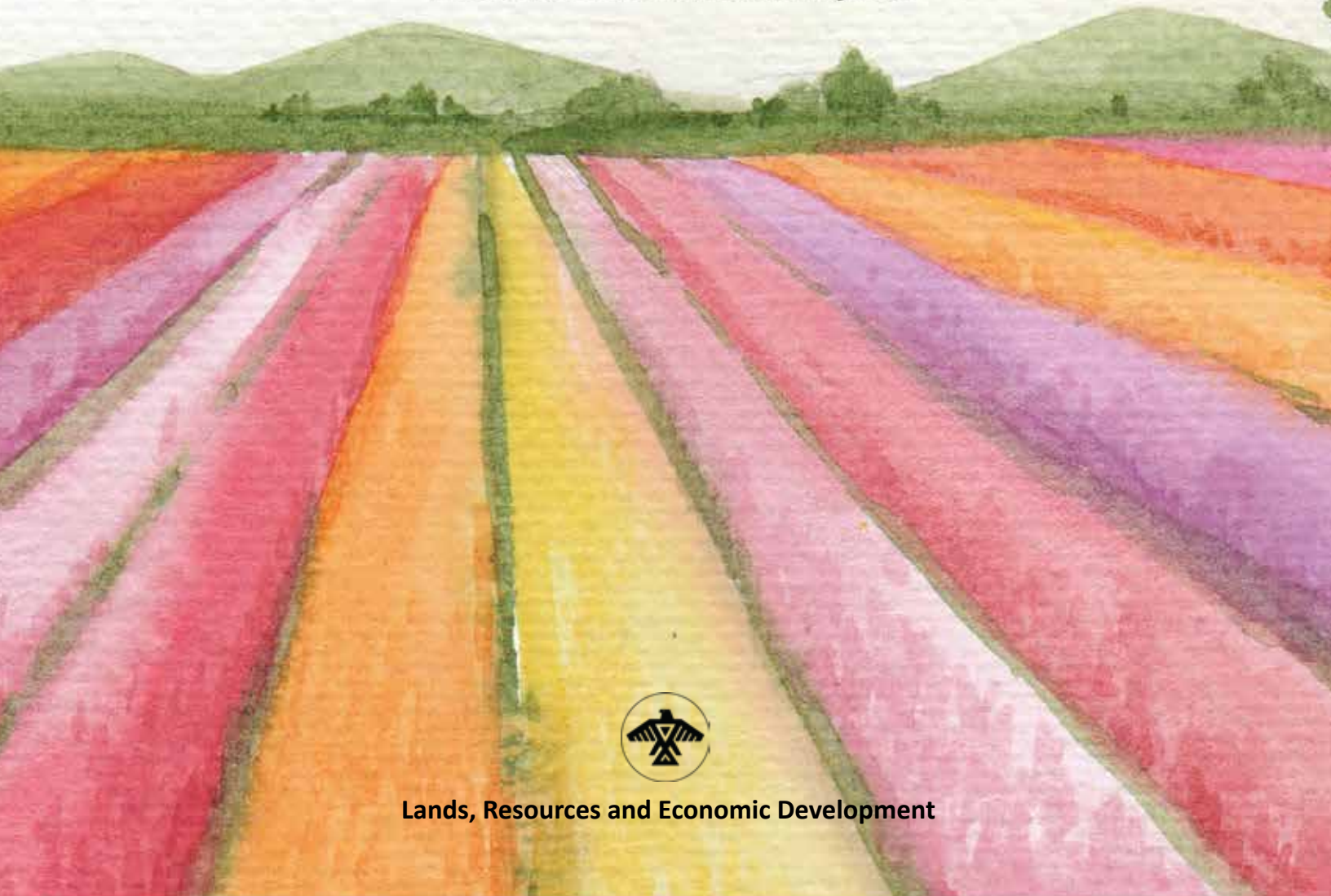




# TAKING CARE OF OUR LAND AND WATER IN FOOD PRODUCTION

## Youth Agricultural Forum

**January 17, 18, 2023**  
**Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre**  
**700 Lakeshore Dr., North Bay, ON**



