

# ANISHINABEK NATION

## Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

### Final Report | 2018/19





Anishinabek Nation - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
2018/19

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For additional copies of the publication, please contact:

Lands and Resources Department

Anishinabek Nation

P.O. Box 711

North Bay, ON P1B 8J8

Tel: (705) 497-9127

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## NGO DWE WAANGIZID ANISHINAABE One Anishinaabe Family

Debenjiged gii'saan anishinaaben akiing giibi dgwon gaadeni mnidoo 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, Nbwaakaawin, 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 Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin (Anishinabek Nation Constitution)  
Adopted by the Anishinabek Grand Council - June 6, 2012

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# PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The Anishinabek Nation (AN) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) established a relationship in 2016, when the two organizations entered into annual Transfer Payment Agreements which outlined the scope of deliverables. Agriculture and food in Ontario includes overlapping areas of interest and concern for the AN and presents a variety of potential opportunities for engagement and development of initiatives. The AN communities seek to increase awareness of the importance of the agricultural sector, as well as contribute traditional knowledge, experience and skills within the agricultural sector to foster a better quality of life, access to natural resources and economic opportunities for AN citizens.

A previous agreement with the OMAFRA enabled the AN to begin a relationship with the Province on agriculture and food initiatives, such as on the Fish Food Safety Modernization for provincial fish processors and on the Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy development for Ontario. This resulted in raising awareness of these initiatives with the 40 member communities and providing them with opportunities for input into the initiatives of the Province.

The goal of the relationship is to provide both parties with education, awareness, and technical and policy support concerning the Province’s initiatives relevant to ANs participation in the agri-food system, including but not limited to the Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food Processing. Other related initiatives where knowledge is being transferred include the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program, and agri-environmental initiatives such as the Soil Health and Conservation Strategy.

The AN hosted a series of Round Table information sessions to provide the opportunities for the community representatives to provide feedback including concerns and interests to the Province regarding initiatives that may include proposed policies, programs, legislation and regulations. Along with knowledge sharing and discussion of the Province’s agri-food initiatives, these tables aim to explore AN community involvement in education and awareness, economic development, and environmental stewardship as they relate to the agri-food system.

The AN has been working with the OMAFRA through a process commonly referred to as the Regional Framework. In this framework, representatives of each member community of the AN attend a table corresponding to their region. The purpose of the Tables is to improve the ability of the Anishinabek communities to engage with and benefit from the development of agricultural and aquaculture initiatives.



The Tables meet quarterly and provide opportunities for information exchange, identification of issues of common concern, and development of solutions to agriculture and agrifood problems and issues.

The Tables are also a tool for relationship building in that they provide opportunities for Anishinabek community technicians to meet on a regular basis with OMAFRA staff to exchange information and ideas. The Tables are attended by Anishinabek leaders, lands or economic development portfolio holders and technicians from the communities of the region.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

A Steering Committee was established and includes three members representing the AN and OMAFRA. Members of the Steering Committee for the 2018-19 fiscal year included:

Anishinabek Nation	OMAFRA
Jason Laronde, Director of Lands and Resources (705) 497-9127 ext. 2263 <a href="mailto:Jason.laronde@anishinabek.ca">Jason.laronde@anishinabek.ca</a>	Sharon Bailey Director, Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch 647-308-4706 <a href="mailto:Sharon.Bailey@ontario.ca">Sharon.Bailey@ontario.ca</a>
Lynn Moreau Program Coordinator, Agriculture Lands and Resources Department (705) 497-9127 ext. 2334 <a href="mailto:Lynn.moreau@anishinabek.ca">Lynn.moreau@anishinabek.ca</a>	Terri Bulman Manager, Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch 519-826-4184 (office) 519-993-4698 (cell) <a href="mailto:Terri.bulman@ontario.ca">Terri.bulman@ontario.ca</a>
Rhonda Gagnon Policy Analyst, Lands and Resources Department (705) 497-9127 ext. 2318 <a href="mailto:Rhonda.gagnon@anishinabek.ca">Rhonda.gagnon@anishinabek.ca</a>	Rick Berthiaume, Manager Economic Development Programs and Information Services 519-826-4093 (phone) 519-362-2649 <a href="mailto:rick.berthiaume@ontario.ca">rick.berthiaume@ontario.ca</a>

The Steering Committee meets quarterly throughout the year, 2 times in Northern Ontario and 2 times in Southern Ontario, or via teleconference. The committee identifies regional priorities for action and ensure that work plans and action items are being monitored and carried out. They discuss issues and share information about potential opportunities, agricultural related activities, workshops, conferences and events throughout the year.

