

Healthy Food  
Environment Policy  
Index (Food-EPI):  
**Northwest Territories**

April 21, 2017

# Overview

This document was created for the **Healthy Food Environment Policy Index** (Food-EPI) Canada 2016 project, as a part of the Canadian arm of the International Network for Food and Obesity/non-communicable diseases Research, Monitoring and Action Support (known as **INFORMAS**). The INFORMAS network was founded by a group of international experts from 9 universities and 4 global NGOs in the area of food and nutrition, including Dr. L'Abbé, and this network has since expanded to include dozens of researchers from 19 countries across the globe. The objective of INFORMAS is to 'monitor and benchmark food environments and policies globally to reduce obesity, diet-related non-communicable diseases and their related inequalities', and the work aligns with overarching efforts of the United Nations and the World Health Organization to prioritize monitoring on NCDs and associated risk factors to improve population health<sup>1</sup>.

The **Food-EPI Canada** project aims to assess provincial and federal government progress in implementing globally recommended policies relating to the food environment. Using a standardized, common Food-EPI process<sup>2</sup>, the information on food policies that is compiled in this document will be used by experts in the areas of food and nutrition from across Canada to rate the extent of implementation by Canadian governments (provincial, territorial and federal) compared to international examples of 'good practices' established for each indicator. As time progresses, these international examples will continue to expand, as more governments implement innovative policies to support a healthy food environment.

This document summarizes policy actions that the Government of Northwest Territories has taken relating to the food environment up until January 1, 2017. It does not include announcements that have not yet been implemented.

Any questions regarding this document can be directed to Dr. Lana Vanderlee (lana.vanderlee@utoronto.ca).

## Acknowledgements

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We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the government representatives who have verified the information in this document. Our particular thanks to Mabel Wong for her support with coordinating government input for this document.

As far as possible, when policy details are noted in the document, we have provided references to publicly-available sources or noted as a 'written communication' from relevant policy makers. While every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this document, any errors/omissions are the responsibility of the research team.



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ASC</b>	Advertising Standards Canada
<b>CAI</b>	Voluntary Food and Beverage Children's Advertising Initiative
<b>CCHS</b>	Canadian Community Health Survey
<b>CHMS</b>	Canadian Health Measures Survey
<b>CIHR</b>	Canadian Institutes of Health Research
<b>Food-EPI</b>	Food Environment Policy Index
<b>GST</b>	Goods and services tax
<b>HIA</b>	Health Impact Assessment
<b>HiAP</b>	Health in All Policies
<b>HST</b>	Harmonized Sales Tax
<b>INFORMAS</b>	International Network for Food and Obesity/non-communicable diseases Research, Monitoring and Action Support
<b>NCDs</b>	Non Communicable Diseases
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Government Organisations
<b>NWT</b>	Northwest Territories

# POLICY DOMAINS

## Policy area: Food Composition

Food-EPI vision statement: There are government systems implemented to ensure that, where practicable, processed foods and out-of-home meals minimise the energy density and the nutrients of concern (salt, saturated fat, trans fat, added sugar)

### COMP2 Food composition targets/standards/restrictions for out-of-home meals

#### Food-EPI good practice statement

The government has established food composition targets/standards for out-of-home meals in food service outlets for the content of the nutrients of concern in certain foods or food groups if they are major contributors to population intakes of these nutrients of concern (trans fats, added sugars, salt, saturated fat)

#### Definitions and scope

- Out-of-home meals include foods sold at quick service restaurants, dine-in restaurants and take-away outlets, coffee, bakery and snack food outlets (both fixed outlets and mobile food vendors). It may also include supermarkets where ready-to-eat foods are sold.
- Includes legislated bans on nutrients of concern
- Includes mandatory or voluntary targets, standards (i.e. reduce by X%, maximum mg/g per 100g or per serving)
- Excludes legislated restrictions related to other ingredients (e.g. additives)
- Excludes mandatory out-of-home meal composition regulations related to other nutrients, e.g. folic acid or iodine fortification
- Excludes general guidelines advising food service outlets to reduce nutrients of concern
- Excludes the provision of resources or expertise to support food service outlets with reformulation (see 'COMMI' and/or 'RETAIL4')

#### International examples

- **New York City, USA:** In 2006, New York City's Health Code was amended to restrict the amount of *trans*-fats allowed in food served by all food service establishments required to hold a license from the New York City Health Department, including restaurants, bakeries, cafeterias, caterers, mobile food vendors, and concession stands. The maximum amount of *trans*-fat allowed per serving is 0.5g. Violators are subject to fines of \$200.00 to \$2,000.00. A range of other US cities have since followed suit and banned restaurants from serving *trans*-fats<sup>3</sup>.
- **New York City, USA:** In 2009, New York City established voluntary salt guidelines for various restaurant and store-bought foods. In 2010, this city initiative evolved into the National Salt Reduction Initiative that encouraged nationwide partnerships among food manufacturers and restaurants involving more than 100 city and state health authorities to reduce excess sodium by 25% in packaged and restaurant foods. The goal is to reduce Americans' salt intake by 20% over five years. The National Salt Reduction Initiative has worked with the food industry to establish salt reduction targets for 62 packaged foods and 25 restaurant food categories for 2012 and 2014. The commitments and achievements of companies have been published online<sup>4</sup>.

- **New Zealand:** In New Zealand, The Chip group, funded 50% by the Ministry of Health and 50% by industry, aims to improve the nutritional quality of deep-fried chips served by food service outlets by setting an industry standard for deep frying oils. The standard for deep frying oil is maximum 28% saturated fat, 3% linoleic acid and 1% of *trans*-fat. The Chip group oil logo for use on approved oil packaging was developed in 2010<sup>5</sup>.
- **The Netherlands:** On January 2014, the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport signed an agreement with trade organizations representing food manufacturers, supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, caterers and the hospitality industry to lower the levels of salt, saturated fat and calories in food products. The agreement includes ambitions for the period up to 2020 and aims to increase the healthiness of the food supply<sup>6,7</sup>.

**Context**

While regulations for packaged food are primarily based at the federal level, composition targets or standards for restaurant foods can potentially fit within the mandate of provincial or territorial governments.

**Policy details**

There are no specific territorial targets for the nutritional composition of out-of-home meals in NWT.

**Comments/  
notes**

# Policy area: Food Labelling

Food-EPI vision statement: There is a regulatory system implemented by the government for consumer-oriented labelling on food packaging and menu boards in restaurants to enable consumers to easily make informed food choices and to prevent misleading claims

## LABEL4 Menu labelling

### Food-EPI good practice statement

A consistent, single, simple, clearly-visible system of labelling the menu boards of all quick service restaurants (e.g., fast food chains) is applied by the government, which allows consumers to interpret the nutrient quality and energy content of foods and meals on sale

#### Definitions and scope

- Quick service restaurants: In the Canadian context this definition includes fast food chains as well as coffee, bakery and snack food chains. It may also include supermarkets where ready-to-eat foods are sold.
- Labelling systems: Includes any point-of-sale (POS) nutrition information such as total calories; percent daily intake; traffic light labelling; star rating, or specific amounts of nutrients of concern
- Menu board includes menu information at various points of purchase, including in-store, drive-through and online purchasing
- Includes endorsement schemes (e.g., accredited healthy choice symbol) on approved menu items

#### International examples

- **South Korea:** Since 2010, the Special Act on Safety Control of Children's Dietary Life has required all chain restaurants with 100 or more establishments to display nutrient information on menus including energy, total sugars, protein, saturated fat and sodium<sup>8</sup>.
- **Taiwan:** Since July 2015, convenience store chains, drink vendor chains and fast food chains have to label the sugar and caffeine content of prepared-when-ordered drinks (e.g. coffee-and-tea-based drinks, fruit and vegetable juices) according to a regulation based on the Food Safety and Sanitation Act. The amount of sugar added to drinks (specified in sugar cubes) and its calorie content have to be displayed on drink menus and/or notice boards in a prescribed minimum font. In addition, different colours have to be used to signal the level of caffeine contained in coffee drinks<sup>8</sup>.
- **USA:** Section 4205 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2010)<sup>9</sup> requires that all chain restaurants with 20 or more establishments display energy information on menus. The implementing regulations were published by the Food and Drug Administration on 1 December 2014. Implementation has been delayed several times and is now set for 5 May 2017. Two states (California and Vermont), seven counties (e.g. King County, WA and Albany County NY) and two municipalities (e.g. New York City, Philadelphia) have already implemented regulations requiring chain restaurants (often chains with more than a given number of outlets) to display calorie information on menus and display boards. These regulations will be pre-empted by the national law once implemented; local governments will still be able to enact menu labelling regulations for establishments not covered by national law. The regulations also require vending machine operators of more than 20 vending machines to post calories for foods where the on-pack label is not visible to consumers by 26 July 2018<sup>8</sup>.

- **Australia:** Legislation in Australian Capital Territory (Food Regulation 2002) and the States of New South Wales (Food Regulation 2010) and South Australia (Food Regulation 2002) requires restaurant chains (e.g. fast food chains, ice cream bars) with  $\geq 20$  outlets in the state (or seven in the case of ACT), or 50 or more across Australia, to display the kilojoule content of food products on their menu boards. Average adult daily energy intake of 8700kJ must also be prominently featured. Other chains/food outlets are allowed to provide this information on a voluntary basis, but must follow the provisions of the legislation<sup>8</sup>.
- **New York City, USA:** Following an amendment to Article 81 of the New York City Health Code (addition of section 81.49), chain restaurants are required to put a warning label on menus and menu boards, in the form of a salt-shaker symbol (salt shaker inside a triangle), when dishes contain 2,300 mg of sodium or more. It applies to food service establishments with 15 or more locations nationwide. In addition, a warning statement is required to be posted conspicuously at the point of purchase: "Warning: [salt shaker symbol] indicates that the sodium (salt) content of this item is higher than the total daily recommended limit (2300 mg). High sodium intake can increase blood pressure and risk of heart disease and stroke." This came into effect 1 December 2015<sup>8,10</sup>.

**Context**

There is currently no federal policy on menu labelling in Canada. There is a Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Task Group on the Provisions of Nutrition Information in Restaurants and Foodservices; however, this group is not currently active and has not released any guidelines or recommendations regarding menu labelling.

**Policy details**

There are no territorial policies relating to menu labelling in NWT.

**Comments/ notes**

# Policy area: Food Promotion

Food-EPI vision statement: There is a comprehensive policy implemented by the government to reduce the impact (exposure and power) of promotion of unhealthy foods to children (<16 years) across all media

## PROMO1 Restrict promotion of unhealthy food: broadcast media

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Effective policies are implemented by the government to restrict exposure and power of promotion of unhealthy foods to children through broadcast media (TV, radio)

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes mandatory policy (i.e. legislation or regulations) or voluntary standards, codes, guidelines set by government or by industry where the government plays a role in development, monitoring, enforcement or resolving complaints
- Includes free-to-air and subscription television and radio only (see PROMO2 for other forms of media)

#### International examples

- **Norway / Sweden:** Under the Broadcasting Act, advertisements (food and non-food) may not be broadcast on television directed to children or in connection with children's programs. This applies to children 12 years and younger<sup>11</sup>.
- **Quebec, Canada:** In Quebec, most citizens speak French and it is the only province in Canada, where children below 13 years old are protected under the Consumer Protection Act since 1980<sup>12</sup>. In Québec, the Consumer Protection Act prohibits commercial advertising (including food and non-food) directed at children less than 13 years of age through television, radio and other media. To determine whether or not an advertisement is directed at persons under thirteen years of age, account must be taken of the context of its presentation, and in particular of: a) the nature and intended purpose of the goods advertised; b) the manner of presenting such advertisement; and c) the time and place it is shown. A cut-off of 15% share of children audience is used to protect children from TV advertising<sup>13</sup>. Any stakeholder involved in a commercial process (from the request to create an advertisement to its distribution, including its design) may be accused of not complying with the legislation in force. Per indictment, that person is liable to: a fine ranging from \$600 to \$15,000 (in the case of a natural person); a fine ranging from \$2,000 to \$100,000 (in the case of a legal person). Notably, for the rest of Canada, child-directed food marketing is self-regulated using the Canadian Children's Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative (CAI) by Advertising Standards Canada (ASC) through The Broadcast Code for Advertising to Children.
- **Chile:** In 2012, the Chilean government approved a Law of Nutritional Composition of Food and Advertising (Ley 20, 606)<sup>14</sup>. In June 2015, the Chilean authority approved the regulatory norms required for the law's implementation (Diario Oficial No 41.193). The regulatory norms define limits for calories, saturated fat, sugar and sodium content considered "high" in foods and beverages. The regulatory norms define limits for calories (275 calories/100g or 70 calories/100mL), saturated fat (4g/100g or 3g/100mL), sugar (10g/100g or 5g/100mL) and sodium (400mg/100g or 100mg/100mL) content considered "high" in foods and beverages. The law restricts advertising directed to children under the age of 14 years of foods in the "high in" category. The regulatory norms define advertising targeted to children as programmes directed to children or with an audience of greater than 20% children, and according to the design of the advertisement. Promotional strategies and incentives, such as cartoons, animations, and toys that could attract the attention of children are included in the ban. The regulation took effect 1 July 2016<sup>3</sup>. Chile outlaws Kinder Surprise eggs and prohibit toys in McDonald's 'Happy Meals' as part of this law<sup>15</sup>.

- **Ireland:** Advertising, sponsorship, teleshopping and product placement of foods high in fats, sugars and salt, as defined by a nutrient profiling model, are prohibited during children's TV and radio programmes where over 50% of the audience are under 18 years old (Children's Commercial Communications Code, 2013 revision). In addition, there is an overall limit on advertising of foods high in fats, sugars and salt adverts at any time of day to no more than 25% of sold advertising time and to only one in four advertisements. Remaining advertising targeted at children under the age of 13 must not include nutrient or health claims or include licensed characters<sup>3</sup>.
- **South Korea:** TV advertising to children less than 18 years of age is prohibited for specific categories of food before, during and after programmes shown between 5-7pm and during other children's programmes (Article 10 of the Special Act on the Safety Management of Children's Dietary Life, as amended 2010)<sup>3,16</sup>.

