

THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
L'UNION NATIONALE DES FERMIERS

FALL 2025
L'AUTOMNE 2025

UNION FARMER

UNION FERMIERÈ



THE EXCHANGE
participants and
BIPOC Caucus
collaborate on
knowledge-sharing
events (Page 2 & 4)

Les participants de
L'ÉCHANGE et le
Caucus PANDC
collaborent à des
événements de
partage des
connaissances
(pages 2 et 4).

THE L'ÉCHANGE

Cultivating Diversity in Agriculture

cultiver la diversité dans l'agriculture

THE EXCHANGE welcomed its second cohort of 20 equity-deserving farmers in April 2025, offering a space of co-creation, professional development, and knowledge exchange that supports career advancement, learning and community-building in agriculture. Cohort 2 attends monthly knowledge exchange meetings online and has already participated in two regional farm tours in-person.

Cohort members, Indigenous leaders, and Exchange staff, from Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia visited two farms in British Columbia on May 30-31, including Full Moon Farm & Studio on Gabriola Island and Minwaadizi Farm on Vancouver Island. A water ceremony held by Indigenous Solidarity Working Group (ISWG) co-chairs, Natasha Anderson and Celeste Smith, was a particular highlight as the cohort set intentions under the welcomed rain. Demonstrations of Indigenous food sovereignty in action taught us about how to collaborate and work towards decolonization in agriculture.

Exchange participants also attended an interprovincial meetup on June 24 in Quebec and Ontario where they connected with BIPOC caucus leadership and allies from EFAO, Just Food! and FoodShare. They travelled together across provincial lines to visit La Ferme des Saveurs Tropicales in L'Ange-Gardien, QC and Urban Fresh Produce in Nepean, ON.

Exchange meetups bring people together to build relationships and share sustainable farming practices. What's next? Cohort members will gather in New Brunswick this November for a national gathering in conjunction with the Youth Retreat & NFU's Convention. To learn more, go to www.nfu.ca/theexchange.



L'ÉCHANGE a accueilli sa deuxième cohorte de 20 fermiers méritants en avril 2025, leur offrant un espace de co-crédation, de développement professionnel et d'échange de connaissances qui favorise l'avancement professionnel, l'apprentissage et le développement communautaire dans le domaine de l'agriculture. La Cohorte 2 participe à des réunions mensuelles d'échange de connaissances en ligne et a déjà pris part à deux visites régionales de fermes en personne.

Les membres de la cohorte, les leaders autochtones et le personnel d'Échange, originaires de l'Ontario, du Québec et de la Colombie-Britannique, ont visité deux fermes en Colombie-Britannique les 30 et 31 mai, notamment « Full Moon Farm & Studio » sur l'île Gabriola et « Minwaadizi Farm » sur l'île de Vancouver. Une cérémonie de l'eau organisée par les coprésidentes du groupe de travail de la solidarité avec les peuples autochtones Natasha Anderson et Celeste Smith, a été un moment particulièrement marquant, la cohorte ayant défini ses intentions sous une pluie bienvenue. Des démonstrations de la souveraineté alimentaire autochtone en action nous ont appris comment collaborer et œuvrer à la décolonisation dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

Les participants à l'Échange ont également assisté à une rencontre interprovinciale le 24 juin au Québec et en Ontario, où ils ont rencontré les dirigeants du caucus PANDC et leurs alliés de l'EFAO, « Just Food! » et « FoodShare ». Ils ont voyagé ensemble à travers les frontières provinciales pour visiter La Ferme des Saveurs Tropicales, à L'Ange-Gardien, au Québec, et « Urban Fresh Produce » à Nepean, en Ontario.

Les rencontres d'échange favorisent l'établissement de relations et le partage de compétences sur différentes façons de pratiquer l'agriculture de manière durable. Quelle est la prochaine étape ? Les membres du groupe se réuniront au Nouveau-Brunswick en novembre pour un rassemblement national organisé en marge de la retraite pour les jeunes et de la Convention de l'UNF. Pour en savoir plus, visitez : www.nfu.ca/theexchange.

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A Message from... Un message de...

Jenn Pfenning

*NFU President,
Présidente de l'UNF*

Tariff escalations and threats of annexation have made the 2025 political scene as hot as the wildfires that have been burning across the country. **Rising to the challenge, the NFU turns every crisis into an opportunity to advance our vision of a people-centred and ecologically sustainable food system.**

The collapse of Canada's relationship with its biggest trading partner has underscored themes that we've talked about for decades: the importance of local food supply, human rights and dignity for the people who farm and work on farms, and the value of food sovereignty. Our members created a robust response to the tariffs by pulling from well established NFU policies that will strengthen our economy and increase its resilience.

