



# Arctic Food Security & Nutrition Network

Kathleen Wayne, MS, RD, LD, Family Nutrition Program Manager/WIC  
State Director,  
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

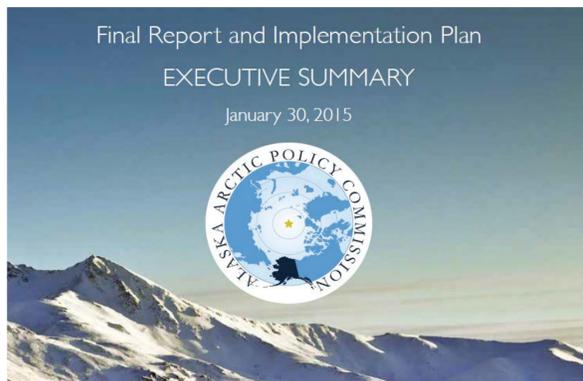
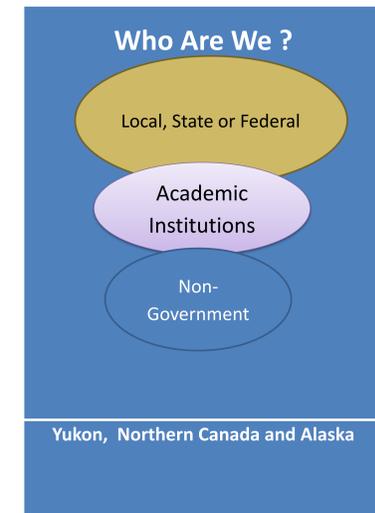


## Abstract # 7

Northern Canadian Indigenous People have similar health disparities and incidences of food insecurity as do Alaska Native People. Using the Final Report and Implementation plan of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission, Staff from Family Nutrition Programs at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (AKDHSS) reached out in October 2015 to Alaskan and Canadian food security and nutrition experts to establish a network of government, non-government, tribal, and academic stakeholders to listen, share, and learn about successful projects that strengthen traditional Arctic food systems and improve food security and nutrition outcomes. The AFSNN was formed and members identified three goals: 1) reduce food insecurity in Alaska, Yukon, and Northern Canada, 2) make policy makers aware of what we are doing and how they can help, and 3) establish cross-border relationships on food security and nutrition. Members from the Arctic Institute for Community-Based Research and Food Secure Canada were guest speakers at the Alaska Food Policy Council Conference, and similarly, a member from the AKDHSS presented at the Yukon Food Security Roundtable in Whitehorse, Yukon.



**Materials and Methods**  
Member survey to identify areas of alignment and goals. Literature review to identify potential members and areas for policy and systems change.



## Results

AFSNN members identified sharing, learning, and listening as the highest priority of this cross-border network. Other top priorities included 1) identifying strategies and existing resources to promote awareness and understanding of food security, 2) Identify project collaborators, speakers, and partners, 3) collect information about programs, projects, and initiative to share or duplicate within their community/state/national partners.

## Results

Since October 2015, AFSNN members have had monthly teleconferences with the primary focus of sharing, listening about members projects, concerns, and successes. February 2016, staff from the Arctic Institute for Community Based Research and Food Secure Canada were guest speakers at the Alaska Food Policy Council Conference, and similarly, a member from the AKDHSS presented at the May 2016 Yukon Food Security Round Table in Whitehorse. Currently, AFSNN is currently working to identify and address policy barriers to traditional food sharing networks across Alaska and the Yukon Territory. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and AKDHSS/SNAP ED staff are measuring food security in rural populations under a mixed economy of subsistence foods, Food Stamp/WIC benefits and foods purchased with client's own money.

## Introduction

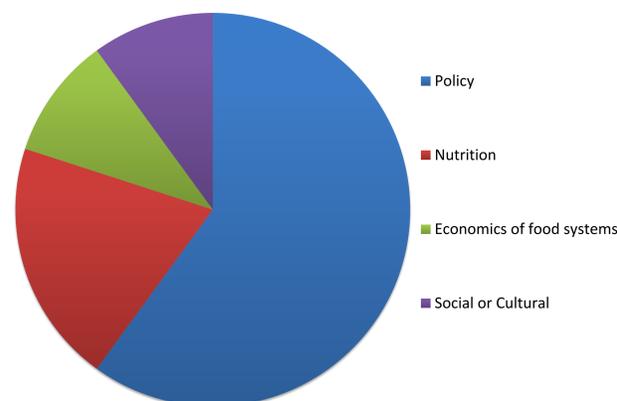
Alaskans are at the forefront of emerging economic and resource development opportunities, vibrant health communities and circumpolar cooperation. In April 2012, the Alaska State Legislature established the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to "develop an Arctic policy for the state and produce a strategy for the implementation of an Arctic Policy  
Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

## Policy Statements:

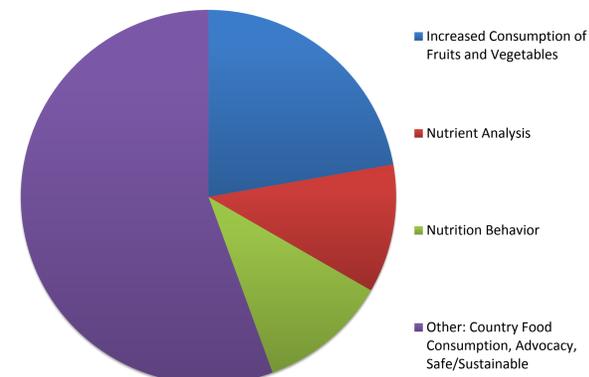
- Uphold the state's commitment to economically vibrant communities and responsibility for a healthy environment,
- Collaborate at all levels of government & stalk-holders
- Enhance security of state through a safe and secure Arctic
- Value & strengthen the resilience of communities. ."

Final Report and Implementation Plan, Executive Summary January 30, 2015

AFSNN Focus on Food Security



AFSNN Nutrition Program Focus



Alaska Food Policy Conference-Session on Alaska-Canada Food Security Connection. Presenters: (left, Marylynn Kostick, AKFAG, Div. of Subsistence; Jennifer Johnson, WIC State Nutritionist; Kathleen Wayne FNP/WIC State Director; Norma Kassi, Co-Founder of and Director of Indigenous Collaboration at Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research, Yukon, Canada; Amanda Sheedy, former Dir. Development & Engagement, Food Secure Canada )