

Sustainable Futures North



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

# Food Security in the North

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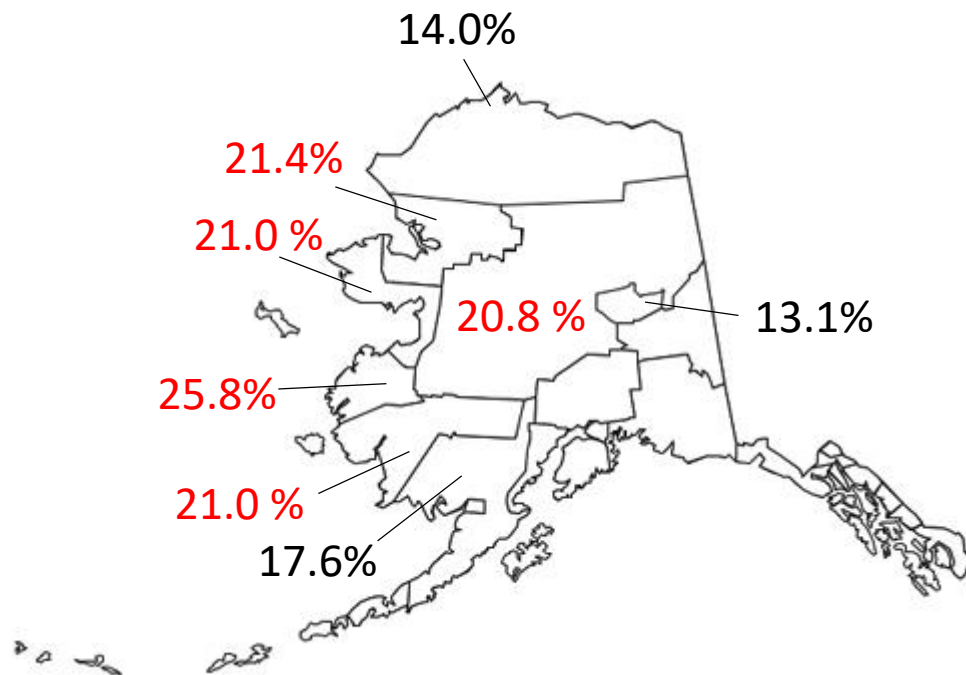
School of Environment and Sustainability

