



## PHOTOJOURNALISM EXHIBIT FEATURES FIRST NATIONS' STORIES OF TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION

**TORONTO, February 6, 2018**—[The Ontario Council for International Cooperation \(OCIC\)](#) and [Canadian Feed The Children \(CFTC\)](#) are celebrating International Development Week 2018 with [Transformations: Stories of Partnership, Resilience and Positive Change](#), an award-winning collaborative photojournalism project that this year features stories from **Eel Ground First Nation, Neyaashiinigiing First Nation, and Garden Hill First Nation/Aki Foods Inc.** Faced with unique food challenges, each of these Indigenous communities is implementing creative community-led initiatives to increase their access to food, regain sovereignty over local food systems, and improve community health and wellbeing through traditional culture and practice.

The project and this year's exhibit, undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada, is part of a week-long celebration of International Development Week 2018 (February 4 – 10, 2018) and will publicly launch on February 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Metro Hall in Toronto.

"Food sovereignty in Indigenous communities is intrinsically linked to Indigenous land and resource rights," said Debra Kerby, President & CEO of Canadian Feed The Children. "As an agency that works both domestically and internationally, CFTC allies with its Indigenous partners to help build sustainability and resiliency in local food systems as we do with our international communities. This partnership model for development, led by the communities themselves, offers a method for the achievement of specific [Sustainable Development Goals](#) as well as meeting the UN's mandate of universality," she added.

Featuring the work of photographer Allan Lissner ([Praxis Pictures](#)), this year's events take place as conversations about the role of individual Canadians and civil society organizations in working towards truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples have become increasingly urgent. Terry Little, a social worker and respected Elder in Garden Hill First Nation, is just one of the community members whose story is featured. He explains how the loss of traditional knowledge has impacted youth: "We lost a lot of the traditional teachings from the Elders because children were taken away to residential school. That's why we lost so many things in the community... How can you pass knowledge on to your children if they're taken away?", Mr. Little said.

The stories of tradition and transformation that are featured in this year's exhibit provide an intimate and powerful look at some of the ways communities are regaining what has been lost through reviving traditional culture and practices such as hunting, fishing, food and medicine gathering, agriculture, arts and crafts. "The stories shared within **Transformations** help us visualize and better understand the root causes of food insecurity in Canada, and the important role of meaningful partnerships that support Indigenous communities in achieving food sovereignty in the future," said Kimberly Gibbons, OCIC's Executive Director.

Preceding the exhibit, the public is invited to join the **Indigenous Food Sovereignty Blanket Exercise**, facilitated by Canadian Feed The Children Program Officer Tyra Cox and Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Alison Cox at Metro Hall on February 6 at 2:00 p.m. The Kairos Blanket Exercise is a powerful interactive simulation and walk through time that takes participants through an intense story of truth, here adapted to focus specifically on the impacts of colonization on food security and sovereignty.

For a full schedule of Transformations 2018 events, visit: [www.ocic.on.ca/transformations2018](http://www.ocic.on.ca/transformations2018)

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