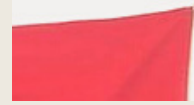


NATIONAL FARMERS UNION, JANUARY 2022

union farmer



L'union fermière

L'UNION NATIONALE DES FERMIERS, JANVIER 2022



The NFU joined allies at the UN Climate Convention (COP26) in Scotland in November. Read more on page 14.

NFU DAYS

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

January 24- February 7

Calling all farmers,
farmworkers,
friends, and
neighbours!

NFU Days is our annual membership drive! From Jan. 24-Feb. 7, 2022, new memberships will be offered with a 50% discount. We all know people who should be NFU members — please invite them!

NFU members from coast to coast to coast are working hard on issues, from local abattoir regulations to climate change policy, farmer income and farmland access to seed rights. This is your chance to help get that information into the hands of your farming friends and neighbours!

Do you know a fellow farmer or farm worker who should be a member? Maybe a friend, cousin, neighbour, or CSA member? Let us know. Staff can help you connect with as many potential members as possible during this time. Email macinnis@nfu.ca to share your ideas and to learn more about NFU Days or call the office.

The union makes us strong. Together we make it stronger.



This is Your Board!

The National Farmers Union Board of Directors is elected annually. The Presidential officers are elected at the National Convention. The Regional Board members are elected at their respective Regional Conventions.

National Officers



Katie Ward
NFU President
Woodlawn, ON



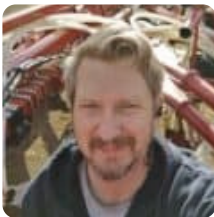
Bess Vanzandwyk
NFU Women's President
Montney, BC



Cheyenne Sundance
NFU BIPOC President
Toronto, ON



Jessie MacInnis
NFU Youth President
Lapland, NS



Will Robbins
1st Vice-President (Policy)
Laura, SK



Coral Sproule
NFU Women's Vice-President
Perth, ON



Sunil Puri
NFU BIPOC Vice-President
Ancaster, ON



Amber Dyck
NFU Youth Vice-President
Gore Bay, ON



Stewart Wells
2nd Vice-President (Operations)
Swift Current, SK



Toby Malloy
Region 7 (AB)
Nanton, AB



Laura Fash
Region 8 (BC, YK, NWT)
Vancouver, BC



Glenn Norman
Region 7 (AB)
Red Deer County, AB



Doug Scott
Region 7 (AB)
Ft. Saskatchewan, AB



Ian Robson
Region 5 (MB)
Deleau, MB



Anastasia Fyk
Region 5 (MB)
Garland, MB



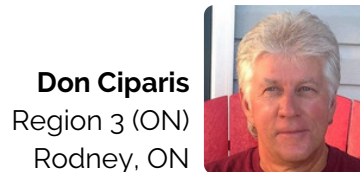
Dixie Green
Region 6 (SK)
Swift Current, SK



Al Birchard
Region 6 (SK)
Verwood, SK



Byron Petrie
Region 1 (Atlantic)
Morell, PEI



Don Ciparis
Region 3 (ON)
Rodney, ON



Madeline Marmor
Region 3 (ON)
Toronto, ON



Roger Rivest
Region 3 (ON)
Staples, ON

Regional Officers



It was wonderful to gather virtually in November with members and allies at the national Convention! Convention brings a sense of community, and builds understanding of how difficult the struggle with isolation has been during the pandemic. Although we missed friends across the country who were dealing with weather crises on their farms, it was empowering to see the turnout and know that members are working toward the common good and taking thought for each other's welfare.

We passed notable constitutional amendments that mark NFU history, diversifying our voices and perspectives through farm-worker memberships and a new caucus making space for elected representation for members of the NFU who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC). To paraphrase a great song, the NFU is growing to become a house with a crowded table and a place by the fire for everyone. I want to welcome Cheyenne Sundance and Sunil Puri, the newly elected BIPOC President and Vice President, to the Board. We are encouraged to see the NFU growing, while carrying through the messages, values and objectives of the NFU that were enshrined in 1969.

The NFU Constitution is linked on our website, and I find myself reflecting upon the Objects contained in that document more and more often - it's reassuring to see how well that vision has held up for over five decades. One of our Objects is to fight for fair pricing and equity in market access for farmers. What we are seeing play out now in every sector of the agricultural economy from seed and fertilizer, grain handling and purchasing, transportation, slaughter and processing has been allowed and encouraged over the past decades. The struggle is still ongoing—industry concentration has expanded to the point where agribusiness sees farmers as serving their need for profits, instead of them serving our needs as farmers. It's our role to ensure economic dignity is kept alive for farmers. Now is the time to shout out louder.

Ce fut merveilleux de se rassembler virtuellement en novembre avec des membres et des alliés lors de la Convention nationale ! La Convention bâtit un sens de communauté et une meilleure compréhension de comment difficile a été le combat avec l'isolement durant la pandémie. Même si



Katie Ward

President | Présidente

ont avez manqué nos amis absents à travers le pays qui faisaient face aux crises météorologiques sur leurs fermes, c'était habilitant de voir la participation, de savoir que les membres travaillaient pour le bien commun et qu'ils tenaient compte du bien-être des autres.