### Context

Restriction of advertising to children falls within the provincial/territorial or federal jurisdiction. It is acknowledged that forms of advertising that cross state borders (i.e. television programming or internet advertising) would be strengthened by consistent legislation across jurisdictions.

### Federal context

There is currently no federal policy regarding marketing of unhealthy foods to children. The **Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)** enforces the *Broadcasting Act*<sup>17</sup>, the *Broadcast Code for Advertising to Children (Children's Code)*<sup>18</sup> *Canadian Code of Advertising Standards*<sup>18</sup> which includes general provisions for marketing to children

The voluntary **Food and Beverage Children's Advertising Initiative (CAI)** was created in 2007, in which participating companies pledge to advertise only products classified as "better for you" in various media, and uses Uniform Nutrition Criteria<sup>19</sup> which require products considered 'better for you' to limit negative nutrients such as fat, sodium and sugar, and increase positive nutrients such as vitamins, minerals and fibre. Both the CAI and the Children's Code are published and administered by Advertising Standards Canada (ASC)<sup>20</sup>, an "industry body committed to creating maintaining confidence in advertising". Compliance with this code of is monitored by ASC, based on a consumer complaint process.

### Policy details

There are no territorial policies regarding to marketing to children via broadcast media in NWT.

### Comments/ notes

## PROMO2 Restrict promotion of unhealthy food: non-broadcast media

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Effective policies are implemented by the government to restrict exposure and power of promotion of unhealthy foods to children through non-broadcast media (e.g. Internet, social media, food packaging, sponsorship, outdoor and public transport advertising)

#### Definitions and scope

- Non-broadcast media promotion includes: print (e.g. children's magazines), online (e.g. social media, branded education websites, online games, competitions and apps) outdoors and on/around public transport (e.g. signage, posters and billboards), cinema advertising, product placement and brand integration (e.g. in television shows and movies), direct marketing (e.g. fundraising in schools, provision of show bags, samples or flyers), product design and packaging (e.g. use of celebrities or cartoons, competitions and give-aways) or POS displays
- Where the promotion is specifically in a children's setting, this should be captured in 'PROMO3'

#### International examples

- **Chile:** In 2012, the Chilean government approved a Law of Nutritional Composition of Food and Advertising (Ley 20, 606)<sup>14</sup>. In June 2015, the Chilean authority approved the regulatory norms required for the law's implementation (Diario Oficial No 41.193). The regulatory norms define limits for calories, saturated fat, sugar and sodium content considered "high" in foods and beverages. The regulatory norms define limits for calories (275 calories/100g or 70 calories/100mL), saturated fat (4g/100g or 3g/100mL), sugar (10g/100g or 5g/100mL) and sodium (400mg/100g or 100mg/100mL) content considered "high" in foods and beverages. The law restricts advertising directed to children under the age of 14 years of foods in the "high in" category. The regulatory norms define advertising targeted to children as websites directed to children or with an audience of greater than 20% children, and according to the design of the advertisement. Promotional strategies and incentives, such as cartoons, animations, and toys that could attract the attention of children are included in the ban. The regulation took effect 1 July 2016 and applies to all advertising media<sup>3</sup>. Chile outlaws Kinder Surprise eggs and prohibit toys in McDonald's 'Happy Meals' as part of this law<sup>15</sup>.
- **Quebec, Canada:** In Quebec, most citizens speak French and it is the only province in Canada, where children below 13 years old are protected under the Consumer Protection Act since 1980<sup>12</sup>. In Québec, the Consumer Protection Act prohibits commercial advertising directed at children less than 13 years of age through all media. To determine whether or not an advertisement is directed at persons under thirteen years of age, account must be taken of the context of its presentation, and in particular of: a) the nature and intended purpose of the goods advertised; b) the manner of presenting such advertisement; and c) the time and place it is shown<sup>13</sup>. Any stakeholder involved in a commercial process (from the request to create an advertisement to its distribution, including its design) may be accused of not complying with the legislation in force. Per indictment, that person is liable to: a fine ranging from \$600 to \$15,000 (in the case of a natural person); a fine ranging from \$2,000 to \$100,000 (in the case of a legal person). Notably, for the rest of Canada, child-directed food marketing is self-regulated using the Canadian Children's Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative (CAI) by Advertising Standards Canada (ASC) through The Broadcast Code for Advertising to Children.

#### Context

See PROMO1. The Canadian Code of Advertising Standards applies to all forms of advertising, including internet, social media, sponsorship, outdoor advertising, etc, but does not apply to packaging, wrappers and labels or point of sale displays within retail establishments<sup>18</sup>. The voluntary CAI does restrict promotion of unhealthy foods via Internet advertising, including company-owned websites, video and computer games, DVDs of movies, and mobile media among participants unless voluntarily included in commitments by the company. The CAI commitments do not include product packaging.

**Policy  
details**

There are no territorial policies regarding to marketing to children via non-broadcast media in NWT.

**Comments/  
notes**

## PROMO3 Restrict promotion of unhealthy foods: children's settings

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Effective policies are implemented by the government to ensure that unhealthy foods are not commercially promoted to children in settings where children gather (e.g. preschools, schools, sport and cultural events)

- Definitions and scope**
- Children's settings include: areas in and around schools, preschools/ kindergartens, day-care centres, children's health services (including primary care, maternal and child health or tertiary settings), sport, recreation and play areas/ venues/ facilities and cultural/community events where children are commonly present
  - Includes restrictions on marketing in government-owned or managed facilities/venues (including within the service contracts where management is outsourced)
  - Includes restriction on unhealthy food sponsorship in sport (e.g. junior sport, sporting events, venues)
- International examples**
- **Chile:** In 2012, the Chilean government approved a Law of Nutritional Composition of Food and Advertising (Ley 20, 606)<sup>14</sup>. In June 2015, the Chilean authority approved the regulatory norms required for the law's implementation (Diario Oficial No 41.193). The regulatory norms define limits for calories, saturated fat, sugar and sodium content considered "high" in foods and beverages. The regulatory norms define limits for calories (275 calories/100g or 70 calories/100mL), saturated fat (4g/100g or 3g/100mL), sugar (10g/100g or 5g/100mL) and sodium (400mg/100g or 100mg/100mL) content considered "high" in foods and beverages. The law restricts advertising directed to children under the age of 14 of foods in the "high in" category on school grounds, including preschools, primary and secondary schools. Promotional strategies and incentives, such as cartoons, animations, and toys that could attract the attention of children are included in the ban. The regulation took effect 1 July 2016<sup>3</sup>.
  - **Spain:** In 2011, the Spanish Parliament approved a Law on Nutrition and Food Safety (Ley 17/2011), which stated that kindergartens and schools should be free from all advertising. Criteria for the authorisation of food promotion campaigns, nutritional education and promotion of sports or physical activity campaigns were developed jointly by the Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety and Nutrition (AECOSAN) and the Regional Health Authorities and was implemented in July 2015. AECOSAN and the Spanish Regional Education and Health Administrations monitor the enforcement of the law<sup>3</sup>.
  - **Uruguay:** In September 2013, the government of Uruguay adopted Law No 19.140 "Alimentación saludable en los centros de enseñanza" (Healthy foods in schools)<sup>21</sup>. The law prohibits the advertising and marketing of foods and drinks that do not meet the nutrition standards [referenced in Article 3 of the law, and outlined in school nutrition recommendations published by the Ministry of Health in 2014]. Advertising in all forms is prohibited, including posters, billboards, and use of logos/brands on school supplies, sponsorship, and distribution of prizes, free samples on school premises and the display and visibility of food. The implementation of the law started in 2015<sup>3</sup>.
  - **Hungary:** Based on Section 8 of Act XLVIII on Basic Requirements and Certain Restrictions of Commercial Advertising Activities (2008), Hungary prohibits all advertising directed at children under 18 in child welfare and child protection institutes, kindergartens, elementary schools and their dormitories. Health promotion and prevention activities in schools may only involve external organizations and consultants who are recommended by the National Institute for Health Development according to Section 128(7) of the Ministerial Decree 20/2012 (VIII.31.) on the Operation of Public Education Institutions and the Use of Names of Public Education Institutions<sup>11</sup>.

**Context** See PROMO1 and PROMO2.

**Policy details** There are no territorial policies regarding to marketing to children in children's settings in NWT.

**Comments/ notes**

# Policy area: Food Prices

Food-EPI vision statement: Food pricing policies (e.g., taxes and subsidies) are aligned with health outcomes by helping to make the healthy eating choices the easier, cheaper choices

## PRICES1 Reduce taxes on healthy foods

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Taxes or levies on healthy foods are minimised to encourage healthy food choices where possible (e.g. low or no sales tax, excise, value-added or import duties on fruit and vegetables)

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes exemptions from excise tax, ad valorem tax or import duty
- Includes differential application of excise tax, ad valorem tax or import duty
- Excludes subsidies (see 'PRICES3') or food purchasing welfare support (see 'PRICES4')

#### International examples

- **Australia:** Goods and services tax (GST) exemption exists for basic foods (including fresh fruits and vegetables)<sup>22</sup>.
- **Tonga:** In 2013, as part of a broader package of fiscal measures, import duties were lowered from 20% to 5% for imported fresh, tinned or frozen fish in order to increase affordability and promote healthier diets<sup>23</sup>.
- **Poland:** In Poland, the basic rate of tax on goods and services is 22%, while the rate is lower (7%) for goods related to farming and forestry and even lower (3%) for unprocessed and minimally processed food products<sup>24</sup>.
- **Fiji:** To promote fruit and vegetable consumption, Fiji has removed the excise duty on imported fruits, vegetables and legumes. Import tax was decreased for most varieties from the original 32% to 5% (exceptions: 32% remains on tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, squash, pumpkin and 15% remains on coconuts, pineapples, guavas, mangosteens) and removed completely for garlic and onions<sup>23</sup>.

#### Context

##### National Context

Taxes on products in Canada are governed by the **Excise Tax Act** and its regulations, which are also typically applied to food products.

In Canada, a Goods and Service Tax (GST) applies to most supplies of goods and services, at a rate of 5%. There is a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), which harmonizes provincial sales tax with GST in several participating provinces at the following rates: 13% in Ontario, and 15% in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Also effective April 1, 2013, the 12% HST in British Columbia was replaced by the GST and a provincial sales tax.

Briefly, for food products, the application of GST and HST is considered based on whether or not foods are considered 'basic groceries'. Currently Canada's GST and HST legislation exempts some 'healthy' foods. The list of foods exempt from GST/HST include fresh, frozen, canned and vacuum sealed fruits and vegetables, breakfast cereals, most milk products, fresh meat, poultry and fish, eggs and coffee beans.

#### Policy details

NWT does not charge any additional tax beyond GST.

**Comments/  
notes**

## PRICES2 Increase taxes on unhealthy foods

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Taxes or levies on unhealthy foods (e.g. sugar-sweetened beverages, foods high in nutrients of concern) are in place and increase the retail prices of these foods by at least 10% to discourage unhealthy food choices where possible, and these taxes are reinvested to improve population health

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes differential application of excise tax, ad valorem tax or import duty on high calorie foods or foods that are high in nutrients of concern

#### International examples

- **Mexico:** In December 2013, the Mexican legislature passed two new taxes as part of the national strategy for the prevention of overweight, obesity and diabetes. An excise duty of 1 peso (\$0.80) per litre applies to sugary drinks. Sugary drinks are defined under the new law as all drinks with added sugar, excluding milks or yoghurts. This is expected to increase the price of sugary drinks by around 10%. An ad valorem excise duty of 8% applies to foods with high caloric density, defined as equal to or more than 275 calories per 100 grams. The food product categories that are affected by the tax include chips and snacks; confectionary; chocolate and cacao based products; puddings; peanut and hazelnut butters. The taxes entered into force on 1 January 2014. The aim is for the revenue of taxes to be reinvested in population health, namely providing safe drinking water in schools, but there is no evidence (yet) that this is the case as the taxes are not earmarked<sup>23, 25</sup>.
- **Hungary:** A "public health tax" adopted in 2012 is applied on the salt, sugar and caffeine content of various categories of ready-to-eat foods, including soft drinks (both sugar- and artificially-sweetened), energy drinks and pre-packaged sugar-sweetened products. The tax is applied at varying rates. Soft drinks, for example, are taxed at \$0.24 per litre and other sweetened products at \$0.47 per litre. The tax also applies to products high in salt, including salty snacks with >1g salt per 100g, condiments with >5g salt per 100g and flavourings >15g salt per 100g<sup>23, 26</sup>.
- **French Polynesia:** Various food and beverage taxes have been in place since 2002 to discourage consumption and raise revenue e.g. domestic excise duty on sweetened drinks and beer; import tax on sweetened drinks, beer and confectionery; tax on ice cream. Between 2002 and 2006, tax revenue went to a preventive health fund; from 2006, 80% has been allocated to the general budget and earmarked for health. The tax is 40 CFP (around \$0.44) per litre on domestically-produced sweet drinks, and 60 CFP (around \$0.68) per litre on imported sweet drinks<sup>23</sup>.
- **St. Helena:** In effect since 27 May 2014, a £0.75 per litre excise duty (about \$1.14) is applied to high-sugar carbonated drinks in St. Helena (Customs and Excise Ordinance Chapter 145, Section 5). High sugar carbonated drinks are defined as drinks containing ≥15 grams of sugar per litre<sup>23</sup>.
- **UK:** The Government announced a sugar tax on the soft drinks industry as part of the 2016 Budget<sup>27</sup>. Soft drinks manufacturers will be taxed according to the volume of the sugar-sweetened drinks they produce or import. Drinks will fall into two bands: one for total sugar content above 5g per 100mL (to be taxed at 18 pence per L), and a second, higher band for the most sugary drinks with more than 8g per 100mL (to be taxed at 24 pence per L). The tax will come into force in 2017 in order to give companies time to change the ingredients of their products. The measure will raise an estimated £520 million a year, and will be spent on doubling funding for sport in primary schools. Secondary schools will meanwhile be encouraged to offer more sport as part of longer school days. Pure fruit juices and milk-based drinks will be excluded, as well as small producers.

