



Pearce, D. (2019). Toronto, photograph, Toronto, ON. Retrieved January 21, 2022, from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/9630494-toronto-woman-starts-urban-farming-program-to-help-marginalized-youth/>.

# Food Justice in an Urban Landscape: From Seed to Harvest

GROWING IN  
THE MARGINS  
CHEYENNE SUNDANCE



Engelking, A. (2021). Growing in the Margins. Retrieved January 21, 2022, from <https://nowtoronto.com/news/cheyenne-sundance-black-futures-month-2021>.

Food justice is the belief that access to food is a human right and addresses systemic barriers to that right. Food, water, and land resources have been weaponized throughout Canadian history to control Indigenous people, enslaved African people, migrant farmworkers, and many other communities. As a result, the current Canadian food system developed from institutionalized racially-motivated policies and beliefs. The food justice movement emerged to end the structural inequity that leads to unequal health outcomes and provide autonomy to those most affected.

Cheyenne Sundance is an activist, mentor, and urban farmer whose work aligns with the concept of food sovereignty, or the right people have to healthy culturally appropriate food produced through sustainable methods, and their right to define their food and agriculture systems.

Cheyenne is the program director at her namesake, Sundance Harvest, a four-season farm that spans 1.5 acres, located in Downsview Toronto. Sundance Harvest strives to provide resources, knowledge, and guidance for youth who are marginalized within the food system to start their own food and land sovereignty movements, create their own urban farming practices and to eradicate institutionalized—

—racism within the food system.

Cheyenne also runs a 12-week free program called Growing in the Margins for BIPOC that face barriers within the food system. According to Cheyenne, “We [the employees of Sundance Harvest] have the capacity to run an in-person Growing in the Margins program this fall in September, [but] to do so we need funding... The funding will be used to pay our instructors, as we do not ask for volunteer labour to recognize and respect the knowledge and labour of our teachers. The funding will go directly to pay for the instructor’s fee and will supplement the cost of putting on the program.”

The Sustainable Capacity Foundation believes in the critical intersectional work Cheyenne and her team is doing at Growing in the Margins, which is why SCF has given the non-profit organization a \$1000 grant.

In addition to running her own business and uplifting her community, Cheyenne is a gifted orator and was selected to speak at one of SCF’s partner events, the 2021 Internship Training Program. As of 2022, Cheyenne is a member of the Ontario Board of the National Farmers Union, notably started the first BIPOC Farmers Caucus across Canada with the National Farmers Union, and now sits on the Executive Board.