



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: Food contributes to school success

By Lynn Moreau

Did you know that Canada is one of the few industrialized countries without a national food program? The federal government needs to invest in our children and the best way they have to do this is by ensuring that our children have access to healthy school food. With the rate of diabetes and obesity at an all time high, particularly amongst Indigenous peoples, it is of critical importance that children get access to healthy food at school. The Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbi Aski Nation have endorsed calls for a universal Healthy School Food Program as developed by Food Secure Canada.

Food Secure Canada is an alliance of organizations and individuals working together to advance food security and food sovereignty, and is a founding member and organizational host for the Coalition for Healthy School Food. The Coalition is a network of over 160 organizations from across Canada, advocating for a cost-shared universal healthy school food program that would enable all students in Canada to have access to healthy meals at school every day.

According to Food Secure Canada, one third of students in elementary school, and two-thirds of students in secondary school do not eat a nutritious breakfast. School food programs contributes to scholastic success and have the potential to create jobs. When local food is served, more jobs are created, impacting local economies.

In 2019, the federal government committed to working toward a national school food program.

Resetting the Table; A People's Food Policy for Canada is a national food policy report developed by a network of over 3500 Canadian organizations and individuals. It is based on ten detailed policy discussion papers that were generated through extensive consultation with Canadian citizens. The People's Food policy is rooted in the concept of food sovereignty.

The school food program being developed by Canada will be in alignment with 17 Sustainable Development goals shared by other UN countries.

In 2019, Canada launched the Food Policy for Canada. The vision for this policy is that all people are able to access a sufficient amount of safe, nutritious and culturally diverse food.

The Food Policy for Canada will be led by a Food Policy Advisory Council. The Local Food Infrastructure Fund is one initiative launched under this policy, which will support community-led projects to improve access to safe and healthy foods. The program includes grants to help prevent hunger by investing in infrastructure needs. The application period for this program has currently been extended to September 3 2021.

For more information about this opportunity, feel free to contact Lynn Moreau, Program Coordinator, Agriculture and Food, Lands and Resources Department, Email lynn.moreau@anishinabek.ca



RESOURCES: Agriculture Programs



Government of Canada

CANADA COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION FUND The Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) aims to help communities across Canada build and improve community infrastructure projects so they can rebound from the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a national investment of \$500 million over two years, the Fund's purpose is to support not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and other community groups, as well as Indigenous communities:

- build new community infrastructure and revitalize existing assets
- bring people back to public spaces safely as health measures ease
- create jobs and stimulate local economies

Under the fund, FEDnor can supply up to 100% of the funding for projects with Indigenous groups. <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/07732.html>

AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FUND is a \$185 million, 10-year program that will help develop and implement farming practices to tackle climate change. Through agricultural practices such as shelterbelts or cover crops, farmland can trap and store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases.

ACS is a program under the more than \$4 billion Natural Climate Solutions Fund. AAFC is partnering with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to develop projects that invest in natural climate solutions, including NRCan's Growing Canada's Forests program and ECCC's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/03/backgrounder-agricultural-climate-solutions.html>

LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND The application intake period for the Local Food Infrastructure Fund has now been extended to September 3, 2021. <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/local-food-infrastructure-fund>

JOBS AND GROWTH FUND The Jobs and Growth Fund provides funding to businesses and organizations to help create jobs and position local economies for long-term growth.

Eligible applicants include businesses, co-operatives, not for profit organizations and community economic development partners. FedNor may contribute up to 100% of eligible project costs for projects with Indigenous clients. <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/07737.html>

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM The program has two project categories:

- The Strategic Economic Infrastructure stream provides up to 30 per cent in cost-shared funding for minor capital projects that advance economic development and investment opportunities.
- The Economic Diversification and Competitiveness stream provides up to 50 per cent in cost-shared funding for projects that remove barriers to business and job growth, attract investment, attract or retain a skilled workforce, strengthen sector and regional partnerships and diversify regional economies.

https://fednor.gc.ca/eic/site/fednor-fednor.nsf/eng/h_fn03899.html

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT INITIATIVE FOR NORTHERN ONTARIO Funding is available for small communities or First Nations to hire a qualified individual to help develop the local economy. This economic development professional will work to foster opportunities and partnerships in your region, and help implement strategies that seek to strengthen your community and create jobs.

