



Growing Forward 2

Canada/Northwest Territories

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A Summary Report of the Small Scale Foods Program 2013/14



Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment

Canada

A Summary Report of the
Small Scale Foods Program
2013/14



Table of Contents

Program Description.....	1
South Slave Region.....	2
North Slave Region	4
Sahtu Region	6
Dehcho Region	9
Beaufort Delta Region.....	13
Coastal Communities.....	14



Program Description

The Small Scale Foods Program under the Canada Northwest Territories Growing Forward 2 Agreement was initiated in 2007. The objectives of the Program are to:

- establish or re-establish community gardens in communities where there is interest.
- diversify the local food basket in communities outside of regional centres.
- lower the cost of food in small communities.
- encourage commercial development of community gardens into market gardens where there is opportunity.

Since its inception, the Program has expanded to include almost all communities in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Through “hands on” instruction, workshops, and on-site training and support, growing food is becoming more commonplace throughout the NWT. As evidenced by growing demand and participation, the Program is making an impact in a number of communities, inspiring individuals to establish small, commercial agriculture ventures involving commercial greenhouses, small livestock, and market garden plots.

Information on the Small Scale Foods Program is available from the Regional Offices of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) website at: www.iti.gov.nt.ca/programs-services/growing-forward





South Slave Region

Hay River

Project: Indoor Classroom Garden

- Princess Alexandra School (Grades 4 to 7): Started seedlings under grow lights and planted mobile planter boxes (March 2013).
- École Boréale (Grades 3 to 4 and 7 to 10): Started seedlings under grow lights and planted mobile planter boxes (March to April 2013).
- Diamond Jenness Secondary School (Grades 7 to 12): Started seedlings under grow lights (May to June 2013).

Project: Diamond Jenness Secondary School Outdoor Garden

- Assisted with seeding and transplanting school garden and the setup of irrigation system. Grades 7 to 10 (June 2013).
- Assisted with school garden harvest and winter preparation. Grades 10 to 12 (September 2013).
- Provided dehydrator for drying herbs and kale (September 2013).

Project: Community Garden Greenhouse

- Assisted in greenhouse construction (putting the plastic on) and bed design for inside the greenhouse at the Hay River Community Garden site (June to August 2013).

Hay River Reserve

Project: Chief Sunrise School Outdoor Garden

- Assisted in the design and planting of school garden and pyramid planters. Grades Kindergarten to 12 (June 2013).
- Provided extra vegetable transplants, seed potatoes and berry bushes for home gardens (June 2013).
- Assisted with school garden harvest and winter preparation. Grades Kindergarten to 12 (September 2013).

Project: Judith Fabian Group Home Garden

- Assisted in the design and construction of garden at the Judith Fabian Group Home (July to September 2013).

For more information of Small Scale Food activities in the Region please go to www.iti.gov.nt.ca/sectors/agriculture-fisheries



South Slave Region

Fort Resolution

Project: Indoor Classroom Garden

- Deninu School (Grades 2 to 5). Started seedlings under grow lights and planted mobile planter boxes (March 2013).

Fort Providence

Project: Indoor Classroom Garden

- Deh Gah School (Grades Kindergarten to 6). Planted mobile planter boxes (March 2013).
- Deh Gah School (Grades 10 to 12). Transplanting session with flower and vegetable plugs and grow light (May 2013).

Project: Outdoor Pyramid Planters

- Planted pyramid planters with community members at the health center. Approximately 15 community members of various ages came out for the workshop (June 2013).
- Provided extra vegetable transplants, seeds, seed potatoes and berry bushes for home gardens. Assisted seniors with transplanting berry bushes (June 2013).

Fort Smith

Project: Garden Workshop

- Held a gardening workshop at the Fort Smith Community Garden site (July 2013).



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North Slave Region

As a means of improving program delivery in the North Slave Region, a summer student was hired to work with communities. The student's activities during the term (May 21 to August 23) included:

- relationship building with each community.
- the purchase and delivery of requested supplies.
- coordinating headquarters distribution of materials and supplies within the region.
- travelling to communities to assist with community gardens.
- assisting garden start-up and garden box building.
- professional development through assisting program delivery in other regions—specifically the Beaufort Delta Region.
- technical assistance and assessment of existing garden conditions (i.e. soil tests, location, etc.).
- maintaining files on works undertaken with each community.

Program delivery assets/costs associated with the eight communities of the North Slave Region:

- Garden supplies were delivered to:

N'dilo

Behchokǫ

Yellowknife

- Garden supplies were sent by airmail to:

Whati

Wekweètì

Gamètì





North Slave Region

Lutselk'e has a well-established community garden and greenhouse which has been developed over the years through the efforts of a number of community residents. ITI will work closely with the community over the winter months ensuring required supplies are on hand early in the 2015 growing season.

