

Human Biomonitoring Project

Newsletter- Sahtú

Spring (May 2017)

Reminder on the project!

A project is happening within the Dehcho, Sahtú and Hay River regions to investigate the levels of contaminant exposure among participating communities. Dr. Brian Laird and his team collected **human hair, urine and blood** to measure contaminants and nutrients. This work will provide knowledge on the contaminant baseline in the community and will also promote the use of country foods in order to improve nutrition.

What was done in the last few months in the Sahtú?

- We were present at the Sahtú Environmental Research and Monitoring Forum meeting, in **Tulit'a**, on February 7-9, to consult people.
- We implemented the sampling component in **Deline**, on February 13 to 16, where we invited people to provide hair and/or blood and/or urine.
- We also consulted leaders in **Fort Good Hope** on February 18-22.



How did the sampling component happened in **Deline**?

- A **terminology workshop** was organized with the help of the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, in Deline, in order to refine knowledge translation and communication.
- We spent 8 days in the community, where we unpacked 22 boxes of equipment in the Cultural Center.
- Gina Bayha was the nurse working with us to collect the blood along with 2 local coordinators who were hired to support the project and recruit participants: Ruby Beyonnie and Dora Blondin.
- In total, **75 participants** accepted to provide samples and complete the questionnaires.
- **Thank you** to all the participants, the SRRB, the DRRC, the Deline Government, the SSI, Grey Goose Hotel and each of you who helped us and make our visit a pleasant one (e.g. ice fishing).



What are the next steps?

- Confirm with **Tulit'a** and **Fort Good Hope** if they are interested in participating during the fall 2017.
- Bring back results to **Deline** participants and leaders (estimated to be around January 2018)