

# HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research



## 2012-2014

Ph: (867) 668-3393  
Fax: (867) 668-5543  
Email: [info@aicbr.ca](mailto:info@aicbr.ca)

308 Hanson St. Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6Y1

[www.aicbr.ca](http://www.aicbr.ca)



Arctic Institute of  
Community-Based Research  
*For Northern Health and Well-Being*

Friendship, K., Butler Walker, J., Kassi, N. 2014. Highlights Report: Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research 2012-2014. Whitehorse Yukon. 23pp.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.aicbr.ca](http://www.aicbr.ca)



## Table of Contents

~ Message from Executive Director	4
~ AICBR's Staff	5
~ AICBR's Board of Directors	6
~ Organization Background, Mission, Vision	7
~ Research Approach, Current Research Priorities	8
~ Principles of Community-Based Research	9
~ Key Partners	10
~ Graduate Students	12
~ Projects & Activities	
~ Working Together to Achieve Healthier Weights in Yukon & Northwest Territories' Communities	13
~ Yukon Food System Design & Planning Project	14
~ Kluane First Nation Nourishing Our Future Food Security Project	15
~ Active and Safe Yukon: Building Multi-Sectoral Collaboration in Recreational Snow Sports for Children and Youth	16
~ Increasing Awareness and Education of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) in the Yukon	17
~ Workshops & Conferences	18
~ AICBR Workshops & Conferences	
~ Working Together to Grow More Community Gardener Gathering	20
~ Working Together to Achieve Healthier Lifestyles in Yukon & Northwest Territories' Communities Workshop, AICBR First Annual Conference	21
~ AICBR Publications	22
~ Conclusion	23
~ AICBR Staff C.V.'s	24



## Message from Executive Director

### Welcome!

The last two years at the Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research (AICBR) have been extremely busy and productive, providing AICBR with opportunities to strengthen existing partnerships both within and outside the Yukon, and to complete projects that contribute to improving Northern community health and well-being.

The following report outlines AICBR's major activities and achievements between 2012 and 2014. Reports from specific activities are available on our website.

We sincerely thank the funders, partners, board members and colleagues we've worked with over the past 2 years, and look forward to further collaborative opportunities with new and current partners in the coming year.



Executive Director and Co-Founder

### Our New Home

In April 2014, AICBR grew out of its office of 7 years at 100 Main St. We are thrilled to acquire 308 Hanson St as our new home. Please come by for tea and visit!



## AICBR's Staff



**Jody Butler Walker**  
~ Executive Director

Co-founder and Executive Director of AICBR, Jody has been living and working in the Arctic for nearly 30 years. Jody's involvement in varied research activities during this time, including contaminants and human health, Indigenous health and biological oceanography, has highlighted the essential role of community-based research in Canada's Arctic.

**Norma Kassi**

~Director of Indigenous Collaboration

Co-founder of AICBR, Norma has been working on issues related to contaminants, food security, climate change, wildlife protection, youth engagement and building community capacity for over 30 years. Norma is a Vuntut Gwitchin citizen of Old Crow, Yukon and carries vast experiences and Indigenous Knowledge that is reflected in her work with AICBR.



**Katelyn Friendship**  
~Research Officer

Katelyn has worked with AICBR since 2009 on a variety of projects related to food security, healthy lifestyles, ethics, HPV, injury prevention, youth engagement, building community capacity, and program evaluation. She feels privileged to call Yukon her home and continues to enjoy the incredible landscapes, people and opportunities that the North has to offer.

**Marilyn Van Bibber**  
~Associate Director

Marilyn has worked with AICBR since the beginning. She is a member of Selkirk First Nation from Pelly Crossing, Yukon and resides in southern British Columbia. Marilyn's passions are holistic well-being, community development, ethics and community-based research.



**Beverley Baker**  
~Bookkeeper

Bev has been AICBR's bookkeeper since 2012 and has 20 years bookkeeping experience. In addition to managing AICBR's finances, Bev contributes to the organization in a variety of valuable ways.



## AICBR's Board of Directors ~2012-2014

- 
- ~ Ron Pearson, Chair (2007-2014)
  - ~ Luzelle Nagel, Treasurer; Co-Chair (2012-2014)
  - ~ Chris Hawkins, Officer (2012-2014)
  - ~ Jennifer Daniels, Officer (2012-2014)
  - ~ Jade McGinty, Officer, Community Rep (2012-2014)
  - ~ Felicia Bailey-Cashin, Officer, Youth Rep (2012-2014)

## Organization Background

The Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research was co-founded as a non-profit organization by Jody Butler Walker and Norma Kassi in 2007 (formerly named Arctic Health Research Network-Yukon).

We work with Northern Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, non-governmental organizations, governments (Aboriginal, Territorial, Federal), academics, graduate students, research organizations, and the private sector.

We are a unique Northern research organization working to improve community health and well-being in Canada's North through partnerships, collaboration, and the co-production of knowledge and relevant solutions.

## Our Mission

To facilitate and promote community-based, Northern-led health research activities aimed at improving the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Northerners.

## Our Vision

For the meaningful engagement of Northerners in health research that is focused on Northern health priorities, and with results that contribute to lasting health improvements.



