Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Security – National Survey Results

February 1, 2024
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”
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
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
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