I hand-delivered the very first draft of our nation-building tariff response to Mark Carney back in February during his leadership campaign. Now that Carney is Prime Minister the NFU continues to stress that rebuilding local markets and production capacity is superior to prioritizing free trade deals with an authoritarian US administration. We've also responded with alarm to Carney's cabinet mandate letter and its lack of reference to strengthening Canada's food and agriculture policy, the introduction of a Trump-lite Strong Borders Act (Bill C-2), and by a recent attempt to undermine farmers' right to produce and reproduce their own seeds. We must bring our communities together to demand that now is the time for policies that put farmers and eaters above corporate profits.

And what better way to gather than by attending our first ever Convention in New Brunswick this November (see page 11)! Let's learn how our NB members are advancing food sovereignty. Let's strategize on how to ensure our government hears our rational proposals for defending our food supply as farming underpins our very sovereignty. The seeds of the world we want will germinate at this convention. See you there!



NFU President Jenn Pfenning with Prime Minister Mark Carney
Présidente de l'UNF Jenn Pfenning avec le Premier Ministre.

Les hausses tarifaires et les menaces d'annexion ont rendu la scène politique de 2025 aussi brûlante que les incendies qui ravagent actuellement le pays. **Relevant le défi, l'UNF transforme chaque crise en une occasion de faire progresser notre vision d'un système alimentaire centré sur les personnes et écologiquement durable.**

L'effondrement des relations entre le Canada et son principal partenaire commercial a mis en évidence des thèmes dont nous parlons depuis des décennies : l'importance de l'approvisionnement alimentaire local, les droits humains et la dignité des personnes qui cultivent et travaillent dans les fermes, ainsi que la valeur de la souveraineté alimentaire. Nos membres ont réagi avec force aux droits de douane en s'appuyant sur les politiques bien établies de l'UNF qui renforceront notre économie et augmenteront sa résilience.

J'ai remis en mains propres la toute première ébauche de notre réponse tarifaire pour la solidarité nationale à Mark Carney en février dernier, pendant sa campagne pour la direction du parti. Maintenant que Carney est Premier ministre, nous continuons à insister sur le fait que la reconstruction des marchés locaux et des capacités de production est préférable à la priorité accordée aux accords de libre-échange avec une administration américaine autoritaire.

Nous avons également réagi avec inquiétude à la lettre de mandat au cabinet de Carney et à l'absence de référence au renforcement de la politique alimentaire et agricole du Canada, à l'introduction d'une loi sur la sécurité des frontières (projet de loi C-2) inspirée de celle de Trump, et à une récente tentative (en anglais seulement) de porter atteinte au droit des agriculteurs de produire et de reproduire leurs propres semences. Nous devons rassembler nos communautés pour exiger que le moment est venu de mettre en place des politiques qui accordent aux fermiers et aux consommateurs préséance avant les profits des entreprises.

Et quoi de mieux pour se rencontrer que d'assister à notre toute première Convention au Nouveau-Brunswick en novembre prochain ! Venons découvrir comment nos membres du Nouveau-Brunswick font progresser la souveraineté alimentaire. Élaborons des stratégies pour nous assurer que notre gouvernement entende nos propositions rationnelles visant à défendre notre approvisionnement alimentaire, car l'agriculture est le fondement même de notre souveraineté. Les graines du monde que nous voulons germeront lors de cette Convention. Au plaisir de vous y voir !

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National Farmers Union Canada

A Message from...



Adama Bundu
NFU Youth President



Paul Wartman
NFU Youth Staff

After the Youth Retreat and National Convention in November 2024, the Youth Caucus entered 2025 with renewed connections and energy!

In addition to our twice-a-month meetings to work on the Youth Caucus's strategic buckets of work, youth members were busy on multiple fronts from coast to coast, including:

- Participating in the Migrant Day of Action.
- Contributing to the Young Agrarians' National Policy Jam in Ontario.
- Co-organizing six agroecology exchanges and launching a land access survey in Nova Scotia.
- Learning with peers in the Organizing 4 Power's Core Fundamentals course.
- Welcoming the 1st and 2nd cohort of the NFU's Exchange Program, and connecting young and equity-deserving farmers with farm mentors.
- Hosting three "Relax and Flex" virtual spaces to listen to podcasts together and stretch.
- Finalizing a poster and newsletter project in Saskatchewan, and leading a "How-To Campaign" workshop in Alberta.
- Facilitating tariff town halls in British Columbia.