Twitter: @ConserveChange

# What's the Extent of the Problem?

AK Food Insecurity Rates, 2013

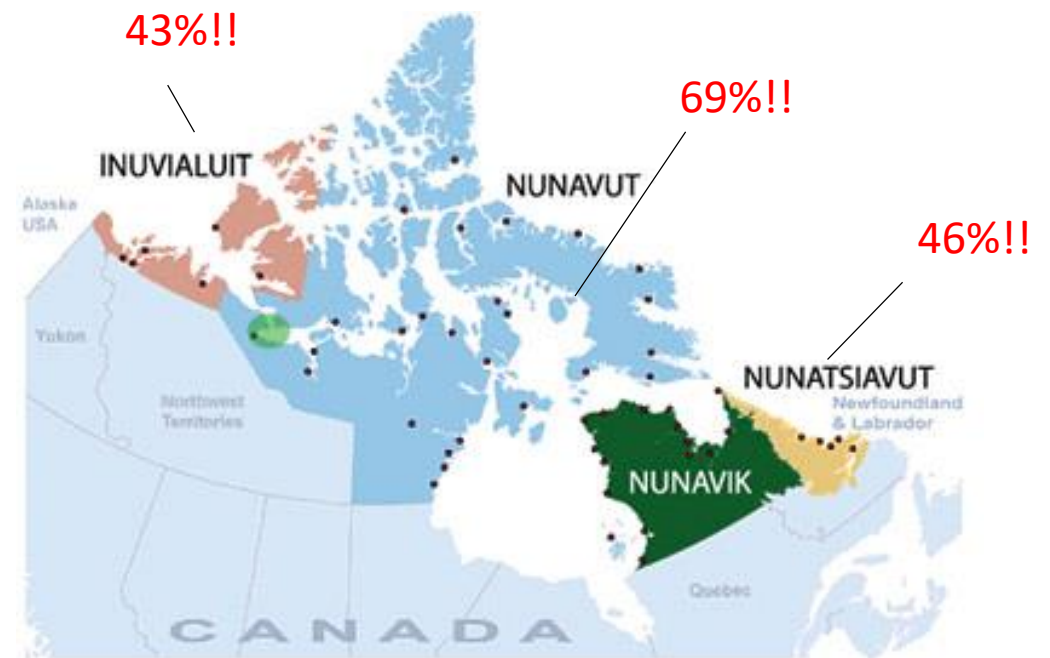
US Rate: 15.8%



Feedingamerica.org

Arctic Canada Rates, Year Not Listed

Canada Rate: 8%



Source: Statistics Canada

Nunavutfoodsecurity.ca

# Defining Food Security for Policy

A question of livelihoods:

- Is food available?
- Do people have access?
- Is that food sufficient quality?
- Is it the food that they want?

A process that people negotiate rather than a condition that they do or do not have



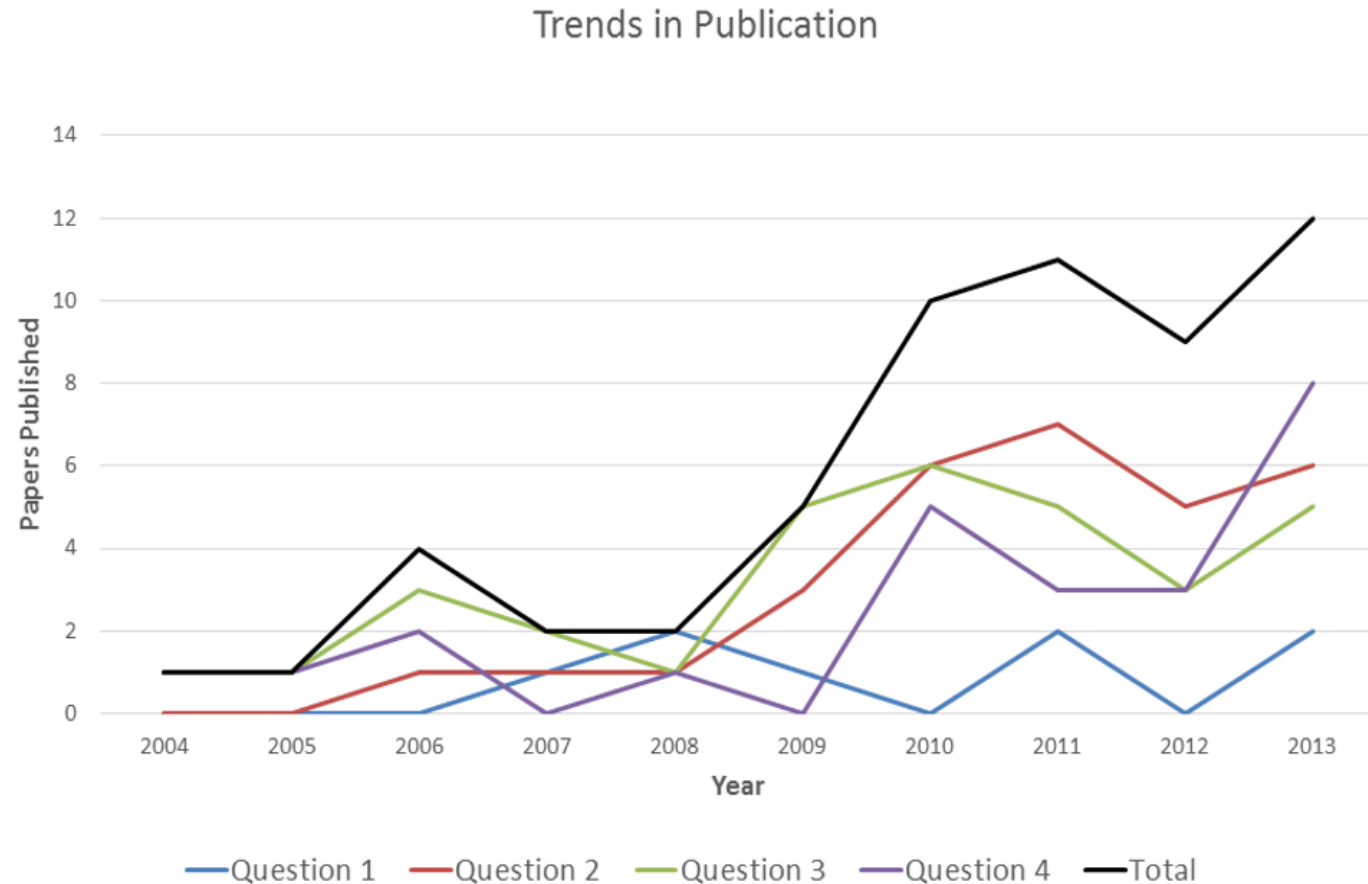
<http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/january-2010/delivering-africa%E2%80%99s-development>



