

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2007 pan-north *Agri-Food Awareness and Food Security Symposium* was intended to bring all northern Ontario agri-food and food security organizations together to share mandates, initiatives and on-going projects. The symposium was executed by Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc., in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, and FedNor.

Group discussions were held at 9 teleconference locations to address the issues of overlap, duplication of efforts, and funding initiatives; to investigate potential partnerships to strengthen and support the local agricultural industry and awareness initiatives. It was concluded that stronger communication and networking is required among northern agri-food, food security organizations, government, producers, and consumers. Sharing resources, creating northern product recognition among consumers, and developing a common marketing strategy for northern Ontario were further conclusions.

The recommendations are that a northern coordinator should be hired to ensure that all recommendations be followed, symposiums and conferences with varying topics should be held regularly, a website should be developed with agricultural updates, links, and contacts. Furthermore, it is recommended that a logo be developed to ensure northern Ontario product recognition, a meeting should be held to determine how certain resources are going to be shared, and the possibility of a northern Ontario fair should be examined.