



Ensuring Young People in Nova Scotia are Well-Nourished to **Live, Learn & Play.**

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

Indigenous Projects Coordinator

About Nourish Nova Scotia

Nourish Nova Scotia is a registered charity that provides leadership and support to create healthy food environments for young people across Nova Scotia. This means working in close connection with schools and communities to increase access to nutritious and culturally appropriate foods for young people; build knowledge, skills, confidence and connection in relation to food; and enhance school and community-based infrastructure for diverse food & garden programs. Our goal is to support the nutritional well-being of young people and to nurture positive food experiences through experiential learning, connecting with others around food, and spending time in the natural landscapes from which our food comes.

Currently, we are seeking a Coordinator of Indigenous Projects to build on relationships with Mi'kmaw schools and communities and expand our support for food-based initiatives, in alignment with Indigenous food sovereignty and Mi'kmaw self-determination principles and processes. Focusing on both internal knowledge building and processes, along with external relationship-building and collaboration, the Coordinator of Indigenous Projects will strengthen our work in creating inclusive and culturally appropriate environments for young people to engage and lead in a range of food-based initiatives in partnership with Mi'kmaw schools and communities.



About the Role

Position: Indigenous Projects Coordinator

Permanent, Full-Time

Start Date: October 2024

Location: This role is open to candidates living and working in Nova Scotia, and the Nourish office is in Halifax. Flexible /hybrid/and remote work arrangements are available.

Reports to: Executive Director

Terms of

Employment:

- \$54,000 - \$60,000 annually
- 35 hours/week
- Cost-shared benefits plan
- 3 weeks per year vacation
- 10 sick/wellness days
- Flexible work schedule

Deadline for Application: September 26th, 2024

The Coordinator, Indigenous Projects will work closely with the Nourish team to support and strengthen a range of food and land-based initiatives, with a focus on listening and responding to the needs and opportunities in relationship to Mi'kmaw Communities across Nova Scotia, in alignment with Indigenous food sovereignty and Mi'kmaw self-determination principles and processes. In doing so they will work to deepen connections with Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewy, and build upon emerging relationships with Mi'kmaw schools, partners, and communities to support community food initiatives that enhance access to nutritious and culturally significant foods and engage young people in gaining food skills among their peers and intergenerationally.

As an element of the work, the Coordinator of Indigenous Projects will collaborate with a small team of Provincial Garden Mentors (to be hired in late Fall, 2024) to support an expanding network of school and community growing projects across the province. Specifically, this role will work to support Mi'kmaw school communities in initiating and expanding projects that aim to engage students in land-based learning that includes practices related to growing, harvesting and preserving local and culturally significant food. More generally, the Coordinator, Indigenous Projects will support relationship and network building across local, Provincial, and National levels, and engage in, project learning, impact measurement, and knowledge sharing with the Nourish team and partners.

Key Responsibilities

Relationship Building & Network Development:

- Facilitate relationship building and knowledge sharing with Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewy, Principals & Educators, Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, Mi'kmaw Student Support Workers, Public Health Professionals, Youth, and others who are working to support Mi'kmaq-led food initiatives in schools and communities.
- Strengthen Nourish's on-going connection to the [Nourishing Indigenous Food and Foodways in Schools initiative](#) and as appropriate, participate in other networking and sharing opportunities such as the [Indigenous School Food Circle](#) - co-hosted by Farm to Cafeteria Canada, Canadian Feed the Children and the Coalition for Healthy School Food.
- Support relationship-building with emerging partners and initiatives working to support Indigenous Food Sovereignty initiatives with the Urban Indigenous Community in Kjiptuk/Halifax, such as the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and their work with [Halifax's JustFOOD Action Plan](#).