**Lands, Resources and Economic Development**





## **Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe** **One Anishinaabe Family**

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

**Creator placed the Anishinabe on the earth along with the gift of spirituality.**

**Shkode, nibi, aki, noodin, giibi dgosdoonan wii naagdowendmang  
maanpii shkagmigaang.**

**Here on mother earth, there were gifts given to the Anishinabe to look after:  
fire, water, earth and wind.**

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

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

**Zaagidwin, Debwewin, Mnaadendamowin, Nbwakaawin,  
Dbaadendiziwin, Gwekwaadziwin miinwa Aakedhewin.  
Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery.**

**Debenjiged kiimiingona dedbinwe wi naagdowendiwin.  
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 Anishinabek Nation Constitution  
- As adopted by the Grand Council in June 2011 (UOI 2012)**



# TAKING CARE OF OUR LAND AND WATER IN FOOD PRODUCTION

## Youth Agricultural Forum Agenda

### DAY ONE

#### Taking Care of the Land in Food Production

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 9:00 – 9:15 am         | Opening Remarks: Regional Deputy Grand Chief, Mel Hardy |
| 9:15 – 9:30            | Opening: Elder  |
| 9:30 – 10:15           | Keynote Address: Joe Pitawanakwat, Creator's Garden     |
| <b>10:15 – 10:30</b>   | <b>BREAK – Sponsored by Bioenterprise</b>               |
| 10:30 – 11:15          | Dr. Joseph LeBlanc, Northern Ontario School of Medicine |
| 11:15 – 12:00          | Glenda Abbott, Pelican Lake, Saskatchewan               |
| <b>12:00 – 1:00 pm</b> | <b>LUNCH and Presentation by Gaagige Zaagibigaa</b>     |
| 1:00 – 1:45            | Chef Johl Whiteduck Ringette, Nish Dish                 |
| <b>2:00 – 2:15</b>     | <b>BREAK</b>  |
| 2:15 – 3:00            | Trade Show and Seed Swap                                |
| 3:00 – 3:45            | Keri Gray, Shades of Gray Rabbitry                      |



# TAKING CARE OF OUR LAND AND WATER IN FOOD PRODUCTION

## Youth Agricultural Forum Agenda

### DAY TWO

#### Taking Care of the Water in Food Production

- 9:00 – 9:30 am     - Trade Show  
                             - Jessica McLaughlin presentation
- 9:30 – 10:15     Nathan Kanasawe, Buzwah Fisheries
- 10:15 – 10:30     BREAK**
- 10:30 – 11:15     Michael McGuire and Dr. Fadi Al Daoud, Aquaculture and  
                             Aquaponics Farms
- 11:15 – 12:00 pm     Jason Gharibo, Haggerty AgRobotics
- 12:00 – 1:00     LUNCH - Courtesy of Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario**
- 1:00 – 2:00     Youth Panel, Agricultural Economic Development  
                             - Jared Big Canoe  
                             - Nathan Kanasawe  
                             - Taryn Bobiwash  
                             - Kiara Genereaux  
                             - Erik Charlie
- 2:00 – 3:30     Workshop: Agriculture Economic Development
- 3:30 – 4:00     Closing Remarks (Elder)



## Melvin Hardy

Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief  
Anishinabek Nation

Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief (RDGCC) Melvin Hardy was elected in June of 2021 to the Leadership Council Executive of Anishinabek Nation, representing the Northern Superior Region.

At Anishinabek Nation, RDGCC Hardy currently holds portfolios in the following areas:

- Giigoonh Dodem – Fish Clan – Lands & Resources
- Makwa Dodem – Bear Clan – Health & Healing

Throughout his work, RDGCC Hardy aims to address the priorities of the First Nations within the Northern Superior Region, and the Anishinabek Nation as a whole.

RDGCC Hardy is a veteran of the Canadian Army, having served as paratrooper from 1979 to 1985. This service has shaped his work ethic, dedication, and commitment to the roles he takes on and has enhanced his leadership skills to the benefit of his community and the Anishinabek Nation.

