

# 2022

# Annual Report

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## *Stories Worth Sharing*



Leading Agriculture and Food Education in Ontario

# Chair's Message

In reflecting on the stories we told and the stories we heard in 2022, I am filled with pride for the impactful work that we have done and also filled with hope as we move forward together. This report aims to communicate several important messages to the AgScape community. The first is to share a bit about our activities and achievements over the past year; the educators across all of Ontario who used our programs to enhance their teaching, the collaborations which have resulted in new engaging resources, and the hundreds of thousands of students who now have a stronger understanding of their critical role in our agriculture and food systems. The second is to share the ways that we have been navigating through choppy waters, including the pandemic changing the education landscape. We have listened to educators telling us what they need and adjusted our focus to ensure we can reach as many young people as possible. Our team continues to evolve our programming based on feedback from the educators we work with to ensure that we are in touch with their needs; we want to share our messages about agriculture and food in an engaging and meaningful way.

**My most important message, however, is THANK YOU.**

Thank you for helping us connect students to agriculture and food literacy in and out of the classroom. The support that you have given us has allowed us to achieve incredible things together! I am not the only one who is grateful to you. The students who received nearly 800,000 educational experiences are grateful. The teachers who downloaded 45,000 free resources to use in their 2,600 classrooms are grateful. And, of course, the hardworking staff who write the curriculum, communicate with teachers, engage with the broader community, and keep everything running on time are incredibly grateful for your support. You have allowed us to reach a wider audience and find innovative ways to connect students with the many education and career paths connected to the agriculture and food industries.

It is clear to us that you could choose any number of organizations to strengthen. We appreciate your continued support as together, we empower the next generation of leaders to ensure our agriculture and food systems remain sustainable.



*Kathryn Doan*

**Kathryn Doan**  
Chair



Special thanks to Dairy Farmers of Ontario  
for sponsoring our 2022 Annual Report

# Table of Contents

**04**

Our Vision, Mission & Values

**05**

Stories That Teach Us, Motivate Us, And Connect Us

**06**

Board of Directors & Staff Members

**07**

2022 Members, Partners & Donors

**08-09**

2022 Year In Review

**10-11**

Connecting Youth To Their Role In Our Food System

**12-13**

Creating Good News Stories Through Collaboration

**14**

Sharing Canada's Remarkable Agriculture & Food Story

**15**

Experiential Learning Experiences

**16-17**

Financial Report

**18**

Our Work In Action

**19**

Looking Forward



Created in 1991, AgScape is a charitable organization providing objective, evidence-based, curriculum-linked programs and resources about agriculture and food literacy to educators and students in Ontario.

## Our Vision

Leading a movement to bring agriculture and food education into all Ontario classrooms. Inspiring youth to see their role within the food system that's a vehicle for social, economic, and environmental impact.

## Our Mission

Through experiential and science-based programs, we empower Ontario youth and educators to understand their relationship to the agriculture and food system and ignite interest in related careers.

## Our Values

### Integrity

We are committed to transparency, science, and accurate information.

### Passion

We are passionate about helping others connect the role of agriculture and food to our economic, environmental, and social wellness.

### Excellence

We inspire food literacy through best practices in student learning.

### Impact

We are driven to make an impact at an individual and community level.

### Leadership

We foster a culture of partnership through collaboration.

### Inclusivity

We ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in all that we do.

### Safety

We prioritize youth, volunteer and staff safety above all.

# Stories That Teach Us, Motivate Us, And Connect Us

*There once was a farmer who cultivated the best cornfields in the land. She won first prize at the fair every year, and people came from far and wide to sample her crop at harvest time. A traveller heard about this wonderful corn, and as he made his way to the farmer, he spoke with the neighbours, who told him that the farmer shared her best-producing seeds with the nearby farms. When the traveller arrived, he asked, "Why do you share your best seeds with your neighbours, knowing they will enter the competition against you and may win?" The farmer smiled and replied, "During the season, as the wind blows over the fields, pollen from the ripening corn gets carried from field to field. If they grow low-quality corn, the cross-pollination will lower the quality of my own crop. If I want to grow a delicious crop, I must help my neighbour."*

Stories connect with us in a visceral way, burrowing into our minds more than other learning methods. The above story teaches us about pollination, corn growing, and cooperation, all in an engaging way. At AgScape, we root curriculum content in an agricultural context using hands-on observation and practice, trivia and games, videos and photos, and encouraging students to share their own experiences. Every living thing has its own story and understanding that inspires us to respect stories other than our own.

We are so proud of the impact of our programs this past year! Teachers from over 300 schools across Ontario received 636 Teacher Ambassador Program (TAP) lessons for their 15,000 students. 28,800 young people in 1,200 classes attended our 16 Virtual Field Trips. We provided nearly 800,000 educational experiences in 2022.

It is not always easy to remember that each of those numbers is attached to a story. Stories like that of the young participant of our Virtual Field Trip to a strawberry farm said, "I liked when he showed us that the bee pollinates the blossom in order for the berry to grow; I thought the berries just grew on their own."

We may be just a small moment in people's stories, but we could also be the turning point that affects the rest of their narrative. 1 in 9 careers in Canada are part of the agriculture and food system, and it currently has the highest vacancy rate of any industry – 63,000 jobs in Ontario. We need young people to direct their talents toward filling these much-needed opportunities; our programs help

open a world of possibilities for their futures.

