

UNION FARMER

UNION FERMIÈRE



July 2023- **Prairie
BIPOC Caucus
leaders organize
farm workshop.**
(See page 6)

Juillet 2023 - **Les
leaders du Caucus
PANDC des
Prairies organisent
un atelier.** (Voir
page 7)



NFU Youth
converge in NS and
set priorities for
years ahead at the
2023 NFU Youth
Retreat.

Les jeunes de
l'UNF se réunissent
et définissent leurs
priorités pour les
années à venir lors
du rassemblement
des jeunes de 2023.

Host a Film Screening! Organisez le visionnement d'un film !

Depth of Field: Films About Farming Profondeur de champ : Des films sur l'agriculture



Vous les avez peut-être vu dans une ferme près de vous. L'UNF a retenu les services de « **March Forth Creative** » pour produire de courts métrages sur 40 fermes à travers le Canada. Jusqu'à présent, ils ont filmé 22 des 40 fermes en Ontario, au Québec, en Colombie-Britannique, au Manitoba et aux Maritimes. Ils s'en vont ensuite en Alberta et en Saskatchewan.

You may have seen them at a farm near you: NFU has retained **March Forth Creative to produce 40 short films on farms across Canada**. To date, they have filmed 22 of the 40 farms in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Manitoba, and the Maritimes. They are next on their way to Alberta and Saskatchewan.

These films feature Canadian farmers and farm workers, most of whom are NFU members, and their sustainable farming practices. Rotational grazing, seed saving, building healthy soils — different farmers highlight their own priorities and, together, these films demonstrate the farming practices that would create the food system we all need.

To prepare farmers for interviews, Saima Desai, former *Briarpatch Magazine* editor, led "Talking to Media" training sessions for farmers. These were phenomenal! Contact Nasseem at hakimian@nfu.ca for the recordings or to sign up for a future session. Even if you already feel comfortable in front of a camera, you'll learn something.

Ces films mettent en vedette des fermiers et des travailleurs agricoles, dont la plupart sont membres de l'UNF, ainsi que leurs pratiques agricoles durables. La rotation des pâturages, la conservation des semences, bâtir des sols sains— différents fermiers mettent en avant leurs propres priorités et, ensemble, ces films montrent les pratiques agricoles qui permettraient de créer le système alimentaire dont nous avons tous besoin.

Pour préparer les fermiers aux interviews, Saima Desai, ancienne rédactrice en chef du magazine *Briarpatch*, a organisé des séances de formation « Parler aux médias » à l'intention des fermiers. Ces sessions ont été phénoménales ! Contactez Nasseem (hakimian@nfu.ca) pour obtenir les enregistrements ou pour vous inscrire à une prochaine session. Même si vous vous sentez à l'aise devant une caméra, vous apprendrez des choses.

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It's been an incredibly enriching experience to connect with farmers across the provinces. Thank you to all the farmers who have welcomed us so far, and we look forward to visiting the upcoming farms. // *Ce fut une expérience incroyablement enrichissante que d'entrer en contact avec des fermiers de toutes les provinces. Nous remercions tous les fermiers qui nous ont accueillis jusqu'à présent et nous sommes impatients de visiter les prochaines fermes.*

- Tamer Soliman and/et Sarah Douglas, filmmakers of March Forth Creative réalisateurs de March Forth Creative

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We hope to **reach and inspire millions of food consumers, and let them know that if they want this kind of farming, they need to support it**. Explore the guide for hosting community screenings at www.nfu.ca/filmsaboutfarming. Need support? Have questions? Contact Nasseem Hakimian at hakimian@nfu.ca

Nous espérons toucher et inspirer des millions de consommateurs de produits alimentaires et leur faire savoir que s'ils veulent ce type d'agriculture, ils doivent la soutenir. Consultez le guide pour l'organisation de projections communautaires à l'adresse www.nfu.ca/fr/filmsaboutfarming. Questions ? Contactez Nasseem Hakimian à hakimian@nfu.ca.





A Message from Un message de

Jenn Pfenning

*NFU President,
Présidente de l'UNF*

Each growing season brings a unique set of challenges. An iconic moment in my memory is standing with my father-in-law at the edge of a field that had been hit with multiple weather impacts which had also created ideal conditions for fungus and insect-borne plant diseases. We looked at the standing crop and contemplated in silence for a few moments. I turned to him and said, "I have never seen a year like this one, but in all your years of farming, I imagine you have seen it all." He thought for a moment, then turned and said, "No, every year is something new." I often recall this conversation. He was a lifelong farmer. Between his homeland of Germany and here in Canada, he farmed for nearly 70 years. He saw the very real impacts of the increased unpredictability we are facing.

The context we farm in is changing even as some deeply entrenched challenges seem to be more fixed than ever. Talking with farmers from the Maritimes to BC, we are all experiencing the effects of climate change. Taken in isolation, we could say this is a wild year for weather. This summer I travelled to the Maritimes for the Region 1 Convention; to Oaxaca, Mexico, connecting with farmers; and to Chapingo University where they have a seed bank and agroecology program. Everywhere farmers are talking about impacts of extreme weather over successive seasons. The cumulative impacts are not all visible. Communities and individuals are feeling the psychological impacts of multiple events as well.

Despite the environmental impacts and mental distress they are causing us as farmers, from east to west, and north to south, I see hope. I see farmers devising creative responses to the conditions they face locally. There is a resurgence of local and traditional skills being sought. A new generation of farmers are farming as a way to act on their own care and concern for our shared environment.

As your Union, we are committed to speaking truths to power, and to placing the needs of farmers across the country first and foremost in every conversation. This November, I invite you to join us in Ottawa for the national convention and lobbying day as we do just that—lobbying on the issues that are affecting us most (see page 18), learning to further empower our local farm movements and advocacy efforts, and putting the Future of Farming In Our Hands. Our only way forward is together. I look forward to seeing you there.

Chaque saison de croissance apporte son lot de défis. Un moment emblématique de ma mémoire est celui où je me trouvais avec mon beau-père au bord d'un champ qui avait été frappé par de multiples impacts météorologiques qui avaient également créé des conditions idéales pour les maladies des plantes transmises par les champignons et les insectes. Nous avons regardé la récolte sur pied et avons contemplé en silence pendant quelques instants. Puis je me suis tourné vers lui et lui ai dit : « Je n'ai jamais vu une année comme celle-ci, mais au cours de toutes vos années d'activité agricole, j'imagine que vous avez tout vu. » Il a réfléchi un moment, puis s'est retourné et a dit : « Non, chaque année est quelque chose de nouveau. » Je me souviens souvent de cette conversation. Il a été agriculteur toute sa vie, près de 70 ans entre son pays d'origine, l'Allemagne, et le Canada. Il a vu les conséquences très concrètes de l'imprévisibilité croissante à laquelle nous sommes confrontés.

Le contexte dans lequel nous pratiquons l'agriculture évolue, alors même que certains défis profondément ancrés semblent plus fixes que jamais. En discutant avec des fermiers des Maritimes à la C-B, nous constatons que nous subissons tous les effets du changement climatique. Pris isolément, nous pourrions dire qu'il s'agit d'une année furieuse sur le plan météorologique.

Cet été, je me suis rendue dans les Maritimes pour la Convention de la Région 1, ainsi qu'à Oaxaca, au Mexique, pour rencontrer des agriculteurs et à l'université de Chapingo, où se trouvent une banque de semences et un programme d'agroécologie. Partout, les fermiers parlent de l'impact des conditions météorologiques extrêmes. Les effets cumulatifs ne sont pas tous visibles. Les communautés et les individus ressentent également les effets psychologiques des événements multiples. Et malgré tout cela, je vois de l'espoir. Je vois des fermiers qui élaborent des réponses créatives aux conditions auxquelles ils sont confrontés localement. On assiste à une résurgence des compétences locales et traditionnelles. Une nouvelle génération de fermiers pratique l'agriculture comme un moyen d'agir en fonction de l'attention et de la préoccupation qu'ils portent à notre environnement commun.

En tant que votre union, nous nous engageons à dire la vérité à ceux et celles au pouvoir et à placer les besoins des fermiers au premier plan de toutes les conversations. Je vous invite à vous joindre à Ottawa en novembre pour la Convention nationale et la journée de lobbying (pg 18), car c'est exactement ce que nous faisons : nous nous penchons sur les questions qui nous touchent le plus, nous apprenons à renforcer nos mouvements agricoles locaux et nos efforts de défense des droits, et nous mettons l'avenir de l'agriculture entre nos mains.



