

THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
L'UNION NATIONALE DES FERMIERS

SPRING 2026
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UNION FARMER

UNION FERMIÈRE

Edee Klee, co-chair of Hayes Farm, in Fredericton, NB. An in memoriam of Klee can be found on page 16.

Photo by Garth Hood.

Edee Klee, coprésidente de Hayes Farm au Fredericton, Nouveau-Brunswick. Un hommage à Mme Klee figure à la page 16.

Photo par Garth Hood.



*Strong Communities. Sound Policies. Sustainable Farms
Communautés fortes. Politiques saines. Fermes durables*

The National Farmers Union 2025/2026 Board of Directors

The National Farmers Union Board of Directors is elected annually. The Presidential officers are elected at the National Convention. The Regional Board members are elected at their respective Regional Conventions. *Le conseil d'administration de l'UNF est élu chaque année. Les membres du bureau présidentiel sont élus lors de la convention nationale. Les membres des conseils régionaux sont élus lors de leurs conventions régionales respectives.*



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Region 1: NB Regional Office/Bureau régional du N.-B.

NFU in NB/L'UNF en N.-B. Suzanne Fournier, Executive Director/ Directrice Executive (506) 260-0087, nfu.nb.office@gmail.com

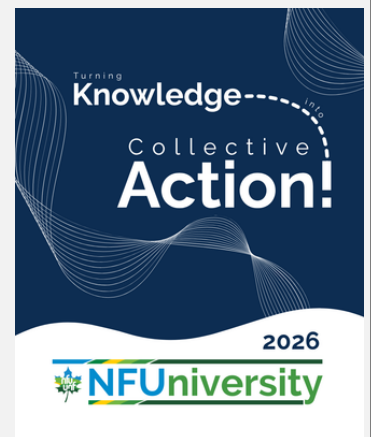
Region 3: NFU-Ontario

Dave Kranenburg, NFU-O Interim Executive Director, 705-738-3993, executivedirector@nfuontario.ca

Deep Dives into Farming, Policy & Advocacy

NFUniversity is underway! Already this year we have learned about Black agrarian reform, seed policy, a guaranteed annual income for farmers, and the history of the federal Agricultural Policy Framework. NFUniversity continues to provide thought-provoking speakers for farmers on policy issues that matter, but it looks a bit different this year. NFUniversity sessions now operate in two parts: a lecture session, followed by an organizing session the following week. The new organizing sessions serve as a mobilizing tool for us to take action on the issues that matter.

We still have exciting sessions on Indigenous seed keeping coming up in June. Stay tuned to the website for more details—register for upcoming classes or revisit past ones at www.nfu.ca/nfuniversity.





A Message from Jenn Pfenning NFU President

While plant life enjoyed its winter slumber, NFU members were seeding our shared commitments to food sovereignty and justice.

Over 3,000 people signed our petition calling on the Carney government to reverse its decision to cut seven essential Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) research facilities. We've led a robust campaign of joint letters, petitions, social media, and town halls, outlining how these cuts threaten our ability to feed Canadians. And we aren't done yet.

Our East Coast members protested against cuts to animal veterinary services in New Brunswick and social service cuts in Nova Scotia. As Nova Scotian members prepare to host Puerto Rican farmers from Organización Boricúa in an Agroecological Brigade, they are also embarking on a campaign to win NFU-NS accreditation by highlighting farmers as a "species at risk."

Quebec and Ontario members have rallied to

Un message de Jenn Pfenning Présidente de l'UNF

Plus de 3 000 personnes ont signé notre pétition demandant au gouvernement Carney de revenir sur sa décision de supprimer 7 installations de recherche essentielles d'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada (AAC). Nous avons mené une campagne énergique comprenant des lettres conjointes, des pétitions, des actions sur les réseaux sociaux et des assemblées publiques, soulignant en quoi ces coupes budgétaires menacent notre capacité à nourrir les Canadiens. Et nous n'en avons pas encore fini.

Nos membres de la Côte-Est ont manifesté contre les coupes dans les services vétérinaires au Nouveau-Brunswick et celles dans les services sociaux en Nouvelle-Écosse. Alors que les membres néo-écossais s'apprêtent à accueillir des agriculteurs portoricains de Boricúa dans le cadre

protéger des terres agricoles contre un projet de train à grande vitesse de plus de 90 milliards de dollars qui s'avère ne pas être dans « l'intérêt public » ni aussi « vert » que ses promoteurs voudraient nous le faire croire.

Manitoba members are preparing for our 57th National Convention in Winnipeg where we will be putting the culture back into *AgriCULTURE*. Meanwhile, our Prairie members have built tremendous rural support for our campaign to stop the AAFC cuts.

NFU members have joined forces with Indigenous people to oppose the Pathways carbon capture project in northern Alberta, while in British Columbia, the NFU has been a key farmer voice in pushing back against plans to weaken the province's commitment to implement its Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Nationally, we have called for a Guaranteed Annual Income for farmers, a federal response to rising fertilizer prices, the continued protection of supply management, and so much more.

This International Year of the Woman Farmer, I am particularly proud of the leadership within our Women's Caucus for campaigning around declaring Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Gender-based violence an epidemic. This is an epidemic directly connected to farming; together, we must stand up for our sisters.

Amid a thousand reasons to be concerned, perhaps even despondent, the knowledge that spring comes even after a hard winter of farmer mobilizing is real. Buds break, blossoms bloom, life is renewed. Let's celebrate the movement we are nurturing. In action, we grow!

d'une brigade agroécologique, ils lancent également une campagne visant à obtenir l'accréditation de l'UNF-NÉ en présentant les les fermiers comme étant une « espèce en péril ».

Les membres du Québec et de l'Ontario se sont mobilisés pour protéger les terres agricoles contre un projet de train à grande vitesse de plus de 90 milliards de dollars qui s'avère ne pas être dans « l'intérêt public » ni aussi « vert » que ses promoteurs voudraient nous le faire croire.

