



Program Standard Operating Policy	
<b>TITLE</b>	Traditional Foods Policy
<b>PROCEDURE NUMBER</b>	
<b>PROGRAM NAME</b>	Education Services
<b>DOMAIN NAME</b>	
<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b>	06 July 2024
<b>DATE OF APPROVAL</b>	<b>06 July 2021</b>
<b>ISSUING AUTHORITY</b>	Tłchq Community Services Agency

#### **POLICY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLE:**

Traditional foods are an important part of the daily lives for many of Tłchq people. It is essential for their health, culture and identity. Food and the way it is prepared carries significant meaning for all people, it acknowledges traditions, appreciates the experiences and diverse preferences of a group of people.

Incorporating preparation and serving traditional foods during/part of on-the-land camp programs, cultural programs, into school menus and/or offered on irregular occasion(s) presents an opportunity to:

- increase participation by serving foods with flavours and appearance familiar to foods students see in their homes and communities;
- increase students' likelihood to select and eat school meals when foods meet student's taste and are served in a supportive, comfortable and social environment;
- support student's understanding and appreciation of their own worlds and that of others.

#### **PURPOSE/RATIONALE:**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- provide guidelines when traditional foods are prepared and served to TCSA students; and



- ensure traditional foods are stored, examined, prepared and served safely by TCSA staff as a part of cultural and/or on-the-land program(s) for students.

## DEFINITIONS:

**Traditional food** refers to meals that are offered to TCSA students and are prepared according to traditional recipes and methods while meeting nutritional guidelines according to Canada's Food Guide, and Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide-First Nations, Inuit and Metis.

**Parent or Guardian** is the legal custodian of a student.

**Student** is an individual currently enrolled at any school within Tłchq Region. In accordance with the 2.3.1 NWT School Handbook refers to age is 18+ therefore this age is considered for the purposes of the *Traditional Meal Student Info and Opt-out Waiver* for student who can sign themselves, otherwise it is a parent/guardian.

## SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to:

- TCSA staff who are involved and responsible for traditional foods handling at TCSA
- A student who is participating in the programs and who (or their parent/guardian) **has not provided** a signed opt-out waiver ;
- A parent/guardian of student participating in the programs;

## PROCEDURE:

### Availability of the Traditional Foods Offer

The Traditional Foods offer is available to any TCSA School Student who:

- is currently enrolled at any school located within Tłchq Region:
  - Alexis Arrowmaker School in Wekweeti
  - Chief Jimmy Bruneau School in Behchokq,
  - Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School in Behchokq
  - Jean Wetrade School in Gameti
  - Mezi Community School in Whati; **and**
- has **not** submitted a completed *Traditional Meal Student Info and Opt-Out Waiver*.



## Common Responsibilities when Offering Traditional Foods to Students

### Donations

TCSA school facilities and/or during cultural and on-the-land program activities organized by TCSA will accept donations of meat, fish, and other harvested foods in the Northwest Territories in accordance with the NWT *Wildlife Act* and Regulations. Meat and fish must be obtained and donated legally by a donor, who may be a local, licensed hunter, and/or outfitter. All donors must have appropriate hunting license or aboriginal hunting rights.

All donated foods shall be inspected on delivery or as soon as possible by authorized kitchen or camp staff and handled according to the *Public Health Act* Food Establishment Safety Regulations. These foods shall be served only if there is no reason to doubt their safety.

Where and when applicable, food items received as gifts and donations shall be labelled, dated and stored immediately by the kitchen staff.

Regular training (and re-training to ensure valid certification) as necessary on the storing, examination, preparation and serving of traditional foods for serving for TCSA Students is provided to identified TCSA staff.

### Documentation

Students that **wish not to receive** traditional foods are required to complete the *Traditional Meal Student Info and Opt-out Waiver* (Appendix A). The form is completed either by a student, or by student's parent/guardian. The form must be completed on bi-annual basis at the beginning of a school year.

