



Environmental Health Research Group

Newsletter

December 2019

Reminder of our Research!

This is a collaborative project between several communities in the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and northern Ontario, and Professors Brian Laird and Kelly Skinner, with the aim of investigating the link between environment-food-contaminant-health in participating communities. This work provides knowledge on contaminant exposure in the communities, and promotes the use of country foods in order to improve nutrition. In parallel, we are now working on projects to answer concerns we have heard from community members and leaders during consultation meetings regarding initiatives to improve food security, water quality, and how climate change impacts these issues.

What did we do in the last few months?

- We prepared the results letters for participants from the **Sahtú (NWT)** for perfluorinated chemicals measured in the biobanked blood samples.
- We attended a meeting organised by the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board in **Tulit'a (NWT)** in December, to discuss with community members research priorities for next year.



What will we do in the next few months?

- We are finalizing the details of the Fishnet project on Healthy Water, Healthy Fish, Healthy People in **Fort Albany (ON)**, with the support of the leadership.
- We will return the results in **Old Crow (YK)** in January. A public meeting will be held on January 13th, and we will be available all week long to meet participants one-to-one to explain the results letters.



Terminology of the month: Food security

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit, 1996)

What are the outcomes?

The main results of the NWT project can be found online: <https://uwaterloo.ca/human-exposure-and-toxicology-research-group/research>

The recent meeting in Tulit'a indicated that people want to know why lead levels were elevated in the Sahtú region. As such, we will request funding to support the investigation of lead sources in the Sahtú.

In addition, people had great ideas to improve food security by local initiatives. We will try to support new initiatives in the NWT.