

Mapping Therapeutic Care Farms in Canada

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About the Problem

Care farming across Europe, especially the Netherlands, is a well-defined sector supporting many vulnerable populations with various types of farms and programs. Canada's care farming sector is incredibly new, with several instances of care farming each providing different programs and services. It is important to have a handle on the existing landscape of care farming in Canada in order to define the model, develop quality assurances and differentiate the model from other types of community programs and services. Mapping the system of care farming in Canada and identifying consistent, high quality and reputable definitions would provide a helpful platform to launch a clearly defined care farming sector.

About the Community Partner

Green Care Farms is the first care farm for people with dementia in Canada. Our mission is to promote purpose and belonging for people with dementia through the delivery of therapeutic gardening programs. Our vision is a Green Care Farm for people with dementia in every community in Canada. More recently we have been inspired to support other prospective care farmers with education and support needed to develop their ideas towards founding their own care farm programs.

Impact on the Organization

This research would provide us with definitions and examples of care farming currently underway in Canada. It would allow us to capture the diversity of care farms and support us in building out an infrastructure to educate, train and encourage prospective care farmers. The focus on wellness, nature and enabling healing by connecting vulnerable populations with the great outdoors in a safe and supported way is the care farming throughline. Green Care Farms is completing work to join care farmers together with the Canadian Care Farming Network. This research would be invaluable knowledge for our market potential and audience messaging.

Potential Connections & Data Sources

Green Care Farms has a list of citations on research of care farmers in Canada as well as a series of media articles, keywords, websites and contacts in care farming that could be explored, reviewed and in the case of direct contacts, interviewed.



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