



The Tea Creek Model

Indigenous Food Sovereignty During Climate Change

1) Introduction



Info

Description Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

Location Room B45, Senate of Canada Building

Scheduled Thursday, Feb 9, 2023
09:00 - 11:00
2 Hours

Actual Thursday, Feb 9, 2023
08:57 - 11:01
2 Hours 3 Minutes

Contact Information Support
✉ ctm@sen.parl.gc.ca ✉ recenr@sen.parl.gc.ca
🌐 Information website

CC English Video

Examine and report on the status of soil health in Canada
Examiner pour en faire rapport, l'état de la santé des sols au Canada

10:06:34

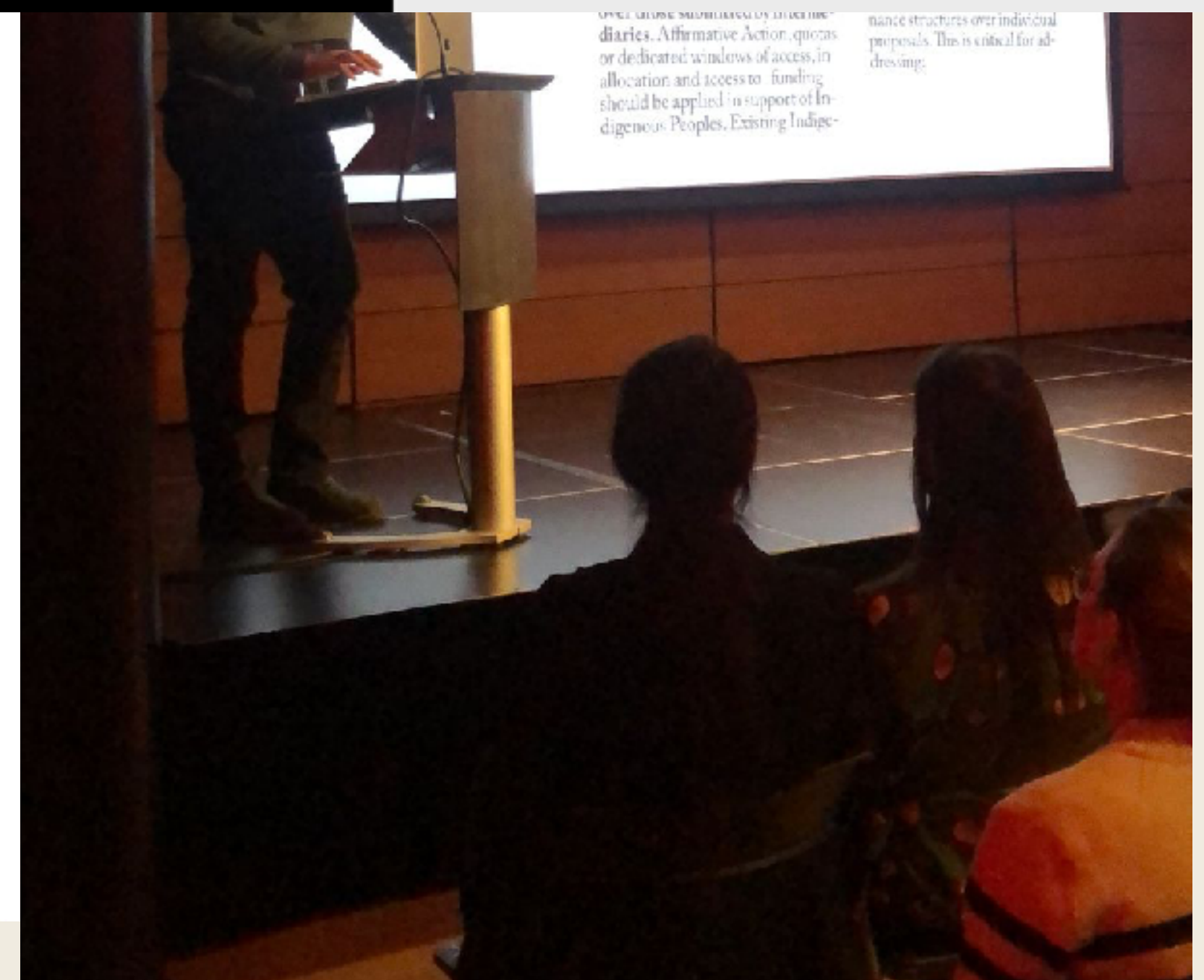


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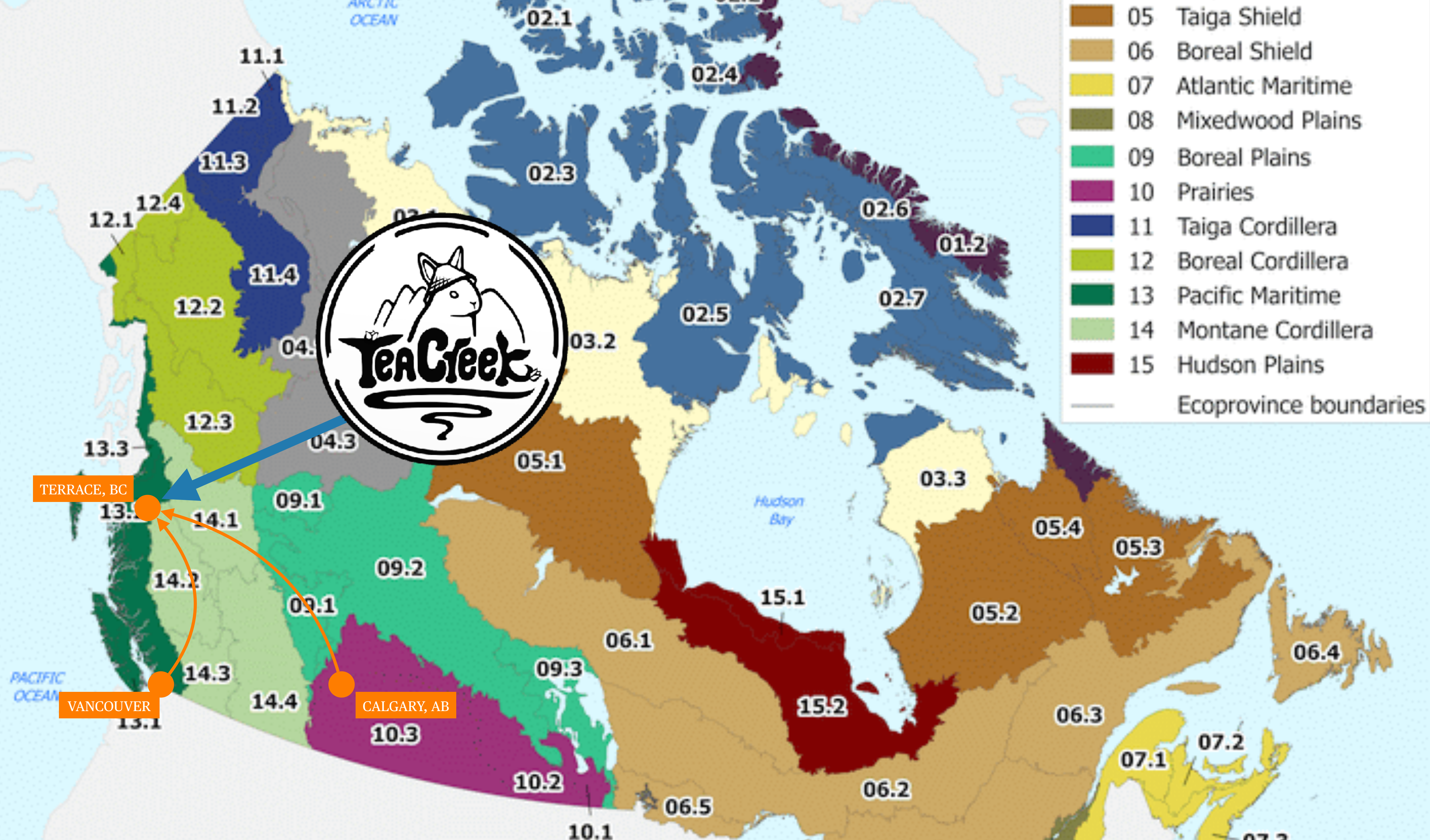
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ne west coast.

...genous-led training hub
ns to learn a variety of

...ing COVID-19 and



Keynote - Pacific Ag Show 2023 - Indigenous Agriculture





2) Indigenous Food

Healthy resilient Indigenous communities and economies based on abundant local food

Our Vision

What is Indigenous Agriculture + Food?