## Research Approach

AICBR focuses on ensuring good research practices and gives priority to the following:

- ~ Adhering to principles of Community-Based Research
- ~ Community Capacity Building
- ~ Knowledge Exchange
- ~ Ethics
- ~ Inter-sectoral Collaboration
- ~ Project Evaluation

## Current Research Priorities

Based on consultations with Yukon communities, our current research priorities are:

- ~ Food Security and Food Sovereignty
  - Strategy Development
- ~ Chronic Disease Prevention
  - Overweight and obesity, Diabetes
- ~ Healthy Lifestyles
  - Active Living
  - Healthy Eating
  - Literacy
- ~ Injury Prevention
- ~ Climate Change Adaptation



## Principles of Community-Based Research

Based on consultations with participants at an AICBR conference held in 2012, the following principles of community-based research were adapted for the Yukon context and then adopted by AICBR.

1. Community members and researchers work together in all stages of projects.
2. Community members/research participants are actively involved in decisions about the research process from the beginning; and the process is responsive to cultural and community values.
3. The research process strives for consensus and enables participation of all people.
4. The relationship between researchers and community members is built on respect, trust, and learning with and from each other.
5. The research project lays the ground for the exchange of knowledge, skills, resources, and ownership between stakeholders and within a mutual agreement.
6. Those involved in the research project have the responsibility to provide reciprocity.
7. The research process builds the capacity of community people to participate in and use the knowledge produced by the research.
8. There is continuous discussion/verification of data between all partners in order to generate meaningful, useful, and accessible results to inform community actions.
9. The research benefits and serves the community directly and addresses their interests and needs.
10. Research builds on and contributes to the strengths and resources of the community.
11. Health is addressed from positive, ecological and cultural beliefs and values.



## Key Partners

AICBR has been fortunate to partner with multiple Aboriginal governments and communities, territorial organizations, national organizations and international organizations over the past 7 years. From 2012-2014, key project partners and funders included:

### Partners:

- ~ Kluane First Nation, Burwash Landing
- ~ Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Dawson
- ~ Boys and Girls Club of Yukon
- ~ Yukon Literacy Coalition
- ~ Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon
- ~ Growers of Organic Food Yukon
- ~ Yukon College-Mayo and Ross River Campuses
- ~ Yukon Government-Health & Social Services
- ~ Yukon Government-Community Services (Sport and Recreation Branch)
- ~ Yukon Government-Agriculture Branch
- ~ Government of Northwest Territories-Health & Social Services
- ~ Government of Northwest Territories-Municipal and Community Affairs (Sport, Recreation, Youth and Volunteerism)
- ~ Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (Regional Dietitian)
- ~ Northern Nutrition Association
- ~ NWT Recreation and Parks Association
- ~ NWT Sport and Recreation Council
- ~ NWT Literacy Council
- ~ Side Door Youth Centre (Yellowknife)
- ~ Carcross-Tagish First Nation
- ~ Selkirk First Nation, Pelly Crossing
- ~ Bringing Youth Towards Equality (BYTE)
- ~ Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition

## Key Partners

- ~ University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health
- ~ University of Waterloo
- ~ University of Western Ontario
- ~ University of Victoria
- ~ Propel Centre for Population Health Impact
- ~ Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- ~ Community-Based Research Canada
- ~ Food Secure Canada

### Funders:

- ~ Public Health Agency of Canada
- ~ Health Canada
- ~ University of Alberta
- ~ Yukon Government Health & Social Services
- ~ Yukon Government-Agriculture Branch (Growing Forward 2)
- ~ Klosche Tillicum



## Graduate Students

### Ayesha Nayar

University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health (2012)

Ayesha conducted a literature search for the injury prevention project entitled “Building Multi-Sectoral Collaboration in Recreational Snow Sports for Children and Youth”.

### Sally Butler

Princeton University, Community-Based Learning Initiative (2013)

Sally completed her field work in the Yukon and NWT for her thesis entitled “The Puzzle Takes Over: Perceiving Disease in All it’s Complexity”.

### Micaela Collins

University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health (2014)

Micaela contributed to the “Working Together to Achieve Healthier Lifestyles in Yukon and Northwest Territories’ Communities” project. She did a literature review on Sustainability, and helped to develop project evaluation tools.

### Mallory Coletta

University of Victoria, School of Public Administration, Community Development (2014)

For her internship, Mallory has worked as a research assistant on the “Kluane First Nation Nourishing Our Future Food Security” project. This included a literature review on the traditional diet and food system of Kluane First Nation, and assisting with interviews, participating in community events, data analysis and results reporting and dissemination.

### Alanna Bennett

University of Edinburgh, Global Health and Public Policy (2014)

Alanna contributed to the “Working Together to Achieve Healthier Lifestyles in Yukon and Northwest Territories’ Communities” project. She conducted a literature review and policy analysis on obesity-related health inequalities in Aboriginal populations in Yukon.



## Projects & Activities

### Working Together to Achieve Healthier Lifestyles in Yukon & Northwest Territories' Communities

**Funder:** Public Health Agency of Canada, \$1.6 million

**Timeline:** 2013-2017

**Key Objectives:** ~ Northerners in YT and NWT communities follow healthier lifestyles.  
~ Communities, organizations, government departments and businesses in the two Territories work in partnership together to foster healthy eating and active living.

