

2021-2024

# AGRICULTURE AND FOOD STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT

The Lands and Resources mission is to foster a better quality of life by ensuring access to natural resources by supporting the goals, values and aspirations of the Anishinabek Nation.





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## **NGO DWE WAANGIZID ANISHINAABE One Anishinaabe Family**

**Debenjiged gii'saan anishinaaben akiing giibi dgwon gaadeni  
mndoo waadiziwin.**

Creator placed the Anishinaabe on the earth along with the gift of spirituality.

**Shkode, nibi, aki, noodin, giibi dgosdoonan wii naagdowndmang  
maanpii Shkagmigaang.**

Here on Mother Earth, there were gifts given to the Anishinaabe to look after,  
fire, water, earth and wind.

**Debenjiged gii miinaan gechtwaa wendaagog Anishinaaben  
waa naagdoonjin ninda niizhwaswi kino maadwinan.**

The Creator also gave the Anishinaabe seven sacred gifts to guide them. They are:

**Zaagidwin, Debwewin, Mnaadendmowin, Nbwaakaawin,  
Dbaadendiziwin, Gwekwaadziwin miinwa Aakedhewin.**

Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery.

**Debenjiged kiimiingona dedbinwe wi naagdowndiwin.**

Creator gave us sovereignty to govern ourselves.

**Ka mnaadendanaa gaabi zhiwebag miinwaa nango megwaa ezhwebag,  
miinwa geyaabi waa ni zhiwebag.**

We respect and honour the past, present and future.

(Preamble to the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin -  
as adopted by the Grand Council in June 2011)





# STRATEGIC

# PLAN

# 2021-2024



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## OVERVIEW

The Lands and Resources Department was established within the Anishinabek Nation in the spring of 2007. Currently, there are six program areas with staffing capabilities. These include: Agriculture, Emergency Management, Minerals and Mining, Trapping, and Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement.

## MISSION

The Lands and Resources mission is to foster a better quality of life by ensuring access to natural resources by supporting the goals, values and aspirations of the Anishinabek Nation.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES/CAPACITY BUILDING

By creating opportunities, our communities are empowered to increase the natural, technical and financial capacity derived and generated from our lands and natural resources.”

Jurisdiction and Treaty Rights -“by building and preserving Anishinabek laws within our territories, communities can continue to assert and exercise jurisdiction, implementing ownership of lands, water and resources.”

Access to Lands and Resources – “our communities are strengthened by continuous advocacy efforts to increase access to lands and resources.”

### VALUE STATEMENTS

- Environmental Values – “by respecting Mother Earth we foster change which will sustain our lands and resources, preserving the integrity of the Seventh Generation and our Anishinabe Bimaadziwn.”
- Awareness and Communication – “with a continual effort to understand our communities we are committed to facilitate education, sharing current events and traditional wisdom.”

### LANDS AND RESOURCES MEETS THE MANDATE BY:

- monitoring issues
- development of clear communication to First Nations and members
- completing resolution follow-up tasks, and other duties directed by First Nations, Regional Chief, Assemblies and Grand Council.

# ANISHINABEK NATION

## ASSET INVENTORY AND STRATEGIC PLAN

The Anishinabek Nation developed a Draft Asset Inventory Report in March of 2021 and an associated GIS database of farms, agricultural services and initiatives among the 39 member nations. The asset inventory is a first step in the development of a strategic plan for agricultural development for the Anishinabek Nation. The strategic plan as outlined here will help provide a foundation for future work on the agriculture file.

