



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**

MEDIA ADVISORY

Canadian Feed The Children receives \$1,000,000 grant from the TD Ready Challenge for new Indigenous Food Forests to address the impacts of COVID-19

TORONTO, January 26, 2021 - Canadian Feed The Children (CFTC) has been named one of the 15 winners of the [2020 TD Ready Challenge](#) presented by TD Bank Group.

The funds will support CFTC's innovative Indigenous Food Forest initiative in four Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan and Alberta. A food forest is a self-sustaining, nature-inspired, multifunctional agricultural system that provides fruits, vegetables, other edibles, medicines and cultural resources.

COVID-19 has made sustainable local food systems like food forests an immediate priority for Indigenous communities, who face significantly worse food insecurity because of the pandemic. Nearly half of First Nations families already [faced difficulty putting food on the table](#) prior to 2020. Rising food prices, food shortages and lockdown restrictions have made these problems even worse.

With this \$1,000,000 grant, **three new food forests** will be established in Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Atikameg (Whitefish Lake First Nation) and Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation, building on a [successful pilot in Muskeg Lake Cree Nation](#). Once established, the food forests will become **self-sustaining local food systems** that anchor local food sovereignty, which is the ability of communities to self-determine their food systems.

"We are exceptionally grateful to TD Bank Group for this transformational gift," says Jacquelyn Wright, President and CEO of Canadian Feed The Children. *"Their support of this community-led initiative means more locally grown produce, improved nutrition, and sustainable food security for generations to come in four First Nations. With Indigenous communities still grappling with severe food insecurity due to COVID-19, this investment could not have come at a more crucial time."*

The annual TD Ready Challenge is a signature initiative of the [TD Ready Commitment](#), the Bank's corporate citizenship platform, aimed at opening doors to a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow. TD established the TD Ready Challenge to identify and support scalable solutions that address societal issues identified within the four drivers of the [TD Ready Commitment](#): Financial Security, Vibrant Planet, Connected Communities and Better Health.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 TD Ready Challenge encouraged applicants from across TD's North American footprint to support innovative solutions that will help create accelerated, sustained and equitable recovery in the face of COVID-19, specifically for communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

"Canadian Feed The Children has brought forward a creative and scalable solution to help communities disproportionately impacted by the effects of COVID-19," says Andrea Barrack, Global Head, Sustainability and Corporate Citizenship, TD Bank Group. *"Being a recipient of a TD Ready Challenge grant is a testament to the dedication of its creators to helping our communities emerge from the pandemic more resilient, inclusive, and ready for the continually changing future."*

ABOUT CANADIAN FEED THE CHILDREN

Canadian Feed The Children is an award-winning registered Canadian charity that envisions a world where children thrive free from poverty. We have been taking action against childhood hunger for over 33 years.

Canadian Feed The Children works in partnership with 26 Indigenous communities across Canada on food security and food sovereignty initiatives, in addition to international work in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda. Working with local partners, we take a community-led approach to support communities as they can achieve their own long-term sustainable change. canadianfeedthechildren.ca.

ABOUT THE TD READY COMMITMENT

TD has a long-standing commitment to enriching the lives of its customers, colleagues and communities. As part of its corporate citizenship platform, the TD Ready Commitment, TD is targeting CDN \$1 billion (U.S. \$775 million) in total by 2030 towards community giving in four areas critical to opening doors for a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow – Financial Security, Vibrant Planet, Connected Communities and Better Health. Through the TD Ready Commitment, TD aspires to link its business, philanthropy and human capital to help people feel more confident - not just about their finances, but also in their ability to achieve their personal goals in a changing world.

td.com/tdreadycommitment.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Deana Shaw, VP Philanthropy & Communications, CFTC

dshaw@canadianfeedthechildren.ca

(mobile) 416 420 1547