After a summer of hands in the soil, NFU youth members are now gathering to plan the 2025 in-person Youth Retreat which will be held in the days before the National Convention in New Brunswick. At the retreat we will deepen friendships and build our collective strength.

All youth members (18 - 35 years old) are welcome to join us! Whether you are a farm worker, part of a multi-generational farm family or farm cooperative, or an associate member, we need your ideas and energy. The Youth Caucus is a great place to connect and work on projects related to young farmers and farm workers. It's also a spot to be introduced to the powerful work of the broader NFU, the committees, caucuses, boards, working groups, and more. Email Adama and Paul at nfuyouth@nfu.ca to be added to our email list!

A Message from...



Claire Pertulla
NFU BIPOC President



Sun Shan
NFU BIPOC Vice-President

This year, the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) caucus has been organizing in-person gatherings and brainstorming ways to continue sharing and collecting stories and memories. We successfully organized gatherings in regions 8, 5, 3, and 1. We were excited to have collaborated with the Exchange to partner on some of these gatherings.

At the end of May, there was a small gathering in Vancouver at an Ethiopian restaurant. At the end of June, the caucus along with the Exchange participants had a field day in the Ottawa area in Region 3. Our hosts were Jean-Pierre Bayalla and his family at La Ferme des Saveurs Tropicales in L'Ange-Gardien, Quebec, and Urban Fresh Produce, a farm run by Chadwick Lewis in south Ottawa. Jean-Pierre patiently answered everyone's questions and showed off some tricky-to-grow crops for this climate, like bitterleaf and sugarcane. Chadwick presented some new infrastructure projects. Both hosts spoke openly about the financial and operational challenges of running a farm, as well as the added pressures and complexities they navigate as BIPOC farmers, but also the strength and creativity that keep these farms going.

These gatherings remind us how valuable it is to have spaces where people can speak candidly, learn from each other, and share knowledge that doesn't always show up in written guides. These kinds of exchanges feel rare— and much needed.

We're looking forward to sharing a zine that will feature photos and reflections from both these exchanges and gatherings from Regions 5 and 1. It will be released at the NFU's National Convention in November. If you have something you'd like to share from this season— photos, songs, stories, tips, or anything else— please add them to the drive or email them to bipocpresident@nfu.ca.



NFUUniversity



Coming January - April 2026: Learn deeply with regular webinars featuring experts in agriculture policy, climate and society. www.nfu.ca/nfuniversity/



A Message from... **Cady Foreman** *NFU Women's President*

This season, several issues hit close to home for the Women's Caucus. Seemingly overnight, an Albertan Chicken Processing plant shut down. Concurrently, Alberta announced changes to their On Farm Slaughter Operation program, dramatically reducing slaughter volumes. While meant to thwart regulation violations, it also caused great grief for those in compliance.

At the time of this writing, proposed changes are paused but precarity remains. The Caucus is supporting Alberta in launching a campaign to promote and protect small scale producers' operations.

The Women's Caucus remains steadfast in declaring Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) an epidemic in Canada. Farming women often live in rural areas, which means they are remote and lack adequate access to services.

The Women's Caucus will be hosting an on-line IPV discussion on October 30, 2025 with Pamela Cross, author of *And Sometimes They Kill You: Confronting the Epidemic of Intimate Partner Violence*. Please join us!

The Caucus is growing and there's always room for more involvement. Members are resourceful and intelligent, and staff is there every step of the way to bring policy action to fruition— email us to take part womenspresident@nfu.ca!

Women's Caucus Representative Attends Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Convention

Content Warning: Contains Discussion on Sexual Violence

In May of this year, I had the pleasure and privilege of representing the Women's Caucus of the NFU at the Canada Area Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), in Langford, British Columbia. The ACWW is an international umbrella organization made up of member societies, including the NFU, committed to empowering and improving the lives of rural women globally.

Over three days conference-goers experienced workshops and presentations, and shared meals and activities with other women from across Canada. These included a workshop on the importance of soil health with a permaculture design specialist and a presentation by author and historian, Ruth Fenner, whose book, with co-author Helen Geissinger, celebrates the life of Madge Watt, who was instrumental in forming the ACWW, in solidarity with women from other countries. Watt was recently named a Person of National Historic Significance in Canadian history.

We also heard from the former leader of the Green Party of BC, Sonia Furstenu. Furstenu spoke about concerned community members, especially women, who successfully halted the dumping of toxic waste in a sensitive BC watershed after four years of committed activism. Furstenu's message was that we should never give up without a fight.