A Message from Un message de **Jessie MacInnis** *NFU Youth President, Présidente des jeunes de l'UNF*

As I write this, we have passed the halfway point of another summer of unprecedented weather events here in Nova Scotia. What keeps me up at night is that I will likely be saying this exact statement every year from now on. Despite this only being my ninth season growing vegetables, it feels like growing conditions have changed radically from earlier years. How can we manage climate anxiety between the stressors of this year and fear for the precarious future? Where do we find the will to keep farming despite more punishing economic and climatic conditions?

The connections I've made with other NFU youth over the past year give me glimmers of hope in the face of uncertainty. We are all staring down the same harsh reality, which for me creates a sense of immense solidarity along with a drive to push for rapid climate action alongside some of the brightest young farmers and farm workers in the country.

As the busy part of the farm season winds down, I'm looking forward to reacquainting myself with the strategic action plan the Youth Caucus set out during our retreat in February of this year. This fall, I will be prioritizing advocacy work that calls our elected officials to account for the harsh realities new farmers and farm workers face today, articulating the need for more equitable and creative land access options and the promotion of agroecology as a viable climate solution. I also look forward to sharing more details with you about an action that the Youth Caucus and Farm Worker Working Group are planning on Parliament Hill during the pre-convention Lobby Day in November. Stay tuned for ways to get involved!

Wishing you abundant harvests and moments of rest.

Au moment où j'écris ces lignes, nous avons passé la moitié d'un autre été marqué par des événements météorologiques sans précédent ici en Nouvelle-Écosse. Ce qui m'empêche de dormir, c'est que je vais probablement dire la même chose chaque année à partir de maintenant. Bien que je n'en sois qu'à ma neuvième saison de culture de légumes, j'ai l'impression que les conditions de culture ont radicalement changé par rapport aux années précédentes. Comment gérer l'anxiété climatique entre les facteurs de stress de cette année et la crainte d'un avenir précaire ? Où trouver la volonté de continuer à cultiver malgré des conditions économiques et climatiques plus pénibles ?

Les liens que j'ai noués avec d'autres jeunes de l'UNF au cours de l'année écoulée me donnent des lueurs d'espoir face à l'incertitude. Nous sommes tous confrontés à la même dure réalité, ce qui crée chez moi un sentiment d'immense solidarité ainsi qu'une volonté d'agir rapidement en faveur du climat aux côtés de certains des jeunes fermiers et travailleurs agricoles les plus brillants du pays.

Alors que la saison agricole s'achève, j'ai hâte de me familiariser à nouveau avec le plan d'action stratégique que le caucus des jeunes a établi lors de notre retraite en février dernier. Cet automne, je donnerai la priorité aux activités de plaidoyer qui demandent à nos élus de tenir compte des dures réalités auxquelles les nouveaux fermiers et les travailleurs agricoles sont confrontés aujourd'hui, en articulant le besoin d'options d'accès à la terre plus équitables et créatives et la promotion de l'agroécologie en tant que solution viable pour le climat. J'ai également hâte de partager avec vous plus de détails sur une action que le caucus des jeunes et le groupe de travail des travailleurs agricoles préparent sur la Colline du Parlement lors de la journée de lobbying pré-convention en novembre. Restez à l'écoute pour connaître les moyens de participer !

En vous souhaitant d'abondantes récoltes et des moments de repos.



Annual Beingessner Award

2023 Theme: *As today's interrelated crises fuel unprecedented environmental disasters and human rights violations, how are young farmers envisioning and creating unified communities and agroecological futures?*

The NFU holds an annual national writing and creative media competition in memory of Paul Beingessner. Winners receive \$500. **Farm youth—start your applications today!**



A Message from | Un message de **Kumari Gurusamy**

Women's Vice-President | Vice-Présidente des femmes

Claire Poulton

*Women's Region 3 Advisor | Conseillère des femmes
la région 3*

Women's President, Bess Vanzandwyk, has stepped down in order to care for her family, her farm and herself. We wish her all the best with gratitude for her leadership!

This past spring, the Women's Caucus initiated *Come to the Table*, a project to encourage women to gather and hold conversations with other farmers and community members about the shared struggles of farming and rural living. A training session was held and women registered to host these informal sessions, but the project ran into the summer and we found ourselves too immersed in the farming season to continue. We plan on picking it up again this fall with renewed energy.

A big thank you to the women who have signed up to host an event in their community! We look forward to reconnecting in the fall.

We are grateful that the memorial fund in honour of Arwa de Groot is providing funding for these kitchen table events in Ontario. You are with us still, Arwa.

La présidente des femmes, Bess Vanzandwyk s'est retirée afin de s'occuper de sa famille, de sa ferme et d'elle-même. Nous lui souhaitons le meilleur et la remercions pour son leadership !

Au printemps dernier, le Caucus des femmes a lancé « Come to the Table » (Venez à la table), un projet visant à encourager les femmes à se réunir et à tenir des conversations avec d'autres fermières et membres de la communauté sur les luttes communes de l'agriculture et de la vie rurale. Une session de formation a été organisée et des femmes se sont inscrites pour animer ces sessions informelles, mais le projet s'est prolongé jusqu'à l'été et nous nous sommes retrouvées trop immergées dans la saison agricole pour le poursuivre. Nous prévoyons de le reprendre cet automne avec une énergie renouvelée.

Un grand merci aux femmes qui se sont inscrites pour organiser un événement dans leur communauté ! Nous avons hâte de reprendre contact à l'automne.

Nous sommes reconnaissantes au fonds commémoratif, créé en l'honneur d'Arwa de Groot, de financer ces rencontres de cuisine en Ontario. Tu es toujours avec nous, Arwa.

Working with the family of Paul Beingessner, the NFU has established an annual prize in honour of Paul and his contribution to rural and agricultural journalism. Paul was a farmer, activist, and writer who defended Canada's family farms until his tragic death in a farm accident in the spring of 2009. His widely-read and respected weekly columns brought a fresh

and progressive perspective to rural and farm issues. Young farmers are encouraged to submit their work to the Paul Beingessner Award for Excellence in Writing, to uphold his legacy and continue bold advocacy and thoughtful discourse in farming and the world around us.



Award Criteria and Details

As journalism and the ways we access it evolves, *so too does this award*. New this year, youth are welcome to submit entries in different forms: **editorials, essays, works of fiction, videos, and audio responses to the theme.**

Two age categories: 15 to 21 years old, and 22 to 30 years old. \$500 to one winner in each category.

Length/Size: 500-1,000 word non-fiction open letter on the theme. Audio/ video submissions must be at least 5 minutes in length.

How to send your submission: Email nfu@nfu.ca or mail (see back of edition)

Deadline: November 8th, 2023. Winners will be announced at the NFU Convention in November 2023. All or some entries may be published by the NFU. We will confirm that we received your email submission within a week. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please resend your entry or phone the office at (306) 652-9465. Each person may only win the award once.

— Community. Skill Development. Knowledge Sharing. —

NFU BIPOC Caucus Organizes Workshops Across the Country

A Message from the BIPOC Caucus

BIPOC Caucus-led events took place coast to coast over this spring and summer. *The result?* Energized connections, new knowledge, new mentors, friendship, and access to skill-building. Above all else, BIPOC farmers and farm workers, and folks aspiring to enter agriculture, felt full of connection.

A Prairie BIPOC event participant writes:

“I attended my first ever NFU (BIPOC Caucus) Prairie workshop and to say I was impressed would be an understatement. My name is Ted Ogungbe and I guess my situation isn't unique to me. I'm an aspiring new farmer with a few acres to use but lacking in practical Canadian farming experience. The NFU workshop afforded me the opportunity to meet other farmers and provided hands-on demonstrations of the topics covered. Most of all, it was the people. It was as though we had known each other from way back. I eagerly look forward to attending other workshops, engaging other farmers and sharing knowledge and expertise. Thanks to the organizers and NFU.”

The NFU BIPOC Caucus identified access to technical training as a barrier to entering farming, especially led by BIPOC producers. Members of the caucus expressed a deep desire and a need to connect with and unite alongside BIPOC producers. In union, we are strong – and at the core of collective work, is relationships. In pursuit of relationships and knowledge sharing, the caucus initiated an event in New Hamburg, Ontario at Pfenning's Organic Farm co hosted by Cheyenne Sundance, BIPOC Caucus President, and Treavor Morris, a long-time migrant worker who

taught participants about tractor use. In Borden, Saskatchewan, Jordan River (BIPOC Caucus' VP) hosted an introductory livestock event with co-organizers Edmonton-based Adama Bundu and Winnipeg-based Kishon Warmington. In the maritimes (Quispamsis, NB) Data Brainanta, NFU-NB BIPOC president organized a gathering on agroecology. Each event had participant numbers in the double digits.