#### Context

Both federal and provincial/territorial governments have the legislative power to impose taxes on foods or nutrients of concern.

#### Policy details

There are no taxes that apply strictly to unhealthy foods in NWT.

Note that the Finance Minister of Northwest Territories (NWT) has reported that the Government of NWT is considering a sugar tax. This does not fall within the timeframe of this Food-EPI data collection, but will be considered in subsequent evaluations<sup>28</sup>.

**Comments/  
notes**

## PRICES3 Existing food subsidies favour healthy foods

### Food-EPI good practice statement

The intent of existing subsidies on foods, including infrastructure funding support (e.g. research and development, supporting markets or transport systems), is to favour healthy rather than unhealthy foods in line with overall population nutrition goals

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes agricultural input subsidies, such as free or subsidised costs for water, fertiliser, seeds, electricity or transport (e.g., freight) where those subsidies specifically target healthy foods
- Includes programs that ensure that farmers receive a certain price for their produce to encourage increased food production or business viability
- Includes grants or funding support for food producers (i.e. farmers, food manufacturers) to encourage innovation via research and development where that funding scheme specifically targets healthy food
- Includes funding support for wholesale market systems that support the supply of healthy foods
- Includes population level food subsidies at the consumer end (e.g. subsidising staples such as rice or bread)
- Excludes incentives for the establishment of, or ongoing support for, retail outlets (including greengrocers, farmers markets, food co-ops, etc. See 'RETAIL2').
- Excludes subsidised training, courses or other forms of education for food producers
- Excludes the redistribution of excess or second grade produce
- Excludes food subsidies related to welfare support (see 'PRICES4')
- Population nutrition goals related to the prevention of obesity and diet-related NCDs (e.g., reducing intake of nutrients of concern, not related to micronutrient deficiencies)

#### International examples

- **Singapore:** The government, through the Health Promotion Board (HPB) increases the availability and use of healthier ingredients through the "Healthier Ingredient Scheme" (formerly part of the "Healthier Hawker" programme, launched in 2011), which provides in the first instance transitional support to oil manufacturers and importers to help them increase the sale of healthier oils to the food service industry<sup>29</sup>. The Healthier Ingredient Subsidy Scheme offers a subsidy to suppliers stocking healthier items. Cooking oil is the first ingredient under the scheme, which subsidises oils with a saturated fat level of 35 per cent or lower.

#### Context

##### Federal Context

The federal **Nutrition North Canada** (NNC) program was established in 2011 to provide increased food access to isolated Northern communities in Canada. Registered retailers in the North, country food processors/distributors located in eligible communities, and food suppliers in the South who supply small retailers, institutions and individuals in these eligible isolated communities, can apply for a subsidy based on the weight of eligible foods shipped by air to eligible northern communities. These subsidies are to be passed on to northern consumers by appropriate reductions in the selling prices of eligible foods. There are approximately 20 communities eligible for the NNC program in NWT.

#### Policy details

The NWT government works with the federally-supported Growing Forward 2 program to promote local programs.

Under Industry, Tourism and Investment, programs under the agreement in the NWT include:

The **Small Scale Foods Program** (GF2) focuses on supporting and encouraging food production in five regions and 33 communities in the NWT<sup>30</sup>. Eligible activities include the planning, design, coordination, construction, enhancement or creation of commercial gardens and greenhouses, the establishment or expansion of new community market gardens (such as Farmer's Markets). "Take-A-Kid-Gardening" and the "Community Garden Program" are two examples of small scale food programs which aim to educate and support local food producers.

The **Northern Foods Development Program** (NFDP) aims to increase local food production and availability of northern food products for consumers in the NWT. It is targeted at farmers, greenhouse growers, harvesters, and fishers who demonstrate that the majority of their products is being directed at commercial markets<sup>31</sup>. \*\*Note that while these programs do promote healthy eating, they are a food security focus, and not a NCD prevention focus.

Under Environment and Natural Resources:

The **Traditional Harvest Program** assists NWT Community/Regional Wildlife Organizations in the local harvest of plants, berries, caribou, muskox and other wild species. It has two components: Community Harvests, and Take a Kid Harvesting<sup>32</sup>.

**Comments/  
notes**

A recent agriculture strategy was released by the Government of NWT in March, 2017, titled The **Business of Food, A Food Production Plan**<sup>33</sup>. This has a specific focus to reduce the costs of food for Northerners in NWT.

*\*Note that this is not within the timeframe for this Food-EPI evaluation and should not be included in ratings.*

Health and Social Services supports the On-the-Land Collaborative, which supports traditional land based programs that support youth wellness, traditions and culture. Anyone is eligible to apply to the Collaborative for funds, including individuals, municipalities, schools, non-profit organizations, and Indigenous organizations within NWT. These are not specific to healthy food, but do promote aspects of healthy living including eating healthy traditional foods.

## PRICES4 Food-related income support is for healthy foods

### Food-EPI good practice statement

The government ensures that food-related income support programs are for healthy foods

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes programs such as 'food stamps' or other schemes where individuals can utilise government-administered subsidies, vouchers, tokens or discounts in retail settings for specific food purchasing.
- Excludes general programs that seek to address food insecurity such as government support for, or partnerships with, organisations that provide free or subsidised meals (including school breakfast programs) or food parcels or redistribute second grade produce for this purpose.
- Excludes food subsidies at the consumer end (e.g. subsidising staples at a population level – see 'PRICES3')

#### International examples

- **UK:** The British Healthy Start programme provides pregnant women and/or families with children under the age of four with weekly vouchers to spend on foods including milk, plain yoghurt, and fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables. Participants or their family must be receiving income support/jobseekers allowance or child tax credits. Pregnant women under the age of 18 can also apply. Full national implementation of the programme began in 2006<sup>23</sup>.
- **USA:** In 2012, the USDA piloted a "Healthy Incentives Pilot" as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly "food stamps"). Participants received an incentive of 30 cents per US\$ spent on targeted fruit and vegetables (transferred back onto their SNAP card). The Pilot included 7500 individuals<sup>23</sup>. In New York City and Philadelphia, "Health Bucks" are distributed to farmers markets. When customers use income support (e.g. Food Stamps) to purchase food at farmers markets, they receive one Health Buck worth 2USD for each 5USD spent, which can then be used to purchase fresh fruit and vegetable products at a farmers market<sup>23</sup>. In Philadelphia, the programme has been expanded to other retail settings like supermarkets and corner stores.
- **USA:** In 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's implemented revisions to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to improve the composition and quantities of WIC-provided foods from a health perspective. The revisions include: increase the dollar amount for purchases of fruits and vegetables, expand whole-grain options, allow for yoghurt as a partial milk substitute, allow parents of older infants to buy fresh produce instead of jarred infant food and give states and local WIC agencies more flexibility in meeting the nutritional and cultural needs of WIC participants<sup>23</sup>.

#### Context

In Canada, social assistance is administered at the provincial/territorial level, and there are no national income support programs specific to food-related support.

#### Policy details

Income Assistance in NWT is mandated under the **Income Assistance Act** and the **Income Assistance Regulations**, under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

According to the policy, a Maximum Monthly Food Allowance Table provides a stipend for food according to the number of adults and mature children in the household, which varies according to the community in which the family resides<sup>34</sup>.

**There are no requirements for this to be used to purchase healthy foods, and no mechanisms are in place to monitor and/or limit what foods and beverages are purchased using food based allowances.**

#### Comments/ notes

# Policy area: Food Provision

Food-EPI vision statement: The government ensures that there are healthy food service policies implemented in government-funded settings to ensure that food provision encourages healthy food choices, and the government actively encourages and supports private companies to implement similar policies

## PROV1 Policies in schools promote healthy food choices

### Food-EPI good practice statement

The government ensures that there are clear, consistent policies (including nutrition standards) implemented in schools and early childhood education and care services for food service activities (canteens, food at events, fundraising, promotions, vending machines etc.) to provide and promote healthy food choices

#### Definitions and scope

- Early childhood education and care services (0-5): includes all early childhood care services which may be regulated and required to operate under the National Quality Framework
- Schools include government and non-government primary and secondary schools (up to year 12)
- Includes policies and nutrition standards to provide and promote healthy food choices or to limit or restrict the provision or promotion of unhealthy food choices
- Includes policies that relate to school breakfast programs, where the program is partly or fully funded, managed or overseen by the government
- Excludes training, resources and systems that support the implementation of these policies (see 'PROV3')

#### International examples

- **Chile:** In 2012, the Chilean government approved a Law of Nutritional Composition of Food and Advertising (Ley 20, 606)<sup>14</sup>. In June 2015, the Chilean authority approved the regulatory norms required for the law's implementation (Diario Oficial No 41.193). The regulatory norms define limits for calories, saturated fat, sugar and sodium content considered "high" in foods and beverages. The regulatory norms define limits for calories (275 calories/100g or 70 calories/100mL), saturated fat (4g/100g or 3g/100mL), sugar (10g/100g or 5g/100mL) and sodium (400mg/100g or 100mg/100mL) content considered "high" in foods and beverages. The law prohibits the sale of foods in the "high in" category in schools. These were scheduled to take effect 1 July 2016<sup>35</sup>.
- **Finland:** In 2008, the National Nutrition Council approved nutrition recommendations for school meals. These include food and nutrient recommendations for salt, fibre, fat, starch, fat and salt maximums for meat and processed meat, and drinks. There are also criteria for snacks provided in schools<sup>35</sup>.
- **Australia:** There are no national mandatory standards. However, six states and territories have implemented mandatory standards, which are either based on the national voluntary guidelines or nutrient and food criteria defined by the state: Australian Capital Territory (2015), New South Wales (2011), Northern Territory (2009), Queensland (2007), South Australia (2008), and Western Australia (2014). All of these states and territories identify 'red category' foods, which are either completely banned in schools or heavily restricted (e.g. offered no more than one or two times per term)<sup>35</sup>. The New South Wales (NSW) policy for school canteens prohibits availability of red foods, high in saturated fats, sugars, or sodium. Foods provided in school canteens should be at least 50% green foods to ensure that canteens do not increase the number of "amber" foods. Green foods include low-fat carbohydrates, fruits and vegetables, and lean meat as well as small

portions of pure fruit juice. Also Queensland's Smart Choices school nutrition standards ensure that "red" foods and drinks are eliminated across the whole school environment.

- **Mauritius:** In 2009, a regulation was passed banning soft drinks, including diet soft drinks, and unhealthy snacks from canteens of pre-elementary, elementary and secondary schools<sup>35</sup>.
- **UK:** England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have mandatory nutritional standards for school food, which also apply to food provided in schools other than school lunches. These standards apply to most state schools (with the exception of around 4,000 academies established between September 2010 and June 2014, which are exempt) and restrict foods high in fat, salt and sugar, as well as low quality reformed or reconstituted foods<sup>35</sup>.
- **Brazil:** The national school feeding programme<sup>36</sup> places great emphasis on the availability of fresh, traditional and minimally processed foods. It mandates a weekly minimum of fruits and vegetables, regulates sodium content and restricts the availability of sweets in school meals. A school food procurement law<sup>37</sup>, approved in 2001, limits the amount of processed foods purchased by schools to 30%, and bans the procurement of drinks with low nutritional value, such as sugary drinks. The law requires schools to buy locally grown or manufactured products, supporting small farmers and stimulating the local economy. Resolution no 38 (16 July 2009) sets food- and nutrition-based standards for the foods available in the national school meal programme (Law 11.947/2009). Article 17 prohibits drinks of low nutritional value (e.g. soda), canned meats, confectionary and processed foods with a sodium and saturated fat content higher than a specified threshold.
- **Costa Rica:** Executive Decree No 36910-MEP-S (2012) of the Costa Rican Ministries of Health and Education sets restrictions on products sold to students in elementary and high schools, including food with high levels of fats, sugars and salt, such as chips, cookies, candy and carbonated sodas. Schools are only permitted to sell food and beverages that meet specific nutritional criteria. The restrictions were upheld by the Constitutional Court in 2012 following a challenge by the food industry<sup>35</sup>.
- **Hungary:** Since 2012, food and beverages subject to the public health product tax may not be sold on school premises or at events organized for school children, including out of school events based on the Ministerial Decree 20/2012 (VIII.31) on the Operation of Public Education Institutions and the Use of Names of Public Education Institutions. Section 130(2) of the Decree requires the head of the educational institution to consult the school health service prior to entering into agreements with vending machine operators or food vending businesses. The school health service verifies whether the products to be sold meet the nutritional guidelines set by the National Institute of Pharmacy and Nutrition. Products that do not comply are prohibited<sup>35</sup>.
- **Uruguay:** In September 2013, the government of Uruguay adopted Law No 19.140 on "healthy eating in schools". It mandated the Ministry of Health to develop standards for food available in canteens and kiosks in schools, prohibited advertising for these same foods and restricted the availability of salt shakers. The school food standards were elaborated in March 2014 in two further documents: Regulatory Decree 60/014 and the National Plan of Health Promoting Schools. The standards aimed to promote foods with natural nutritional value with a minimum degree of processing and to limit the intake of free sugars, saturated fat, trans fat and sodium. Limits are set per 100g of food, 100mL for drinks and also per 50g portion. Prohibited foods include sugary beverages and energy drinks, confectionery, salty snacks, cakes and chocolate. The school food standards and restrictions on advertising began to be implemented in public schools in 2015 and are being monitored for compliance<sup>35</sup>.

## Context

In Canada, education is largely decentralized to the provinces and territories, and there is no federal Department of Education. Therefore, setting nutrition standards in schools currently falls largely on provincial/territorial governments, and Ministries of Education and/or Ministries of Health (or equivalent) in each province are responsible for developing criteria for nutritional standards in schools.

### National Context

In 2013, the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Nutrition Working Group on Improving the Consistency of School Food and Beverage Criteria created a technical document, the **Provincial and Territorial Guidance Document for the Development of Nutrient Criteria for Foods and Beverages in Schools 2013**, to guide and support provinces as they create and revise policies or guidelines<sup>38</sup>.

