

Overview of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Programs and Services

Indigenous Agri-Food Funder's Forum

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Indigenous Pathfinder Service

May 26, 2021



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Presentation Objectives

To highlight Indigenous participation in agriculture

To share departmental outreach and engagement efforts

To provide information on the services and programs at AAFC

Indigenous Participation in the Sector

There is strong growth in the number of Indigenous Peoples in the agricultural population

Since 1996, Indigenous participation in the sector has increased by 21.4%. This represents significant growth considering that during the same period, the total agricultural population fell by 39.3%.



AAFC and Indigenous Agriculture

AAFC is working to better understand how to support greater Indigenous participation in the sector

- AAFC is focusing on supporting Indigenous-led and -defined participation in the sector.
- To better understand the landscape, gaps and opportunities, AAFC has committed to ongoing outreach with:
 - Indigenous leaders
 - Agriculture practitioners representatives
 - Provincial and Territorial Partners
 - National Indigenous Organizations



AAFC Services and Programs

1. Indigenous Pathfinder Service
2. Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative
3. AgriDiversity Program
4. Local Food Infrastructure Fund
5. Youth Employment and Skills Program
6. Business Risk Management Programs

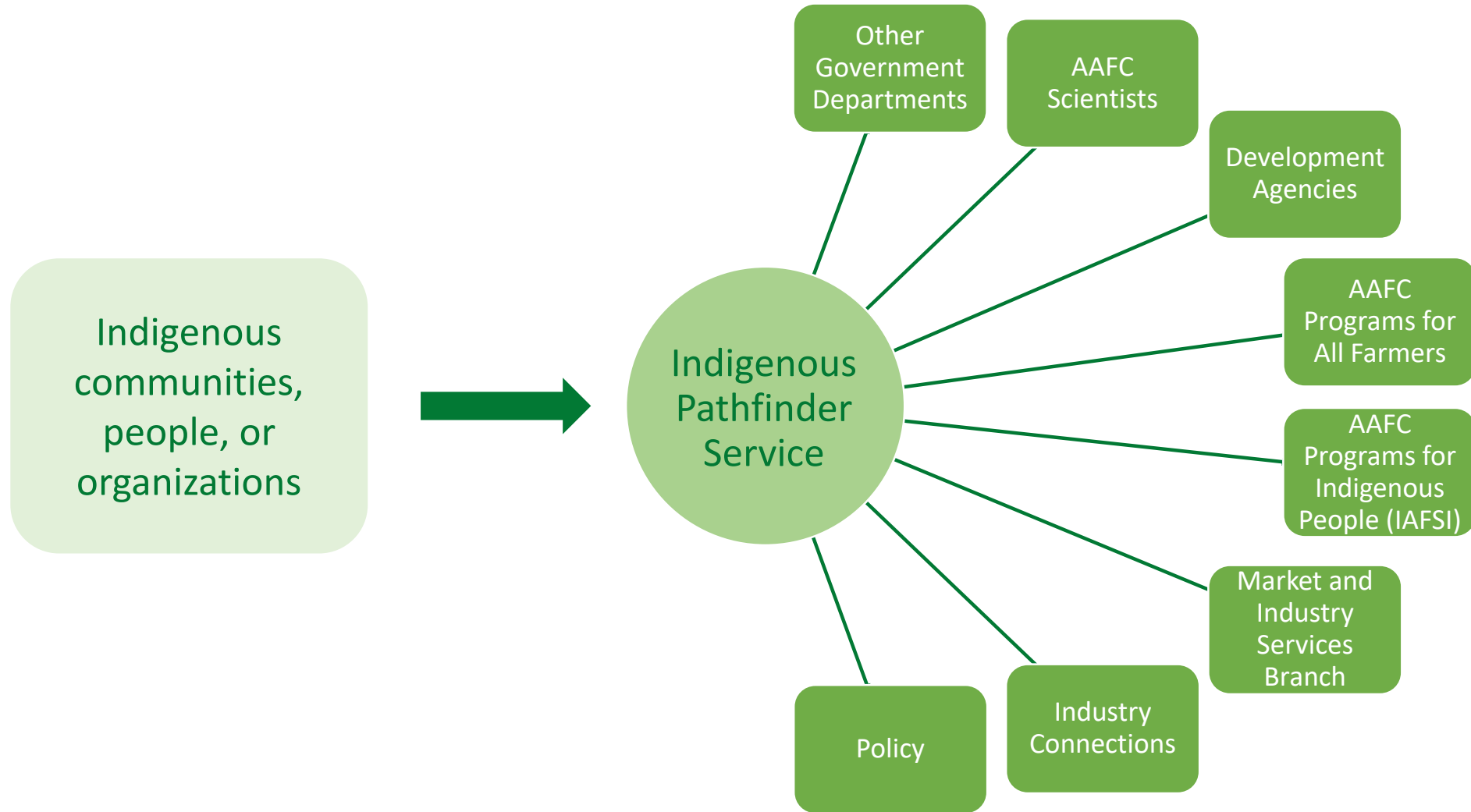
Indigenous Pathfinder Service

[LINK](#)

