



# WEMONTACI

## Food forests: From forest to plate



### Arts and agriculture in support of learning

To encourage civic engagement among youth in the Atikamekw Nehirowisiw community of Wemotaci, a program of activities combining both agri-food and artistic components was devised. More specifically, the project aimed to promote collective learning in agriculture, foster social skills and leadership among Atikamekw Nehirowisiw youth, and encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles. The initiative was led by Nikanik Secondary School in collaboration with the Centre for Social Innovation in Agriculture (CISA) and the Kokomino art hive.

- For five weeks starting on July 11, the mornings were dedicated to gardening activities in an educational garden and in various community gardens, while the afternoons were devoted to visual arts.
- At the start of the school year, the first stages of planting food forests were completed on the Seskitin and Nikanik school grounds. Student groups from Grade 1 through Secondary 1 participated in the planting.
- Through the project, youth were encouraged to express their creativity and create art projects that reflect their identities.

**A similar project was also carried out in Opitciwan during the same period.**



**Learn more about the project and discover similar initiatives!**

#### PROJECTS PARTNERS

- [Secrétariat à la jeunesse du Québec](#)
- [La Ruche d'Art Kokomino](#)
- [École primaire Seskitin](#)
- [École secondaire Nikanik](#)

PROJECT START  
MAY 2023

PROJECT END  
OCTOBER 2023

#### RESOURCE PERSON

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#### EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES

##### Agri-food component

- Sowing and planting in the educational garden's two plots
- Weeding and watering  
Garlic harvesting
- Picking wild strawberries
- Repotting plants
- Staking tomato plants with students from Mikisiw School
- 2 outings for blueberry picking on the land
- Setting up a free plant market
- Indoor plant cutting and propagation activities
- Composting training

##### Artistic component

- Screen-printing workshops
- Painting on growing boxes
- Collage
- Wood burning (pyrography)
- Drawing (on fabric and clay)
- Paper- and bookmaking