

NATURE CONSERVANCY|CANADA 

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020





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MISSION AND VALUES

Vision

Mission

Values



Vision

We envision a world in which Canadians conserve nature in all its diversity and safeguard the lands and waters that sustain life.

Mission

The Nature Conservancy of Canada leads and inspires others to join us in creating a legacy for future generations by conserving important natural areas and biological diversity across all regions of Canada.



MISSION AND VALUES

Vision

Mission

Values

Values

Wherever we work across Canada, we share and apply the following values:

Durable conservation outcomes

While respecting nature's processes, we manage lands and waters for their natural values today and for the long term. We believe future generations deserve to inherit a biologically rich world.

Evidence-based decision-making

We are guided by the best available conservation science. We are committed to continuous learning, and to finding practical, resourceful and innovative solutions to conservation challenges.

Respect for nature and people

We respect the needs, values and culture of local communities. We seek conservation solutions that meet the needs of nature and people. Conservation supports prosperous and sustainable communities.

Integrity first

We work to the highest ethical and professional standards. We are transparent and accountable to our donors and partners. We earn trust by living up to our commitments.

Conservation through collaboration and cooperation

Our commitment to community, donors, partners, volunteers and staff makes us strong. We strive to be open to the ideas of others so that together we can achieve conservation outcomes that benefit all. We work in the spirit of collaboration. We celebrate each other's successes.

Nature for all

We value and incorporate diverse traditions, heritage, knowledge and experiences in our mission and in our workplaces. We celebrate the full participation of people from all walks of life as we work towards common goals. We strive for a conservation movement in which equity, diversity and inclusion are the norm.

This is our continuous commitment: to promote healthy people, healthy communities and a healthy planet for everyone.



NATIONAL REVIEW

Overview

Highlights

Inspired by nature's resilience

Over a century ago, many of the wetlands on Ontario's Pelee Island in Lake Erie had been drained. On a property acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), much of the rich soil in these fields had eroded and the lands were now marginal for farming. NCC secured the property to protect remnants of habitat that supported many different endangered species. But what to do with these fields?

The management plan for the property called for something ambitious. Could we bring these wetlands back?

Almost 10 years later, NCC began to transform these marginal lands back into wetlands. By excavating depressions and breaking old drainage tiles we were able to get this land to again hold water. With this water came life. Not only did wetland plants quickly return, but so did migrating shorebirds, turtles and waterfowl. When given a chance, the resilience of nature can be rapid and remarkable.



Restoration on Pelee Island, ON





NATIONAL REVIEW

Overview

Highlights

Nature has much to teach us about resilience, and can inspire us in times of uncertainty and challenge. It's perhaps no wonder that Canadians found themselves turning to nature during such challenging times.

And it's no surprise that the last fiscal year posed a number of challenges for most organizations, including the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Among them, the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, the increased urgency of the climate and biodiversity crisis and the resulting global economic uncertainty posed perhaps the largest challenges in the organization's close-to-60-year history.

But NCC's cautious and creative approach to an unexpected global crisis shows that with prudent planning, NCC can also be resilient and even thrive in times of change.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in the fourth quarter of FY 2020-21, NCC proved its ability to pivot quickly. Advances in technology and our new internal communications program meant staff could transition to working remotely while maintaining our focus and productivity, ensuring that donor contributions continued to be put to good use during times of physical distancing. In a proactive move facing a number of uncertainties, the NCC management team developed a plan to ensure NCC's financial resilience in the next fiscal year.

NCC also faced additional uncertainties with the announcement of the retirement of our president and CEO, John Lounds, who has served the organization for more than 23 years. To plan for a seamless transition, our board of directors put a plan in place to prepare for a transition in leadership to guide NCC in the next decade. And our staff complement is now the among youngest and largest it has been, pushing us to do more, better, to achieve our vision.

NCC remains committed to our mission. And our supporters' firm belief in our work has made us even more committed to ensuring our organization continues to thrive in the face of unexpected challenges. The successes of the last year have shown what can happen when committed Canadians come together to ensure a natural legacy for the next generations and beyond.



NATIONAL REVIEW

Overview

Highlights

Here's what we said we would do this year (2019-20):



GOAL

Rally Canadians to help us reach our \$750-million Landmark Campaign goal.

OUTCOME

Donors from across Canada pledged and contributed more than \$132 million this year in support of nature conservation.