- Stewarding of ecosystems which then promotes food production
- Intentional production of food in various ways
- Water food production
- Forest ecosystems and food
- Soil based food systems
- Food sovereignty principles

**Food Security
≠ Food Sovereignty**

3) The Current Problem

Farmers are Declining
Average age is nearly 60

<1% are Indigenous

80%

of the world's remaining biodiversity in Indigenous controlled lands...

...which makes up 20% of the world's land.

Indigenous peoples are carrying

32%

of the world's goals in fighting climate change

On less than 1%

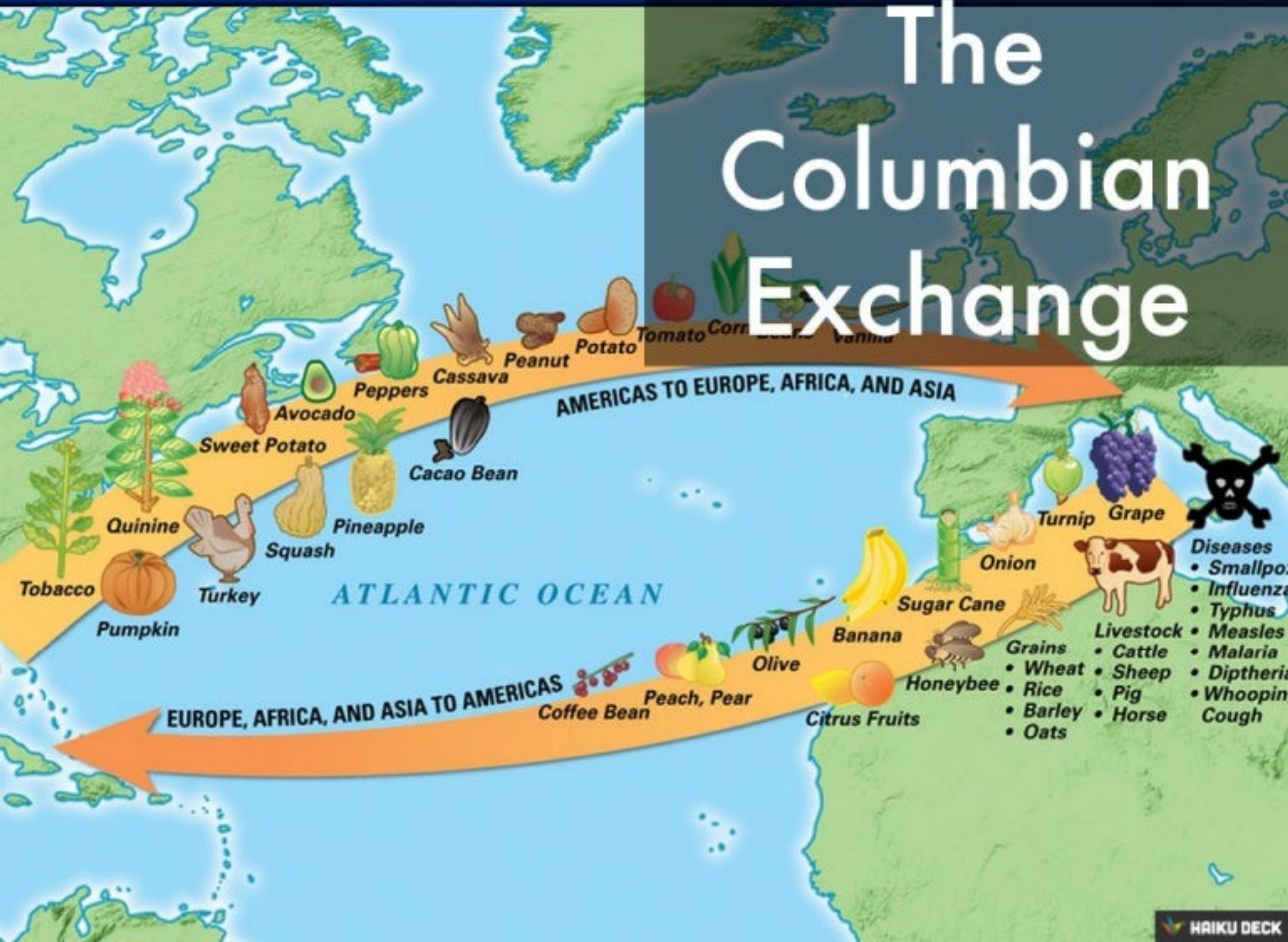
of the world's financial resources



4) Our Rich History of Food Sovereignty



The Columbian Exchange





Mack on a horse

**Indigenous Peoples
Used to Dominate
Canadian Agriculture**

Indian Act 1876

Severance Policy

Peasant Policy

Pass and Permit System

IRS

Indigenous Projects

Have to do

25x

More paperwork

For the same \$\$\$

Farm Loans

CALA

What happens now?