We are not telling people what to care about or study; we are showing them a path where they can use their passions and skills in the future. We need engineers and photographers to design drones to track cattle health and writers to convey to the public how they can also be part of the system. We need accountants and lawyers to make sure new techniques are feasible, social scientists to design inclusive systems, actors, and producers for farm safety videos ... and on and on.

Moving forward, we will continue to use our resources to expand our programming; we will meet the growing demand for agriculture and food literacy education and ensure our important programming can reach as many people as possible.

Thank you for being part of our growing community. By being part of our story, you are part of their story.

With gratitude,

*M Lyonblum*

**Mira Lyonblum**  
Executive Director



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AgScape is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors, elected from the membership and appointed from the public sector, with a shared interest in bringing objective information about agriculture and food to students, educators, and communities across Ontario.



Kathryn Doan  
Chair  
Corporate Director



Jennifer Kyle  
Vice Chair  
Community Director



Jennifer Peart  
Treasurer  
Community Director



Jim McMillan  
Corporate Director



Victoria Berry  
Corporate Director



Emily den Haan  
Corporate Director



Sarah Adrian  
Corporate Director



Karen Lewis  
Corporate Director



Leslie McKnight  
Corporate Director



Julian Brown  
Corporate Director



Joann Chechalk  
Community Director



Sarah Andrewes  
Community Director

\* Not Pictured: Carmela Cupelli, Board Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs & Catherine Mahler, Board Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Education

# STAFF MEMBERS



Mira Lyonblum  
Executive Director



Sharon Bowes  
Finance & Operations  
Manager



Mercedes Unwin  
Program & Resource  
Manager



Ashlee Leggett  
Fund Development  
Manager



Joy Qiu  
Marketing &  
Communications Manager



Sheri Budhram  
Engagement &  
Communication Specialist



Cassi Brunsveld  
Program & Resource  
Assistant



Shauna MacQuarrie  
Program Coordinator



Aicha Ducharme-LeBlanc  
Project Assistant



Madison Lammers  
Events Assistant

# 2022 MEMBERS, PARTNERS & DONORS

## Platinum

AgCareers.com  
Agrico Canada  
AITC Canada  
Bayer CropScience  
Beef Farmers of Ontario  
Burnbrae Farms Foundation  
Country Guide  
Dairy Farmers of Ontario  
Farmtario  
Grand River Agricultural Society  
Halwell Mutual Insurance Company  
Libro Credit Union  
Ontario Broiler Chicken Hatching Egg Producers Association  
Syngenta Canada  
The Agromart Group  
Wallenstein Feed & Supply

## Gold

Ardent Mills  
Canadian Mushroom Growers Association  
Egg Farmers of Ontario  
Grain Farmers of Ontario  
GROWMARK  
McMillan Farms  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
Ontario Pork  
P&H Milling Group  
Procyk Farms  
University of Western Ontario – Ivy School of Business

## Silver

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario  
Government of Canada Summer Student Program  
Turkey Farmers of Ontario

## Bronze

Farm Credit Canada  
Gay Lea Foods Co-operative Limited  
Ontario Apple Growers  
Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers  
Ontario Mutual Insurance Association  
Synthesis Agri-Food Network  
Trouw Nutrition Canada/Shur-Gain  
University of Guelph – OAC  
Whole Foods Market

## Champion

ACER Consulting  
Bio Agri Mix  
Chary Produce  
De Lacy Executive Recruitment  
Dominion Farm Produce Ltd.

Glacier FarmMedia LP - Canadas Outdoor Farm Show  
Hensall District Co-operative  
Haldimand Agricultural Awareness Committee  
Lambton County Federation of Agriculture  
Litherland & Company  
New Life Mills Ltd.  
Ontario Agri Business Association  
Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg & Chick Commission  
Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association  
Ontario Potato Board  
Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers  
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association  
Royal Agricultural Winter Fair  
Sheldon Creek Dairy  
Trillium Mutual Insurance Company  
Veal Farmers of Ontario  
Western Fair District  
York Dairy Producer Committee  
York Region Federation of Agriculture

## Partner

Andrewes, S.  
Cochrane Agricultural Society  
Drysdale, E.  
Hastings Federation of Agriculture  
L.A. Morris & Associates  
Matthews, J.  
Perth County Federation of Agriculture  
Ruslys, V.  
Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture  
Woodrill Ltd.

## Friend

Ancaster Agricultural Society  
Binbrook Agricultural Society  
Black, R.  
Bouwmeester, A.  
Bragg, A.  
Brant County Agricultural Awareness Committee  
Bremner, C. & D.  
Bromley, A.  
Bruce County Federation of Agriculture  
Doelman, J.  
Dufferin Federation of Agriculture  
Durham Region Federation of Agriculture  
Erin Agricultural Society  
Essex County Federation of Agriculture  
Fergus Agricultural Society  
Forsythe Family Farms 2009 Inc.  
Gallant Horticultural Solutions Inc.  
G & L Parkin Farms Ltd.  
Grey County Federation of Agriculture  
Halton Agricultural Society  
Hannam, P.  
Holding, L.  
Huglis Blueberry Ranch  
Jocius, L.  
Kent Federation of Agriculture

