

First Nations National School Food Summit: Growing Food Sovereignty



Sommet national sur l'alimentation scolaire des Premières Nations : Renforcer la souveraineté alimentaire



May 27-28, 2026 • Les 27 et 28 mai 2026 • Wanuskewin Heritage Park • Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Tuesday, May 26th, 2026: Pre-Registration 3:30-7:30 pm in the Delta Saskatoon

Morning Day 1 – Wednesday, May 27th, 2026

Time	Activity	Space
7:30 am 7:45 am	Bus Departures from Delta Saskatoon to Wanuskewin	Delta
8:00 am	Breakfast & Registration at Wanuskewin	Plenary: Beaver Deer Eagle Room
9:00 am	Introduction from Master of Ceremonies <i>Simon Bird</i> Opening Prayer <i>Lyndon Linklater</i> Drum Group Welcome to the Territory <i>Deloris Netmaker</i>	
9:45 am	A Working Model of Universal School Food in Maskwacis, AB <i>Brady Weiler (Director – Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC))</i> <i>Vern Sylvester (Food Sovereignty Facilitator – MESC)</i>	
10:30 am	Break	
10:45 am	Advancing Indigenous Food Sovereignty Through School Food Programming: Learning from Indigenous Perspectives <i>Tanya Senk (Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Indigenous House – University of Toronto Scarborough Campus; Chair of the Elders Council – Urban Indigenous Education Centre: Toronto District School Board)</i> <i>Nicole Weber (Research Officer – University of Toronto, Joannah and Brian Lawson Centre for Child Nutrition)</i>	
11:30 am	Nourishing Nations, Empowering Generations <i>Monique Desjarlais (ReconcilAG Specialist – The National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF))</i> <i>Kate Fraser (Director, Capacity Development – NCIAF)</i>	
12:00 am	Lunch	



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Afternoon Day 1 – Wednesday, May 27th, 2026

<p>1:00 pm</p>	<p>Clearwater River Dene Nation School Food Program and Economic Impact Analysis <i>Barb Hannah (Principal/Director – Clearwater River Dene School)</i> <i>Dr. Omid Mirzaei (Professor – University of Regina)</i></p>	
<p>1:30 pm <i>Workshops A</i></p>	<p>A1: Bison Walk</p>	
	<p>A2: Native Plant Walk</p>	
	<p>A3: Nourishing Indigenous Foodways: School Food Through the Seasons <i>Sue-Anne Banks (Coordinator – Indigenous School Food Circle)</i> <i>Jeffrey Ross (Indigenous Programs Manager – Farm to Cafeteria Canada)</i> <i>Carolyn Webb (Program Director – Farm to Cafeteria Canada)</i></p>	<p>Rabbit Room</p>
<p>2:30 pm</p>	<p>Break</p>	<p>Plenary</p>
<p>2:45 pm</p>	<p>Meadow Lake Tribal Council <i>Patricia St. Denis (Senior Director of Education – Meadow Lake Tribal Council)</i> <i>Tammy Shakotko (Dietician – Meadow Lake Tribal Council)</i></p>	
<p>3:30 pm</p>	<p>Closing Remarks <i>Door Prize</i></p>	
<p>3:40 pm</p>	<p>Bus Departure from Wanuskewin to Delta Saskatoon</p>	



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Morning Day 2 – Thursday, May 28th, 2026

Time	Activity	Space
7:30 am 7:45 am	Bus Departures from Delta Saskatoon to Wanuskewin	Delta
8:00 am	Breakfast & Registration at Wanuskewin	Plenary
9:00 am	Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey / Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq <i>Chelsey Purdy (Dietitian – Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq)</i>	
9:45 am	Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED) Food Program <i>Melanie Bennett (Executive Director – YFNED)</i> <i>Bill Bennett (Educator and Administrator – YFNED)</i>	
10:30 am	Break	
10:45 am Workshops B	B1: First Nations Agriculture for Seven Generations Program <i>Annette Peltier-Flamand (Food Security Coordinator – First Nations Agriculture and Finance Ontario (FNAFO))</i> <i>Jen Hunter-O'Brien (Seven Generations Lead – FNAFO)</i>	Plenary
	B2: Nourishing Communities: A Guide to School Food Program Development <i>Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer (Professor – University of Saskatchewan)</i> <i>Stefanie Foster (Project Manager – University of Saskatchewan)</i>	Rabbit Room
	B3: Strengthening Food Security: Building a Sovereign Indigenous Future <i>Connor Zaichkowski (Member – Algonquins of Pikwakanagan; Founder – Life Cycle Horticulture Corp.; Researcher – Plant Behavior & Environmental Meaning)</i>	Coyote Room
11:25 am	Transition Time	
11:30 am Workshops C	C1: Revitalizing Language and Culture on the Land, Instilling Identity and Promoting Learning and Wellness Through Traditional Foods <i>Paulette Wrightman (Vice Principal – Bkejwanong Kinomaagewgamig)</i>	Plenary
	C2: Game in Schools <i>Clifford Gladue (Food Services Manager – KTC Education Authority)</i>	Rabbit Room
	C3: Impact of Changing Laws on Food Sovereignty and Tradition <i>Ron Desjardin (Hunter – Turnor Lake & Birch Narrows)</i> <i>Allen Desjardin (Hunter – Turnor Lake & Birch Narrows)</i>	Coyote Room
12:00 pm	Lunch	Plenary

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1:00 pm Workshops D	D1: Bush to table <i>Justin Brown (Chef – Bush to Table)</i>	Plenary
	D2: Teach Our People to Grow Food <i>Heather Brailean (Gardener and Coordinator – Pasqua First Nation)</i>	Rabbit Room
	D3: Strengthening School Nutrition Environments in First Nations Schools: A URIS-Led Initiative <i>Hilda Garson (RNBN, URIS Nurse Educator – Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC))</i> <i>Marissa Guimond (RNBN, URIS Nurse Educator – MFNERC)</i>	Coyote Room
1:25 pm	Transition Time	
1:30 pm Workshops E	E1: Bison Walk	
	E2: Native Plant Walk	
	E3: In this World, You Live a Life on the Land You Live the Life Moose Meat Pemmican Making Workshop <i>Rebecca Sylvestre (Manager – Turnor Lake & Birch Narrows Community Food Centre)</i>	Rabbit Room
2:30 pm	Break	Plenary
2:45 pm	Rematriating Bison <i>Jennifer Leason (Founder and President – Rematriating Bison Project)</i>	
3:15 pm	Closing Remarks <i>Door Prizes, Dance Group</i>	
3:40 pm	Bus Departure from Wanuskewin to Delta Saskatoon	

