



The Wâwiyiyaw

National Circle Newsletter For Indigenous Agriculture & Food
June 2026

NEWS

UPDATE



Celebrating the Roots of Indigenous Agriculture and Food

June is National Indigenous History Month—a time to recognize, celebrate, and learn about the rich histories, cultures, traditions, and enduring contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples across Canada.

For Indigenous communities, agriculture and food have always been about more than production. They are deeply rooted in relationships—with the land, water, animals, plants, and one another. Long before modern farming practices, Indigenous Peoples developed sophisticated systems of food production, harvesting, stewardship, and trade that sustained communities for generations. These practices continue to shape Indigenous food systems today.

Indigenous History Month is an opportunity to acknowledge this legacy while recognizing the resilience of Indigenous Peoples who have preserved traditional knowledge despite the lasting impacts of colonization. Across the country, Indigenous producers, ranchers, harvesters, fishers, food entrepreneurs, researchers, and community leaders are reclaiming and strengthening Indigenous food sovereignty by blending traditional knowledge with innovation.

At the National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF), we are proud to support Indigenous-led initiatives that create opportunities for economic growth, food security, environmental stewardship, and community well-being. Whether through youth engagement, business development, partnerships, training, or advocacy, we believe that investing in Indigenous agriculture is an investment in stronger communities and a more inclusive agricultural sector.

As we reflect this month, we invite you to:

- Learn about the history of the land and Indigenous Nations in your community.
- Support Indigenous-owned farms, food businesses, and agricultural enterprises.
- Explore Indigenous foods, traditional harvesting practices, and local food systems.
- Listen to Indigenous voices and stories that highlight the strength, innovation, and leadership of Indigenous communities.
- Continue building respectful relationships that support reconciliation throughout the year.

National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food Holds Annual General Meeting in June

The NCIAF was pleased to welcome Board members, staff, partners, and special guests to our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where we reflected on another year of growth, collaboration, and impact in advancing Indigenous agriculture and food systems across Canada.

The AGM provided an opportunity to celebrate the progress made over the past year while looking ahead to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. Members received updates on the NCIAF's programs, partnerships, financial performance, and strategic priorities, highlighting the organization's continued commitment to supporting Indigenous producers, entrepreneurs, communities, and youth.



Throughout the meeting, attendees learned about the many initiatives that have strengthened Indigenous agriculture and food, including capacity-building programs, business development services, strategic partnerships, advocacy efforts, and community engagement taking place across the country. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our Board of Directors, staff, members, and partners who continue to work together to create meaningful opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in agriculture and food.



The AGM also marked an opportunity to recognize the invaluable leadership of our Board of Directors. We extend our sincere gratitude to every Board member for their ongoing guidance and commitment to advancing NCIAF's mission and vision.

As we look to the coming year, NCIAF remains focused on building stronger relationships, expanding opportunities for Indigenous communities and businesses, and advancing food sovereignty through innovation, collaboration, and Indigenous-led solutions.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's AGM and for your continued support. Together, we are strengthening Indigenous agriculture and food systems for current and future generations.

NCIAF Attends the Calgary Stampede First Nations Rodeo & Relay

NCIAF staff were honoured to attend the inaugural Calgary Stampede First Nations Rodeo & Relay, an exciting new event that celebrated the strength, skill, and traditions of Indigenous rodeo athletes from across Canada and the United States.

Held at GMC Stadium, the event brought together the adrenaline of championship rodeo competition with the rich cultural traditions of First Nations horse relay racing. Presented in partnership with the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) and supported by Elbow River Camp Tipi Holder advisors from Treaty 7 First Nations, the event showcased world-class athleticism while honouring the deep cultural significance of rodeo and horsemanship within Indigenous communities.

Throughout the evening, spectators witnessed thrilling rodeo events and high-speed relay races that reflected generations of knowledge, resilience, and excellence. The event also provided an opportunity for Indigenous communities, families, and visitors to come together in celebration of culture, tradition, and shared experiences during the Calgary Stampede.

