

## *kwayēskastasowin wâhkôhtowin*

### **A Prairie Food System Vision**

#### Our Vision for 2050

The Treaty Peoples of the prairie region have reconciled their relationships, restored the land, and established healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

#### Our Mission

To identify, encourage, and support a range of solutions contributing to health, justice, sustainability, and food sovereignty in the prairie biome and to reinforce this emergent movement by articulating a broad vision of social-ecological transformation.

#### Guiding Principles

- Decolonization and reconciliation are integral to a just and equitable prairie food system.
- We honour our Treaties, recognizing that we are all Treaty People.
- We honour and incorporate Indigenous knowledge, ceremony, and traditions.
- We support and participate in developing collaborative, holistic approaches to restoring relationships embedded in our food system.
- We apply ecological principles informed by Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge to the development of sustainable agroecosystems.
- We apply a systems approach to the transformation of food systems, involving consideration of culture, diet, technology, policy, environmental, and economic elements.
- Understanding that “landscapes reflect cultural inscapes,” we work toward deep cultural change by encouraging public discourse and grassroots, participatory educational processes involving children, youth, and adults.
- We identify, generate, and apply local knowledge associated with agriculture and food sovereignty.
- We are guided by the belief that a farm family’s livelihood must be planned and managed according to the culture and production logic of local people and communities.
- Recognizing that local community social structures link with corresponding structures globally, we support a participatory learning space where two systems interface—a traditional one associated with the people of the region commingling with knowledge generated elsewhere, to facilitate appropriate development processes that emerge from within the local community.

## Objectives

- Indigenous, settler, and new immigrant populations have built strong collaborative relationships.
- Indigenous people are spiritually, culturally, and economically emancipated and are enjoying renewed physical and mental health.
- Local and regional production provides 85% of food for the prairie region,
- A regenerative approach to farming rehabilitates agroecosystems to yield nutritious crops on a sustainable basis.
- Protected and restored grasslands, aspen parklands, and wetlands now comprise 50% of the landscape. Diverse species are thriving.
- Public lands support the resumption of the Indigenous economic and cultural practices, including gathering traditional food and medicines.
- The rural community is thriving, with new jobs in farming, conservation, energy production, tourism, and food processing.
- Physical and mental health has improved through the adoption of healthier diets and lifestyles, as well as a closer connection to the land, resulting in lower health care costs.

## Lines of Action

- We create spaces for public discourse around decolonization and reconciliation as they relate to food sovereignty and ecological restoration.
- We identify and celebrate solutions through means such as web sites, social media, publications, seminars, and conferences in an effort to build a common vision of social-ecological transformation.
- We structure our activities by establishing a social innovation lab that builds our knowledge base through participatory action research. We build the human resource base required to sustain the project.
- We provide micro-grants to support initiatives consistent with our vision.
- We build a strong funding base to support a 30-year project to achieve our vision through ongoing fundraising activities.