Grizzly bear

GOAL

Conserve habitat for Canada's terrestrial and freshwater species at risk.

OUTCOME

We have directly protected habitat for one-third of Canada's terrestrial and freshwater wildlife species that are at risk of being lost from our country.



Hiddema family

GOAL

Continue growing our supporter base. (*NCC defines a supporter as anyone who donates, volunteers or otherwise engages with the organization.)

OUTCOME

Our supporter base grew by 14 per cent (close to 35,000), fueled by new donors delivered through fundraising campaigns and social media engagement programs.



NATIONAL REVIEW

Overview

Highlights



GOAL

Conserve 76 securement projects totalling 12,500 hectares (30,875 acres) through ongoing programs in conservation agreements, fee simple acquisitions and other means.

OUTCOME

Secured 87 projects totaling 7,086 hectares (17,510 acres).

In addition to this work, NCC paid compensation for the termination of development rights on 6,136 hectares (15,162 acres) in BC's Jumbo Valley. This will help create an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area in a landscape known as Qat'muk, which includes the Jumbo Valley, freshwater wildlife species that are at risk of being lost from our country.



GOAL

Develop a new strategic plan to guide NCC from 2021 and onward.

OUTCOME

Work on the plan was temporarily interrupted by the pandemic. It will be resumed under the leadership of our incoming CEO.



GOAL

Launch the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP), our new public-private partnership.

OUTCOME

In its first year, the NHCP delivered 13,000 hectares (32,124 acres), including habitat for some of Canada's most endangered wildlife.



NATIONAL REVIEW

Overview

Highlights



GOAL

Host a national conference to advance new approaches to finance conservation.

OUTCOME

Postponed to spring 2021 due to COVID-19.



GOAL

Support and advance Indigenous leadership and advance Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

OUTCOME

Celebrated a number of Indigenous-led conservation successes, increased our staff support and began rolling out staff cultural training.



GOAL

Launch an internal communications program.

OUTCOME

Successfully launched.



NATIONAL REVIEW

Overview

Highlights



Collector tablet

GOAL

Invest in new technology to support field staff and enhance donor relations.

OUTCOME

New Land Information System launched, and two-year digital innovation project is well underway.



Conservation Volunteers event at Chase Woods, BC

GOAL

Connect more Canadians to nature through programs such as Nature Destinations, Nature Destinations and Conservation Volunteers.

OUTCOME

We hosted more than 430 regional events from coast to coast in summer/fall 2019, attracting more than 27,400 participants.



Looking ahead

GOAL

Inspire more Canadians to consider leaving a gift to NCC in their Will.

OUTCOME

160 Canadians confirmed legacy gifts in their Will — close to 20 per cent more than last fiscal. And 252 Canadians indicated they were thinking about leaving a gift in their Will to NCC.



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

British Columbia¹

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

4

HECTARES SECURED

415

ACRES SECURED

1,025

LAND VALUE (\$)*

2,880,000

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

¹In addition, NCC paid compensation for the termination of development rights on 6,136 hectares (15,162 acres) in the Jumbo Valley. This is a key step in the initiative to create an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area in the Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Area in BC. This accomplishment will be included in NCC's overall securement statistics once a protected area is established.



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

RYAN RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

The Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC's) first project in the Pemberton Valley means more security for grizzly bears in the Squamish-Lillooet region. NCC and its partners have conserved an 87-hectare (214-acre) ecologically important property along the Ryan River, in Pemberton Meadows.

The Ryan River Conservation Area is extensively used by grizzly and black bears, black-tailed deer, beavers and many species of migratory birds. The grizzly bears found here are from a provincially threatened population. Protecting this forested, valley-bottom property offers safe habitat for the bears as they move across the valley and connect with the neighbouring population.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/bc



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

Alberta

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

11

HECTARES SECURED

1,383

ACRES SECURED

3,419

LAND VALUE (\$)*

7,439,500

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/ab



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

HANSEN RANCH

The Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC's) ongoing partnership with ranchers in the Waterton Park Front, on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, continues. Wishing to maintain the landscape of their multi-generational ranch in a natural, unfragmented state while continuing their cattle ranch operations, the Hansen family placed an easement on the property with NCC.