## Meetings

On April 24, 2018, at a meeting in Toronto, the Anishinabek Nation provided a presentation “UOI and First Nation Governance”. Additionally, there were presentations by OMAFRA Managers on several initiatives including the following:

Initiative	Manager
Canadian Agricultural Partnership	Brendan McKay
Agricultural Soil Strategy	Sharon Bailey and David Cooper
Agricultural Systems for the Greater Golden Horseshoe	David Cooper
Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document	David Cooper
Agrifood Strategy for the North and Northern Livestock Pilot Project	Thom Hagerty/Heather Cassidy and Tamara Fernandes
Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan	Sharon Bailey and Terri Bulman
Fish Processing	Sharon Bailey and Terri Bulman
Pollinator Health/Bee Health	Andrea Martin

In early June of 2018, the project focused on initial engagement with communities to identify agricultural initiatives in each community.

Staff focused on becoming aware of the initiatives to gain an understanding and awareness of the OMAFRA programs and initiatives to enable AN to support the communities in their agricultural endeavors. In addition, staff conducted research to identify organizations who can provide support for agriculture in Ontario and make initial contact with these organizations. (Appendix 1 contains a list of these organizations)

## Round Tables

A series of 3 Regional Round Tables were organized in the Anishinabek regions in early 2019. Information from the Round Tables will continue to be shared on an ongoing basis and support is offered to member communities on agriculture as requested.

The agenda for the Round Table discussions was finalized in advance by the Steering Committee and included three main topics: Food Safety; GIS and Agriculture (AgMaps) and Business Planning and Programs for Agriculture.

Please note that due to poor weather conditions on the date of the Lake Huron Round Table, OMAFRA representatives were unable to attend. Due to problems with the teleconferencing equipment, no formal presentations were provided but participants were provided the opportunity to discuss agriculture in general.

Round Table	Date and Location
Lake Huron Region	January 23, 2019, Garden River Community Centre, Garden River First Nation
Northern Superior Region	February 13, 2019, Anishinabek Nation Elder's Hall, Nipissing First Nation
Southeast/Southwest Region	February 6, 2019, Casino Rama, Rama First Nation

## FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS

### Presentation

Pierre Adrien of OMAFRA Meat Inspection Central/Northern Region provided a presentation on Food Safety at the Lake Huron and Southeast/Southwest Region meetings. He provided an overview of the safeguards that are in place in Ontario to support food safety in the following sectors: meat, eggs, foods of plant origin and fish.

There are 3 jurisdictions for food safety in Ontario. Federal regulatory oversight is provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) who regulate abattoirs and meat processing facilities, and provide inspections for meat that is imported and exported. OMAFRA administers Ontario's Meat Inspection Program under the Ontario Food *Safety and Quality Act* (2001) and *Ontario Regulation 31/05* which applies to meat. Ontario regulates provincial abattoirs and meat plants and provides regular, routine, risk-based inspections and audits. Public Health Inspection is administered through 35 local Public Health Units who provide regulatory oversight for restaurants, cafeterias, food shops, farmer's markets and institutions. At the municipal level, public health inspectors have broad powers to investigate and take steps necessary to eliminate or minimize the effects of hazards to public health.

All meat distributed and sold in Ontario must come from inspected sources from a provincially licensed meat plant, or imported from an approved source. The Province currently has 124 abattoirs and 360 freestanding meat plants. Freestanding meat plants take part in higher risk processing activities such as fermenting, smoking, curing, canning, etc. Although there has been a decline in the number of meat plants in Ontario, slaughter activity has been increasing over the past several years. As a result meat plants are increasing in size.

Eggs are regulated under the *Food Safety and Quality Act*, 2001 under Regulation 171/10, which applies to the sale, distribution, shipping, transportation and advertising for eggs. The *Canadian Agricultural Product Act* applies to egg grading and processing which must be done in a federal establishment. There is an Ontario exemption which allows for ungraded eggs to be sold from a producer premises direct to consumers. Ungraded eggs can also be sold to an egg grading station.

