Climate & Culture Informed Food Distribution Model with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun

Melissa Carvalho, Department of Neuroscience, Carleton University
Ben Koskowich, Department of Industrial Design, Carleton University

BACKGROUND
The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun (FNNND) is a self-governing nation located in Yukon.
The community is working towards regaining and maintaining food sovereignty.

First Nations regional health survey found that 54.2% of on-reserve households were food insecure.

54.2%

That equates to nearly 6 out of 10 households struggling with food insecurity.

PROJECT GOALS
This project aims to design a food distribution system that promotes:

- Sustainability
- Knowledge Sharing
- Climate-informed practices
- Food sovereignty
- Cultural Integration
- Sense of collective identity

Proposed Food and Knowledge Sharing System

Locally Sourced Packaging
Community Based Mobile App
Local Brand Identity

Infographic Design: Leenah Abdelrazeq, The CHAIM Centre, Carleton University
OUR APPROACH

In order to inform the distribution system, the FNNND provided the audio cassettes of Elder interviews conducted in the 1990s. These tapes were transcribed with the goal of highlighting their visions and concerns in relation to the land and future generations.

**Connection to the Land**
- Being on the land, caring for it and living off it

**Knowledge & Resource Sharing**
- Sharing the land and resources, and passing knowledge to the next generation

**KEY EMERGING THEMES**
In the tapes, the Elders expressed the importance of:

**Colonial Influence & Change**
- Colonial impacts to their ways of life and the land, and their desire to resist these changes

**Looking into the Future**
- Reconnecting with traditional knowledge and practices

**IMPLICATIONS & CONCLUSION**
The results convey that the stories of Elders can inform current and future community initiatives. Their stories give insight into how food sovereignty projects can promote community health and well-being.

Infographic Design: Leenah Abdelrazeq, The CHAIM Centre, Carleton University