RDGCC Hardy attended Lakehead University and Ryerson University in working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree and has worked in the areas of mental health, addictions, and social services. It was through this work that RDGCC Hardy developed a lifelong interest and passion for social advocacy for Indigenous people.

In 2016, RDGCC Hardy was elected as Chief of Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (formerly known as Rocky Bay First Nation). As Chief, RDGCC Hardy was instrumental in many community developments, initiatives, and economic development successes of Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek, a position he held until 2021 when he was elected to the position of Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief.

RDGCC Hardy is the proud grandfather of three grandchildren, and frequently volunteers his time at various speaking engagements and community events in order to draw awareness to social issues, residential schools, and child welfare, among other priorities.

RDGCC Hardy's Dodem (Clan) is Mukwa (Bear) and his name "Zhoongizi" means "strong one for the people" in Anishinaabemowin.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Joe Pitawanakwat | Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

Joe Pitawanakwat is Ojibway from Wiikwemkoong, Ontario and married with one daughter. He is the founder and Director of Creator's Garden, an Indigenous outdoor, and now online, education based business, focused on plant identification, beyond-sustainable harvesting, and teaching linguistic, historical, cultural, edible, ecological and medicinal significance through experiences. Joe's lectures and intensive programming have been successfully delivered to a variety of organizations, including First Nation communities, universities and colleges and dozens of various institutions throughout Canada, the U.S. and beyond. He is current a Master's Student in the MES program at York University, and has learned from hundreds of traditional knowledge holders, uniquely blending and reinforcing it with an array of western sciences.

# PRESENTERS



## Dr. Joseph LeBlanc | Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

Dr. Joseph LeBlanc is a life-long Northern Ontarian and member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. Passionate about community health and wellbeing, he has extensive experience in asset-based community development and food system change throughout the region.

Dr. LeBlanc was appointed as NOSM's inaugural Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusion, on July 1, 2020 for a five-year term; he is also an Assistant Professor of Indigenous Health at NOSM. Dr. LeBlanc previously held the position of NOSM's Director of Indigenous Affairs since October 15, 2018.

He is also the former director of the Sudbury Social Planning Council and has developed national food policy with a focus on Indigenous food sovereignty.



## Glenda Abbott | Pelican Lake First Nation

Glenda Abbott is nehiyaw-Plains Cree from Pelican Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan in Treaty 6 Territory, Canada. She is a mother and grandmother who has dedicated much of her time learning from knowledge keepers to revitalize and reclaim Indigenous knowledge systems. Glenda has traveled to work with Indigenous initiatives and communities throughout North America and several other countries. Her work focuses on indigenous-led community projects and cultural revitalization initiatives related to Indigenous midwifery/doula, women's teachings, traditional medicine, ethnobotany- food sovereignty, Indigenous holistic wellness, and land-based education curriculum development. She has been working with several communities around developing an Indigenous Birth Justice Network that incorporates food sovereignty, traditional birth and parenting, advocacy and reproductive justice throughout indigenous lifeways.



## Keri Gray | Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn, Shades of Gray

Keri Gray is the owner of Shades of Gray Indigenous Pet Treats and the co-owner of Shades of Gray Rabbitry with her husband. Keri is a member of the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn. She owns a rabbit farm in Campbellford, Ontario and a manufacturing facility based in Alderville First Nation.

Shades of Gray Rabbitry & Shades of Gray Indigenous Pet Treats were founded on our Aboriginal principles to use the whole animal, and not let any of its sacrifice for our needs go to waste. Their single protein, Federally Inspected meat, with sustainable products & packaging and absolutely no antibiotics, sets them apart in the industry.



## Jason Gharibo | Haggerty AgRobotics

Jason Gharibo is the project manager at Haggerty AgRobotics, an Ontario-based agriculture technology solutions provider which was established in 2021. Jason started farming later in life after discovering how closely the sector aligned with his interests. While working on a Master's degree in mechatronics, Jason worked as a farm-hand. He continues to be a student of the farming world, having worked on conventional and regenerative farms around Ontario, and in Austria. Today he manages several projects aimed at tackling some of the biggest challenges facing Ontario farmers



## Dr. Fadi Al-Daoud | Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Dr. Fadi Al-Daoud is the greenhouse vegetable specialist at Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). His portfolio includes vegetables and cannabis grown in controlled environments, such as greenhouses, warehouses and vertical farms.