Since this is a Draft Document we welcome your comments and input on the content identified herein. Please provide your comments to the Agriculture Portfolio holder:

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For the purposes of this Strategic Plan, agriculture and food sectors of the Anishinabek economy as identified in our Agricultural Asset Inventory include:

-  ABATTOIR
-  ALL OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CROP FRAMING
-  AQUACULTURE
-  ARTS / REC / ACCOMODATION / FOOD SERVICES
-  BEEF / DAIRY FARM
-  BREWERY
-  CANNABIS PRODUCTION
-  CHICKEN / TURKEY (EGGS, MEET, HATCHERY)
-  COMMUNITY GARDEN
-  EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
-  FARMER'S MARKET
-  FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMING
-  FRUIT TREES / ORCHARD
-  FUR - BEARING ANIMAL AND RABBIT PRODUCTION
-  GROCERY / CONVENIENCE / FOOD STORES
-  HONEY BEES
-  HORSE AND OTHER EQUINE PRODUCTION
-  LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTS
-  MAPLE BUSH
-  MUSHROOM FARM
-  NURSERY / FLORICULTURE / FORESTRY / GATHERING FOREST PRODUCTS
-  PROFESSIONAL / SCIENTIFIC / TECHNICAL SERVICES
-  SMALL AND / OR MIXED LIVESTOCK (GOAT / PIG / SHEEP, ETC.)
-  SUPPORT ACTIVITIES & VALUE-ADDED MANUFACTURING
-  TOBACCO FARMING
-  TRADE & DISTRIBUTION (WHOLESALE)
-  WHEAT, CORN, HAY AND GRAIN FARMING
-  WILD FISHERY
-  WILD RICE
-  WINERY



# GOALS

We will deliver the following services to our client base, Anishinabek Nation citizens and communities:

1. Provision of Information
2. Information on Food Sovereignty and Security
3. Food Related Research and Advocacy
4. Economic Development, Education and Training
5. Law and Policy Development

# STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

The Anishinabek Nation (AN) will employ a variety of strategies to implement our goals. These include the following:

## ***PROVISION OF INFORMATION***

### **STRATEGIES**

- Provide information to Anishinabek Nation citizens on various agricultural and food sectors to enhance agricultural awareness.
- Complete agricultural planning for each reserve land base to identify potential agricultural opportunities best suited to each region and geographic location of the 39 communities.
- Enhance AN citizen awareness of a variety of agricultural organizations, industries and associations and identify mutually beneficial objectives to work in partnership with third parties.
- Utilize the AN's existing Round Table format to provide in-depth information to AN citizens on the agriculture and food industry and opportunities.
- Through regular communication with staff and citizens in member communities, identify issues of concern that require resolution.

### **ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE**

- Embrace modern communication tools such as Zoom and the internet to deliver agricultural information that can be accessed by all AN citizens, regardless of language, location and level of expertise.
- Develop an online internet-based Agricultural Information Portal for Anishinabek Nation citizens to be able to access a variety of agricultural information and funding opportunities.



- Develop and maintain a Calendar of Events to inform clients of upcoming conferences, gatherings and learning opportunities.
- Build a client base of Anishinabek Nation business owners, citizen farmers, agricultural producers, processors and food distributors as part of the agricultural asset inventory, and update this client base on a regular basis as more information becomes known to enhance networking opportunities for clients.
- Publish a monthly agricultural newsletter to be distributed digitally for staff and citizens of the 39 member communities. Following Covid 19, newsletter would be distributed digitally and possibly by mail.
- Develop an agricultural asset inventory for AN agricultural producers, processors and businesses.
- Develop a list of agricultural funding sources and provide webinars on how to apply for funding.
- Develop and distribute culturally relevant Fact Sheets on different types of agricultural crops and commodities. (i.e. beekeeping, maple syrup, beef farming, etc)
- Facilitate citizen involvement in upcoming agricultural events and conferences using the Events Calendar of the online portal, and the monthly agricultural newsletter and by seeking funding opportunities to enable participation.
- Hold an Annual Agricultural AN Tradeshow featuring Anishinabek Nation agricultural products in partnership with non-native industry and agricultural producers, attended by youth from across the Anishinabek Nation.

