

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



**Ancestral Food
Ways
Collective
Society**

AFW centers ceremony, language, and hands-on stewardship to restore food systems and strengthen cultural continuity.

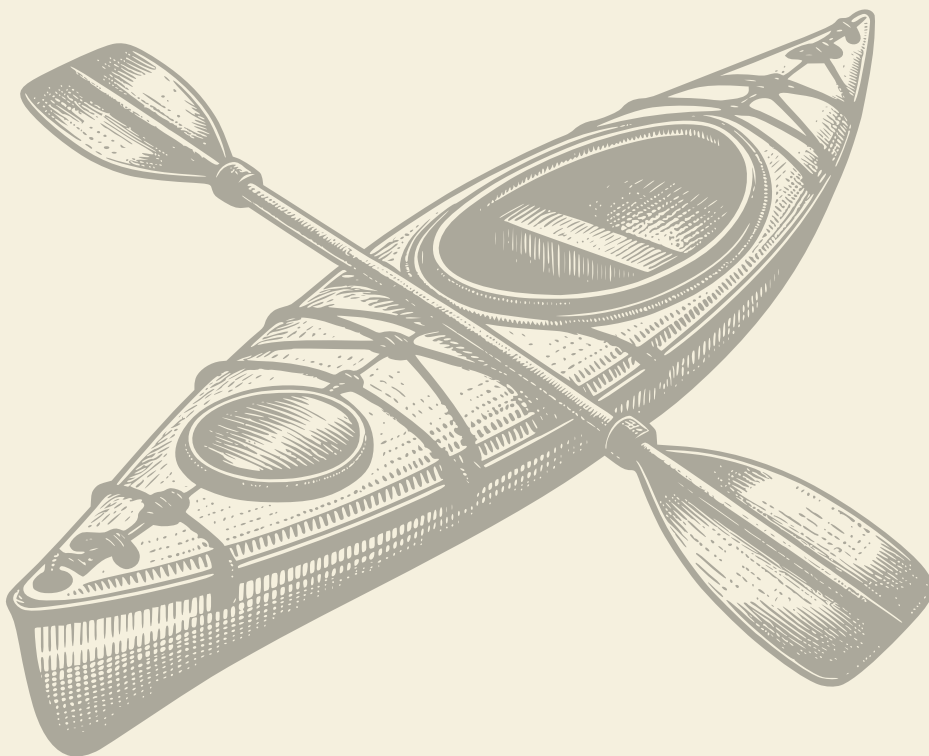
Ancestral FoodWays Collective Society (AFW)

*Serving people, restoring
biocultural foodways, growing
community resilience.*

Chair: Stacy Gallagher

Board & Elders Council members: Lix Lopex, Fabiana Garcia, Felipe Garcia, Rueben George, Francisco Domingo, Petrona, Amy George, John Spence, Chabelo.

Youth representatives: Melissa West Morrison, Cedar George, Kayah George.



Aanii,

I am humbled to walk alongside our growing family of over 350 members across these territories. I offer this message in the spirit of the Windego "Contrarium"; the mirror presence that names what is out of balance in the world. Where the modern world is never satisfied, this presence shows us what we must face so that we can sit, reflect, and heal. We are a mirror for one another; the Windego helps us look honestly at ourselves and our patterns.

