Climate change and food security in regional Inuit centers

Summary

Project Leader

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Food insecurity is a chronic problem affecting many Inuit communities and is likely to predispose Inuit food systems to the negative effects of climate change. Using in-depth case studies, this project has identified and characterized the vulnerability and resilience of food systems in four regional Inuit centers to climate change (RICs) (Iqaluit, Arviat, Inuvik and Kuujjuak). Given the limited work on food systems in these communities, the work was structured around 2 phases. Phase 1 aimed to: i). document and describe the nature of food insecurity among at-risk populations in RICs, ii). characterize the environmental, biological and socio-economic determinants of food insecurity at various scales; iii). document coping strategies to manage food insecurity, and iv). examine the pathways through which climate change might affect food insecurity for at-risk peoples in RICs. Phase 2 has focused on policy linkages, and has sought to identify opportunities and priorities for adaptation intervention to enhance food security among high risk populations in the context of rapid current and future change, working closely with decision makers at multiple levels. In the final year of the project (2014/15) there has been a strong emphasis on knowledge translation in partner communities and at the regional level, including a multi-day workshop held in Iqaluit in June, along with the completion of student projects focusing on community identified research needs. The final year has also begun to develop new projects and collaboration to continue the work on completion through ArcticNet, including a targeted focus on food security among children in Iqaluit, the gendered dimensions of food insecurity in RICs in a changing climate, and examining what we can learn from Greenland for food programing in Nunavut (funded through the Government of Nunavut).

People

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Partners

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Government of Nunavut
IDRC
Nunavut Research Institute
Public Health Agency of Canada

Publications

Articles Published in Refereed Publications

Beaumier, M. Ford, J. et al, 2013, What role does climate change play in affecting the food security of Inuit women in the Canadian North: A case study from Arviat, Nunavut, BMC Public Health., , Submitted

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Hibbert, B., 2014, Heroes for the Helpless': Using National Media to Maintain Settler Dominance in the Canadian Arctic, MA Thesis, , Submitted

Prepared for Department of Health and Social Services, Government of Nunavut, Iqaluit, Nunavut, 2012, Policy Options and Recommendations for Addressing Food (In)security in Nunavut: Synthesis Document., Prepared for Department of Health and Social Services, Government of Nunavut, Iqaluit, Nunavut, 1-10, Published