Lindsay Agricultural Society  
McElwain, C.  
Middlesex Federation of Agriculture  
Mighton, D.  
Moore Agricultural Society  
Peart, J.  
Port Hope Fair  
Prince Edward Federation of Agriculture  
Rainy River Federation of Agriculture  
Roots of Bruce  
Small, A. & Rosenblum, N.  
Stormont Federation of Agriculture  
Stuart, A.  
Sunderland Agricultural Society  
Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture  
Vamos Investments Ltd.  
Wellington Federation of Agriculture  
West Niagara Agricultural Society

## Supporter

Berry, V.  
Cameron, M.  
Chechalk, J.  
Emmott, B. & J.  
Kyle, J.  
Larmer, K.  
Leggett, A.  
Lewis, K.  
Mallett, C.  
Nicholls, M.  
Ross, S.  
Van Bommel, M.  
Van Raay Farms

## Life Members

Edwards, Denise  
Forsyth, Sandra  
Fuerth, Carolyn  
Holding, Lorraine

## Resource Development Partners

IAPO (Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario)  
Ontario Genomics Institute  
Meat & Poultry Ontario

**Ontario** 

Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (AgScape®) receives partial funding from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

THANK YOU so much to all of our members, partners, and donors who support our mission. Together, we empower youth and educators in Ontario to understand their relationship to the agriculture and food system and ignite interest in related careers. We could not do it without you!

# 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



Total students reached

**797.4K**

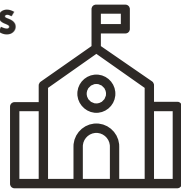
797,438 educational experiences were provided to students across Ontario through AgScape's programs and resources



**6,518**

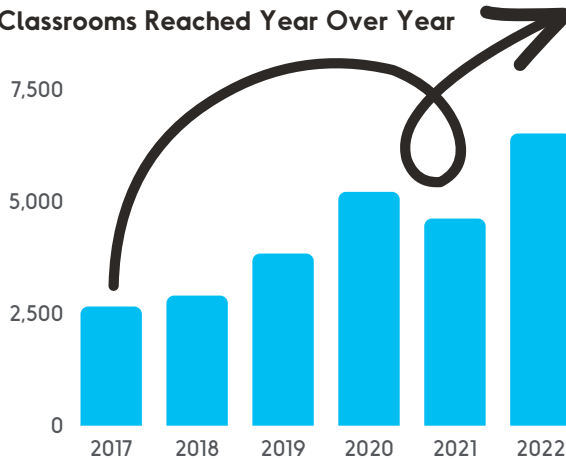
classrooms reached in

**2,447**

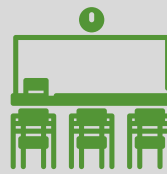


Ontario schools through our programs and resources

Classrooms Reached Year Over Year



## Teacher Ambassador Program



**636**

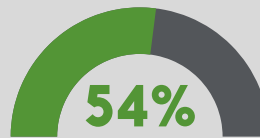
lessons delivered

**305**

schools reached across Ontario

**15,057**

students inspired to see their role within the agriculture and food system and explore the wide range of rewarding careers



of students were interested in learning more about agriculture and food following a Teacher Ambassador Program lesson

## Professional Development for Educators



**23** opportunities

**947** educators

“AgScape added much value to our classroom lessons. Having an expert in the agricultural field gave fresh insight and knowledge to our classroom lessons with real-life personal examples. Our instructor was excellent. They used their vast experience of student and classroom teaching to involve all the students and make the lessons engaging.”

- Teacher following a Teacher Ambassador Program lesson



# Agri-Food Literacy Resource Distribution



**45,359**

**educational resources**  
accessed by educators

**2,632**

**classrooms** reached  
through resources

## Career Exploration Events

**12 thinkAG**



**Career Competition events**

**63** industry  
**volunteers**

**4,030**

**students** learned how their skills and interests could be applied to in-demand careers in the agriculture and food industry



of teachers indicated that thinkAG Career Competitions increased their students' awareness of careers in agriculture and food

## Virtual Field Trips

Connecting teachers, students and parents to industry experts highlighting the diverse practices and careers in Ontario's food system



**16** live-streamed  
**events**

**42** industry  
**volunteers**

**28,808**

**educational experiences**  
through Virtual Field Trips

**1,178** **classrooms** reached  
through Virtual Field Trips

## Camp AgScape



educational experiences through Camp AgScape's gamified online platform



*This has been an extremely enjoyable experience for my students and myself. The material is well laid out, interesting and current technologies are being highlighted. I would recommend Camp AgScape to parents and teachers!*

- Teacher who used Camp AgScape in their classroom



# Connecting Youth To Their Role In Our FOOD SYSTEM

## The Story of the Teacher Ambassador Program

Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (now AgScape) works on developing a new initiative to help increase confidence in teaching agriculture and food topics through the delivery of interactive lessons and activities for students.

Seeing tremendous growth and development, The Teacher Ambassador Program directs its focus to Grades 7-12 students and includes lesson topics such as: careers in agriculture, local eating, food security, climate change, and more. Teacher Ambassadors deliver agriculture and food education by teaching classroom lessons, attending agriculture and career events, and by participating in training and development opportunities.