Foods of plant origin such as produce, honey and maple products are regulated under Ontario Regulation 119/11 under the *Food Safety and Quality Act*. For these products, food safety is monitored for microbial contamination, agricultural and chemical residues and heavy metals.



Special regulations for honey allow it to be sold at the producer's residence, directly to the consumer and in a container with markings that include the name of the producer and a label saying "honey/miel".

Retail display signs are required at all retail locations including farmer's markets, roadside stands, grocery stores and at the farm gate. Any produce that can be commercially grown or harvested in Canada must comply with retail sign requirements which state that a sign must be placed on or immediately over a display of produce being offered for sale. Regulations state that the sign must say what province the food is originating from (ie. Product of Ontario). In particular, peppers must be identified as either "sweet" or "hot". Regulations prohibit false or misleading information on the country or province of origin signs.

Fish food safety in Ontario is regulated by OMAFRA under the *Fish Inspection Act* and administered under the Fish Interim Audit Program (FIAP). The FIAP applies to anyone who produces, processes or distributes fish for human consumption in Ontario. In the future, regulations will only apply to higher risk processing and distribution activities which include 41 currently regulated plants.





## Questions

Anishinabek Nation Participants (SE/SW Region)	OMAFRA Response
What are fines and penalties for non-compliance with food regulations?	We explain to the business why, attempt to educate and then other tools can be used with enforcement. It all begins with education.
Regarding wild meats, how do the food regulations impact upon deer, moose, an other wild meats.	The current regulations only cover domesticated animals.
If I shoot a moose, can I take it to a butcher shop?	Yes, but the animal must not be sold to other individuals.
If you shot a wild deer and it was found to be infected with a disease, where would you take it?	You should take any diseased animals such as this to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). Chronic wasting disease is a common disease in Quebec. Rabies can only be confirmed if an animal is alive, and cannot be confirmed once the animal is dead.
Can I slaughter my own animals on my farm?	Yes, but it cannot be sold or distributed to others unless the meat is inspected. It also cannot be brought to a community feast because it has not been inspected.
Is there a shortage of qualified labour in this industry?	Abattoirs exist but many are not operating at full capacity. There is a growth opportunity here.
I know a band member interested in starting their own butcher shop to cater to First Nations harvesting wild meats. Can our band partner with Ontario to undertake the compliance and inspection part of the business?	If the band is under the First Nation Lands Management Act, the business permit would be issued by the Band. It depends upon the size of the business. A compliance and food safety decision tree was distributed today, please refer to that document for additional details.
I live close to the border and want to transport moose meat across the border as a gift. What do I need to do?	Follow-up on this items is required.
Can I sell eggs from my home or farm?	Yes. There is an exemption if you are selling eggs direct to the consumer from your farm, you do not need to get them graded. Grading is required when selling eggs commercially to consumers. A request was made to OMAFRA to send the AN a map of where egg grading facilities are located.
Where does cannabis fit into “foods of plant origin” with respect to edibles?	No legislation exists for cannabis yet. All food products must be labelled “Product of Ontario” when sold commercially.
Are there any regulations governing food waste?	There is a growing movement to sell imperfect food products. Promotions may be underway to encourage farmers not to throw away imperfect food. MOECC is starting an initiative to encourage more resale of imperfect foods.
What is the official designation of “local”?	The official definition of “local” is often up to the producer and is often variable. Food can be transported to another area and still be sold as “local”.
Are farmer’s markets’ inspected?	Yes. Compliance officers do a check. However there are only 5 inspectors in Ontario so this is a huge need.
How can honey be labelled for larger markets?	Please refer to the pamphlet distributed on labelling of honey for more specific details.

Anishinabek Nation Participants (Northern Superior Region)	OMAFRA Response
What about the accessing of wild game for feasting purposes (including rabbit, moose)? Our communities have experienced past issues with the local Health Unit prohibiting us from utilizing these wild foods at the Indian Friendship Centre for feasts.	The Public Health Unit has likely raised this issue due to the health concerns that may arise from lack of refrigeration of the wild meat.  OMAFRA agreed to follow up on this item.
What happens when black market fish are sold to restaurants? Who is cracking down on these people?	The local Public Health Unit provides regulatory oversight for restaurants. It is illegal to transport fish in an unrefrigerated unit and the local Public Health Unit would be responsible for enforcement.