## Policy details

### Schools

#### **School Nutrition Standards**

There are school nutrition guidelines in NWT that are not mandatory 'standards' but are guidelines that are expected to be followed by the government. They categorize foods as "Choose most", "Choose sometimes" or "Not recommended" according to colour codes. The nutritional criteria are based on a combination of traditional, local or imported foods. These guidelines were provided to all schools to act as a guide for all foods provided by the school (and after school) funding programs.

Most school boards have their own policies related to food (no junk food, no pop, some have environmental types of policies as well) (written communication, April 2017).

#### **Drop the Pop**

Nunavut and the NWT promote the annual **Drop the Pop** campaign to drop the pop in favour of healthier beverages. The Drop the Pop Campaign provides funding to schools to support healthy children, communities and families. NWT organizations that provide child and youth education such as schools, child care centres, colleges and youth corrections may be eligible. To be eligible for funding, organizations must:

- be located in the NWT;
- consent to publish the organization's name and activities in connection with any Drop the Pop NWT coverage in the media and/or in any promotional materials; and
- be linked to the education system.

According to the NWT website:

*"As far as we know, all schools have now 'dropped the pop' - so most schools now have no pop and other sugary drinks in their vending machines, or sold/served at school events."*

*"Over the years, schools have used the 'Drop the Pop' funding for a wide range of excellent projects that promote healthy eating, healthy drinks, traditional foods, teas. All of these activities have increased the awareness about the harmful effects of sugary beverage consumption in schools and communities".*

#### **School Feeding Programs:**

There is currently territorial funding that can be used for school food programs (breakfast, snacks or lunches). The total amount of funding is \$650,000. Funding that is available to each community through the Community Wellness Program, which include initiatives for both Healthy Child and Youth Development and Healthy Living and Disease Prevention, could be allocated to food related programs. Under this programming, communities each receive a

base fund of \$75,000 (depending on the Aboriginal population and the Consumer Price Index-Food Basket, communities may be eligible for additional funding) to support community programs. Community Wellness Plans are developed at the local level.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment provides each feeding program with a link to or copy of **'Healthy Food Guidelines for First Nations Communities'**. ([http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/Healthy\\_Food\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_First\\_Nations\\_Communities.pdf](http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/Healthy_Food_Guidelines_for_First_Nations_Communities.pdf)) The guidelines in place (see School Nutrition Standards above) guide food choices, and most school boards have their own policies related to food (such as no junk food, no pop). Schools are required annually to verify that they have been in compliance with the Guidelines. (Written communication, March 2017).

### **Early Childhood Education**

According to the ***Child Day Care Standards Regulations***<sup>39</sup>, Regulation 32(1) and (2): "Nutritional Standards and Country Food" state that:

An operator shall ensure that each child attending a child day care facility is provided by the operator, or by the child's parent, with nutritious food that is selected in a manner consistent with the guidelines set out in the NWT Food Guide published by the Department of Health and Social Services, Government of the Northwest Territories or in Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide published by Health Canada<sup>39</sup>.

Additionally:

An operator may serve country food in a child day care facility provided that, if section 56 of the Wildlife Act applies in respect of the food to be served, the operator has obtained the permit required by that section<sup>39</sup>.

**Comments/  
notes**

## PROV2 Policies in public settings promote healthy food choices

### Food-EPI good practice statement

The government ensures that there are clear, consistent policies in public sector settings for food service activities (canteens, food at events, fundraising, promotions, vending machines, public procurement standards etc.) to provide and promote healthy food choices.

#### Definitions and scope

- Public sector settings include:
- Government-funded or managed services where the government is responsible for the provision of food, including public hospitals and other in-patient health services (acute and sub-acute, including mental health services), residential care homes, aged and disability care settings, custodial care facilities, prisons and home/community care services
- Government-owned, funded or managed services where the general public purchase foods including health services, parks, sporting and leisure facilities, community events etc.
- Public sector workplaces
- Includes private businesses that are under contract by the government to provide food
- Excludes 'public settings' such as train stations, venues, facilities or events that are not funded or managed by the government (see 'RETAIL4')
- Excludes school and early childhood settings (see 'PROV1')
- Includes policies and nutrition standards to provide and promote healthy food choices or to limit or restrict the provision or promotion of unhealthy food choices
- Includes the strategic placement of foods and beverages in cabinets, fridges, on shelves or near the cashier
- Includes the use of signage to highlight healthy options or endorsements (such as traffic lights or a recognised healthy symbol)
- Includes modifying ingredients to make foods and drinks more healthy, or changing the menu to offer more healthy options

#### International examples

- **Latvia:** In 2012, the government set salt levels for all foods served in hospitals and long-term social care institutions. Levels may not exceed 1.25g of salt per 100g of food product; fish products may contain up to 1.5g of salt per 100g of product<sup>35</sup>.
- **Bermuda:** In 2008, the Government Vending Machine Policy was implemented in government offices and facilities to ensure access to healthy snacks and beverages for staff. The policy requires that all food and beverages in vending machines on government premises meet specific criteria based on levels of total fat, saturated fat, *trans* fat, sodium and sugar. Criteria exclude nuts & 100% fruit juices<sup>35</sup>.
- **New York City, USA:** New York City's Food Standards (enacted with Executive Order 122 of 2008) set nutritional standards for all food purchased or served by city agencies, which applies to prisons, hospitals and senior care centres. The standards include: maximum and minimum levels of nutrients per serving; standards on specific food items (e.g. only no-fat or 1% milk); portion size requirements; the requirement that water be offered with food; a prohibition on the deep-frying of foods; and daily calorie and nutrient targets, including population-specific guidelines (e.g. children, seniors)<sup>35, 40</sup>. As of 2015, 11 city agencies are subject to the NYC Food Standards, serving and selling almost 250 million meals a year. The Food Policy Coordinator has the responsibility of ensuring adherence with the Food Standards. Self-reported compliance with the standard is 96%.
- **Wales:** Vending machines dispensing crisps, chocolate and sugary drinks are prohibited in National Health Service hospitals in Wales. The Welsh government issued a guidance defining what is allowed and not allowed, and has liaised with major vending providers to find ways to introduce healthier food and drink options (Health Promoting Hospital Vending Directions and Guide 2008).

- **UK:** The UK Government Buying Standard for Food and Catering Services (GBSF of 2014, updated March 2015) by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, sets out standards for the public sector when buying food and catering services. It is supported by the Plan for Public Procurement: Food and Catering Services (2014), which includes a toolkit consisting of the mandatory GBSF, a balanced scorecard, an e-marketplace, case studies and access to centralised framework contacts in order to improve and facilitate procurement in the public sector. The nutrition requirements have to be followed by schools, hospitals, care homes, communities and the armed forces. To improve diets, the GBSF sets maximum levels for sugar in cereals and generally for saturated fat and salt, in addition to minimum content of fibre in cereals and fruit in desserts. Meal deals have to include vegetables and fruit as dessert and menu fish on a regular basis<sup>1</sup>.

## Context

### Policy details

In 2006, the NWT developed a document titled **Healthy Foods in Facilities: Food and Beverage Guidelines for Health and Social Services** guidelines to provide direction for the kinds of foods and beverages that can be expected in health and social service facilities and to provide broad support for healthy eating policies<sup>41</sup>.

The guidelines have 4 categories: "Not recommended" (candies or drinks where sugar is the first or second ingredient), "Choose least" (foods that are deep-fried, low in key nutrients, and highly salted, sweetened or processed), "Choose sometimes" (foods that are moderately salted, sweetened or process), and "Choose most" (whole grain breads and fresh vegetables that are high in nutrients, lowest in unhealthy ingredients, and the least process)."Choose least" categories are recommended to make up less than 10% of food choices available, "Choose sometimes" are recommended to be 40-50% of foods available in facilities, and "Choose most" would account for 50% or more of foods and beverages in facilities.

Specific examples for amounts that would be considered low, moderate and high in salt and fat are provided. The recommendations are in line with the NWT and Canada's Food Guide. The document also provides specific examples of foods that would fit under each category according to the guidelines for each of the food groups and nutritional criteria for each food group and other categories of foods (which include traditional foods).

The document also outlines an example of a policy that could be developed or adopted in addition to the guidelines.

**Recreation Centres:** There are no recommendations, guidelines or requirements for foods sold in recreation centres.

**Public Sector Workplaces:** The Department of Health and Social Services no longer has a pop vending machine on their premises as part of the Drop the Pop program (described in PROVI)<sup>42</sup>.

On June 1, 2009, the NWT Legislative Assembly "dropped the pop" and ditched disposable water bottles. The Legislative Assembly does not sell, purchase or distribute bottled water or pop, including at catered meetings or public functions.

### Comments/ notes

There have been municipal efforts to decrease the availability of less healthful food choices, such as the banning of energy drinks in Aklavik, NWT<sup>43</sup>.

*\*\*Note: this is not within territorial jurisdiction and should not be rated.*

## PROV3 Support and training systems (public sector settings)

### Food-EPI good practice statement

The government ensures that there are good support and training systems to help schools and other public sector organisations and their caterers meet the healthy food service policies and guidelines

- Definitions and scope**
- Includes support for early childhood education services as defined in 'PROV1'
  - Public sector organisations includes settings defined in 'PROV2'
  - Support and training systems include guidelines, toolkits, templates (e.g. policy/guidelines or contracts), recipes and menu planning tools, expert advice, menu and product assessments, online training modules, cook/caterer/other food service staff information and training workshops or courses
- International examples**
- **Australia:** The Healthy Eating Advisory Service supports settings such as childcare centres, schools, workplaces, health services, food outlets, parks and sporting centres to provide healthy foods and drinks to the public in line with Victorian Government policies and guidelines. The Healthy Eating Advisory Service is delivered by experienced nutritionists and dietitians at Nutrition Australia Victorian Division. The support includes training cooks, chefs, food service and other key staff, discovering healthier recipes, food ideas and other helpful resources to provide healthier menus and products<sup>44</sup>.
  - **Japan:** In Japanese, "Shoku" means diet and "iku" means growth and education. In 2005, Basic Law on Shokuiku was enacted and it was the first law that regulates one's diets and eating habits. It involved Cabinet Office as the leading office to plan, formulate and coordinate Shokuiku policy and strategy, in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The laws included several concepts: promotion of Shokuiku at home, schools or nursery schools and promotion of interaction between farm producers and consumers<sup>45</sup>. Dietitian and registered dietitian are playing important roles to implement Shokuiku programs by providing dietary guidance in various setting. In Japan, at least one dietitian should be assigned at the facility with mass food service over 100 meals/time or over 250 meals/ day, whereas at least one registered dietitian is needed when it is over 500 meals/time or 1500 meals/day. In specific settings such as school, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology established the Diet and Nutrition Teacher System in 2007. Diet and Nutrition Teachers are responsible to supervise school lunch programs, formulate menus and ensure hygiene standards in public elementary schools and junior high schools in accordance with the needs of local communities. They also deal with dietary education issues in collaboration with nutrition experts such as registered dietitian and dietitian<sup>46</sup>. Under the revised School Lunch Act 2008, it included School Lunch Practice Standard which stipulates proper school lunch including reference intake values of energy and each nutrient as per age groups<sup>47</sup>. Moreover, it outlined costs of facilities and manpower (e.g. cooks) to be covered by municipalities and guardians only cover the cost of ingredients, amounting an estimate of 4000 yen/month/student for school lunch program<sup>48</sup>.

### Context

#### Policy details

A number of resources are available on the Government of NWT Health and Social Services Nutrition website<sup>49</sup>:

- The Government of NWT has developed a **Northwest Territories Food Guide**<sup>50</sup> [http://yhssa.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/nwt\\_food\\_guide.pdf](http://yhssa.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/nwt_food_guide.pdf)
- Health and Social Services provides online documents for **Traditional Food fact sheets** for how to incorporate traditional foods into a healthy eating routine. A similar fact sheet is available for locally available vegetables. A document outlining the use of the fact sheets is also available, and suggests that:

The fact sheets can be used by anyone interested in nutrition and healthy eating or in providing information/education for others, such as Adult Educators, Teachers, Community Health Representatives, Dietitians, Hunters and Trappers Associations, Band and Hamlet Councils, etc<sup>51</sup>.

### **Healthy Children Initiative**

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in conjunction with Health and Social Services provides funding to communities to enhance early child development programs and services that are family-oriented through the Healthy Children Initiative, a. In 2014, a total of \$2.11 million was disbursed to communities at a minimum amount of \$10,000 to support these programs. This funding could be applied to food environments. This is part of **A Framework for Early Childhood Development in the Northwest Territories.**<sup>52</sup>

In 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, the Government of the Northwest Territories partnered with the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to provide small community grants and training to improve the healthy choices available in recreation centres. This was a project funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer under the Coalitions Linking Action and Science for Prevention (CLASP) initiative.

### **NWT Healthy Communities Toolkit**<sup>53</sup>

The Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC), in collaboration with the Department of Health & Social Services (HSS) have developed a suite of Best Management Practices, by-laws, and policies that will assist NWT Communities to become healthier places to live. The toolkit supports implementation at the municipal level by providing ideas for policy development and also provide sample policies that could be adapted by organizations or groups to implement healthy eating policies.

