



June 23, 2025

National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food Hosts 2025 Annual General Meeting

[Regina, SK – June 23, 2025] – The National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF) successfully hosted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 23, 2025, bringing together Indigenous leaders, agricultural professionals, and community partners to reflect on the past year’s milestones and set the path forward for Indigenous-led food sovereignty and economic development across Canada.

The AGM served as a powerful space to uplift the voices of Indigenous food producers, educators, and innovators, while strengthening the NCIAF’s commitment to advancing culturally grounded, community-driven agriculture. Highlights of the meeting included the presentation of the 2024–2025 key achievements, business acceleration for Indigenous farmers and entrepreneurs, community food sovereignty projects, updates on program expansions—such as the Indigenous Micro Farm Initiative and the Lights On campaign—and the introduction of new board members to support the organization’s continued growth.

“Each year, our AGM is a chance to reflect, reconnect, and recommit to our mission,” said **Kallie Wood**, President and CEO of the NCIAF. “We are proud of the work we’ve done alongside our partners, and even more excited about the future we’re building—where we can collaborate with Indigenous Peoples for them to provide their expertise in traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable practices.”

The NCIAF proudly marked its AGM with a celebration of achievements and a shared vision for the future of Indigenous food sovereignty and agribusiness. In just two years of operations, the NCIAF has supported over 50 projects that strengthen Indigenous entrepreneurship and community-led food sovereignty initiatives, with 47 First Nations represented and 23 communities directly accessing our services. Of the entrepreneurs we work with, 54% are start-ups, reflecting the vital role the NCIAF plays in nurturing new Indigenous businesses. Together with our partners, we have contributed to securing more than \$2.1 million in funding and have facilitated over 60 valued connections — from pairing entrepreneurs with mentors, to supporting business plan development, arranging skill-building opportunities, and linking Indigenous businesses with trusted industry allies. As we look ahead, the NCIAF remains committed to empowering Indigenous communities and businesses to build a strong, self-determined future for agriculture and food systems across Canada and Turtle Island.

The NCIAF extends gratitude to all members, partners, Elders, and youth who contributed their insights and guidance during this year’s AGM. The organization remains deeply committed to building a future where Indigenous food systems thrive—rooted in tradition, innovation, and self-reliance.

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Quotes:

The Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food:

“Indigenous Peoples were the first innovators and adopters of the efficient farming and growing techniques that our farmers still use today. The National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food is doing incredible work to help bridge traditional knowledge and modern agriculture, while creating new opportunities and a strong future for the sector.”

The Honourable Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Manitoba:

“I want to congratulate the National Circle on the incredible work it has accomplished to date. Your efforts are building a valuable national level dialogue advancing Indigenous agriculture and reconciliation.”

Keith Currie, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA):

“As Canada’s national voice for farmers, the CFA recognizes that reconciliation must include stronger dialogue and ongoing collaboration with Indigenous agricultural leaders and communities,” said Keith Currie, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

“Working alongside the NCI AF is an opportunity to support Indigenous food sovereignty, promote shared learning, and seize mutually-beneficial economic partnerships that advance indigenous agriculture across Canada. Together, we can build a more inclusive, resilient, and innovative future for agriculture across Canada.”

Guy Lonechild, President and CEO, First Nations Power Authority (FNPA):

“The National Centre for Indigenous Agriculture and Food is playing a vital role in addressing food sovereignty for Indigenous communities in Canada. FNPA and NCI AF partnership is already paying dividends by creating a pathway for energy and food security projects expanding our sustainable food and energy systems work across Turtle Island.”

Scott Yule, Executive Director, Canadian Bison Association:

“The Canadian Bison Association is super excited about our partnership with NCI AF. Together, we will make the bison industry stronger, champion Indigenous participation in it, share technical knowledge, advocate for supportive policies, and create a network where Indigenous and non-Indigenous producers can learn from one another.”