



Cultivating Food Sovereignty in the Spirit of Reconciliation

Call for Contributors

www.resilientrurals.com

A project by:
the Town of Bruderheim,
SevGen Consulting Inc.
and Resilient Rurals



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FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IS THE RIGHT TO DEFINE AND CONTROL FOOD SYSTEMS, TO CREATE HEALTHY AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FOOD, AND TO ENGAGE IN ALL LEVELS OF FOOD CULTIVATION, MARKETING, AND ENVIRONMENTS.

DEVELOPING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAN ADDRESS ISSUES OF FOOD INSECURITY

Backgrounder: Food Insecurity and Community Vulnerability in Canada

- In terms of food insecurity, Indigenous communities bear an unequal burden and experience disproportionately higher levels of vulnerability than other rural communities or urban centres. This inequity underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions that address the specific challenges faced by Indigenous populations in accessing affordable, sufficient and nutritious food.
- Rural communities also face obstacles when obtaining affordable and desirable food. Few retailer options in these communities weakens competition, leading to higher prices on the shelves and larger bills at the checkout counter. Longer transportation routes and lack of personal or public transportation to urban centres limits rural access to food, and many other essential goods and services.
- Out of Canada's provinces, Alberta's population reportedly experienced the most widespread food insecurity in 2021 at 20.3%, followed by New Brunswick (19%) and Saskatchewan (18.8%).
- The effects of climate change, such as drought, flood, wildfire and seasonal temperature changes, are adding to the challenges already contributing to food insecurity for rural and Indigenous communities in Canada. Climate change will continue to make food systems more precarious and price fluctuations more volatile.
- Climate change exacerbates pre-existing vulnerabilities within communities, amplifying their susceptibility to the impacts of environmental changes and disasters. This vicious cycle reinforces the urgent need for holistic solutions that address both the root causes and the interconnected nature of these challenges.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR FOOD-SOVEREIGNTY

The Town of Bruderheim, SevGen Consulting Inc., and Resilient Rurals are partnering on a project that will advance food sovereignty among communities in central Alberta. The project will do so by facilitating knowledge sharing on food systems, permaculture practices, traditional knowledge, and climate adaptation and vulnerability. By engaging diverse communities and organizations who hold expertise and have direct experience in these areas, we aim to develop and deliver a leadership training program and community workshop that can benefit both non-Indigenous and Indigenous rural communities in the province.

INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION

The engagement process is designed to foster strong relationships, facilitate the integration of diverse knowledge, and foster meaningful opportunities for reconciliation across multiple sectors. We are inviting rural Albertan communities, Indigenous communities in Alberta, non-profits and charities targeting food insecurity and community wellness, organizations with a land connection and knowledge in permaculture, as well as Indigenous-led non-profits and social services to engage in conversation with us about food system challenges and solutions in a way that is most suitable for them.

Those who decide to work with the project as collaborators will assist us in determining the persisting gaps in awareness about food insecurity, strengths and strategies that can be harnessed to address food insecurity, as well as how our project can serve the organizations and communities they represent. They will also have the option beyond the engagement phase to take part in the training and workshop phases of the project in any capacity they would like.



PROJECT ROADMAP

AT A GLANCE

LEARN / ENGAGE

CONTRIBUTORS SHARE EXPERIENCES AND IDEAS TO INFORM PROJECT DIRECTION

Engaging people with direct experience and knowledge, and curiosity

Across Alberta, communities, organizations and individuals have knowledge worth sharing. The first phase of this project is designed to connect with these experts (experts like yourselves) and talk about tools and opportunities that—with a little out-of-the-box thinking—can be used to reshape our local food systems to ensure everyone's food needs are met.

CULTIVATE / TRAINING

CONTRIBUTORS CAN TAKE PART IN TRAINING DELIVERY, DESIGN, LEARNING

Bringing leaders together to network, learn and teach

What you share will be put into action in the next phase of the project, when a training program will be designed to highlight education on the needs identified in the first phase. This program is intended to bring leaders together, connecting future companions who can work alongside one another for food system resilience. Everyone is invited to participate in the training program.

PLANT / WORKSHOP

CONTRIBUTORS CAN TAKE PART IN DESIGN AND DELIVERY OF THE WORKSHOP

Taking it to the community level

Now it will be time for local action. Integrating the knowledge from the training program and the knowledge embedded in the community, we will design and deliver a workshop to foster local food sovereignty. At this stage, the possibilities are endless. However, the workshop will be designed with a focus on reconciliation and knowledge sharing for a shared future.

HARVEST / OUTCOMES

- A diverse network of thought leaders who can work together to pursue future food sovereignty
- A tailored training program which leads conversation about food insecurity and cultivating resilience
- Increased community capacity to pursue localized food sovereignty initiatives

CONNECT WITH US

BE A PROJECT COLLABORATOR



CONTACT

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DEVELOP YOUR NETWORK

We aim to facilitate connections with other organizations/communities involved in the project, promoting collaboration and collective impact. To show our thanks for your contributions, let us know your desired connections, and we will support your networking efforts.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Participation in this project certainly opens the door for future collaboration with project participants, as well as the Town of Bruderheim, SevGen Consulting, and Resilient Rurals. After the completion of this project, we will be actively seeking funding for future initiatives. If your organization or community is interested in co-developing a project, we would love to work together to realize a shared vision.

WHO WE ARE



The Town of Bruderheim is committed to supporting its residents and rural neighbours through a variety of community initiatives. It collaborates with residents, organizations, and like-minded partners to build awareness of local environmental issues, encourage participation in developing community-based solutions, and foster community resilience. Located in Treaty Six, the Town recognizes its responsibility as a Treaty partner to put Reconciliation into action for the benefit of everyone who lives in the region today, and for the generations to follow.



SevGen Consulting Inc. is a multi-disciplinary, 100% Indigenous-owned management consulting firm offering innovative and meaningful solutions within an Indigenous context that promote equity, collaboration and inclusion. Through the company's network of esteemed Indigenous and non-Indigenous professionals, the team has the combined capacity and experience to successfully engage, develop, and implement quality projects at any scale. SevGen has worked closely with businesses, communities, governments, and other stakeholders to build effective and winning partnerships.



Resilient Rurals began as a partnership between the central Albertan towns of Bruderheim, Gibbons and Lamont for a regional climate change adaptation and resilience project within Alberta's Industrial Heartland. As a climate change adaptation and resilience project, Resilient Rurals is constantly seeking new and innovative ways to address vulnerabilities common to small and rural communities and within central Alberta.