## Expanding to our French & Francophone Communities

Over the past year, AgScape expanded our French program and resource offerings, enabling even more access to Francophone communities, Core French, and French Immersion classes across the province. In 2022, we translated many of our resources, launched our French Teacher Ambassador Program, and offered a live event in French. We are working towards making even more of our programs and resources available in French.

“ J’ai vraiment apprécié la présentation et j’ai définitivement appris différentes choses en écoutant la présentation. Je l’ai apprécié parce que j’ai l’impression que nous devons en apprendre davantage sur ses avantages afin que nous puissions être conscients de ce que nous achetons et de la façon dont cela nous affecte.

I really enjoyed the presentation and definitely learned different things from listening to the presentation. I like it because I feel like we need to learn more about the benefits so that we are aware of what we are buying and how it affects us.

- Student after participating in a local food lesson

The collage features three main items:

- Manger local?**: A lesson plan for 3e année (Grade 3).
- ANNEXE A – À BAS LES BACTÉRIES ! AFFICHE**: A food safety infographic with four quadrants:
  - NETTOYAGE: SE LAVER SOUVENT LES MAINS ET LES SURFACES
  - SÉPARATION: NE PAS FAIRE DE CONTAMINATION CROISÉE
  - RÉFRIGÉRATION: RÉFRIGÉRER RAPIDEMENT
  - CUISSON: CURÉ À DES TEMPÉRATURES APPROPRIÉES
- DEVILIN SAUVE UN AGNEAU**: A poster for a live event on Friday, October 7th at 10:00 HNE, featuring a sheep and a farmer. It includes the AgScape logo and a 'STREAMING EN DIRECT' button.

# Teacher Ambassador Program™ Impact Since 2011

- 3,085 lessons delivered
- 72,500 educational experiences provided to youth
- 585 schools across Ontario reached
- 190 communities across Ontario reached

The Teacher Ambassador Program sees an exceptional year; deliveries increased by 287% over the previous year, and new participations such as summer camps and newcomer associations receive workshops.

The Teacher Ambassador Program has its most successful year, with over 700 lessons delivered to 15,000 youth. Virtual delivery expands the program's reach, allowing it to be delivered in Northwestern Ontario communities such as Thunder Bay, Fort Frances, and Dryden.

2019

2020

2021

2022

Adapting to challenges, the Teacher Ambassador Program pivots to delivering lessons virtually, allowing it to reach new audiences.

Once again, The Teacher Ambassador Program sees tremendous growth and development. The program expands to reach students in Grades 4-12, with 27 new lessons available in English and French and in-person or virtual delivery. Youth audiences are also reached outside the classroom as new opportunities are explored.

## Partnering to Cultivate Meaningful Connections to Agriculture and Food

AgScape values our network of partners alongside whom we connect youth to agriculture and food in fun and engaging ways. We were thrilled to partner again with 4-H Ontario to provide unique learning experiences to youth and educators across Ontario in 2022.

In March, as part of Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month, we worked together to run a Virtual Art Show where both youth and educators creatively shared their food stories with us through various art media. Connecting to the theme "Our Food Our Story," 50 imaginative submissions were received and featured in a virtual art gallery.



In November, we teamed up again to be exhibitors at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, offering interactive activities for youth and educational materials for educators and parents. Together, we connected with over 2,100 youth during the two weeks of the fair.

# Creating Good News Stories THROUGH COLLABORATION

## Exploring Genomics in Agriculture and Food

In the 2021-22 school year, AgScape and Ontario Genomics embarked on a journey together to build a comprehensive resource that would spark important discussions about how genomic science is used in agriculture and food. After months of collaborative effort, an 80-page, comprehensive resource was created. Along with a teacher's guide explaining genomics' history and current contributions to the agriculture and food industry, the resource includes 3 unit plans that explore topics such as food security, climate change, animal health and welfare, and the role that genomics plays in each area. Designed for Grades 7-12, this resource covers important curriculum points from science and technology to food and nutrition courses.

*Delivering these lessons in my class reminded me that I can not assume that students have any prior knowledge of agricultural practices or food production. When you have lived it your whole life, it is challenging to put yourself in the place of someone who has never experienced or been taught anything about it. The dialogue with the class was amazing! Best day I have had teaching in a long time!*

- Sharron Meier, Secondary Science Teacher and Beef Producer, after using this resource

These collaborations bring meaningful conversations to Ontario youth and sustain the AgScape team. Knowing that teachers like Sharron, who met us through an educator professional development opportunity, continues to utilize our programming is the fuel we need to continue to develop balanced and innovative activities, lessons, and resources for educators. Working with partners like Ontario Genomics, who are at the forefront of agriculture and food innovation, engages youth with exciting and relevant content.

The case studies in the resource use real examples of ongoing work in agricultural genomics to prompt students to think about why using genomic science can be beneficial to the agriculture and food sector.

They explore "big questions" and are encouraged

to brainstorm potential pathways for exploration. This exciting, curiosity-driven process leads to students presenting their ideas in various multi-media reflections, leading them to want to know the actual results of the case studies!