Nous avons pu adopter des modifications constitutionnelles notables qui marquent l'histoire de l'UNF, diversifiant nos voix et nos perspectives par l'entremise des travailleurs agricoles membres et d'un nouveau caucus qui crée de l'espace pour une représentation élue des membres de l'UNF qui sont des personnes autochtones, noires et de couleur (PANDC). Pour paraphraser une belle chanson, l'UNF s'accroît de sorte à devenir une maison avec une table pleine et une place près du feu pour tout le monde. Je veux souhaiter la bienvenue au CA à Cheyenne Sundance et à Sunil Puri, nouveaux élus en tant que président et vice-président du PANDC. Nous sommes encouragés de voir l'UNF s'accroître, tout en véhiculant les messages, les valeurs et les objectifs de l'UNF qui furent enchassés en 1969.

La constitution de l'UNF liée sur notre site web me retrouve à réfléchir sur les Objets contenus dans ce document de plus en plus souvent - c'est réassurant de voir comment bien cette vision a été constante depuis plus de cinq décennies. L'un de nos Objets est de se battre pour un prix équitable et de l'équité dans l'accès au marché pour les fermiers. Ce que nous observons se produire maintenant dans tous les secteurs de l'économie agricole, semences et engrais, manutention et achat du grain, transports, abattage et transformation, a été permis et encouragé au cours des dernières décennies. Le combat bat toujours son plein - la concentration industrielle s'est élargie au point où l'industrie agroalimentaire perçoit les fermiers comme étant au service des besoins de leurs profits, au lieu qu'elle soit au service de nos besoins en tant que fermiers. C'est notre rôle de s'assurer que la dignité économique soit bien vivante pour les fermiers. C'est maintenant le temps de crier encore plus fort.



After the long-awaited release of **Who Will Feed Us? New Farmer Perspectives on Agriculture for the Future** in November 2021, the Youth Caucus is taking a deep breath and looking forward.

My hope for this year is that as we mobilize to build our relationships with one another as young and new farmers, we focus our energy on strengthening the NFU's struggle for food sovereignty by being leaders in anti-racism and racial equity, agroecology, and climate justice.



Lots of exciting changes are developing across the NFU, including the formation of the BIPOC Caucus and farmworker membership level, and youth played key roles in bringing these organizational changes to life. Other work high on the priority list for us include developing anti-racist education tools seeking alternative land tenure and farm succession models for accessing land, building bridges with other social movements in pursuit of climate justice, and understanding how agroecology can be engaged not only on our farms, but in our organizing work and communities. While we still struggle to maintain connections to one another across the country as we brace for another winter of virtual meetings, I believe there is more strength, capacity, and resolve than ever in youth organizing for food sovereignty at multiple scales via the NFU.

This year, eight NFU youth are sitting on the national board of directors, and many more are working hard across NFU and La Via Campesina committees and caucuses. This is testament to our commitment to work collectively and engage politically. There is lots to be done, but I am proud to work with so many creatively brilliant, justice-oriented young farmers in the NFU.

Suite à la publication tant attendue de « **Qui va nous nourrir ? Perspectives des nouveaux fermiers sur l'agri-culture pour l'avenir** » en novembre 2021, le Caucus des jeunes respire profondément et se prépare pour l'avenir.



Jessie MacInnis

Youth President
Présidente de la jeunesse

Mon espoir pour cette année, c'est qu'alors que nous nous mobilisons pour bâtir nos relations les uns avec les autres en tant que jeunes fermiers et nouveaux fermiers, nous concentrons notre énergie sur le renforcement du combat de l'UNF pour la souveraineté alimentaire en étant des leaders en matière d'antiracisme, d'équité raciale, d'agroécologie et de justice climatique.

Beaucoup d'échanges stimulants se préparent dans l'ensemble de l'UNF, y compris la formation du Caucus PANDC et le niveau de membres travailleurs agricoles ; les jeunes ont joué des rôles clés pour donner vie à ces changements organisationnels. D'autres efforts sont élevés sur la liste des priorités, y compris le développement d'outils pédagogiques antiracistes pour l'UNF, chercher des modèles alternatifs en matière de régime foncier et de succession agricole pour avoir accès aux terres, établir des ponts avec d'autres mouvements sociaux dans la réalisation de la justice climatique, et comprendre comment l'agroécologie peut être mise en œuvre, non seulement sur nos fermes, mais dans nos efforts d'organisations et nos communautés. Bien que nous nous débattons pour maintenir des connexions entre nous à travers le pays alors que l'on fait face à un autre hiver de rencontres virtuelles, je crois qu'il y a plus de force, de capacité et de fermeté que jamais dans l'organisation des jeunes en matière de souveraineté alimentaire à de multiples niveaux grâce à l'UNF.

Cette année, huit jeunes de l'UNF siègent au Conseil d'administration national et plusieurs autres travaillent fort dans l'ensemble des comités et des caucuses de l'UNF et de La Via Campesina. Ceci témoigne de notre engagement à travailler collectivement et à s'engager politiquement : il y a beaucoup à faire, mais je suis fière de travailler avec tant de jeunes fermiers créatifs, brillants et axés sur la justice au sein de l'UNF.



After farming at Sundance Harvest for over two years now, a 1.5 acre diversified flower and vegetable farm, I got to meet many BIPOC farmers across Canada. Many of them youth, some wise with years of wisdom to share, some full time growers and some soon to be farmers - but all of them mentioned some key barriers they have faced as BIPOC growers: access to a community, learning opportunities and access to capital.