5) Tea Creek - A Success Story

Land-Based



Indigenous-Led



Culturally-Safe







RESTORING LAND

MENTAL
SPIRITUAL AND
EMOTIONAL
HEALTH

PHYSICAL HEALTH
AND WELLBEING

PROTECTING BIO-
DIVERSITY

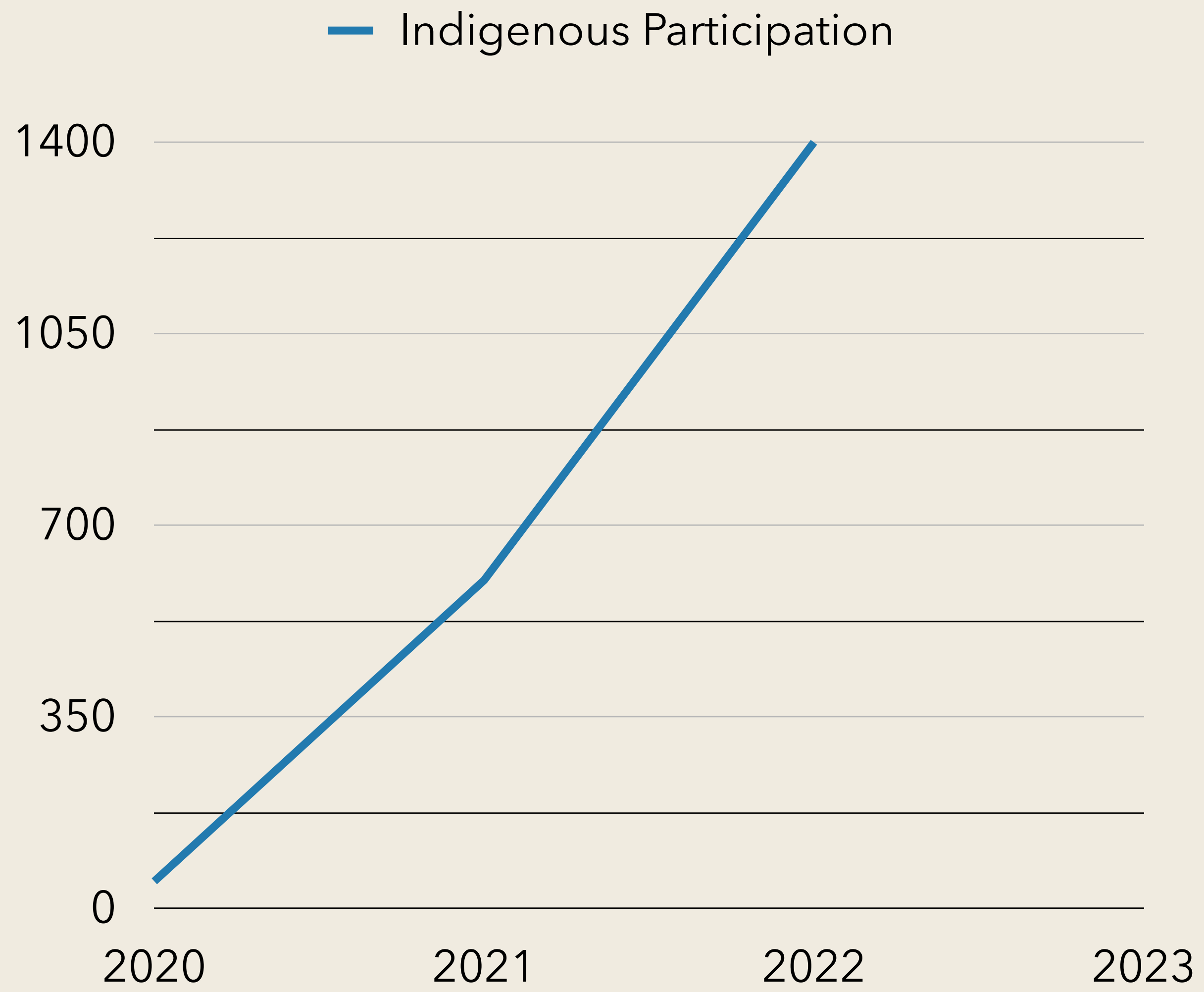
TEA CREEK
MODEL

FOOD SECURITY

