Author's response to reviews

Title: Disparities in fruit and vegetable consumption by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics in Canada

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Title: Disparities in fruit and vegetable consumption by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics in Canada.

Dear Editor

We wish to thank the anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestion which have substantially improved the paper.

We have revised the manuscript taking into account the suggestions and comments requested by the reviewers. We thank the Editor of the journal for given us the opportunity to revise and resubmit the manuscript. We believe that the revised version of the manuscript meets the standard of Nutrition Journal.
Reviewer #1

We would like to thank the anonymous referee for the helpful comments and suggestions.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The reviewer is absolutely correct that fruit and vegetable (F&V) intake as measured by “servings” and “frequency (times)” cannot be used interchangeably. Assuming that F&V intake of one time per day corresponds to one serving may not be accurate. We have made the necessary adjustment in the manuscript. We have also made this point clear in the limitations of the current study. We thank the reviewer for this observation.

2. The Data description is now a sub-section in the ‘Method’ section.

3. More information has been added to the Method section and also, a reference indicating survey questions and methods used by Statistic Canada is provided. As suggested, we have stated in the manuscript that the data used in the study do not require ethical approval since it is the public use microdata version.

4. In order to make Table 2 easy to understand, we added the omitted group for each variable. Adjustments were made to the ‘Conclusion’ section such that the ‘Discussion and Conclusion’ section can stand alone. This is beneficial to readers that would like to skim through other parts of the paper but focus mainly on the concluding section.

5. Keywords have been added to the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The phrase ‘fruits and vegetables” have been changed to fruit and vegetable as requested.
2 We have written the references in the format required by Nutrition Journal.

3 The title of Table 1 has been modified to reflect what it intends to convey. It is correct that the mean of the independent variables (all dummies) shown in Table 1 can also be interpreted as proportion.

4 The title of Table 2 has been modified for clarity. Table 2 presents estimates from OLS and quantile regressions of the variables described both in the ‘Methods’ section and in Table 1.

5 The legends for the figures have been moved below the figures. The title of Figure 1 has been changed to represent what both axis of the figure represent.

6 The manuscript has been proofread.

**Discretionary Revisions**

1 In the abstract, we have made necessary language correction.

2 The suggested correction is made.
Reviewer #2

We would like to thank the anonymous referee for the invaluable comments and suggestions.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The objective of the study is moved to the end of the introduction.

2. The justification for using quantile regression is included in the objective.

3. The Data description is now a sub-section in the ‘Method’ section.

4. The justification for the control variables used in the study is stated in the manuscript.

5. The suggested correction is made where ethnicity is replaced with immigration status.

6. The covariates included in Table 2 are clearly stated in the manuscript.

7. & 8. We actually meant to state that province fixed-effects is controlled for in order to capture location/cultural factors that may influence the consumption pattern of F&V. For example, if individuals in a specific province (e.g. Quebec) are more likely to consume more F&V, not controlling for province fixed-effects can bias the relationship between F&V intake and the observed individual characteristics.

9. The reference group for each categorical variable is reported in Table 2.

10. The number of observations from each estimated conditional quantiles is deleted from Table 2.

11. In the discussion and conclusion section we provided the importance of using quantile regression in assessing the determinants of F&V consumption and its policy implication.
12. This result could be due to cultural influences as Quebec is a predominantly French speaking province. Quebec has a long history of large scale farming (which includes F&V). We have provided the potential intuition for this finding in the manuscript.