Three generations of the Hansen family have been living on and working the 365-hectare (903-acre) Hansen Ranch, east of Waterton Lakes National Park. Their vision of protecting the ranch ensures not only the continuation of their legacy, but also its ecological value. The wetlands and streams on Hansen Ranch contribute to the conservation of water quality, flood mitigation and the maintenance of an important watershed along Alberta's southern foothills. And several important habitats on the property extend beyond the boundaries of Waterton Lakes National Park, providing connectivity for wide-ranging animals, such as grizzly bear, gray wolf, wolverine and Canada lynx.



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

Saskatchewan

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

6

HECTARES SECURED

1,186

ACRES SECURED

2,930

LAND VALUE (\$)*

3,133,100

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/sk



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

BUFFALO POUND

An expanse of grasslands (that provide a buffer to ensure the safety of the drinking water source for approximately one-quarter of Saskatchewan's population is now protected. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) successfully completed its most significant conservation project (by cost) to date in the province, just 40 kilometres from Moose Jaw. The 866-hectare (2,140-acre) Buffalo Pound natural area consists of native grasslands — one of the most endangered habitats in the world — and seven kilometres of shoreline along the north shore of Buffalo Pound Lake.

Buffalo Pound is also home to at-risk species, such as Sprague's pipit, bobolink, northern leopard frog and American badger.



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

Manitoba

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

4

HECTARES SECURED

453

ACRES SECURED

1,120

LAND VALUE (\$)*

1,113,000

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/mb



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

OAK LAKE NORTH

A gift of land by David Lacey in memory of his late wife, Susan, was the site of two exciting discoveries last summer. Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) staff discovered the presence of the nationally endangered Dakota skipper butterfly and provincially endangered Great Plains ladies'-tresses orchid. Both of these species are also of global conservation concern.

The 63-hectare (156-acre) property is located 11 kilometres southwest of the town of Oak Lake and nine kilometres south of Routledge. The property features mixed-grass prairie, wetlands and riparian habitat along the shoreline of Oak Lake. The orchid's discovery expands its known range in Manitoba.

The identification of these species prompted NCC to quickly adapt management plans for the summer. Staff adjusted the timing and location of the planned haying to accommodate not only the discovery of these two species, but also other wildlife — including nesting waterfowl, endangered monarch butterflies, the threatened bobolink — before developing a multi-species at-risk focused management plan.



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

Ontario

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

15

HECTARES SECURED

1,173

ACRES SECURED

2,898

LAND VALUE (\$)*

9,421,276

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/on



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

STALEY POINT

The Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) celebrated the protection of an area with a rich and long human history — 33 hectares (82 acres) of meadow, wetland and shoreline on Staley Point on Wolfe Island. For thousands of years, the island was used as a permanent and semi-permanent settlement by Indigenous communities, including Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, Mississauga and Algonquin-speaking Peoples. Later, Staley Point was part of the seigneurie (estate of a French noble) of explorer and trader René-Robert Cavalier de La Salle, which was awarded to him in 1675 by King Louis XIV of France. In 1685, the property was part of the very first private land sale in Upper Canada when La Salle transferred the island to Jacques Cauchois.

Wolfe Island, at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, is both the most easterly of the Great Lakes islands and also the largest in the Thousand Islands archipelago. Located at the extreme northwestern corner of the island lies Staley Point, which is critical to local nature conservation. Large coastal wetlands on the property's south side help to filter the waters of Lake Ontario, while providing habitat for an impressive suite of waterfowl. Its expansive meadows are home at-risk birds, such as bobolink and eastern meadowlark, and provide stopover habitat for the endangered monarch along its epic migration route.



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

Quebec

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

22

HECTARES SECURED

1,102

ACRES SECURED

2,724

LAND VALUE (\$)*

5,128,960

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/qc



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

WILDLIFE CROSSING IVRY

A **wildlife crossing** on Route 117 in Ivry-sur-le-Lac will help to improve the safety of motorists and wildlife in the Laurentians. The plan is to use the newly secured property to develop a wildlife crossing under the road here to reduce collisions between vehicles and wildlife and allow unrestricted movement for animals, such as fisher and moose.

The 27-hectare (66-acre) acquisition by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is a part of a larger wildlife corridor project with many groups and government agencies to protect and expand ecological corridors across Quebec. This property, known as Wildlife Crossing Ivry, includes a wetland and a forest dominated by sugar maple, yellow birch and balsam fir.