AGRICULTURE,
WILD FOOD
MEDICINE
CULTURE

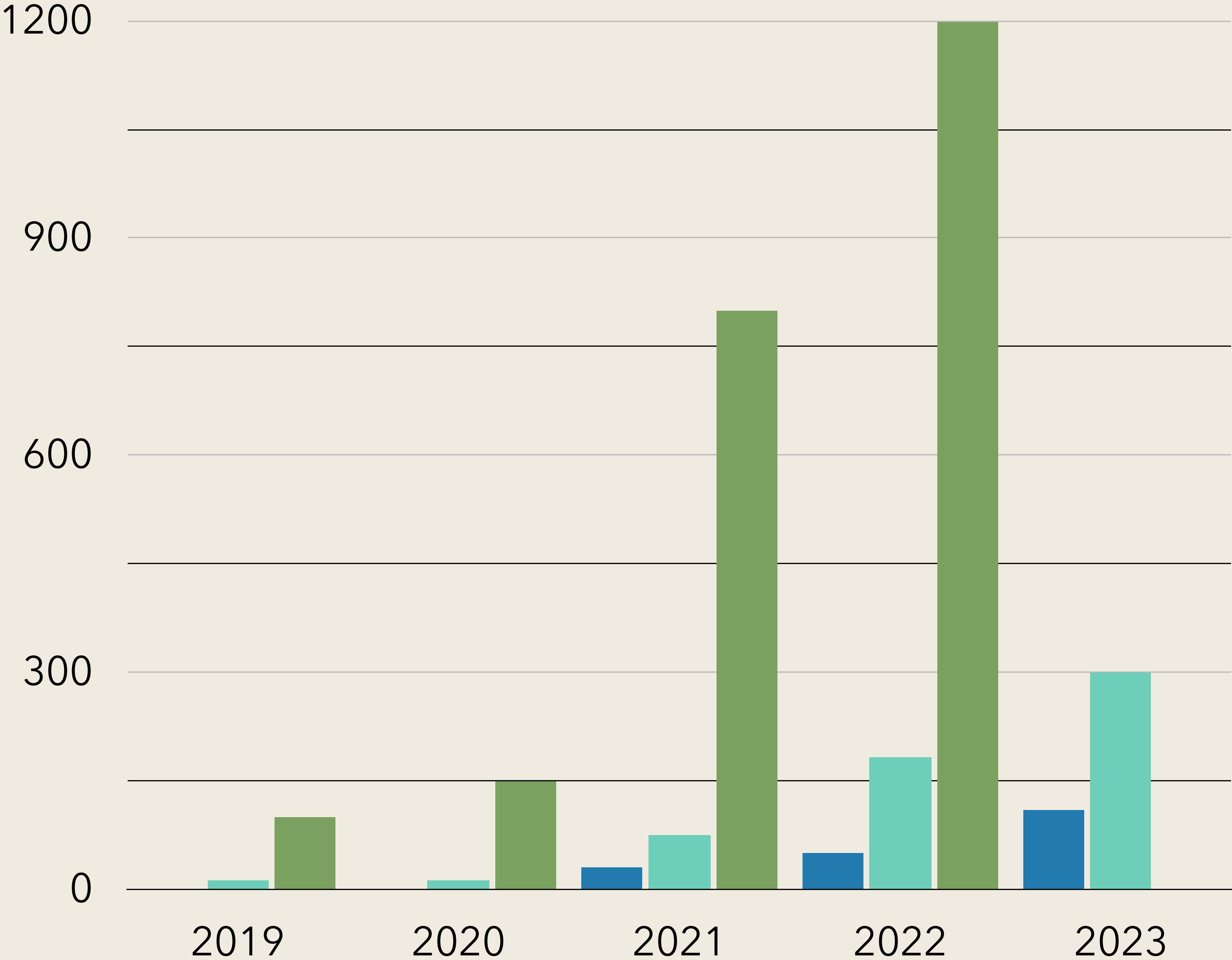
CREATING
ECONOMIC
RESILIENCY
JOBS

SKILLS, TRADES,
EXPERIENCE



Indigenous Participation at Tea Creek: Spring - Fall

Funded Enrolments Enrolments
Community Visits



6) We Can Work Together!