Photo by Phil Loring

# Research on Food Security in the North

- What is it?
  - Defining & measuring food security
- Who has it (or doesn't)?
  - Assessment, monitoring
- Why?
  - Drivers, challenges, systems approaches
- How do we improve?
  - Social movements
  - Intervention



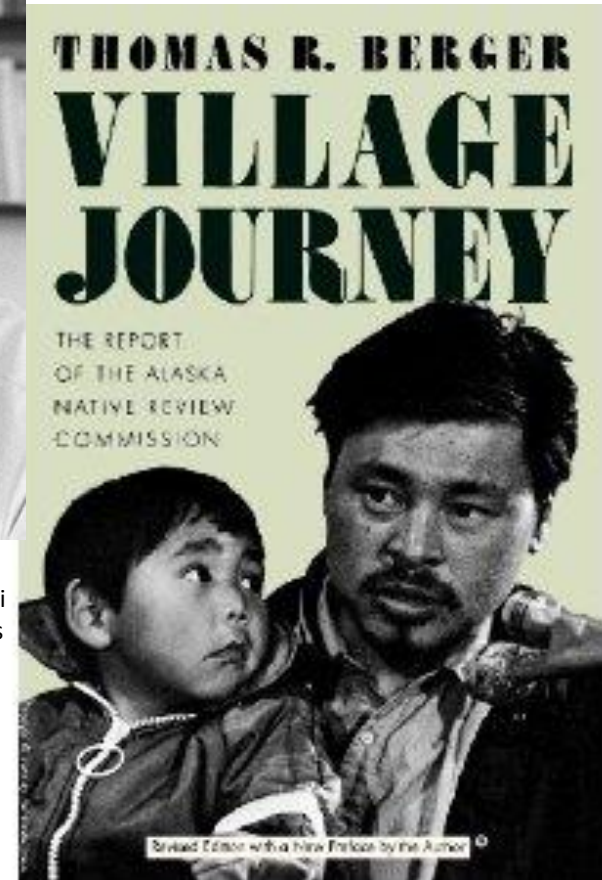
From Loring and Gerlach 2015. Searching for Progress on Food Security in the North American North. *Arctic*

# What Do We Know?

- Food insecurity has a historical context
  - Colonialism
  - Land claims
  - Development



<http://brbl-archive.library.yale.edu/exhibitions/arthurwangphotos/popups/cat/berger.html>



<http://www.amazon.com>

# What Do We Know?

- Communities are over-connected to urban, global systems





# What Do We Know?

- Food security is place-based
  - Different resources, needs, tastes, challenges



# What Do We Know?

- Flexibility & diversity are essential
  - Seasonality, primary, secondary, tertiary options