There is an appetite and eagerness for this kind of opportunity. Farmer-organizers were empowered to shape the event and take on new leadership in the NFU and within the BIPOC caucus through their new work. Honest reflections on the challenges of farming were explored, new areas of farm work were exposed, ideas sparked, and as did lifelong friendships and interest in the NFU's work within the BIPOC Caucus and beyond. We now have energy bubbling in points across the country and momentum towards a connected and powerful future.

“It was one of the best events that I have attended in recent times. It was extremely well done and I learned so much. -Dieulita Darya Hall”

And more is coming! By the time you get this publication, we'll have held the BC-based gathering on a farm near Courtenay, BC, on Vancouver Island, to create connection with the land and other BIPOC farmers and farm workers using Indigenous cultural practices, and to have technical training on seed processing and use of a BCS (walk behind tractor). Natasha Anderson, an Indigenous NFU farmer in the BIPOC Caucus, will have facilitated the workshop, and Heather Mills; Indigenous seed farmer, will have co-lead the technical training. **Our connections, shared knowledge and skill development is helping farmers and aspiring farmers to gain confidence and expertise.**



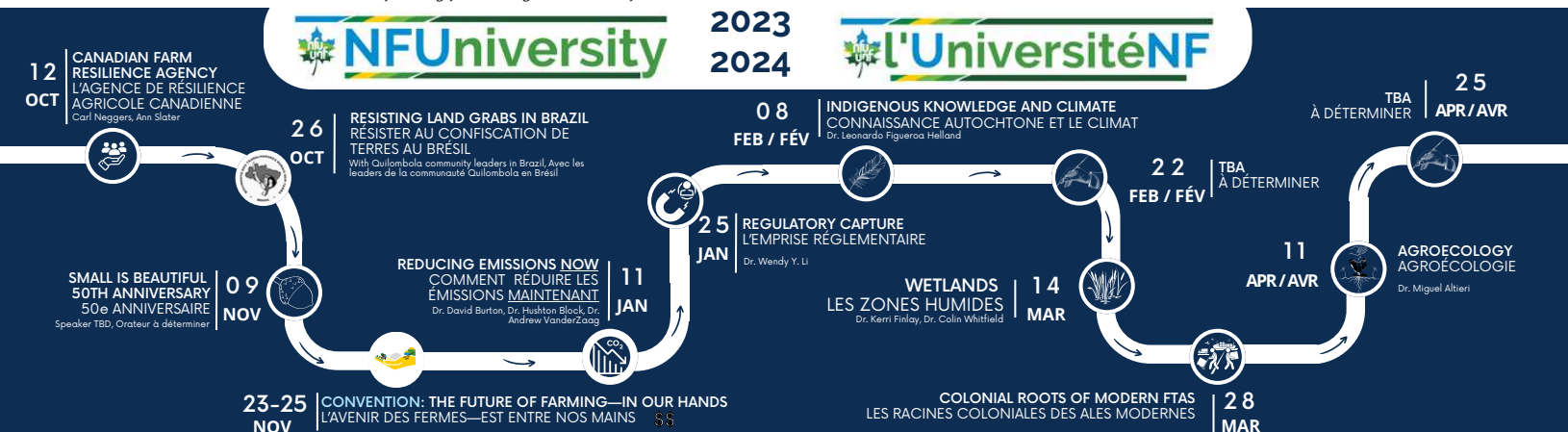
Government of Canada

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These workshops were made possible in part with funding from the government of Canada.



2023
2024



Communauté. Développement des compétences. Partage des connaissances.

Le caucus PANDC de l'UNF organise des ateliers à travers le pays

Un Message du Caucus PANDC

Des activités organisées par le caucus PANDC se sont déroulées d'un bout à l'autre du pays au cours du printemps et de l'été. Le résultat ? Des liens dynamiques, de nouvelles connaissances, de nouveaux mentors, de l'amitié et l'accès à l'acquisition de compétences. Par-dessus tout, les fermiers et les travailleurs agricoles PANDC, ainsi que les personnes qui aspirent à devenir fermiers et fermières, se sont senties bien connectées.

Un participant à l'activité PANDC dans les Prairies écrit :

“ J'ai participé à mon tout premier atelier de l'UNF (caucus PANDC) dans les Prairies et dire que j'ai été impressionné serait un euphémisme. Je m'appelle Ted Ogungbe et je suppose que ma situation n'est pas unique. Je suis un nouveau fermier en herbe qui a quelques acres à exploiter, mais qui manque d'expérience pratique en agriculture au Canada. L'atelier organisé par l'UNF m'a permis de rencontrer d'autres fermiers et de bénéficier de démonstrations pratiques sur les sujets abordés. Mais le plus important, ce sont les gens. C'est comme si l'on se connaissait depuis longtemps. J'ai hâte de participer à d'autres ateliers, de rencontrer d'autres fermiers et de partager connaissances et expertise. Merci aux organisateurs et à l'UNF. ”

Le caucus PANDC a identifié l'accès à la formation technique comme étant un obstacle à l'entrée dans l'agriculture, en particulier pour les producteurs PANDC. Les membres du caucus ont exprimé un profond désir et un besoin de se connecter et de s'unir avec les producteurs PANDC. L'union fait la force et les relations sont au cœur du travail collectif. Dans le but d'établir des relations et de partager des connaissances, le caucus a organisé une activité en Ontario, à Pfenning's Organic Farm, co-animée par Cheyenne Sundance, présidente du caucus PANDC, et Treavor Morris, un travailleur migrant de longue date qui a enseigné aux participants l'utilisation d'un tracteur.

À Borden, en Saskatchewan, Jordan River (vice-président du caucus PANDC) a organisé un atelier d'introduction à l'élevage avec les coorganisateurs Adama Bundu, d'Edmonton, et Kishon Warmington, de Winnipeg. Dans les Maritimes (NB), Data Brainanta, présidente du PANDC de l'UNF, a organisé une rencontre sur l'agroécologie. Chaque activité a réuni un nombre de participants d'au moins deux chiffres.

Il existe un appétit et une impatience pour ce genre d'opportunités. Les fermiers organisateurs ont été habilités à façonner ces activités et à assumer un nouveau leadership au sein de l'UNF et du caucus PANDC grâce à leur nouveau travail. Des réflexions honnêtes sur les défis de l'agriculture ont été explorées, de nouveaux domaines de travail agricole ont été exposés, des idées ont jailli, tout comme des amitiés durables et un intérêt pour le travail de l'UNF au sein du caucus PANDC et au-delà. Nous avons maintenant de l'énergie qui bouillonne dans différents endroits à travers le pays et un élan vers un avenir connecté et puissant.

“ Ce fut l'une des meilleures activités auxquelles j'ai participé ces derniers temps. C'était extrêmement bien fait et j'ai beaucoup appris -Dieulita Darya Hall ”

Et ce n'est pas fini ! D'ici à ce que vous receviez cette publication, nous aurons organisé le rassemblement en Colombie-Britannique pour créer un lien avec la terre et d'autres fermiers et travailleurs agricoles du PANDC en utilisant des pratiques culturelles autochtones, et pour dispenser une formation technique sur le traitement des semences et l'utilisation d'un BCS (tracteur à conducteur marchant). Natasha Anderson, une fermière autochtone de l'UNF faisant partie du caucus PANDC, aura animé l'atelier, et Heather Mills, une fermière autochtone spécialisée dans les semences, aura co-dirigé la formation technique. **Nos relations, le partage des connaissances et le développement des compétences aident les fermiers et les futurs agriculteurs à gagner en confiance et en expertise.**



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Ces ateliers ont été rendus possibles en partie grâce
au financement du gouvernement du Canada.

Open and free to all, **it's NFUniversity!** Held on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Mark your calendars, join, and deepen your understanding of the issues that affect us all. Check out www.nfu.ca/nfuniversity/ to sign up and for more information.

Ouverts et gratuits pour tous **c'est L'Université-NF !** Tenu tous les deuxième et quatrième jeudis du mois. Marquez vos calendriers, inscrivez-vous et approfondissez votre compréhension des questions qui nous concernent tous. Consultez le site www.nfu.ca/fr/nfuniversity/ pour vous inscrire et obtenir de plus d'informations.

Organizing. Networking. Advocating.