## GIS AND AGRICULTURE-AGMAPS

Jen Birchmore, Senior GIS Specialist, OMAFRA, presented on AgMaps at the Southeast/Southwest and Northern Superior Roundtables.

AgMaps is an online agricultural mapping application that is easy to use. Information from OMAFRA's geospatial database and from Land Information Ontario databases can be added onto projects as a layer. Modern agriculture increasingly depends upon data for precision farming, land management, investment decisions and environmental management. AgMaps allows for users to upload their own GIS data. It is built on a Geocortex Essentials framework that has been migrated to HTML5. The application allows users to search by location and find detailed agricultural information on any plot of land in Ontario.

Information fields include but are not limited to tile drained areas and constructed drains, and high resolution imagery for Ontario. Imagery acquisition contracts are currently underway to expand the information databases to include areas of northwestern and northeastern Ontario.

The program provides the ability to measure areas and distances such as field sizes, upload your own mapping layers for viewing and create graphics such as points and polygons on your map. It allows you to load AgMaps onto your GPS and use the program in the field. Later, you can download your drawing as a georeferenced layer in the form of a shapefile and utilize a variety of templates that apply to a variety of agriculture projects. For example, a Farm Fire Safety Map template is available. The program allows for autopopulation of 911 addresses and can also be used on a variety of mobile devices including smartphones and tablets. It allows the user to create buffers around specific features. It also allows the user to create a farm sketch, plan a windbreak and determine what vegetation would be suitable for odour control. It can also be used to determine the costs for tree planting projects and to determine how much soil could be lost to erosion control.

### Questions

Anishinabek Nation Participants (SE/SW Region)	OMAFRA Response
Is there metadata in the front end of Land Information Ontario (LIO) when I want data for my own purposes?	The data used in AgMaps is often more current than LIO data. The program grabs a mapping service, not actual data. Some data is outdated, therefore to get the raw data check out links to web mapping services which are often more current.
Can maps created in AgMaps be put into a PDF format?	Yes.
Are reserve lands included in Agmaps?	Yes. The site shows the prime agricultural land classes 1-3 and includes these areas on reserve lands..

How can producers obtain information on other existing farms in Ontario and what they are growing or producing?	The Connect-Ontario Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance website has begun an inventory of farms in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area only. The type of farm can be identified here using NAICS codes. OMAFRA committed to providing the Anishinabek Nation with a link to this site.
With respect to data sensitivity, if data is uploaded and may be sensitive, where is that temporary file storage located and can others access this information? As with Arc GIS, this could be a concern.	The data cannot be seen or downloaded by others since it exists only “in the cloud” and does not download to any OMAFRA drives.
Where can we get trees to plant around riparian areas?	Chiefs of Ontario have unlimited access to a million trees for riparian plantings. Riparian plantings are eligible under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program also. Trees can also be obtained through other programs like Restore Your Shore (Conservation Authorities) and the 50 Million Tree Program.
Anishinabek Nation Participants (Northern Superior Region)	OMAFRA Response
Is a data sharing agreement required to use the AgMaps program?	No, not anymore. The data also includes tile drained areas and constructed drains (for municipalities).
How recent is the imagery data associated with this program?	In 2017 three projects were done in Northern Ontario using Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) imagery.

## BUSINESS PLANNING AND PROGRAMS FOR AGRICULTURE

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program is a Federal/Provincial Territorial initiative intended to support the agricultural sector.

### Overview of CAP

<p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4<sup>th</sup></p> <p style="margin: 0;">agricultural framework dedicated to supporting the sector</p>	<p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">5 years</p> <p style="margin: 0;">to drive sustainable growth and outcomes (2018-2023)</p>	<p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">\$417</p> <p style="margin: 0;">for strategic initiatives programming in Ontario</p>
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- Federal-provincial-territorial initiative to support the sector to:
  - ✓ Increase competitiveness, productivity, profitability;
  - ✓ Increase environmental sustainability;
  - ✓ Expand domestic and international markets;
  - ✓ Improve anticipation, mitigation, and response to risks.
- CAP builds on Growing Forward 2 that ended in March 2018.