<http://healthycommunities.toolkitnwtac.com/healthy-eating/>

This includes sample policies for:

- Healthy eating at community events
- Day Care/ After-School / Care/ Day Camp healthy eating policy
- Pop and energy drink reductions (Drop the Pop)
- Vending machine healthy choices policy
- Staff and council event healthy eating policy
- Community Gardens
- Breastfeeding friendly smart management practices
- Plastic water bottle reductions (Drop the Water Bottle)

**Comments/  
notes**

## PROV4 Support and training systems (private companies)

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Government actively encourages and supports private companies to provide and promote healthy foods and meals in their workplaces

#### Definitions and scope

- For the purpose of this indicator, 'private companies' includes for-profit companies and extends to non-government organisations (NGOs) including not-for-profit/charitable organisations, community-controlled organisations, etc.
- Includes healthy catering policies, fundraising, events
- Includes support and training systems including guidelines, toolkits, templates (e.g. policy/guidelines or contracts), recipes and menu planning tools, expert advice, menu and product assessments, online training modules, cook/caterer/other food service staff information and training workshops or courses (where relevant to the provision of food in a workplace)
- Excludes the provision or promotion of food to people not employed by that organisation (e.g. visitors or customers)
- Excludes support for organisations to provide staff education on healthy foods

#### International examples

- **UK:** The UK responsibility deal includes collective pledges on health at work, which set out the specific actions that partners agree to take in support of the core commitments. One of the pledges is on healthier staff restaurants, with 165 signatories to date<sup>54</sup>.
- **Victoria, Australia:** 'Healthy choices: healthy eating policy and catering guide for workplaces' is a guideline for workplaces to support them in providing and promoting healthier foods options to their staff. The guideline is supported by the Healthy Eating Advisory Service that helps private sector settings to implement such policies. Menu assessments and cook/caterer training are available free of charge to some eligible workplaces<sup>55</sup>.
- **Singapore:** The National Workplace Health Promotion Programme, launched in Singapore in 2000, is run by the Health Promotion Board. Both private and public institutions are encouraged to improve the workplace environment by providing tools and grants. Grants are awarded to help companies start and sustain health promotion programmes. Tools include a sample Healthy Workplace Nutrition Policy, a sample Healthy Workplace Catering Policy, and a detailed Essential Guide to Workplace Health, setting out ways to transform the workplace into a health-supporting work environment<sup>55</sup>.

#### Context

#### Policy details

No policy documents were identified.

#### Comments/notes

# Policy area: Food Retail

Food-EPI vision statement: The government has the power to implement policies and programs to support the availability of healthy foods and limit the availability of unhealthy foods in communities (outlet density and locations) and in-store (product placement)

## RETAIL1 Robust government policies and zoning laws: unhealthy foods

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Zoning laws and related policies provide robust mechanisms and are being used, where needed, by local governments to place limits on the density or placement of quick serve restaurants or other outlets selling mainly unhealthy foods in communities

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes the consideration of public health in State/Territory Planning Acts that guide the policies, priorities and objectives to be implemented at the local government level through their planning schemes
- Includes the consideration of public health in State/Territory subordinate planning instruments and policies
- Includes a State/Territory guideline that sets the policy objective of considering public health when reviewing and approving fast food planning applications
- Excludes laws, policies or actions of local governments

#### International examples

- **South Korea:** In 2010, the Special Act on Children's Dietary Life Safety Management established the creation of 'Green Food Zones' around schools, banning the sale of foods (fast food and soda) deemed unhealthy by the Food and Drug Administration of Korea within 200 metres of schools<sup>16, 56</sup>. In 2016, Green Food Zones existed at over 10000 schools.
- **Dublin, Ireland:** Fast-food takeaways will be banned from opening within 250 metres of schools. Dublin city councillors have ruled the measure to enforce "no-fry zones", which will be included in a draft version of the council's six-year development plan. City planners will be obliged to refuse planning permission to fast food businesses if the move is formally adopted after public consultation<sup>57</sup>.
- **Detroit, USA:** In Detroit, the zoning code prohibits the building of fast food restaurants within 500 ft. of all elementary, junior and senior high schools<sup>5</sup>.
- **UK:** Around 15 local authorities have developed "supplementary planning documents" on the development of hot food takeaways. The policies typically exclude hot food takeaways from a 400m zone around the target location (e.g. primary schools). For example, Barking and Dagenham's Local Borough Council, London, adopted a policy in 2010 restricting the clustering of hot food takeaways and banning them entirely from 400m exclusion zones around schools. In 2009, the Local Borough Council of Waltham Forest, London developed a planning policy restricting the development of hot food takeaways in local centres, and excluding them completely from areas within 10min walks from schools, parks or other youth centres. St. Helens Council adopted a planning document in 2011 and Halton in 2012<sup>3</sup>.

#### Context

In Canada, planning and zoning laws are typically administered at the provincial/territorial or local level. Although this varies between provinces/territories, provincial or territorial governments typically set overarching zoning legislation, and local governments are responsible for creating, implementing and enforcing municipal policies that are in line with the provincial/territorial mandates.

**Policy  
details**

The ***Community Planning and Development Act*** (in force October 2013) appoints municipal councils in charge of area development and zoning by-laws. Local governments in the territories have to follow general policies outlined in the Act, however, the territorial zoning law does not contain any special provisions for zoning relating to food, nutrition or health<sup>58</sup>. Settled and unsettled land claim agreements affect use of lands and waters.

**Comments/  
notes**

## RETAIL2 Robust government policies and zoning laws: healthy foods

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Zoning laws and related policies provide robust mechanisms and are being used, where needed, by local governments to encourage the availability of outlets selling fresh fruit and vegetables

#### Definitions and scope

- Outlets include supermarkets, produce markets, farmers' markets, greengrocers, food co-operatives
- Includes fixed or mobile outlets
- Excludes community gardens, edible urban or backyard gardens (usually regulated by local governments)
- Includes State/Territory policies to streamline and standardise planning approval processes or reduce regulatory burdens for these outlets
- Includes policies that support local governments to reduce license or permit requirements or fees to encourage the establishment of such outlets
- Includes the provision of financial grants or subsidies to outlets
- Excludes general guidelines on how to establishment and promote certain outlets
- Excludes laws, policies or actions of local governments

#### International examples

- **USA:** In February 2014, the US Congress formally established the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (following a three year pilot) which provides grants to states to provide financial and/or other types of assistance to attract healthier retail outlets to underserved areas. The pilot has distributed over 140 million USD in grants. To date, 23 US states have implemented financing initiatives<sup>3</sup>. For example, the New Jersey Food Access Initiative provides affordable loans and grants for costs associated with building new supermarkets, expanding existing facilities, and purchasing and installing new equipment for supermarkets offering a full selection of unprepared, unprocessed, healthy foods in under-served areas; the initiative targets both for-profit and not-for-profit organisations and food cooperatives.
- **New York City, USA:** The 'Green Cart Permit' was developed with reduced restrictions on zoning requirements to increase the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in designated, underserved neighbourhoods<sup>3</sup>. In 2008, New York City made 1000 licences for green carts available to street vendors who exclusively sell fresh fruit and vegetables in neighbourhoods with limited access to healthy foods<sup>3</sup>. In addition, in 2009, New York City established the food retail expansion to support a health programme of New York City (FRESH). Under the programme, financial and zoning incentives are offered to promote neighbourhood grocery stores offering fresh meat, fruit and vegetables in under-served communities. The financial benefits consist of an exemption or reduction of certain taxes. The zoning incentives consist of providing additional floor area in mixed buildings, reducing the amount of required parking, and permitting larger grocery stores in light manufacturing districts.
- **Scotland:** In 2004, a small group of suppliers and retailers in Scotland established a pilot project called Healthy Living Neighbourhood Shops to increase the availability of healthier food options throughout Scotland, in both deprived and affluent areas, where little or no option existed to buy. The programme received funding from the Scottish Executive and worked closely with the Scottish Grocers' Federation, which represents convenience stores throughout Scotland. Through a number of different trials, the programme established clear criteria for increasing sales and also developed bespoke equipment/point of sale (POS) materials which were given to participating retailers free of charge. This has led to around 600 convenience stores across Scotland improving their range, quality and stock of fresh fruit and vegetables and other healthier eating products<sup>59</sup>.

**Context** In Canada, planning and zoning laws are typically administered at the provincial/territorial or local level. Although this varies between provinces/territories, provincial or territorial governments typically set overarching zoning legislation, and local governments are responsible for creating, implementing and enforcing municipal policies that are in line with the provincial/territorial mandates.

**Policy details** The ***Community Planning and Development Act*** (in force October 2013) appoints municipal councils in charge of area development and zoning by-laws. Local governments in the territories have to follow general policies outlined in the Act, however, the territorial zoning law does not contain any special provisions for zoning relating to food, nutrition or health<sup>58</sup>. Settled and unsettled land claim agreements affect use of lands and waters.

**Comments/ notes** Yellowknife Food Charter: Since 2013, Yellowknife has made local food security a priority by creating a viable marketplace for local food-based businesses. More recently, a draft Yellowknife Food Charter was developed<sup>60</sup>. Additionally, Hay River has a municipal agriculture plan<sup>61</sup>.

*\*\*Note these are not territorial policies and should not be rated.*

## RETAIL3 In-store availability of healthy and unhealthy foods

### Food-EPI good practice statement

The government ensures existing support systems are in place to encourage food stores to promote the in-store availability of healthy foods and to limit the in-store availability of unhealthy foods

<b>Definitions and scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Food stores include supermarkets, convenience stores (including 'general stores' or 'milk bars'), greengrocers and other speciality food retail outlets</li><li>- Support systems include guidelines, resources or expert support</li><li>- In-store promotion includes the use of key promotional sites such as end-of-aisle displays, checkouts and island bins as well as the use of shelf signage, floor decals or other promotional methods</li><li>- In-store availability includes reducing or increasing supply (volume) of a product such as reducing the amount of shelf-space dedicated to sugar-sweetened drinks and confectionary, or offering fresh produce in a convenience store</li></ul>
<b>International examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>USA:</b> The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) requires WIC authorised stores to stock certain healthier products (e.g. wholegrain bread)<sup>23</sup>.</li></ul>

### Context

<b>Policy details</b>	No additional territorial supports for in-store availability of healthy and unhealthy foods were identified.
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### Comments/ notes

## RETAIL4 Food service outlet availability of healthy and unhealthy foods

### Food-EPI good practice statement

The government ensures support systems are in place to encourage food service outlets to increase the promotion and availability of healthy foods and to decrease the promotion and availability of unhealthy foods

#### Definitions and scope

- Food service outlets include for-profit quick service restaurants, eat-in or take-away restaurants, pubs, clubs
- Support systems include guidelines, resources or expert support
- Includes settings such as train stations, venues, facilities or events frequented by the public
- Excludes settings owned or managed by the government (see 'PROV2' and 'PROV4')
- Includes the strategic placement of foods and beverages in cabinets, fridges, on shelves or near the cashier
- Includes the use of signage to highlight healthy options or endorsements (such as traffic lights or a recognised healthy symbol)
- Includes modifying ingredients to make foods and drinks more healthy, or changing the menu to offer more healthy options

#### International examples

- **Singapore:** 'Healthier Hawker' program involved the government working in partnership with the Hawker's Association to support food vendors to offer healthier options such as reduced saturated fat cooking oil and wholegrain noodles and rice, reduced salt soy sauce and increased vegetable content. As part of the "Healthier Dining Programme" launched in June 2014 (formerly called the "Healthier Hawker" programme launched in 2011), food operators are encouraged to offer lower calorie meals and use healthier ingredients such as oils with reduced fat content, and/or whole grains without compromising taste and accessibility. To participate, food and beverage companies must complete an application form and implement nutrition guidelines set by the Health Promotion Board (HPB) in all outlets for a period of two years. Following HPB's approval the "Healthier Choice Symbol Identifiers" can be used next to the healthier dishes in all menu and marketing materials (e.g. "We serve lower-calorie options", "We use healthier oil"). To date, the HPB has partnered with 45 widely known food service providers (food courts, coffee shops, restaurants) to offer lower calorie and healthier meals across 1500 outlets and stalls. Between the launch of the programme and September 2015, the number of healthier meals sold more than doubled, from 525000 in June 2014 to 1.1 million in September 2015.
- **USA:** In December 2011, San Francisco implemented the Health Food Incentives Ordinance which bans restaurants, including takeaway restaurants, to give away toys and other free incentive items with children's meals unless the meals meet nutritional standards as set out in the Ordinance: meals must not contain more than 600 calories, 640mg sodium, 0.5g trans-fat, 35% total calories from fat and 10% calories from saturated fat and include a min amount of fruits and vegetables, while single food items and beverages must have <35% total calories from fat and <10% of calories from added caloric sweeteners. Incentives are defined as physical and digital items that appeal to children and teenagers, as well as coupons, vouchers or similar which allow access to these items. In 2010, Santa Clara county, California banned restaurants from providing toys or other incentives with menu items high in calories, sodium, fat or sugars. The law (Ordinance No NS300-820) sets nutrition standards prohibiting restaurants from linking toys or other incentives with single food items or meals with excessive calories (more than 200 for single food items and more than 485 calories for meals), excessive sodium (more than 480mg for single food item and more than 600mg for a meal), excessive fat (more than 35% for total fat), excessive saturated fat (>10%) and sugar ( more than 10% total calories from caloric sweeteners) or more than 0.5g of trans fats. It also applies to drinks with excessive calories (more than 120 calories) and fat ( more than 35% from fat) and excessive sugars (more than 10% from caloric sweeteners) added non-nutritive sweeteners or caffeine<sup>11</sup>.

- **France:** Since January 2017, France has banned unlimited offers of sweetened beverages for free or at a fixed price in public restaurants and other facilities accommodating or receiving children under the age of 18. Sweetened beverages are defined as any drink sweetened with sugar or artificial (caloric and non-caloric ) sweeteners, including flavoured carbonated and still beverages, fruit syrups, sport and energy drinks, fruit and vegetable nectars, fruit- and vegetable-based drinks, as well as water- milk- or cereal-based beverages<sup>3</sup>.

**Context**

**Policy details**

No policies or programs were identified.

**Comments/ notes**

# INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT DOMAINS

## Policy area: Leadership

Food-EPI vision statement: The political leadership ensures that there is strong support for the vision, planning, communication, implementation and evaluation of policies and actions to create healthy food environments, improve population nutrition, and reduce diet-related inequalities

### LEAD1 Strong, visible, political support

#### Food-EPI good practice statement

There is strong, visible, political support (at the Head of State / Cabinet level) for improving food environments, population nutrition, diet-related NCDs and their related inequalities

#### Definitions and scope

- Visible support includes statements of intent, election commitments, budget commitments, establishing priorities and targets, demonstration of support in the media, other actions that demonstrate support for new or strengthened policy
- Documents that contain evidence of strong political support include media releases, speeches, pre-election policy papers, introduction of a bill, State-level strategic plans with targets or key performance indicators
- In this case, Head of State is considered to be the Premier

#### International examples

- **New York City, USA:** As Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg prioritised food policy and introduced a number of ground breaking policy initiatives including 'Health Bucks', a restriction on trans fats, establishment of an obesity taskforce, a portion size restriction on sugar-sweetened beverages, public awareness campaigns, etc. He showed strong and consistent leadership and a commitment to innovative approaches and cross-sectoral collaboration<sup>62</sup>.
- **Brazil:** The Minister of Health showed leadership in developing new dietary guidelines that are drastically different from the majority of dietary guidelines created by any nation to date, and align with some of the most commonly cited recommendations for healthy eating<sup>63</sup>.
- **CARICOM Countries:** Active NCD commissions exist in six of the 20 CARICOM member states (Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada) which are all housed in their Ministries of Health, with members recommended by the Minister of Health and appointed by the Cabinet of Government for a fixed duration; all include government agencies and to a varying degree, civil society and the private sector.