Nos membres du Manitoba se préparent pour notre 57e Convention à Winnipeg, où nous redonnerons toute sa place à la culture dans l'AgriCULTURE. Parallèlement, nos membres des Prairies ont mobilisé un formidable soutien rural en faveur de notre campagne visant à mettre un terme aux coupes budgétaires d'AAC.

Les membres de l'UNF se sont associés aux peuples autochtones pour s'opposer au projet de capture du carbone Pathways dans le nord de l'Alberta, tandis qu'en Colombie-Britannique, l'UNF a été une voix clé pour les agriculteurs dans la lutte contre les projets visant à affaiblir l'engagement de la province à mettre en œuvre sa loi sur la Déclaration des droits des peuples autochtones. (continue sur page 4...)

À l'échelle nationale, nous avons réclamé un revenu annuel garanti pour les agriculteurs, une réponse fédérale à la hausse des prix des engrais, le maintien de la gestion de l'offre, et bien d'autres choses encore.

En cette Année internationale des agricultrices, je suis particulièrement fière du leadership dont fait preuve notre groupe des femmes dans sa campagne visant à faire reconnaître la violence entre partenaires intimes (VPI) et la violence sexiste comme étant une épidémie. Il s'agit d'une épidémie directement liée à l'agriculture ; ensemble, nous devons défendre nos sœurs.

Au milieu de mille raisons de s'inquiéter, voire de se décourager, la certitude que le printemps arrive, même après un hiver rigoureux de mobilisation des agriculteurs, est bien réelle. Les bourgeons éclatent, les fleurs s'épanouissent, la vie renaît. Célébrons le mouvement que nous faisons grandir. C'est en agissant que nous grandissons !

Follow the NFU | Suivez les réseaux sociaux de l'UNF



A Message from NFU Youth Caucus

At our 2023 youth retreat, members established our "four strategic buckets of work" that continue to guide our work: Youth Lens, Storytelling, Onboarding and Engagement, and Culture of Belonging & Transformation. This framework structures our energy into concrete actions across the country.

Youth Lens: We are actively addressing current critical concerns and competing interests that threaten food security and sovereignty. NFU Youth spearheaded the organization of six agroecology exchanges in the Maritimes (Region 1), and are currently developing agroecology brigades with our La Via Campesina (LVC) sister organisations in Puerto Rico and Cuba. We contributed to the Migrant Day of Action in Quebec (Region 2) and the Young Agrarians (YA) National Policy Jam in Ontario (Region 3). We organized town halls in Alberta (Region 7) and British Columbia (Region 8) on our regional challenges, including land access, surface rights, and Treaty rights.



Storytelling: Projects like our "flex + relax" meetups use a peer-to-peer exchange model to creatively communicate our experiences, struggles, and conditions. Youth also led *Depth of Field* community film screenings, inviting the featured farmers to Q&A sessions!

Onboarding and Engagement: We are actively working on strengthening the integration of new and current youth members, including within the family farm unit. The Saskatchewan (R6) Youth Advisor is working as a Regional Coordinator assistant on membership development and is launching a Regional Newsletter featuring youth members' profiles.

Culture of Belonging & Transformation: The Youth Caucus remains dedicated to prioritizing inclusion, equity, and solidarity within the caucus and across the NFU. A key initiative is mentorship—including pairing newer members with experienced farmers, and Region 7 partnering with Young Agrarians to host an on-farm training camp for skill-sharing and leadership development.

The Caucus remains energized, organizing around our common interests to embed cultural work as a tool for political change. We meet monthly for project work and updates. Email: nfuyouth@nfu.ca to get involved!

Beingessner Award for Writing & Creative Media



Owen Schalk is an NFU member, beekeeper and writer from Manitoba, Treaty 1 Territory. Owen's books include [Canada in Afghanistan: A story of military, diplomatic, political and media failure, 2003-2023](#) (Lorimer, 2023), [Targeting Libya: How Canada went from building public works to bombing an oil-rich country and creating chaos for its citizens](#) (Lorimer, 2025), and [Canada & NATO: The Myth of a Global Peacekeeper](#) (ARP Books, 2026). He is a columnist at *Canadian Dimension*, and he has written for many other publications including *Canada's National Observer*, *Jacobin*, *The Maple*, *Monthly Review*, and *the North American Congress on Latin America* (NACLA).

The NFU holds an annual national writing and creative media competition in memory of Paul Beingessner. Winners receive \$500. Check out Owen's award-winning article at www.nfu.ca/publications/2025-winner/

A Message from NFU Women's Caucus

2026 is the International Year of the Woman Farmer, and the NFU Women's Caucus is taking full advantage of the opportunity to advance our resolution to declare Intimate Partner Violence/Gender Based Violence (IPV/GBV) an epidemic. IPV/GBV is a pervasive issue in Canada and across the globe. 44% of women in Canada are reported to have experienced IPV, while the rates are higher for Indigenous women (61%), women living in poverty (57%) and women with disabilities (55%). IPV is a problem that impacts rural communities disproportionately. People affected by both IPV and GBV in rural areas are more isolated from resources such as shelters, counselling services and legal support. Settler colonialism has led to Indigenous women and girls experiencing particularly high rates of violence.

Read more at: www.gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased_newsletters/issue-35/Issue-35.pdf

Rising rates of violence in rural areas are connected to the farm income crisis, land concentration, the gutting of rural communities, a decline in rural social services, rising household debt and insecurity. We recognize that by declaring IPV/GBV an epidemic, and advocating for governments to do the same, we can:

- Bring IPV/GBV out of the shadows, breaking the shame and isolation that many survivors feel;
- Reframe the issue, making it clear that IPV/GBV is a societal problem, not an individual one, and that we all have a role to play in raising awareness of and taking action to stop it;
- Work with government to develop specific funding streams from public health services as opposed to small pockets of money for 'women's issues';
- Help save the lives of rural women, children and 2SLGBTQI+ peoples.

