Picturing Arctic Health Disparities: Engaging with Arctic Youth Through Visual Media to Transmit and Translate Knowledge About *Helicobacter pylori* Infection.

Megan J. Hight, Karen J. Goodman, the Fort McPherson *H. pylori* Project Planning Committee, and the CANHelp Working Group.
Helicobacter pylori

- *H. pylori* infection is often asymptomatic
- Chronic infection leads to gastritis, peptic ulcers and, in rare instances, stomach cancer
- Often acquired in childhood, but transmission route is not well understood
Where does *H. pylori* infection occur?
Fort McPherson 59%
Community-Driven Research

CANHelp (Canadian North *Helicobacter pylori*) Working Group

- Addresses community concerns about health risks from *H. pylori* infection
- Health authorities seeking information to improve clinical management of *H. pylori* infection and inform public health policy related to *H. pylori* infection

Photo Credit: Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics
Fort McPherson, NWT

- Located on the Peel River at approximately 67°N and 134°W
- Hamlet had a population of 755 people circa 2015
- Majority of residents are Gwich’in or Dene
- A ‘remote’ community accessible most of the year by road or by air
Youth Engagement

- Few examples of Northern Indigenous youth being engaged in participatory health research
- Possibly due to misconception that children are not fully culturally competent or that they lack the capacity to engage as active research participants
Photovoice Project

“Why are some people in Fort McPherson concerned about \textit{H. pylori} infection?”

“How does \textit{H. pylori} infection impact people’s lives in Fort McPherson?”
Youth Engagement and Capacity Building

- Digital Photography Skills
- Photo Literacy
- Photo Analysis
- Ethnographic Exercises
- Young Scientist Certificate Program
Demystifying the Research Process

Two students from Fort McPherson will win a trip to visit the University of Alberta this fall

• Tour our offices and labs
• Engage in educational activities
• Connect with campus organizations
• Participate in a Public Health conference
Knowledge Exchange

- Gallery evening presentation of images in Fort McPherson
- Student presentations on Edmonton trip
- Project wrap-up in conjunction with sponsored feast in the community
- Showcase of images at University of Alberta
Advantages of This Approach

- Photovoice is particularly well-suited to knowledge translation for health policy
- Youth are represented in research and benefit from capacity building
- Photographs serve as primary data sources for ethnographic research informed by visual anthropology
Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the students of Chief Julius School who participated in the logo design contest. Thanks also to the Fort McPherson *H. pylori* Project Planning Committee for their support of this research. This research has also been supported by a CIHR Planning & Dissemination Grant.