NFU Farm Worker Organizer Tours Southwestern Ontario

By Hannah Kaya, NFU Farm Worker Organizer

It's after dark, and I'm speaking with a migrant worker from Saint Vincent in his home-away-from-home: a bunkie in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Kit Andres, an organizer with Migrant Workers Alliance for Change (MWAC), has taken me on a drive-by tour of the employer-provided accommodations where some of MWAC's migrant worker members live. I'm told the one we currently stand in is better than most, and judging by the half-a-dozen storage-locker-like trailers we passed by earlier I'm inclined to believe them. Still, there are few windows, the janky walls are permanently dirtied, and everything gives the impression of a staff lounge, rather than a home. COVID-19 protocols are thumb-tacked to the walls. It's been a hot, wet week. Earlier in the day, a fast moving thunderstorm sent hail down onto the acres of tender peaches and the workers who pick them. I point to the COVID posters and ask the worker if he and his colleagues also receive training on how to prevent heat stress and respond to inclement weather. He laughs. *"Of course not."*



Migrant workers and their allies are organizing for justice on and off the farm. Workers want safer workplaces, better accommodations, family unity, an end to deportations and blacklisting, open work permits, permanent status for all, and full coverage under provincial employment standards - including the right to union representation.

Migrant workers know that they won't win until Canadian citizens show that these issues matter to them. NFU members have shown up to support our migrant neighbours. This spring, members phoned legislators and met with their local MPs to voice support for migrant workers' call for status. NFU employers of migrant workers are meeting to build a strong, alternative voice to industry perspectives.

Meeting with NFU members and Allies Providing Sanctuary, Support Services, and Safer Employment to Migrant Workers, I was fortunate to meet many of these amazing NFUers during a week-long whirlwind trip to Southwestern Ontario - far away from my home in the Outaouais, QC. Through the generous funding of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), I was able to spend time getting to know NFU members and allies on the frontlines of migrant justice work. I met with NFUers providing sanctuary for workers escaping abusive employers; MWAC organizers supporting migrant worker self-advocacy; tireless support workers at The Neighborhood Organization - Simcoe (including future NFU Convention speaker Gabriel Alladhua); employers of migrant workers - including NFU President, Jenn Pfenning; and, of course, migrant workers themselves. NFU-O Board Member Roger Rivest took me on a tour of Leamington. Leamington is Canada's greenhouse capital, with nearly 4,000 thousand acres of greenhouses employing tens of thousands of migrant workers. Rivest's tour included the Leamington Centre for Hope, a new community space that provides spiritual guidance and addiction support, including for migrant workers. I will never forget my first time visiting one of Leamington's 25-acre cucumber greenhouses - an operation so large that workers rode between sections on bicycles.

Also in Leamington, I met with organizers at the UFCW's Agricultural Worker Alliance centre. UFCW has initiated a Migrant Workers Representation Pilot - a joint initiative between UFCW Canada and the Mexican government to deliver safety, health, and labour rights training to Mexican workers before, during, and after their work term in Canada. Workers receive weekly trainings, including ESL classes, as well as advocacy support throughout the growing season. The Pilot empowers workers to speak up against workplace violations without fear of deportation.



There's a long way to go to win justice for migrant workers in Canada, but the support of NFU members lets migrant workers - and the elected officials who legislate their vulnerabilities - know that the NFU has their back. **No one is in this struggle alone.**



Region 1, District 1 **Byron Petrie**

*R1D1 (PEI)
Coordinator and
Representative*

Since last fall, the NFU PEI has engaged in various events and causes such as working with the Lands Coalition to develop land forums across the island, highlighting various cases of Lands Protection Act violations. We hosted a mini satellite National Convention at Milton Hall to provide access to those who couldn't make it in person, though we were glad to see our very own Reg Phelan and Alfred Fyfe were able to make it and waved across the screen.

At the convention, Brian Turner suggested that we have a BioChar workshop to deal with all the woody debris from Hurricane Fiona. The workshop was held Saturday, August 12th as part of our Region 1 Convention.

This spring, we had increased capacity thanks to El Cyr who was hired for membership engagement, membership feedback and reaching out to lapsed members. At the end of their contract they summed up their findings in a report, which helps shape our work for the years to come. In April, we had our district convention. Darrin Qualman, our very own Director of Climate Crisis and Policy Action, came to the island to present his recent work as well as meet with local farmers, climate scientists, and government officials. At that district convention we elected Doug Campbell as our District Director, Karen Fyfe as our Women's District Director, and Travis Cummsky as our Youth District Director. In June, we held our first lobster supper since Covid. It was great to see everyone again after such a long time.

Finally, this August, we held our Regional Convention at Milton Hall here on PEI. It was great to have all three provinces (NB, NS, PEI) take part in the convention and develop resolutions and policy work for the upcoming year. We were super happy to have, as well, National President Jenn Pfenning join us and visit all three provinces. It's clear we have more work to do with engaging with our farmer members to protect farming as a way of life into our very unpredictable future. Here's to hoping we have a long and dry fall to wrap up our harvests.



Region 1, District 2 (NFU-NB / UNF au N-B)

Suzanne Fournier

*NFU-NB Executive Director /
Directrice Executive de l'UNF
au N-B*

Over the last year we have called on our provincial government to reconsider resource extraction and potash exploration in view of their potential environmental damage. Board member, Geneviève Latour wrote an open letter to the NB Minister of Agriculture on behalf of NFU-NB and several other organizations advocating for concrete agricultural climate solutions in New Brunswick.

We have worked to engage with Black, Indigenous, People of Colour and migrant worker communities, hosting a workshop in April. The NFU-NB has other networking events and field days being planned for late fall. In collaboration with Agriculture NB, we launched the NB Mental Health and Farm Safety Program, Farm Talk Care. The program has resources currently available and will be hosting workshops as well as building peer support in the coming months. With our partners at Canadian Farmers Markets we are part of a social media campaign #CanadianFarmersMarkets to engage the public and increase farmers' market use. Unpredictable weather has continued to make the farming season challenging in NB, but our members remain adaptable.

français

Au cours de la dernière année, nous avons demandé à notre gouvernement provincial de reconsidérer l'extraction des ressources et l'exploration de la potasse en raison des dommages environnementaux qu'elles pourraient causer. Geneviève Latour, membre du conseil d'administration, a écrit une lettre ouverte au ministre de l'Agriculture du Nouveau-Brunswick au nom de l'UNF-NB et de plusieurs autres organisations pour plaider en faveur de solutions agricoles concrètes en matière de climat au Nouveau-Brunswick.

Nous nous sommes efforcés de nous engager auprès des communautés noires, autochtones, de couleur et des travailleurs migrants, en organisant un atelier en avril. L'UNF-NB prévoit d'autres activités de réseautage et des journées champêtres à la fin de l'automne. En collaboration avec Agriculture NB, nous avons lancé le programme de santé mentale et de sécurité agricole du Nouveau-Brunswick, « Ferme. Parle. Soins. » Des ressources sont actuellement disponibles dans le cadre de ce programme et des ateliers seront organisés au cours des prochains mois, de même que des activités de soutien par les pairs. Avec nos partenaires des marchés agricoles canadiens, nous participons à la campagne de médias sociaux « #CanadianFarmersMarkets » pour mobiliser le public et accroître la fréquentation des marchés agricoles. La météo imprévisible a continué à rendre la saison agricole difficile au Nouveau-Brunswick, mais nos membres restent adaptables.



Region 1, District 3
Wyanne Sandler
*R1D3 (NS) Coordinator
 and Representative*

This has been a year of significant growth for the NFU in Nova Scotia as a group of young, engaged farmers and farm workers have re-ignited and broadened the work of steadfast NFU members in the province. Over the past couple of years, the NFU-NS has more than doubled its membership. Members have been engaging with policy and committee work on a range of issues, including farmland access, Indigenous solidarity, migrant and domestic farmworker rights, and climate justice. There is significant potential for further growth of the Union in Nova Scotia, including our hope that we might gain stable funding through farm business registration, as is the case in New Brunswick and PEI.

Historically, Nova Scotia has not had enough members to warrant being designated as a separate district, but as the membership and the engagement in the province increased, we brought a motion to be designated as Region 1, District 3. In collaboration with the National Farmers Foundation, we have also been successful in securing funding to support membership development and organizing in the province. In May, we hired Rebecca MacInnis as our District Organizer, and shortly thereafter, we held our first District Convention. The convention culminated with the election of 5 new board members for the District.

We are looking forward to continuing to build our membership, engaging in learning and community-building events, developing a strategy to become a designated farm organization, achieving stable funding, and continuing to advocate for the needs of farmers and a sustainable food system. This year has been a challenging one for farmers in Nova Scotia as Hurricane Fiona, a polar vortex, fires, and floods have brought home the urgency and the immediacy of the climate crisis. We look forward to continuing to work alongside our NFU friends and fellow farmers across the country to advance meaningful climate action and to support the needs of farmers, farmworkers, and all those working toward food sovereignty in a changing climate.

