



## NMFCCC Funding

- ✓ 2014
- ✓ 2015
- ✓ 2016

# Brochet Youth Gardening Project

## Location

The **Barren Lands First Nation** and **Brochet Community** are located on the northern shore of Reindeer Lake and have no year-round road access. In the winter, temporary roads connect the community; in the summer boat and air access is available. The diverse community of 600 people speak Cree, Dene and English.

## Objective

To connect youth and elders in the community through mentorship and education around the growing of fresh and traditional foods.

In 2013, a community garden was built through partnership with Thomas Sill Foundation. In 2014, the community partnered with NMFCCC to include cooking classes and support for home gardens. This year a partnership with NMFCCC and Lush Cosmetics planned to provide garden supplies and fund two adults and four youth part-time Garden Advisor positions (to assist home gardeners and oversee the community garden) and schedule workshops to involve local middle school students in the greenhouse and community garden. Financial administration and additional project support was provided by Food Matters Manitoba.

## Successes

- The return of two garden advisors strengthened local capacity and transferred past knowledge to new hires.
- Garden Advisors' organizational skills enabled effective coordination and management of community and individual gardens.
- Fifteen new home gardens were planted and harvested.
- A new greenhouse with a foundation was built on reserve land and used to grow vegetables.
- Seeds planted at a Seed Starting Workshop (attended by middle school students) were transplanted by Garden Advisors into the community garden.
- Vegetables were given to community Elders during harvest.

## Challenges

- Lack of involvement from youth in gardens.
- Not enough soil for garden beds.
- A land dispute resulted in a smaller space for the community garden and fewer vegetables produced.
- Poor weather provided mediocre growing conditions.
- Uncoordinated payment system led to loss of cheques.

## Next Steps

- Coordinate payment system.
- Continue to reach out to youth to spread awareness, increase involvement and expand the gardens.
- Continue partnership with Food Matters Manitoba to enhance the garden.