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

New Brunswick

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

16

HECTARES SECURED

956

ACRES SECURED

2,363

LAND VALUE (\$)*

1,264,300

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/nb



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

RIVERSIDE-ALBERT

The conservation of an Acadian forest near Riverside-Albert has now ensured the continued survival of a rare stand of trees more than 80 years old. Had it not been conserved by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), it is likely that the forest would have been lost to logging due to its high timber value. Older forests are now very rare in Atlantic Canada, making them a natural treasure and a priority for conservation.

Located near Riverside-Albert, the forest provides habitat for a rich diversity of wildlife, including eastern wood-pewee, a species of special concern.

In addition to protecting the mature forest, NCC acquired the land to help protect drinking water reservoirs for the community's residents.



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

Prince Edward Island

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

3

HECTARES SECURED

34

ACRES SECURED

85

LAND VALUE (\$)*

97,500

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/pei



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

ABRAM-VILLAGE

One of PEI's most significant salt marshes has received even more protection. Salt marshes are critically important for nature and people. In addition to their biological diversity, they play a crucial role in buffering coastal communities from rising sea levels and more frequent storm events. Protecting them is an important way to adapt to a changing climate and minimize coastal erosion, a growing concern for Islanders.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) added 10 hectares (24 acres) at its nature reserve in Abram-Village. The property is mainly forested and borders the Abram-Village salt marsh.

The Abram-Village salt marsh also provides vital habitat for many species of birds, including great blue heron, red-breasted merganser, American black duck, Nelson's sparrow, willet, belted kingfisher and common goldeneye.



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

Nova Scotia

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

5

HECTARES SECURED

364

ACRES SECURED

899

LAND VALUE (\$)*

1,038,275

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/ns



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

CAIN'S MOUNTAIN, CAPE BRETON

A top priority area for conservation in Cape Breton has now been conserved by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). The 231-hectare (570-acre) Little Narrows property, located west of Cain's Mountain, on Cape Breton Island, features large tracts of mature forest with old-growth stands dominated by sugar maple, yellow birch and beech.

The property also contains 24 hectares (approximately 60 acres) of wetland habitat, including brackish (slightly salty) marsh and bogs, fens and beaver ponds, which provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. There are also at least 10 ponds scattered throughout the property.

NCC has been working in Cape Breton since 1971 and has identified the Little Narrows region as a top priority for conservation.



REGIONAL SUCCESSSES

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

1

HECTARES SECURED

19

ACRES SECURED

47

LAND VALUE (\$)*

38,000

*Fair market value as determined by independent appraisal.

For more successes from this region in the last year, visit natureconservancy.ca/nl



FEATURED PROJECT (2019-20)

CODROY VALLEY

An area that supports more than half of the bird species in Newfoundland and Labrador has now received additional protection. Sheltered by the Long Range Mountains, the scenic, rolling landscape of the Codroy Valley is a haven, not only for birds, but also for nature lovers and travelers. The Nature Conservancy of Canada has been working here for many years.

NCC conserved an additional 19 hectares (47 acres) of boreal forest along the Grand Codroy River, upstream of this valuable wetland. This addition expands NCC's Codroy Valley Nature Reserve to 262 hectares (647 acres).



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Science

Conserving species at risk

Indigenous collaborations

Natural Heritage
Conservation Program

Fundraising

Connecting with Canadians

Science

NCC's science-based approach to conservation is central to our leadership role in Canada's conservation community. In the last year, our staff achieved a number of successes in addition to business as usual.

Investing in the next generation's leaders in conservation science

Two Canadian graduate students will be undertaking important conservation research in the coming year, thanks to the Weston Family Conservation Science Fellowship. A PhD student will study the endangered mottled duskywing butterfly, while a master's student will conduct research on declining grassland songbirds in southern Alberta. Their research will aim to identify ways to conserve natural areas to allow the species populations to recover.

The butterfly is endangered in part due to a loss of habitat. It depends on the New Jersey tea plant for survival, which are often found in dry sandy areas or limestone alvars. These habitats are under development pressures.

Many species of grassland birds, such as birds that depend exclusively on native grasslands for breeding and wintering have declined dramatically by 87 per cent since 1970.



Mottled duskywing



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Launch of the conservation technology project

Increasingly, technology is the lifeline for NCC field staff. Now, a new three-year project will help both NCC and members of the land trust community achieve more conservation and do it faster, aided by advances in technology.