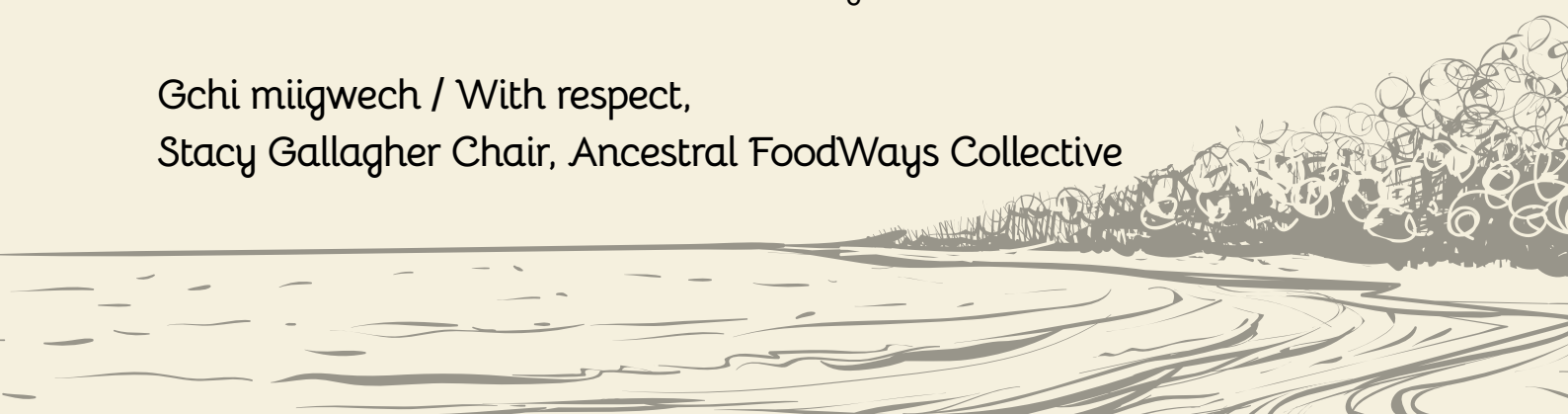
At AFW this work is lived every day. We gather to share food and ceremony, elders pass knowledge to youth around garden beds and fires, and neighbours show up when someone needs help. We choose projects that honour ceremony, reciprocity and responsibility. We try to speak truth kindly, to listen more than we rush to act, and to keep laughter and care close; even when the work is heavy.

Everyone carries a Windego within; for some it is louder. Naming it together gives us a role: to witness, to resist its hunger, and to hold space for repair. We are a community that reflects back with love so people can see, sit with, and heal what needs tending. The Board sees this labour and we are committed to protecting Indigenous knowledge, resourcing elders and youth, and strengthening the practical supports: financial, governance and human; that let this work continue.

We will keep asking hard questions, holding space for repair, and making time for care. May our decisions be guided by ceremony, the steady wisdom of elders, and the courage to face our mirrors; so our children and their children inherit a living, nourished culture.

Gchi miigwech / With respect,

Stacy Gallagher Chair, Ancestral FoodWays Collective



Executive Director's message

As Executive Director I am honored to walk with our members and knowledge-holders. AFW food sovereignty, centers ceremony, language, and hands-on stewardship to restore food systems and strengthen cultural continuity.

Creating space within colonial systems to secure access and continuity remains a real challenge; yet together we deepen practice, nurture youth and elders, and protect biocultural heritage for future generations.

With gratitude,

Ingrid Figueroa



Who we are

Grassroots Indigenous network across the unceded territories of xʷməθkʷə́y̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh).

Representing Indigenous peoples of north, south, east and west Turtle Island.

Registered non-profit (2023) to hold land-learning agreements and steward long-term projects.

Focus: restore biocultural heritage; revive subsistence practices (salmon, bison, potato, corn, Milpa); run an indigenous cultural food hub (ceremony, language, arts); build solidarity economies.





Mission, Vision & Values Mission

Mission:

Cultivate skills and capacity to integrate culture into everyday life and advance Indigenous Sovereignty through community care, food, ceremony and ancestral foodways.

Vision:

Thriving ancestral food systems under Indigenous sovereignty and resilient biocultural corridors.

Values:

Indigenous leadership; participatory governance; ceremony-centred practice; solidarity economies; seven-generations stewardship; accountability in relationship.

2025 Highlights

- Sustained weekly community dinners and expanded Chinampa Garden Days
- Facilitated 27 workshops & community activities; served nearly 2,500 meals to BIPOC communities, 2 pit cooking and 5 fire ceremonies.
- Applied for a youth cultural grant to support Bryant's work.
- Hosted 9 gatherings and ceremonies and ensuring "no one leaves hungry."
- Advanced Indigenous Cultural Food Hub planning and preparing launch of tortilla/mobile kitchen pilots. Daniel completed the Tortilleria business plan. Because of non-profit employment constraints (e.g., bringing Sol on as staff), Board approve seed support.