#### Context

##### National Context

In 2010, Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers endorsed **Curbing Childhood Obesity: A Federal, Provincial and Territorial Framework for Action to Promote Healthy Weights**, which included a mandate to "increasing the availability and accessibility of nutritious foods

and decreasing the marketing to children of foods and beverages that are high in fat, sugar and/or sodium”<sup>64</sup>.

### Federal Context

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau included aspects of public health nutrition and food environment policy in the Mandate Letter to the Minister of Health, published in November, 2015, which included introducing new restrictions on the commercial marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to children; bringing in tougher regulations to eliminate trans fats and to reduce salt in processed foods; and improving food labels to give more information on added sugars.

In October, 2016, the Minister of Health Jane Philpott announced Health Canada’s **Healthy Eating Strategy**<sup>65</sup>. The strategy employs various policy levers, including legislation, regulation, guidance and education in a consistent and mutually reinforcing manner to more effectively achieve public health objectives. This is part of the Government of Canada’s **Vision for a Healthy Canada**, which includes components of Healthy Eating, Healthy Living, and Healthy Mind.

### Policy details

In 2016, the **Mandate Letter to the Minister of Health and Social Services**<sup>66</sup> stated that one of the mandates was to:

- “Reduce the burden of chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles and improving screening and management, with a focus on:
  - ...Promoting healthy eating in NWT communities through a variety of programs including Health Family Collective Kitchens and Drop the Pop...”<sup>66</sup>

In 2015, the NWT Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Investment declared that they are looking to formalize an Agriculture Strategy for the territory, in a document titled **Towards an (Northwest Territories) Agriculture Strategy: What We Learned**<sup>67</sup>. The document would guide government investment, and has an economic focus with particular emphasis on business opportunities and economic growth. However, this document recognizes that such a policy can also have an impact on improved health outcomes related to improved and diversified diets. The final Agriculture Strategy has not been publicly disclosed.

The **Priorities of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly**<sup>68</sup> were tabled in 2015 identified priorities for government that included several nutrition-related priorities:

- Fostering healthy families by focusing on wellness, prevention, and improved nutrition;
- Creating opportunities for healthy lifestyles and community leadership for our youth.

### Comments/ notes

The **NWT Agriculture Strategy** was released in 2017<sup>69</sup>. The Northwest Territories’ (NWT) first-ever Agriculture Strategy sets the stage for actions, investments and the development of legislative tools that will advance the increased production of fresh, healthy, safe and more affordable locally grown food choices, and new economic opportunities for NWT residents<sup>70</sup>.

*\*\*Note that this was introduced after January 1, 2017 and therefore should not be included in ratings for this indicator.*

## LEAD2 Population intake targets established

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Clear population intake targets have been established by the government for the nutrients of concern to meet WHO and national recommended dietary intake levels

<b>Definitions and scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Includes targets which specify population intakes according to average reductions in percentage or volume (e.g. mg/g) for salt, saturated fat, trans fats or added sugars</li><li>- Excludes targets to reduce intake of foods that are dense in nutrients of concern</li><li>- Typically requires the government to establish clear dietary guidelines on the maximum daily intake of nutrients of concern</li></ul>
<b>International examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Brazil:</b> The "Strategic Action Plan for Confronting NCDs in Brazil, 2011-2022 specifies a target of increasing adequate consumption of fruits and vegetables, from 18.2% to 24.3 % between 2010 and 2022 and reduction of the average salt intake of 12g to 5g, between 2010 and 2022<sup>71</sup>.</li><li>- <b>South Africa:</b> The South African plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases includes a target on reducing mean population intake of salt to &lt;5g per day by 2020<sup>72</sup>.</li><li>- <b>UK:</b> In July 2015, the government adopted as official dietary advice the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Nutrition that sugar should make up no more than 5% of daily calorie intake (30g or 7 cubes of sugar per day). Current sugar intake makes up 12 to 15% of energy. An evidence review by Public Health England outlines a number of strategies and interventions<sup>73</sup>.</li></ul>

### Context

#### Federal Context

The Sodium Working Group, led by Health Canada and others, recommended an interim average intake of sodium at 2,300 mg of sodium per day by 2016, and longer term goal of 95% of the population with a sodium intake below the upper limit of 2,300 mg per day. These were not formally adopted by the Canadian Government in practice<sup>74</sup>. In the Guidance for Food Industry on Reducing Sodium in Processed Foods, one of the roles of Government is to "Support reduction of Canadians' average sodium intake to 2,300 mg per day by 2016"<sup>75</sup>.

The Trans Fat Task Force issued recommendations for targets for *trans* fat in the food supply to align with the WHO recommendations for *trans* fats that suggest limiting intake to less than 1% of total energy intake<sup>76</sup>. This was accepted by the Minister of Health.

### Policy details

According to the report **Reducing the sodium intake of Canadians: A Provincial and Territorial Report on Progress and Recommendations for Future Action** (2012), "Canada's Premiers have endorsed sodium reduction as an important healthy living measure, and the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Health and Healthy Living, except Québec, have committed to achieving an interim population average intake goal of 2,300 mg per day by 2016".

The report also identifies opportunities for the federal government to support the work that provinces and territories are doing to help achieve the 2016 sodium intake goal of 2,300 mg per person each day, as agreed to by federal, provincial and territorial ministers in September 2010.

No other territorial targets have been established regarding intake of nutrients or food groups of concern.

### Comments/ notes

## LEAD4 Comprehensive implementation plan linked to state/national needs

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There is a comprehensive, transparent, up-to-date implementation plan (including priority policy and program strategies) linked to state/national needs and priorities, to improve food environments, reduce the intake of the nutrients of concern to meet WHO and national recommended dietary intake levels, and reduce diet-related NCDs

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes documented plans with specific actions and interventions (i.e. policies, programs, partnerships)
- Plans should be current (i.e. maintain endorsement by the current government and/or are being reported against)
- Plans may be at the state/department/branch/unit/team level and ownership may or may not be shared across government
- Plans should refer to actions to improve food environments (as defined in the policy domains above) and should include both policy and program strategies
- Excludes overarching frameworks that provide general guidance and direction

#### International examples

- **European Union:** The European Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2015-20 outlines clear strategic goals, guiding principles, objectives, priorities and tools. The plan aligns with the WHO Global Action Plan and under 'Objective 1 – Create healthy food and drink environments', there are clear policy and program actions identified<sup>77</sup>.

#### Context

In the **Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2014-2015 to 2015-2016**<sup>78</sup>, one of the recommendations was to develop a Healthy Eating Strategy in the NWT to address childhood obesity, among others.

#### Policy details

An NWT Healthy Eating Strategy was completed but not endorsed by the government; therefore, there is no current healthy eating strategy in NWT.

The NWT Cancer Strategy, titled **Charting Our Course: Northwest Territories Cancer Strategy 2015-2025**<sup>79</sup> includes a Strategic Priority to Strengthen initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles. The five year plan includes:

- Investigate social determinants of health in the NWT and their influence on healthy living;
- Create an online source of accurate and current information to support healthy living;
- Explore solutions to food security challenges in the NWT;
- Identify foods and nutrition data gaps that impede population-based policy and interventions for cancer and other chronic disease (including the lack of nutrition intake data);
- Work in collaboration with Healthy Choices Framework partners to support opportunities for youth to be physically active.

#### Comments/notes

## LEAD5 Priorities for reducing inequalities

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Government priorities have been established to reduce inequalities or protect vulnerable populations in relation to diet, nutrition, obesity and NCDs

#### Definitions and scope

- Frameworks, strategies or implementation plans specify aims, objectives or targets to reduce inequalities including taking a preventive approach that addresses the social and environmental determinants of health
- Frameworks, strategies or implementation plans identify vulnerable populations or priority groups
- Implementation plans specify policies or programs that aim to reduce inequalities for specific population groups
- Excludes priorities to reduce inequalities in secondary or tertiary prevention

#### International examples

- **New Zealand:** The Ministry of Health reports the estimates derived from health surveys and nutrition surveys by four subpopulation groups including age group, gender, ethnic group and an area level deprivation index. Similarly, estimates derived from other data types (e.g. mortality) are presented by these subpopulation groups. The contracts between MoH and NGOs or other institutions include a section on Maori Health and state: "An overarching aim of the health and disability sector is the improvement of Maori health outcomes and the reduction of Maori health inequalities. You must comply with any: a) Maori specific service requirements, b) Maori specific quality requirements and c) Maori specific monitoring requirements". In addition, the provider quality specifications for public health services include specific requirements for Maori: "C1 Services meet needs of Maori, C2 Maori participation at all levels of strategic and service planning, development and implementation within organisation at governance, management and service delivery levels, C3: support for Maori accessing services". In the specific contract between the Ministry of Health and Agencies for Nutrition Action, the first clause is on Maori Health: "you must comply with any Maori specific service requirements, Maori specific quality requirements and Maori specific monitoring requirements contained in the Service specifications to this agreement".
- **Australia:** The National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap) is an agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the States and Territories. The objective of this agreement is to work together with Indigenous Australians to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. The targets agreed to by COAG relate to health or social determinants of health. For the target 'Closing the life expectancy gap within a generation (by 2031)', one of the performance indicators is the prevalence of overweight and obesity.

#### Context

#### Policy details

In 2013, an anti-poverty strategic framework, titled **Building on the Strengths of Northerners** was tabled in the NWT Legislative Assembly<sup>78</sup>. This was listed as a priority in the 2016 mandate Letter to the Minister of Health (2016)<sup>66</sup>.

The most recent plan was published in 2014/2015 – 2015/2016, and is a collaboration between non-governmental organizations, community and Aboriginal governments, business and industry and other stakeholders. This includes a specific Areas of Action to "Invest in food security initiatives for children and youth" which relates to food.

#### Availability of Resources in Official Languages

All resources for health are available in any official NWT language, including: English, French, Cree, Tl'cho, Chiewyan, South Slavey, North Slavey, Gwich'in, Inuvialuktun, Inuktitut, or Inuinnaqtun (upon request).

**Comments/  
notes**

# Policy area: Governance

Food-EPI vision statement: Governments have structures in place to ensure transparency and accountability, and encourage broad community participation and inclusion when formulating and implementing policies and actions to create healthy food environments, improve population nutrition, and reduce diet-related inequalities

## GOVER1 Restricting commercial influence on policy development

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There are robust procedures to restrict commercial influences on the development of policies related to food environments where they have conflicts of interest with improving population nutrition

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes government policies, guidelines, codes of conduct or other mechanisms to guide actions and decision-making by government employees, for example conflict of interest declaration procedures
- Includes procedures to manage partnerships with private companies or peak bodies representing industries that are consulted for the purpose of developing policy, for example committee procedural guidelines or terms of reference
- Includes publicly available, up-to-date registers of lobbyist and/or their activities

#### International examples

- **USA:** Mandatory and publicly accessible lobby registers exist at the federal level, as well as in nearly every state. Financial information must be disclosed, and the register is enforced through significant sanctions. A number of pieces of legislation uphold compliance with the register including Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act 2007.
- **New Zealand:** The State Services Commission has published Best Practice Guidelines for Departments Responsible for Regulatory Processes with Significant Commercial Implications. They cover the development and operation of a regulatory process and include specific references to principles around stakeholder relationship management<sup>80</sup>.
- **Australia:** The Australian Public Service Commission's Values and Code of Conduct includes a number of relevant sections such as the Conflict of Interest, Working with the Private Sector and other Stakeholders and the Lobbying Code of Conduct.

#### Context

**Federal Context** There is currently a ban on political contributions from corporations, trade unions, associations and groups federally.

**Provincial Context** Provincially, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia prohibit corporate and union donations.

#### Policy details

##### Government lobbying

There was a motion in June 2015 requesting that the Government of NWT implement a lobbyist registry that is publicly accessible via the Internet. The government instead expressed commitment openness and transparency in conducting its business, including publishing any Minister's external meetings (similar to an open government program).

According to the **Conflict of Interest Act**<sup>81</sup> – a member of a council or board who has direct or indirect ties to a corporation which offers its services to the public, must disclose their interest and cannot participate in the discussion or vote of any matter pertaining to their ties. They are, however, allowed to present at the meeting. There is also a Conflict of Interest Commissioner to advise Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) on how to comply with the act.

There is a **Public-Private Partnership Policy (15.02)**<sup>82</sup> in NWT, which declares that the public-private partnership process must be transparent, accountable and ensure that public control is preserved. Changes to this policy resides under the control of the Executive Council. No mention of private companies involvement in policy-making decisions. It is unclear whether or not this is applied to any activities in the food sector.

According to Elections NWT, political donations are only allowed from residents, businesses, organizations or corporations operating in the NWT to a maximum of \$1,500 (the only exceptions to this limit are for transportation or office space)<sup>83</sup>. According to Section 256 of the **Elections and Plebiscites Act**, a detailed account of all contributions must be included in the candidates statement within 60 days of polling day.