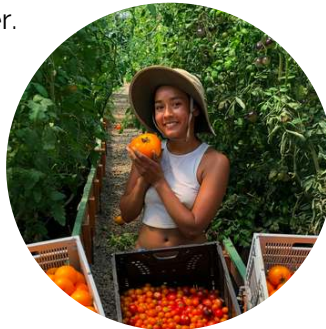
Many BIPOC growers do not have intergenerational wealth and the wealth of lack of barriers. The wealth of lack of barriers looks like simply not having the colour of your skin be something for which you are discriminated against. I understood that there were existing Youth and Women's caucuses, these two groups are minorities within agriculture, but so are BIPOC voices and that is one of the reasons why the caucus was formed.

Moving forward I hope the caucus can actively tackle the three key barriers I highlighted above. We have been speaking about starting this year with in-person programming across Canada, and later in the season with farm field days. It would take place in the provinces that have the most active involvement of BIPOC farmers and be hosted by farmers who are a part of the BIPOC Caucus. It'll be a great opportunity for new and more established BIPOC farmers to meet, chat and learn technical skills such as beekeeping, livestock management and market gardening techniques to name a few. Prospective BIPOC NFU members would also attend and that would hopefully show them all the great things this caucus and the NFU can offer.

What does BIPOC stand for?

BIPOC represents: Black, Indigenous and People of Colour | Le PANDC se représente: Personnes Autochtones, Noir et de couleur

Que signifie le PANDC ?



Cheyenne Sundance

BIPOC President
Présidente de la PANDC

Après avoir fait de l'agriculture à Sundance Harvest depuis un peu plus de deux ans, une ferme diversifiée de fleurs et de légumes de 1,5 acres, j'ai eu l'occasion de rencontrer plusieurs fermiers PANDC à travers le Canada. Plusieurs d'entre eux sont jeunes, certains avec des années de sagesse à partager, certains des producteurs à temps plein, d'autres qui deviendront bientôt des fermiers – mais tous ont mentionné des obstacles clés auxquels ils ont fait face en tant que producteurs PANDC : l'accès à une communauté, les opportunités d'apprentissage et l'accès au capital.

Plusieurs producteurs PANDC n'ont pas de richesses intergénérationnelles, mais font bien face à un montant élevé d'obstacles. L'absence d'obstacles, ce serait que la couleur de votre peau ne soit pas une raison d'être discriminé. J'ai compris qu'il y avait un caucus existant pour les jeunes et les femmes, ces deux groupes sont minoritaires en agriculture, mais c'est la même chose pour les voix PANDC et c'est une des raisons pourquoi le caucus fut formé.

Dorénavant, j'espère que le caucus peut aborder activement les trois obstacles clés que j'ai souligné ci-haut. Nous avons parlé de commencer cette année avec de la programmation en personne à travers le Canada plus tard dans la saison avec des journées champêtres. Cela aurait lieu dans les provinces qui ont l'engagement le plus actif de fermiers PANDC et sera organisé par des fermiers qui font partie du Caucus PANDC. Ce sera une merveilleuse opportunité pour que de nouveaux fermiers et des fermiers PANDC établis puissent se rencontrer, jaser et acquérir des capacités techniques, telles que l'apiculture, la gestion du bétail et les techniques maraichères, pour n'en nommer que quelques-unes. De futurs membres PANDC de l'UNF participeraient également et on espère que cela démontrerait toutes les belles choses que ce caucus de l'UNF peut offrir.



“ Standing together and on the shoulders of past NFU women's work, we won a big step in the 40-year fight for universal childcare with the \$30B funding announcement. ”

shoulders of past NFU women's work, we won a big step in the 40-year fight for universal childcare with the \$30B funding announcement.

In 2022, the Women's Caucus will have increased capacity to actualize ideas and hold space to gather as women farmers. We are grateful for staff support from Camille Yu-San Koon during her internship with the National office. We will also have access to \$2000 of funding from WhyHunger to carry out a project we will discuss at the January caucus meeting.

In response to last year's learnings, we have shared a survey to find the best time and will be meeting monthly Jan-Apr and regrouping in October to accommodate the farm season. Looking forward to continuing our collective good work through 2022 and grateful for the opportunity to lead the women's caucus.

Le Caucus des femmes souhaite la bienvenue à 2022, une année axée sur l'établissement de liens et la mise en vedette de fermières d'un océan à l'autre. Au centre des efforts du Caucus des femmes en 2021, il y avait une politique national sur la garde des enfants. À la demande de la Ministre Bibeau, nous avons organisé une table ronde des



Bess Vanzandwyk

Women's President
Présidente des femmes

femmes de l'UNF pour l'informer des besoins uniques des fermiers, des fermières et des familles rurales en matière de garde des enfants. En se tenant toutes ensemble et épaulées par les efforts antérieurs des femmes de l'UNF, nous avons fait un grand pas d'avant dans ce combat de 40 ans pour la prestation universelle pour la garde d'enfants avec l'annonce d'un financement de 30 \$ milliards.

En 2022, le Caucus des femmes aura une capacité accrue d'actualiser des idées et de préparer de l'espace pour se rassembler en tant que femmes fermières. Nous sommes reconnaissantes pour l'appui du personnel de la part de Camille Yu-San Koon durant son stage au bureau national. Nous aurons également accès à 2000 \$ de financement de la part de WhyHunger pour entamer un projet que nous allons discuter lors de la rencontre en janvier.