**Guiding Principles:** ~ Health Equity ~ Strength and Asset-Based  
~ Inter-sectoral Collaboration ~ Culturally-Relevant  
~ Community Driven

**Pillars:** ~ Active Living ~ Healthy Eating ~ Literacy

#### **Approach:**

This project builds from Phase 1 (2011) and will identify, support, and evaluate community-based activities aimed at reducing health inequalities, with a particular focus on overweight/obesity.

AICBR is taking a 'Collective Impact' approach, which will allow for the many organizations that are all working on related components of healthy living to come together to work towards a common goal.

The project seeks to promote healthier lifestyles through contributing to strengthening cultural practices and programs, including those that incorporate food security. The target populations include children, youth, and families in YT and NWT. Anticipated outcomes include community members being more knowledgeable, having more opportunities, and being more likely to engage in healthy eating and active living activities across the two Territories. This will in turn lead to reduced prevalence of unhealthy weights over the course of the project and beyond. Inter-sectoral collaboration and taking a 'Collective Impact' approach will support existing policies such as the Renewed Active Living Strategy as well as lead to the development of policies for sustaining healthy living practices in Yukon and Northwest Territories' communities.

## Projects & Activities

### Yukon Food System Design & Planning Project (YFSDPP)

**Funder:** Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (Agri-Food Canada)  
(Proponent: Yukon Agriculture Association)\*

\*The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Kwantlen Polytechnic University directly funded AICBR.

**Timeline:** 2012-2014

**Key Objectives:** ~ To develop a realistic design for a future Yukon food system that improves Territorial food security and food self-reliance while fostering growth and regional economic development, including a plan for its implementation and sustainability.

#### **Approach:**

AICBR was a collaborator on the YFSDPP and has led the community engagement piece. Five research agreements were signed with Yukon First Nation communities. Between 2012-2014, three communities were engaged in focus groups and interviews. Consultation occurred with Yukon First Nations, farmers and producers, hunters, distributors and consumers.

A lack of funding has prevented the project from completing the two remaining research agreements and other communities are also interested in participating in the project. AICBR is working with the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems and others, to secure financial support to finish the project in 2014/2015.

When completed, outcomes of this project will demonstrate how the Yukon can increase food self-sufficiency through local agriculture and harvesting of traditional food species, enhance local economy and business opportunities in the food and agriculture sector, and build capacity for community health and environmental stewardship.



## Projects & Activities

### Kluane First Nation Nourishing Our Future Food Security Project

**Funder:** Health Canada-Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program

\*AICBR was contracted by Kluane First Nation to complete this project in partnership.

**Timeline:** 2013-2014

**Key Objectives:** ~To develop a food security strategy with Kluane First Nation, with a focus on a sustainability.

- ~ To gather information about locally based experiences of climate and lifestyle changes on food security and nutrition.
- ~ To find ways citizens can collaboratively adapt to ensure there will be local, nutritious food available for the community well into the future.
- ~ To assess the feasibility of a community garden and greenhouse.

#### **Approach:**

AICBR was contracted to work with Kluane First Nation on the development and implementation of this project. Following a community-based approach a community advisory committee, “Team Food Security” was formed, who helped to provide overall direction of the project. Focus groups and interviews were held with key people from the community.

Community capacity building was a priority with this project and included:

- ~ Education through training and presentations
- ~ Skill development with youth researchers incorporating community dialogue
- ~ Local employment
- ~ Facilitating opportunities for intergenerational learning
- ~ Linking the project with other community initiatives

Final project outputs will include a DVD summarizing the project and the local food security situation for Kluane First Nation, and final reports with recommendations and a draft food security strategy for the community.



## Projects & Activities

### Active and Safe Yukon: Building Multi-Sectoral Collaboration in Recreational Snow Sports for Children and Youth

**Funder:** Public Health Agency of Canada

**Timeline:** 2012

**Key Objectives:** ~ To prevent injuries in Yukon children and youth (0-19 years) and in particular to reduce head injuries including concussions, fractures, and drowning in winter recreational activities.

#### **Approach:**

The project consisted of three parts:

- 1) Literature review to inform the development of a multi-sectoral collaboration framework.
- 2) Collection of stories of 'near misses'. This is when an unplanned event did not result in injury, but could have. These stories focus on children and youth participating in winter snow sports.
- 3) Development of an interactive online way to share information about organizations across the Yukon whose work contribute to safety in sporting activities and share the stories of 'near misses'. ([www.aicbr.ca](http://www.aicbr.ca))





## Projects & Activities

### Increasing Awareness and Education of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) in the Yukon

**Funder:** Public Health Agency of Canada, \$264, 400

**Timeline:** 2011-2013

**Key Objectives:** ~ Assist Yukon communities to develop ways to decrease HPV risk behaviours through increasing awareness and education.

~ Inform all Yukon residents about general results from the International Polar Year-HPV Yukon project.

~ Promote education about existing Yukon Government-sponsored screening and immunization programs.

#### **Approach:**

This project stemmed from the results of a pan-Northern study focused on understanding the prevalence of HPV and aimed to raise awareness about HPV with Yukoners. AICBR worked in partnership with Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health and Yukon Government-Health & Social Services.

