

Building Sustainable Local Food Solutions Webinar

November 14, 2019

Please note that this webinar will be recorded.
Questions can be submitted through the Q&A function
or the Chat Box.



The Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative www.nmfccc.ca

Started in 2014 at the request of Northern communities
for a relational partners that work together.

Who?

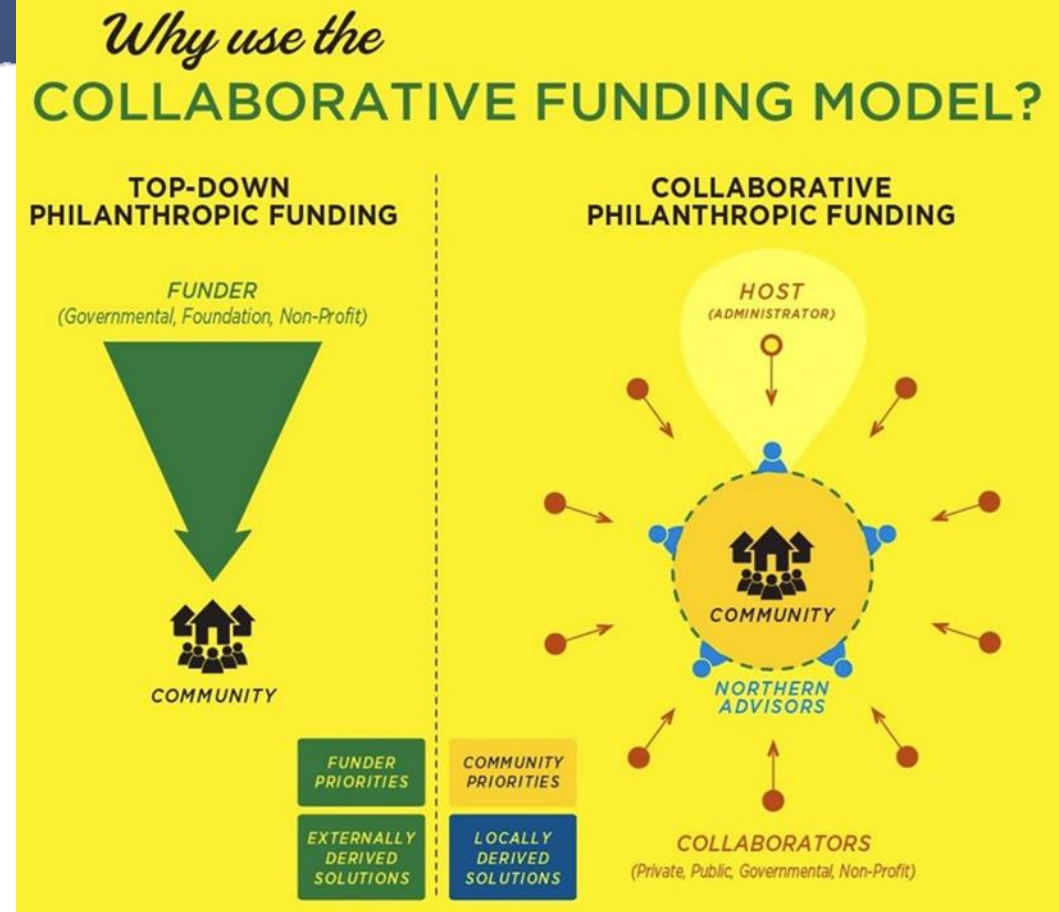
- 6 Northern Advisers
- 12+ contributing member organizations
- 2 staff people
- Hosted by Tides Canada



The Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative



- Actions:
 - **Granting:** Resourcing communities to move their work forward
 - **North-to-North Gatherings:** Supporting people to gather in their territory and share knowledge
 - **Deep Funder Learning:** Opening hearts and minds to a new way



The Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative





Sophia
Rabliauskas

- Northern Advisor
- Poplar River First Nation
- Pimachiowin Aki – UNESCO World Heritage Site



Building Sustainable Local Food Solutions: How Some Canadian Indigenous Communities Are Using The Social and Solidarity Economy To Implement Zero Hunger

Jennifer Sumner, M. Derya Tarhan, JJ McMurtry
OISE/University of Toronto, York University
UNTFSSSE Conference
Geneva, Switzerland, June 26, 2019



Background

- We are settler researchers who study the social and solidarity economy in Canada
- We are interested in understanding how Indigenous communities use the social and solidarity economy
 - Initiatives like community gardens and co-operatives that aim to address issues of hunger
- The UN Taskforce on Social and Solidarity Economy
 - How the SSE can help to implement the Sustainable Development Goals

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

- Involves forms of economic activity that prioritise social and often environmental objectives
- Includes producers, workers, consumers and citizens acting collectively and in solidarity
- Examples: Co-operatives, non-profits, fair-trade networks, social enterprises
- SSE has the ability to deliver an enormous range of goods and services to:
 - Those who can afford them
 - Those who cannot
- But does the SSE deliver on this promise?
 - Food?



