



WORKING TOWARDS A FIRST NATIONS STRATEGY ON AGRICULTURE

OVERVIEW

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) work on the First Nations agriculture supports the implementation of the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolution on accessing economic agriculture opportunities.

Resolution 47/2016, *First Nations Economic Opportunities Through a First Nations Agriculture Strategy*, recognizes the need for increased First Nation participation and opportunities within the agriculture and agri-foods sector. As a result, it will strengthen all aspects of the agriculture industry from First Nations actively engaging and benefiting in short and long-term agriculture activities,

resulting in enhanced economic opportunities in agriculture.

The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada, in collaboration with Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for agriculture, reached an agreement on key elements for the next Canadian Agriculture Partnerships (Agri-Partnership) 5-year framework. The 5-year Agri-Partnership, taking effect on April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023, focuses on growing trade and expanding markets, enhancing the competitiveness of the sector, supporting diversity and continuing to help producers manage significant risks.

UPDATE

There is a recognized need by officials at Agriculture Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC) to facilitate efforts to increase First Nations participation and access to existing programs under Agri-Partnerships. As result, Canada will support work on exploring a First Nations agriculture strategy with First Nations.

Key priorities have been identified throughout the course of the agriculture work to date, such as access to capital, AAFC communication and information sharing, accessible programs, capacity building and skills gaps.

NEXT STEPS

- Develop a gap analysis report, identify barriers and gaps that hinder First Nations participation within the agriculture agri-foods sector.

Coordinate with AFN Executive Committee in identifying First Nations agriculture experts, to develop a working group to

provide advice and recommendations on a First Nations agriculture strategy.

- Develop a First Nations agriculture strategy from First Nations perspectives and existing agriculture trends resulting in a comprehensive agriculture strategy.