



Building Sustainable Local Food Solutions

How Canadian Indigenous Communities are Using the Social and Solidarity Economy to Implement Zero Hunger

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to not only those who can afford them, but also those who cannot. But does the SSE deliver on this promise? In particular, can it deliver in terms of food?

Food is central to considerations of the SSE because of its importance as a life good and a human right. More than just a commodity, food can be understood as a total social fact (Mauss 1967) that encompasses all facets of human existence. 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 are just some examples of the potential interface between food and the SSE. Initiatives like these can use the SSE to move food from producers to consumers, particularly those in need, sometimes bypassing the conventional market completely. As such, they set a precedent for a shift that sees food less as a commodity

and Mutuals Canada, a national umbrella organization with 21 million member-owners, \$527B in assets, \$74.4B in revenues and 207,000 jobs (Coop Canada 2018). Our case study follows this trend the Northern Manitoba Food, Culture and Community Collaborative (NMFCCC) highlights community gardens, greenhouses and co-operatives.

Case Study: The Northern Manitoba Food, Culture and Community Collaborative

A program under the auspices of Tides Canada, The Northern Manitoba Food, Culture and Community Collaborative (NMFCCC) is a not-for-profit organization providing financial and technical support to Indigenous-led food initiatives in northern Manitoba. As a self-described interconnected group of people, communities, organizations and governments, it began as a pilot project in 2013 and became fully realized in 2014 (NMFCCC 2017). Its overall goal is to increase food security

Table 1. Problems Reported with SSE Projects	
Water problems	Distant water sources Flooding Problems with water supply Too much rain, which delayed planting Lack of rain Watering had to be done by hand
Staff/volunteer problems	Reduced staffing Difficulty getting people to participate Aging population, so hard to get people involved Not enough positions for all the youth interested in working in the garden No tradition of gardening, so hard to get community momentum People feeling shy and insecure about their gardening knowledge
Soil/land problems	Poor soil Finding land for the garden
Technology problems	Challenges regulating the temperature of the greenhouse Challenges with the clay oven and the wood cook stove
Weather/climate problems	Late start to the gardening season because of a slow spring Short growing season Need to adapt seeds to a cold climate Very hot summer Forest fire and community evacuation
Animal problems	Animals dug up vegetables in gardens Animal feed is e%1.87 2 Tf1 0 0 1 85.104 516.67 TBT/F5 1

<p>Table 2. Examples of Implementing SDG #3: Good Health and Well-being</p> <p>Sustainable Local Food Initiative</p> <p>Aim</p>
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SDGs one based in community needs, not private gain or political partisanship. Definitions of the SSE based on the market or the state will not be sufficient. To achieve zero hunger, new definitions must prioritize community needs, community ownership and community control (2014, v).

These definitions, in turn, can create the foundation of broad-based policy recommendations that promote the SSE as a solution to hunger within Canadian Indigenous communities, keeping in mind the larger Canadian context. The following recommendations to implement SDG #2 Zero Hunger fall into three interrelated categories: one general policy recommendation, three food-related policy recommendations and four SSE-related policy recommendations.

Canada must implement the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC, 2015) and develop respectful relationships with Indigenous people, particularly in terms of cultural recognition.

Canada has no national food strategy (de Schutter 2012) and the federal government needs to i - as agriculture, health and social and economic development (MacRae 2011) and encourages systems thinking to address hunger and ensure that everyone receives nutritious food.

Acc gathering requires access to land. For this reason, ongoing land claims by Indigenous groups across Canada must be settled in a way that guarantees them access to these lands (de Schutter 2012).

Indigenous approaches to food must be recognized and respected. In the words of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Indigenous people in Canada occupy a unique position in terms of food because of their long relationship with both traditional lands and natural resources, which is a central part of their identity (de Schutter 2012).

restorative framework for nurturing our relationships with one another and the

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/harnessing-potential-social-enterprise-garden-hill-first-nation>

Sengupta, Ushnish, Marcelo Vieta and J.J. McMurtry. 2015. Indigenous Communities and Social Enterprise in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Nonprofit and Social Economy Research*, 6