

Indigenous Outreach and Extension Programming

We imagine a future where empowered communities shape the food systems that nurture their health and well-being, and sustain thriving ecosystems.

Who are we?

- **The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS)** is an applied research and extension unit at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). We engage in multidisciplinary applied research and extension to cultivate sustainable regional food systems that advance the food sovereignty goals of diverse communities.
- ISFS takes an active role in reconciliation by offering support and partnership opportunities to Indigenous communities. Our aim is to share resources, provide academic and technical expertise, and help communities problem solve to develop thriving, resilient food systems that support community values and needs, and to effectively ensure their long-term successes.

How do we work?

In efforts to build positive relationships with Indigenous communities, the ISFS employs Indigenous Foodways Community Outreach Facilitators who understand the unique challenges Indigenous communities face, cultural aspects of food systems, the significance of reclaiming traditional food ways and Indigenous food sovereignty, and how modern methods of food production fit into Indigenous food systems today. The role of these facilitators is to act as cultural bridges, advising both the ISFS and Indigenous partners on how to move forward and communicate effectively, respectfully and in a good way.





What can we do for Indigenous Communities?

The ISFS intends to build working relationships by consulting with communities to identify their challenges and where the ISFS can be most helpful. The following are examples of our work:



Provide **research and technical services** to help answer questions, find viable solutions, and produce tools that can be utilized by partners to direct policy and decision making and be more successful in achieving their food sovereignty goals.



Organize partnerships for **training and capacity building** (tailored to the host community's needs and circumstances), specifically on topics related to small-scale crop and livestock production, marketing and community food systems planning.



Assist communities in **grant proposal preparation and project management**.



Conduct **engagement activities** to foster relationships within communities and facilitate Nation to Nation discussions to enhance collaborations.

Examples of our work:

- Tsawwassen First Nation Farm School (2015 – 2023)
- Sik-E-Dakh Farm School and community farm development (2020 – 2024)
- Development of community farm plans for Musqueam Development Corp, Xwisten (Bridge River) Indian Band, and Seabird Island Band (ongoing)
- Community garden training program for BC Indigenous Housing Society (ongoing)

Get in touch:

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