Did you know?

Traditional foods are known to not only have significant nutritional benefits, but also cultural and spiritual benefits. This resource focuses on traditional foods that are indigenous to Manitoba, as they can vary throughout Canada.



Fish is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, an essential nutrient that your body cannot make on its own and must be obtained from the diet. Pickerel is one of the most common traditional foods (and one of the most delicious) found in Winnipeg stores.



Wild rice is not actually rice, it is the seed of a native North American long-grain marsh grass! The Ojibway word for wild rice, manoomin, means good berry.



Traditional meats have significant nutritional benefits. Bison, deer, and moose are all very high in protein, iron, and B vitamins and are also very low in fat! While meats were traditionally harvested from the wild, today the sale of the meat of a wild animal (other than fish) is illegal in Manitoba. All of the meat listed as available for sale in this guide has been raised on a farm.



Indigenous families have historically gardened many fresh vegetables such as potatoes, cabbage, onions, corn, carrots, pumpkins, herbs, and turnips. Vegetables and herbs were often dried or ground into flours in order to prevent spoilage, and to provide year-round access to otherwise seasonal produce.



We want to acknowledge and give gratitude to the people of the Kekekoziibii Ojibwa First Nation (Shoal Lake 40) for our drinking water. The source of Winnipeg's water is in their traditional lands. The completion of the Winnipeg aqueduct in 1919 resulted in the displacement of the Kekekoziibii people from their lands and burial grounds which they had inhabited since time immemorial. The people were moved onto a peninsula and then physically isolated when the aqueduct project transformed the peninsula into an island. The community has had a water boil advisory for decades.

Eating a Healthy Anishinaabe Plate



Adapted from a resource developed by the Youth Taking Action project, a partnership between Food Matters Manitoba, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and Sagkeeng First Nation.



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