More than 100 municipalities and regional governments across Canada have declared IPV/GBV an epidemic. The NFU continues to raise public awareness of IPV/GBV, and has called for increased funding in order to bring about systemic change. The International Year of the Woman Farmer is an opportunity for us to put a spotlight on these issues.

If you are a woman or identify as gender-diverse, the caucus invites you to join in on the work. We are a space within the NFU where members share stories, build community and work collectively to secure systemic change. Email ipccoordinator@nfu.ca.



A Message from Claire Perttula NFU BIPOC President

As we all know, there are hundreds of issues that we could tackle as a caucus and as a union. However, the caucus decided early this year to pick one issue to focus on so that we can see some tangible movement by Convention 2026.

Building Networks and Connections

One goal is to better understand all the issues that are being tackled by the NFU through the different regions, caucuses, and working groups. We're thrilled to have Manish Kushwaha in Ottawa as the new Region 3/NFU-O BIPOC Caucus advisor. We're also super excited that Rain Hye, also a youth caucus member, has joined the IPC Brigade planning meetings. Both Rain and Manish bring valuable information to and from the caucus, which helps us all get better connected. Shoutout to all the other caucus members who join other caucus/working group/local meetings too!

Several new caucus members have also joined from the Exchange this year. These members have brought a lot of new ideas and energy into our meetings. There's a huge strength in the diversity of farmer identities and traditions represented in the caucus. The wealth of farming and organizing experience (plus just so much creativity) is inspiring.

Building from the success of THE EXCHANGE program, the caucus has been talking a lot about the agroecology brigades, farm visits, and other training opportunities. One of our goals this year is to start fundraising through grant writing and other means to support skill building and learning/sharing opportunities.

Food sovereignty is guiding our work. There are many organizations outside the NFU that we are connecting with, like the *Black Food Sovereignty Alliance*. Bringing knowledge from these spaces to the caucus is another thing shaping how we tackle issues.



An Unforgettable EXCHANGE ——— L'ÉCHANGE marquant

This March, the NFU celebrated the successful completion of Cohort 2's participation in *THE EXCHANGE* —a year-long professional development program for equity-deserving farmers. The program offered a rich and inviting space for knowledge exchange, community building, and career advancement through monthly meetings online and WhatsApp forums. In-person, cohort members strengthened their community bonds and agricultural knowledge. Cohort members gathered on farms in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, then came together nationally for a retreat and convention in New Brunswick where they experienced the inspiring and welcoming atmosphere of NFU solidarity.

Throughout the program, two cohorts participated in over 270 training courses, webinars, field days, grants and funding opportunities and events hosted across Turtle Island and attended over 48 expert-led presentations. Each of the almost 40 equity-deserving farmers received administrative staff support and funding for training, mentorship, and travel expenses. These resources and supports along with the dedication of farmer participants and their mentors, have helped pave the way for a stronger, more resilient and more diversified local food system.

“I was impressed to see that work can be done, emotions can be put aside, people can come together on common ground to meet the issues that need to be spoken about. I've been given a lot of space and opportunity to voice a lot of the truth of Haudenessaune people.”

-Pamela Chrisjohn, Cohort 2, Oneida seed keeper, activist, and NFU-O BIPOC Advisor

The NFU is honoured to have brought this program to life and recognizes its far-reaching tangible, intangible, and social impacts. We give heartfelt thanks to all the farmers and mentors who participated, and to the AAFC for supporting the program. Due to lack of funding, *THE EXCHANGE* officially wrapped up in March. Want to offer support for the continuation of *THE EXCHANGE*? Reach out to Dave at thompson@nfu.ca.



Funded by The Government of Canada through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriDiversity Program.

En mars 2026, l'UNF a célébré la réussite de la deuxième cohorte de *L'ÉCHANGE*, un programme de développement professionnel d'une durée d'un an destiné aux agriculteurs méritant un soutien en matière d'équité. *L'ÉCHANGE* a offert un espace riche et accueillant propice à l'échange de connaissances, au renforcement de la communauté et à l'avancement professionnel, grâce à des réunions mensuelles en ligne et à des forums WhatsApp. En personne, les membres de la cohorte ont renforcé leurs liens communautaires et leurs connaissances agricoles. Ils se sont réunis dans des fermes de la Colombie-Britannique, de l'Ontario, du Québec et de la Nouvelle-Écosse, puis se sont retrouvés à l'échelle nationale pour une retraite et une convention au Nouveau-Brunswick, où ils ont pu découvrir l'atmosphère inspirante et accueillante de la solidarité de l'UNF.

Tout au long du programme, deux cohortes ont participé à plus de 270 formations, webinaires, journées sur le terrain, opportunités de subventions et de financement, et événements organisés à travers l'île de la Tortue, et ont assisté à plus de 48 présentations animées par des experts. Chacun des quelque 40 agriculteurs éligibles à l'équité a bénéficié du soutien du personnel administratif et d'un financement pour la formation, le mentorat et les frais de déplacement. Ce soutien associés au dévouement des fermiers participants et de leurs mentors, ont contribué à ouvrir la voie à un système alimentaire local plus solide, plus résilient et plus diversifié.

“J'ai été impressionnée de voir qu'il est possible d'agir, de mettre de côté ses émotions et de se rassembler autour d'un terrain d'entente pour aborder les questions qui doivent être soulevées. On m'a donné beaucoup d'espace et d'occasions d'exprimer une grande partie de la vérité du peuple Haudenessaune.”

- Pamela Chrisjohn, Cohorte 2, gardienne des semences Oneida, activiste, et conseillère PANDC auprès de l'UNF-O

*L'UNF reconnaît l'impact considérable, tant matériel que spirituel et social, de ce travail. Nous remercions à tous les agriculteurs et mentors qui ont participé à ce programme. Souhaitez-vous apporter votre soutien à la poursuite de *L'ÉCHANGE* ? Contactez thompson@nfu.ca.*

Financé en partie par le gouvernement du Canada dans le cadre du Partenariat canadien pour une agriculture durable.