En guise de réaction aux apprentissages de l'an passé, nous avons partagé un sondage pour identifier le meilleur temps et nous allons nous rencontrer mensuellement de janvier à avril, et se regrouper en octobre pour accommoder la saison agricole. J'ai bien hâte de continuer notre bon travail collectif en 2022 et je suis reconnaissante pour l'opportunité de diriger le caucus des femmes.

“ En se tenant toutes ensemble et épaulées par les efforts antérieurs des femmes de l'UNF, nous avons fait un grand pas d'avant dans ce combat de 40 ans pour la prestation universelle pour la garde d'enfants avec l'annonce d'un financement de 30 \$ milliards. ”



COVID-19'S ONGOING IMPACT ON MIGRANT FARMWORKERS' LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS— MWSWG FAQ#4

1 How has COVID-19 directly impacted migrant farmworkers? Who is being held accountable?

In 2020, three migrant farm workers in Ontario lost their lives to COVID-19 and over 2,500 were infected. During the pandemic's first wave, 12 percent of migrant farm workers contracted the virus, a rate 10 times higher than the rest of the population. By June, Canada's health minister, Patty Hajdu was calling the rate of infection and conditions among migrant farm workers a "national disgrace." In 2021 at least 5 migrant workers died while in quarantine, including one who tested positive with COVID-19. Another 760 migrant farm workers had contracted the virus by mid-April.

Many workers feared they would be deported if they told their employers they had COVID-19 symptoms. Crowded bunkhouses, enclosed workspaces, limited personal protective equipment, a lack of regulatory enforcement, and the status of temporary foreign workers were considered leading causes of migrant workers' disproportionate rate of infection. By spring of 2021, nearly 1/5 of Ontario farms were still not compliant with pandemic safety protocols. Ontario deputy chief coroner's April 2021 report on the migrant worker deaths called for open work permits, better housing standards, unscheduled bunkhouse inspections, and access to vaccinations and health care for workers.

In Sept. 2021, Scotlynn Growers was charged with 20 workplace safety violations after approximately 200 migrant workers employed on their farm in 2020 tested positive for COVID-19. Reported violations included a failure to isolate sick workers, follow mask and disinfection protocols, and to offer appropriate information and training. The investigation is ongoing, but Gabriel Flores, a whistleblower and migrant worker who was fired from Scotlynn, received \$25,000 in damages following an ON Labour Review Board ruling.

2 What have been some of the broader implications of COVID-19 for migrant farm workers?

Many migrant workers lost income due to border restrictions, and worried about their family's financial security. When migrant workers arrived they faced tightened security and were surveilled from dis-embarkment and throughout their quarantine. Others were trapped on farm and asked to sign illegal agreements that threatened contract termination if they left the property.

At the end of the 2020 harvest, hundreds of Trinidadian migrant workers were stuck in Canada during the Dec. holiday season due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Migrant workers have reported being charged up to \$350 for COVID-19 tests in Mexico in order to meet travel conditions. If they test positive prior to departure they are barred from boarding the flight, making it difficult for them to qualify to return in subsequent years. There has not been a consistent effort to ensure real, informed consent for vaccination from migrant workers, especially during airport vaccination blitzes. Vaccine rollouts have also been uneven; in May and June 2021, many migrant workers in AB and MB did not have access to vaccines.

As Janet McLaughlin, co-founder of the Migrant Worker Health Project has stressed, the problems of poverty, racism, isolation, poor housing, precarious employment and migrant status, and limited access to healthcare for migrant farm workers "precede COVID and they will outlive COVID."

3 Bringing it home: Why should this matter to me and what can I do?

Aside from caring about our fellow human beings, the broader implications of the pandemic for migrant farm workers directly impacts every one's health and well-being. The pandemic has been prolonged and exacerbated by global inequities of vaccine distribution, and restricted access to health care for workers either here or in migrant workers' home countries. As many health care professionals and scientists have said, none of us is safe until we are all safe. The new variants of concern are proving this.

As we emerge from this pandemic, we cannot forget the people who, like NFU members, engage in the essential work of growing food. You can help ensure that they are accorded the respect and dignity they are due by joining us in calling for a designated path to Permanent Residency for Migrant Farm Workers.



NFU CANADA'S 52ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

AGRICULTURE AND THE COMMON GOOD

This year's 52nd annual convention was held from November 25-27, 2021, online and it was a great success! We heard from farmer members, academics and organizers alike. Although we weren't in person, we still felt that NFU energy.

Two constitutional amendments were passed. The first created a new Caucus in the Union, for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour farmers (BIPOC farmers). The second created a new membership category for Farm Workers (see page 9). Katie Ward, returned as NFU President.

Keynote speaker Leticia Ama Deawuo, Executive Director of SeedChange presented with the theme of **Justice Is Our Only Salvation** where she led listeners through her journey of food sovereignty, food justice and activism through shared stories of the roles that women, Black, Indigenous, and Peoples of Colour play in strengthening our food systems.

Panel presentation **Envisioning Agriculture for the Common Good** featured Severine von Tscharne Fleming, Katherine Strand and Bryan Dale, where they presented on grassroots organizing, connection with the land, permaculture, community science, ethnography and its impacts in agriculture in western Canada and ecological farming in the Canadian context.



The workshop **How to advance the Common Good through Democratic Action** with Kevin Shimmin and Nohora Castañeda from the UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers Union) focused on membership recruitment, the importance of collective organizing/activism, and how members can feel empowered to be a catalyst for change through collective communications.

