



NORTHERN ONTARIO FOOD SYSTEMS: A SCAN OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

A report prepared for Local Food and Farm Co-ops and Food Locally Embedded Globally Engaged (FLEdGE) by Alison Earls
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Report Objective

A scan of existing literature was completed to determine what steps need to be taken to improve both infrastructure and transportation as it relates to food systems.

The Report focused on three regions in Ontario:

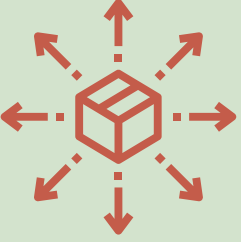
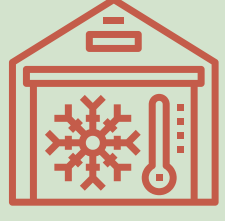
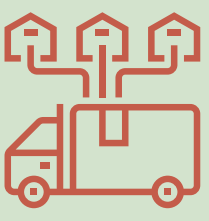

Remote Northern Ontario

Northwestern Ontario

Northeastern Ontario



The scan identified four key problems in terms of food security pertaining to transportation and infrastructure

<p>Distribution Options:</p> 	<p>Wholesale and Retail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher volumes of product are moved through wholesale with lower volumes moving through farmers markets. Grocery stores have left little room for local product because of their affiliation with major chains 	<p>Local Cooperatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer consumers the opportunity to connect directly with local food through retail operations <hr/> <p>Food Hubs and Online Ordering Systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a distribution system for local producers
<p>Physical Infrastructure:</p> 	<p>Cold Storage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows communities to store a surplus of food. Without these food needs to be distributed to the consumer immediately 	<p>Processing Plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities greatly benefit from processing plants as they allow value added food to be produced as well as creating jobs. In Northern Ontario, there is a lack of processing plants
<p>Transportation Options:</p> 	<p>Transportation Infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road transportation was the focus for this report In Northeastern and Northwestern Ontario food is transported easily by road due to well developed highways whereas in remote Northern Ontario there is minimal road infrastructure making transportation difficult and costly. 	<p>Delivery Logistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was identified as a very challenging aspect of food systems <hr/> <p>Delivery Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two main delivery options identified were: conventional delivery and shared delivery conventional delivery was found to be more expensive while shared delivery is less convenient
<p>Support Infrastructure:</p> 	<p>Support Structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was strong community and organizational support in all three regions There was no support provided by government organizations in Northwestern and remote northern Ontario. In both northwestern and northeastern Ontario there were notable research institutions and universities present. 	<p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need for the identification of wholesalers, retailers, food co-ops, food hubs and online distributions hubs across Northern Ontario. More research is needed surrounding transportation, support and physical infrastructure in order for communities in Northern Ontario to have more developed and effective food systems