Membership Matters: Join, Engage, Strengthen

An update from the Membership Development Committee (MDC)

In 2025, we saw an increase in our membership so we are reflecting on what worked and what helped us retain members and sign up new ones. Bringing energy to the regions by offering financial support to coordinate events and empower engagement worked well last year, so we are doing that again. Regions are organizing events ranging from film festivals to bowling parties, agroecology exchanges to calling campaigns. Connect with your regional leadership to get involved! Multipronged communications with new and existing members is the best way to build engagement, so don't forget to follow up with everyone that participates in an event or attends a regional convention.

The NFU is a grassroots, member-based organization—we are the change, so we need to be empowered to act!

NFU Days took place throughout the month of February—a concerted effort was put into lapsed member outreach through phone calls. Suzanne Fournier, NFU-NB Executive Director, hosted a “warm-calling” workshop to share tips and tools for connecting new and existing members—the recording is available on the members only section of the website under “Tools for Building NFU Membership,” amongst other resources that help NFU members get self-organized.

NFU Days 2026 has officially wrapped up, but outreach doesn't end there. There are loads of potential members out there and you can help us reach them. Practice your pitch, check out the resources on the members only website, make a phone call, text a neighbour—every action helps build a stronger food sovereignty movement!



NFU-Alberta (R7) AGM, with visit from NFU President, Jenn Pfenning.

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



Dean Harder
Membership Development Co-Chair



Rebecca MacInnis
Membership Development Co-Chair



Cohort 2 of THE EXCHANGE, encounter in New Brunswick, pre-convention. Cohorte deux du programme L'ÉCHANGE se réunissent en Nouveau-Brunswick avant la convention nationale.

Grassroots Awards

The NFU is proud on the occasion of its 56th Annual Convention to recognize and appreciate the following leaders for their loyal service to the farm union movement through their dedication as active members of the NFU in their communities and regions.

Region 1 (NB, NS, PEI)
Megan de Graaf, NB

Region 3 (ON)
Rav Singh

Region 5 (MB)
Ed & Beth Lelond

Region 6 (SK)
Ed Pedersen

Region 7 (AB)
Peter Eggers

Region 8 (BC)
Olivia Cronin

Protecting Farmland for Future Generations

The National Farmers Foundation

By Phil Ferraro, founder of the Institute for Biological Studies and small scale PEI Farmer

The National Farmers Foundation (NFF) is stepping into a transformative new role and has embraced a new and clear mandate:

to protect farmland for future generations and ensure it remains accessible to young and equity-deserving farmers.

Founded on Prince Edward Island in 1986 and registered as a charity a decade later, the NFF was originally created to support the NFU's educational and advocacy work. But with rising land prices, increased corporate ownership, and the rapid consolidation of family farms accompanied by significant land concentration, the Foundation is turning its attention to one of the most pressing issues in Canadian agriculture: who will own—and who will be able to afford to farm—the land in the years ahead.

The most significant development came this year, when the NFF successfully applied to the Canada Revenue Agency to expand its charitable purposes to include land

protection and stewardship. The Foundation now has the ability to accept farmland donations, issue charitable tax receipts, and hold land in trust for the express purpose of keeping it in agricultural production.

The NFF can now receive land from retiring farmers who want their life's work to remain a working farm rather than be sold to developers or swallowed by speculative markets. This new direction could be especially impactful in regions where land prices have soared beyond the reach of many. Under the proposed framework, donated farmland could be leased to young, new and equity-deserving farmers committed to agroecological farming practices. The NFF's new strategic plan outlines priorities including financial sustainability, ongoing collaboration with the NFU, expanded partnerships, and a stronger national presence.

The NFF board, made up of volunteers from across the country—is seeking more public engagement, potential donors, and retiring farmers interested in legacy giving. For more information, contact the NFF Coordinator glen@nationalfarmersfoundation.ca (204) 296-2872.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Let's be clear – **the NFU is unique. As a farmer-led organization, there is nothing like it in Canada.** But these are challenging times for organizations like ours who are continuing to tackle the tough issues on a tight budget, with volunteer farmer leadership from across the country. **The NFU needs your financial support.** If you want to leave a legacy, call or email the national office at: (306) 652-9465 nfu@nfu.ca.



Attention NFU Building Consortium Shareholders

Recently several interest cheques issued to the Shareholders of the NFU Property Consortium have not been cashed, and in some cases, cheques have been returned as "moved/deceased". To those Shareholders who are not cashing their interest cheques and who wish to donate their interest cheques to the NFU, please contact Joan Lange (306-652-9465). For those cheques that are being returned as moved or deceased, we would like to contact the Estate or any family members so we can follow up with them.

If anyone has any contact information for following people, please contact Joan Lange at 306-652-9465 or lange@nfu.ca:

David Wotherspoon
Emily Maddaford
J.E.G.O. Farms Ltd.
Christi Kurney
Tom Phillips
P. Galawan
Paul Harmon

Kyle Korneychuk, President, NFU Building Consortium

The Apocryphal Resolution

I asked Chat GPT and Google AI to “write a resolution protecting farmers during a zombie apocalypse,” because as farmers in 2026 we have to be able to adapt to irony and metaphor. I expected to generate a cautionary tale against using AI to make policy—and immediately felt vindicated when AI started off with this whopper: “agricultural operations face unprecedented threats from the undead.”

The AI tools seemed preoccupied with building zombie-proof walls and fences. Google AI even recommended that farmers select “camouflaged crops” to hide them from roving hordes of zombies—without recognizing that, in an apocalypse, the hordes may not all be zombies. Let’s be honest, if you’re farming in the 2020s you’ve gamed this in your head, and probably concluded that, among the biggest threats to our farms, our livestock and our survival post-apocalypse will be the frightened hordes fleeing from the zombies, and desperate for food and water following the collapse of complex, tenuous ‘just-in-time’ global supply chains and urban infrastructure.

AI consistently recognized how farms and farmers are “uniquely positioned” to provide food, water and shelter, but for some reason AI did not expect that the general human population would draw that same conclusion—or remember it in an apocalypse. Which was surprising, because recent evidence shows that it’s typically only during emergencies that most of the general public remembers the importance of farms and farmers.

