



# CINE'S APPROACH AND RESPONSE STRATEGY

**The Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE)** was created in 1992 in response to a need expressed by Aboriginal Peoples in Canada for participatory research and education to address their concerns about the integrity of their traditional food systems. The mandate of CINE is to undertake, in concert with Indigenous Peoples, community-based research and education related to traditional food systems. The empirical knowledge of the environment inherent in Indigenous societies is incorporated into all its efforts.

Governance for CINE is provided by the Assembly of First Nations, Council of Yukon First Nations, Dene Nation, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Metis Nation (NWT), and the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake. The Centre is interdisciplinary and based at McGill University's Macdonald Campus in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

CINE's response strategy is designed to answer questions from communities by providing information and data about food, nutrition and health that they can understand and use. The response strategy comprises two elements: research and education. Community short courses and internet courses address people's concerns about health, nutrition, the effects of pollution on natural local foods, and the quality of market

food they have access to and can afford. Research begins with a three-step process to answer questions from community leaders about traditional food systems, nutrition, health, and the environment.

**Step 1 – Review existing information.** CINE informs the community as to whether there is an existing answer, usually within one month. If the required information is not available to CINE and no data exist relevant to the community, step 2 is considered.

**Step 2 – Short study.** A short study may be necessary to provide specific answers to a particular community. Within two months of the initial inquiry, CINE indicates whether staff can join the community to perform a short study, including analysis of food or other samples. If CINE does not

have the resources needed to answer the question, or if the results of the short study are not adequate, the third step is considered.

**Step 3 – Full research proposal.** CINE works with community members to develop a full-scale proposal for a research project to answer the question.

Work is undertaken by CINE subject to the availability of human and financial resources.



## PLANNING & MANAGEMENT / PREPARING RESEARCH AGREEMENTS