Representatives of the Women's Institutes from across Canada also reported on the inspiring work they have been doing to support women and girls,

families and communities, including by fundraising for local bursaries, educational scholarships, and medical charities.

ACWW Conference attendees also connected with BC Women's Institutes (BCWI) who advocate for the victims of sexual assault. The BCWI have been working to address the disturbing statistic that 83% of sexual assaults are not reported to police. What could be done to provide support so that women who report and are willing to go to court have more meaningful outcomes? One reason that so many of these types of cases do not result in convictions is that evidence and testimony are not collected and processed properly when a person comes forward. Furthermore, there is a severe shortage of forensic nurses who are available to properly administer rape kits to collect the evidence required for prosecution. BCWI created the Forensic Nursing Bursary, which has set up a fund to pay for training for forensic nurses. So far BCWI has supported 30 nurses and continues to accept applications to meet this need.

I came away from the conference with a renewed energy to continue advocating on behalf of rural women and partnering with the ACWW. I'm proud that the NFU is a partner organization of the ACWW.

Do you identify as a Woman or Gender-Diverse? Join the Women's Caucus. To learn more and get involved, email womenspresident@nfu.ca



Summer Hansell

Member of the NFU Women's Caucus

Collective Work, Solidarity and Support

NFU Youth President Joins La Via Campesina's (LVC) First International Brigade in Puerto Rico

From June 15th to 25th, I participated in LVC's first International Brigade in Puerto Rico. It was organized by LVC member Organización Boricuá and their national partners. Many people have been asking: **What is a brigade?**

A brigade brings people together to do collective work and build relationships of solidarity and mutual support.

This brigade brought together 23 core participants (plus 4 children) from 15 organizations in 10 countries to do collective work on the land, learn from each other and build international solidarity for food sovereignty.

Over 10 days we brigaded on eight farms at various locations across Puerto Rico. In the mornings, we worked on what farmers needed done: clearing brush, harvesting, weeding, installing new beds, cleaning chicken coops, etc. We often did the hard work that cannot be done alone. We ate collectively and worked side by side, learning about each other's cultures, organizations and national contexts in ways that cannot be replicated in conference halls or Zoom meetings. In the evenings, we had political conversations. We also did field trips to local organizations and to the Josco Bravo Agroecology School.



Organización Boricuá is a vibrant grassroots farmer organization in Puerto Rico. Their members face many of the same challenges as we do in Canada/Turtle Island: corporate concentration, unfair market access, government neglect. And similar to Indigenous nations in Canada, they are fighting colonialism. The island is under occupation from the US government, with legal arrangements that limit food sovereignty and foster dependence on US agribusiness. Importantly, brigades draw attention to the struggle for food sovereignty in Puerto Rico and build international solidarity for the fight for sovereignty and independence everywhere.

I am bringing back many lessons that can be used to strengthen and develop our membership. Email ipccordinator@nfu.ca to learn more and join the International Programs Committee (IPC)!



Adama Bundu

NFU Youth President and IPC Member

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Region 1, District 1 (PEI)

Climate change, trade issues, farmland loss, declining farm population. You name it. We have it all. This will be the third summer in a row that I have seen and smelt forest fire smoke. We have had a dry summer and we need rain now more than ever. As I write we are harvesting blueberries and, although it was a bumper crop, the berries are wilting on the vine.

This spring we met with our agricultural minister Bloyce Thompson to discuss various issues such as farmland loss, encouraging new farmers into agriculture, and monetary incentives such as the ones implemented in Quebec. Thompson mentioned they were looking at a farmland trust model, and that more details would be coming in this fall legislature. We discussed further collaboration with farmers markets to encourage more access for new and existing farmers. We also mentioned the need for a red seal butchery program at the culinary institute.

NFU-PEI members had a great lobster supper again this year with new and old faces. We are also hosting this year's Region 1 convention this fall. More details to come out in our next newsletter and on our new website nfu-pe.com.

Byron Petrie
District Representative



Region 1, District 3 (NS)

Recent reports have confirmed our experiences of years of declining farm profits and a steady drop in the number of Nova Scotia farmers. Amid this challenging news, NFU-NS has remained focused on organizing, learning, and advocacy.

Over the past year, we partnered on several *Eat Think Vote* events, where we hosted political candidate panels on sustainable food systems, putting farmer-led solutions on the public agenda. We are in our second season of hosting agroecology workshops. These workshops are peer-to-peer, farmer-led sessions covering a range of topics from seed saving to making biochar. These gatherings continue to build skills, relationships, and collective momentum.