The AI resolutions also seemed far more interested in protecting farmers that were integrated within the current industrial food system. In the NFU, we’re all too familiar with Business Risk Management policies which only protect the largest, least diverse farms. Most of these AI recommendations sounded too much like a zombie BRM program.

So I changed tactics and tried some different instructions. I recalled that, to make useful resolutions, one should ask for actions that are practical and doable, from an actor we can effect—which means asking the NFU, its leaders, and its membership.

“How can the NFU protect farmers...” no, that didn’t sound right. Maybe, “How can the NFU help farmers to protect themselves?” This made for a better result, but it still focused on building walls with a “Field-to-Fortress” initiative. And training working dogs in “undead detection”?! (Does that explain why one of our guardian dogs barks at nothing at 3 a.m.?)

Then I realized that the walls were in my instructions. So I asked AI to “write a resolution identifying how the NFU can help farmers to protect their farms, their families, and each other during a zombie apocalypse”.

And presto: “Resilience and Collective Defence in Agrarian Crisis” outlined a 5-point strategy which gave practical recommendations for “mutual aid, food sovereignty, and the protection of the family farm”:

- Fortification of the Commons;
- Seed and Resource Sovereignty;
- Communication Resilience;
- Mutual Aid Squads;
- Tactical Diversification.

On top of that, the resolution called for the NFU to “advocate for the recognition of farmers as essential...”, pointing out something that, in their haste to cut research station budgets, the managers at AAFC forgot: “...in any localized or national recovery effort, the preservation of the agrarian knowledge base is prioritized as the foundation of (post-outbreak) civilization.”

I take it all back, AI.



Phil Mount
Vice-President Policy

**To our 2025 convention
sponsors and advertisers:
THANK YOU!**

The collage features logos for the following organizations: Inter Pares (globalize equality / mondialiser l'égalité), Syndicat Agriculture Union, JBeck Commercial Print, Veseys, UFCW Canada (your VOICE at work), Canadian Grain Commission, Commission canadienne des grains, ACORN (Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network), SAVOUR NB, Davies & Drury (Chartered Professional Accountants, Spencer Beaulieu, CPA, CA), HUB, and mazon CANADA (The Jewish Response to Hunger).

Therefore Be It Resolved... Turning Words into Action!

Resolutions Passed at the 56th National Farmers Union Convention— November 19-21 2025

The NFU's 56th National Convention in Moncton, New Brunswick was remarkable, renewing our sense of purpose and connection across Canada. For the first time, the national convention was held bilingually, a milestone made possible through meaningful collaboration with the NFU-NB and its leadership.

This year's convention had lively resolution sessions, with caucuses, committees, working groups, regions and locals all bringing forward resolutions for abundant and energetic debate, amendment, and democratic vote by delegates. Building off of the energy and resolutions passed at convention, NFU members and staff have mobilized to stop the cuts to AAFC research facilities and staff, while advancing many of this year's passed resolutions. Members are developing robust campaigns to ensure their success.

Resolutions are the political foundation of our work throughout the year, as we organize to build a stronger and more just agricultural system together. Below each passed resolution, you'll see the actions already underway to advance the issue. Members are encouraged to get involved in advancing resolutions. Interested in an issue not listed below? Email nfu@nfu.ca to get connected.



Convention attendees dance to Acadian Celtic music, live from La Famille LeBlanc. Les participants de la convention dansent de la musique celtique acadienne performé par La Famille LeBlanc.

La 56e Convention nationale de l'UNF, qui s'est tenue à Moncton, au Nouveau-Brunswick, a été remarquable : elle a ravivé notre sens de la mission et renforcé nos liens à travers tout le Canada. Pour la première fois, la convention nationale s'est déroulée en deux langues, une étape importante rendue possible grâce à une collaboration fructueuse avec l'UNF-NB et ses dirigeants.

La convention de cette année a donné lieu à des séances de résolution animées, au cours desquelles les caucus, les comités, les groupes de travail, les régions et les sections locales ont tous présenté des résolutions qui ont fait l'objet de débats riches et animés, d'amendements et d'un vote démocratique par les délégués. S'appuyant sur l'énergie et les résolutions adoptées lors de la convention, les membres et le personnel de l'UNF se sont mobilisés pour mettre fin aux coupes budgétaires visant les installations de recherche et le personnel d'AAC, tout en faisant avancer bon nombre des résolutions adoptées cette année. Les membres mettent en place des campagnes solides pour garantir leur succès.

Les résolutions constituent le fondement politique de notre travail tout au long de l'année, alors que nous nous organisons pour bâtir ensemble un système agricole plus fort et plus juste. Tous les membres peuvent s'impliquer pour faire avancer les résolutions — si vous souhaitez vous engager davantage sur un sujet qui vous tient à cœur, envoyez un courriel à nfu@nfu.ca.

To read the full resolutions from the 2025 Convention scan the QR code or follow the link below.

Pour lire l'intégralité des résolutions de la Convention 2025, scannez le code QR.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WUe4TFVxGMZqNaGXWimgcj3xe7Wi_n-5HkS_SNkGQC8/edit?usp=sharing



GAI Pilot

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union advocate for a guaranteed annual income pilot program for farmers of \$50,000 a year (tied to inflation) for 10 years.

Ensuring a living income for farmers strikes a lightning rod with the agricultural community and the public alike. NFU members from British Columbia to P.E.I. were interviewed in diverse media outlets following the passing of this resolution. To understand how a guaranteed annual income (GAI) for farmers might work in practice, we hosted an NFUniversity session on GAI policies with Sheila Regehr, Chair of Basic Income Canada Network in March. We also engaged our members in an organizing session following Regeher's lecture to determine the strategic directions of a campaign to win a GAI - and economic dignity - for all Canadian farmers.



