Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of Childhood Eczema and Food Sensitization in the First Nations Community of Natuashish, Labrador, Canada

Version: 2 Date: 19 November 2013

Reviewer: Christian Apfelbacher

Reviewer’s report:

Dr Forsey provides an interesting manuscript on the prevalence of childhood eczema and food sensitization in the first nations reserve of Natuashish, Labrador, Canada. I suggest several major compulsory revisions and some minor essential revisions.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The results section (p.7) needs a major revision. There is only a reference to table one when actually all tables containing results (tables 1-4) should be referred to. The content of the tables needs to be summarized in the results section.

In the interpretation section (p.7) the paragraph on elevated levels of IgE needs to be elaborated. Why could the values “not have been lower than 1247 and 685 kIU/L”?

Overall, the paper has too many references.

Minor Essential Revisions

Introduction (p.4):

The sentence “Elevated IgE levels are found in 43% of patients with eczema...” suggests that this finding is a universal truth and yet it relates to a very old reference. The author should replace the reference with a more up to date reference.

Methods (p. 6):

“CBC” needs to be explained

Interpretation (p.8):

It is stated that on average 50% of children and 35% of adults are sensitized to common allergens. Where do these numbers come from? A reference to back this up is necessary.

“27% in eczematous 13-14 month olds” rather than “27% eczematous 13-24 month olds”?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.