https://fednor.gc.ca/eic/site/fednor-fednor.nsf/eng/h_fn03899.html

INDIGENOUS
Pathfinder



AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA (AAFC)

The AAFC is offering the Indigenous Pathfinder service-a one stop shop for advice and referral to help navigate the relevant information, tools and support available to start or expand activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. Telephone: 1-866-367-8506 Email: aafc.indigenouspathfinder-explorateurautochtone.aac@canada.ca



IAPO
First Nations Farm & Business Financing
220 North St., Box 100 Stirling Ont. K0K 3E0
1-800-363-0329 www.indianag.on.ca

FIRST NATIONS AGRICULTURE FOR SEVEN GENERATIONS PROGRAM-TEACHING OPPORTUNITY AT IAPO

IAPO (Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario) is a First Nation not-for-profit corporation, established in 1984. IAPO endeavours to empower First Nation communities through financial support and training for farmers.

In 2020, The First Nations Agriculture for Seven Generations Program was created in partnership with IAPO and AgScape to support increased First Nation participation in the farming and Agriculture Sector. The goal of the project is to engage First Nation Youth's interest in farming and agri-business possibilities and opportunities. First Nations Communities have always played an integral role in the history of farming and agriculture which has shaped the industry around the world. Through the lessons developed by this partnership- the students will learn about the Past, Present, and Future impacts of participating in farming and agriculture locally and globally.

To help assist in the delivery of the program, IAPO is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the position of Seven Generations Lead.

Position: Seven Generations Lead

Working under the supervision of the Program and Communications Coordinator, you will be responsible for delivering lessons and presentations on agriculture and food related topics as part of the First Nation Agriculture for Seven Generations Program.

This is a Part-time Contract position for delivery of class lessons throughout school year.

Are you looking for an opportunity to:

- Share your passion for agriculture, food, the environment and careers?
- Making a lasting impact on First Nations youth?
- Create awareness and engagement on issues related to farming, food production and food security?

Responsibilities

IAPO will work with the Seven Generations Lead to deliver virtual Ontario curriculum-linked lessons to First Nations secondary school students in north eastern and south western Ontario, with the goal of returning to in-class delivery once the challenges of the pandemic subside. The Seven Generations Lead will have a variety of opportunities to participate in agriculture education events. Seven Generations Lead will also work with IAPO staff to develop a local network of schools and events in which to deliver lessons and presentations using IAPO materials.

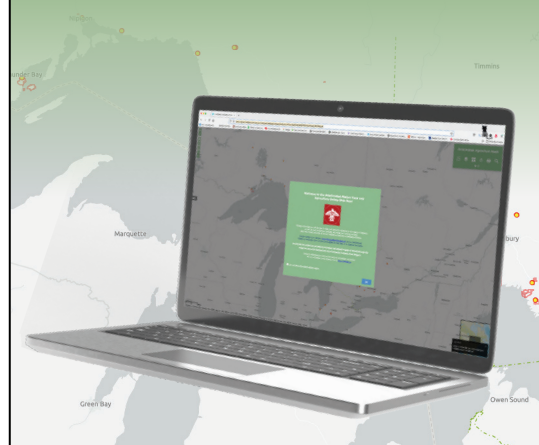
Anishinabek Nation Food Map

The Anishinabek Nation, Lands and Resources Department is developing an Agricultural Asset Inventory, database and online food map of existing agriculture and food related businesses owned by Anishinabek Nation individuals. The map includes restaurants, farms and agricultural businesses and community initiatives such as farmer's markets, community gardens, and other initiatives.

The purpose of the online food map is to serve as a marketing tool which could result in business attraction and expansion, and identification of potential markets. One objective is to identify opportunities for increased purchase of local goods resulting in enhancement of local economies. In addition, it will also enable First Nation community businesses to grow and network with other businesses in other regions of Ontario. The data can be used as a benchmark to monitor agricultural development in the 39 Anishinabek Nation communities.

To get your business or community initiative added to the map, please contact me! Lynn Moreau.

The map can be viewed online here: You don't have to sign up to view the map. You just have to click on the link. It's free for everyone. SEE LINK AT BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE.



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SEPTEMBER 30th

September 30th has been created to give everyone an opportunity to recognize and commemorate the legacy of Indian Residential Schools, which more than 150,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children were forced to attend between the 1870s and 1997.