## **FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY**

### **STRATEGIES**

- Provide timely and accurate information on Covid 19 supports for communities facing food emergencies.
- Identify cases where quotas and jurisdiction present challenges to Anishinabek Nation food sovereignty and seek cooperative solutions with government.
- Develop a Food Sovereignty and Security Plan for the Anishinabek Nation
- Identify, quantify and address/monitor issues related to the chemical contamination of wild foods (foods from traditional lands and territories) and market produced foods.
- Support and advocate for AN communities in re-discovering and protecting wild food sources/medicines and reinitiating traditional food collection activities such as hunting, fishing, berry picking, maple bush sap syrup making and medicinal plant collection.
- Monitor the impacts of climate change on the AN's ability to produce and harvest wild traditional food and modern food sources.
- Communicate the value of traditional ecological knowledge to government and industry.

- Define and clarify the wild food serving issue.
- Define and clarify issues associated with supply management system and quotas for agricultural commodities (dairy, egg and chicken industry) with respect to food sovereignty and security and seek the cooperative solutions with government.
- Encourage and support AN's participation in the aquaculture and wild fisheries industries as viable activities to support food security/sovereignty.
- Encourage and support AN's participation in trapping and hunting to secure viable wild foods.

## ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE

- Enhance food sovereignty and security in AN communities by promoting and encouraging local food production.
- Establish an AN seed bank and promote the use of heirloom/non GMO seeds.
- Participate in the Indigenous Food Circle meetings and provide advice/assistance where necessary.
- Consider and promote the concept of bulk buying and community kitchen programs as a way of empowering people to maximize their limited food dollars and prepare culturally-appropriate, healthy and nutritious meals.
- Facilitate the development of workshops and sharing of knowledge on food processing and preservation and seed saving.
- Provide balcony planters and related supplies to apartment dwellers at low or no cost as a way of growing fruits and vegetables.
- Develop a library of resources for AN citizens to make accessible reports and studies on the contamination of lands, food and territories.
- Examine and quantify fish and wild food contamination, for example, the Eagle study and make the information available and accessible.
- Identify and map contamination in AN communities that has potential for impacts on food production.
- Provide support to communities hoping to re-establish wild rice through development of a wild rice growing Fact Sheet.
- Identify future threats to wild food systems that may arise from projects being proposed by the mining industry, nuclear industry and other extractive industries and advocate for communities on their behalf.



# RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

## STRATEGIES

- Provide opportunities for AN citizens and youth to get involved in agricultural research.
- Advocate for First Nation citizens on agricultural issues of concern.
- Develop and share AN positions on food and agricultural related issues of concern.
- Monitor the impacts of climate change on the AN's ability to produce and harvest wild traditional food and modern food sources

## ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE

- Provide information to citizens and farmers on Chronic Wasting Disease to enhance awareness on the impacts of this disease on farmed cervids (deer).
- Participate in the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium Chronic Wasting Disease Knowledge Network to gain capacity and knowledge on chronic wasting disease and its impacts on the agriculture industry in Ontario.
- Distribute case law summaries developed by the Anishinabek Nation in fall 2020.
- Conduct interviews with elders to find out how climate change is impacting on traditional and non-traditional food sources through the CCHAP (Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program) study.
- Provide information to communities on how to participate in agricultural research opportunities through the University of Guelph and the Agrifood Innovation Alliance (Jen Liptrot).
- Determine research priority needs, develop projects and apply for funding.