Panel Presentation **NFU Working for the Common Good** with David Gehl, Tim Dowling and Brooke Hayes, all NFU members brought their work on the active Seed Committee, Livestock Committee and Mental Health Working Group. The Livestock Committee presented their most recent report, Taking Stock of Abattoir Regulations.

Panel Presentation: **Advancing the Common Good in Quebec and Africa** featured Thibeault Rehn on how corporate and political forces influence seeds and the use of pesticides in agriculture. Eric G. Charette gave examples of how community organizing, gender-equity and women-led organizing can bring together agriculture for the common good. The panel was the first to be held in French with live translation, hosted by NFU-NB Executive Director, Suzanne Fournier.

The final presentation, **Cultivating the Common Good** with Celeste Smith, Joel Mowchenko, and Hayes Urban Teaching Farm co-operator, Mark Trealout brought their farming experiences through a lens of teaching, Indigenous knowledge, learning, listening and connecting.

All convention presentations can be viewed on the NFU Youtube channel:



National Farmers Union Canada

www.youtube.com/c/NationalFarmersUnionCanada



“
The NFU is where
common sense resides
Wayne James
”

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

At this year's national convention, the NFU voted on two important amendments to our constitution that will welcome more farmers to join us solidarity. Constitutional amendments require a 2/3 majority of voting delegates in order to be carried.

1 The first amendment, underlined below, **adds clause vi) to Section 11 (a). Membership Dues**
 11. (a) All persons applying for membership in the union shall pay an annual membership fee of \$195 minimum, except:

New members who sign a yearly bank authorization shall be offered an introductory membership of two years for the price of a one-year membership unit after which time the member shall pay the regular annual membership fee.

Any youth between the ages of 14 and 25 may become a member of the union by the payment of an annual fee of 50% of the regular membership fee, excepting members who farm in regions where provincial stable funding mandates that the full membership fee be paid.

Any non-farming family unit or person may become an associate member of the union by the payment of an annual fee which is determined from time to time by the Board.

Where a region is participating in a legislated provincial funding program, each member of the region shall pay an annual membership fee which is determined from time to time by the Board.

Where introductory or promotional offers are made to members as determined by the board.

Any farm worker engaged in farming in Canada may become a member of the union by the payment of an annual fee of 50% of the regular membership fee.

2 Another amendment has been added, in the form of four clauses applying to the duties of elected officials in the District, Presidential, Vice-Presidential and Advisory Committee roles:

DUTIES OF DISTRICT BIPOC DIRECTOR
 The district BIPOC director shall, immediately following election to office, be responsible for the supervision and direction of programs within the district that are of specific interest to Black, Indigenous and Persons of Colour.

DUTIES OF BIPOC PRESIDENT
 The BIPOC president shall be in charge of Black, Indigenous and Persons of colour programs and shall coordinate such programs within the general program of the union.

DUTIES OF BIPOC VICE PRESIDENT
 The BIPOC vice-president shall assist the BIPOC president in the conduct of duties and shall be the BIPOC president in the event the office of BIPOC president becomes vacant from any cause.

BIPOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 It shall be the duty of the BIPOC advisory committee to advise and assist the BIPOC president in developing programs that are of particular interest to Black, Indigenous and Persons of Colour, and coordinate such activities within the general program of the union.



Canadian Grain Commission

Commission canadienne des grains



Public Service Alliance of Canada
 Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

CUPE·SCFP Canadian Union of Public Employees
 Syndicat canadien de la fonction publique



Thank you to this year's convention sponsors: we couldn't have done it without you!

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS 2021

Each year, NFU members decide how we can work together for our common good, bringing resolutions to our national convention to be voted on in a democratic process. Here are the resolutions passed at the National Convention, outlining how the NFU will work for you in 2022!

Alternative Farmland Ownership

WHEREAS NFU policy supports the establishment of community-owned land trusts and land banks as a way to promote inter-generational land transfers that do not rely on loans, interest payments and massive indebtedness, and

WHEREAS NFU policy promotes regenerative agriculture that would decrease fossil fuel emissions and ensure long-term soil fertility;

BE IT RESOLVED the NFU create a model for an ecologically sustainable NFU-based land tenure option as a way to promote land transfers that do not rely on loans, interest payments and massive indebtedness, and that it launch this new program at national convention in 2022.

Corporate Conflict of Interest if receiving Government Assistance

WHEREAS government agriculture support money is supposed to be for farmers, and

WHEREAS a vertically integrated agricultural corporation often sets prices for the purchase of other farmers' production, as well as producing the product, and may call itself a farmer, and receive Government Agriculture support money, and

WHEREAS this is a conflict of interest, skewing the government agriculture and farm support programs;

BE IT RESOLVED the NFU lobby Federal and Provincial Ministers of Agriculture that no agriculture support program funds be available to vertically integrated agriculture companies who earn estimated profits over \$3 million and raise or produce their own agriculture products that are then processed into food.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NFU promote policies to all levels of government which recognize the inter-connectedness of biodiversity, climate mitigation and resilience and water and nutrient cycles, including hedgerow preservation and restoration of resilient landscapes.