**Comments/  
notes**

## GOVER2 Use of evidence in food policies

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Policies and procedures are implemented for using evidence in the development of food policies

<b>Definitions and scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Includes policies, procedures or guidelines to support government employees in the use of evidence for policy development including best practice evidence review methodology (including types and strength of evidence needed) and policy implementation in the absence of strong evidence (where the potential risks or harms of inaction are great)</li><li>- Includes policies, procedures or guidelines that stipulate the requirements for the establishment of a scientific or expert committee to inform policy development</li><li>- Includes the use of evidence-based models, algorithms and tools to guide policy development or within policy to guide implementation (e.g. nutrient profiling model)</li><li>- Includes government resourcing of evidence and research by specific units, either within or across government departments</li></ul>
<b>International examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Australia:</b> The National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992 (NHMRC Act) requires NHMRC to develop evidence-based guidelines. These national guidelines are developed by teams of specialists following a rigorous nine-step development process<sup>84</sup>.</li></ul>

### Context

**Policy details** No food-related policies were identified.

### Comments/ notes

## GOVER3 Transparency for the public in the development of food policies

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Policies and procedures are implemented for ensuring transparency in the development of food policies

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes policies or procedures to guide the online publishing of private sector and civil society submissions to government around the development of policy and subsequent government response to these
- Includes policies or procedures that guide the use of consultation in the development of food policy
- Includes policies or procedures to guide the online publishing of scoping papers, draft and final policies
- Include policies or procedures to guide public communications around all policies put forward but not progressed

#### International examples

- **Australia / New Zealand:** Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is required by the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991 to engage stakeholders in the development of new standards. This process is open to everyone in the community including consumers, public health professionals, and industry and government representatives. FSANZ has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2013-16 that outlines the scope and processes for engagement. Under the Stakeholder Engagement Priorities 2013-16, it outlines “maintain our open and transparent approach” as one of the first priorities<sup>85</sup>.

#### Context

#### Policy details

The Department of Health and Social Services has an online repository of current and past consultations/engagements regarding departmental activities<sup>86</sup>.

The GNWT has a legal duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal governments and organizations whenever it considers carrying out a government action that has the potential to adversely affect asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights. This duty to consult is a constitutional obligation that is rooted in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act 1982*. To demonstrate the GNWT’s commitment to meaningful Aboriginal consultation, in August 2007, “The Government of the Northwest Territories’ Approach to consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations” was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This government-wide approach outlines the key principles that guide the GNWT’s approach to consultation and set out a four-stage process that the GNWT will follow in carrying out its Aboriginal consultation in a sound and consistent manner.

#### Comments/ notes

## GOVER4 Access to government information

### Food-EPI good practice statement

The government ensures public access to comprehensive information and key documents (e.g. budget documents, annual performance reviews and health indicators) related to public health nutrition and food environments

<b>Definitions and scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Includes policies and procedures to guide the timely, online publishing of government budgets, performance reviews, audits, evaluation reports or the findings of other reviews or inquiries</li><li>- Includes 'freedom of information' legislation and related processes to enable the public access to government information on request, with minimal restrictions and exemptions</li><li>- Includes policies or procedures to guide the timely, online publishing of population health data captured / owned by government</li></ul>
<b>International examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Australia / New Zealand:</b> The Freedom of Information Act provides a legally enforceable right of the public to access documents of government departments and most agencies.</li></ul>

### Context

#### Policy details

The **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPPA)** gives citizens a legal right to access information held by NWT public bodies. According to the Act, the head of a public body must respond no later than 30 days after a request has been received (there are exceptions). The application costs an initial \$25.00 fee plus additional costs may apply for processing; however, no additional fees are applied for translation. Previous Access to Information Requests are not published<sup>87, 88</sup>.

The NWT has an Active Offer that any information available from the government is available to NWT residents in any official NWT language, including: English, French, Cree, Tlįcho, Chiewyan, South Slavey, North Slavey, Gwich'in, Inuvialuktun, Inuktitut, or Inuinnaqtun.

All budget documents are published online.

#### Comments/ notes

# Policy area: Monitoring & Intelligence

Food-EPI vision statement: The government's monitoring and intelligence systems (surveillance, evaluation, research and reporting) are comprehensive and regular enough to assess the status of food environments, population nutrition and diet-related NCDs and their inequalities, and to measure progress on achieving the goals of nutrition and health plans

## MONIT1 Monitoring food environments

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Monitoring systems, implemented by the government, are in place to regularly monitor food environments (especially for food composition for nutrients of concern, food promotion to children, and nutritional quality of food in schools and other public sector settings), against codes / guidelines / standards / targets

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes monitoring systems funded fully or in part by government that are managed by an academic institution or other organisation
- Includes regular monitoring and review of the impact of policies implemented by the government on food environments (as relevant to the individual State / Territory, and described in the policy domains above), in particular:
  - Monitoring of compliance with voluntary food composition standards related to nutrients of concern in out-of-home meals (as defined in the 'Food composition' domain)
  - Monitoring of compliance with food labelling regulations (as defined in the 'Food labelling' domain above)
  - Monitoring of unhealthy food promoted to children via broadcast and non-broadcast media and in children's settings (as defined in the 'Food promotion' domain above)
  - Monitoring of compliance with food provision policies in schools, early childhood services and public sector settings (as defined in the 'Food provision' domain above)

#### International examples

- **Many countries** have food composition databases available. For example, the New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited and the Ministry of Health jointly own the New Zealand Food Composition Database (NZFCD), which is a comprehensive collection of nutrient data in New Zealand containing nutrient information on more than 2600 foods.
- **New Zealand:** A national School and Early Childhood Education Services (ECES) Food and Nutrition Environment Survey was organised in all schools and ECES across New Zealand in 2007 and 2009 by the MoH to measure the school and ECES food environments.
- **UK:** In October 2005, the School Food Trust ('the Trust'; now called the Children's Food Trust) was established to provide independent support and advice to schools, caterers, manufacturers and others on improving the standard of school meals. They perform annual surveys, including the latest information on how many children are having school meals in England, how much they cost and how they're being provided<sup>89</sup>.

#### Context

**Policy  
details**

The Government of the North West Territories Health and Social Services has developed a Research Agenda for priority areas of action and knowledge gaps. Monitoring food environments is not among the priorities listed.

**Monitoring food composition for nutrients of concern**

No documents were identified.

**Monitoring of marketing of unhealthy foods to children**

No documents were identified.

**Monitoring of nutrition quality of food in schools and early childhood education services**

No documents were identified.

**Monitoring of nutritional quality of food in public sector settings**

No policy documents were identified.

**Comments/  
notes**

## MONIT2 Monitoring nutrition status and intakes

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There is regular monitoring of adult and childhood nutrition status and population intakes against specified intake targets or recommended daily intake levels

<b>Definitions and scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Includes monitoring of adult and child intake in line with Canada's Food Guide and Canadian dietary recommendations</li><li>- Includes monitoring of adult and child intake of nutrients of concern and non-core/discretionary foods including sugar-sweetened beverages (even if there are no clear intake targets for all of these)</li><li>- 'Regular' is considered to be every five years or more frequently</li></ul>
<b>International examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>USA:</b> The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is a program of studies designed to assess the health and nutritional status of adults and children in the United States. The survey is unique in that it combines interviews and physical examinations<sup>90</sup>. The NHANES program began in the early 1960s and has been conducted as a series of surveys focusing on different population groups or health topics. In 1999, the survey became a continuous program that has a changing focus on a variety of health and nutrition measurements to meet emerging needs. The survey examines a nationally representative sample of about 5,000 persons each year. These persons are located in counties across the country, 15 of which are visited each year.</li></ul>

### Context

#### Federal Context

Federally, Statistics Canada and Health Canada conduct two annual surveys: The **Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)** and The **Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS)**. The CCHS is a nationally representative health survey conducted annually. The annual component includes one 6-question food frequency screener regarding dietary intake of fruits and vegetables. This information is considered representative at the provincial and territorial level. The Nutrition Focus component of CCHS collects one 24-hour recall from the entire sample, and two recalls among a subset of participants in all provinces, but not the territories. **CHMS** is not conducted in the territories.

### Policy details

There is no nutritional status data for the NWT population.

The Government of the North West Territories Health and Social Services has developed a Research Agenda for priority areas of action and knowledge gaps<sup>91</sup>. Monitoring nutrition status and intake is not specifically mentioned.

No health surveys with indicators for dietary patterns or nutritional intakes were identified.

### Comments/ notes

## MONIT3 Monitoring Body Mass Index (BMI)

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There is regular monitoring of adult and childhood overweight and obesity prevalence using anthropometric measurements

<b>Definitions and scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Anthropometric measurements include height, weight and waist circumference</li><li>- 'Regular' is considered to be every five years or more frequently</li></ul>
<b>International examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>UK:</b> England's National Child Measurement Programme was established in 2006 and aims to measure all children in England in the first (4-5 years) and last years (10-11 years) of primary school. In 2011-2012, 565,662 children at reception and 491,118 children 10-11 years were measured<sup>92</sup>.</li></ul>

**Context**

**Federal Context**  
Federally, the annual component of CCHS collects self-reported height and weight, while the Nutrition Focus in 2004 and 2015 also collected measured height and weight for most participants. CHMS collects self-reported height and weight, and physical measures of standing height, sitting height, weight, waist circumference, hip circumference.

**Policy details**

The Government of the North West Territories Health and Social Services has developed a **Research Agenda** for priority areas of action and knowledge gaps. Monitoring BMI is not specifically mentioned, however this may be included under a priority of "Research that adds to regional baseline surveys and to establish a comprehensive understanding of... population health status...".

No territorial health surveys with BMI were identified.

Height, weight and resultant BMI (according to WHO growth charts) is calculated for children as part of **Early Childhood Screening**, using the **NWT Well Child Record** at 1,2,4, 12, 12 and 18 months, 3 years and 4-5 years as part of regular physical examinations<sup>93</sup>.

**Comments/  
notes**

## MONIT4 Monitoring NCD risk factors and prevalence

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There is regular monitoring of the prevalence of NCD risk factors and occurrence rates (e.g. prevalence, incidence, mortality) for the main diet-related NCDs

#### Definitions and scope

- Other NCD risk factors (not already covered by 'MONIT1', 'MONIT2' and 'MONIT3') include level of physical activity, smoking, alcohol consumption.
- Diet-related NCDs include, amongst others, hypertension, hypercholesterolaemia, Type 2 Diabetes, cardiovascular disease (including ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and other diseases of the vessels), diet-related cancers
- 'Regular' is considered to be every five years or more frequently
- May be collected through a variety of mechanisms such as population surveys or a notifiable diseases surveillance system

#### International examples

- **OECD countries:** Most OECD countries have regular and robust prevalence, incidence and mortality data for the main diet-related NCDs and NCD risk factors.

#### Context

##### Federal Context

Federally, the CCHS annual component collects information on self-reported physical activity, smoking and alcohol consumption. CHMS collects physical activity data using accelerometers. CCHS also collects information on self-reported prevalence of being diagnosed with a number of diet-related NCDs including hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and some cancers.

#### Policy details

The Government of the North West Territories Health and Social Services has developed a Research Agenda for priority areas of action and knowledge gaps<sup>91</sup>. Monitoring BMI is not specifically mentioned, however this may be included under a priority of "Research that adds to regional baseline surveys and to establish a comprehensive understanding of... population health status..."

There is a NWT Cancer Registry, maintained by the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer in the Department of Health and Social Services that includes information on incidence and mortality from all cancers.

#### Comments/ notes

## MONIT5 Evaluation of major programmes

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There is sufficient evaluation of major programs and policies to assess effectiveness and contribution to achieving the goals of the nutrition and health plans

<b>Definitions and scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Includes any policies, guidelines, frameworks or tools that are used to determine the depth and type (method and reporting) of evaluation required</li><li>- Includes a comprehensive evaluation framework and plan that aligns with the key preventive health or nutrition implementation plan</li><li>- The definition of a major programs and policies is to be defined by the relevant government department</li><li>- Evaluation should be in addition to routine monitoring of progress against a project plan or program logic</li></ul>
<b>International examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>USA:</b> The National Institutes for Health (NIH) provide funding for rapid assessments of natural experiments. The funding establishes an accelerated review/award process to support time-sensitive research to evaluate a new policy or program expected to influence obesity related behaviours (e.g., dietary intake, physical activity, or sedentary behaviour) and/or weight outcomes in an effort to prevent or reduce obesity<sup>94</sup>.</li></ul>

### Context

**Policy details** No policy documents were identified.

### Comments/ notes

## MONIT6 Monitoring progress on reducing health inequalities

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Progress towards reducing health inequalities or health impacts in vulnerable populations and social determinants of health are regularly monitored

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Definitions and scope</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Monitoring of overweight and obesity and main diet-related NCDs includes stratification or analysis of population groups where there are the greatest health inequalities including Indigenous peoples and socio-economic strata</li><li>- Includes reporting against targets or key performance indicators related to health inequalities</li></ul> |
| <b>International examples</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>New Zealand:</b> All annual Ministry of Health Surveys report estimates by subpopulations in particular by ethnicity (including Maori and Pacific peoples), by age, by gender, and by New Zealand area deprivation.</li></ul>   |

**Context** There are many disparities between those living in the North compared to those who live in the South of Canada. In particular, many Aboriginal peoples in the North have lower socioeconomic status. There are also significantly higher living expenses and cost of food in the North, which has been widely acknowledge by Heath Canada and other experts.

**Policy details** The Government of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services has developed a Research Agenda for priority areas of action and knowledge gaps. Monitoring progress on reducing health inequalities is considered a priority in the area of “Addressing disparities in Aboriginal Health”. It is not clear how this has been implemented into practice.

