



Overcoming Aboriginal Food Insecurity in Canada

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OUTLINE

- Where does the Idea of Future Generations come from
- Project “Overcoming Aboriginal Food Insecurity: Solutions from the course CFNY 404 Food Policy and Programs for Food Security”
- Key challenges to food security and sustainable agriculture in Arctic
- The Nutrition North food subsidy program
- Case: Netukulimk
- Q to discuss
- Q&A



OUR SOLUTIONS ARE SUSTAINABLE



SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

A process of creating sustainable, successful places that promote wellbeing, by understanding what people need from the places they live and work in.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The rates of renewable resource harvest, pollution creation, and non-renewable resource depletion that can be continued indefinitely. Lifestyle of Voluntary Simplicity & Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability.



ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The ability of an economy to support a defined level of economic production indefinitely.

Where does the Idea of Future Generations Come From

The "in our every deliberation we must consider the **impact** of our decisions **on the next seven generations**" - wisdom of Gayaneshakgowa, the Great Law of Peace of the Hau de no sau nee, the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy.

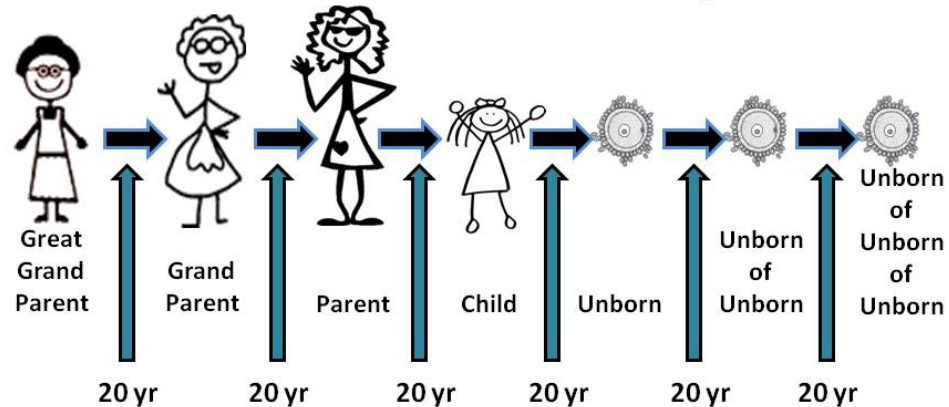


Mi'kmaw Nation, northeastern New England, Canada's Atlantic Provinces, and the Gaspé Peninsula

a Mi'kmaw understanding

SEVEN GENERATIONS \approx 840 years

ONE GENERATION \approx 120 years



2 ZERO
HUNGER



Insights about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets, and 241 proposed indicators

**Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition
and promote sustainable agriculture**

Ryerson Students' Union issues demands for Indigenous justice



“Overcoming Aboriginal Food Insecurity: Solutions from the course CFNY 404 Food Policy and Programs for Food Security”

A grant from the Aboriginal Education Council at Ryerson University

Allowed to hire an Aboriginal research assistant and an instructor to achieve the project goals

“States should prevent third parties from destroying sources of food by, for instance, polluting land, water and air with hazardous industrial or agricultural products or destroying the ancestral lands of indigenous peoples”.

The UN’s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

In Canada, Aboriginal people face "the deep and severe food insecurity"

(The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Olivier De Schutter).

Role of legislation

- Aboriginal rights are in part defined and delimited through litigation and negotiation.
- Federal and provincial legislation is an appropriate way to protect Aboriginal food security for nutritional, cultural and economic reasons.

Key challenges to food security and sustainable agriculture across the Arctic are:

- High transportation costs are often coupled with economic vulnerability;
- Decreasing consumption of country (traditional) foods

Exacerbating these challenges are major issues linked to:

- contaminants and
- climate change.



ATTACHING A WALRUS

Examples of climate change issues:

- Thinning sea ice that makes hunting much more dangerous
- Hunting routes near shorelines have disappeared due to erosion brought on by the thawing of permafrost
- Hunters have to travel further to access wildlife
- Formerly safe travel routes have become insecure due to a warming climate and melting ice
- Wildlife habits and migration routes are changing
- Higher winds are making travel and hunting dangerous by boat in summer
- Changes to permafrost affect fish species
- Species are disappearing
- Extreme alteration of spring run-off patterns
- Northward shift in seal habitats
- Rising sea levels with more tidal fluctuations
- Increased flooding in winter due to lessened or disappearing pack ice that normally protects shorelines and villages.

ARCTIC CHANGE 2014

8-12 DECEMBER - OTTAWA CONVENTION CENTRE - OTTAWA, CANADA



Provide better access to country food and support traditional Inuit food practices.



The Nutrition North food subsidy program

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada has not done enough to meet the objective of making healthy foods more accessible and affordable to residents of isolated northern communities.

Video: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_vid_e_39997.html

Lower or subsidize cargo and freight transportation costs.



ISSP-CSP STUDY GUIDE



FIRST EDITION, 2017

A case in point: communicating efforts to address unsafe water issues for the First Nations of Canada (see ISSP-CSP Guide).

With more than 80 communities under “boiled water advisories” and 21 deemed at high-risk for contamination, the First Nations of northern Ontario required urgent federal government assistance. So, the federal government--through the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)--began financing the construction of water infrastructure projects for First Nations on Reserve.

Link:

<https://www.sustainabilityprofessionals.org/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=5856>

Case Study: Netukulimk



Seeking Netukulimk



The concept of netukulimk is

- a framework of laws recognizing the **interconnection of every animate life form and inanimate object**
- **ensuring and honouring sustainability and prosperity for the ancestor, present and future generations**
- about respect, reverence, responsibility, and reciprocity
- Its practice and philosophy embrace coexistence, inter-dependence and community spirit.

Seeking Netukulimk



Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrk3ZI_2Dd0

The teachings of netukulimk provide guidance for uniquely Mi'kmaw approaches to resource utilization and regulation that have the potential to frame **sustainable natural resource management** and inform culturally aligned governance strategies against those imposed upon them by the state and its agents. The Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources has established **Mi'kmaw moose hunting guidelines** in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources based on the concept. (McMillan & Prosper 2016:641).



Albert Marshall
Elder, Eskasoni First Nation

Netukulimk means that I cannot take too much of anything.

Two-Eyed Seeing

Co-creator and proponent of **Two-Eyed Seeing**, Elder Albert Marshall:

“we need to embark on a co-learning journey of Two-Eyed Seeing in which our two paradigms (western and Indigenous) will be put on the table to be scrutinized. We need to honestly be able to say that the essence, the spirit of our two ways, has been respected as we work to balance the energies of those ways. We need to put the two together, such that we have something so profound that we can sustain ourselves and at the same time be very cognizant that our actions of today do not jeopardize the **ecological integrity** of area. Our actions have to be seen to be **beneficial for people of the next generation**”.

How to mainstream Two-Eyed Seeing from Aboriginal people of Canada in research and practice?