Fostering Integrated Agriculture

WHEREAS we are facing a planetary crisis that emerges from the interplay of biodiversity loss and species extinction, greenhouse gas-driven climate change, and the disruption of the terrestrial water cycle that dramatically exacerbates climate change, and increases soil degradation and run-off which overloads water bodies with nutrients, and

WHEREAS the industrialization of agriculture has been identified as the main driver of this planetary crisis, and as a major driver of land-use change, biodiversity loss, disrupted nutrient cycles (Campbell et al., 2017), carbon dioxide emissions from soils, and the disruption of the terrestrial water cycle, and

WHEREAS the spatial separation of crop and animal production plays a core role in how agriculture has disrupted planetary processes, and

WHEREAS pasture-based and mixed crop-livestock farming methods can play a significant part in addressing root causes of this planetary crisis, and provide habitat that protects biodiversity while also creating profitable farm operations, and

WHEREAS forces in Canada and the United States are currently focused on sequestering and reducing carbon emissions within the current industrial production paradigm, without sufficiently addressing the larger context of water, nutrients, erosion, and especially biodiversity loss;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the NFU take actions that build understanding within the leadership of the organization about the inter-connectedness of the planetary crisis beyond carbon sequestration and the link between landscape degradation and the disconnection of plant and animal agriculture;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NFU develop education strategies for NFU members, politicians and the public about the inter-connectedness of biodiversity, climate mitigation and resilience, and water and the nutrient cycles;



Hantavirus Vaccine

WHEREAS the hantavirus is far from a pandemic but -- it has a 29% fatality rate in Canada, and

WHEREAS China, Korea and the United States have made progress on the development of hantavirus vaccines;

BE IT RESOLVED the NFU press the appropriate Health Canada officials for the development and production of a hantavirus vaccine.

Small Modular Nuclear Reactors

WHEREAS Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe announced he will pursue a new made-in-Saskatchewan climate plan that includes a carbon pricing regime for fuel similar to the one in New Brunswick, which includes the development of small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) and is approved by the Trudeau government, and

WHEREAS NFU policy opposes the construction of any new nuclear reactors, and

WHEREAS the NFU supports the development of environmentally and socially responsible renewable energy;

BE IT RESOLVED the NFU call on the provincial and federal governments to suspend any and all allocation of funds towards the development by any developer(s) for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs).

Root Causes of Hedgerow Removal

WHEREAS hedgerows and trees play key functions in healthy and climate-resilient landscapes that include biodiversity retention, migration corridors, the retention and cycling of water, protection from erosion, and providing resilient microclimates, and

WHEREAS hedgerows are important for public health through helping to prevent blowing and drifting snow from making roadways unsafe for winter travel, and

WHEREAS hedgerows are being removed as part of the increasing industrialization of agriculture for multiple reasons that include easier installation of tile drainage, less maintenance, large scale machinery, and increase in land value and workable acreage, and

WHEREAS existing incentive programs to protect and rebuild hedgerows have been unable to stop or reverse the ongoing trend of landscape degradation and hedgerow removal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the NFU gather qualitative and quantitative data about the removal of hedgerows in rural areas and the driving factors for this process, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NFU educate NFU members, politicians and the public about the value and deleterious consequences of hedgerow removal in the light of climate resilience, biodiversity extinction, and the disruption of the terrestrial water cycle, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NFU develop policies and regulations for lobbying all levels of government that address the driving factors of landscape degradation, especially hedgerow removal.

Natural Disaster Response

WHEREAS farmers in British Columbia have suffered devastating losses and damages to crops, animals, infrastructure, livelihoods, and mental health from interconnected wildfires and flooding through two provincial states of emergency in 2021, and

WHEREAS increasing natural disasters are considered to pose high risks to British Columbia and Canada and will be exacerbated by climate change, and

WHEREAS agriculture bears a widely disproportionate share of losses and damages from natural disasters as compared to other sectors, and

WHEREAS existing government emergency response plans prioritize relief for large conventional commodities to mitigate supply chain disruption, and

WHEREAS land speculators use natural disasters to increase their holdings as losses incurred by farmers create pressures to sell farms to cover recovery expenses;

BE IT RESOLVED the NFU press federal and provincial Ministers of Agriculture to legislate agriculture-specific plans for emergency management of compound natural disasters, and that these plans include protections for smallholder farmers and protections for agricultural land against disaster financialization, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NFU establish internal protocols for rapid disaster response, including the capacity to support mutual aid networks, rapid communication with affected regions for identifying on-the-ground needs, mental health and administrative supports.



RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

Mobile Abattoirs

WHEREAS there is an abattoir crisis in Ontario, widely recognized by livestock producers and abattoir operators—which will be magnified in the near future as aging abattoir operators retire, and

WHEREAS training, attracting and retaining skilled labour in the abattoir sector is increasingly challenging, and

WHEREAS a significant investment is required to support upgrades to existing abattoirs, to meet regulatory requirements—and recently announced provincial/federal funds do not begin to address the scale of the problem, and

WHEREAS existing abattoirs cannot keep up with demand and leave large regions of the province unserved, or with unreasonably lengthy travel times, and

WHEREAS animal welfare is increasing in priority for both livestock producers and consumers, and

WHEREAS COVID-19 has increased the profile of local-direct marketing, highlighted the issues of local abattoir capacity, and encouraged policy change to facilitate the implementation of mobile abattoir facilities in jurisdictions with food safety standards matching or exceeding those of Ontario (including Scotland, Germany, Sweden, France and the UK);

BE IT RESOLVED the NFU work with allies to call on governments to upgrade regulatory standards to facilitate the successful implementation of mobile abattoirs for commercial-oriented slaughter in under-served regions.

