



SUSTAIN

Alliance for healthy, just and sustainable food & farming
Working across Indigenous Territories / Ontario

Prioritize Indigenous Food Sovereignty

- Unacceptable, embarrassing outstanding Indigenous land and treaty issues remain, often blocked, stalled, or ignored by provincial and/or federal administrations, civil servants, and risk-averse advisors.
- Provincial policies continue to undermine Indigenous rights to exercise their treaty rights to access and co-manage traditional lands, water, resources, and markets necessary for food sovereignty.
- There continues to be a lack of proper consultation and engagement on decisions that affect the lives of Indigenous people.
- Provincial land use, resource management, and environmental protection policies often fail to align with Indigenous treaty rights and priorities.
- There is not adequate representation of First Nations in the provincial cabinet.
- Current policies fail to provide adequate protections against harmful pollutants from forestry and mining, which contaminate water and soil, posing risks to food security and wildlife.

Recommendations:

- **Review** all provincial policies and bring them into alignment with Indigenous treaty rights, particularly consultation protocols, land use and environmental protection policies.
- **Ensure meaningful Indigenous Representation.**
- **Ensure a sufficient Indigenous Affairs Budget.**
- Establish Indigenous-led **food safety certification** programs
- Create public health policy that allows **servicing of traditional food to the public.**
- Allow the **transportation of traditional foods across provincial borders.**
- Ease the process for **Indigenous food producers** to access mainstream markets including revisiting and revising labeling requirements.
- Create a **Harvesters Support Program** at the provincial level to provide financial support to access remote lands, including subsidies for necessary tools and equipment (e.g., boats, motors).
- **Amend the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights** to ensure Indigenous perspectives are fully integrated into environmental assessments.
 - **Stop the use of Glyphosate in Forestry** to protect moose habitat.
 - **Fund land safety testing** in communities impacted by industrial activities, especially those located near former military or mining sites for glyphosate, heavy metals, and other toxic pollutants that may disrupt food systems.

These policies have been created with the input of 90+ Ontario organizations collaborating over 4 months and have been vetted by the Sustain Board as of February 4, 2025. For more information, please go to:

<https://sustainontario.com/vote2025/>