Support & Mentorship for School-Community Gardens:

- In connection to a small team of provincial garden mentors, work to revive, build, and steward a network of school-community gardens, with a focus on initiatives being developed by or in partnership with Mi'kmaw communities. Note, in using the term "garden" we recognize the limitation of this word, and our intentions are rooted in supporting initiatives that engage children and youth in processes of growing, harvesting, foraging, and stewarding the lands and waters that provide for our food system.
- Provide advice and support for the development of growing spaces and infrastructure and help to activate the use of the Nourish Trailer (a mobile unit to support food and garden programs across urban and rural locations), in support of community and youth-led food initiatives.
- Guide the development and implementation of garden infrastructure grants to Mi'kmaw schools and communities, with the intention of supporting improved student access to healthy, culturally appropriate foods and engaging students in hands-on activities that build their food knowledge & skills and support Indigenous foods and foodways.

Key Responsibilities

Coordination & Support for Community Food Initiatives in partnership with Mi'kmaw Schools & Communities - including Pictou Landing First Nation School & Northumberland Regional High (Pictou Landing First Nation) and L'nu Sipuk Kina'muokuom School (Sipekne'katik First Nation):

- Strengthen collaboration with Mi'kmaw schools and communities by listening to the needs, ideas, and opportunities they bring forward, and exploring how Nourish could work in support and collaboration. This may be through documenting and sharing stories of success through the Nourish blog or other platforms, sharing funding opportunities, collaborating on the development of recipes or other resources or other materials, and supporting school communities with grant applications.
- Work with partners to identify resources that could be developed to support engagement and skills-building among Mi'kmaw youth in relation to food. This may mean facilitating content development or translation, or other activities that support Mi'kmaw language regeneration and continuance in relation to food. Activities related to knowledge sharing will be done in consideration of the First Nations Principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession.

Communications & Knowledge-Sharing:

- Support Nourish's general communication activities that include communicating the work of Nourish and our impact in community in ways that are appropriate. This will involve approaches such as gathering and sharing stories including successes that communities would like to celebrate and sharing valuable resources and tools on the Nourish website.
- Contribute to learning and awareness (internal and external) around the colonial contexts related to Mi'kmaw Food Systems and help to build understanding of the barriers and opportunities related to this work in terms of colonial processes, systems and approaches. This might be achieved through the coordination of learning sessions, content development (ie. website & blogs) or other forms of learning and story-sharing as appropriate.

Key Responsibilities

General Administration & Organizational Support:

- Based on on-going connection with the Nourish team and partners, develop and manage a work-plan that can help to guide priorities and timelines as they unfold.
- Contributing to reporting to funders as needed.
- Contribute to team learning initiatives and support organizational planning processes, as appropriate.
- Supporting fundraising efforts to extend or expand this role and Nourish's work with First Nations, Metis and Inuit Communities.