Life Insurance in APP

WHEREAS farmers are able to acquire large loans through the Advance Payment Program, and

WHEREAS these loans are not insured against the loss of life of the applicant;

BE IT RESOLVED the National Farmers Union request to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food that loans through the Advance Payment Program be life insured at a reasonable cost to the producer.

Government Oversight for Gene-Edited Seeds And Food

WHEREAS proposed new regulatory guidance from Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency would exempt gene-edited genetically engineered organisms from regulation if they have no foreign DNA;

BE IT RESOLVED the National Farmers Union take the policy position that all foods and seeds produced through gene editing must be subject to government safety assessments and mandatory reporting to government, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Farmers Union continue to call on the Ministers of Health and Agriculture and Agri-Food to commit to transparency and independent science in the regulation of all genetically engineered organisms for use in food and farming, including those produced through gene-editing.

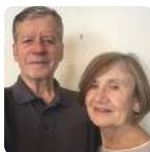


GRASSROOTS AWARDS

The NFU is pleased on the occasion of its 52nd Annual Convention to recognize and show appreciation to the following leaders for loyal service to the farm union movement through their work as proud and dedicated members of the NFU in their communities and regions.



Bill Bocock
Region 7 (AB)



Leonard & Judy Harapiak
Region 5 (MB)



Bernadette Goguen
Region 1 (NB)



Corky Evans
Region 8 (BC)



Bev Currie
Region 6 (SK)



Dianne Kretschmar
Region 3 (ON)



PAUL BEINGESSNER AWARD

Working with the family of Paul Beingessner, the National Farmers Union has established an annual literary prize in honour of Paul—a writer, a farmer and an activist and his contribution to rural and agricultural journalism. The winners for 2021's award were 22 year old Meara Kirwin and 15 year old Conor T Sproule. Read the introductions of their award-winning essays here below and find the full writings on our website.

"A lot has happened this season while young farmers have had our heads down and hands in the soil. Every time we've had a moment to look up from our work, we've been confronted with a barrage of difficult political, social and ecological realities. One of the most urgent of these has been the now unavoidable truth of Indigenous genocide in Canada, and the recognition that we all have a part to play in righting these ongoing wrongs. As we settle into winter, and many farmers have more time to rest, reflect and plan, we might finally have the time to engage with what this reality means for us, as young farmers. Perhaps most directly, it means that we need to engage with the movement for Indigenous food sovereignty in Canada and abroad. As a young, new farmer, and a settler on these lands, I don't pretend that I know the way forward. However, my years of community organizing have taught me that the first steps are simple - we need to build real relationships with each other, and plug into our collective power."



Meara Kirwin (they/them) is a 22-year-old new farmer and experienced organizer living in Amiskwacîwâs-kahikan (Edmonton). They're honoured to receive this award and will be sharing the prize with the Wet'suwet'en Land Defenders Legal Fund.

"Covid19 has caused society to start breaking down, with unemployment out of control, food and social instability, and large amounts of fear. It is in large part up to the homesteaders in small towns and big cities, to repair things and farmers will be at the center. Covid effects us all from unemployment, fear, uncertainty, and the loss of loved ones, looking forward is scary, especially for farmers. This year has been a horrible time to be a farmer. I worked at many farms this summer as a farm skills student and witnessed the damage. This may be a tough time, but farmers work harder than anyone else. Once they get through this their towns, cities, or homes will reach self sufficiency far more quickly."

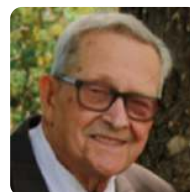


Conor T. Soule is 15 year old from Charlie Lake, BC. He is an unschooler that has always been encouraged to follow his passions for what he needs to learn in life! Currently those passions are for Mushrooms, Permaculture, Economics and Art. This summer Conor worked as a eco farm skills student at many different farms in his community. This only increased his passion for healing our planet. He is an entrepreneur at heart and has multiple permaculture projects on the go which he hopes to share with his farming community.

To read their essays in full please head to <https://www.nfu.ca/pubtypes/paul-beingessner-award/>

OR

SCAN HERE!



It is with deep sorrow that we note the passing of **Peter Cherkas** (2021). Peter was a long time member for over 40 years and at one time held the position of Local President in SK.

www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/23492523/peter-cherkas



CLIMATE WORK UPDATE: NFU VERY ACTIVE IN 2021 AND 2022



Left to right—Anastasia Fyk, Jessie MacInnis & Stuart Oke in Glasgow at the World Climate March.

In November, seven NFU members and officials attended the UN COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow. In a series of meetings, events, and protests, NFU members worked with Via Campesina allies, engaged with Canadian media, and advanced the message that farmers want faster action on emissions reduction, climate resilience, soil health, and social and economic justice. A huge thanks to our NFU COP Contingent: Anastasia Fyk, Madeline Marmor, Shannon Wright, Glenn Wright, Jessie MacInnis, Tiffany Traverse, and Stuart Oke. For some details on the work of the NFU at COP26, please see the early November news releases at www.nfu.ca/category/media-release/. You can also watch a report-back video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKloal-Igak>.

Key to enabling us to send farmer leaders to Glasgow were financial contributions from NFU members and others. As a result of those generous donations, many thousands of dollars, the vast majority of participants' costs were covered. A huge "thank you" to all who contributed.