*We have been thrilled with the positive response we have seen to the launch of the An Exploration of Genomics in Agriculture and Food resource this past year. Not only have we heard amazing stories of student excitement and engagement, but we have also had many other organizations asking for access to these resources to 'see how it's done'. AgScape has kept us up-to-date on how many students we are reaching with this resource as well as relaying questions that some students and teachers have had regarding the results of the research projects we have highlighted. As a result, we are working with AgScape on live events to interact with students, explain how this research is progressing, and answer any other questions they may have interactively. This type of work is vital to ensuring that students receive accurate information about how genomics and related sciences contribute to the agriculture and food sector. We thank AgScape for facilitating this type of engagement!*

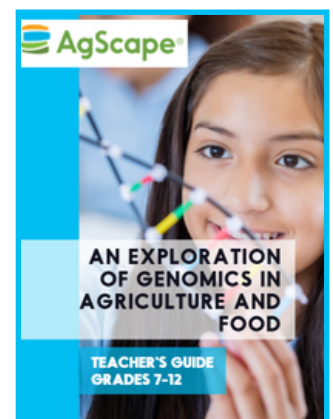
- Dr. Mike Dorrington, Manager of Strategic Partnerships at Ontario Genomics

Sharing the exciting ongoing nature of the scientific method firsthand with students gives AgScape's programming the edge it needs to bridge the gap between the fundamental principles students learn in class with their real-world applications. Guiding them to use this knowledge in meaningful ways is an exciting gift we can give students as they prepare to become the next wave of innovators in science, technology, and agriculture.

6,800  
students

190  
schools

reached since  
released in  
February 2022



## Fostering Food Literacy in Ontario

Trillium Mutual is an insurance company owned by its members, which drives their focus on supporting and developing communities across Ontario. AgScape can testify to this commitment of support when Trillium first stepped up as an AGM Sponsor in 2018. Looking to deepen their impacts and get staff involved in a hands-on capacity, Trillium jumped at the opportunity to volunteer as a station host for thinkAG Career Competitions in 2020. Our partnership continued to grow when AgScape was approved as a beneficiary of their ROOTS Community Fund in December 2022 in support of our Teacher Ambassador Program (TAP) – an investment that will help to deliver over 50 TAP lessons to over 1,300 youth across Ontario!

“We are very proud to support AgScape with a \$20,000 donation through our ROOTS Community Fund. The funds will help expand their programs which educate youth to understand their impact on the world around them. Their Teacher Ambassador Program helps connect the passion an educator has for agriculture and food with classrooms across Ontario to expand their curiosity about our industry. These types of resources provide youth opportunities to learn more about not only hands on farming, but other career opportunities within the ag industry as a potential future.”

- Tracy MacDonald, President and CEO of Trillium Mutual



(From left to right)  
Jenny Hallahan – VP of People & Innovation, Trillium Mutual  
Mira Lyonblum – Executive Director, AgScape  
Larry Holmes – Manager of Branding & Partnerships, Trillium Mutual  
Derek Mendez – ROOTS Council Member, Trillium Mutual

The ROOTS Community Fund has funded over 290 organizations since 2014. AgScape is thrilled to be included among the growing list of beneficiaries as we continue to expand our reach across the province.

In 2022, 636 TAP lessons were delivered to over 15,000 students. Demand for AgScape’s programs and resources is projected to grow as virtual offerings continue and in-person lessons and events resume. Support from collaborators like Trillium Mutual helps to foster important classroom discussions that spark curiosity and critical thinking about food, agriculture, and exciting career opportunities available. Together, we’re creating stories worth sharing that will lead to a strong and sustainable future for all of us.

“I think that this lesson was valuable because being a young person I am starting to think of what my career should be when I grow up. In the agriculture industry you can help get nutritious food on people’s tables, make sure livestock animals are treated humanely and help fight climate change!”

- Student following a Teacher Ambassador Program lesson



### Fun with Food and Farming

We collaborated with Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition students from Brescia University College - Western University and 4-H Ontario on a project to increase interest in, and knowledge of, agriculture for kindergarten to Grade 8 students and teachers across Ontario. The Fun with Food and Farming program included a series of live-streamed interviews with agriculture and food industry experts around three main topic areas: food production, distribution, and processing. An interactive activity kit was developed to accompany the interviews. This engaging series was implemented as part of Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month in March and reached over 2,800 elementary students across Ontario!

# Sharing Canada's Remarkable AGRICULTURE & FOOD STORY

Across Canada, Agriculture in the Classroom Canada (AITC-C) and the provincial member organizations are dedicated to engaging, empowering, and inspiring youth on the exciting world of agriculture and food.

With a network of partners, stakeholders, and volunteers, AITC-C provides balanced, and current curriculum-linked programs and resources for students at all grade levels to inspire meaningful connections to agriculture and food.

AITC-C collaborates with the provincial member organizations to deliver national AITC initiatives, including Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month and thinkAG, an exploratory, career-focused initiative. thinkAG has ignited exciting resources such as the interest self-assessment app Kareero and a career exploration board game called Career Case. AITC members also distribute national teaching resources accessible through the Canadian Educator's Resource Library and help students learn about interesting topics in agriculture and food by reviewing the dynamic snagAG information sheets.