Ancestral Indigenous Seed Varieties

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the NFU support Indigenous-led advocacy on seed stewardship of ancestral varieties critically important to cultural identity in a way that centres Indigenous world views and practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NFU support that the Indigenous seeds of cultural significance not be arbitrarily removed from the community by institutions or other entities without clear community permission.

The NFU continues to build and implement our Indigenous Solidarity Strategy to fulfill our commitment to supporting Indigenous seed stewardship. Interested in this work? Join the Indigenous Solidarity Working Group by emailing Terran Giacomini at ipccordinator@nfu.ca. In June, we will hold an NFUniversity session on Indigenous seed keeping and seed sovereignty. Stay tuned for more details.

Calling for Arms Embargo against Israel, Suspension of Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement, and Human Rights in Gaza

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU calls on the Government of Canada to immediately implement a comprehensive two-way arms embargo between Canada and Israel, and to suspend the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU continue to take other critical actions to bring an end to the genocide in Palestine and defend the human rights of Palestinians, including continuing to educate our members on anti-Palestinian racism and other realities facing Palestinians.

On February 17, the NFU sent a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada calling on the Canadian Government to implement a two-way arms embargo and suspend the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement. NFU members were encouraged to call their MPs urging them to support Bill C-233, the No More Loopholes Act which would eliminate gaps in Canada's export law allowing for export of weapons to Israel through the U.S. Interested in engaging with this issue? Email Terran Giacomini at ipccordinator@nfu.ca.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions to Stop the Illegal Occupation and Genocide in Palestine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU support and implement boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaigns, including a two way arms embargo; diplomatic and economic sanctions; and boycott campaigns against companies profiting from Israel's genocide and illegal occupation of Palestinian territory;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU conduct an audit of its investments and/or relationships with Canadian or international businesses that are benefiting from the ongoing genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine and pursue divestment, wherever possible, or otherwise formally demand such companies divest;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU create or circulate resources that identify food and agriculture-related companies profiting from the occupation and colonization of Palestine; support and empower members to implement BDS on their farms and in their households and communities; and continue to educate our members on the realities facing Palestinians.

The Palestine Solidarity Working Group is drafting a resource to distribute to NFU members on boycott, divestment, and sanctions targets. Additionally, the NFU Vice President of Operations is examining any investments and economic relationships that might link the NFU to entities involved in the illegal occupation in Palestine and will share these findings with the NFU Board of Directors. Interested in engaging with this issue? Email Terran Giacomini at ipccordinator@nfu.ca.



All panel presentations from convention are available on the NFU's website and YouTube channel for watching, rewatching and sharing:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtRSIGyHZLgJ0UwilBcO6pb_eSr5ImHkUj



Public Grocery Option

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU develop a coalition for a national/provincial/municipal public grocery retail option. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NFU call on the Federal government to commit to the annual purchase of food directly from farmers, to be sold to Canadians at cost via a network of national/provincial/municipal public grocery stores.

New York's mayor-elect, Zohran Mamdani, isn't the only one to realize that consumers have an appetite for public grocery stores as a counterweight to grocery profiteering. NFU leaders have shared with the media, NDP leadership candidates, and others how public grocery stores could benefit both food producers and consumers and we are working with allies - including the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Food Secure Canada - to scope out what the public grocery option could look like as well as explore campaign strategies to achieve it. Those interested in participating in this initiative should reach out to James Hannay at hannay@nfu.ca.

Tech Sovereignty

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the NFU will assemble a working group that will guide and organize research, public education, and member consultation in order to develop a platform for technological and data sovereignty in agriculture and food, that will be presented to our members at the 2026 National Convention, and shape our advocacy for digital agriculture and agritech policies that support food sovereignty during negotiations for the 2028-2033 Agricultural Policy Framework.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tech sovereignty task force will collaborate with Indigenous data and food sovereignty advocates, and with our comrades in La Via Campesina, to ensure coherence and coordination amongst our efforts to protect the commons, and to ensure generational transmission and continued development and sharing of the diverse and sacred knowledges and traditions that feed our communities.

New digital technologies such as big data and artificial intelligence (AI) present unique challenges to farmer autonomy, rural communities, and our food system. Data privacy, the environmental impacts of AI and hyperscale data centers, and the empowerment of big tech oligarchs in the food system require a considered response from the NFU. The new Technological Sovereignty Working Group meets monthly to inform NFU policies on digital technologies. Email Sarah Marquis at marquis@nfu.ca to join the Working Group.

Declaring Intimate Partner Violence and Gender-Based Violence an Epidemic

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NFU declare Intimate Partner Violence (IPV/GBV) an epidemic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU, led by the Women's Caucus, use NFU communication channels and meetings to increase awareness among NFU members about IPV and Gender Based Violence (GBV) in rural communities, and when appropriate provide non-financial support to feminist organizations working to stop IPV/GBV;

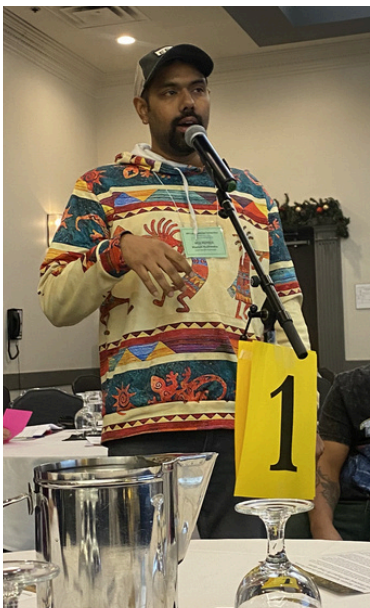
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NFU members at a local, regional and national level advocate for all levels of government to declare IPV/GBV an epidemic.

Gender-based violence is a rural farm issue. The NFU's Women's Caucus members are making the Intimate Partner and Gender-Based violence resolution actionable by creating a resource guide for IPV/GBV survivors and allies, embarking with allies on an education campaign to highlight the persistence of IPV/GBV in rural Canadian communities, and campaigning for the Manitoba Government to declare IPV/GBV an epidemic. This work is more important than ever this year as the United Nations has declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer. It is a significant moment to highlight struggles for gender equity in agriculture and in rural communities. Join the Women's Caucus to work on this resolution (see page 5).