After earning his doctorate from the Department of Biology at McMaster University with a specialization in molecular plant pathology, Fadi worked at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Fredericton, New Brunswick, and in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph in Ontario. He has conducted applied and fundamental research of horticultural and field crops, and has experience communicating his research to the scientific community and producers. Today, he works in collaboration with producers, researchers and industry partners to advance controlled environment agriculture in Ontario.



## Chef John Whiteduck Ringuette | Nish Dish Catering

Chef John Whiteduck Ringuette is Anishnawbe and Algonquin. He is the owner of Nish Dish Catering and is a board member of the not-for-profit Ojibiikaan Indigenous Cultural Network and Miinikaan Innovations, who design Indigenous healing gardens.

He was born in North Bay, Ontario and his grandmother is from Nipissing First Nations. His clan is Mink clan. He was raised North of North Bay in the woods; his father was a self-employed well-driller, a hunter and fisher. His mother was a home-maker, raised 6 children and assisted the business. John was raised on wild game, fishing and seasonal berry-picks and cooking over the fire.



## Michael McQuire | Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Michael McQuire works for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) as an aquaculture and aquaponics specialist. Michael has a diversity of work experience in the aquaculture industry ranging from open water net pen farming in British Columbia to land-based tank farming in the Yukon. He has also worked in the public sector at several MNRF fish culture stations in Ontario and the Fleming College aquaculture program.



## Jessica McLaughlin | Long Lake #58 First Nation

Jessica is a member of the Long Lake #58 First Nation and grew up in Nakina, Ontario. She is a mother to Jaxon and they live in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Jessica has been working in Indigenous Food Sovereignty in Northern Ontario for over ten years. She is the co-founder of the Indigenous Food Circle a community-based Indigenous food network and co-founder of Gaagige Zaagibigaa which is a collaborative based funding organization that funds grassroots projects to First Nation communities and people in Northern Ontario. Jessica has also led a number of research and action projects working with First Nation communities in Northern Ontario assisting communities reclaim ancestral food systems. Using a de-colonial systems lens Jessica has been central to empowering and supporting communities in their self-determined food system goals. She holds a BA in Political Science from Lakehead University and an HBSW from Lakehead University, but credits her most integral learning to be from Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers that she is honored to work and learn alongside with.

## YOUTH PANEL



### Jared BigCanoe | Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation

Jared is a member of Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. He was raised in an environment that encouraged artistic expression. At the age of seven he wrote his first poem. By the age of 14, he discovered his passion for song writing. Jared and his family drum group "Chippewa Travellers" have travelled and performed coast-to-coast as well as collaborated with notable artists such as: The Hallucination (formerly A Tribe Called Red) and Juno Winner, Cris Derksen. Jared is a traditional Grandfather Drum Carrier with his group, "Shining Water". He is also a Cultural Knowledge Keeper and is doing his part in raising awareness for Indigenous Issues.



### Taryn Bobiwash | Serpent River First Nation

Taryn Bobiwash is an Ojibwe and Odawa member of the turtle clan from Serpent River First Nation. She is an amateur hide tanner, full spectrum doula, multi-disciplinary visual artist and a graduate of Algoma University with a BA in Anishinaabemowin and Psychology. In 2019 she co-founded the Nimkii Youth Collective which is working actively to revitalize language and culture on the land. She is dedicated to reclaiming Anishinaabemowin and the traditional artforms and birthing practices of her nation. She is passionate about reproductive education, soil health, and learning with and from the land.



### Nathan Kanasawe | Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

My name is Nathan Kanasawe. I'm 25 years old from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. I attended Fleming College for Aquaculture, and I am now the manager of Buzwah Fisheries, an Indigenous owned and operated aquaculture site. To-date, Buzwah Fisheries grows 1.1 million rainbow trout per year for Ontario and beyond.