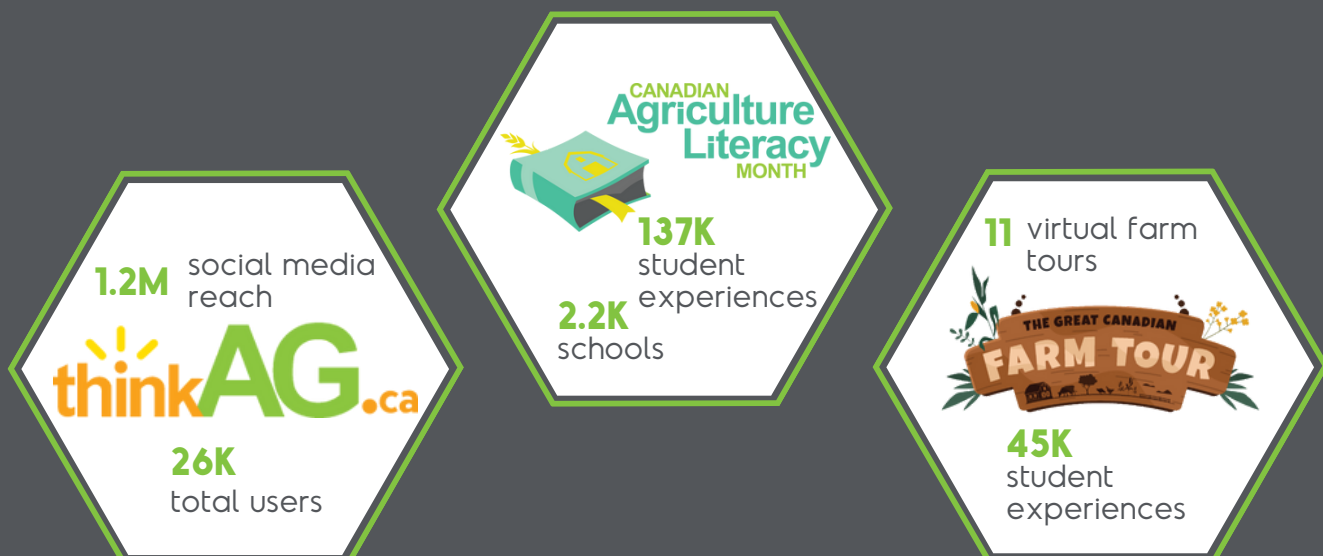


*We are proud of what the AITC collective has been able to accomplish from coast to coast. AgScape is an integral piece of creating meaningful connections with students, educators, and agriculture sector professionals in Ontario. Our members are the delivery network between classrooms and agriculture education resources and programs. Together, we are stronger, with a reach and impact that would be unattainable without the AITC collective's collaboration and coordination.*



Sara Shymko, Acting Executive Director of AITC-C

Agriculture in the Classroom Canada celebrates over 2 million student experiences across Canada each year because of the commitment and passion of the provincial members.



# Experiential LEARNING EXPERIENCES



## Teacher Ambassador Program

AgScape's flagship program places trained educators, both in-person and virtually, into Grade 4-12 classrooms to lead workshops on food and agriculture. Students understand their role in our food system and the vast career opportunities available to them.



## Digital Resource Library

A robust and always-evolving collection of free Kindergarten to Grade 12 lesson plans and student activities accessible and available online to teachers across the province.



## Virtual Field Trips

Livestreamed tours of farms and facilities led by producers, farmers, and industry experts, that allow teachers and students to learn about the diversity of practices and careers in Ontario's food system.



## thinkAG Career Competitions

Grade 5-12 students connect with agriculture and food industry professionals and explore how their skills and interests can be applied to in-demand careers in food and agriculture.



## Camp AgScape

Youth ages 5-18 can explore food and farming through interactive educational activities on a fully accessible, gamified online platform.



## Business of Food

A comprehensive online platform that allows educators to enhance their knowledge and understanding of food and agriculture at their own pace and from any location.



## Professional Development Workshops

Engaging workshops on a wide variety of food and agriculture related topics, aimed at educators and education professionals.



## Feeding Innovation Podcast

Stories about the innovation and opportunity in Ontario's food and agriculture sector by leaders at the intersection of agriculture and education.

