Author's response to reviews

Title: Giving voice to food insecurity in a remote indigenous community in sub-arctic Ontario, Canada: traditional ways, ways to cope, ways forward

Authors:

Kelly Skinner (kskinner@uwaterloo.ca)
Rhona M Hanning (rhanning@uwaterloo.ca)
Ellen Desjardins (desi2665@mylaurier.ca)
Leonard JS Tsuji (ljtsuji@uwaterloo.ca)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
RE: MS 5615359128569424

Dear Ms Audrey Ann Reyes, Dr. Kawika Liu and the BMC Public Health Editorial Board,

Please find the attached revised manuscript with the revised title “Giving voice to food insecurity in a remote indigenous community in sub-arctic Ontario, Canada: traditional ways, ways to cope, ways forward” for publication consideration in the journal BMC Public Health. Each author has seen and approved the contents of the revised manuscript. The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

We noticed a very small error in the Figure; an end-quote was missing for the following bullet point and has now been corrected:

- Regular ‘Farmer’s Markets’

The revised Figure has been included with this revision.

We appreciate the new reviewer comments and the opportunity to resubmit this manuscript. The comments below provide an explanation of how we addressed each of the revisions requested. In this response, we have included original comments from the reviewers verbatim and provided a RESPONSE for specific points.

Reviewers' Comments and RESPONSE:

REVIEWER #2: Avita Usfar

Reviewer's report:

Specific comments:

- The author may want to revise the title to underline the situation of the indigenous community under studied or to point out the importance of giving attention to them – instead of just having a neutral word “Perspectives”; e.g. Food insecurity exists in a remote indigenous community in sub-arctic Ontario, Canada; or The need to focus on food insecurity of a remote indigenous community in Ontario …; Food insecure indigenous community within food secure nations: the case of ….. in Canada.

RESPONSE: We have revised the title to be “Giving voice to food insecurity in a remote indigenous community in sub-arctic Ontario, Canada: traditional ways, ways to cope, ways forward”.

• P. 5, 3rd paragraph, 3rd line. You mentioned high prevalence of household food insecurity …. – you may want to mention the number here.

RESPONSE: The prevalence (70%) has been included on page 5.

• P. 6, last paragraph, 5th line from bottom. You need to end the sentence, before the word “As”

RESPONSE: Thank you for pointing out this minor error. The period has been added and the new sentence begins with “As”.

• P 7, 1st paragraph, line 2 from the bottom. Extended family – do you have a range of family member?

RESPONSE: We only collected direct data on the number of families living in a household (see Table 2) with the definition of family used from Statistics Canada. The range of total number of people living in each household was 1-10 people. We know from our observations and work over many years with the residents of this community that the homes that have 2 families living in them are homes with extended family.

• P. 10, 1st line. Maybe you need to define “Band” here, because this is the first time that it is mentioned?

RESPONSE: We have removed the term “Band” and revised this sentence to say “…was also a member of Fort Albany First Nation…” This should avoid any confusion about what it means to be a “Band” member.

• P. 12, 1st line. You may want to reword the sentence? – “…. codes were opened to be coded …”

RESPONSE: This sentence has been revised and is now written as “Then the analysis was opened and coded across the three questions…” to make the sentence more clear.

• Discussion.
  o You may want to discuss more in-depth of the results found and add some more discussion of the items in the Figure that you have so nicely put together; e.g. drinking water is not yet mentioned in the discussion; traditional food storage, dietary change

RESPONSE: While not all of the 39 subthemes in the Figure were described in the Discussion, drinking water and dietary change were mentioned on page 23 in the second paragraph and food storage was mentioned in the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 22. A sentence has been
added on pg. 25 regarding road access based on a new study that has been conducted on food insecurity in northern Manitoba (Thompson et al., 2012; ref. [80]).

Do you have any suggestions on how to improve poverty?

**RESPONSE:** This is a good question. Thompson and colleagues (2011; 2012) have suggested that community economic development and supporting sustainable livelihoods through local food production can improve food security in northern First Nations communities. Sustainable local programs which support local food production and employ local residents (for example employing community hunters/harvester support programs mentioned in the Results and Discussion sections). The following sentence and a new reference have been added to the end of the first paragraph of the conclusion on pg.27. “Thompson and colleagues [80,82] have suggested that community economic development and supporting sustainable livelihoods through local food production and local food networks can improve food security and re-establish food sovereignty in northern First Nations communities.”

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope that these revisions are satisfactory.

Sincerely,

Kelly Skinner and contributing authors

School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1
Tel: 519-888-4567, ext. 36631
kskinner@uwaterloo.ca