## Presentation

Brian Bell, OMAFRA, Agriculture Economic Advisor, presented on Business Planning for the Northern Superior Region. He provided an overview of OMAFRA's Food and Rural Affairs Regional Economic Development Branch who develop and deliver leading edge economic development resources that support thriving rural agriculture and food economies. The Rural Economic and Agriculture Economic Development branch delivers a suite of programs, resources and tools to facilitate economic development in rural economies by facilitating, coordinating and delivering a range of appropriate advisory services. Brian is an investigator for wildlife claims. He also responds to general inquiries, attends meetings upon request from First Nation communities and provides workshops and technical transfer knowledge and communication on programs.

There are a number of agricultural development advisors that work across Ontario and Brian provided a list of contacts for all regions of Ontario. Please visit OMAFRA's website to find an advisor for your area at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca).

There are a wide variety of programs, services and resources available to support clients in the planning and implementation of their economic development activities. They include CED 101 Workshops, Strategic Planning, First Impression Community Exchange, Community Immigration Retention in Rural Ontario, Regional Advisor Services, Business Retention and Expansion, Economic Development Analysis Resources, Performance Measurement, Downtown Revitalization, and the Rural Economic Development Program. In particular, the Rural Economic Development Program is geared toward First Nation communities.

A resource guide has been prepared by OMAFRA for Agriculture Economic Development which supports and informs economic development.

Brian informed everyone about the county profiles that OMAFRA has available for specific counties and townships which provide useful statistical data about agricultural businesses, agriculture, food expenditures and consumption and includes an agricultural census over time. Visit [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/stats/county/index.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/stats/county/index.html).



The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) is a Federal/Provincial/Territorial initiative intended to support the agricultural sector to increase competitiveness, productivity and profitability, increase environmental sustainability, expand domestic and international markets and improve the ability to anticipate, mitigate and respond to risks.

Funding is available in many different areas including: research and innovation, product and market development, knowledge transfer, assessment and planning, business operational improvements and communication and marketing and funds are dispersed to businesses, sector organizations/collaborations and sector partnerships for targeted projects.

Other resources OMAFRA offers include a "Starting a Farm" publication, a College Boreal online course, a local food production tool and cost of production templates. OMAFRA has a number of best management practices available and information on developing an Environmental Farm Plan. The local food production tool allows the user to determine the area needed for growing a variety of agricultural commodities.

Chicken Farmers of Ontario has a program called the Artisanal Chicken Program which allows producers to grow between 600 and 3,000 birds per year which can be sold both on and off the farm. You must apply to participate in the program which is available to non-quota based farmers. Visit [www.ontariochicken.ca/Home.aspx](http://www.ontariochicken.ca/Home.aspx).

Other agricultural funding includes the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC) which supports projects in agriculture, aquaculture and food processing. For projects under the small business start-up stream, NOHFC will fund 50 percent of eligible costs and 100 percent of the funding is in the form of a conditional grant of up to \$200,000 per project. For projects under the business enhancement stream, NOHFC will fund 50 percent of eligible costs that are incremental to the existing operation. Visit <http://nohfc.ca/en/programs>

Fednor also provides support for agricultural initiatives to businesses, municipalities, First Nations and other organizations and institutions. They also support youth internships. Visit <http://fednor.gc.ca/eic/site/fednor-fednor.nsf/eng/fn02348.html>

Kevin Laidley, Regional Manager, West Region, presented on Business Planning for the Southeast/Southwest Region.



The Sustainable New Agri-food Products and Productivity Program (SNAPP) provides funding to Northern Ontario agriculture food producers, businesses, collaborations and First Nations to create new products, enhance the ability for season extension, scale up production or enhance productivity. Visit <http://rainalgoma.ca/snapp/>

The Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario (APO) is a not for profit corporation which endeavors to empower Indigenous communities through provision of financial support and training for farmers and businesses. Visit <http://indianag.on.ca/>

Anishinabek Nation Participants (Northern Superior and SE/SW Regions)	OMAFRA Response
Is funding for beekeeping covered under these programs?	Yes.
Can the funding under these programs be accessed by individuals?	Yes.
Is funding available for projects on reserve?	Funding is available for both off and on-reserve projects.

