Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of Nutritional Status and Diet Adequacy in Senior Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada: a cross-sectional

Version: 2 Date: 5 December 2013

Reviewer: Dara Ford

Reviewer's report:

This paper contributes to the importance of understanding nutritional intake and requirements in aging populations. It assesses a relatively understudied population to determine current intakes, and how those intakes meet requirements. Prior to publication, several issues must be addressed.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Please carefully re-read the entire paper for spacing issues (particularly around citations) and spelling errors.

2. In the abstract, it would be helpful to clarify what is intended by "wherever possible". Specify that this indicates where standards have been established.

3. In the background, it is stated that consumption of diet providing adequate nutrients could improve seniors' health conditions. Please explain how and add some specificity regarding conditions.

4. It is important in the background to define how you are determining an "unhealthy" diet at first mention. Similarly, in the discussion define what you mean when you state "adequacy". Given the mean calorie intake it would appear that the majority of your sample met calorie needs.

5. How was cognitive impairment/reading level determined?

6. Has the FFQ been validated in the NL aging population as well as the NL general population?

7. Please define "RDA" at first use.

8. Discuss testing of interactions in statistical analysis section.

9. The statistical analysis section states that OR were adjusted for gender, age, marital status, education and energy intake. Table 4 does not reflect all of these covariates. Additionally, discussion regarding the role of disease burden in these relationships would be beneficial.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Discussing the age range and mean +/- SD of your sample would be helpful.

2. Considering revising last sentence in "dietary intake adequacy" paragraph for
clarity.

3. In the conclusions paragraph beginning "adequate dietary intake" considering re-writing sentence 3 for clarity.

4. Consider an additional limitation regarding further challenges in the old old (>80) with young old.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.