# ***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING***

## **STRATEGIES**

- Work with academic institutions, industry associations and industry partners on developing and delivering a series of education and training opportunities in the agriculture and food industry for Anishinabek citizens with a focus on young adults and the general population.
- Develop a series of education and training opportunities in agriculture and food with a focus on school-age children.
- Develop a series of education and training opportunities in agriculture and food with a focus on preschool age children targeted at AN daycares.
- Develop a team of AN agricultural experts or champions to enhance knowledge and expertise in communities and to act as role models for others.
- Provide support to AN communities to build stable agricultural infrastructure and establish secure, permanent designation of agricultural lands on-reserve for long-term food security and economic enhancement.
- Cultivate strong relationships with non-native and settler farming industry and organizations to advocate for stable and growing farm related infrastructure in Northern Ontario.
- Facilitate and promote the development of AN agriculture and food related businesses and enterprises to enhance First Nation economies.
- Assist communities and businesses in accessing employment grants to hire enthusiastic summer students to complete agricultural projects.
- Examine the opportunity for the development of food cooperatives and/or AN branding and marketing of food.
- Promote farmer market development in AN communities.
- Develop training opportunities for First nations youth in a variety of agricultural fields.
- As part of Round Tables, invite members of the agricultural industry to provide information on economic opportunities in agriculture and food.
- Enhance First Nation agricultural capacity building by identifying opportunities for partnerships between First Nations and industry and seeking funding opportunities to realize these opportunities.
- Develop opportunities for networking and information sharing.





## ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE

- Raise awareness of food handling training available through local Health Units for those working in the food service industry.
- Promote cooking classes and food skills workshops in the communities to teach individuals how to make culturally-appropriate, healthy and nutritious food.
- Work with the University of Guelph and/or industry to develop and deliver beekeeping training courses for citizens.
- Plan, implement and participate in agricultural farm tours to raise awareness of the various forms of agriculture (example: yearly aquaculture industry tours)
- Work with organizations that have already developed curriculum for school age children to deliver it to on-reserve schools. (i.e. Agscape)
- Work with AN schools to promote special events campaigns such as Pollinator Week to raise awareness of agricultural issues.
- Provide information to families of school-age children about nutritional supports available in schools.
- Encourage and support the development of curriculum in schools focused on agriculture and in the development of school gardens.
- Purchase mini-aquaponic systems for daycares and schools to educate and raise awareness of food growing methods among youth.
- Promote the development of food gardens at AN daycares by providing needed supplies and equipment.
- Seek out representation from each Region of the Anishinabek Nation to identify a youth and elder representative to form an Agricultural Advisory Committee.
- Seek a budget to facilitate regular meetings of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.
- Develop a work plan for the Agricultural Advisory.
- Identify land use planning tools that can be used on reserve to establish agricultural zoning designations and policies for future use.
- Conduct a food marketing study for AN regions and/or examine marketing studies already completed to assess the best agricultural opportunities for the Anishinabek Nation.
- Investigate group purchasing of food by AN communities.
- Promote agricultural tourism in AN communities.
- Investigate opportunities available through the Local Food Act (sale of food to schools and hospitals) for local production and supply.
- Investigate opportunities available through MTO procurement process for agricultural needs related to the transportation sector.(Landscaping of roadsides)
- Investigate the opportunity for AN production of plant related medicines where this is seen as a positive economic development opportunity in accordance with traditional knowledge.

- Inform and educate AN citizens on the cooperative business model.
- Provide support to other organizations working to develop food related infrastructure in Northern Ontario for the benefit of AN communities and all.
- Explore opportunities to build and establish a respected and valued Anishinabek brand of food.
- Provide information on funding and programs for the establishment of farmer markets.
- Develop training modules and courses in a variety of agricultural topics, ie. Sugar bush management, beekeeping, etc.
- Provide information on non medicinal hemp growing opportunities for AN communities and on the cannabis opportunity through development of Fact Sheets.
- Provide information on opportunities in biogas production in partnership with OMAFRA.
- Reach out to individual First nation communities to identify opportunities and provide advice, assistance and information where required.
- Utilize the agriculture and food online database to promote partnerships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal food producers and consumers.

## ***POLICY DEVELOPMENT***

### **STRATEGIES**

- Develop Anishinabek Nation agricultural best management practices incorporating traditional knowledge and values.
- Develop Draft Agricultural Policy template tool for AN communities
- Provide input to government and industry on Law and Policy Development
- Seek a strong share of the funding and opportunities associated with the Two Billion Trees federal government plan.

### **ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE**

- Review existing agricultural best management practices and traditional ecological knowledge to develop Anishinabek Nation agricultural management practices policies.
- Develop a document of key policy issues to consider in the development of cannabis economies.







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