



Why We Exist

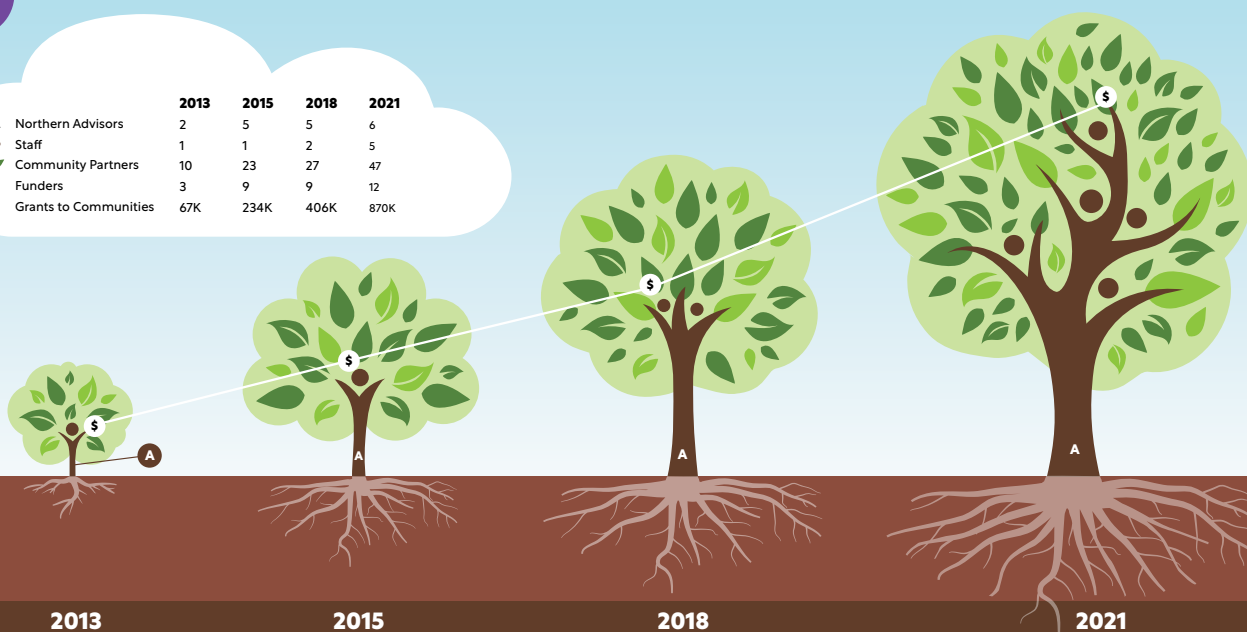
The Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative's (NMFCCC) creation came from two needs 1) communities requested improved philanthropic access with supportive, coordinated, learning-focused partners; 2) philanthropic groups had limited experience in the territory and wanted to share the risk, reward, staffing and learning opportunities. Our goal? Create a tailor-made support system for the territory that is rooted in learning and relationships, and centers community priorities and ways of working.

Collaborative Growth

The NMFCCC has grown considerably in all aspects since inception in 2013. This includes the number of staff, participating funding organizations (collaborators), community partners, and the projects undertaken by communities.



	2013	2015	2018	2021
A Northern Advisors	2	5	5	6
Staff	1	1	2	5
Community Partners	10	23	27	47
Funders	3	9	9	12
Grants to Communities	67K	234K	406K	870K



NMFCCC Actions

To achieve our goal, we take five main actions to support communities in Northern Manitoba to be healthier and stronger through mutually transformative partnerships.



GRANTING

Funds are pooled and granting is consensus-based, and guided by community values.



STORY SHARING

Co-created, positive community stories are shared through multiple formats to inspire and demonstrate what is possible.



NORTH TO NORTH CONNECTIONS

Supporting community knowledge sharing gatherings in the territory and enable project leaders to self-represent in discussion and resolution processes concerning their communities.



COLLABORATOR (UN)LEARNING

Supporting collaborator (un)learning; with emphasis on multi-directional learning to understand community opportunities and priorities and related colonial oppression.



SYSTEMS CHANGE

Broadly share lessons learned to stimulate the creation of similar ecosystems of support (4 to date) and demonstrate through practice and evidence improved ways of working.



I think what I really liked about it was that there is just belief in community capacity, like I am so used to working in systems where there is a lack of belief in community capacity. In First Nations Communities, we know what we need, we know how to do it, most times we have the capacity, we just do not have the capital.

Kelly Selkirk,
Open Hands Food Bank,
Fisher River Cree Nation

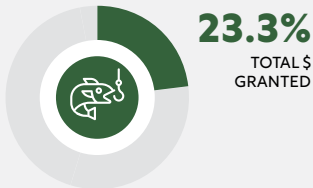


Granting Activities Breakdown

TOTAL GRANTED IS **\$3.9MILLION**

NMFCCC has partnered with
58 Northern MB communities

~70%
of all communities
in the territory



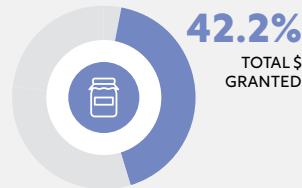
HARVESTING

Wild/Country Foods, Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Harvesting Berries, Plants, Maple Sap & Medicines, Ceremony Honoring Relations



GROWING & RAISING

Home & Community Vegetable Gardens, Greenhouses, Food Forests, Orchards & Berry Bushes, Chickens & Bees



PROCESSING & PRESERVING

Vital to all locally produced and harvested food. Cutting, Smoking, Freezing, Drying and Canning



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Pandemic-related funds granted in emergency capacity; Includes food hamper distribution, additional wild harvest, and/or cash distributions

Important Lessons Learned

More important lessons:

WAYS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Intergenerational connections and mentorship are vital to teach and learn cultural knowledge and practices
- Gatherings, land-based learning and community-to-community connections are important actions to continue to support



Jill Larkin,
Warrior Caregiver Program,
Churchill

I think a lot of the relationship building and knowledge sharing happens informally. So not when you're mentoring someone to hunt, but when you are sitting around the fire at the end of the day, when you lying-in bed having your bedtime conversations, really sharing.