# In Other Words....

Fundamentally, food (in)security in the North is neither a biogeographic nor ecological problem

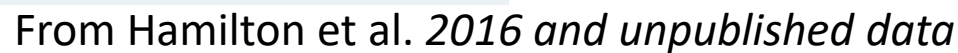
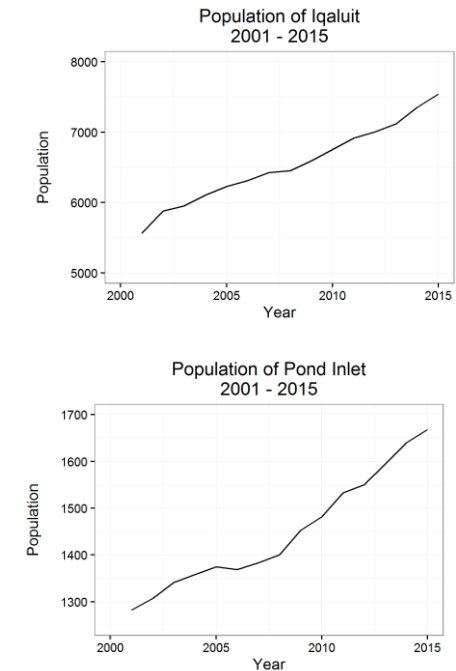
- Influence of existing mandates and policies for improving food security is minimal
- Stuck in a “lock-in trap”
  - Nutrition Transition
  - Short-term needs, e.g., “heat or eat”
- Acquiescence to climate change

# How are People Responding?

Areas for Policy Action

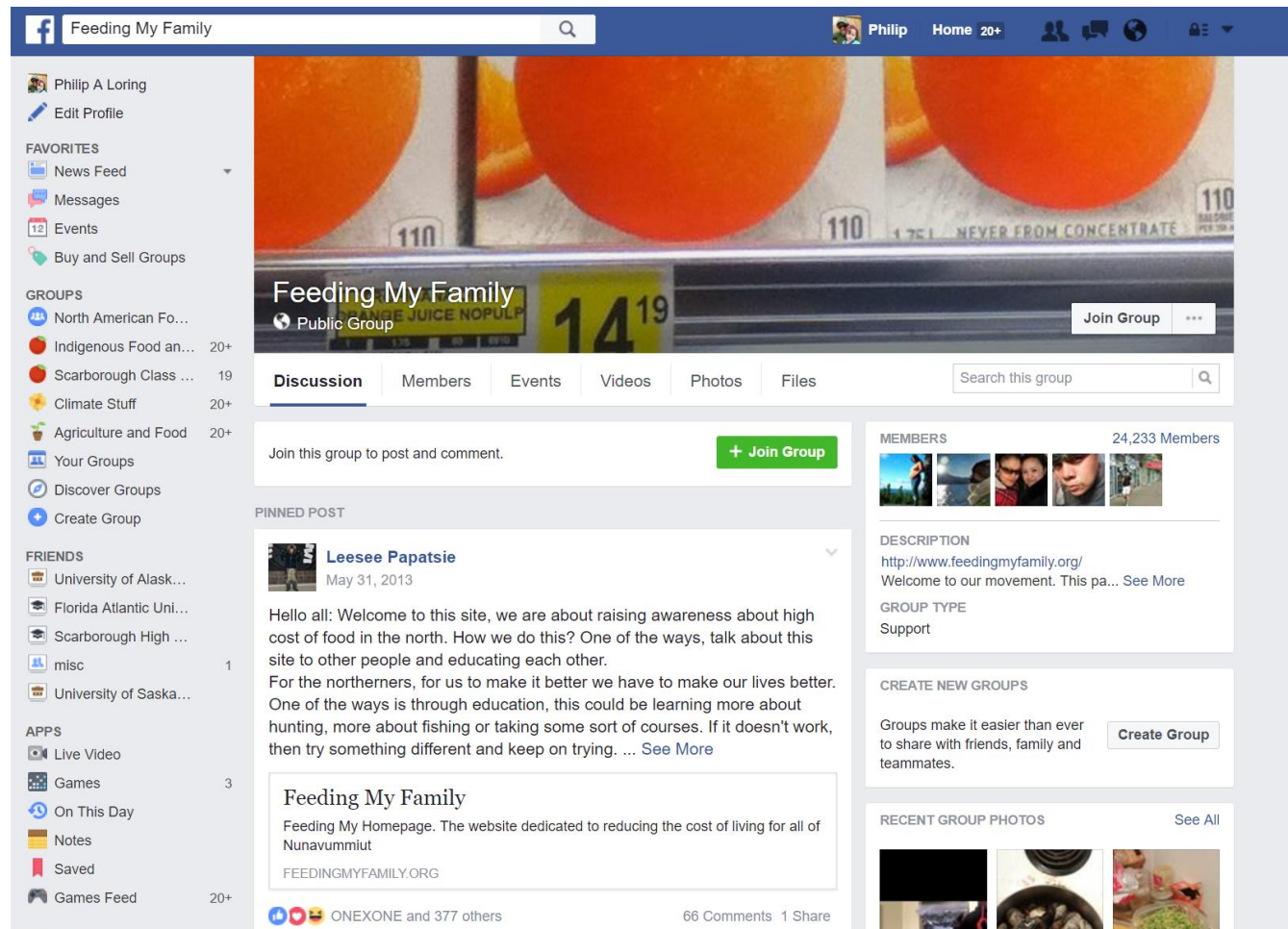
The figure consists of three vertically stacked charts, each representing a different community in the Nome Census Area. Each chart has a primary y-axis for 'Population' on the left and a secondary y-axis for 'Births and deaths' on the right. The x-axis represents years from 1990 to 2014.