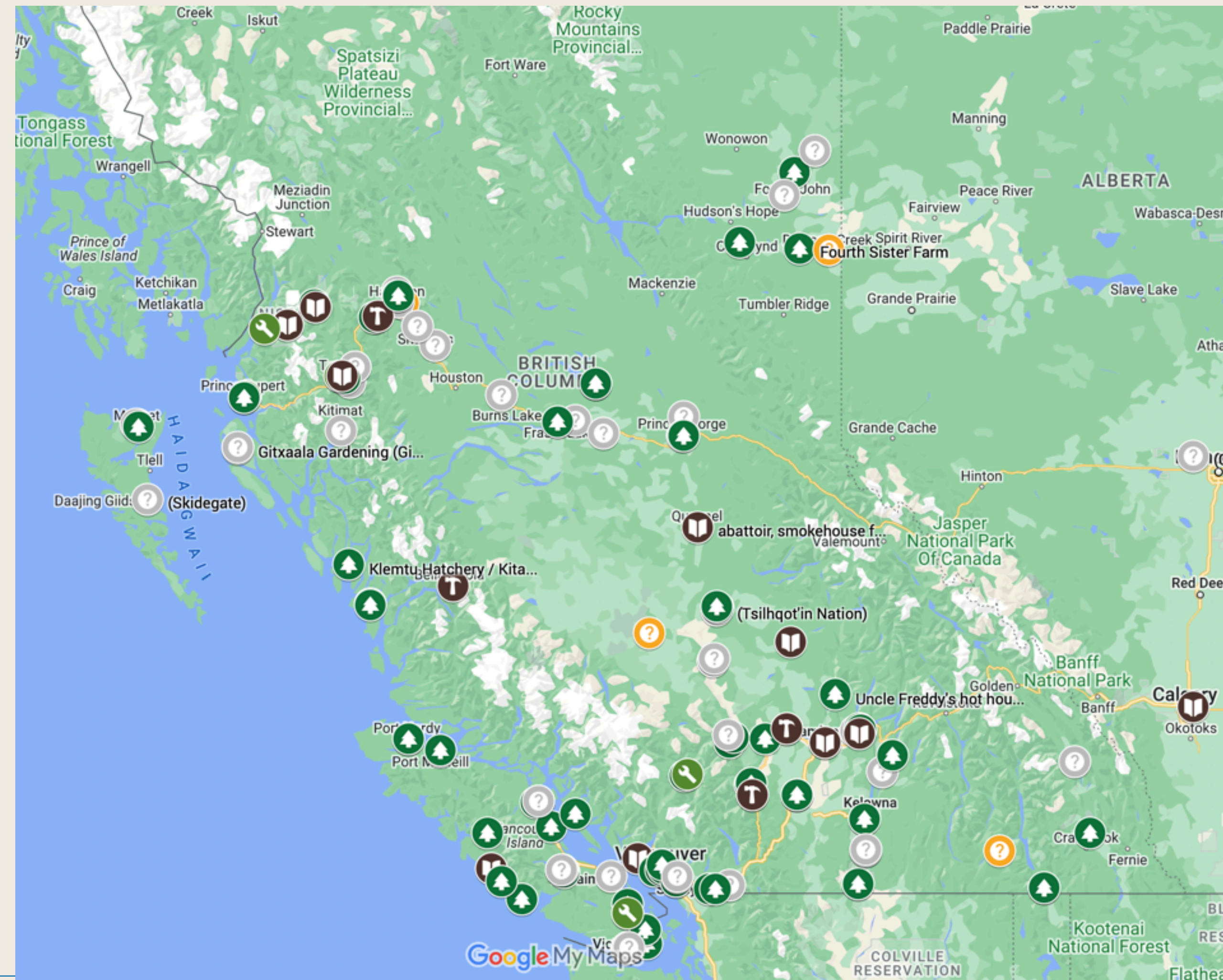
1.

- Build up Tea Creek as Indigenous Agriculture leadership training centre (ie. Tea Creek U)
- Canada's first Indigenous Smart Farm
- BC/ Canada's first designated Indigenous Horticulture training centre
- Build model to deploy to other Nations and regions



2.

- Build IFSA Network
- Develop Indigenous-Led standard
- Align government, organizational policies with UNDRIP
- Develop programs and services to be deployed across sectors, requiring the standard
- Unlock resources for Indigenous-led projects



3.