An HPV Steering Committee that included the Council of Yukon First Nations, several Yukon First Nation communities and a number of health practitioners guided the project.

The project included developing education and awareness materials and activities, an interactive training workshop with First Nation health workers from each Yukon community, administering a survey on HPV awareness pre/post an education campaign, and promoting education about existing screening and vaccination programs in Yukon.



## Workshops and Conferences ~2012-2014

**Advances in Qualitative Methods Conference (participant)**  
Edmonton AB, June 2014

**Thinking Qualitatively Workshop Series (participant)**  
Edmonton AB, June 2014

**International Arctic Social Sciences Congress (oral presentations)**  
Prince George, BC May 2014

- Indigenous Community Food Security in Yukon Territory
- Working Together to Achieve Healthier Lifestyles in Yukon and Northwest Territories' Communities
- Unpacking "Working Together": Intersectoral Collaboration in a Four-Year Healthy Lifestyles Project in Northern Canada

**CuVic Community University Engagement Conference (poster presentation)**  
Victoria, BC May 2014

- Community Engagement in Canada's North

**Champions for Change: Leading a Backbone Organization for Collective Impact (participant)**  
Vancouver, BC April 2014

**Pan-Territorial Permafrost Workshop (oral presentation)**  
Yellowknife, NT November 2013

- Indigenous Community Food Security in Yukon Territory



## Workshops and Conferences ~2012-2014

### International Circumpolar Agriculture Conference (oral presentation)

Girdwood, Alaska, October 2013

-Indigenous Community Food Security in Yukon Territory

### Yukon Employees Union Human Rights Speaker Series (oral presentation)

Whitehorse, YT, November 2013

-Yukon Food Security as a Human Right

### Powering Up! Food for the Future: Food Secure Canada National Conference (panel)

Edmonton AB November 2012

-Indigenous Community Food Security and screening of *Our Changing Homelands Our Changing Lives*

### Climate Change Adaptation Planning Forum (oral presentation)

Akwesasne, ON October 2012

-Vuntut Gwitchin Climate Change and Health Research in Northern Yukon: What Do Our Changing Homelands Mean for Our Health?

### International Congress on Circumpolar Health (poster presentations)

Fairbanks, Alaska August 2012

-Working Together to Achieve Healthier Weights in Yukon Communities

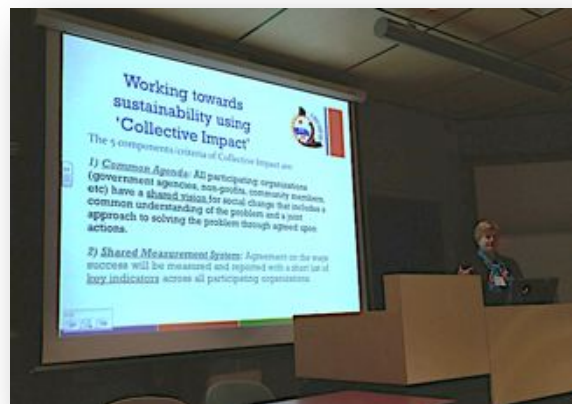
-Raising Awareness and Education about the Human Papilloma Virus in the Yukon

### International Polar Year: From Knowledge to Action (poster presentations)

Montreal, QC April 2012

-Working Together to Achieve Healthier Weights in Yukon Communities

-Vuntut Gwitchin Climate Change and Health Research in Northern Yukon: What Do Our Changing Homelands Mean for Our Health?



## AICBR Workshops and Conferences ~2012-2014

### *Working Together to Grow More Community Gardener Gathering*

March 2014

In partnership with Yukon Government-Agriculture Branch, AICBR hosted a two-day gathering, which brought together 35 people from across the Yukon to share their experiences and learn together about challenges and successful strategies for running community gardens in Yukon. Seven Yukon First Nation communities, six non-profit organizations, Yukon Government representatives and representatives from the Yukon Food System Design & Planning project attended the workshop.

Throughout the gathering, participants summarized the importance of community gardens:

- ~ Providing access to local healthy foods for the prevention of chronic disease
- ~ Contributing to the development of capacity in local farming
- ~ Providing healthy options to offset high costs of food in grocery stores
- ~ Facilitating connections between food and community members (i.e. Elders and youth)

Participants strongly recommended that another be workshop be hosted in 2015 to keep strengthening the network of community gardeners and to identify ways to keep people connected until the next time they are able to come together again.

A final report for the workshop is available on AICBR's website.





## AICBR Workshops and Conferences ~2012-2014

### *Working Together to Achieve Healthier Lifestyles in Yukon and Northwest Territories' Communities Workshop*

November 2013

24 people representing organizations for youth, active living, healthy eating, literacy, and wellness from both Yukon and Northwest Territories attended the first gathering for the *Achieving Healthier Lifestyles* project. A large portion of the workshop was devoted to time for project partners to share the work their organizations are doing with respect to healthy living. Participants also contributed to developing the foundation for the four-year project. In total, there were over 606 accumulated years of experience, which came together!

The workshop report is available on AICBR's website.



