



UAKN
Urban Aboriginal
Knowledge Network

RCdU
Réseau de connaissances des
Autochtones en milieu urbain

RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY Prairie Research Centre

Name of Project:

A Critical Examination of Household Food Practices in Saskatoon's Inner City

Research Start-up Summary and Abstract:

This research looks at how urban areas have become a locus for the development of alternative food networks. An alternative food network (AFN) is a broad term that encompasses networks of producers, consumers and other actors. They are alternatives to the standard industrial food supply, typically accessed through conventional grocery stores, which we assume are the dominant means of food procurement by the vast majority of urban people. AFN producers include, for example, farmers, hunters and gatherers. AFN 'other actors' include, amongst others, community-based food interventions, which are food procurement and healthy eating initiatives offered by a non-profit/charitable or health organization. While some community-based food interventions (such as Good Food Box or Fruit and Vegetable Market programs) target underserved groups, AFNs have been criticized as marginalizing people of lower socioeconomic status. Therefore the extent to which the urban poor are marginalized from or are in fact participating in emerging alternative networks is unclear because AFNs in urban areas have been under-studied.

This research aims to study the food practices of urban Aboriginal households, as it examines how AFN can contribute to cultural resilience and resistance and the improved wellbeing of individuals and households within the context of daily life.

This study will be carried out in close partnership with three organizations that have a significant interest in and expertise to inform both its focus and implementation. These include the Saskatoon Tribal Council (Ceal Tournier), the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers' Association Cooperative (Clifford Ray) and the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (Bill Mintram).

Engagement objectives:

The study will include collection of in-depth qualitative data using interviews, observation and photography.

Research Questions:

What are the food practices of Indigenous households living within Saskatoon's inner city neighborhoods?

What are the perceived and experienced barriers to participating in community-based food interventions and other aspects of alternative food networks in Saskatoon's inner city neighborhoods?
How might these barriers be overcome?

Name of Principal Investigator:

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Collaborating Friendship Centre and/or other urban Aboriginal organization:

Northern Saskatchewan Trappers' Association Cooperative
Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre

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