

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Red Deer Polytechnic and the National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture & Food sign MOU to advance Indigenous Agriculture, Applied Research and Education

Red Deer, Alberta, July 28, 2026 – Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) and the National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF) have formalized a new collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that strengthens their shared commitment to advancing Indigenous agriculture, food sovereignty and community-driven education and research.

The agreement establishes a long-term partnership designed to support Indigenous learners, communities and leaders through applied research, skills development and initiatives that Honour Indigenous knowledge and agricultural traditions. This collaboration reflects RDP's ongoing commitment to reconciliation, as outlined in its [ReconciliAction Plan 2023–2028](#) and the NCIAF's national mandate to empower Indigenous Peoples in agriculture and agribusiness.

"This partnership creates meaningful opportunities for Indigenous communities to shape the future of agricultural productivity in ways that respect culture, land and tradition," said Stuart Cullum, President, Red Deer Polytechnic. "By working together, we can strengthen food security, expand economic opportunities and support the next generation of Indigenous agricultural leaders."

Under the MOU, the Parties will explore collaborative applied research projects that support Indigenous food systems, develop and deliver education and training tailored to Indigenous learners and coordinate co-marketing and outreach to expand awareness and engagement. A joint Partnership Committee will guide the work, meeting semi-annually to monitor progress and identify new opportunities for impact.

"This Memorandum of Understanding with Red Deer Polytechnic represents far more than a formal agreement—it reflects a shared commitment to respect, partnership, and meaningful action," says Kallie Wood, President and CEO of the NCIAF. "Together, we are creating space for community-informed research, culturally relevant education, and stronger connections that elevate Indigenous leadership, innovation, and contribution across agriculture and food. Grounded in trust and guided by reconciliation in practice, this partnership will help build a more inclusive, resilient food system and deliver lasting outcomes for Indigenous communities, learners, and the future of agriculture in Canada."

The partnership also aims to build stronger connections between Indigenous communities, industry, government and knowledge keepers, creating a national dialogue that supports reconciliation and sustainable agricultural growth.

This five-year agreement marks a significant step toward a more inclusive and sustainable agricultural future—one that recognizes the vital role of Indigenous Peoples in stewarding land, food and community well-being.

For more information about Indigenous initiatives at RDP, the Polytechnic's commitment to Reconciliation and cultural connections, visit: rdpolytech.ca/Indigenous.

About Red Deer Polytechnic: Aligning more than 80 industry-relevant credit and non-credit programs, hands-on training and applied research, Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) provides dynamic opportunities to approximately 10,500 credit, non-credit and apprenticeship students in diverse sectors. RDP creates opportunities that align with the aspirations of its learners and the needs of the region.

With four areas of focus, Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care and Health Technology, Energy Innovation and Social Innovation, RDP makes a positive impact contributing to Alberta's economic and social priorities.

Red Deer Polytechnic's campuses are located on Treaty 7, Treaty 6 and Métis ancestral lands. This is where we will strive to honour and transform our relationships with one another.

For more information, visit: rdpolytech.ca | [LinkedIn](#) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#)

About National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF): The National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF) is an Indigenous-led, non-profit organization, that leads with purpose and is committed to advancing reconciliation within the agriculture industry while fostering a national dialogue on Indigenous agriculture. NCIAF's mission is to support and advocate for the growth and sustainability of Indigenous agriculture and food ways, ensuring the health and prosperity of Indigenous Peoples and their communities.

For more information, visit: nciaf.ca

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