## Northern Superior Discussion

Several of the communities in the Northern Superior Region have community gardens and/or greenhouses. Community gardens are sometimes located at daycares or near community schools. The Anishinabek have a traditional relationship with many plant species that are present on traditional lands and many plants are considered medicinal. There is an interest by communities in enhancing the ability to access and store/preserve wild foods such as blueberries, cranberries, wild rice and a variety of wild game and fish. There is also an interest in creation of gardens to increase community resiliency and local food security and in traditional methods of farming. There is an interest in beekeeping and homesteading on a small scale and in food production on a community level. Some communities have an interest in aquaculture in the Great Lakes. There is a large interest in the current cannabis opportunity and some communities have already capitalized on this.

There was some additional discussion on the cannabis issue asking the communities if those undertaking cannabis growing have approached the local Lands Departments in the communities. It was identified several negative impacts to cannabis horticulture exist including the land disposition process required for the farms, the forest fragmentation they could cause, the water resources required and the effluent created (one plant requires 30-40 litres of water/day), and the energy use required for indoor cannabis culture. Additionally, the contaminants that result may include rodenticides, insecticides, pesticides and fertilizers which may result in accidental killings of mammals.





Lake Huron Round Table meeting

## Lake Huron Region Discussion

At the Lake Huron Region Round Table, it was emphasised that the youth are the ones who should be responsible for continuing with agriculture in the communities. Youth should be taught about agriculture from the Elders and our AN way of teaching has traditionally involved all the senses. There is currently no capacity to conduct agriculture in the communities and there were sustainability concerns relating to proposal based funding for agriculture. We need funding for greenhouses and other farming activities to start sustenance gardening to enhance food security.

Agriculture was a traditional activity carried out by many members of the community. In the past, it was normal to have a small garden plot in everyone's backyard. Traditional activities included harvesting maple syrup (which is actually a medicine), picking berries, fishing, hunting and harvesting traditional foods and medicines using canning and other methods.

It is important to rejuvenate indigenous populations of wild rice, blueberries and cranberries and rejuvenate children's education in agriculture and traditional harvesting and hunting/fishing to teach them the traditional ways. The poor quality of food these days is making people sick. However, health can be regained by growing our own healthy food. The cost of foods in Northern Ontario is a huge incentive to produce and grow our own. It is important to develop and maintain seedbanks with native and heirloom seeds. There are individuals interested in growing medicinal plants and cannabis.

First Nations need to have the ability to sustain themselves and take care of our own families. There is an important spiritual component to agriculture and there are natural laws about agriculture as well which state "Take only what you need". Some communities have made great strides in agriculture. It was important to start small and begin by taking care of our families and communities. Often times the funding provided leads to competition and division between communities for inadequate resources.

AN lands have been contaminated from past activities. An AN representative pointed out that AU representatives would like to learn more about agricultural spraying and power lines and how these activities impact on our ability to grow our own food. The need to consider Mother Earth in our agricultural endeavors was emphasized by AN participants.





Southeast/Southwest meeting

## **Southeast/Southwest Discussion**

The southeast/southwest representatives met together and had the opportunity to discuss challenges and successes with regard to agriculture. Some communities are gaining lands through the Addition to Reserve process and these lands may be suitable for agricultural projects. Alderville has a greenhouse where native plants are raised and it is very successful. However, food is not currently grown there.

Members of some communities have been involved in beekeeping. The big challenge is a capacity one and getting community members interested in doing the work. Another challenge is for individuals to turn their hobby into a business. Gardening programs are underway in some communities that teach children about agriculture and incorporate it into the curriculum. One community has a food security and sustainability project underway with the University of Waterloo looking at food security in the Lake Simcoe region. There are opportunities to work with adjoining municipalities on agricultural projects.

## **ANISHINABEK NATION LANDS FORUM**

On November 6-8, 2018, the Anishinabek Nation hosted the annual Lands Forum, which was attended by approximately 120 Anishinabek Nation delegates including Chiefs, Community Leadership, Lands Managers, Economic Development Officers, and technicians. A full report on the Lands Forum will be provided under separate cover.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

The AN Program Coordinator for Agriculture has been developing outreach articles on a regular basis for the Anishinabek News and the Mzhinigan, a weekly online newspaper that is targeted to the Anishinabek Chiefs. The articles have focused on the funding opportunities available including the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the SNAPP funding (RAIN) and the Rural Economic Development Initiative. There is ongoing development of articles specific to various agricultural sectors including aquaculture and agriculture and training opportunities.

