

## Food production through natural resource utilization and knowledge transformation

### Wasagamack First Nation (Presentation 2)

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*Thank you so much for putting together such an exciting presentation. Your use of both creativity and knowledge to meet a community need was very inspiring.*

*This document shares some suggestions and feedback on the presentation you gave at the workshop. We wish you the best of luck as you move your project forward.*

*If you would like a set of eyes to read over any proposals you write for your “Food production through natural resource utilization and knowledge transformation” project, please feel free to contact Julie Price or Katie Daman at [julie.price@tidescanada.org](mailto:julie.price@tidescanada.org) or [kdaman@cfmanitoba.ca](mailto:kdaman@cfmanitoba.ca).*

#### **Main strengths of the presentation:**

1. Calm, clear sharing of information. You did a great job speaking to the group and communicating your project.
2. Your project showed strong planning & clear outputs from the project. It was helpful the way that the key issues were broken into two sections (food production and knowledge transfer), and then expanded upon further.
3. The work that you are proposing is going to impact a lot of people in your community. The connection between youth and elders was a really nice idea. Projects that have high impact with a lot of people are often very attractive to funders (vs projects that affect only a few people).
4. Good use of time during your presentation. You shared the different components of the project in a balanced way in your presentation.
5. The timeline covering 2 years was clear and seemed ambitious, but achievable.
6. Strong powerpoint that added value to your words and helped to show off the project.

#### **Suggestions to strengthen the presentation/proposal:**

- In your overview,
  - o clearly explain the project’s physical location. The map you used was very good, but many funders, probably including the one you want to approach with this proposal, will not have a concept of what a fly-in community is like.
  - o Spend a minute talking more about the challenge of food access. In this case, really emphasizing that there is 1 grocery store with expensive items, and the community is at risk if/when the store isn’t able to provide food.
  - o Spend a few minutes talking about how much land-based food is still used in Wasagamack and how this can be increased through your program.
  - o The fire that happened recently was a terrible thing, but also really illustrates the need for Wasagamack to be more self-reliant with foods that you currently are. If you feel comfortable using the fire as an example, I think that will help the funder understand the need for your project.
  - o If you feel comfortable talking about health challenges in your community, particularly diabetes, that will also help the funder understand why it is important for good, healthy foods to be more available to the people of Wasagamack.

- Spend a minute talking about why cultural reclamation and strengthening culture is important to you and your community. Again, many funders will not know much about this and they will need more information.
- For the project activities,
  - I suggest you take 1 or 2 of the activities and describe them in more detail so the funder can imagine what it will look like. For example, 'fish production in wild rice fields' – what does that look like? What do you need to do to make this happen? Is there a picture you could use to illustrate it? (pictures are always great if you can use them)
  - In general, more detail on each of the project activities would be helpful.
  - Because you talk about cultural revitalization with this project, it would be good to talk about *how* Elders will be involved. Perhaps Elders are already very involved with the school and those same people will help with this project?
- When you talk about history of this idea, remember to include any planning that has already happened. This helps the funder understand if it is a brand-new idea or if there is a long history in turning the dream into a reality.
  - What has already happened in the community? Are there any small versions of this program running? Maybe you could give an example of some of the Four Arrows Regional Health Authority projects (chicken raising) happening? Or briefly mention Meechim Farm as an example of what is possible in northern and remote communities?
  - Has there been planning meetings? Other kinds of planning? Meeting and dreaming together?
  - Are there people who have already committed to volunteer and support the vision?
- Your Logic Model showing the outcomes and impacts was strong and shows the project quite clearly.
  - I think you can focus on the curriculum development and mention how the work that you are doing with curriculum has the potential to benefit many other northern remote communities in Manitoba and beyond.
- Is there any research or training that needs to happen to help increase the skills around farming and agriculture, or perhaps around education and teaching?
- Budget
  - Consider making a 'budget notes' sheet to accompany your budget. This would give more detail on each of the items and could contain quotes for some of your more expensive items. Giving detailed notes on your budget items can really help the funder understand why each item is needed and that you have done your homework on costing things out with suppliers and getting an accurate picture of what you need for funding.
  - Show the funder contributions and the community contributions together on one page instead of separating them out.
  - Will there be any shipping costs involved in this project? Or is this what the transportation category was for? It would be good to make this a bit clearer.