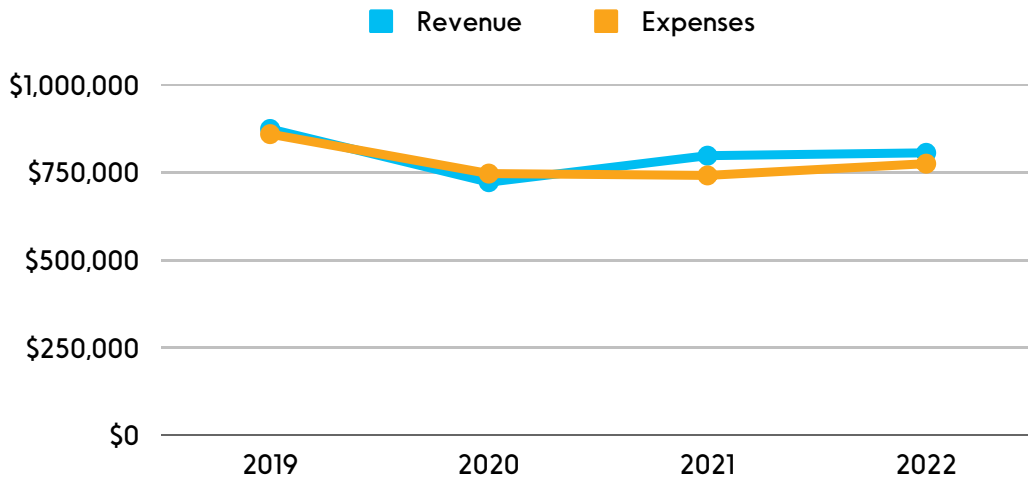
FOLLOW  
US



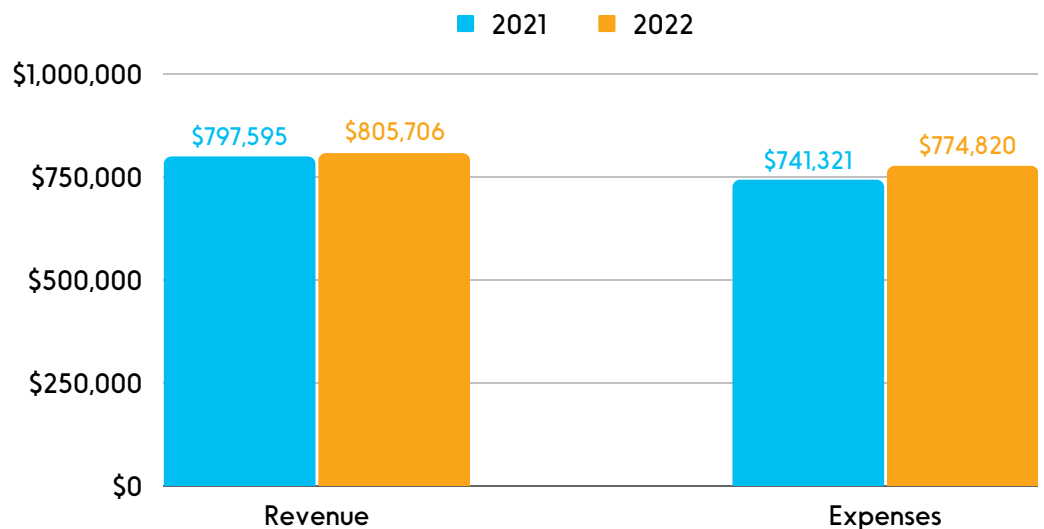
# FINANCIAL REPORT

As Treasurer of AgScape, it is my pleasure to report that we were able to maintain our commitment to organizational sustainability during a year that saw a return to in-person program delivery alongside the continuation of virtual opportunities.

## Operational Revenue & Expenses



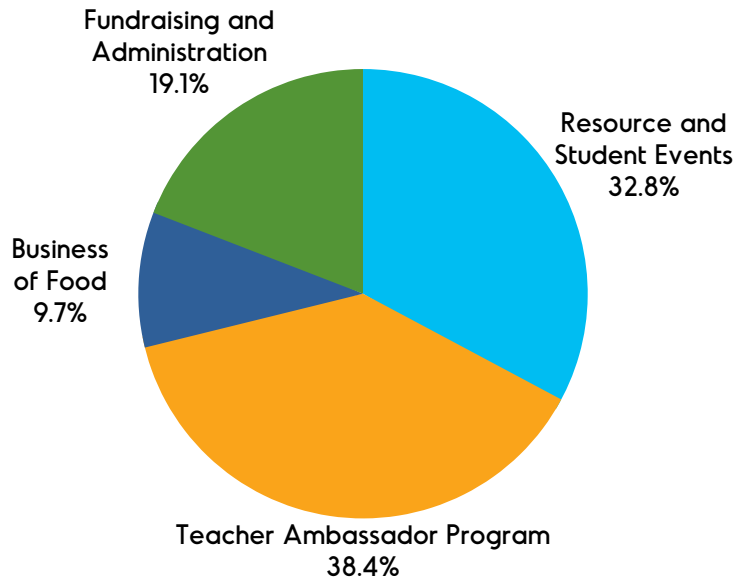
With the return of in-person classroom attendance in 2022, we budgeted for a slight increase in operational costs. Our expenses increased by \$33,499 from \$741,321 in 2021 to \$774,820 in 2022. The revenue side saw an increase of \$8,111 from \$797,595 in 2021 to \$805,706 in 2022, leading to a net operational surplus \$30,866. We could not have achieved this balanced budget without the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the generosity of our members, donors, and stakeholders.



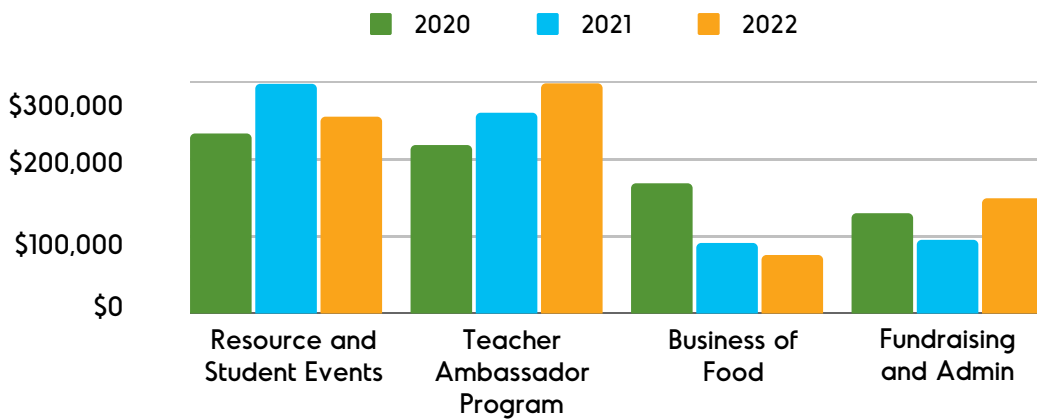


## Expenses Review

Throughout 2022, we continued to look for efficiencies in our programming and administration. We automated more of our outreach for Teacher Ambassador Program bookings and partnering with AITC Canada on the Digital Resource Library and the Learning Management System. This has allowed us to direct more of our resources to program delivery and reach more Ontario students.