The AN became a member of the Ontario Aquaculture Association (OAA) for the 2018 year, which enabled member communities to attend the OAA Fall Gathering in Parry Sound on August 16, 17, 2018. AN staff had the opportunity to meet with leaders in the Ontario Aquaculture industry including Buzwah Fisheries in Wiikwemkoong, a successful First Nation owned aquaculture business.

On September 10, 2018, AN staff organized an initial teleconference for all AN member communities on agriculture. The agenda included the opportunity for community members to share what initiatives are happening in their communities, and for the AN to share information on the OMAFRA key initiatives, funding opportunities and to discuss ideas that would further support AN communities in agriculture. A key outcome of the teleconference was the identification of funding sources that compile resource materials on each agricultural sector that can be used as a resource for members of communities who may be interested in starting an agricultural enterprise.

The AN Coordinator attended the following other events this year and shared resource material from these events with the communities:

<b>Aquaculture and Aquaponics Workshop, Guelph, Ontario</b>
This workshop included a tour of the Alma Agricultural Research Station located near Guelph and a full day workshop on the technical aspects of aquaculture and aquaponics. Workshop materials are available on the Dropbox website.
<b>Ontario Garlic Growers Association and Vegetable Growing Workshop, Sudbury Ontario</b>
This workshop was a one day intensive workshop focusing on garlic and vegetable growing and the various pests that can attack vegetable and food crops and how to monitor, identify and manage for them.
<b>Riparian Buffer Plantings Biomass North Development Centre, North Bay, Ontario</b>
This conference focused on the use of riparian buffers and agroforestry land uses for greenhouse gas mitigation. Conference presentations are available on the Biomass North Development Centre website and on the Dropbox website.
<b>Profitable Pastures Webconference, Ontario Forage Council, Powassan Ontario</b>
This workshop was a one day conference on grassland management focusing specifically on the various types of cover crops available and how to utilize cover crops in the farming of beef cattle and other rangeland ruminants.

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory have planted a small apple orchard and they are running two community gardens that provide food for landowners, volunteers and community events. They have also constructed 375 raised garden beds for people’s backyards where local food is being produced. They hold canning workshops and workshops on fruit tree trimming and have completed an agricultural study and business plan. They are hoping to add value with their apple product and have purchased four apple presses which are used at community events to assist members with pressing their apples for juice. They are looking at the opportunities provided by food tourism and also grow grapes. They have constructed a solar powered in-ground greenhouse which will act as a classroom for high school students where courses in green industry initiatives will be offered. They have also expanded maple syrup production to 10 new maple stands in the community and wish to purchase harvesting equipment to harvest the wild rice they have planted and expand on opportunities in cranberry production.

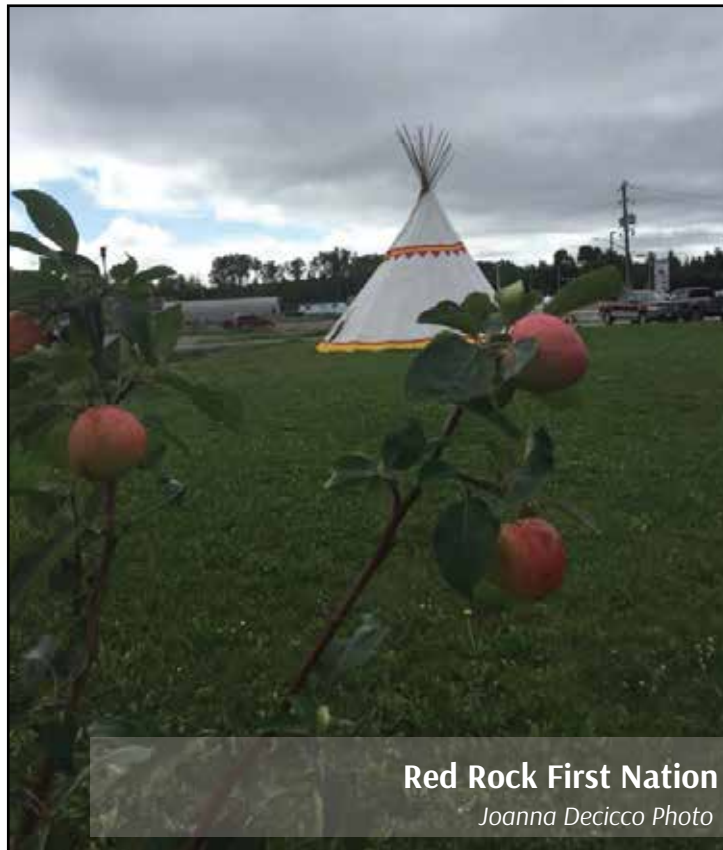
Several communities in the Lake Huron Region are interested in expansion of their maple bushes and in greenhouse construction for local food production. This work is seen as re-introduction of agricultural activities that took place historically in this area. They are also interested in access to traditional territories off-reserve for the production of agricultural products (maple bush, cranberry marshes, blueberry growing areas). There is an interest in aquaponics and leading edge technology forms of fish and vegetable production. There is also an interest in re-introducing historical harvesting of traditional foods such as wild rice, cranberries and fish. A number of communities are considering cannabis production and/or already have cannabis dispensaries operating on their reserve lands.

