

ABOUT THE NCI AF

The NCI AF connects Indigenous communities with the agriculture industry, government, and knowledge keepers to support food security, food sovereignty, and sustainable contributions to global food systems while honouring traditions, lands, and Mother Earth.



NCIAF Strategic Pillars



We drive change through business acceleration, improved access to knowledge, planning support, and capital. Our training and education programs build awareness of opportunities, policies, and planning for Indigenous leaders, communities and youth while also guiding the broader agriculture industry in meaningful reconciliation efforts.

The NCI AF supports all Indigenous self-determined foodways, agriculture and agri-food businesses.

Scan here for more info.



OUR MISSION

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.

OUR VISION

To empower Indigenous Peoples and communities through sustainable agriculture and food systems that honour traditional knowledge, promote food sovereignty, and foster economic development.



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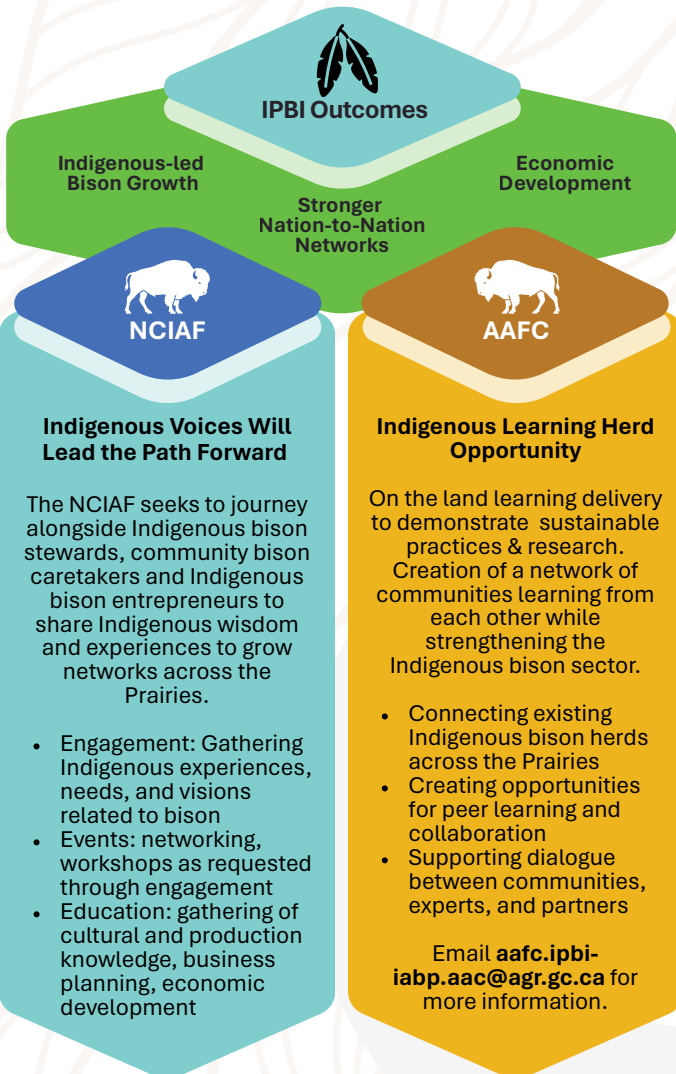
Indigenous Prairie Bison Initiative

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ABOUT IPBI

The Indigenous Prairie Bison Initiative (IPBI) is a \$5 million, three-year Strategic Partnership Initiative supporting Indigenous communities across the Prairie provinces to rebuild bison herds through training, partnerships, and knowledge sharing.



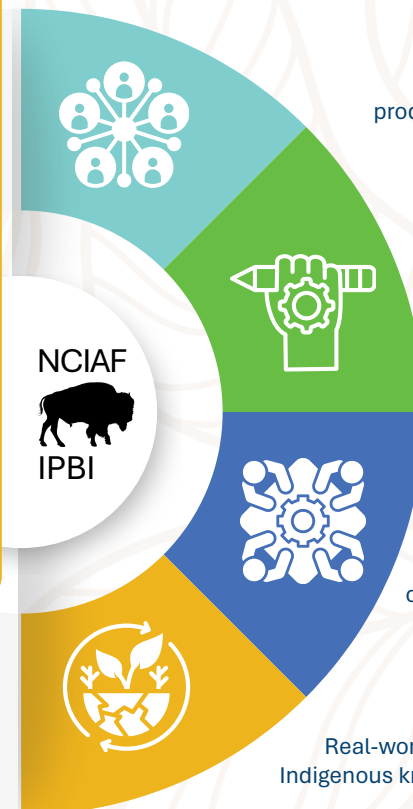
The IPBI & the NCIAF will amplify what is heard to advocate for stronger programming, education pathways, and future funding opportunities from government, industry, and academia.

ENGAGEMENT

The NCIAF is actively engaging Indigenous producers and bison stewards across the Prairies to join the Indigenous Prairie Bison Initiative, ensuring Indigenous voices lead the path forward in a good way by shaping the program through their knowledge, priorities, and lived experience.

EVENTS

As part of the Initiative, the NCIAF will design and deliver regional engagement sessions, hands-on workshops, knowledge-sharing gatherings, and on-the-land learning events that bring Indigenous producers, Elders, researchers, and partners together to strengthen skills, relationships, and shared leadership in the bison sector:



Regional Engagement Sessions

Create space for Indigenous producers and Nations to shape priorities, share needs, and guide the direction of the initiative.

Hands on Workshops

Build practical, technical skills in herd management, business planning, and market readiness through applied training.

Knowledge Sharing Gatherings

Strengthen relationships and peer learning by connecting stewards, Elders, and industry partners across regions.

On-the-Land Learning

Real-world herd environments where Indigenous knowledge and science come together in practice.

EDUCATION

The goal is to see relevant, timely, and complete resources available to communities and producers. There is much good work already underway and the NCIAF will look to collect, gather and amplify the existing resources that exist but also work together with other organizations, experts and Indigenous knowledge keepers to collaboratively address gaps with industry experts and Indigenous knowledge keepers.

A key outcome of the the NCIAF IPBI engagement conversations will be the collection and development of comprehensive capacity building resources including:

- Educational content and materials
- Business Planning support
- Feasibility and Marketing Plans
- Production and Herd Management



As a non-profit, the NCIAF is not an industry body nor a government department, but has accepted AAFC funding to engage directly with communities, Nations, and Indigenous entrepreneurs in the bison space to better understand interests, priorities, opportunities, and barriers related to starting up or scaling initiatives. The initiative is designed to listen first, working alongside Indigenous communities, bison caretakers, and entrepreneurs to better understand needs, priorities, challenges, and opportunities related to bison on the Prairies.