### AICBR First Annual Conference

March 2012

To celebrate our evolution to the AICBR from the Arctic Health Research Network-Yukon, AICBR hosted a conference. This two-day event involved 78 people who attended sessions on community-based research, an H.pylori research project, and food security. Participants came from across the Yukon, five Canadian Universities, Northwest Territories and northern Ontario.

Key outcomes included:

- ~ Developing a greater understanding of what community-based research is with conference participants
- ~ Developing community-based research principles relevant for the Yukon
- ~ Learning more about H. pylori and the possibility for Yukon First Nation communities to participate in a research project
- ~ Discussing and sharing knowledge related to food security issues in the North
- ~ Recommendation to develop a sustainable network for people to stay connected and share information related to ensuring food security for the Yukon.

The workshop report is available on AICBR's website.

## AICBR Publications ~2012-2014

- ~ Friendship, K., Blottner, B., Butler Walker, J. 2012. AICBR First Annual Conference Report. Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research, Whitehorse Yukon. 36pp.
- ~ Butler Walker, J., Friendship, K., Sparks, C., Duke, S. (Eds) 2012. Celebrating Our Stories: Building a Healthier Yukon Together. Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research, Whitehorse Yukon. 39pp.
- ~ Butler Walker, J. 2013. Building Partnerships in the North. Intersections. Canadian Institutes of Health Research 4(1): 10-11.
- ~ Friendship, K., Butler Walker, J. 2013. Working Together to Achieve Healthier Lifestyles in Yukon and Northwest Territories Communities Workshop Report. Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research, Whitehorse Yukon. 82pp.
- ~ Friendship, K., Barton, B., Butler Walker, J., Kassi, N. 2014. Working Together to Grow More: Yukon Community Garden Gathering Report. Arctic Institute Of Community-Based Research, Whitehorse Yukon. 56pp.
- ~ Alatini, M., Kassi, N., Coletta, M., Butler Walker, J., Friendship, K. 2014. Nourishing Our Future: An adaptive food security strategy to ensure the cultural and physical well-being of the Kluane First Nation against the impacts of climate change in the Yukon. Final Report. Kluane First Nation and Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research, Yukon. 66pp.

## Conclusion

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our funders, partners, board members, and colleagues for the ongoing support and contribution to our organization.

AICBR was very productive from 2012-2014 and we are looking forward to continuing our work on healthy lifestyles and food security, in addition to other exciting projects and opportunities that arise in the near future.

AICBR continues to seek funding for all aspects of the organization's growth and development.

By working together, we can all contribute to the health and well-being of people living in the Canadian North.



## AICBR Staff C.V's

**Jody E. Butler Walker, M.Sc., M.A.Sc.**  
**Executive Director, Co-founder AICBR**  
 Email: [jody@aicbr.ca](mailto:jody@aicbr.ca)

### EDUCATION

- 2006      Master of Science in Community Health Sciences (M.Sc.)  
 University of Northern British Columbia/Yukon College, Whitehorse YT. Thesis title: *What Factors Influence the Practice of Community-Based Participatory Research for Health in the Canadian Arctic?*
- 2003      Thinking Qualitatively 2003 – Summer Institute, International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB
- 1985      Master of Applied Science in Environmental Engineering (M.A.Sc.)  
 Civil Engineering Dept., University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC  
 Thesis title: *Phytoplankton Ecology in a High Arctic Polynya.*
- 1983      Marine Toxicology/Marine Ecology Program  
 Bamfield Marine Station, Bamfield BC
- 1979      Bachelor of Science (Zoology, with Distinction) (B.Sc.)  
 University of Alberta, Edmonton AB

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### **2006-present    Executive Director, Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research**

Co-founder of AICBR (formerly Arctic Health Research Network-Yukon), a non-profit society established to facilitate the development of community-based research for health and well being in the Yukon and other Northern regions, with an early focus on and with Yukon First Nations and their community health priorities. Other areas of AICBR's work includes capacity building, knowledge translation, ethics and youth engagement, which we include with all our projects. Responsibilities include building and strengthening partnerships, developing and writing proposals to multiple agencies and institutions, facilitating Board development and managing projects, finances and staff. Activities related to partnership development include working with Yukon First Nations communities, researchers, academic institutions and community health-related agencies, including federal and territorial government and non-governmental agencies Through ongoing work with the Community-Based Research Network of Canada as a member of the Executive Committee, contributing to the inclusion of Northern Canada into national initiatives to strengthen CBR practices in Canada.

#### **1998 – 2006    Self-Employed, Whitehorse, Yukon**

- Conducted contract work, including research, communications and producing peer-reviewed, technical and plain language publications.
- Presented detailed review of Yukon contaminants activities over past several years in Old Crow, Haines Junction, Mayo and Dawson to elders, youth and other community members, on behalf of Yukon Contaminants Committee (2005-2007);
- Developed and conducted, in collaboration with the Council of Yukon First Nations, two 2-day workshops for community representatives and front line workers in the Yukon about environmental contaminants (2000, 2001);

**1998 – 2006 Self-Employed, Whitehorse, Yukon (cont'd)**

- Co-authored with Norma Kassi a booklet 'Yukon First Nations Ask About Cancer' on contract to the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Yukon Contaminants Committee (2003).
- Produced two peer-reviewed publications (2003, 2006).