Attendance at the First Nations Rodeo & Relay reflects NCIAF's commitment to supporting and celebrating Indigenous-led events that strengthen community connections, elevate Indigenous excellence, and promote opportunities to share the stories, traditions, and achievements of Indigenous Peoples. We were proud to join fellow attendees in recognizing the importance of this inaugural event and look forward to seeing it continue as a valued part of the Calgary Stampede for years to come.

Growing Connections: Nourishing Nations Empowering Generations Garden Day

The garden is more than a place to grow food—it is a place to grow knowledge, relationships and a deeper connection to the land. As part of the pilot year of the NCIAF's Nourishing Nations Empowering Generations program, youth at Ochapowace Nation had the opportunity to get their hands in the soil during a hands-on Garden Day at the Kehteyak Community Garden.

From discovering seeds to direct sowing and transplanting, youth have been learning about where food comes from and experiencing the process of growing it themselves. During Garden Day, each participating student received a seedling and had the opportunity to transplant it into the community garden—a small act that represents a larger connection to land, community and the future of Indigenous food systems.

NCIAF extends a heartfelt thank you to Plant Ranch Inc. in Regina for donating seedlings for every student participating in the program. We also thank McKenzie Seeds for their generous seed donation, which supported the program from its earliest stages and helped make hands-on learning possible.

Through Nourishing Nations Empowering Generations, youth are building practical growing skills while strengthening their relationships with food, land and community. These experiences help plant the seeds for future generations of Indigenous food leaders, one garden at a time.



Events We're Attending

Stay connected with us at events we are attending! We're excited to engage with communities and support Indigenous agriculture.

Calgary Stampede - July 2-12, 2026

Location: Calgary, AB

Calgary Stampede Powwow - July 6-7, 2026

Location: Calgary, AB

Indigenous Farm & Food Fest - Aug 18-20, 2026

Location: One Arrow Cultural Lodge & Field Tours, SK

Events We're Sharing

While we won't be attending these events, we encourage you to explore opportunities to learn and network.

Ag In Motion - July 21-23, 2026

Location: Langham, SK

Explore Indigenous History Month Resources

This Indigenous History Month, take time to learn, reflect, and deepen your understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, and contributions. Explore our collection of resources to discover stories, teachings, and opportunities for continued learning.

- [Learning Resources](#) | [Government of Canada](#)
- [All-Ages Resources](#) | [Take Me Outside](#)
- [5 Ways to Celebrate National Indigenous History Month](#) | [Save the Children](#)
- [National Indigenous History Month - Why It's Important](#) | [Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.](#)
- [How Canadians can support National Indigenous History Month \[VIDEO\]](#) | [Global News](#)

Frybread Stuffed Pizza

Ingredients:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 1 Tbsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 ½ cups warm water
- 2 cups pizza sauce
- 40 pieces mini pepperoni
- 456 g mozzarella, shredded
- 3 cups vegetable oil

Preparation

1. In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, and salt and mix until combined. Make a small well in the middle of the flour mixture and add the warm water. Gently fold the flour mixture into the water, using a light touch, until the dough is completely homogeneous. Do not overmix the dough, as this will make it dense and heavy.
2. Place the dough on a lightly floured work surface and lightly knead it. Divide it into 6-8 pieces, depending on the size you want. Roll each piece into a circle ¼-inch thick and make a small depression using your thumb in the centre of each.
3. Spread some pizza sauce over the surface of each circle. Add some pepperoni, about 5-6 pieces for each, and a small mound of mozzarella. Fold over one edge of the dough overtop of the filling and seal the edges together.
4. In a large cast-iron skillet, heat the oil until it reaches 350°F. Working in batches, carefully transfer the frybread to the oil and fry until each side is puffed up and golden, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer the frybreads to a paper-towel-lined plate to absorb excess oil, then keep warm on a baking sheet in the oven at 250°F. Continue frying the remaining breads.
5. Serve whole or cut in halves with any extra pizza sauce for dipping. Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 3 days.

Recipe courtesy of [Flavour Network](#).

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Stay Informed



Please reach out to info@nciaf.ca if you would like to list an event.