Windego teaching

What opportunities can we create for young individuals to actively engage in supporting vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and those from single-parent homes, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility?



Green and people impact

Plants on the ground

2300 from 170 perennial

People Impacted

65

Age Range	Participants
0-5	246
6-12	356
13-29	250
30-64	1,014
65+	877

Clean Air Produced

69,369 m³

Amount of Carbon Sequestered

9,640 m³

KM Offset

10 km²

Offset(km/yr)

Burning one litre of gasoline produces roughly 2.3 kg of CO₂. By comparing vegetation's CO₂ absorption to average vehicle emissions, the calculator shows how many vehicle kilometres are offset annually.

General Financial Overview

Year	Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Net Income
2025	\$298,491.72	\$15,388.75	\$283,102.97	\$60,424.16

Major expense drivers:

Subcontractors/processing \$59,380.11;
Payroll (wages + taxes) ~\$58,229.85;
Job equipment / capital entries ~\$58–59k;
Honoraria \$7,000;
Accounting/fees \$7,888.07.

Strategic financial plan (3-year summary)

- Reserves: progress 3 → 6 → 12 months of core expenses within 36 months.
- Revenue diversification: reduce single-source grant reliance (target grants $\leq 50\%$; earned + philanthropy $\geq 30\%$).
- Capital: secure equipment via blended finance (grants + philanthropy + low-interest loans).
- 12-month implementation roadmap (priority)
- Months 0–3
- Hire finance support;
- Months 3–6
- Launch 1–2 earned-income pilots (workshops/catering); procure tortilla machine; implement monthly cash forecasting; set permit lead.
- Months 6–12
- Assess pilots; scale viable services; complete priority capital purchases (cold storage, processing); set 3-month reserve baseline.
- Ongoing
- Pursue multi-year funders; adopt procurement/capitalization/gift policies; publish community financial briefs.

RESEARCH, HERITAGE, NAMING & GROWING INITIATIVES



- SFU partnership: engage Faculty of Environment (student literature review and report) to advance the Kumkumalay Biocultural Restoration Corridor toward heritage designation; include community compensation and data governance.
- Cultural infrastructure: target house pole-raising this year and formal garden cultural naming ceremony as per Taath (Amy George) in early summer.
- Continue the Indigenous Ways Festival for 4th year



Cultural Programs & Partnerships

Continue hide tanning, drums & rattles programs; seek targeted funding for materials and knowledge holders honoraria.

Strengthen partnerships (Young Agrarians, Collingwood Neighborhood House, Strathcona Community Centre, Vancouver Parks Board, Environmental Youth Agrarians, Eagles Sundance family) for technical capacity and in-kind support.



What the board and council wants to explore

- Find funding to establish an Indigenous stewardship school (training, land care, cultural leadership)
- Pilot a community crisis support fund for immediate groceries, counseling , and short-term home support for network members in crisis.
- Longer term seek funding to get in place a Cultural Indigenous House

Community, staffing & work-rights (priority)

Reduce reliance on unpaid family labour by transitioning core operational tasks to paid positions or contractors.

If we get the founding Create part-time, seasonal and summer job pathways (youth hires: kitchen assistants, event crew, restoration aides)





How Members & Partners Can Help

- Volunteer for weekly dinners, garden days, events and logistics.
- Offer in-kind support (cold storage space, transport, workshop tools).
- Introduce funders/donors or provide professional skills (finance, grant writing, communications, HR, legal).
- Sponsor or mentor youth job placements.

Gratitude to Community, Partners and Funders

We give deep thanks to elders, youth, staff, volunteers and partners including:

Eagle Sundance family; Mayan Garden; Hives for Humanity; Collingwood Neighborhood House; Red Fox Society, Environmental Youth Alliance; Environmental Youth Alliance; Potato Park (Peru), REACH, Strathcona Community Centre, Vancouver Parks Board.



Mayan Fire Spring Equinox Ceremony

**March 21 st, 2 026 Strathcona Park 857 malkin Ave. 11 to 2pm
(behind the playground)**

**Traditional Light Lunch will be
provided.**

**Bring food, offerings and seeds to
share.**