Note: As of August 2023, the new district coordinator is Elizabeth Milton.



Region 2 / Région 2
**Hannah Kaya and
 Nasseem Hakimian**
*Region 2 (Québec) Members
 Membres de la région 2*



Renewed Energy in Region 2!

In June 2023, NFU farm worker members in Region 2 organized a public social gathering for local agriculture folks in and around Montreal drawing over 20 allies. In attendance were farm workers and farmers from Coop CultivAction, Sankofa Farming Cooperative, Growing A.R.C., Lufa Farms

and Ferme Pleine Lune, as well as allies and supporters from l'Union Paysanne, NFU-O, The Depot, CBC, Cinema Politica and more. Membership growth in the Region has reignited energy and enthusiasm to explore the formation of an official Region to formalize Quebec representation on the national Board, leverage collective power for Quebec-specific issues, and connect the work of women, youth, farm workers, activists, LGBTQ+, BIPOC and other farm folk living in the province. Members hope to meet again in the fall to continue visioning and socializing. If you're interested in joining, email hakimian@nfu.ca.

The NFU was also thrilled to support workers at Lufa Farms Ville Saint Laurent in the process of unionization that unfolded in the spring of 2023. By joining the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Lufa Farms workers have gained a strong support system that will safeguard workers rights and advocate for improved health and safety, benefits, and better working conditions. If you are a farm worker and need help, contact kaya@nfu.ca.

Une énergie renouvelée dans la région 2 (Québec) !

En juin 2023, les travailleurs agricoles membres de l'UNF de la région 2 (Québec) ont organisé une rencontre sociale publique pour les gens de l'agriculture de Montréal et des environs, qui a attiré plus de 20 alliés. Étaient présents des travailleurs agricoles et des agriculteurs de Coop CultivAction, Sankofa Farming Cooperative, Growing A.R.C., Lufa Farms et Ferme Pleine Lune, ainsi que des alliés et des sympathisants de l'Union Paysanne, de l'UNF-O, The Depot, CBC, Cinema Politica et bien d'autres encore.

L'augmentation du nombre de membres dans la Région a ravivé l'énergie et l'enthousiasme pour explorer la formation d'une région officielle afin d'officialiser la représentation du Québec au sein du conseil d'administration national, de tirer parti du pouvoir collectif

pour les questions spécifiques au Québec et de relier le travail des femmes, des jeunes, des travailleurs agricoles, des activistes, des LGBTQ+, des PANDC et d'autres agriculteurs vivant dans la province. Les membres espèrent se rencontrer à nouveau à l'automne pour continuer à élaborer leur vision et à socialiser. Si vous souhaitez vous joindre au groupe, envoyez un courriel à hakimian@nfu.ca.

L'UNF a également été ravie de soutenir les travailleurs des Fermes Lufa Ville Saint Laurent dans le processus de syndicalisation qui s'est déroulé au printemps 2023. En se joignant aux Travailleurs et travailleuses unis de l'alimentation et du commerce (TUAC), les travailleurs et travailleuses des Fermes Lufa ont acquis un solide système de soutien qui protégera les droits des travailleurs et travailleuses et militera en faveur de l'amélioration de la santé et de la sécurité, des avantages sociaux et de meilleures conditions de travail. Si vous êtes un travailleur agricole et que vous avez besoin d'aide, contactez kaya@nfu.ca.



Region 3
Max Hansgen
*Region 3 Coordinator
and NFU-O President*

This season has been another one of extremes. Numerous forest fires across northern Ontario, heavy rains across most of the province, and drought in other areas. The need for climate resilience remains a top priority for farmers in Region 3, as it is across the country.

The provincial government launched an all-out attack on farmland beginning in November 2022, on the pretext of increasing the province's housing supply. Region 3 leadership and staff have been working tirelessly in opposition to Ontario Bills 23, 39 and 97. We spoke up about the need to maintain protections on the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve, the Greenbelt, and thousands of acres of prime farmland slated for development as the government dismantled key environmental protections and undermined planning and democratic processes.

Members joined and spoke at Stop Sprawl, Stop Bill 23 & Stop Bill 97 rallies across the province. We started a protect the Greenbelt postcard campaign directed at MPPs. We've released op-eds and spoke with the press. Our leadership has met with MPPs and provincial ministers, and penned official responses to offer constructive recommendations on ways to protect farmland AND address the affordable housing crisis.

This spring, the NFU-O joined forces with the other accredited farm organizations to launch a letter writing campaign to fight against the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, which allowed for farmland parcels to be severed up to three times, forced settlement area boundary expansions, and removed protections for prime agricultural and specialty crop areas.

The fight isn't over. The NFU-O will continue to promote a responsible path forward that solves the housing crisis in a way that is affordable, ecologically sustainable, democratically informed, and that builds a brighter future for all.

Looking forward to the Convention in Region 3 (Ottawa) this year!
Max Hansgen, NFU Region 3 Coordinator/NFU-O President



Region 5
Ian Robson
*Region 5 (Manitoba)
Representative*

The Manitoba region held our AGM on March 17th. We had 30 members in attendance and had interesting presentations on seeds, a discussion led by the Women's Caucus called "Come to the Table," and reports from NFU youth on initiatives such as the "Who Will Feed Us" podcast. We also heard presentations from Young Agrarians and the Manitoba Agricultural Crown Land Program. Anna Hunter of Long Way Homestead shared from her experience raising sheep and marketing wool, explaining the benefits of wool as a climate-friendly fabric with superior qualities to fossil fuel-derived fibres, and current barriers to growing the wool industry in Canada including marketing and access to wool milling. Our discussion focused on raising awareness of the wool sector in Canada.

We hope to reconvene and re-energize our NFU-Manitoba membership at the NFU National Convention in Ottawa.

Looking ahead, we expect to sponsor an NFU information booth at Manitoba AgDays coming up this January. Many NFU-Manitoba members are taking part in the various national committees and caucuses and engaging in policy-making and actions for a more sustainable farm future.



Region 6
Michael Gertler
Region 6 (Saskatchewan)
Coordinator

Key issues in Saskatchewan farming and rural life include growth of large farms and land access for new farmers; unmonitored and unregulated land markets; sales of Crown lands without due consultation with Indigenous groups; oligopolistic pricing of farm inputs and commodities; corporate control of seeds; mega-projects such as irrigation, carbon capture, and nuclear reactors; as well as inadequate support for public hospitals and schools, public transportation, and renewable energy.

At the same time, water pollution, weed resistance, pathogen buildup, and loss of multifunctionality threaten farm and rural sustainability, abetted too often by fellow farmers bent on woodland clearing, wetland drainage, and breaking grasslands. Despite a year of drought, unusual weather, wildfires, smoke, and other signs of accelerating climate change, responses are often unhelpful. Our province seems too frequently to miss opportunities for concerted positive action, and residents are distracted by unnecessary debates and provocations.

Highlights of our year included a spring convention with talks about conservation easements and the Treaty Land Sharing Network, and a summer picnic. Emily Eaton spoke introducing her co-authored book on diverse approaches to climate change. Another special pleasure was being joined by a delegation of young people from Alberta who were in the province for a BIPOC farming workshop. We signed up some new members, including First Nations farmers, and did outreach at related conferences, events, and venues. We used World We Want donations to hire an assistant to the coordinator and met online monthly, welcoming others to attend. Organizational sustainability issues remain a focus.

Members have been involved in climate change litigation and promoting green energy, educating about small modular nuclear reactors (SNMRs), rebooting Steep Hill Food Co-op in Saskatoon, and lobbying for reasonable grain grading policies. A small committee of members has been studying options for a land co-operative. Other active members have been involved with pertinent commissions and consultations, with the preparation of briefs and support letters, and with discussions related to the appointment of key Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada personnel. We hope to canvass our members (and potential members) more broadly to identify emerging concerns and ways to respond collectively.



Region 7
Toby Malloy
Region 7 (Alberta and Northwest Territories)
Coordinator

Greetings from Alberta. It won't come as a surprise to hear that Region 7 has been experiencing an unprecedented wildfire season and extreme weather, including severe thunderstorms, hail and tornado activity, as well as ongoing drought. As dry conditions persist throughout the province, especially in the southeast, a total of 15 counties and designated Special Areas in the south, east, central and northern Peace Regions have declared Agricultural Disasters.

In response to drought conditions, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada has reopened enrollment in the AgriStability Program until September 29, 2023 in an effort to support farmers and ranchers affected by drought and wildfires. As with all regions in Canada we are continually navigating the realities of the climate crisis.