Moose and Bannock Sandwich with Butternut Squash and Apple Soup

Social and Solidarity Economy and Food

Michelle Brandon from Waywayseecappo First Nation Smoking Meat



- Food is central to considerations of the SSE
- Examples of food and the SSE:
 - Food co-operatives, food recovery programs, urban agriculture, buying clubs, community-supported agriculture and fisheries, soup kitchens, social food procurement, alternative food initiatives, marketing boards, food banks, and community kitchens, greenhouses and gardens
- Food is less a commodity and more a basic human right
- Have the potential to contribute to zero hunger

Zero Hunger: Sustainable Development Goal #2

- 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- SDG #2 – Zero Hunger – focuses on:
 - Ending hunger
 - Achieving food security and improved nutrition
 - Promoting sustainable agriculture
- Can the SSE help to implement SDG #2?
- Look at sustainable local food initiatives in some Indigenous communities in Canada
- Can these forms of the SSE be a means to implement Zero Hunger?



Harvests and Crops in Poplar River First Nation

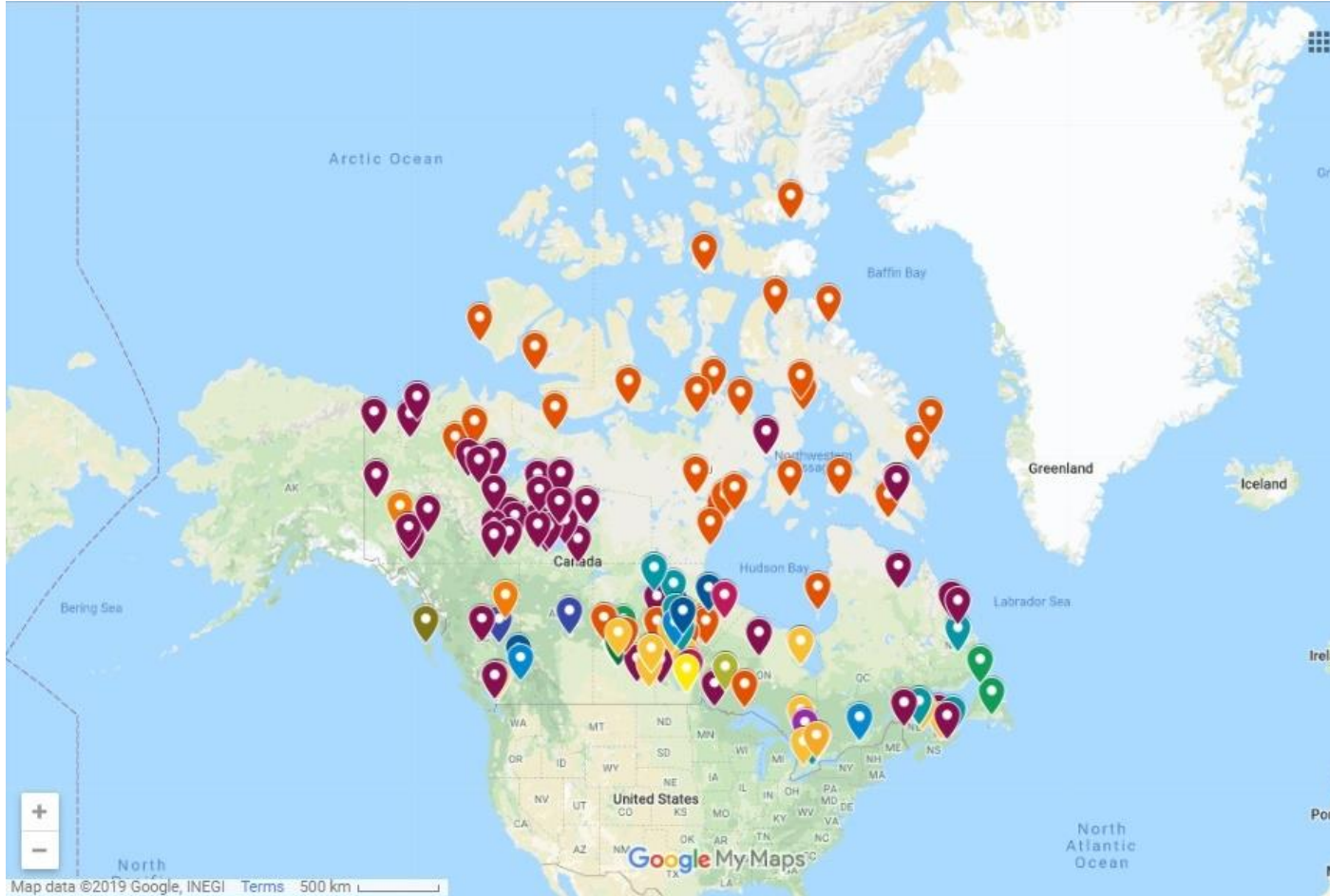


Kelly's Son with Squash

Indigenous Communities and the SSE

- Two reasons why the SSE has become an effective tool of Indigenous community development:
 - Allows for a range of forms
 - Maintains control in the hands of communities (Wanda Wuttunee 2010)
- Indigenous SSE initiatives have much to teach non-Indigenous people
- Quadruple bottom line
 - Economic, social, environmental and cultural