With these initiatives underway, we're advancing our long-term goal of becoming a Registered Farm Organization, offering a democratic alternative for farm representation in Nova Scotia. To support this work, we've welcomed Paul Wartman to our team as Membership Coordinator, helping to deepen engagement across the province.

Eli Milton
District Representative



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

The NFU New Brunswick held our annual general meeting on March 20th; the theme was Growing rural food and communities. As we were nearby our Legislative Assembly, we invited MLAs to join us for lunch; five Ministers and four MLAs attended and met with our members over a meal.

In May we hosted NB's first Farmers' Market Conference, to bring together market managers, staff, and volunteers who rarely have the opportunity to meet and work together. 17 market representatives attended along with other provincial food systems organizations and government representatives. Discussions included marketing, funding opportunities, and whether NB should create a provincial farmers' market association. A post conference report was released in June and is available on our website.

The NFU- NB is so excited to be hosting NFU's national convention (page 11) for the first time in our province. We are looking forward to welcoming you all in Moncton in November with our well-known Maritime hospitality!

L'UNF Nouveau-Brunswick avait notre assemblée générale annuelle le 20 mars; le thème était Cultiver l'alimentation et les communautés rurales. Puisque nous étions à proximité de l'Assemblée Législative, nous avons invité les députés de nous joindre pour déjeuner; cinq ministres et quatre députés à venu et rencontrer avec nos membres autour d'un repas.

En mai, nous avons organisé la première conférence des marchés fermiers du NB, pour rassembler les gestionnaires, les personnelles, et les bénévoles des marchés qui n'ont aucune opportunité de rencontré et travailler ensemble. 17 représentants des marchés à assisté avec d'autre organisations alimentaires provinciaux et représentants gouvernementaux. Les discussions inclus marketing, les opportunités pour financement, et si N.-B. devrait crée une association des marchés fermiers provinciale. Un rapport post-conférence était distribué en juin et est disponible sur notre site Web.

L'UNF-NB est hâte d'accueillir la convention nationale (page 11) pour la première fois en N.-B. Nous nous attendons avec impatience de vous bienvenue à Moncton en novembre avec hospitalité des provinces Maritimes bien connu!

Suzanne Fournier
NFU-NB Executive Director-Directrice
executive de l'UNF au N.-B.



Region 2 (Québec)

Over the winter of 2025, Region 2 organized three vibrant community events in person and online thanks to the help of two Quebec-based staff members and with membership development funds. On March 29, citizens, farm workers, and farmers gathered in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, for a *Depth of Field* screening of Ferme Tourne Sol, followed by a presentation on the Canadian Farm Resilience Agency (CFRA) and round table discussions. On June 22, the conversation on climate resilience continued in Wakefield, QC, with a screening of *Grazing Days* and another presentation on the CFRA. At both events, discussions spilled over into local eateries. On July 15, Region 2 hosted an online onboarding session for potential members who had signed up at earlier events. An AGM may be on the horizon—stay tuned!

We continue to rally support and engage policy makers in advancing the NFU's CFRA proposal. Want to get involved? Email hakimian@nfu.ca.

Au cours de l'hiver 2025, la Région 2 a organisé trois événements communautaires dynamiques, en personne et en ligne, grâce à l'aide de deux membres du personnel basés au Québec et aux Fonds de développement des adhésions. Le 29 mars, des citoyens, des travailleurs agricoles et des fermiers se sont réunis à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, au Québec, pour assister à la projection du film Ferme Tourne Sol, suivie d'une présentation sur l'Agence canadienne pour la résilience agricole (ACRA) et de tables rondes. Le 22 juin, la conversation sur la résilience climatique s'est poursuivie à Wakefield, au Québec, avec la projection du film Grazing Days et une autre présentation sur l'ACRA. Lors de ces deux événements, les discussions se sont poursuivies dans les restaurants locaux. Le 15 juillet, la Région 2 a organisé une séance d'intégration en ligne pour les membres potentiels qui s'étaient inscrits lors d'événements précédents. Une Assemblée générale annuelle pourrait être prévue prochainement, restez à l'écoute !

La Région 2 continue également de rallier des soutiens et d'impliquer les décideurs politiques dans la promotion de la proposition ACRA de l'UNF. Vous souhaitez vous impliquer ? Envoyez un courriel à hakimian@nfu.ca.