**1990-1998 Head, Contaminants Unit; Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Health and Social Services, Yellowknife, NT**

- Coordinated contaminants and human health research in the Northwest Territories;
- Planned, developed and conducted research, as Principal Investigator, to establish an exposure baseline across NWT and Nunavut for organochlorine and metal contaminants in maternal and umbilical cord blood, incorporating a community-based approach to developing and implementing the research protocol;
- Planned, developed and implemented benefit/risk communications materials about environmental contaminants and human health, in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including aboriginal organizations, federal and territorial governments and universities.

**PUBLICATIONS (Peer-reviewed, First Author)**

- Butler Walker, J. and M. MacLeod. *Factors Influencing the Practice of Community-Based Participatory Health Research in the Canadian Arctic*. In Prep.
- **Butler Walker, J.**, L. Salmon, J. Eskes, S. Duke, L. Duncan, K. Cochrane. (2010). *The Learner Becomes the Teacher ~ Community-Based Diabetes Prevention Training Program for First Nations Health Workers in Northern Canada*. In: Diabetes Prevention In Practice. 2010.
- Butler Walker, J. Houseman, L. Seddon, E. McMullen, K. Tofflemire, C. Mills, A. Corriveau, J-P. Weber, A. LeBlanc, M. Walker, S. Donaldson, J. Van Oostdam. 2006. *Mercury, Cadmium, Lead and Trace Elements in Maternal and Umbilical Cord Blood in Arctic Canada*, Environmental Research. Vol 100, No. 3 pp. 295-318.
- Butler Walker, J., et. al. 2003. *Organochlorine Levels in Maternal and Umbilical Cord Blood Plasma in Arctic Canada*. Science of the Total Environment. 302: 27-52.



## AICBR Staff C.V's

### **Norma Kassi**

#### **Director of Indigenous Collaboration; Co-Founder AICBR**

Email: [norma@aicbr.ca](mailto:norma@aicbr.ca)

Norma was raised and educated in Old Crow, Yukon; she is Vuntut Gwitchin (People of the Lakes) and a member of the Wolf Clan. It was in Old Crow flats where Norma gained her depth of traditional, scientific and ecological knowledge. Her grandfather, mother and the land were the bearers of this invaluable, ancient knowledge, which was passed on to Norma at a very young age. This knowledge has woven her into the land of the Vuntut Gwitchin and has given her an understanding of her homelands and the beings in which the land is shared.

Encouraged by her Elders, Norma entered politics shortly after leaving school. In 1985, Norma was elected into Yukon's Legislative Assembly as Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, a position she held until 1992. During this time, Norma was selected by the Elders of the Gwitchin Nation to act as a spokesperson on behalf of the Gwitchin people for the preservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. This Caribou Herd is the lifeblood of her people, and were (and still are) at risk due to proposed oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

As a spokesperson, Norma traveled extensively throughout the world educating many people about the critical and inseparable relationship of the Gwitchin people and the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and the devastating effects of the proposed industrial development. Her audiences have included grassroots Americans, United States Congressional members and Senators, World leaders, Aboriginal communities through out the Arctic and across North America, as well as appearances on Canadian, American and British network television. Stemming from this work, Norma had the opportunity to produce, direct and narrate three documentary films. Today Norma still finds herself educating people about the critical and inseparable relationship between the Gwitchin and the land.

In 1991 Norma was awarded the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation and Achievement Award, and the Goldman Prize in 2002, one of the world's highest profile awards for Conservation. In 2004, Norma was chosen by the Governor General of Canada the Right Honorable Adrienne Clarkson to travel with a National delegation of dignitaries on a speaking tour through out Russia.

From 1995 to 1998 Norma was the Environmental Manager for the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN). In this capacity, she headed the CYFN Northern Contaminants Program, and was Chair of Centre for Indigenous People Nutrition and Environment - CINE. The latter was with Dr. Harriet Kuhnlein, Director of CINE at McGill University, where Norma initiated and conducted dietary studies of Yukon First Nations in collaboration with Dr. Kuhnlein and others.

Norma's insight and commitment encouraged her participation on a number of boards and councils: David Suzuki Foundation (1990 – 1992); World Wildlife Fund (1996 – 2000); Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (1998 – 2001); and the Alaska Wilderness League (1993 – 2007). Currently Norma continues her work on the International Gwich'in Steering Committee whose mandate is to fight for the Preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in North Eastern Alaska.

Norma achieved her Mediation & Negotiation training at the BC Justice Institute. As a Consultant, Norma developed and facilitated numerous workshops throughout Canada. Workshop topics included health and the environment, policy development, Conflict Resolution, Communications /Advocacy, Community Development, Cross Cultural Awareness and Violence against Women and Children. She also facilitated workshops across the country for the Government of Canada for policy development on the Commemoration Initiative in Honoring and Recognizing the Survivors of Residential Schools.

Over the last 15 years, Norma has been an active member of the COSEWIC Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Committee as a Traditional Knowledge expert. She also currently sits on the President's Advisory Committee on Research for the Yukon Research Centre (Yukon College).

Norma's work is global in perspective and she has gained a greater understanding of the overall effects of the vast changes to the people of the Arctic and their environments, witnessing first hand the increase of chronic diseases. For these reasons Norma is now focusing on the health of the Arctic's Indigenous Peoples.