- Shaktolik, Nome Census Area:** The population (blue line) starts at approximately 180 in 1990 and rises steadily to about 275 by 2014. The births and deaths (grey bars) are mostly below the zero line, indicating more deaths than births. Vertical red lines represent estimated net migration effects, which are positive throughout the period.
- Shishmaref, Nome Census Area:** The population (blue line) starts at approximately 460 in 1990, peaks around 580 in 2002, dips to 540 in 2006, and then rises to about 600 by 2014. Births and deaths (grey bars) are mostly below the zero line. Vertical red lines represent estimated net migration effects, which are positive throughout the period.
- Kivalina, Northwest Arctic Borough:** The population (blue line) starts at approximately 320 in 1990, peaks around 380 in 1994, dips to 340 in 1998, and then rises to about 410 by 2014. Births and deaths (grey bars) are mostly below the zero line. Vertical red lines represent estimated net migration effects, which are positive throughout the period.



*Loring, Food Security in the North - @ConserveChange*

# Raising Awareness on Social Media



# Innovating (short-term?) solutions

- Bypass mail
- Non-policy solutions

**amazon.com**  
**Prime**



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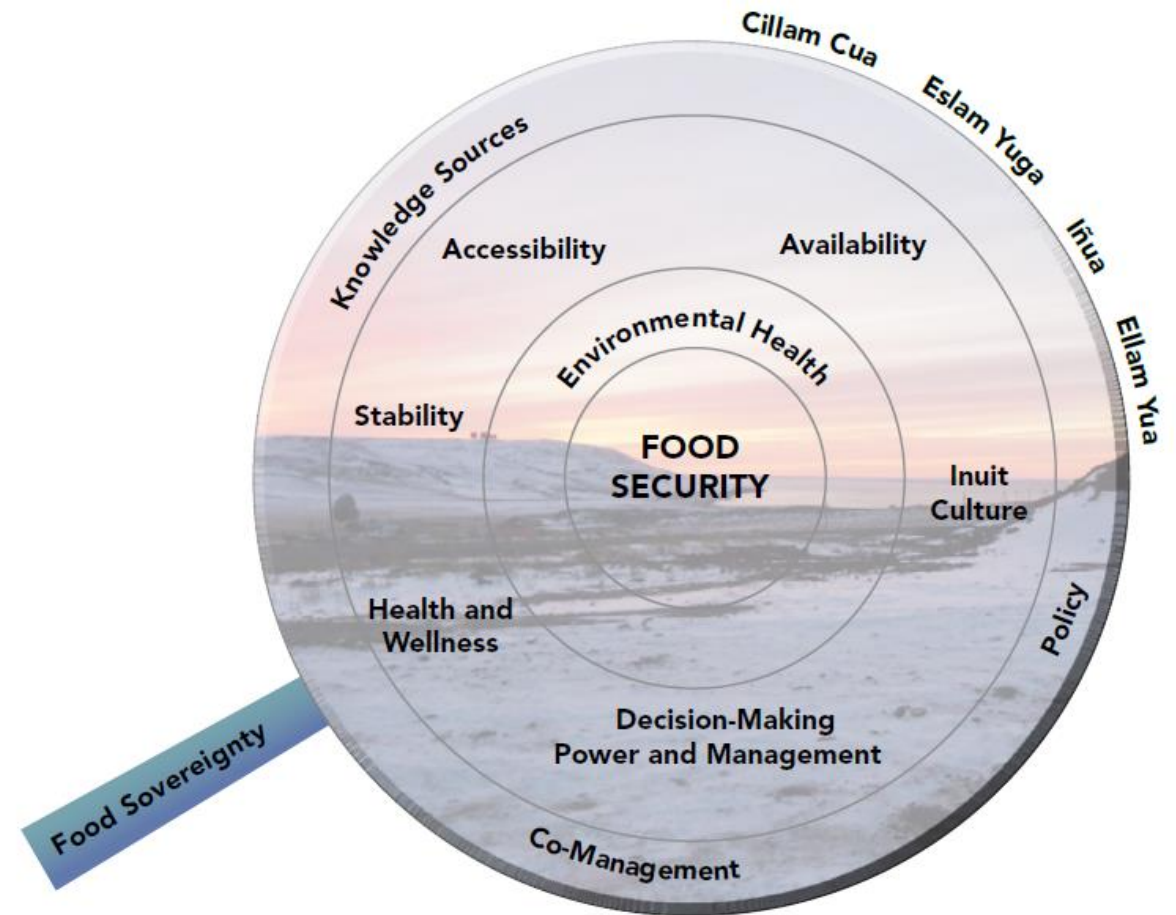
# Taking Control of the Narrative



INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL-ALASKA

**ALASKAN INUIT FOOD SECURITY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:**  
HOW TO ASSESS THE ARCTIC FROM AN INUIT PERSPECTIVE

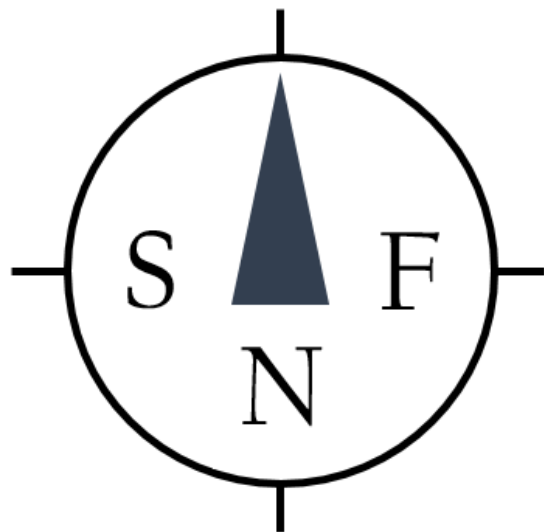
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT



# Commercializing Wild Foods?







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# Thanks! Questions?

<http://www.sustainablefuturesnorth.org/>

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Award # 1263853



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