Under the authority of the Yellowknives First Nation, Ecology North has been assigned responsibility for community garden development in N'dilo and Dettah. Basic garden supplies were provided to N'dilo as requested, and a community garden was established. No supplies were requested for Dettah. ITI has been advised that Ecology North is in the process of planning a community garden in Dettah for the 2015 growing season.

In order to better understand the food growing needs of Yellowknife and other communities of the North Slave Region, an informal online survey was initiated to collect information that will inform program delivery decisions next year.

Based on an informal program delivery assessment and recommendations identified during the Small Scale Foods summer season, a fall/winter workplan will be devised for actions and activities needed to support and develop continued community interest in gardening.





Sahtu Region

Deline

Project: Chicken Farm

Noghae De (Mr. Bruce Kenny) is working to complete the construction of the chicken barn. Noghae De's peak daily egg count was 39 this season. However, this rounded out to 15-20 each day. Noghae De will continue to market the farm's products and hopes interest grows. No further requests have been made as of yet.

Project: Community Garden

The Deline First Nation was provided funding to run a community garden this summer. A summer student was hired to maintain the greenhouse, and several volunteers committed throughout the season to plant, maintain and harvest the vegetables. The summer student flew to Norman Wells for training and to work with Jerry and Monica Loomis. Sixteen trays of broccoli and cabbages were shipped to the community garden from Produce North. Two hundred and fifty pounds of potatoes were also shipped to the community garden from Green Enterprises Northwest Territories. A plan is being developed for next season that includes a request for a water pump, garden shed, tools and equipment.

Project: Tree Transplanting

In an effort to support local community gardens, Mr. Loomis recommended trees to be planted in and around Deline as a wind barrier. ITI offered a Tree Transplanting workshop in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). Following the workshop, ITI hired MecKon Services to transplant 1-2 trees to 25 homes. Transplanting was completed in September 2013. The community is requesting more trees to be planted throughout the community. Another workshop will be offered in the spring.

Tulita

Project: Community Garden

The Hamlet of Tulita expressed interest in developing its community garden by submitting a proposal requesting a greenhouse, water pump and seeds. The supplies and equipment will be ordered and shipped to Tulita on the winter road for next season.



Sahtu Region

Norman Wells

Project: Community Garden

Ms. Julie Brown, a local volunteer, worked on the community garden along with other volunteers. Some of the harvested vegetables were provided to the elders in the community. No requests have been made for next season.

Project: MacKinnon Park

A planter box was built at MacKinnon Park. Plans have been made to grow lettuce, tomatoes and herbs next season. Soil, seeds and fertilizer will be ordered for delivery over the winter road.

Project: Green Enterprises Northwest Territories (Mr. Doug Whiteman)

Mr. Whiteman had another successful season, harvesting approximately 20,000 pounds of potatoes. Mr. Whiteman also raised and butchered four pigs (each weighing 350 pounds), as well as chickens.

Project: MacKinnon Park

Mr. Loomis had another successful growing season, selling over 16,000 bedding flowers and plants.





Sahtu Region

Fort Good Hope

Project: Community Garden

Ms. Vivian Edgi-Manual, ITI Economic Development Officer, has been heading up the local community garden. Sixteen trays of broccoli and cabbages each were shipped to Fort Good Hope from Produce North. Two hundred and fifty pounds of potatoes were also shipped to Fort Good Hope from Green Enterprises Northwest Territories. Another greenhouse, pump, garden shed, tools and supplies have been requested. Funding will be provided to the Charter Community of K'asho Got'ine to order these supplies and equipment for delivery over the winter road.

Project: Home Gardens

Chief Greg Laboucan and his wife harvested 117 pounds of potatoes and 15 pounds of tomatoes this season along with broccoli, cabbage and corn. They have expressed interest in starting up a commercial greenhouse.

Colville Lake

Project: Home Gardens

Many households in Colville Lake planted gardens this year—growing potatoes, lettuce, and herbs. A request for soil and fertilizer has been submitted and will be ordered along with seeds and supplies for delivery over the winter road.





Dehcho Region

To improve program delivery, an agriculturalist and two summer students were hired on a casual basis to work with our communities.

A community needs assessment was initially conducted to determine the needs and desires of each community. Community gardens were established in every community with the exception of Nahanni Butte.

Staff visited every community to conduct gardening workshops and to assist in the setup of the community gardens. Communities were provided funding to purchase seeds, fertilizer, garden sheds, tools and equipment.

Fort Simpson

The community garden is in its third year of operation and now has three locations—with the principal garden at the Papal Sight. Since its inception, the community garden has expanded in size and in number of gardeners.

Workshops were delivered on:

- soil fertilization;
- composting;
- garden maintenance; and
- food preservation (will take place in early October).

The communal garden harvested a variety of crops that included: cabbage (76 pounds); cauliflower (32 pounds); squash (16 pounds); jalapeno peppers (15 pounds); beets (16 pounds); chilli peppers (5 pounds); eggplant (10 pounds); tomatoes (120 pounds); onions (6 pounds); turnips (23 pounds); and potatoes (4,000 pounds). Fifty-one raised garden beds were planted and maintained by individuals in the community garden.