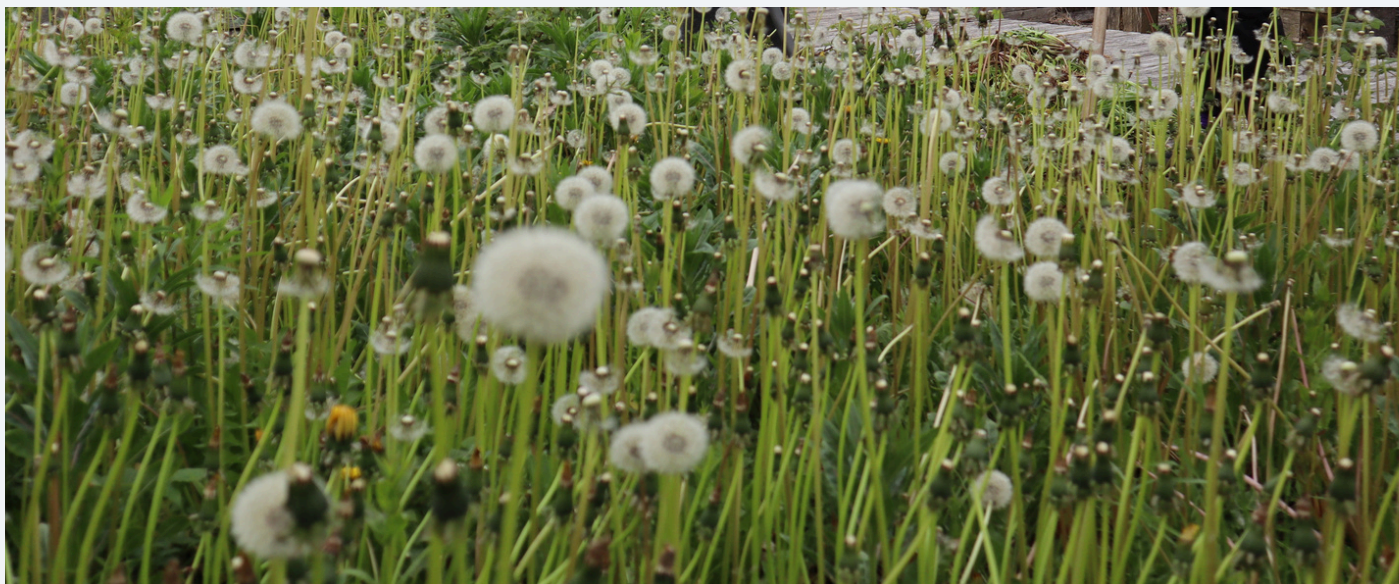
Please note that this type of work is emergent and how it rolls out will be informed by the communities and partners involved. There will be much opportunity for you to shape the role and how the work unfolds, in connection with existing initiatives that Nourish is involved in and connected to.



Essential Skills, Experiences and Competencies

- Lived experience with Indigenous protocols, teachings and worldviews.
- Experience working with urban, rural and/or remote Indigenous communities and organizations and/or schools.
- Familiarity with issues related to Indigenous food sovereignty, with a demonstrated commitment to food justice, with understanding around the colonial contexts (ie. Indian Act, Residential School System) that shape Mi'kmaw food systems.
- Minimum 2 years of work experience in community development, food security, or another related field.
- Demonstrated experience in community outreach, facilitation, organizing, and capacity building including in an online environment.
- Demonstrated experience with developing training and learning resources in a variety of media (print, web resources).
- Hands-on experience working with diverse teams and community members to harness & connect different knowledge, and skill sets in support of youth-led action.
- Strong active listening, highly developed written/oral communication skills that embody empathy, curiosity and openness.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with diverse individuals and groups – building inclusive and trusting relationships, particularly in relation to working Mi'kmaw youth and communities.
- Familiarity and comfort working in and facilitating conversations in a digital environment (i.e., zoom meetings, google docs, collaborative online tools), with access to a stable internet connection (if working remotely) A \$50 monthly technology allowance will be provided for remote staff.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Food Safety Certified (or willing to become certified), with knowledge related to food preparation and cooking considered an asset.

Preference will be given to Indigenous applicants, and we encourage all those with relevant skills and experience to apply.



To Apply

Please attach your resume and cover letter and submit it via email to human.resources@nourishns.ca. Please indicate the position title in the subject line of your email. Only those applicants being considered will be contacted. If you require any accommodation or technical support, please indicate this as part of your email. We appreciate your interest in Nourish Nova Scotia.

Deadline for Application: September 26th, 2024

Nourish is located in Kjiptuk or so-called Halifax, part of Mi'kmak'i, the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq peoples. While this is where our offices are located, we support food work from Unama'ki to Kespukwitk. As Treaty people, we strive to work under the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1752 by incorporating Mi'kmaw values, like cooperation, stewardship of nature and sharing, into what we do, but recognize that we have much learning and unlearning still to do. Nourish recognizes the inequities connected to colonization and commit to working towards creating an equitable, diverse, and inclusive and community for all. We invite you to reflect upon this land acknowledgement and what it means to your personal story. In the spirit of equality and inclusion, if we can improve on this statement, please contact us.

Visit www.nourishns.ca for more opportunities to work with us!

APPLY NOW