The day is one of the 94 recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report. The day itself was officially created on June 3, 2021, when Bill C-5 was passed by both houses of Parliament.

Since 2013, Sept. 30 has been observed as Orange Shirt Day across the country - a day, created by residential school survivor Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, on which Canadians wear orange shirts to commemorate the Indigenous children who were taken from their homes and placed in residential schools.

The colour orange is significant because it was the colour of Webstad's shirt on her first day of residential school - a shirt that was taken away from her once she arrived.

EVENTS

THE IGNATIUS FARM NEW FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM is now Open!

This program will not only provide you with critical information to start your farm, but you will meet other new and experienced farmers and become a part of the ecological agricultural community in Ontario. Educational content is geared toward new farmers, but is open to all farmers who might be curious about a certain topic, wishing to expand their farming knowledge, or in need of a refresh.

You can register for a whole term, or sign up for individual sessions. Term 3 includes 7 webinars, 10 virtual field days, and 2 full term participant meet ups.

- Term 3 (begins August 11th): EFAO Members \$215, Standard: \$370; Group/Farm Rates: EFAO Members \$645, Standard \$1,110 (17 events)
- Term 4 (begins in November): EFAO Members \$215, Standard \$330 (13 events); Group/Farm Rates: EFAO Members \$645, Standard \$1,100.

The virtual sessions include the following webinars. You can also register for these webinars individually if you are interested in them.

- September 15th: Virtual Field Day: Earth Haven Biodynamic Farm
- September 20th: Preserving the Harvest
- September 22nd: Farm Task Focus: Compost Teas
- September 27th: Intro to Permaculture
- September 29th: Virtual Field Day: Conscious Kitchen
- October 6th: Virtual Field Day: Sundance Harvest Farm
- October 18th: Seed Saving
- October 20th: Virtual Field Day TBA
- October 25th: Vegetable Crop Planning
- October 27th: Virtual Field Day TBA

ANISHINABEK AGRICULTURAL

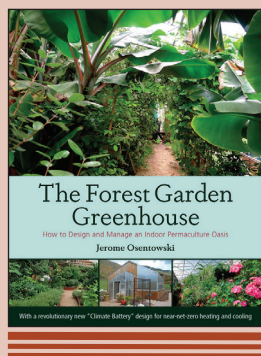
ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS: (9:30 am - 12:00 noon)

Northern Superior: Wednesday September 15, 2021

Lake Huron: Wednesday September 22, 2021

Southeast/Southwest: Wednesday, September 29, 2021

BOOK REVIEW: *The Forest Garden Greenhouse*, by Jerome Osentowski provides an overview of an ecologically friendly method of heating your greenhouse; the Climate Battery. This is a system of active heat storage that utilizes solar energy that can be recycled to enable an economical heating system for year round growing.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

INDIAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM OF ONTARIO (IAPO) is seeking a Farm Management Advisor. The IAPO is a First Nation not for profit corporation which endeavours to empower First Nation communities through financial support and training for farmers. Responsibilities include developing and maintaining effective business relationships with First Nations communities, farm businesses and entrepreneurs. Specialized Skills & Experience: Knowledgeable of First Nations culture and communities; and Experience working with First Nations communities and members. Contact Jamie Hall at jamie@indianag.on.ca Go to: <http://indianag.on.ca/>



KIIN MIINWAA ENDADIZIWINAN LANDS AND RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

The Lands and Resources Department was established within the Anishinabek Nation in the spring of 2007. Currently, there are four program areas with staffing capabilities. These include: Water Resources, 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.

WAABAABAGAA GIIZIS (Changing Leaves Moon)

September

The tenth moon of Creation is the Falling Leaves Moon, a time when Mother Earth is honoured with the grandest of colours. As all of Creation makes their offerings to her, we become aware of all the miracles of Creation before us and our spiritual energies are once again awakened.



LYNN MOREAU is a Lands and Resources Program Coordinator with the Anishinabek Nation where she is responsible for the Agriculture Portfolio. Originally from Callander, Ontario, Lynn now lives in Bonfield where she is co-owner of Green Legacy Farm with her husband Dean. Lynn holds an Environmental Science degree from Trent University and a Fish and Wildlife Technician Diploma from Sault College. Lynn can assist with funding application processes and has agricultural experience in vegetable and perennial growing, chicken farming, maple syrup production and aquaculture.



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