

# A critical analysis of Nutrition North Canada using a food sovereignty perspective

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# Objectives

- To highlight the current way in which we approach food security issues by detailing what food security is and how that informs our policies.
- To show how **food sovereignty** may be used as an approach towards the design of Northern food policies.

# Food Security

- “[...]when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic **access** to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” (UNFAO, 2002)
- Three Dimensions (Power, 2008) :
  - Access
  - Availability
  - Utilization



# Food in Nunavut costs twice as much as Canadian average

Bureau of Statistics survey compared food prices in Nunavut with rest of Canada

CBC News Posted: Jul 15, 2015 11:07 AM CT | Last Updated: Jul 15, 2015 11:07 AM CT

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INTERACTIVE GRAPHIC

## Speaking out against \$600-a-week grocery bills

INGRID PERITZ

# Food-cost crisis shames Far North: 'We can't pretend it doesn't exist anymore'

CTV NEWS VIDEO NETWORK

Sources:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/food-in-nunavut-costs-twice-as-much-as-canadian-average-1.3152896>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/the-north/why-is-food-so-expensive-in-nunavut-shop-for-yourself-and-find-out/article15915054/>

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/food-cost-crisis-shames-far-north-we-can-t-pretend-it-doesn-t-exist-anymore-1.2202179>

# Food Insecurity

- “ [...] whenever the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways is limited or uncertain.”  
(Life Sciences Research Office of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, 1990)

# Nutrition North Canada

- Program started in 2004 starting with the Harper Conservative Government
- Replaced the Federal Food Mail Program
- Provision of subsidies to market food retailers – the idea was to pass on savings to consumers

# Critiques of Nutrition North Canada

- Auditor General of Canada (2014) Report:
  - Lack of accountability and enforcement led to a situation where subsidies were not completely passed on to consumers
- Next Steps:
  - Liberal Government – Additional \$13.8 Million / year of funding for 5 years
  - Public Consultations

# Food Sovereignty

- “[...] the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and **their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.**” (Wittman, 2011).



# Food Sovereignty

- Structural inequities that perpetuate political, social, and economic injustices affect the production, distribution, and consumption of food
- Communities should define the means of production, distribution, and supply of their foods
  - → Self-Determination
- Land and food are at the centre of Indigeneity

# Food Sovereignty

- Ecuadorian constitution endorsed food sovereignty as a government priority (Giunta, 2013)
- Ensured right to produce and consume food in accordance to local cultures and identities
- Policies promoted:
  - Short supply chains
  - Local food development,
  - Prohibition of food monopolies
  - Fair relationships between producers and consumers

# Food Sovereignty and NNC

- NNC does not empower local populations
- NNC does not support country food system
- NNC does not promote self-determination of local Indigenous populations

# Food Sovereignty and Possible Next Steps

- Promote and reinvigorate country food systems
  - Financial support for programs like the Hunters Support Program; Community Freezers
- Have Inuit communities at the helm at policy-making

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# Thank you!

## Questions?

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