The first important milestone was the upgrade of NCC's Land Information System to allow NCC to further integrate and analyze information on our properties. Another key step was the review of the existing methods used by staff to collect data in the field. Since protected lands are often remote from NCC offices, the ability to collect this information will ensure NCC can more easily and efficiently inventory and monitor these lands. Last, NCC has also been working to modernize the methods used to prioritize its conservation work.



Snapping turtle

Number of species at risk taxa that occur on NCC-owned properties

- The Nature Conservancy of Canada has directly protected habitat for more than one-third of Canada's most imperiled terrestrial and freshwater plants and animals.
- For reptiles, amphibians and birds, we have protected habitat for more than one-half of at-risk species.
- Future inventories on our properties are likely to discover additional species from groups that are more difficult to identify. In addition to securing habitat, NCC also supports the conservation of species at risk through stewardship activities, implementing recovery actions and participation on recovery teams.



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Conserving species at risk

Species group	Number of species at risk* that occur on NCC-owned properties	Total number of species at risk*
Amphibian	16	27
Bird	58	89
Clams, snails & other molluscs	10	41
Fish (fresh water)	11	107
Insects & spiders	13	71
Lichens	7	23
Mammals (terrestrial)	21	44
Mosses	2	20
Reptiles	32	44
Vascular plants	61	206

* Species at risk includes COSEWIC-assessed and SARA-listed (Schedule 1) taxa designated as endangered, threatened or special concern.
COSEWIC - Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. SARA - Species at Risk Act.



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Indigenous collaborations

The dynamics of conservation in Canada are changing. Today, Indigenous Peoples are increasingly being heard and engaged by others as conservation decision-makers and stewards of the land.

NCC acknowledges that Indigenous Peoples have protected and cared for the natural areas, plants and animals that have sustained them for millennia. NCC has much to learn from Indigenous Peoples across Canada that will help us to become better land managers and conservationists. NCC, as a leading conservation organization, also has a unique opportunity to contribute the skills we have acquired to assist Indigenous communities and Nations to achieve their conservation and stewardship goals.

NCC's Indigenous Conservation Engagement Framework (ICEF) sets out NCC's vision for working with Indigenous communities and nations in a meaningful, respectful and supportive manner. Last year was the second year of implementation of the ICEF. NCC staff have been very supportive of the framework, with excellent progress being made throughout the organization.



Martina Shovar, Lot 48, BC

Highlights from fiscal 2019-20 include:

- Cultural competency training was provided to 50 senior and key staff. These sessions provided a full day of foundational learning about Indigenous culture in Canada, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the application of cultural competency to the NCC conservation mission.
- Planned and developed an online training module for all staff, to extend cultural competency.
- Continued working with Indigenous and other partners on the development of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in NCC regions.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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In addition, NCC assisted in facilitating significant Indigenous-led conservation projects, such as:

Ensuring a future for Qat'muk (Jumbo Valley) BC

After 30 years of uncertainty about the future of these traditional lands, an area sacred to the Ktunaxa known as Qat'muk, which includes the Jumbo Valley in BC's Central Purcell Mountains, is now secured for the long term. NCC joined the Ktunaxa Nation, the Province of BC, the Government of Canada, community supporters and funding partners in Cranbrook to celebrate conservation plans for the valley. Those plans were made possible after the long-sought termination of development rights in the Jumbo Valley.

The Ktunaxa Nation Council will now be able to move forward with community consultation to ensure effective stewardship and conservation of the Central Purcell Mountains through the creation of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). According to the Indigenous Circle of Experts, IPCAs are distinguished as areas where Indigenous Peoples lead the protection and conservation of ecosystems founded on Indigenous knowledge, governance and laws. It will serve to protect both cultural values and biological diversity in part of the Central Purcell Mountains for all time.





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Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve, Northwest Territories

Meaning “Land of the Ancestors” in Dënesųłíné, Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve is a 14,000-square-kilometre protected and conserved area and is one of the largest protected areas on the continent. NCC was honoured to have been able to contribute in a small way to the creation of the reserve, on the northern edge of Canada’s boreal forest of Canada, in the North Slave Region of the Northwest Territories.