The Region 7 Annual Convention was held in Olds, Alberta on August 12th. We discussed membership development and the Provincial United Conservative Party's (UCP) recent decision to place a moratorium on large solar and wind projects and passed a resolution calling on the NFU to oppose any stoppage on the development of green energy projects. We were fortunate to have Alex Pulwiski, Program Manager with the Young Agrarians, join us for a presentation and discussion on land linking and land access support in Alberta.

Join a Policy Committee!

The NFU is Canada's independent, farmer-led agricultural organization. So it is you, NFU farmers and allies, who drive the NFU's direction and policy development. We encourage you to join a committee to bring your experience, advance our policy work, and learn. Current committees are working on: **Farmland Ownership, Climate Change, Farm Workers, Seed Sovereignty, Livestock, Mental Health, Indigenous Solidarity, Migrant Worker Solidarity, Communications, Grain Marketing and Transportation.** To get involved in this work, please email nfu@nfu.ca.



Region 8
Ari Westhaver
*Region 8 (British
 Colombia and Yukon)
 Coordinator*

Region 8 has seen a lot of action and focused energy on the issue of farmland access. Central to this work has been the formation of a regional subcommittee of the national Land Access and Action Committee following our last convention in September 2022. As in other parts of the country, the financialization of farmland in Region 8 poses a significant barrier to both new farmers seeking land and older farmers developing a transition plan for their land. This economic pressure, combined with the stark reality of farming in the age of climate crisis, puts all farmers in a precarious position. While BC has a history of farmland protection through the Agricultural Land Reserve, as well as a robust landmatching program through Young Agrarians, we see these interventions, although important, as temporary solutions for a larger problem; the financ-

ialization of land. In order to guard farmland from investor ownership, we need to develop a multi-pronged advocacy approach including facilitating dialogue amongst ourselves, coalition-building with like-minded groups, and engaging directly with the Ministry of Agriculture.

This work is already underway. In May, we met with BC Minister of Agriculture, Pam Alexis. During our meeting, I provided an overview of the NFU; Hannah Dwyer (R8 Women's Rep) gave a presentation on the changing landscape of land ownership in BC; and Katherine Aske (Chair, National Farmland Committee) further contextualized the threat that the financialization of farmland poses to land access and regional food sovereignty. Minister Alexis expressed interest in a second meeting to further discuss our concerns and ideas about how best to address the farm transition crisis. This meeting will be held in the fall.

Looking ahead, our intention for the coming year is to continue to focus our attention on land, build strong relationships with and learn from one another, and to work with our newly-hired BC Farmland Organizer (a paid position made possible in partnership with the Sierra Club BC) to provide thoughtful and nuanced input on farmland issues in the region.

Don't Forget About Your Member Benefits

To access these benefits, you will need to be an NFU member in good standing and provide your membership number. The NFU shares none of your personal information with Service Plus, so you will need to initiate the relationship with ServicePlus by signing up if you are interested. For those of you in the NFU's Health Benefits program, your health benefits will not be affected by this new benefits package.

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We're glad to welcome members of the
National Farmers Union!



The BRICK

NFU Climate Work in High Gear

(or whatever the EV equivalent is)



By Darrin Qualman, NFU Director of Climate Policy and Action

The NFU is working hard to advance policies that reduce agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase the resilience and sustainability of Canadian food production. To help us advance that work, we recently added a new staff person: Climate Policy Coordinator Murray Jowett. Murray lives in Winnipeg, holds a Master's degree in Natural Resources Management, has worked with farmers on participatory plant breeding, and has assisted the NFU in the past. Murray joins myself and John Mills (who is working half-time on climate issues) in advancing an ambitious range of climate-related policy initiatives, including:

Sustainable Agriculture Strategy Advisory Committee (SAS-AC). The NFU is one of 21 organizations serving on the federal government's SAS-AC, which aims to create a plan for sustainable agriculture reaching to 2050. The SAS seems likely to include ambitious targets on GHG emissions reduction, biodiversity protection, soil health, and other measures. The NFU provided a detailed report (*Canadian Agriculture: The Challenge of Achieving Authentic Sustainability*) as input into the SAS process. Many NFU members provided input via Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC's) consultation process.

Wetlands Emissions Task Force. The NFU has created a Task Force of researchers and farmers to quantify, for the first time, total GHG emissions created by the destruction of wetlands on agricultural land. This research will support efforts to stop wetlands destruction—preserving habitat and biodiversity and sequestering carbon.

Canadian Farm Resilience Agency (CFRA). To succeed in achieving ambitious emissions reduction, adaptation, and resilience requires dramatically expanded government capacity. To create that capacity, the NFU is proposing a new institution, the CFRA. Echoing the successes of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) but updated for the 21st century, a CFRA would provide soil testing, create demonstration farms, train and deploy extension agrologists, help farmers retain or restore wetlands, assist with accessing government incentive programs, and help farmers implement transformative low-emission practices. NFU members are meeting with government officials to advance the CFRA proposal. Join the NFUniversity class on October 12th to learn more about this process.

Efficacy testing for non-fertilizer supplements. Canada has a target to reduce fertilizer-related emissions by 30% by 2030. As farmers work to reduce

those emissions, they will become increasingly interested in non-fertilizer alternatives: biologicals and other products that can boost yields but reduce emissions. With no independent testing or data, farmers currently have no way to calculate the cost-benefit of the many products on offer. The NFU will work with other organizations to press the federal government to reintroduce efficacy testing.

GHG offsets, emissions trading, and false solutions. The NFU has provided detailed critical analysis (*Eighteen Reasons Why Agricultural Soil Carbon Offsets are the Wrong Approach to the Climate Crisis, and What We Should Do Instead*) to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) regarding their proposal to create a soil carbon offset protocol.

Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS) Net Zero Task Force. NFU staff and others are playing key roles in a Task Force of scientists, economists, and others who are crunching numbers to outline a path toward net-zero emission Canadian agriculture by 2050. This work will form a crucial input into SAS-AC deliberations regarding its 2040 and 2050 targets.

Climate Convergence. The NFU will convene a meeting of Canada's leading climate organizations in early 2024.

Detailed reports on agricultural emissions. The NFU has published its third edition of *Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Canada: A New, Comprehensive Assessment* and is working on complimentary reports detailing emissions in several provinces.

A focus on justice, equity, inclusion, and sustainability. The NFU is highlighting the need for transformative practices, including agroecology. We are underscoring the impossibility of endless economic growth. We are reaching out to Indigenous allies to form mutually beneficial alliances and working to integrate Indigenous analyses throughout our climate work. And we are integrating a Food Sovereignty analysis and a focus on justice and equity.

..and other work. The NFU continues its online webinar series NFUniversity (page 6 and 7), officials and staff continue to make presentations at meetings and events;

and NFU officials and staff are integrating climate and sustainability considerations throughout NFU policy work.

This ambitious work plan is possible because it builds on decades of NFU leadership on climate change and emissions reduction.

Nearly 25 years ago, the NFU's Stewart Wells wrote to Canada's Minister of Environment to press for action on emissions reduction and a rational grain transport and rail policy.

Twenty years ago, in 2003, the NFU presented a detailed report to the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture: Climate Change in Canada: Adaptation and Mitigation. That report warned that the "combination of human-induced climate change, destabilized food production, water shortages, ... and potential economic instability will strain, not only our ability to feed ourselves, but the very foundations of our civilizations." Later that year the NFU's National Convention had as its theme: "Climate Change, Energy, and Agriculture" and featured speakers from across North America.

The NFU continued work on climate issues throughout the 2000s and 2010s. In 2019, the NFU released the first comprehensive look at Canadian agricultural

emissions, emission-reduction solutions, and our possible climate future: Tackling the Farm Crisis and the Climate Crisis. That same year, the NFU was a founding member of the coalition Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS). NFU officials, staff, and members continue to fill multiple roles within FCS. Work by FCS and the NFU led directly to the creation of the federal On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) program and \$600+ million in funding over six years.

In recent years, the NFU created a Climate Committee, where members, officials and staff come together to advance many aspects of our climate work.

The NFU is a leader in this work, but it is not alone. The NFU benefits tremendously by support from allies. NFU climate work receives generous financial support from the Ivey Foundation. FCS coalition members work alongside the NFU in advancing policy initiatives at provincial and federal levels. And the NFU is working to form stronger bonds with the many non-farmer organizations in Canada working on climate policy and emissions reduction. Most important, NFU members continue to support, contribute to, and advance NFU work on climate, adaptation, resilience, and emissions reduction. Thank you.