CULTURAL RECLAMATION AND RESURGENCE

NMFCCC was initially focused on Food Security. Through working relationally, Northern Advisors and community partners shared and showed holistic food sovereignty as the desired focus and that cultural reclamation is critical in achieving lasting change.

WELLNESS

- Wellness is holistic and all aspects of wellness need support including, Mental, Physical and Spiritual
- Personal wellness is linked to healthy community relationships. Teamwork and bonds grow from common goals, i.e.: Community gardens, group hunts, communal harvesting



Marion Langdon,
Community Gardening,
Sapotaweyak Cree Nation

I think it's healing for (people) to go into the garden. It's therapeutic. Our clients go to the garden, instead of walking the streets, have lunch, and get to talk, and get counseling.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- NMFCCC Response to community needs during emergencies (flooding, fire and pandemics), is vital to trust building.
- The most significant response to COVID impacts was community food and traditional medicine sharing, also an important regular cultural practice



Demian Lawrenchuk,
Wild Food Harvest,
Fox Lake Cree Nation

We got such good feedback from people receiving... I got to meet a group of Elders that they are working with who are just in love with the program, with the consistent wild food, and they had a few ceremonies where it was utilized for the feast that they had after the fast.

ON-GOING CHALLENGES

More support & funds are needed to address:

- infrastructure, storage space and equipment needs for food programs
- high transport costs
- logistical challenges around food distribution
- community engagement in programs
- colonial barriers to food sovereignty
- qualified donee requirement is a barrier to fund dispersal



Sarah Beth Cameron,
Waywayseecappo First Nation

The colonial impact on our food structure is astronomical and I want to tell everybody about it. It's just that once I realized it, where all the food comes from, and where all our illnesses are coming from. Our food has such a huge impact, on everything!



[Learning Report](#)

How we Work

NMFCCC work is rooted in our Theory of Change, and expressed by 6 values: Slow, Relational, Collaboration, Shared Learning, Reciprocity, and Committed.

- Trust in community vision, capacity and our relationships
- Focus on barrier free funding processes, and holistic thinking
- Flexibility, availability, and frequent communication of NMFCCC staff
- Adapting expenditures during COVID-19
- Supporting connections and creating knowledge sharing resources with and between communities
- Reflecting and celebrating community-led work

Theory of Change in Motion

Collaborators and communities appreciate the TOC & values that guide our approach and work. During annual interviews, project leads expressed appreciation for the **relational** and **collaborative approach**, **reciprocity**, and **shared learning** opportunities between communities. Project lead reflections give evidence that NMFCCC staff and collaborator ways of working reflects the values. For example, emphasis on visiting and listening to communities, and investment in community capacity, reflects belief in **local champion's ability to lead change**, and that investments in community-led solutions increase the **likelihood of finding effective approaches** in each community. Northern Advisors instructed NMFCCC on embodying the values and maintaining efforts for deep funder/collaborator (un)learning to create **better quality, and more, philanthropic support**. Evaluations show collaborator appreciation for the TOC and that their work is informed and improved by practicing the TOC. These investments have the potential to influence systems change through practice and evidence.



The way that the collaborative works, the values of working, a slow way, and really understanding what's happening in communities, building relationships, reciprocity... Especially as I work with more and more people, when you have 10 different partnerships to have that real flexibility in reporting, that's really good!

Becky Cook,
Misipawistik Pimatisiimeskanaw,
Misipawistik Cree Nation

Periodic reflection and assessment of our approach has been conducted by staff and external evaluators, some results are shared below.

- Positive impact of community food sharing on social isolation, community connectedness, and food security
- Positive impact of growing food and being on the land promoting physical, mental, spiritual health in addition to health food access
- Resurgence of importance intergenerational learning and sharing traditional cultural knowledge of the land and food embraced
- Learnings shared between communities and projects replicated
- Funder partners embracing learnings by adapting their systems and approaches to philanthropy
- Learning shared; collaborative model replicated in new territories when appropriate, 4 to date



Itinto Mechisowin in OPCN has inspired other communities to begin country foods programs



- Community champions emerging and supported
- Community-led sharing, and funder learning sessions held virtually
- On-the land activities, growing, raising, processing and learning
- Story-sharing booklets and knowledge translation products distributed to communities and our networks
- Draft of NMFCCC Terms of Reference completed
- Utilizing networks and relationships to respond to emergency (COVID-19)
- Collective voice engagement with governmental bodies regarding issues with challenge prizes and qualified donee designation
- Providing support to emerging collaborative networks

- ↑ Access to land-based activities
- ↑ Access to healthy, culturally appropriate foods
- ↑ Opportunities for intergenerational knowledge transfer
- ↑ Feelings of community togetherness
- ↑ Belief in community and individual capacity
- ↓ Reducing barriers within the granting process
- ↑ Interest in learning about collaborative model across the sector

Join the learning journey and grow the movement together.



**Northern Manitoba Food,
Culture, and Community
Collaborative**

SUPPORTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES IN
NORTHERN MANITOBA THROUGH GOOD
FOOD AND RESILIENT LOCAL ECONOMIES

nmfccc.ca | makeway.org

[f](#) @Northern Manitoba Food, Culture,
and Community Collaborative