In the midst of a vast area of ecological and cultural importance there was one small private land holding, less than a hectare in size. Working with partners and a willing landowner, NCC was able to purchase the outstanding piece of land, to ensure it would never become subject to incompatible land uses that could threaten the ecological integrity of the larger park reserve. NCC then transferred the property to Parks Canada to assist with the completion of the new park reserve, in keeping with the wishes and aspirations of local Indigenous people.

The Łutselk’e Dene First Nation received worldwide recognition for the creation of the reserve, which will be managed by Indigenous communities. Thaidene Nënë will provide opportunities to retain and continue traditional ways of life while conserving spectacular landscapes and supporting sustainable economic development.



Thaidene Nënë



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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Additional guidance on Indigenous relations and conservation

To further support our work and provide guidance, NCC was pleased to welcome Nathan Cardinal on a two-year secondment from Parks Canada as the lead staff person on Indigenous relations and the implementation of the ICEF.

This arrangement is a key component of NCC's ongoing work to implement the ICEF and continues to build on our excellent relationship with Parks Canada. Cardinal has extensive experience advancing and supporting Indigenous leadership in resource conservation. Through his work, he has provided advice and guidance to organizations to help support relationships and decision-making with respect to working with Indigenous Peoples. He also brings deep knowledge of property management and local community relations including fire management, ecological monitoring and restoration, cultural resource management, geomatics, and visitor safety.

Nathan Cardinal is Métis with roots in Fort McMurray area but now calls Salt Spring Island home.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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Indigenous collaborations

**Natural Heritage
Conservation Program**

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Connecting with Canadians

Natural Heritage Conservation Program

The **Nature Conservancy of Canada** (NCC) successfully completed its first year of partnership with the Government of Canada under the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP). The NHCP is a unique public-private partnership to establish new protected and conserved areas. The Government of Canada committed \$100 million to the program, part of the \$1.3 billion Nature Legacy investment in Budget 2018.

The NHCP will result in at least 200,000 hectares (494,210 acres) of new conservation lands over four years, while protecting habitat for species at risk recovery. The NHCP contributes directly to Canada's goal of conserving 25 per cent of our lands and inland waters by 2025.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is the recipient of the NHCP, working with delivery partners Ducks Unlimited Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Canadian Land Trusts Work Group and the country's local land trusts.



Shaw Wilderness Park, Halifax, NS

Since its launch in 2019, the NHCP has:

- Conserved more than 13,000 hectares (32,124 acres).
- Expanded Canada's network of protected areas, thanks to a federal investment of \$25 million to date, matched with \$47 million.
- Protected land for 20 species at risk.
- Supported 31 projects across 22 land trusts.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Science

Conserving species at risk

Indigenous collaborations

**Natural Heritage
Conservation Program**

Fundraising

Connecting with Canadians

NCC is grateful to the many land donors and others who are helping us to leverage the government investment 1.5:1, to maximize our conservation impact.

** Due to the impact of the current pandemic on Canada's economy and the unpredictable nature of raising funds at this time, Environment and Climate Change Canada agreed to reduce the Natural Heritage Conservation Program matching funds requirement from 2:1 to 1.5:1 over the four years of the program. However, NCC and its partners commit to make every effort possible to meet the original 2:1 matching funds requirement over the lifetime of the program. The program requirement to secure at least 200,000 hectares (494,210 acres) of ecologically sensitive lands remains in place.*



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Science

Conserving species at risk

Indigenous collaborations

Natural Heritage
Conservation Program

Fundraising

Connecting with Canadians

Fundraising

In the last year, NCC's fundraising efforts continued to be framed by the Landmark Campaign – the most ambitious campaign for conservation in NCC's history.



The campaign aimed:

- to raise \$750 million for conservation;
- to complete 500 conservation projects;
- to protect some of our most endangered species and habitats; and
- to get even more Canadians out in nature.

Since its inception, the Landmark Campaign has mobilized more than 110,000 donors from communities across Canada and beyond to protect our natural spaces. In the last year, you and thousands of Canadians contributed \$132 million to the campaign (includes contributions received and pledges).

Thanks to your passion, your commitment and your unwavering generosity, the finish line for the Landmark Campaign is in sight! You've shown that together, we can accomplish great things.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Science

Conserving species at risk

Indigenous collaborations

Natural Heritage
Conservation Program

Fundraising

Connecting with Canadians

Connecting with Canadians

At the **Nature Conservancy of Canada** (NCC), we believe that the more people experience, connect with and share their love of nature, the more support there will be for its conservation. All they need is the opportunity.

