



**PROJECT DESIGNED AND
LED BY**



**Rural Development Institute
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Project Overview

**An Indigenous Strategy for Re-energizing
Traditional Wild Rice and Creating a Plant
Protein Industry for the Prairies:
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND ENGAGEMENT**

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

Myera Group is an Indigenous health and nutrition technology company created and directed by President Bruce Hardy. Myera Group is leading a project to expand and evolve traditional wild rice protein as a cornerstone crop in a community-based regenerative agriculture ecosystem. Overall, the project aims to create infrastructure, capacity, and partnerships led by, for and with Indigenous communities and businesses to transform wild rice products and markets. The community assessment and engagement part of the project supports the development of the training and community planning needs in order to operationalize sustainable farms.

WHO ARE THE PROJECT PARTNERS?

The community assessment and engagement part of the project is led by Myera Group and Function Four Ltd. The Rural Development Institute (RDI), Canada Research Chair in Human and Environment Interaction at the University of Winnipeg, and faculty from the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary are also contributing to the project.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

The project aims to achieve Truth and Reconciliation outcomes by building capacity, food sovereignty, and economic development opportunities. This includes both education and employment opportunities that may improve the wellbeing of participating Indigenous youth and communities. Additionally, this project has the ability to empower involved youth.

WHAT IS RDI'S ROLE IN THE PROJECT?

RDI is co-leading the design and development of the community assessment and engagement tools with Myera Group. It will adapt digital storytelling into the engagement and assessment process as a core community-based research tool. Project partners and communities will be engaged to lead, inform, and review the assessment and engagement research.

HOW IS RDI CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROJECT?

RDI is focusing on building relationships through community engagement, designing a digital storytelling process and tools for participating communities, and supporting the evolution of the E-Index into a holistic community assessment framework and process for Indigenous communities. It will also review and develop economic assessment tools and criteria for incorporation into the community assessment.

Myera Circular Farm



With partners in communities, agencies, and among academics and students, RDI continues to initiate new outreach activities, research, and learning options. These partnerships also contribute to addressing rural development issues and responding to development opportunities. The Institute builds on a strong history of collaborative activities while enhancing resource capabilities and programming. As a leading source of information on rural areas, RDI continues to deliver new knowledge of rural issues and helps create opportunities for vibrant rural communities and regions.