Norma co-founded AICBR (formerly Arctic Health Research Network-Yukon) and worked as Co-Director until she was elected Chief of Vuntut Gwitchin in November 2010. She returned to AICBR in 2012 as the Director of Indigenous Collaboration. Norma is actively engaged in community-based health research, particularly with Yukon First Nations. This work has included identifying health research priorities with Yukon First Nations communities, capacity building and training of First Nations in the area of health, and developing ways to translate knowledge that is inclusive, sustainable and beneficial to the communities. Norma is particularly passionate about food security and has been working with Yukon communities to develop locally based food security strategies. Norma is a Board member of Food Secure Canada.

It is Norma's strong traditional values and early years on the land which have provided her with the ability to be able to remain true to her people, their culture and way of life, while living in the twenty-first century and traveling internationally to act as an advocate and voice, not only for her people, but also for Aboriginal peoples across the globe.

# AICBR Staff C.V's

**Katelyn Friendship**  
**Research Officer**

Email: [katelyn@aicbr.ca](mailto:katelyn@aicbr.ca)

## EDUCATION

<b>International Institute for Qualitative Methods</b>	University of Alberta	2014
Thinking Qualitatively workshop series (Photovoice, Analysing Qualitative Data, NVivo, Using Visual Elicitation Methods, Writing Qualitatively, Critical Realism)		
<b>Public Health Agency of Canada</b>	Online courses	2011-2012
Intro to Public Health, Basic Epidemiological Concepts, Measurement of Health Status, Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases		
<b>M.A. thesis Canadian Studies-Indigenous Studies</b>	Frost Centre, University of Trent	2010
Contaminants, health and effective risk assessment and risk communication in the circumpolar North (specific to Yukon and Yukon First Nations)		
<b>CoPEH-Can Ecohealth Training Program</b>	<i>Ecosystem Approaches to Health</i>	2008
Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health (International Development Research Centre, University of British Columbia, University of Guelph & Université du Québec)		
<b>B.Sc. Hons. Biology/Environmental &amp; Resource Sciences</b>	University of Trent	2007
<i>Courses Include:</i> Restoration Ecology, Pollution Ecology, Methods for Evaluating Environmental Impacts, Forestry, Indigenous Environmental Studies, Aboriginal Community Development		

## EXPERIENCE

<b>Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research</b>	Research Officer	2009-Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research officer for various community-based participatory health projects in the Yukon</li> <li>• Prepare proposals and technical reports, editing, literature reviews and literary research, presentations</li> <li>• Minute taking for senior management meetings, conference calls, multi-organizational meetings</li> <li>• Preparation of training materials and training where applicable</li> <li>• Workshop coordination and planning</li> <li>• Responsible for completing and submitting comprehensive reporting for Government of Canada funding programs</li> <li>• Assist in the designing, developing, and implementation of research project process and methodology, including project evaluation</li> <li>• Qualitative research methods [interviews (face-to-face), focus groups, survey skills (including design, printing, and hand delivery), transcription, quality control, confidentiality measures, and data analysis and interpretation of research findings (evidence-based)]</li> <li>• Contribute to team meetings, attend and present at conferences on behalf of the organization</li> <li>• Maintain and build strong working relationships with project partners and team members</li> <li>• Network and build partnerships with others to contribute to the building of the organization</li> <li>• Responsible for consultation with communities, including Yukon First Nations, collaborating together with different knowledge types and perspectives</li> <li>• Produce reports and plain-language documents for diverse audiences</li> </ul>		

<b>RavenQuest Consulting</b>	Research Consultant	2009-Current
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementation of a variety of projects related to health and environment in the North, including community-based and participatory research initiatives</li> <li>• Prepare proposals and technical reports, editing, literature reviews and literary research, presentations</li> <li>• Liaising with Yukon Territorial Government and Yukon First Nation governments on collaborative projects</li> <li>• Experience working with communities and different Indigenous groups and collaborating together with different knowledge types and perspectives</li> <li>• Qualitative research methods [interviews (face-to-face, telephone), focus group, survey skills, transcription, quality control, confidentiality measures, and data analysis]</li> <li>• <i>Teslin Tlingit Council</i> (2013-present) minute-taker for General Council Meetings in Teslin, Yukon (accurate recording and writing up of minutes, summarizing, extracting and identifying action items).</li> <li>• <i>Yukon Government-Health &amp; Social Services, Health Promotion</i> (2013/2014) Evaluation for <i>From the Ground Up healthy choice fundraiser</i> initiative and <i>Kids in the Kitchen</i> program (quantitative and qualitative data analysis, summary reports)</li> <li>• <i>Yukon Government-Health &amp; Social Services, Health Promotion</i> (2012/2013) Evaluation for <i>Eat Right, Play Hard</i> Polar Games Health Promotion initiative (quantitative and qualitative data analysis, summary reports)</li> <li>• <i>Yukon Government-Health &amp; Social Services, Health Promotion</i> (2011) Evaluation for <i>Wake &amp; Bake</i> play (creating excel template for evaluation data, data input, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, summary report)</li> <li>• <i>Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation</i> (2011) minute-taker for the Annual General Assembly (accurate recording and writing up of minutes, summarizing, extracting and identifying action items).</li> <li>• <i>Arctic North Consulting</i> (2010/2011) consultant for Community Climate Change Adaptation Planning project in Aklavik, NWT (Community consultation, capacity building and training, facilitation of focus groups, data analysis, and reporting)</li> <li>• <i>Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation</i> (2009-2011) qualitative data analysis and writing of academic paper for Traditional Knowledge and Climate Change International Polar Year Project</li> </ul>		