From hands-on volunteering to in-person and virtual events, our engagement programs provide Canadians with a diversity of opportunities to do just that.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is committed to connecting with Canadians and to helping Canadians connect with nature.



Conservation Volunteer event



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Science

Conserving species at risk

Indigenous collaborations

Natural Heritage
Conservation Program

Fundraising

Connecting with Canadians

Although all-in person events were postponed as of mid-March due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we continued to connect with Canadians from coast to coast, as well as with people from around the world:

- NCC was able to grow its supporter-base by 14 per cent through programs designed to enhance Canadians' connections to nature and attract new audiences.
- We connected thousands of Canadians to NCC's work, in-person and online, through a number of programs and initiatives, such as:
 - Our NatureTalks events last fall welcomed 1,163 attendees, 20 per cent of whom were new contacts for NCC.
 - We hosted more than 430 regional events from coast to coast in summer/fall 2019, attracting more than 27,400 participants.
 - More than 1,700 volunteers joined NCC at 150 Conservation Volunteers events.
- We hired 24 interns — a much smaller number than in previous years, as most 2019 interns were hired in May of the previous fiscal.
- We fostered conservation conversations on social media with a diverse audience of close to 242,000 followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.
- More people read and saw more of NCC in the news this year than ever before, with one in five Canadians hearing about NCC in the media.
- Our English website attracted an average of 64,842 (54,536 English/10,306 French) users each month. Approximately 24 per cent of our English users visited our blog, Land Lines, which presents diverse perspectives and stories about conservation and nature.

Conservation Volunteers

Conservation Volunteers are a driving force behind many of the land stewardship actions that support our Natural Area Conservation Plans. This past year, 1,764 volunteers of all ages at 150 events contributed their time, energy and expertise to NCC.

- habitat restoration;
- biological surveys; and
- infrastructure improvement and site cleanups.

Overall, the number of events decreased compared to last fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which halted all in-person events for the majority of the last quarter of our fiscal year (March, April, May).



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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NatureTalks

The NatureTalks speaker series engages audiences about Canada's urgent conservation topics. Led by experts, the talks bring communities together to share knowledge and enhance connections.

In fiscal 2019-20, we hosted City of Life: Rediscovering Nature in Your Own Backyard. This series of in-person NatureTalks events welcomed close to 1,200 attendees to discussions led by distinguished Canadians such as:



Lisa Jackson

Artist and filmmaker

Lisa Jackson is one of Canada's most celebrated artists working in film and VR. Her works have been screened at Hotdocs, Tribeca, SXSW, Berlinale and London BFI, aired on many networks in Canada, and garnered many awards, including a Genie and Canadian Screen Award. She is Anishinaabe, lives in Toronto, and her recent projects include the internationally acclaimed VR Biidaaban: First Light, the short IMAX 3D film Lichen, and the CBC documentary Indictment: The Crimes of Shelly Chartier, which won best doc at imagineNATIVE. She recently premiered her large-scale multimedia installation Transmissions, on the power of Indigenous languages, and is also working on more traditional film and TV projects.



Dr. Melissa Lem

Physician and CBC commentator on nature, health & wellness

Dr. Melissa Lem is a Vancouver family physician who also works in rural and remote communities across Canada. A board member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and strategic advisor to the BC Parks Foundation, she is a passionate advocate for the health benefits of time spent in nature. Her writings on the environment and human well-being have been published by national media including the Vancouver Sun, Toronto Star, Montreal Gazette, National Observer and Alternatives Journal.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Science

Conserving species at risk

Indigenous collaborations

Natural Heritage
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Connecting with Canadians



Les Stroud

Star of Survivorman, musician, author and filmmaker

Best known as the Canadian Screen Award-winning producer, creator, director and star of the hit TV series *Survivorman*, Les Stroud is the only producer in the history of television to produce an internationally broadcast series entirely written, videotaped and hosted alone. Les's work has been nominated for 27 Canadian Screen Awards (formerly the Gemini), including Best Director and Best Host.



Kai Chan

Professor, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia

Kai Chan is a professor at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia. Kai is an interdisciplinary, problem-oriented sustainability scientist, trained in ecology, policy and ethics from Princeton and Stanford Universities. He strives to understand how social-ecological systems can be transformed to be both better and wilder.