Nasseem Hakimian
Region 2 Organizer /
Organisatrice de la région 2



Region 3 (NFU-Ontario)

This spring the NFU-O consulted with Ontario members on agricultural issues like non-quota egg production, small-scale meat production, and agricultural grants and loans. In the non-quota egg meeting, farm members strategized on how to advance Ontario policy to increase the legal limit for non-quota laying hens, and for the sale of ungraded eggs beyond the farm gate.

Discussions with interested members explored the Chicken Farmers of Ontario's (CFO) Local Niche Market Program and considered what policy supports are needed to help small-scale pork, beef, goat, and lamb producers in Ontario succeed.

In these meetings, farmers received grant writing tips for accessing diverse funding opportunities to help support farm businesses, protect natural heritage, and meet human resource needs. The meetings provided spaces for farmer-to-farmer education and strategic policy advocacy discussions, working to strengthen the viability of Ontario's mid-scale farms by addressing pressing province-wide challenges.

Max Hansgen
NFU-Ontario President



Region 5 (Manitoba)

Thanks to a successful fundraising campaign, the NFU-MB has hired a part-time organizer, Leanna Wiebe, to strengthen regional capacity and deepen member engagement. The NFU-MB meat producers' group is developing a survey to collect data on small-scale meat production. In collaboration with partner organizations, this initiative aims to support evidence-based policy changes in Manitoba.

A new writing support working group has applied for grant funding to guide strategic planning and produce articles that raise awareness of NFU-MB important initiatives and positions in the province. To further enhance communications, a bi-monthly newsletter has also been introduced. This year's monthly Zoom gatherings offer members opportunities to connect and learn. Each session includes a presentation and group discussion on topics such as small-scale meat production, seed sovereignty, and regenerative agriculture.

Leanna is actively reaching out to members through farm visits and phone calls, and is connecting with other organizations to explore opportunities for collaboration. Our ultimate goal is to be officially recognized as a general farm organization in Manitoba so that farmers have a choice in the voice that represents their farm and interests.

Matthew Weins
Region 5 Representative



Region 6 (Saskatchewan)

As our forests burn, as agribusiness and related organizations abandon sustainability goals, as migrants and immigrants are mistreated, as inequalities accelerate locally and globally, and as humans die needlessly from war and hunger, the NFU is ever more important to our hopes for a saner world.

We are frequently at odds with provincial interests unwilling to reconsider the current trajectory of slow-motion ecocide and rural community destruction. We argue for justice and provide counternarratives on land, water, climate, trade, and development.

To bolster connection, we have added a social gathering and story sharing to our convention, organized farm visits, and launched a regional newsletter (see R6 page on the NFU Website).

We have added members to our Region 6 council and broadened the invitation to attend. This spring, along with NFU personnel, Region 6 leadership visited Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada AAFC at Indian Head (and viewed remnants of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration tree nursery there) and connected with leaders of several agricultural initiatives at Kahkewistahaw First Nation, north of Broadview. Kahkewistahaw First Nation now have an NFU membership! We look forward to more enriching exchanges with them and with you!

Michael Gertler
Region 6 Representative



Region 7 (Alberta)

Here in Alberta, we continue on with our monthly Zoom meetings and seek to hear from the NFU Alberta members on their concerns for farming and farmers in the region and the rural issues that the NFU needs to address. Notices of these meetings are sent to all members by email, and efforts are ongoing to ensure everyone has the opportunity to stay informed and add their voice.

This year has seen several successful events across the province: a Depth of Field film festival with both live and online presentations; a town hall addressing Alberta Coal Policy, and Carbon Capture and Storage; and a young farmers skills training camp at Davey Creek Ranch which focused on fence building.

On August 2nd, we held our Regional Convention in Bowden. Jenn Pfenning, NFU President, and Phillip Meintzer, from the Polluter Pays Project were our in-person guest speakers. Opportunities remain open for Region 7 members who are interested in stepping into leadership roles as directors or representatives.



Glenn Norman
Region 7 Representative

Region 8 (British Columbia)

Land continues to be a central focus for NFU members in BC. The Farmland and Foodlands Coalition has been consulting with communities across the province regarding a swell of farmland trusts and farmland access projects being undertaken by local governments. In addition to supporting their efforts, we hope to magnify the impact of this movement by sharing the NFU's systemic analysis and creating opportunities to have deeper conversations about transforming our relationships to, and governance of, land in ways that truly support life. The theme of this year's regional convention was Building Farmer Power: The revitalization of Farmers Institutes in BC and working together to strengthen farmer-led advocacy.

An NFU delegation will be attending the Organic BC conference together in November, and co-facilitating two interactive sessions on the topic of solidarity. We have a few spots open in our shared accommodations if you would like to join us— email dwyer@nfu.ca.

