

Celeste Smith

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge Holder, Seed Keeper, Founder/Director, and Teacher/Advocate

Celeste Smith is Oneida from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Celeste is a seed steward, traditional agriculturalist and former instructor of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) at [Niagara College](#). She is the Founder/Director of [Cultural Seeds](#), an Indigenous seed store/rematriation project and [Ga Gitigemi Gamik](#) an agroecological center on a permanent Indigenous stewarded site, where women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons can (RE)learn ancestral agricultural methods lost to colonization.



Ga Gitigemi Gamik has won several awards, including the [Desjardins GOODSPARK](#) award, the [LUSH Cosmetics Charity Pot](#), and the i3 Indigenous Innovation Challenge at the Desjardins [Cooperathon](#), the world's largest Social Innovation Challenge. The project is featured in the new National Farmers Union-sponsored documentary series [Depth of Field](#).

As a Local, National and Global Food Justice Advocate, Celeste's work centers around Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Land Justice and Indigenous Human Rights. She is the focal point for the Civil Society and Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM) for North America at the UN FAO [Committee on World Food Security](#), the Co-Chair of the International Committee and Special Advisor on Indigenous Policy for [The National Farmers Union \(NFU\)](#), Co-Chair of the [Peel Food Action Council \(PFAC\)](#), member of the National [Canadian Food Security Policy Group](#) and member delegate of [La Via Campesina](#), the International Peasants Rights Collective.

Celeste has had the unique experience of consulting with dozens of social justice and farming groups, including the [National Farmers Union](#), [Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario](#), [Ontario Land Trust Alliance](#), [Food Secure Canada](#), [Regeneration Canada](#), [Indigenous Advisory Circle for the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership](#), [Toronto Metropolitan University](#), [University of Toronto](#), [Niagara College](#), [Brock University](#), [The Journal of Peasant Studies](#), among others.

Celeste's academic experience was at Niagara College (Social Sciences), Brock University (Poli Sci/Sociology/Indigenous Education) and Columbia University NYC (ISHR: Institute for the Study of Human Rights).

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