RNAi Pesticides

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU call for a ban on RNAi pesticides in Canada due to their environmental and health impacts, which include impacts that are unknowable and/or irreversible.

RNA interference (RNAi) pesticides, also known as gene silencing pesticides, aim to kill crop pests by "silencing" genes essential for that pests' survival. It is a technological innovation with potentially large negative consequences that is poorly understood and regulated. The NFU is working with the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, and other allies, to prepare a campaign calling for a ban on RNAi pesticides. For more information, contact Cathy Holtslander at holtlander@nfu.ca.



Fertilizer Sovereignty

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU contact the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to obtain the Department's understanding of fertilizer supplies, demand and prices in Canada and how it ensures a reliable food supply for all Canadians, as a critical part of a National Food Policy.

The NFU is raising concern over the likelihood of further fertilizer price spikes and their potential deleterious impacts on Canadian grain farmers. On February 19th, Phil Mount, Vice President of Policy, with support of Don Ciparis, president of NFU-O Local 306, sent a letter to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-food, and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, inquiring about Canadian fertilizer supply and demand, the role of fertilizer in ensuring a reliable food supply for Canadians, and the Ministry's strategy to ensure a timely and affordable supply of fertilizer. As of publication we have not yet received a response from the Ministry. For more information, contact Phil Mount at vp-policy@nfu.ca or Don Ciparis at donciparis@gmail.com.

Establishing Fair Farm Tenure Standards on Public Land

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU will:

- Investigate the range of farmland lease agreements currently in use across Canada by public agencies;
- Develop a framework, including model lease standards that clearly define a fair division of responsibilities between landlord and tenant, to guide landlords and tenants in negotiations around public land leases;
- Recommend minimum tenure protections, including multi-decade leases and compensation mechanisms for tenant-made improvements, for example, either as rent abatement or other appropriate means agreeable to the parties involved; and
- Report back to the NFU National Convention with findings and actionable policy recommendations.

The Public Farm Tenure Working Group held its first two meetings in February and March and discussed a research plan to study existing public land tenure agreements to inform our standards and recommendations. Additionally, the NFU obtained funding from the Common Ground Network to support a research project to map out existing public land that is leased for agricultural purposes and to compare the variations in lease agreements. NFU members interested in contributing to this work can join the Farmland Committee and the Public Farm Tenure Working group: email James Hannay at hannay@nfu.ca to join.

Preserving Animal Genetics

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU actively promote the husbandry and enjoyment of heritage livestock breeds by partnering with groups and organizations that are dedicated to preserving and diversifying the genetic diversity of our food system.

The NFU is looking for members to collaborate with the livestock committee on this resolution. Members are encouraged to make connections directly with heritage breed societies, via neighbours or family members, or communications (e.g. social media) with commodity livestock organization members. If you are interested, contact Phil Mount at vp-policy@nfu.ca.

Maximum Revenue Entitlement

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU lobby the federal government to legislate a profit cap for highly concentrated grocery chains in such a manner as to parallel the existing Maximum Revenue Entitlement for grain shipping via railroads.

Like our proposed GAI pilot, the call to rein in food inflation by instituting a profit cap on grocery chains was picked up by media outlets across the country. The NFU's April 2026 report, Fair Food Prices?, is furthering the discussion by exposing how grocery oligarchs are responsible for both the declining farmers' share of retail food prices as well as the sticker shock consumers are experiencing at the checkout stands. The NFU leadership continues to work with allies to check the corporate power of the retail grocery sector.

“Consumers, farmers, and food workers, must come together to fight to win policy and food system change that serves us all, rather than corporations and shareholders.”



Fair Food Prices?
The Declining Farmers' Share and Food Inflation
A report by the National Farmers Union

Read the report at nfu.ca/publications/fair-food-prices/



— Updates from NFU's International Program Committee —



NFU Members Jessie MacInnis and Celeste Smith attend 2nd International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Cartagena, Colombia.

Solidarity with Cuba

The NFU's Statement of Purpose reads “that we may, as farmers, live in harmony with one another and that all the world's people may live in peace.” In that spirit, the NFU stands in solidarity with the people of Cuba and opposes the 66 year illegal blockade imposed by the United States (US) Government.

Prior to the Cuban Revolution of 1959, US corporations owned over 70 percent of the land in Cuba. The revolutionary government's agrarian reforms led to the expropriation of US corporate-owned land and the conversion of these lands into state farms and peasant-run agricultural operations. The US government has never forgiven Cuba's revolutionaries for returning the land to the people.

The Donald Trump administration has tightened the decades-long US blockade into an economic siege. In January 2026, Trump attacked Venezuela and threatened Mexico—Cuba's main energy suppliers. Following these aggressions, Venezuelan oil has not reached Cuba's shores. Trump has threatened tariffs against any country that ships oil to Cuba. The illegal fuel blockade has had devastating impacts, reducing electricity to just a few hours each day and dramatically decreasing access to food. As a peaceful organization that advocates against corporate control, monopolies, and profiteering, the NFU is vehemently opposed to the US government's attempts to economically suffocate Cuba and turn the island—including its arable land and peasantry—into exploitable resources for US investors.

NFU members are organizing a Farmer Cuba-Solidarity Work Brigade to participate in an agricultural tour of the island. Consider donating money, resources, or time to help us deliver the supplies Cuba needs. Email Adama at youthpresident@nfu.ca for more information.

2nd International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Colombia

From February 24th to 28th 2026, Celeste Smith and Jessie MacInnis traveled with a delegation of La Via Campesina North America members to Cartagena, Colombia to participate in the second International Conference of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD+20) hosted by the Colombian government. The goal of the Conference was to share best practices among states (representatives from 52 states were in attendance), hear from grassroots movements, and draft a declaration that will shape agrarian reform efforts by the state signatories.