The agriculturalist also participated in the elementary school's Fall Cultural Camp on September 9 to 6, 2013. Six workshops on basic gardening were delivered to 135 children from Kindergarten to grade six. The setting was ideal as the school maintains a vegetable garden where the camp was held, adjacent to Fort Simpson across the Mackenzie River.

For more information of Small Scale Food activities in the Region please go to www.iti.gov.nt.ca/sectors/agriculture-fisheries



Dehcho Region

Jean Marie River

A community garden of approximately 5,000 square feet was established and a variety of vegetables were planted. Raised beds were also built at the homes of elders who have mobility problems. A water tank and shed were installed at the garden site.

Workshops were delivered on:

- garden setup;
- soil fertilization;
- garden maintenance;
- food preservation; and
- composting.

The community harvested their garden on September 25, 2013 and the results were impressive. The produce was distributed to all 21 households in the community. Yields included: red potatoes (50 pounds); white potatoes (86 pounds); fingerling potatoes (92 pounds); cabbage (20 pounds); tomatoes (50 pounds); turnips (two pounds); onions (12 pounds); kohlrabi (19 pounds); parsley (2 pounds); and kale (5 pounds).

Nahanni Butte

The original site of the community garden was affected by flood in 2012. Residents decided not to establish a garden in 2013 because of their concerns with siltation and soil contaminants resulting from the flood. They have expressed a strong desire to re-establish a community garden in summer of 2015. The community has been provided with plants, seeds, fertilizer, tools and equipment in order to take full advantage of the growing season next year.

ITI will continue to provide gardening workshops on topics that are applicable and useful for the community members.

For more information of Small Scale Food activities in the Region please go to www.iti.gov.nt.ca/sectors/agriculture-fisheries



Dehcho Region

Trout Lake

The community has expanded its community garden to include a second site. The existing community garden is still maintained by long-time gardener, Mr. Fred Punch, while the second location is in the town site and is maintained by the women in the community. The second location has ten boxed garden beds and four raised beds that were specifically built for elders with mobility issues. Garden sheds were built in the two locations to properly store tools and equipment. A water tank was also installed in the new location.

Workshops were delivered on:

- soil fertilization;
- planting and garden maintenance;
- composting; and
- food preservation.

The community harvested its garden in September as part of its fall hunt activities. Harvested produce was distributed to all community members and households.

Wrigley

At the request of residents, the community garden was relocated to a more suitable location this year. There are more people involved in the garden now as a result.

Workshops were delivered on:

- soil fertilization;
- planting and garden maintenance;
- composting; and
- food preservation.

The community harvested its garden in September as part of its fall hunt activities. Harvested produce was distributed to all community members and households.

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Dehcho Region

Fort Liard

The community is still in the process of identifying a more accessible location for the community garden. Until this site is identified, it will be located in the backyard of the Fort Liard Health Centre. This garden flourished and all crops will be shared with the elders and infirmed community members.

ITI will provide workshops with the school and the Band as a mechanism to both educate and encourage participation in the new proposed community garden. The community garden has also been identified as a need and is now part of the community wellness plan.

ITI intends to conduct an informal program delivery assessment. Based upon this assessment, a fall/winter workplan will be initiated by the region that will identify actions and activities needed to support the continued development of community interest in gardening.



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Beaufort Delta Region

The following are highlights from the 2013 summer season in the Beaufort Delta Region.

Inuvik

The Inuvik Community Greenhouse is a large complex which serves both the commercial and community garden needs for the Town of Inuvik. The Small Scale Foods program provides support and assistance in meeting the community garden needs while ITI programming is directed, as required, to the commercial requirements.

The Inuvik Community Greenhouse has been in operation for a number of years and is considering branching out to serve needs and requirements of smaller communities.

Fort McPherson

There was tremendous success with individual gardens as well as the small community site. Eight new gardeners have come on stream. Next year ITI will be a presence as they continue to expand. Gardeners are now requesting a greenhouse, which will be considered next year.

Aklavik

Site is still in development although interest is very high.

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Beaufort Delta Region

Tuktoyaktuk

The community greenhouse was installed by residents of the community in the summer of 2012 and continues operating with support from the Small Scale Foods Program. A number of residents have made inquiries about augmenting the greenhouse operations with solar heating panels in order to extend the growing season. ITI will work with residents to consider the options in time for the 2015 growing season.

Tsiigehtchic

Good uptake and production over the 2013 summer growing season, with nine new gardeners in the community moving forward with container materials provided.





Coastal Communities

Contacts have now been made in all communities and interest has been identified in developing food growing programs in Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok. Community representatives will be meeting and discussing plans in the spring of 2015 with the view of implementing programs for the growing season of 2015.

Workshops were provided to schools and communities this spring with very good attendance on the school side. Additional small workshops were held this summer in conjunction with community visits on transplanting, seeding and irrigation systems setup.



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