On November 23, 2018, the AN Coordinator participated in an agricultural information session hosted by Sagamok Anishnawbek. During the session Lynn distributed a very short questionnaire which asked participants to identify what agricultural topics are of a high interest to them. Interest was expressed in the following areas: field crops, vegetable production for home use, vegetable production for commercial use, chicken farming, sheep farming and maple syrup production.

Several communities on Manitoulin Island are engaged in the aquaculture industry. Buzwah Fisheries and Odawa Island Farms are leaders in this industry from a First Nation perspective and there is a great deal of opportunity for expansion of this industry with First Nations, especially in the vicinity of Manitoulin Island, Lake Huron and Lake Superior. There are also members of the AN who operate commercial fishing and associated value added businesses such as fish and chip stands and there is a strong interest in both land-based aquaculture operations and net pens.

## Recommendations

Community members have identified that agricultural funding is piecemeal and there is a lack of continuity in funding for these types of initiatives and a clear lack of capacity at the community level. Not enough grant programs are available and many community members do not wish to take on loans to get started in agriculture. Full time positions are required in the communities to provide the capacity needed to enable community members to get started in agriculture. Funding needs to be geared more to community level gardening for sustenance and food security.



**Red Rock First Nation**

*Joanna Decicco Photo*



## SUMMARY

The AN/OMAFRA Round Tables were a success. The exchange of information and viewpoints was of value to both the AN and OMAFRA. The Table provided an excellent opportunity to increase the capacity of community-level technicians and the AN staff. The questions and points of discussion were a good starting point to broaden the dialogue and understanding between the AN and OMAFRA. The potential for the growth of agriculture in the AN communities is extraordinary and the seeds have been sown for continued growth and collaboration between the AN and OMAFRA.

## APPENDIX 1 - AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

- RAIN (Rural Agricultural Innovation Network (Sault Ste Marie)-SNAPP Program Funding, Tours
- Ontario Aquaculture Association-Fall Gathering, tours
- Waubetek-Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative
- Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario-receiving and distributing information received in the Native Agri-Update
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Ontario Beekeepers Association tech transfer program
- Grain Farmers of Ontario
- Farm Food Care Ontario-breakfast on the farm
- Organic Council of Ontario-attended teleconference on Canadian Organic Standards
- Garlic Growers Association of Ontario-attended conference
- Ecological Farmers of Ontario
- Canadian Organic Growers
- Farmstart
- Everdale Environmental Learning Centre
- CRAFT Ontario
- Farmlink.net
- Ignatius Farm
- Justfood.ca
- Foodland Ontario
- Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance
- Farmnorth.com website
- Northeast Community Network
- College Boreal/Beef Farmers of Ontario-Intro to Beef Cattle Farming Training Program
- Farmzone.com
- Northern Communities Investment Readiness Program
- Canadian Agricultural Loans Act Program
- Ontario Agri-food Venture Centre/Agrifood Management Institute





The Anishinabek Nation established the Union of Ontario Indians as its secretariat in 1949. The UOI is a political advocate for 40 First Nations across Ontario.

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Lands and Resources Department  
Anishinabek Nation  
P.O. Box 711, North Bay, ON P1B 8J8