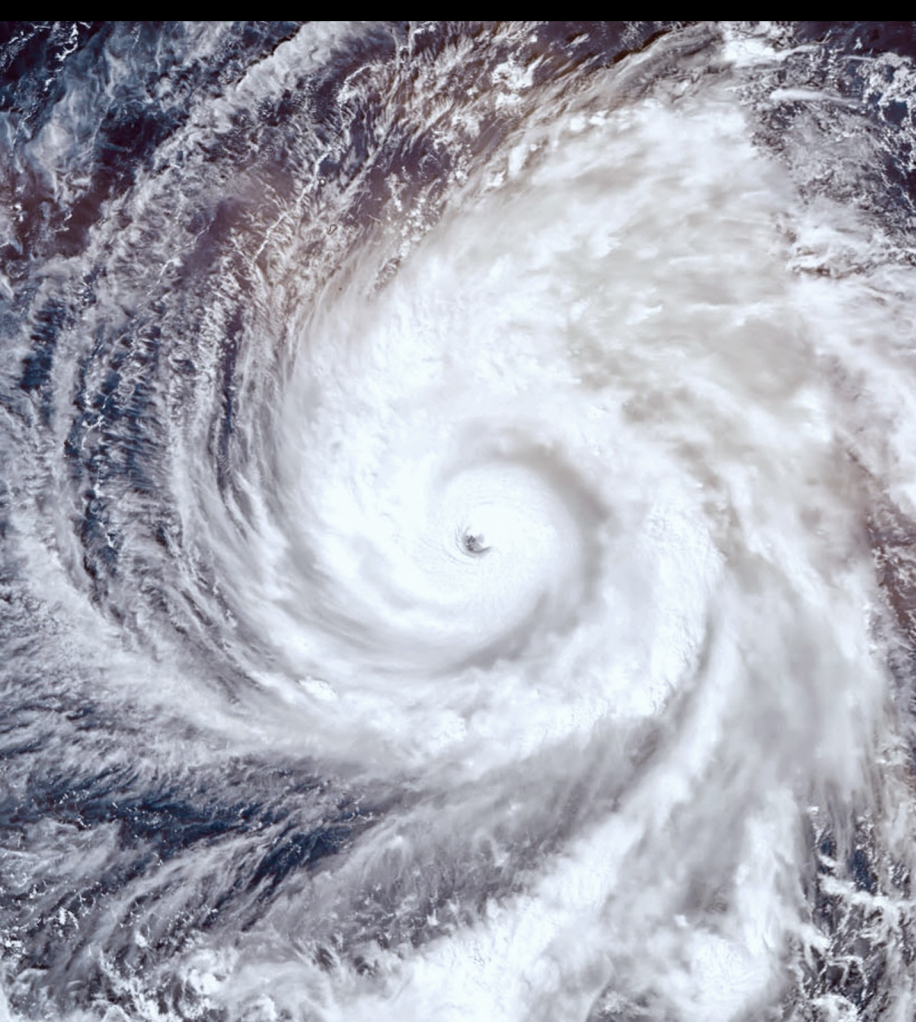
- Participants with unique perspectives and relations to key themes were identified
- Eight individuals were interviewed
- Purpose: To gain a stronger understanding of food security challenges





# Social Issues

- Underlying stressors of food insecurity:
  - Poverty
  - Overcrowding in homes
  - Poor education and training opportunities
- Mentioned by 88% of respondents



# Climate Change

- More air transportation of goods due to thawing ice
- Decline in seal populations
- Reduced salmon populations from changing water temperatures
- Animal migration to new habitats





## Cultural Aspects

- Loss of culture and connection to traditional foods



## Health Impacts

- Store-bought foods present health issues such as:
  - Diabetes
  - Obesity
  - Mental health disorder
- Nutritional deficiencies in children and Elders



# Innovative Ideas

- Community gardens and greenhouses
- Trading relationships
- Better air transportation services



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# Key Takeaways

- Improved availability and connection to traditional food is vital
- Food sharing programs are important for food sovereignty and cultural preservation
- Knowledge sharing is a key component
- Sustainable funding is imperative





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THANK YOU