Reviewer’s report

Title: Portion sizes of traditional and non-traditional foods and beverages consumed by Inuit adults in Nunavut, Canada.

Version: 1 Date: 7 November 2012

Reviewer: Sonja Ostertag

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. Describe the affect of season on the results of this study. Diet certainly varies seasonally.
2. Clarify whether the portion sizes were normally distributed?
3. Describe statistical tests that were used to test differences in portion sizes (e.g. paragraph 4, Results section)?
4. Please include the mean or median frequency of consumption (per day, week or month) for the various foods, per individual.
5. The results section does not support the second paragraph of the discussion section. The percentage of caribou consumers was similar to the percentage of people consuming apples, bananas and oranges, and the portion sizes are surprisingly similar. Please address this discrepancy.

Minor essential revisions:
1. Please do not begin sentences with ‘Table x’ (e.g. paragraph 2, Results section).
2. Please be careful about how the term Inuit is used – for example, in paragraph 4 of the background section, the QFFQ was developed specifically for Inuit in Nunavut, not all Inuit.
3. Consider including a separate section in the discussion to suggest possible interventions, based on the data collected. For example, the idea of pre-loading with soup presented in paragraph 4 could be in a distinct section to increase clarity and organization.
4. Please consider including a separate section on the reasons for the decline in traditional food consumption observed in this study. Comparing the communities may provide insight into why market foods are widely consumed (especially if you note differences in portion sizes of market foods across communities).
5. The authors state that ‘Caribou, muktuk and Arctic char were the most frequently consumed traditional foods’ (paragraph 1, discussion). This needs to be clarified because the frequency of intake on an individual level was not addressed in this study.

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.