The brisk pace of NFU work continues in 2022. This year promises to be the most active so far. Key to that work will be an increasingly important role for the NFU Climate Committee. That Committee will be meeting regularly, via Zoom, beginning January 19th, Chaired by Stuart Oke. The NFU urges every member interested in contributing to our climate change work to join that Committee; it is a huge learning opportunity and a chance to help achieve the policy solutions farmers need. To join, send an email to the NFU Director of Climate Policy at qualman@nfu.ca.

Also in 2022, the NFU will be releasing two or more major reports on emissions and climate. Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS), of which the NFU is a founding member, will be releasing the reports of two expert Task Forces as part of its work to ensure that climate change and agricultural emission reduction are core parts of the 2023 Agricultural Policy Framework (APF). And the NFUniversity series will continue, with these sessions: February 10: A Critique of Liquid Biofuels, March 10: A New NFU Report Detailing Agricultural Emissions; and April 14: Solid Biofuels and BECCS, Pros and Cons. Please join with other NFU members as we collectively pursue this critical work.

NFUniversity

With classes on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, NFUniversity will feature experts, researchers, farmers, and others on topics ranging from climate change, agroecology, seed policy, carbon markets, and beyond. The sessions will build upon the foundational knowledge many NFU members and others already have to delve deeper, advance our understanding to a higher level, and increase our capacities to analyze and advocate.

l'UniversitéNF

Avec des cours les deuxième et quatrième jeudis de chaque mois, l'UniversitéNF accueille des experts, des chercheurs, des fermiers et d'autres personnes sur des sujets divers comme les changements climatiques, l'agroécologie, la politique des semences, les marchés du carbone et plus encore. Les sessions sont basées sur les connaissances fondamentales que de nombreux membres d'UNF et d'autres personnes possèdent déjà pour approfondir, faire progresser notre compréhension à un niveau supérieur et augmenter nos capacités d'analyse et de plaidoyer.





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Use promo code NFUMEMBER21 at checkout.
<https://store.nfu.ca/>

DOVETAIL WORKWEAR 25% off!

Women's workwear that fits! "Fit for the job. Capable of anything."
Use promo code NFU25 at checkout.
<https://dovetailworkwear.ca/>

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<https://www.marks.com/>

Small Farm CANADA

\$5 off 1, 2 or 3 year subscriptions for all NFU members. Use promo code NFUBonus at checkout.
www.smallfarmcanada.ca/

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

The NFU has several policy action committees where members discuss relevant policy matters, and in the process, develop expertise they can contribute to the NFU as a whole. Committees may provide recommendations to the NFU Board and develop resolutions for discussion at annual conventions. They can set up working groups or subcommittees to support research on specific aspects of the Committee's work. Committee members may have opportunities to be media contacts or spokespeople in government processes to advance the NFU's work in the area. The Committees can also organize actions to promote NFU positions to other organizations, governments and the general public. Participating in a committee is a great way to get to know other NFU members who share your interests, to deepen your own knowledge and to bring forward your personal experience and perspectives to inform our policy work.

We currently have committees working on:

- Trade
- Supply Management
- Farmland ownership
- Climate Change
- Mental Health
- Indigenous Solidarity
- Migrant Worker Solidarity
- Seed
- Livestock
- Grain marketing and transportation

SHOP NFU

www.store.nfu.ca



Engaged Elders

Have you seen a few harvests? Remember rotary phones? Join in on the NFU's **Engaged Elders** monthly social hour and talk farming, succession, joys and concerns with other farmers across Canada. The second Tuesday of every month through April at: 1 PM pacific The next one will be on Tuesday, February 8. Email shaw@nfu.ca to get the link to join!

To get involved, email Cathy.holtlander@nfu.ca and let her know which committee you are interested in, and she will add you to their contact list.

OTHER EVENTS!

Want to keep learning, listening and to stay updated in all things farming and beyond? Check out our events page on our website to stay in the loop and broaden your horizons. Head to www.nfu.ca/events/

OR Scan here!



LEAVE A LEGACY

A legacy donation to the NFU or National Farmers Foundation empowers the next generation
Contact Mara Shaw at shaw@nfu.ca to discuss estate donations



CHANGES TO THE UNION FARMER

We appreciate people's understanding and sense of solidarity with the difficult choices the NFU has had to make throughout this pandemic. The Virtual Convention is a real challenge for some due to rural internet & other issues. We want to make sure that people's needs are met in a way that is accessible to them. That's why we're sending a paper copy of the Union Farmer. We will be publishing twice a year to contain costs and mailing, budget permitting. We hope you'll love it, but please let us know if you prefer not to receive this. I hope you enjoyed the read!

-Katie Ward, President

YES/OUI



I would like to / je voudrais:

Join the National Farmers Union /
Adhérer l'Union nationale des fermiers

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Farming Unit / Unité de ferme | \$225.00 / year (an) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Farm Family / Ferme familiale | \$225.00 / year (an) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Farm Worker / Un(e) Paysan(ne) | \$225.00 / year (an) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Youth (14-25) / Un-e jeune(sse) | \$113.00 / year (an) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate / Associé(e) | \$ 75.00 / year (an) |

Donate to the National Farmers Union /
Faire un don à l'union nationale des fermiers

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other/Autre _____ | | |

For automatic monthly membership or donation payments, visit us at www.nfu.ca. Pour les paiements mensuels automatiques de l'adhésion ou des dons, rendez-vous à l'adresse suivante www.nfu.ca/fr.

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