Hannah Dwyer
Region 8 Staff



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Two age categories: 15 to 21 years old, & 22 to 30 years old.

Deadline: November 8, 2025.

Receiving the award: The prizes will be awarded at the NFU Convention 19-21 November 2025.

Rural Vermont 2025 Short Course in People's Agroecology

I was one of 5 NFU delegates who travelled to Vermont from August 7-13 for the 2025 Short Course in People's Agroecology hosted by Rural Vermont and the People's Agroecology School of Vermont. The short course was an opportunity to gather with international agroecological allies for a series of on-farm work brigades, political education events, and farmer knowledge exchange.

Together we prepared meals, washed dishes, spread compost, harvested fruit, shared political strategy, engaged in ceremony and so much more— all with our ancestors, teachers, and those who are resisting starvation, war and genocide, particularly the Palestinian people, in our hearts.

Farm brigades allow us to learn firsthand about the challenges farmers face, offer our support, and exchange ideas over shared labour. When farmers from Canada, the US, Puerto Rico, Pakistan and all over the world get together, we find our struggles are connected and we develop strategies towards our collective liberation.



From left to right: Gab Ayles, Terran Giacomini, Jackie Clark, Ayla Fenton, Sarah Marquis



Jackie Clark

Member of the International Programs Committee

Members Only Page!

Visit nfu.ca/membersonly and enter password **nfu2024** to access valuable resources on NFU history, advocacy, and how to get organized.

What does agrarian reform look like?

NFU Representative, Celeste Smith, Joins an International Delegation to the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM) Annual Meeting in Brasilia, Brazil

From June 9-13, 2025, I attended the annual meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM) for the Committee on World Food Security in Brasilia, Brazil. The CSIPM is the largest international coalition of civil society organizations (CSOs) working to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition in coordination with the institutions of the United Nations. I attended in my capacity as the North American Focal Point for the CSIPM and as a representative of the NFU.

As an Indigenous farmer and land steward, I was inspired by the ongoing struggle of Brazil's agrarian reformers to uphold Indigenous rights to traditional lands that are enshrined within Brazil's constitution. The farmers I met have been steadfast in making their government understand that the need for food sovereignty begins at home— with small-scale family farmers and cooperatives.

The tireless organizers for food sovereignty and agrarian reform in Brazil and around the world taught me that the international movement for agrarian reform and Land Back in Canada are connected. Both are key to the protection of Indigenous rights and food sovereignty for all.

Celeste Smith

Co-chair of the International Programs Committee



Meet us in the Maritimes!

Venez nous rencontrer aux Maritimes

2025 National Convention nationale

The NFU national convention is making its way east! We are thrilled to be hosting the National Convention in Moncton, New Brunswick for the first time in the history of the Union. Join us for three days of policy debates shaped by members, leadership elections, inspiring speakers, including a NFU-NB panel on local food sovereignty initiatives, collective action planning, and plenty of opportunities to (re)connect. On Thursday night, get ready to get your toes tapping to regional Acadian celtic music by La Famille Leblanc.

Convention is your chance to help shape the future of farming— and have fun while doing it!

La convention nationale de l'UNF être arrivée à l'Est ! Nous sommes ravis d'accueillir la convention nationale à Moncton, au Nouveau-Brunswick, pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'Union. Joignez-vous pour trois jours de débats politiques sur des questions soulevées par les membres, élections des dirigeants, (re)nouer des liens, danse et musique, conférenciers inspirants incluant un groupe de discussion sur les initiatives locales de souveraineté alimentaire animé par l'UNF au N.-B. Jeudi soir, préparez-vous à faire taper du pied au rythme de la musique celtique acadienne régionale par La Famille Leblanc.

La convention est l'occasion de participer à façonner l'avenir agricole tout en nous y amusant !

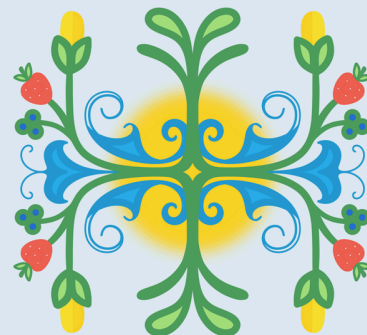
FOOD. SOVEREIGNTY. JUSTICE.

★ Building Collective Strategies

Moncton, N.-B. • NFU 56th Annual Convention annuelle • November 19-21 novembre

ALIMENTATION. SOUVERAINETÉ. JUSTICE.

