

# NWT HEALTHY COMMUNITIES Toolkit

## Community Gardens are part of enhancing local food sources

Almost every Sustainability Plan and Wellness Plan in the NWT made reference to enhancing local food sources and in particular to community gardens.

We are proud to highlight some community gardens in the NWT and how they are organized and funded. Perhaps can you model your community garden on one of these success stories?

### Objectives for local community gardens:

- to provide a place to garden for people who wish to produce their own fresh, nutritious, organic, locally grown vegetables and herbs;
- to provide education and hands-on experience in the creation and maintenance of an environmentally sustainable, organic garden in a northern environment; and
- to assist in the food security needs of the whole community by providing food for people in need through donations to local charities.

# Community Gardens

PLANNING SMART MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Getting started is sometimes a matter of taking advantage of an opportunity!

## Potential Partners in Community Gardens:

Schools

College Campuses

Adult Learning Centre

Churches

Aboriginal Organizations

Social Organizations

Youth Justice Committee

Youth Groups

Food Bank

Homeless Shelter

Elders

Corporate Sponsors

*There are many things that the various partners can bring to a Community Garden Project:*

Land

Expertise and/or Volunteers

Materials and/or Equipment

Fund Raising and/or Funds

In-Kind Donations



*What approaches have been taken?*

We asked **5 communities** how they got their garden projects going and how they maintain them.



### Inuvik's Community Greenhouse

Inuvik Greenhouse is entering the 20th year, and last year was one of the best to date. Inuvik Greenhouse has 188 plots, 37 "planter box" plots, and 7 centre plots.

Of the large plots, they are broken down into 113 regular member plots, 20 elder plots (free to elders on fixed income), 22 community groups, 7 community intern plots (from each of the 7 Beaufort Delta communities), 2 seed saving plots and 24 market plots.

Inuvik Greenhouse charges \$25 for a family membership, plus \$50 per large plot (\$20 for the planter boxes). Non gardeners can access the space for \$15 per season. Members are expected to contribute a minimum of 10 hours per plot, or 3 per planter box size. Last year we had over 3000 volunteer hours and 5500 staff hours worked.

Over 150 lbs of produce were donated to the local food bank and homeless shelter between June and October.

### Lutsel K'e Community Garden

- Founded in 2007 to promote sustainability and a healthy lifestyle
- Quonset greenhouse was added in 2010
- Often conduct workshops in the schools and start plants
- Encourages composting, including vermacomposting
- Has solar powered water pumping system
- Do not have assigned plots
- Available to anyone who is interested

### Tuktoyaktuk Puts Up New Greenhouse

- Installed in summer 2011
- Already had 40 members before construction
- Lots of excitement in the community
- Already has plants, potatoes and flowers planted
- Planning to develop agriculture education program to turn the greenhouse into a classroom



### The Community Garden Collective in Yellowknife

The Collective began in 1995, and completed garden expansions in 2001, 2008, 2010 and 2014. The Collective currently has about 120 plots with over 200 gardening members at 6 locations in the City. It is run by a volunteer board of directors with volunteer site managers. In addition to the private garden plots, each garden has a small communal berry patch. Adjacent to the Woolgar gardens is a public assessable, 500 square meter, drip irrigated berry patch containing Haskap, Saskatoon and raspberries. The collective's garden spaces are approximately 10 square meters each and rent for \$50 a season and expects the holders to weed and maintain the area around their plot and provide some help with other chores. Part of the agreement includes making a produce donation of 25% of the season's production. In 2017 almost 1600 lbs and 237 bags of produce were donated.

### Gameti Strives to be the Biggest Garden in NWT

- Harvest for last season: Potato-12,449 pounds, Beans, peas, carrots, lettuce and others-440 pounds, Pig & Chicken meat-1229 pounds and eggs of 15,779 or 1,314 dozen has help improve the nutrition of our people that poster positive mental health.
- Gameti continues to strive to produce enough to feed the entire community of just over 300 people.



*Where can I find more information?*

To learn more about **Ecology North's** support for Local Food Production please visit:

<http://ecologynorther.ca/our-work/local-food-production/>

## Eye on it: Funding for Garden Projects

**Industry Tourism & Investment  
Government of NWT**

**Agriculture Canada  
Government of Canada**

[www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)  
[caap-pcaa@agr.ca](mailto:caap-pcaa@agr.ca)  
T: (877) 290-2188

**Northern Farm Training Institute  
(NFTI)**

[www.nftinwt.com](http://www.nftinwt.com)

**TD Friends of the Environment  
Foundation**

[www.fef.td.com/funding](http://www.fef.td.com/funding)

**Home Depot Canada Foundation**

[www.homedepot.ca/foundation](http://www.homedepot.ca/foundation)

**Walmart Evergreen Grants**

[www.evergreen.ca/en/funding/  
grants/walmart.sn](http://www.evergreen.ca/en/funding/grants/walmart.sn)

**Toyota Evergreen Learning  
Grounds School Ground  
Greening Grants**

[www.evergreen.ca/en/funding/  
grants.telg.sn](http://www.evergreen.ca/en/funding/grants.telg.sn)





# Benefits of Community Gardens



- Brings people together and provides healthy food
- Cuts down on store bought items
- Less expensive food
- Provides composting opportunities thus reduces waste
- Can be linked to or enhance school programs
- Intergenerational learning
- Can explore indigenous grasses and plants. (this could be done with local Elders)
- Physical activity and stress relief
- Many require participants to give back to the community (ie. 25% of produce to the food bank)
- Beautifies
- Connects people to the food they eat
- Lower environmental footprint
- Sense of ownership
- Community pride
- Often cleans up vacant lots

Photographs from [inuvikgreenhouse.com](http://inuvikgreenhouse.com) and credited to EightyOne Images, Weronika Murray Photography, Ray Solotki, Callista Ryan and Tundra North Tours.

*There are many ways that Community Governments can support Community Gardens.*

- Organize meeting of all potential partners and interested participants
- Loan land for gardens
- Reduce or eliminate taxes on the land (see the Taxation Act before making offer)
- Promote the garden and/or provide water
- Loan Equipment (rotatiller, chipper, etc) and/or grade and prep site
- Create opportunities in planning documents
- Watch for opportunities (wood chips from Public Works to compost, trees cleared from roads after storm to construct raised beds or seating at garden)