Exception: If a new student is admitted to the TCSA School at later time (i.e. during a school year), and wishes **not to participate** in the traditional foods servings when offered by TCSA, then the form must be completed **no later than five (5) days prior** to the scheduled traditional meal day to allow time for food preparation and planning.

All completed opt-out waivers will be stored into the student's file.

All TCSA students' opt-out waivers and documentation are kept in a secure file identified at each TCSA school facility folder for reference. Waivers will be kept on file for two (2) school years, unless a student (or their parent/guardian) requests a change/cancellation of the opt-out waiver. Cancellation of the opt-out waiver can be received at anytime.



**PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

N/A

**CROSS-REFERENCES:**

TCSA Healthy Food for Learning Policy, September 2020

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A – Traditional Foods Student Info and Opt-out Waiver

**REFERENCES:**

*Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide-First Nations, Inuit and Metis*; Health Canada, 2007

GNWT Ministerial Directive: *Serving Traditional Foods in NWT Health and Social Services Facilities*; MD 2020-07, July 1, 2020

Northwest Territories *Education Act* s. 117; 1996

Northwest Territories *Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency Act* s. 13; 2005

Northwest Territories *Wildlife Act*; 2017

*Serving up tradition: A Guide for School Food in Culturally Diverse Communities*, FoodCorps and Massachusetts Farm to School, December 2016

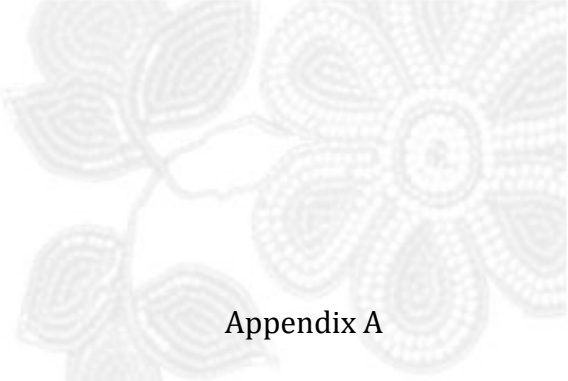
Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre, Ontario, *Policy and Procedure Manual: Miichim/Traditional Food*; November 2017

**APPROVAL:**

Reviewed and Approved By:

---

Kevin Armstrong  
Chief Executive Officer  
July 6, 2021



### Traditional Meal Student Info

#### Traditional Meals Prepared with Donated (Gifted) Wild Game Meats, Fish and Wild Berries

Traditional foods are an important part of the daily lives for many of Tłıchǫ people. As a part of some TCSA school program (s) students may be served traditional meals.

Traditional meals may include donated (gifted) foods such as, but not limited to:

- Wild moose, caribou, rabbit, beaver, geese, duck, ptarmigan
- Local fish such pickerel, northern pike, trout and others
- Local wild berries

For your awareness: traditional wild game meats and fish are not federally inspected but harvested according to traditional methods and according to the *Wildlife Act* General Regulations. These wild game meats and fish are served at during TCSA Schools on land camp activities or at TCSA schools, which hold a valid Food Establishment Permit under the *Public Health Act, Food Establishment Safety Regulations, Section 30(2)*.

There may be some risks associated with students' consumption of traditional meals. The Government of the Northwest Territories and TCSA, their respective Ministers, officers, servants, employees, agents, and contactors are to be waived, released and hold harmless, of any and all claims, demands and causes of action, suits, debts, damages, and any other liabilities of any nature whatsoever, that a student may have due to participating in the traditional meal offer, or that may hereafter accrue to the student, including without limitation, any and all claims for medical expenses or treatment, personal loss, injury, illness or death.

*Complete the below section ONLY if you **do not wish** to participate in the Traditional meal experience*

### Opt-Out Waiver

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
*Student OR Parent/Guardian (Print Full Name)*

Do **not** wish to participate and want to opt-out from the Traditional Meal experience offered to me / my child as a part of TCSA programs. I am aware, that I can cancel anytime and start participating.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student OR Parent/Guardian(s) Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Witness*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*