★ Développer des stratégies collectives



Keynote speakers Charlie Angus, author, journalist, broadcaster, musician and former NDP MP, alongside his partner Brit Griffin, investigative journalist/ editor, cli-fi novelist, and dedicated feminist and environmental activist **will share their over 40 years of shared progressive struggle to inspire us to make our own 56-year-old farm movement stronger than ever.**

Charlie Angus, auteur, journaliste, animateur radio, musicien et ancien député du NPD, ainsi que sa compagne Brit Griffin, journaliste d'investigation/rédactrice en chef, romancière cli-fi et militante féministe et environnementale engagée, se joignent à nous en tant que **conférenciers principaux** lors de la Convention nationale de cette année. **Les plus de 40 ans de lutte progressiste commune de Brit et Charlie nous inspireront à rendre notre mouvement de ferme vieille de 56 ans, plus forte que jamais.**

We acknowledge the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Government of Prince Edward Island, and the Government of Canada as funder of this keynote address. Nous remercions le Partenariat canadien pour l'agriculture durable, le gouvernement de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard et le gouvernement du Canada pour le financement pour ce discours liminaire.

Book your stay/Réservez votre chambre:

Crowne Plaza, Moncton, NB, 1005 Main St, E1C 1G9

CALL OR EMAIL / ENVOYEZ UN COURRIEL OU APPELEZ : 1-506-854-6340 or email reservations@cpmonton.com

Use NFU Block Code DWN Utilisez le code DWN

Book your hotel rooms by October 20th to receive our convention rate of \$169/night (plus tax). Avec la réduction de groupe, les tarifs des chambres sont de 144 \$ à 194 \$ si vous réservez avant le 20 octobre 2025.

Take part in the action— and bring a friend. Can't attend in person? Join us online! For more info, go to www.nfu.ca/2025convention

Participez à l'action et amenez un.e ami.e. Si vous ne pouvez pas vous y rendre en personne, rejoignez-nous en ligne ! Pour plus d'informations, visitez le site www.nfu.ca/2025convention.

Leave a Legacy

or support in other easy ways

You may have noticed from the regional reports an increase in capacity across the country; this is thanks to **your financial support!** Greater regional capacity means more membership engagement, more knowledge sharing and training for the farming public, and more organizing opportunities to make real change happen in our communities. Our regions and locals keep the union strong; supporting them helps us protect farmland, win economic dignity for farmers, promote agroecology, and more. Consider donating to the The World We Want (TWWW) to keep the Union's work alive at local, regional, and national levels!



Support the NFU today!

- 1) Donate directly to the NFU by cheque or on-line (Note: the NFU cannot issue charitable receipts)
- 2) Donate to the The World We Want through the National Farmers Foundation:

The World We Want (TWWW) project is a partnership between the National Farmers Foundation (NFF) and the NFU. Half of your donation stays in your region to support regionally-determined initiatives, the other half supports NFU's national policy and advocacy work. *A charitable receipt is issued for donations of \$20 or more.*

TOGETHER WE ARE THE NFU We encourage you to support _____ the NFU if you are able

Become a monthly supporter or make a one-time donation online at **Canada Helps** - search National Farmers Foundation. Select "The World We Want" from the menu and designate your Region (or Province) in the notes. OR Mail a cheque to the National Farmers Foundation: NFF c/o Glen Koroluk, NFF Coordinator, 595 Goulding St., Winnipeg, MB R3G 2S3 (Indicate TWWW + your Region/Province on the memo line)

The National Farmers Foundation (NFF)

*The NFF is an independent, farmer-led, charitable organization that supports the **promotion, creation and enhancement of food systems based on the principles of food sovereignty: sustainability, equity, and justice.***

Through our close and long-standing partnership with the NFU, the NFF seeks to build on and strengthen the progressive farm movement in Canada. Your donations to The World We Want are mobilizing critical regional resources within the NFU. These resources support food sovereignty campaigns and build solidarity that advance progressive change. Whether your goal is to ensure your farm's future, support the next generation in agriculture, or keep the NFU's vital work going strong— donations and legacy giving can make a real impact.

Beyond TWWW, the NFF has other programs that we invite you to support at www.nationalfarmersfoundation.ca



The NFU is an organization of, and for, farmers and farm workers in Canada, working together to democratically achieve agricultural policies that ensure dignity and income security for farmers and farm workers while protecting and enhancing rural environments for future generations. NFU policies are determined by farmers, including our vigorous defense of farmers' control of seeds and farmland, public crop breeding, and farmer-led programs that build our soil health.