The service offers one-on-one assistance to help Indigenous individuals and organizations develop opportunities in agriculture.

- Pathfinders help to navigate the relevant support, tools, and information available to start or expand activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. An AAFC advisor will:
 1. Listen to your project idea or plan and offer suggestions for next steps.
 2. Inform you on AAFC funding programs and services.
 3. Find and refer you to the right AAFC expert.
 4. Help you connect with other federal support available.
 5. Follow your progress.

Indigenous Pathfinder Service



Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative

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Key Info

- The Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative is a five-year, \$8.5M partnership with Indigenous Services Canada that supports Indigenous-led economic development opportunities in agriculture.
- Eligible applicants include Indigenous communities, governments, for-profit, and not-for-profit organizations.
- Provides non-repayable contributions up to \$500,000 per project, per year.

Examples

- **Cree Nation of Nemaska**
\$720,854 to develop a business model and social enterprise for a vertical smart farm.
- **Cowessess First Nation**
\$31,185 for agriculture business planning
- **Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq**
\$232,333 for training and business planning in traditional cultivation of non-timber forest products in 13 communities

AgriDiversity Program

[LINK](#)

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AAFC launched a 5-year program that seeks to increase the participation of underrepresented groups within the agriculture and agri-food sector.

Key Info

- The program directly supports the representation of: Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and people with disabilities by helping these groups address the key issues and barriers they often face for sector participation.
- Funds projects 'national in scope' i.e. conferences, learning opportunities
- Cost-shared, usually up to \$200,000

Examples

- **Canadian Western Agribition**
 - \$24,746 for the 2018 Indigenous Agriculture Summit
- **Native Women's Association of Canada**
 - \$136,954 for Grassroots Engagement: Indigenous Women in Agriculture
- **Northern Farm Training Institute**
 - \$392,920 for the Northern Diversity in Agriculture Program

Local Food Infrastructure Fund

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[LINK](#)

The Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF) is a five-year (2019-2024) initiative, to support community-led projects that improve access to safe, healthy and culturally diverse food.

Key Info

- Aims to strengthen food systems and to facilitate access to safe and nutritious food.
- Grants up to \$50,000, contributions up to \$250,000.
- Intake is temporarily closed.
- Feel free to contact LFIF if you would like to be notified when it re-opens.

Examples

- **Ahausht Education Authority**
 - \$99,397 for garden beds, kitchen renovations, appliances, and eating space for a comprehensive food program.
- **Mathias Colomb Cree Nation**
 - \$247,500 to fund a compartmentalized hydroponic growing system in order to provide fresh, locally grown produce.
- **Tobique First Nation**
 - \$99,380 for a 4-season greenhouse.

Youth Employment and Skills Program

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[LINK](#)

The Youth Employment and Skills Program provides a wage subsidy to employers who hire youth for agricultural jobs.

Key Info

- The program offers support for 50% of wages to a maximum of \$14,000.
- Indigenous individuals or organizations are eligible to receive 80% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$14,000.
- Additionally, the program offers up to \$5,000 if the employee must relocate.
- Employers can apply on or after **May 5, 2021** for their project to be considered, but projects may start retroactively as early as **April 15, 2021**.
- Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funds are available.

Business Risk Management Programs

Business Risk Management programs reduce risks that threaten the viability of farms and are beyond a producer's capacity to manage, they include:

AgriStability	Provides support when producers experience a large margin decline.
AgriInvest	Offers cash flow to help producers manage income declines.
AgriInsurance	Offers cost-shared insurance against natural hazards to reduce the financial impact of production or asset losses.
AgriRisk	Supports the development of new risk management tools.
AgriRecovery Framework	Delivers disaster recovery relief following natural disaster events.

Closing

- The department remains committed to improving its relationship with, and outcomes for, Indigenous Peoples.
- Continued work with Indigenous partners is required to continue refining and improving approaches to programs and policies.

Questions?