## Program Expenses



Throughout the year, AgScape experienced some expected market volatility with our investments, and at year-end, we had some unrealized capital losses. It is important to note that AgScape has an investment policy that is regularly reviewed and has quarterly meetings with a certified investment advisor to ensure that due diligence is being applied to the management of our Reserve and HEP funds. This includes a strong cash position within the investments to ensure that we can be strategic and not reactive within the portfolio. Overall, we are pleased with the financial position that AgScape is in due to the hard work of our staff and supporters.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Peart, Treasurer



Full audited statements are available at [www.AgScape.ca](http://www.AgScape.ca)

# Our Work In ACTION

We are so proud when Ontario educators take the initiative to use our programs and resources to introduce agriculture and food to their students in new and exciting ways. Here are just a few inspirational teacher stories that are definitely worth sharing.

## Bringing Engaging Learning Experiences into the Classroom

Getting to know and work with educators across Ontario is one of the unique ways AgScape educates students on agriculture and food literacy. Nigel Carlisle, a now-familiar face in AgScape circles, won the 2022 Teaching Excellence in Agriculture Education award, sponsored by Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. Like many teachers, he discovered AgScape at an educational event and he decided to invest in his own agriculture and food literacy by participating in The Business of Food, a comprehensive online learning experience. Nigel regularly uses our Technology and Innovation Teacher Ambassador Program (TAP) lesson in his Green Industries class, to spark curiosity and interest in agricultural technology. Students build robots and complete farm-related tasks. It has piqued the interest of organizers of the Ontario Council for Technology Education's Spring 2023 conference, where Nigel, along with AgScape Program Coordinator, Shaunna MacQuarrie, will lead tech educators from across Ontario through the Technology and Innovation TAP lesson and the robotics challenge. We hope to inspire other educators to bring this kind of engaging, hands-on learning experience to their own students.



## Building Connections in Northern Communities

While AgScape programming tends to primarily be geared toward students, we are also tremendously excited when we have the opportunity to engage with educators across the province. One such relationship was formed in the fall of 2022 when Keri Nasvesky, Experiential Education Lead for The Northwest Catholic School Board in Northwestern Ontario, connected with the AgScape team to bring our programming to her educators. At their board's Professional Development Day in November, AgScape was invited to share various program ideas for agriculture and food literacy education. Keri enthusiastically shared her feedback on bringing AgScape to her board's educators, including Ontario Certified Teachers and Designated Early Childhood Educators.



“

*Having AgScape as a guest speaker at our PD Day in the fall was an excellent experience; I highly recommend that all school boards take advantage of this opportunity. The presentation and knowledge shared with our staff were relevant, easy to access, and extremely useful for classroom teachers. Many of our teachers have accessed the resources provided and reached out to book a lesson for their class. Our students are engaged in the topics and the follow-up materials provided by AgScape on their website. There are so many resources for educators from all grade levels. I have had many teachers approach me, letting me know they felt the professional development provided by AgScape was the most beneficial they have had this year!*

”

By connecting directly with educators, AgScape continues to blaze a trail throughout Ontario as we work toward bringing agriculture and food education to every student in the province.

# Looking **FORWARD**

Our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan outlines exciting directions designed to meet the needs of educators and students across Ontario. They fall into three areas of focus so that we can build a culture of partnerships and community, sustainability, and excellence in agriculture and food education.

Our priorities include the following:

- Continued robust program offerings in both online and in-person
- Increase our programming offerings and recruit more facilitators across Ontario to expand our reach in northern communities
- Continue to expand our French program and resource offerings which include translation of current resources and delivering programming in French
- Meaningful work to embrace Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility into all aspects of our organization so everyone can feel represented and respected
- More efficient systems to communicate and work with our stakeholders, like a new website and an interactive program management database
- New iterations of professional development workshops for educators and industry organizations
- Connecting even more students with agriculture and food professionals to explore how their skills and interests can be applied to in-demand careers within the industry through programs like our thinkAG Career Competitions

We are so grateful to all of our partners, members, supporters, volunteers, Teacher Ambassadors, Board of Directors, and staff who are a part of our story. Together, we will ensure AgScape continues to lead a movement to bring agriculture and food education into all Ontario classrooms.

## Thank you!





## Why Support Us

For over 30 years, AgScape has been the voice of agriculture in the classroom, providing balanced, evidence-based, curriculum-linked food literacy programs and resources to Ontario's educators and students.

Help us bring free agriculture and food education to every student and educator in Ontario!

**Become a member or donate today.**



**Stay informed by subscribing to our newsletter.**



Leading Agriculture and Food Education in Ontario

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