<b>Yukon College</b>	Curriculum Developer	2008-2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop curricula for continuing education classes (Research content, PowerPoint development, develop and find resources, consult with experts, determine guest speakers, ensure content fits within academic criteria)</li> <li>• <i>Courses include:</i> Contaminants and Mining; Contaminants and Community Health; Yukon Watershed Protection: Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science</li> <li>• Work with continuing education instructors on course content and evaluation</li> <li>• Guest speaker for courses</li> </ul>		

**AFFILIATIONS**

<b>Yukon Women in Trades and Technology</b>	Vice President of the Board, Director	2011-present
<b>Food Secure Canada</b>	Board Member	2011-2012

**PUBLICATIONS**

Friendship, K. Furgal, C. 2012. The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Environmental Health Risk Management in Yukon Canada. *International Journal of Circumpolar Health*: 71.

## AICBR Staff C.V's

### Marilyn Van Bibber

#### Associate Director

Email: [mvanbibber@shaw.ca](mailto:mvanbibber@shaw.ca)

Marilyn Van Bibber is a consultant working with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations in British Columbia, Yukon and elsewhere in Canada. Marilyn began her career as a registered nurse with a certificate in nurse midwifery. She has extensive experience in Aboriginal health development including, research and program development. She specializes in community development, community-based research, community health evaluation and planning, and maternal and child health. Marilyn has 15 years experience with treaty negotiation and team management, environmental protection and other treaty related issues. Marilyn belongs to the wolf clan of the Northern Tutchone people and is a member of Selkirk First Nation at Pelly Crossing, Yukon.

#### EDUCATION

- 1969: diploma grade 12 FH Collins, Whitehorse, Yukon.
- 1974; diploma of nursing, Royal Jubilee Hos School of Nursing, Victoria.
- 1977; certificate of nurse midwifery, U of Alberta.
- 1983-85; political science and sociology, Carleton University, Ottawa (transferred to UBC)
- 1986 1988; political science (incomplete BA), UBC.
- 1992-93; Justice Institute of B.C.  
-Conflict resolution, mediation skills, level 1, negotiation skills, level 1, dealing with anger, negotiation skills, level 2
- FASD Key Worker Training Level 2, 2008
- 2007 – 2011, UBC Inter-professional Continuing Education, UBC.  
-Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder international conference 2007 25.5 hrs  
-Adolescents and adults with FASD 2008, 18 hrs  
-International FASD research promising practices, 2009, 24 hrs  
-International FASD research, integrating research, policy, practice, 2011, 23 hrs
- 2008, Best Practices in Aboriginal Business and Economic Development, Banff Centre.
- Circumpolar Health Research annual workshop, Centre for International Health, Tromso, Norway, 2008.

#### EXPERIENCE

- Co-chair of the Indigenous Planning Subcommittee for the International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Yellowknife, July 2009.
- Member of the Board of Directors for the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network, appointed 2008.
- Member of Oversight Committee to the NEARBC research network and governance committee for NEARBC/NEAHR BC WA. 2007.
- Member of the Expert Panel for the National Research Consensus Conference on Children with Special Needs, August 2006.
- Member of the BC Medical Services Foundation Ethic Review Board, Vancouver Foundation. 2004 – 2009.



- Researched and co-wrote policies and procedures for the B.C. Medical Services Foundation for Health Research, (2000; 2002) community based ethics review committee; researched and co-wrote Inter Tribal Health Authority Research Protocol, (2005).
- A member of a research team “Healthy Communities, Mothers and Children” 2002 – 2005. Developing culturally and community appropriate brief alcohol interventions for at-risk Aboriginal mothers in four Aboriginal communities.
- Conducted traditional knowledge research with Northern Tutchone elders on Ddahw Ghro Habitat Protection Area, 2003, Faro Mine Closure, 2004, Van Bibber Oral History, 2004; 2000.
- Developed mandate and negotiation strategy, managed negotiations, caucus process and consultations towards an urban treaty within the BC Treaty Commission process for Tsleil-Waututh Nation.
- Conducted a national consultation on community-based strategies for prevention of FAS/FAE, “*It Takes a Community; A Resource Manual on Community-based Prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects*”.
- Prepared and submitted a research document on FAS for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.
- Managed environmental interventions (Casino Trail and Curragh Mines, Yukon) on behalf of Selkirk First Nation, Yukon.
- Negotiation of components of Selkirk Land Claim Agreement and a member of the First Nation Caucus for the Yukon Umbrella Land Claim Agreement.
- Conducted four major community-based health and social needs assessments (Nisga’a Valley Health Board, Sto:lo Tribal Council, Selkirk First Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation)
- Delivered over 50 babies during midwifery practicum and nursing career in northern Canada.
- Founding member of the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada, the Registered Nurses Association of Yukon and the BC FAS Resource Society.