### Erik Charlie | Fort William First Nation

My name is Erik Charlie and reside in Fort William First Nation, in what is now known today as Thunder Bay. I am a father of one and family to all! I have been grateful enough to be apart of serving my community as an Environmental Youth Worker, helping our Environmental Officer with their duties as well as to maintaining and establishing my own with the sampling I have been doing in and around our community to help build a network of information we need to preserve our ecosystem.



### Kiara Genreux | Sheshegwaning First Nation

Kiara is Odawa and is from Sheshegwaning First Nation on Manitoulin Island. She helped to found the Land First Youth Initiative in her community. A Pilot Garden Project was established during the summer of 2022 to revitalize the growing of traditional food plants in the community. Kiara also worked for her community to help start a Farmer's Market that was attended by agricultural businesses on Manitoulin and locally.

## SPONSORS

### Gold Sponsors:



#### Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

The Anishinabek Nation has been working with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) on the development of an Agricultural Asset Inventory, and has been holding Quarterly Round Table meetings focusing on agricultural topics. This forum is part of a Youth Engagement strategy that will lead to the identification of training needs. Future goals are to develop an agricultural economic blueprint that will increase awareness and knowledge of job opportunities for Indigenous youth in the agriculture sector, and foster skills required for success in the sector.



#### Indian Agriculture Program of Ontario

Established in 1984, IAPO is a First Nation not for profit corporation which endeavours to empower First Nation communities through financial support and training for farmers.

If you're a First Nation farmer or agribusiness owner in Ontario, we can assist you with financing, advisory services, training, and workshops. IAPO programs have been developed for First Nation agricultural businesses and can work in partnership with other programs.

While agriculture is core to IAPO, in 2013 the Board of Directors approved the expansion of lending services to include general business financing. To date, IAPO has provided financing for construction, transportation, trucking, retail, service and manufacturing businesses.



#### Bioenterprise

Bioenterprise, Canada's Food and Agri-tech Engine, has a standing mandate to provide equal opportunity to all Canadians, including encouraging opportunities to engage young people and attract them to careers in the food and agriculture sectors. The need for unity around innovation in agriculture, food and Agri-tech has never been stronger. Food security, climate change and sustainability are big themes – and critical issues – for farmers and food producers worldwide, particularly in the northern regions, where growing seasons are short and local weather extremes limit local food production. That's why Bioenterprise's Northern Ontario Program has been designed to support emerging businesses operating in the north by providing sector-specific funding, mentors and access to an industry partner network relevant to agri-food businesses. It's also part of its efforts to encourage innovation and economic development across all regions of the country and support equality, diversity and inclusion in its programming and service delivery. Together, through collaboration, partnership and knowledge sharing we can learn to build a more resilient economy, a more inclusive society, and a cleaner, better future for our planet.

### Silver Sponsors:



#### Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance

NOFIA is a non-profit organization that will provide a research and innovation infrastructure for agriculture in Northern Ontario by creating partnerships with various groups to research, innovate and commercialize agricultural products and technologies for effective use in Northern Ontario.

### Trade Show Participants



#### Conestoga College

Conestoga College is a public college located in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. Established in 1967, Conestoga serves approximately 23,000 registered students through campuses and training centres in Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph, Stratford, Ingersoll and Brantford



#### Canadore College

Canadore College is a college of applied arts and technology located in North Bay, Ontario, Canada. It was founded in 1967 as a campus of Sudbury's Cambrian College, and became an independent institution in 1972. Canadore College has three campuses in North Bay, Ontario, and one campus in Parry Sound, Ontario.



#### Green Iglu

We are a charitable organization driven to provide the tools required to improve community wellness and tackle the challenges of food security. Green Iglu partners with communities to support the implementation of growing infrastructure that suits community needs, hands-on gardening, educational programming for schools, and training that embraces culture. The projects range from being a place of gathering and healing to producing fresh healthy food for the wider community while providing a basis for training and employment."



#### Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario

Established in 1979 by farmers for farmers, EFAO is a membership organization that focuses on farmer-led education, research and community building. EFAO brings farmers together so they can learn from each other and improve the health of their soils, crops, livestock and the environment, while running profitable farm businesses.