The government-led conference was complemented by a social movement forum hosted by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), an autonomous global platform for grassroots organizations and social movements. This forum provided a space for movements to discuss and collectively articulate their demands to governments, highlighting that agrarian reform must embody “equitable and sustainable access to, use of, and democratic control over land, fisheries, forests, water and territories with redistributive tenure policies and people-led rural development rooted in justice, equity, people's self-determination and the defense of life and Mother Earth.” Without agrarian reform, there can be “no food sovereignty, no just transitions to food systems based on agroecology... and no peace.”

While some governments were receptive to this vision, (including Colombia, which has made great strides to implement agrarian reform in concert with the peace process that is reshaping the countryside in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendent communities, and peasants), social movements and Indigenous Peoples ultimately did not accept the declaration of ICARRD+20. Notably, Indigenous Peoples rights were attacked in the final declaration; instead of being highlighted as distinct rightsholders as outlined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, they were grouped together with ‘local communities’ thus diminishing their legal weight and associated state responsibilities.

Social movements and Indigenous Peoples left the Conference with heightened resolve to ensure agrarian reform is inclusive of all peoples, calling on governments to continue dialogue especially on the issues of Indigenous Peoples, the rights of fisher peoples and nomadic pastoralists, women's and gender-based rights, and agroecology.

Learn more by reading the NFU's joint statement with US-based National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC): www.nfu.ca/agrarian-reform-transformative-rural-development-in-na/

Boycott, Divest from and Sanction (BDS) Israeli Companies Violating International Law

One of the concerns that arose when the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) resolution was debated at the National Convention in Moncton was whether the NFU had the capacity to undertake this work. The response from the International Program Committee, where the resolution was developed, is: we're ready and willing.

The NFU is horrified by the Israel government's use of starvation, its destruction of seed banks and of farmland, and the ongoing genocide against Palestinians. The Union of Agricultural Work Committees, a fellow La Via Campesina organization in Palestine, continues to share information on the particular forms of colonial violence targeting farmers and food producers. BDS activities offer NFU members the opportunity to go further in our commitments to act collectively and in solidarity with Palestinian farmers and farm workers.

Since passing the resolution, the IPC has begun:

- Researching food and agriculture-related companies profiting from the occupation and colonization of Palestine to create a guide that can be circulated among members and allies;
- Planning opportunities for members to learn more about the history and ongoing occupation of Palestine, and learn how to implement BDS on their farms and in their communities;
- Auditing the NFU's internal investments and business relationships to pursue divestment;
- Calling on the Government of Canada to fulfill their obligation under the Genocide Convention to take all necessary measures to prevent further violence, including enacting a two-way arms embargo and closing loopholes on arms trade with Israel.



Sowing seeds at the International Brigade of La Via Campesina in Puerto Rico, June 2025.

Join our small but dedicated committee of farmers, farm workers, and associate members who support each other in this work by sharing stories and songs of hope from the Palestinian resistance. The work is heavy, but we are honoured to carry our share of the load together. Contact Terran at ipccordinator@nfu.ca to learn more.

NFU Member Benefits

As an NFU member, you have benefits! Check out the many benefits, including ServicePlus at <https://www.nfu.ca/join/member-benefits/> to learn more!

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Winnipeg, Manitoba!

See you there!



In Memoriam...

Brewster Kneen



The NFU grieves the loss, and honours the profound legacy of Brewster Kneen, who died on December 1,

2025 at the age of 92. Brewster was dedicated to economic and social justice, through building and supporting a wide community of critical thinkers and grassroots activists grounded in the practical realities of farming within Canada and internationally. Brewster was both an intellectual giant whose sharp and insightful writing exposed the powerful, and someone who heartily enjoyed conversations with his many treasured friends. He was a champion of the NFU, as an ally, speaker, mentor, activist, friend, and as an Associate Member in his later years.

Brewster's research and writing deepened our understanding of how corporations consolidate power in the food system, informing and supporting resistance strategies in Canada and internationally. He was not only meticulous regarding evidence and analysis, but also fierce in his love for people and the land. He wrote boldly, publishing books that dared to expose agribusiness power structures and their ideological and cultural underpinnings. *Read more about Brewster's legacy at nfu.ca/remembering-brewster-kneen/ and kneen.ca.*



Edee Klee

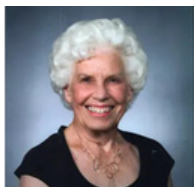
Edee was co-creator and co-chair of Hayes Farm, and co-creator and co-chair of New Brunswick Community

Harvest Gardens. After retiring, Edee knew she wanted to find something that was purposeful to her—Hayes Farm has proven to be that and more. She witnessed how powerful it is for people to reconnect to the land, to learn how to grow food, and to advance permaculture /Indigenous foodways/agroecology skills and knowledge.

Edee envisioned a future that centred community-led farms. She believed farming offers meaningful, purposeful work that needs to be recognized as an essential service, not just from our communities but at the policy level; that community farming using agroecological practices is our path forward to finding our connection to mother earth, each other, and ultimately ourselves.

Edee once said with a laugh, "Ironically, I am a very poor gardener, I just don't have a green thumb, but I'm good at seeing connections and the potential in things. For me, life is more a puzzle than a problem. There are opportunities that present real portals for societal change, and this one just happens to be through growing food on a heritage farm." Edee was a leader and visionary. She leaves a large gap in the local food ecosystem in NB and will be sorely missed. Read more about Edee and Hayes Farm at: www.nbmediacoop.org/2026/03/21/edee-klee-believed/

Doreen Hewitt



With gratitude for a long and meaningful life, we announce the peaceful passing of Charlotte Doreen Hewitt in Weyburn on January 6, 2026,

aged 98. Doreen and her husband Alvin gave considerable time and talent to their community, particularly the Perdue Agricultural Society, the CCF/NDP, NFU, and various co-operatives. They valued their friends, and everyone was welcomed, so much so that Doreen often didn't know how many she'd have for meals until the last minute.