



KIITIGAAN MEGWE NISHNAWBE – GOOD THINGS GROWING: LITERATURE REVIEWS TO INFORM INDIGENOUS FOOD SELF-DETERMINATION PLANNING AND EVALUATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

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DESCRIPTION

From February to June 2018, student researchers (Melisa Choubak and Carla Giddings) and Mary Ferguson, research associate, from the University of Guelph's Community Engaged Scholarship Institute (CESI) were engaged to assist Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) in the development of an annotated bibliography and an associated literature review. These knowledge assets were produced as part of the *Kiitigaan Megwe Nishnawbe* (Good Things Growing Among the People) to inform community-based food system planning and evaluation processes within four remote Ontario First Nations communities. Mary Ferguson supervised this work with the support of team members of the consultancies Eko Nomos (Emmett Ferguson) and Resources for Results (Janet Murray).

This component of the project was performed at a distance from NAN territory (Treaties 9 and 5 across Northern Ontario) in Guelph, Ontario. The University of Guelph is situated on the Treaty Lands and Territories of the Missisaugas of the Credit, but also on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron/Chonnonton and traditional territories of the Anishnabek and the Haudenosaunee. Eko Nomos'



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offices are likewise located in the traditional territories of the Anishnabek, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, and the Odawa. Resources for Results operates out of Toronto which is the ancestral traditional territories of the Ojibway, the Anishnabe and the Mississauga's of the New Credit.

The student researchers searched for and reviewed scholarly and other written works pertaining to two areas of interest. Carla Giddings engaged the question of defining 'Indigenous food self-determination' in the context of Ontario, Canada and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The student researcher scanned the literature for the following keywords: Indigenous paired with food self-determination, food sovereignty, food security, or food self-sufficiency. This review engaged with many intersecting discourses regarding questions of Indigenous identity, nationhood, tradition, and ultimately resistance and resurgence. The second reviewer, Melisa Choubak, focused on assessing the relevance and utility of Indigenous Participatory Action Research (PAR) and Indigenous Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) to the forthcoming processes of inquiry that NAN had planned. To do so, the following keywords were used in literature searches: Indigenous paired with participatory methods, community engagement, community process, decolonizing strategies, decolonized approach, and decolonizing research methods. The reviewer sought to situate these research methodologies within scholarly and Indigenous discourse surrounding effective processes, ethics and practice of research in and with Indigenous communities.

Both student researchers searched databases from the University of Guelph library and Google Scholar. They cross-referenced additional resources with the reference lists from selected articles and reports. Articles, books, book chapters and reports were included if they explicitly addressed the selected keywords, and were relatively current (published before 2004). To be as specific as possible to the next stages of the project, student researchers prioritized authors employing Indigenous methodologies and addressing the specific context of NAN territories.

KEY RESULTS

For this portion of the project, the final products include a preliminary glossary of terms, reference list, two annotated bibliographies and two literature reviews covering two topics: 1) Indigenous food self-determination, and 2) effective participatory action research (PAR) and community-based participatory research (CBPR) with Indigenous communities.



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IMPACT

The glossary, annotated bibliographies, and literature reviews will inform the research framework, training documents, and reports for the ongoing project with NAN. Student researchers also reviewed a previously compiled compendium on indicators of Indigenous food self-determination and completed a literature scan of additional resources. Data was then inputted into an indicator chart for documenting Indigenous food self-determination. This work is ongoing through NAN with Eko Nomos and Resources for Results. The work completed through CESI will ultimately support four First Nations communities in NAN territory to develop their own food self-determination plans.

For more information on this project, please contact the Research Shop at cesi@uoguelph.ca.