**Comments/ notes**

# Policy area: Funding & resources

Food-EPI vision statement: Sufficient funding is invested in 'Population Nutrition' to create healthy food environments, improved population nutrition, reductions in obesity, diet-related NCDs and related inequalities

## FUND1 Population nutrition budget

### Food-EPI good practice statement

The 'population nutrition' budget, as a proportion of total health spending and/or in relation to the diet-related NCD burden is sufficient to reduce diet-related NCDs

#### Definitions and scope

- 'Population nutrition' includes promotion of healthy eating, and policies and programs that support healthy food environments for the prevention of obesity and diet-related NCDs
- The definition **excludes** all one-on-one and group-based promotion (primary care, antenatal services, maternal and child nursing services etc.), food safety, micronutrient deficiencies (e.g. folic acid fortification) and undernutrition
- Please provide estimates for the budget allocated to the unit within the Department of Health that has primary responsibility for population nutrition. The 'Population Nutrition' budget should include workforce costs (salaries and associated on-costs) and program budgets for the 2015-16 financial year (regardless of revenue source), reported separately.
- The workforce comprises anyone whose primary role relates to population nutrition and who is employed full time, part time or casually by the Department of Health or contracted by the Department of Health to perform a population nutrition-related role (including consultants or funding of a position in another government or non-government agency).
- Exclude budget items related to physical activity promotion. If this is not feasible (for example, a program that combines both nutrition and physical activity elements), please highlight where this is the case
- With regards to 'health spending', please provide the total budget of the Department of Health or relevant department/ministry for the 2016-17 financial year

#### International examples

#### **NOTE THESE ARE EXAMPLES ONLY: NO BENCHMARKS ARE AVAILABLE**

- **New Zealand:** The total funding for population nutrition was estimated at about \$67 million or 0.6% of the health budget during 2008/09 Healthy Eating Healthy Action period. Dietary risk factors account for 11.4% of health loss in New Zealand.
- **Thailand:** According to the most recent report on health expenditure in 2012, the government greatly increased budget spent on policies and actions related to nutrition (excluding food, hygiene and drinking water control). Total expenditure on health related to nutrition specifically from local governments was 29,434.5 million baht (7.57% of total health expenditure from public funding agencies), which was ten times over the budget spending on nutrition in 2011. Dietary risk factors account for more than 10% of health loss in Thailand.

#### Context

#### Policy details

According to the NWT Main estimates 2016-2017, the total budget of NWT is \$1,662,346,000<sup>95</sup>.

Health and Social services receives 24.9% of the total budget. Of the Health and Social Services budget (\$414,234,000), 36.9% is allocated to Community Health Programs (\$152,585,000).

Of Community Health Programs, \$9,466,000 is dedicated to Health Promotion and Community Wellness, and \$2,804,000 is dedicated to Population Health.

Healthy Food for Children and Youth received \$650,000 for school food programs.

**Comments/  
notes**

## FUND2 Research funding for obesity & NCD prevention

### Food-EPI good practice statement

Government funded research is targeted for improving food environments, reducing obesity, NCDs and their related inequalities

#### Definitions and scope

- Includes the clear identification of research priorities related to improving food environments, reducing obesity, NCDs and their related inequalities in health or medical research strategies or frameworks
- Includes identifying research projects conducted or commissioned by the government specifically targeting food environments, prevention of obesity or NCDs (excluding secondary or tertiary prevention)
- It is limited to research projects committed to or conducted within the last 12 months.
- Excludes research grants administered by the government (including statutory agencies) to a research group where the allocation of a pool of funding was determined by an independent review panel
- Excludes evaluation of interventions (this is explored in 'MONIT5' and should be part of an overall program budget)

#### International examples

##### **NOTE THESE ARE EXAMPLES ONLY: NO BENCHMARKS ARE AVAILABLE**

- **Australia:** The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Act requires the CEO to identify major national health issues likely to arise. The National Health Priority Areas (NHPAs) articulate priorities for research and investment and have been designated by Australian governments as key targets because of their contribution to the burden of disease in Australia. For the 2015-16 Corporate Plan, obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular health are three of these NHPAs.
- **Thailand:** The National Research Council funded more research projects on obesity and diet-related chronic diseases (such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and hypertension) in 2014, accountable for almost six times over the research funding in 2013 (from 6,875,028 Baht in 2013 to 37,872,416 baht in 2014).

#### Context

##### **Federal Context**

The main research funding for population nutrition in Canada is the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). CIHR has funding opportunities for food environment, obesity and NCD research, as well as inequalities, primarily through the Institute for Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes and the Institution of Population and Public Health.

Health Canada and PHAC have some opportunities for funding the Grants and Contributions, etc., which are provided on a case-by-case basis.

#### Policy details

No policy documents or programs for research funding were identified

#### Comments/ notes

## FUND3 Health promotion agency

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There is a statutory health promotion agency in place, with a secure funding stream, that includes an objective to improve population nutrition

<b>Definitions and scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Agency was established through legislation</li><li>- Includes objective to improve population nutrition in relevant legislation, strategic plans or on agency website</li><li>- Secure funding stream involves the use of a hypothecated tax or other secure source</li></ul>
<b>International examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Australia:</b> The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) was the world's first health promotion foundation, established by the Victorian Parliament as part of the Tobacco Act of 1987 (for the first 10 years through a hypothecated tobacco tax) through which the objectives of VicHealth are stipulated. VicHealth continues to maintain bipartisan support.</li></ul>

**Context** Public Health is housed within the NWT Health and Social Services Authority. The Chief Public Health Officer has two directors, a Director of Aboriginal Health and Community Wellness and a Director of Population Health.

**Policy details** There is no statutory health promotion agency in NWT.

**Comments/ notes**

# Policy area: Platforms for Interaction

Food-EPI vision statement: There are coordination platforms and opportunities for synergies across government departments, levels of government, and other sectors (NGOs, private sector, and academia) such that policies and actions in food and nutrition are coherent, efficient and effective in improving food environments, population nutrition, diet-related NCDs and their related inequalities

## PLATF1 Coordination mechanisms (national, state and local government)

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There are robust coordination mechanisms across departments and levels of government (national, state and local) to ensure policy coherence, alignment, and integration of food, obesity and diet-related NCD prevention policies across governments

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Definitions and scope</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Includes cross-government or cross-departmental governance structures, committees or working groups (at multiple levels of seniority), agreements, memoranda of understanding, etc.</li><li>- Includes cross-government or cross-departmental shared priorities, targets or objectives</li><li>- Includes strategic plans or frameworks that map the integration and alignment of multiple policies or programs across governments and across departments</li><li>- Includes cross-government or cross-departmental collaborative planning, implementation or reporting processes, consultation processes for the development of new policy or review of existing policy</li></ul>   |
| <b>International examples</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Finland:</b> The Finnish National Nutrition Council is an inter-governmental expert body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with advisory, coordinating and monitoring functions. It is composed of representatives elected for three-year terms from government authorities dealing with nutrition, food safety, health promotion, catering, food industry, trade and agriculture<sup>29</sup>.</li><li>- <b>Malta:</b> Based on the Healthy Lifestyle Promotion and Care of NCDs Act (2016), Malta established an inter-ministerial Advisory Council on Healthy Lifestyles in August 2016 to advise the Minister of Health on any matter related to healthy lifestyles. In particular, the Advisory Council advises on a life course approach to physical activity and nutrition, and on policies, action plans and regulations intended to reduce the occurrence of NCDs. The prime minister appoints the chair and the secretary of the Advisory Council, while the ministers of education, health, finance, social policy, sports, local government, and home affairs appoint one member each<sup>29</sup>.</li><li>- <b>Australia:</b> There are several forums and committees for the purpose of strengthening food regulation with representation from New Zealand and Health Ministers from Australian States and Territories, the Australian Government, as well as other Ministers from related portfolios (e.g. Primary Industries). Where relevant, there is also representation from the Australian Local Government Association.</li></ul> |

**Context** All provinces and territories are part of the Federal, Provincial Territorial Group on Nutrition. This group includes representatives from all provincial governments and territorial governments departments of health, or the department responsible for health, and meets quarterly.

**Policy  
details**

The **Healthy Choices Framework Steering Committee group** is an interdepartmental group which meets regularly to coordinate and collaborate on healthy living priorities, and includes Departments of:

- Health and Social Services (DHSS)
- Education, Culture and Employment
- Municipal and Community Affairs
- Justice

There is an **Interdepartmental Agriculture Committee that includes Department of:**

- Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI)
- Lands
- Health and Social Services
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations
- Education, Culture and Employment

The Anti-Poverty collaboration is also an interdepartmental initiative, and addresses issues related to food security and healthy eating.

**Comments/  
notes**

## PLATF2 Platforms for government and food sector interaction

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There are formal platforms between government and the commercial food sector to implement healthy food policies

#### Definitions and scope

- The commercial food sector includes food production, food technology, manufacturing and processing, marketing, distribution, retail and food service, etc. For the purpose of this indicator, this extends to commercial non-food sectors (e.g. advertising and media, sports organisations, land/housing developers, private childcare, education and training institutes) that are indirectly related to food
- Includes established groups, forums or committees active within the last 12 months for the purpose of information sharing, collaboration, seeking advice on healthy food policies
- Includes platforms to support, manage or monitor private sector pledges, commitments or agreements
- Includes platforms for open consultation
- Includes platforms for the government to provide resources or expert support to the commercial food sector to implement policy
- Excludes joint partnerships on projects or co-funding schemes
- Excludes initiatives covered by 'RETAIL3' and 'RETAIL4'

#### International examples

- **UK:** The UK 'Responsibility Deal' was a UK government initiative to bring together food companies and non-government organisations to take steps (through voluntary pledges) to address NCDs during 2010-2015. It was chaired by the Secretary of State for Health and included senior representatives from the business community (as well as NGOs, public health organisations and local government). A number of other subgroups were responsible for driving specific programs relevant to the commercial food sector.

#### Context

#### Policy details

No committees or groups were identified.

#### Comments/ notes

The commercial food sector in NWT is quite small at this time, so the opportunities for interaction are limited (personal communications, March 2017).

## PLATF3 Platforms for government and civil society interaction

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There are formal platforms for regular interactions between government and civil society on food policies and other strategies to improve population nutrition

#### Definitions and scope

- Civil society includes community groups and consumer representatives, NGOs, academia, professional associations, etc.
- Includes established groups, forums or committees active within the last 12 months for the purpose of information sharing, collaboration, seeking advice
- Includes platforms for consultation on proposed plans, policy or public inquiries
- Excludes policies or procedures that guide consultation in the development of food policy (see 'GOVER3')

#### International examples

- **Brazil:** The National Council of Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA) is a body made up of civil society and government representatives, which advises the President's office on matters involving food and nutrition security<sup>96</sup>. CONSEA is made up from one-third government and two-thirds non-government executives and workers. It is housed in and reports to the office of the president of the republic. It is responsible for formulating and proposing public policies whose purpose is to guarantee the human right to healthy and adequate food. There are also CONSEAs at state and municipal levels that deal with specific issues, and responsible for organising CONSEA conferences at their level. CONSEAs are charged to represent Brazilian social, regional, racial and cultural diversity at municipal, state or national level. The elected politicians in Brazil's parliament formally have the power to challenge and even overturn proposals made by CONSEA. In practice, it is most unlikely that any Brazilian government, whether of the left or right, would wish to do so, partly because of the constitutional status of the CONSEA system, and being so carefully representative of all sectors and levels of society, it remains strong and popular.

#### Context

#### Policy details

Several relevant platforms for civil society and government interaction were identified. Specifically active on policies and strategies to improve population nutrition are the:

- Healthy Choices Committee
- Interdepartmental Agriculture Committee

#### Comments/ notes

The On-the-land collaborative also includes a number of civil society organizations and governmental departments; however, this is only peripherally related to food environments and policies.

In addition, the Health and Social Services Authorities have ongoing communications with Aboriginal Advisory Groups in each region.

# Policy area: Health-in-all-policies

Food-EPI vision statement: Processes are in place to ensure policy coherence and alignment, and that population health impacts are explicitly considered in the development of government policies

## HIAP1 Assessing the health impacts of food policies

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There are processes in place to ensure that population nutrition, health outcomes and reducing health inequalities or health impacts in vulnerable populations are considered and prioritised in the development of all government policies relating to food

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Definitions and scope</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Includes policies, procedures, guidelines, tools and other resources that guide the consideration and assessment of nutrition, health outcomes and reducing health inequalities or health impacts in vulnerable populations prior to, during and following implementation of food-related policies</li><li>- Includes the establishment of cross-department governance and coordination structures while developing food-related policies</li></ul>      |
| <b>International examples</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Slovenia:</b> Undertook a HIA in relation to agricultural policy at a national level. The HIA followed a six-stage process: policy analysis; rapid appraisal workshops with stakeholders from a range of backgrounds; review of research evidence relevant to the agricultural policy; analysis of Slovenian data for key health-related indicators; a report on the findings to a key cross-government group; and evaluation<sup>97</sup>.</li></ul> |

### Context

**Policy details** No policy documents were identified.

### Comments/ notes

## HIAP2 Assessing the health impacts of non-food policies

### Food-EPI good practice statement

There are processes (e.g. HIAs) to assess and consider health impacts during the development of other non-food policies

<b>Definitions and scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Includes a government-wide HiAP strategy or plan with clear actions for non-health sectors</li><li>- Includes policies, guidelines, tools and other resources that guide the consideration and assessment of health impacts prior to, during and following implementation of non-food-related policies (e.g. HIAs or health lens analysis)</li><li>- Includes the establishment of cross-department or cross-sector governance and coordination structures to implement a HiAP approach</li><li>- Includes workforce training and other capacity building activities in healthy public policy for non-health departments (e.g. agriculture, education, communications, trade)</li><li>- Includes monitoring or reporting requirements related to health impacts for non-health departments</li></ul>
<b>International examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Australia:</b> Established in 2007, the successful implementation of Health in All Policies (HiAP) in South Australia has been supported by a high level mandate from central government, an overarching framework which is supportive of a diverse program of work, a commitment to work collaboratively and in partnership across agencies, and a strong evaluation process. The government has established a dedicated HiAP team within South Australia Health to build workforce capacity and support Health lens Analysis projects<sup>98</sup>. Since 2007, the South Australian HiAP approach has evolved to remain relevant in a changing context. However, the purpose and core principles of the approach remain unchanged. There have been five phases to the work of HiAP in South Australia between 2007 and 2016: 1) Prove concept and practice emerges (2007-2008), 2) Establish and apply methodology (2008-2009), 3) Consolidate and grow (2009-2013), 4) Adapt and review (2014) and 5) Strengthen and systematise (2015-2016).</li><li>- <b>Finland:</b> Finland worked towards a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach over the past four decades<sup>99</sup>. In the early 1970s, improving public health became a political priority, and the need to influence key determinants of health through sectors beyond the health sector became evident. The work began with policy on nutrition, smoking and accident prevention. Finland adopted HiAP as the health theme for its EU Presidency in 2006.</li></ul>

### Context

### Policy details

No policy documents were identified to implement a health-in-all-policies approach in NWT.

### Comments/ notes

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