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## Laurier's Yellowknife office supports Fall Harvest Fair

YELLOWKNIFE – Growing food in the Northwest Territories involves a lot of time and energy to overcome some significant challenges, but communities all over the region are proving that it can be done. It's a feat that will be celebrated at the tenth annual Harvest Fall Fair this week in Yellowknife.

Hosted by Ecology North, [Yellowknives Dene First Nation](#) Dechita Naowo program and the [Yellowknife Community Garden Collective](#), the Fall Fair brings communities together to celebrate food growing. This year, Wilfrid Laurier University is sponsoring a free community bison burger feast at the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Williideh Site on Aug. 25. The contribution is a celebration of Laurier's newly opened [Yellowknife research office](#), a natural continuation of Laurier's strong commitment to research in the Northwest Territories.

Laurier has been building a strong working relationship with Ecology North and other community groups in Yellowknife to support their work in building food systems that are more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

"We have been building connections with Ecology North and other important groups in Yellowknife that work on local food issues for a long time," said Andrew Spring, research associate of [Northern Water Futures](#) and the [FLEdGE](#) (Food: Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged) Northwest Territories Research Node lead with [Laurier's Centre for Sustainable Food Systems](#). "It is important that we help support our community partners to realize their vision for a more sustainable food system in Yellowknife. This event celebrates and supports local food production in Yellowknife."

Ecology North, a non-governmental organization formed to tackle issues such as climate change, waste reduction, water quality and food sovereignty has been an essential partner to Laurier's ongoing research in the North.

"Ecology North and Yellowknives Dene First Nation are very happy to have Laurier as a partner in this event," said Craig Scott, executive director of Ecology North. "The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems has provided staffing and financial support to make this event such a great example of inter-community partnership and celebration of local food."

Laurier's Yellowknife research office provides space for research into topics such as northern food sustainability as well as climate change, water, permafrost, forest ecology and infrastructure development. This includes work done by FLEdGE Northwest Territories, a research partnership between Laurier's Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. FLEdGE funding supports a student research assistant position at Ecology North, working on local food programs in Yellowknife.

Further information on the [Fall Harvest Fair event](#) is available on the [Ecology North Facebook page](#).