

# THE ARCTIC AS A FOOD PRODUCING REGION

Canadian Permanent Participant Steering Committee | AAC /GCI / ICC (Canada)

## Objectives

1. Define the role of the SC and the SC Coordinator.
2. Provide background and update on overall project status.
3. Identify regional sub-projects.

## Next Steps

1. Find a long-term host for the Food Inventory Map.
2. Develop a Communications Strategy to disseminate research results broadly both within Northern communities and to a wider-audience.
3. Meet in Whitehorse in February 2018.

## Participants

Selma Ford (ICC-Canada)  
 Norma Kassi (GCI)  
 Camilia Zoe-Chocolate (AAC)  
 David Natcher (Principal Investigator)  
 Sara French (Steering Committee Coordinator)

## Summary

In September 2017, a Canadian Permanent Participant Steering Committee was struck for the Sustainable Development Working Group project, *Arctic as a Food Producing Region*. The Steering Committee is assisted by a dedicated Coordinator and met for the first time in person on December 8, 2017.

The Principal Investigator – Dr. David Natcher (University of Saskatchewan) – began the day by providing a detailed overview of the project, including specific sub-initiatives and initial findings. The main goal of the project is to look at ways to lessen the North's dependence on food imports, particularly nutritionally-deficit meat imports.

The project has been running for a year, focusing mostly on desktop, rather than field research (which is intended to be a bigger focus in the second phase of the project).

Ongoing research includes:

1. an investigation of the legal aspects of the sale and barter of country foods, including international treaties, court decisions, and land claims;
2. detailing the value chain of country foods; and
3. exploring the constraints related to food safety at the local level.

Possible Phase II research initiatives discussed included an assessment of community gardens and greenhouse with the aim to study their impacts on foods insecurity and ability to promote healthy eating; and the feasibility of s an Arctic Food Cluster to connect northern food producers with southern-based investors that have a knowledge and interest in Arctic food industries.