- Develop model to be replicable
- Deploy model to multiple locations across the country in phases
- Train thousands of Indigenous peoples to be job-ready and production ready
- Unlock pathways for Indigenous people to purchase lands and access capital at fair or favourable conditions
- Develop mobile training facilities



Top Needs and Opportunities

- Planning resources
- Indigenous Food Hub Longhouses
- Matching funds
- Multi-year funding to provide stability
- Capacity building and program development
- Shelters, dormitories, transitional housing
- Expanded Training infrastructure
 - Services (water, power, sewer)
 - Buildings
 - Equipment and supplies



' Excellent program, couldn't be run by better people. Tea Creek is especially important this day in age with the increased cost of living, and with the seemingly exponential increase in substance abuse and mental health issues people get to feel like they are accomplishing things and making a difference. Tea Creek Provides people with the skills and knowledge to grow there own food and live a healthy lifestyle. '

- Tim Wilson Gitksan

' Food security is a priority. Tea Creek takes a whole person and community approach to supporting critical skills to grow food and operate equipment and build community and self esteem. We are closely watching and wanting to use the Tea Creek formula for our own people in Nuxalk Nation. Well done! '

- Nuskmata Jacinda Mack Moccasin Footprint Society Nuxalk and Secwepem (BA, MA)

' I am a food grower in the north working for a First Nations Community and I can see a difference in pride and attitude in the persons graduating from Tea Creek's programs. '

- Janet Romain Métis

' I enjoy being invited to Tea Creek and experiencing the collaborative, "open-air classroom", sharing of meals, and learning atmosphere. It was a pleasure to share a some of my knowledge with the Tea Creek staff and students regarding soil assessments and further resources available. I hope to get invited back again soon to support their ongoing work. '

- John Stevenson BC Ministry of Agriculture

' I have lived in the Hazelton area for 16 years and worked in the nearby community of Gitanyow for that time. There is a huge, largely untapped, potential for local food production. As well there are massive physical and mental health issues in this region. I see Tea Creek as an organization trying and succeeding in addressing both of these issues. First Nations people have always sustained themselves from food on their territory, up until colonial times. What Tea Creek is doing can help restore the ability of First Nations to sustain themselves from their Lax'yip. '

- Kevin Koch Gitanyow Fisheries Authority (BSc and RPBio)

' I support tea creek because of all they've done for my son. He has much more confidence in his carpentry skill now and his ability to grow fruits and vegetables. I appreciate all I have received from them as well. It was very helpful with my food budget '

- Lisa Martin Gitksan

' I support Tea Creek because they are Indigenous created, staffed, and led and having incredible impact across diverse needs in lifting up Indigenous people while contributing to their food security, sovereignty, and dignity. I have never seen any community-serving initiative have so much integrity and impact in such a short time. '

- Abra Brynne

' I've been following the page and have been impressed with the amount of food grown and given out to the community . Also the opportunities for indigenous people and all people to learn and work with hands on experience. I support all these efforts to show we can grow so much of our own food instead of being reliant on what is shipped to communities from so far away . I am so impressed with tea creek !!! '

- Corinna Thiessen

' It seems to me, that Tea Creek fills many lives with food, education, support, giving others a sense of purpose, substantiality, worth. This is a unique organization that's purely authentic driven by hard work, compassion and love. '

- Linda Stringfellow Kyah Wiget Education Society

' It's a privilege to witness the holistic food sovereignty work emerging at Tea Creek; it provides a model for other Indigenous communities and inspires me as a food activist. '

- Jess Housty Qqs Projects Society Heiltsuk (BA)

' Love, love that they teach others about the gardening & preserving. Also teaching our young people and getting them on the right path in life, creating employment, & bringing them back to their roots. '

- Barbara McRae Gitwanga Band Council Gitksan - Gitanmaax Band (Secondary Education - College leve)

' My father has nothing but good things to say about tea creek. As far as I'm concerned, it saved him. He used to be a man ready to die because of his heart condition, but because of tea creek, he found his second purpose...he loves the work he does, and he loves the people he works with. '

- George Sampare Gitksan

' Tea creek farm is impressive and innovative. A multifaceted facility that addresses a lot of needs for indigenous communities. '

- Cameron Stevens Kispiox Band Council Gitksan (MBA)

Website:

www.teacreek.ca