Find all NFU climate reports by following this link:
<https://www.nfu.ca/campaigns/climate-change/>

Grassroots organizing with La Via Campesina

Nettie Wiebe Joined First School of Popular Peasant Feminism in Mozambique

A report from NFU's International Program Committee (IPC)



From March 7-14, 2023, Nettie Wiebe joined women of La Via Campesina member organizations from 39 countries across 10 regions for the First School of Popular Peasant Feminism near Maputo, Mozambique. Returning to Mozambique was significant as this was where, during La Via Campesina's V International Conference in 2008, the movement launched the "Campaign to End Violence Against Women".

Women have always played a key role in shaping La Via Campesina's food sovereignty, ecological care, defence of peasant seeds, peasant rights and social justice struggles. The recognition that this seminal work is more challenging and dangerous for women in the context of patriarchal discrimination, inequalities and gender-based violence gave rise to the articulation of Popular Peasant

Feminism at the following VI International Conference, which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2013.

The goals for this school in Mozambique were to continue deepening the construction of Popular Peasant Feminism; to understand the keys to resisting oppression and violence, and to build strategies to overcome them; to train grassroots education facilitators (of formation); to exchange experiences of struggle and ways of regional organization, with the purpose of strengthening the Women's Articulation and La Via Campesina in general.

A week of collective, highly interactive work included spirited discussions, group work, speakers, films, mysticas, theatre of the oppressed using techniques of improvisation – along with lots of dancing, music, cultural exchanges and laughter. All of this strengthened bonds of solidarity, deepened analysis and fortified global peasant feminist activism.

From Mons to the World: Celebrating 30 years of globalizing peasant struggles and solidarity

By Annette Desmarais



NFU member, Annette Desmarais, on stage at La Via Campesina's 30th anniversary celebration in Brussels

On May 15, 2023, La Via Campesina (LVC) marked its 30th anniversary with a celebration in Brussels. What a wonderful celebration— we heard from LVC leaders around the world who joined us remotely; there was lively music and great food! The European Coordination of LVC, along with the local Belgium member organisations (Boerenforum, FUGEA and MAP), had planned the day's celebration, which started with a visit by a small delegation to Mons Belgium, where back in 1993, representatives of 45 farm organizations formally constituted LVC. I was so honoured to retrace those steps back to Mons and to share the stage in Brussels with LVC leaders, who spoke of LVC's key accomplishments and about what being part of this transnational agrarian movement has meant for them and their organizations.

I am deeply grateful to the NFU for having asked me to represent them at that very special meeting held in Mons back in 1993. None of us knew then that we were in the process of creating what has now become the world's most powerful transnational agrarian movement. Here are some excerpts from the short talk that I gave in Brussels on this thirtieth anniversary.

What an honour and privilege it is to be here on this very special day. When I began reflecting on some of the major accomplishments of LVC, I remembered the wise words of Marcelo Carreon, a former peasant leader from the state of Quintana Roo Mexico, who once said,

"A peasant comes from the countryside. There have always been peasants. What did not exist before were investors, industrialists, political parties, etc. Peasants have always existed and they will always exist. They will never be abolished."

This refusal to be abolished is one of the most important accomplishments of LVC. In the face of the creeping corporate takeover of agriculture and food, increasing

rural impoverishment, dispossession, and brutal violations of human rights in the countryside, peasants, farmers, women, farm workers and Indigenous peoples in the Global South and Global North coalesced around common concerns. As Pedro Magana, a former leader with UNORCA in Mexico put it:

"We face the same transnational strategy, a strategy of capital accumulation with devastating consequences on people's economies. Our enemy is the same. As farmers, our objective is the same: give to society adequate and healthy food. The common objective of the global struggle, is that the social function of agriculture be recognized, that peasants' rights to produce... be recognized."

By forming LVC, not only were peasants refusing to disappear, but through a whole lot of hard work, they effectively transnationalized and succeeded in carving out political spaces in the international arena. And, LVC continues to fill those spaces with peasant voices, articulating peasant demands and peasant alternatives. How exactly was LVC able not only to refuse to disappear, but how was it able to also become one of the world's most vocal, visible and unified transnational agrarian movement? Rafael Alegria, in an interview said:

"What really unites us is a fundamental commitment to humanism, because the antithesis of this is individualism and materialism. For us in La Via Campesina the human aspect is a fundamental principle, this is at the centre of our reason for being and this is what we struggle for — for this family that is at the centre of all. Common problems unite us. But what also unites us are great aspirations. What unites us is a spirit of transformation and struggle. We aspire to a better world, a more just world, a more humane world, a world where real equality and social justice exist. These aspirations and solidarity in rural struggles keep us united in the Via Campesina."

Through persistent solidarity, a commitment to unity within diversity, a lot of hard work, tenacity and courage, as well as a strong and vibrant imagination, LVC gifted the world the very powerful idea of food sovereignty. In doing so, the movement succeeded in changing the terms of the debate, prompting people to understand that change is possible and inspiring people everywhere to join the struggles for food system transformation. There is no doubt that the gift of food sovereignty is a philosophy that continues to shape the ways we think about and relate to food, agriculture, and the ways we relate to one another around the world. I am so proud to be an associate member of the NFU, an organization that has played a key leadership role in LVC for decades.

Farmer Mental Health: Field Notes

Looking Upstream at the Farmer Mental Health Crisis in Canada

By Zsafia Mendly-Zambo, NFU Mental Health Working Group Chair

The NFU's Mental Health Working Group announces the upcoming publication of a new report on the upstream impacts on farmers' mental health. Recent efforts to provide mental health supports are crucial for the health and well-being of farmers; however they remain focused on addressing the downstream impacts of the problem and not the underlying or upstream causes of poor farmer mental health. This report, by NFU Mental Health Working Group Chair, Zsafia Mendly-Zambo, PhD candidate at York University, provides an overview of the upstream contributors to the mental health crisis to inform future research and policy action.

To understand the key underlying or upstream causes of poor mental health in the farming sector, a literature review was conducted and was followed by interviews and focus groups with members of the NFU.

Participants who were not able to attend focus groups were invited to contribute input via survey (total n=21).

At the heart of the farmer mental health crisis is the farmer income crisis and pervasive economic uncertainty and precarity. Key factors contributing to economic precarity of farmers and farm workers include unfettered corporate concentration in the food sector, consolidation and financialization of farmland, climate change, and trade liberalization. Input from the National Farmers Union revealed additional factors that contribute to poor mental health including economic and knowledge barriers to farming, intensified political polarization within rural communities, racism, and violence against women. Burnout and lack of ancillary and core healthcare services were also noted as contributors to stress.

Based on these findings, this report makes Six Recommendations:

1. Implement policies which enhance economic stability for farmers and farm workers
2. Continue and enhance supports to farmers transitioning to sustainable farming practices
3. Include food sovereignty in the federal goals for agriculture
4. Rebuild rural infrastructure
5. Address on-going discrimination and violence in the farming sector
6. Expand access to mental health care for farmers and support existing farm organizations that are providing support, advocacy, and research.

Meaningful action is needed to improve the living and working conditions of Canadian farmers. A comprehensive approach that considers the upstream drivers of farmer mental health will help foster a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector while improving the well-being of farmers across Canada.

We hope you will watch for the publication of this report coming out October 5th and read it in its entirety. Then please let us know what you think!

In Memory of...



Franklin "Grant" Sedgwick

Grant passed away at the age of 89 on April 17, 2023 at the Rosetown and District Health Centre after a short illness. Grant farmed for many years in the Greenan District, northwest of Elrose, SK. Grant was a charter member of the NFU for many years and served as President

of Local 609. He enjoyed farming, family and community and was an avid fastball player at Green-an. In addition to the NFU, Grant was involved in War-time and Plato Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Committees, the Greenan Community Club and the Fairview PFRA. www.shanidarfuneralservices.com/obituary/FranklinGrant-SEDGWICK

Isabella Proven

Isabella passed away at the age of 99 on April 10, 2023. Isabella was a Registered Nurse and with her husband Harold Proven, raised five sons on the homestead which they farmed for thirty years. She took an active part in the NFU, and numerous Peace Conferences. In

1972 Isabella and Harold travelled to China as part of the first official agricultural delegation from Canada. Later, Isabella was an NFU delegate to the 15th Triennial Conference of Associated Country Women of the World in Nairobi, Kenya. https://passages.brandonsun.com/passage-details/id-315957/PROVEN_ISABELLA/



NFU Lobbying on Parliament Hill

Lobbying par l'UNF sur la Colline parlementaire

November 22nd, 2023. Le 22 novembre 2023

Join NFU members from across the country on November 22 as we converge on Parliament Hill! With free training and staff support, NFU members will take key issues to MPs and Senators. Each participant will choose from one of four topics:

Farmland

opposing farmland investment company ownership of Canadian land

Farm Workers' Freedom of Association

right to join a union and have collective bargaining rights for all farm workers

Seed

protecting Canada's public-interest seed regulatory system

Climate change

establishing the Canadian Farm Resilience Administration, a multi-faceted federal body to help farmers to adapt to and mitigate climate change

Rejoignez les membres de l'UNF de tout le pays lorsque nous convergerons sur la Colline parlementaire le 22 novembre ! Une formation gratuite et le soutien du personnel permettront d'organiser des rencontres entre l'UNF, les députés et les sénateurs. Chaque participant de l'UNF choisira l'un des quatre thèmes :

Terres agricoles

s'opposer à la propriété des entreprises d'investissement dans les terres agricoles canadiennes

Liberté d'association des travailleurs agricoles

le droit d'adhérer à un union et de bénéficier de droits de négociation collective pour tous les travailleurs agricoles

Questions relatives aux semences

protéger le système de réglementation des semences d'intérêt public du Canada

Changement Climat

d'établir un organisme fédéral à multiples facettes pour aider les fermiers à s'adapter au changement climatique et à l'atténuer

Our policy "asks" for each of these four topics are currently being fine-tuned and will support our conversations with the politicians.

Training: A free on-line training on how to have successful meetings and background information for each topic will be offered in October and November. This is mandatory - and will be useful for all of your future advocacy efforts.

Action on the Hill: Our lobbying efforts will be amplified by a demonstration on Parliament Hill the same day, November 22nd. Organized by NFU farm workers and Youth, the action will help the public and media connect to the policies we'll be bringing to legislators. Everyone is welcome to join when they aren't lobbying. More details to follow.

You won't want to miss being a part of this historic day! To find more in-depth information on the day and topics, you'll want to follow this link: <https://www.nfu.ca/pre-convention-lobby-day-2023/>

In Solidarity is strength!

Les « demandes » sur chacun de ces quatre sujets sont en train d'être affinées alors qu'ils peuvent soutenir nos conversations avec les politiciens.

Formation : Une formation en ligne gratuite sur comment organiser des réunions efficaces et les informations de base sur les thèmes spécifiques du lobbying sera offerte en octobre et en novembre. Cette formation obligatoire sera utile pour tous vos futurs efforts de travail de plaidoyer.

Action sur la colline : Nos efforts de lobbying seront amplifiés par une manifestation sur la Colline parlementaire, qui aura lieu le même jour, le 22 novembre. Organisée par les travailleurs agricoles et les jeunes de l'UNF, cette action permettra au public et aux médias de se familiariser avec les politiques que nous présenterons aux législateurs. Tout le monde est invité à se joindre à l'action lorsqu'ils ne sont pas en train de faire du lobbying. Plus de détails suivront.

Vous ne voudrez pas manquer cette journée historique ! Pour obtenir des informations plus détaillées sur la journée et les thèmes abordés, vous pouvez suivre ce lien : <https://www.nfu.ca/fr/pre-convention-lobby-day-2023/>
La solidarité, c'est la force !

Attend the NFU's Annual Convention!

Joignez-vous à la Convention annuelle de l'UNF!

NFU's 54th Annual Convention in Ottawa is one **you will not want to miss!** Following the energizing actions from Lobby Day on Wed. Nov 22nd, the NFU's 3-day convention includes:

- **Informative panels**
- **Lively debate on resolutions** from across the country
- **Electing your leadership** for the 2023-2024 year
- In-person **Indigenous Learning Circle**
- **Pub Night with allied organizations**
- Interactive sessions for **organizing and building collective energy**
- **Local Food Feast** by Ottawa Area NFU farmers
- **Dance with a live local band, awards, and jam session** (BYO instrument)

La 54e Convention annuelle dans la capitale de la nation est **l'une que ne voudrez pas manquer** ! Suite aux actions énergisantes de la journée de lobbying, voici le programme de la convention de 3 jours, qui comprend :

- **Des panels informatifs**
- **Des débats animés sur des résolutions** d'à travers le pays
- **Élection de votre leadership** pour l'année 2023-2024
- **Cercle d'apprentissage autochtone** en personne
- **Soirée au Pub** avec les organisations alliées
- **Sessions interactives** d'organiser et construire une énergie collective.
- **Festin d'aliments locaux** par des fermiers de l'UNF de la région d'Ottawa
- **Danse avec orchestre locale**, prix et session de jam (apportez vos instruments)

OTTAWA, ON NOV. 23-25, 2023 NFU.CA



<https://www.nfu.ca/2023convention/>



FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Fatima Syed, Mississauga-based climate journalist with The Narwhal.



EN VEDETTE CONFÉRENCIÈRE PRINCIPALE

Fatima Syed, journaliste sur le climat et basée à Mississauga avec « The Narwhal. »

This annual gathering is your opportunity to catch up with new and old NFU members from all across the country. As farmers and farmworkers, we know from direct experience that these times are turbulent. At this convention, take part in the democratic practices to advance pro-farmer policies and put the Future of Farming: In Our Hands.

Ce rassemblement annuel est également votre opportunité de rencontrer de membres nouveaux ou de longue date de l'UNF d'à travers tout le pays. En tant que fermiers et travailleurs agricoles, nous savons bien que les temps sont turbulents. À cette convention, participez dans notre union diverse qui renforce nos communautés, qui développe des politiques saines et qui a l'Avenir de nos fermes entre nos mains.

Book your stay / Réservez votre chambre :

Holiday Inn Ottawa East, 1199 Joseph Cyr, Ottawa, ON K1J7T4

CALL / COMPOSEZ LE : 1-613-744-1060 to book your hotel room / pour réserver votre chambre d'hôtel

Use block code / Utilisez le code pour le bloque de chambre: NFU

Book your hotel room by October 21st to receive the NFU Convention rate of \$149/night (plus tax) for a double queen, or single queen. **Réservez votre chambre d'hôtel avant le 21 octobre** pour recevoir le taux de la Convention de l'UNF de 149 \$/nuit (plus taxe) pour un ou deux grands lits (queen).

In Memory of...



Egon Boehm

Egon Boehm, one of NFU's first members passed away on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. Egon was a farmer through and through and lived on the same parcel of land near Allan for all his 89 years. After the kids were born, Egon and his wife Kathy worked extremely hard to build up and improve the farm. Egon designed and constructed numerous machines and remained an active farmer, repairing and running co-mbines, tractors and heavy

trucks until he was 86. Along with work he periodically brushed up his musical skills, playing the accordion at nursing homes and hospitals. To share memories of Egon or send condolences, please visit www.mourningglory.ca. Read Egon's full Obituary here: <https://thestarphoenix.remembering.ca/obituary/egon-boehm-1088433371>



Helen Schmitt

Helen and her husband Joe Schmitt farmed both grain and livestock together in the Carrot River area, for over 50 years. Helen was very active in the community, involved with the NFU, New Democratic Party, 4-H, and Jordan River Ladies Club, to mention a few. Read her full obituary here: <https://paragonfuneralservices.com/tribute/details/2122/Helen-Schmitt/obituary.html>

Getting to know the National Farmers Foundation

The National Farmers Foundation (NFF) is an independent, farmer-led, charitable organization dedicated to the promotion, creation, and enhancement of food systems based on the principles of food sovereignty: sustainability, equity, and justice. Through research, education, and projects we support farmers and food provisioners, workers, and rural communities in Canada. Through our close and long-standing partnership, the NFF seeks to strengthen the work of the NFU and the progressive farm movement in Canada.

Currently the NFF is in the process of growing our board of directors and developing the capacity to not only expand our research and education efforts on the need for food sovereignty, but also to equip ourselves with the necessary knowledge, social capital, and relationships to effectively implement a much-needed alternative land tenure model.

Some of the projects that we have partnered with the NFU on this past year include the youth retreat in Nova. In addition, the NFF and the NFU are engaged in a shared fundraising initiative to build regional capacity for community organizing and engagement with a focus

on local and regional issues. Half of the funds raised through this campaign, called "The World We Want" stay in the NFU Regions to support local organizing efforts, and the other half support the NFU National.

The majority of the NFF's donations are received from NFU members, and we are deeply grateful for this support. We could not do this work without you. As a registered charity, the NFF issues charitable tax receipts for all donations of \$10 or more. If you are in a position to give, please consider making an online donation at www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/national-farmers-foundation/. For more information or to discuss other ways to support our work, please get in touch with the NFF Coordinator at wyanne@nationalfarmersfoundation.ca



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