Research Project



- We assembled a data base of sustainable local food initiatives in Indigenous communities in Canada:
 - Public knowledge on the Internet
 - A range of both popular and academic publications
- We found 166 SSE initiatives:
 - 58 community gardens and greenhouses
 - 42 co-operatives
 - 17 school gardens
 - 9 food markets
 - 9 community-based food programs
 - 7 advocacy and support groups
 - 5 harvesting and hunting initiatives
 - 5 education and training programs
 - Plus institutional food programs, community kitchens, procurement initiatives, a food bank, a food distribution centre, a combined food market/community garden/greenhouse, a harvesting and hunting initiative based on food aid

Case Study: Northern Manitoba Food, Culture and Community Collaborative (NMFCCC)



Traditional Foods and Traditional Teachings Gathering Participants in War Lake First Nation

- Non-profit organization under the auspices of Tides Canada
- Provides financial and technical support to Indigenous-led food initiatives in northern Manitoba
- Made up of northern community people, northern advisors, funders and organizations working together
- Overall goal – to increase food security and economic development
- Operates within a larger context of widespread food insecurity in northern Manitoba

NMFCCC

- Recent report highlighted 20 food-related projects, including:
 - Three school gardens, four community gardens, one community greenhouse, a hub for training and research on northern boreal food production, a food producers' co-op, a chicken project, two beekeeping projects, and a farm



NMFCCC and SDG #2 – Zero Hunger



- The aims of these projects include:
 - Increasing food security
 - Improving food access
 - Improving vegetable and fruit yields in the community
 - Establishing knowledge of healthy living
 - Making the garden sustainable
 - Sharing food
 - Promoting healthy eating habits
 - Supporting community members in starting their own gardens and greenhouses
 - Increasing access to affordable and locally grown organic food options

William Dysart (South Indian Lake) and Demian Lawrenchuk (Fox Lake Cree Nation) Processing Moose and Geese at the Traditional Foods and Traditional Teachings Gathering

NMFCCC and SDG #2 – Zero Hunger

- Peguis Community Garden Project
- Under the leadership of Elder Carl McCorrister
- Encapsulates the spirit of the SSE and SDG #2
- *Aim: Regain our heritage and culture of community agriculture by engaging community members to grow their own healthy foods, in the hope that their children will continue this cultural activity and provide food security for all*



Carl McCorrister



Toryan and Dallan Harvesting Beets



Peguis Community Garden Elders



Rows of Crops at one of the Gardens



30+ year old tractor at Peguis Community Garden

Problems and Opportunities

- Some problems
 - Water
 - Staff/volunteers
 - Soil/land
 - Technology
 - Weather/climate/animals
- Problems are not failures
- Problems are challenges for the community to work through
 - To become collectively stronger
 - To learn through a solutions approach



Fixing the Greenhouse at Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation



Students at Wapanohk Community School Building a Fire

NMFCCC and other SDGs

- SDG #3: Good health and well-being
- SDG #4: Quality education
- SDG #8: Decent work and economic growth
- NMFCCC initiatives have something important to teach us about the role of the SSE in implementing the SDGs



Hilda Dysart showing Brian Trewin how to sew Moccasins



SSE – The Concept

- The SSE is fundamentally neither the state nor the market

The social economy involves economic activity neither controlled directly by the state nor by the profit logic of the market, activity that prioritizes the social wellbeing of communities and marginalized individuals over partisan political directives or individual gain

- Community and its wellbeing become the focus, not the state or the market

SSE – The Practice

- Concept mirrors the reality of many of the sustainable local food solutions initiated by Indigenous communities in Canada
- Community comes first and residents decide upon their form of engagement

When confronted with problems, Indigenous people must find solutions that are not disconnected from their own ideas about society and social order and economies (Wanda Wuttunee 2010)

- The SSE provides solutions that are not disconnected and thus it has emerged as an effective tool of community development
 - Allows for a variety of forms
 - Maintains control in the hands of Indigenous communities



2019 Learning Trip Participants in Peguis First Nation

Conclusion

- When asking whether the SSE can help to implement the SDGs, we can learn from these initiatives in Indigenous communities
- We need a robust, collaborative form of the SSE to address the complexity of the SDGs
 - Based in community
- To achieve zero hunger, the SSE must prioritize community needs, community ownership and community control
 - Help to deliver on the promise of the SSE



Kakikepakwa (Labrador Tea)



Dennis Cleaning Beets at Peguis
Community Garden

Policy Implications

- Implement the Calls to Action of the TRC
- Create a national food strategy
- Settle land claims to guarantee access to country foods
- Recognize and respect Indigenous approaches to food
- Implement SSE policies at all levels of government (keeping in mind that Indigenous SSEs are qualitatively different)
- Nurture umbrella organizations like the NMFCCC
- Support Indigenous control of their own resources

A photograph of a large group of small, fluffy yellow chicks. They are gathered around a large white plastic bucket, which is partially visible on the left side of the frame. The chicks are looking towards the bucket, some with their beaks open as if they are about to eat or drink. The background is filled with more chicks, creating a sense of a large group. The text "Questions and Sharing" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Questions and Sharing