Lorna Crozier

Travelling poet for Toque & Canoe, Teacher, Officer of the Order of Canada

An Officer of the Order of Canada, Lorna Crozier has been acknowledged for her contributions to Canadian literature, her teaching and her mentoring, with five honorary doctorates, most recently from McGill and Simon Fraser universities.



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Revenues

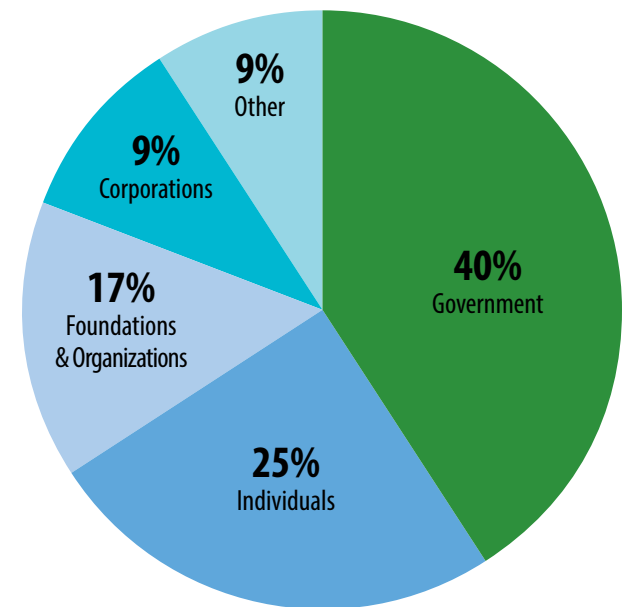
Overall revenues were \$104.4 million [compared to \$89.0 million in 2019] with an additional \$6.5 million in restricted endowment contributions. These were very positive revenue results being higher than budgeted and NCC's highest level of revenues within the last 8 fiscal years. These results benefitted from an unbudgeted opportunity for NCC to assist with the Jumbo Project in BC through generous donor and funder support.

There was no indication that COVID-19-related influences had any material impact on donor support in our final fiscal quarter of March to May 2020, but financial results did benefit from a reduction in certain discretionary expenditures, such as travel, in the final months.

Our Funders

5 Years Average (from 2015-16 to 2019-20)

As per Audited Financials





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Expenses

Total expenses were \$102.5 million (2019 = \$89.6 million), of which \$77.3 million related directly to our program activities in land conservation, stewardship and science. NCC reports its overhead ratio based on a five-year average in recognition that this metric can vary year over year with periodic investments in such non-program areas as fundraising capacity and technology. Our five-year average overhead ratio is 22 per cent, which is unchanged from the prior year.

Following transfers to internally restricted net assets, NCC posted a surplus of \$0.1 million [2019 = \$0.9 million] reflecting continuing responsible financial management.

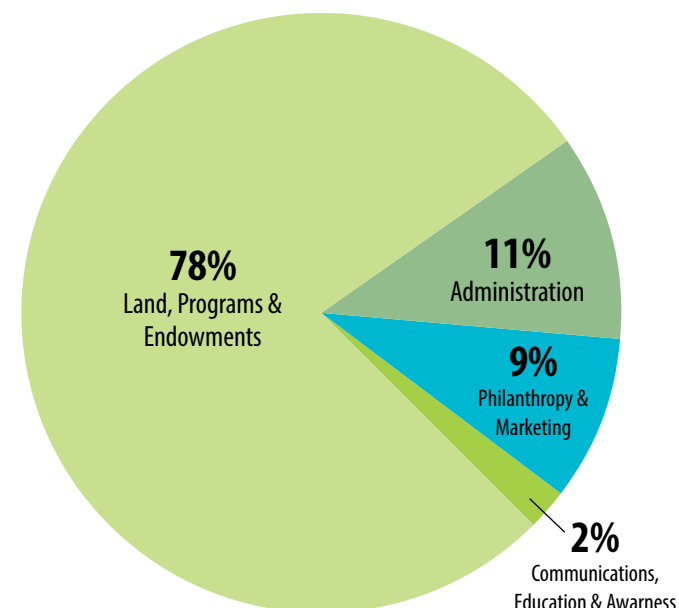
Total funds in stewardship and science endowments are \$141.6 million, representing 18 per cent of NCC's land portfolio balance sheet value and the commitment towards ensuring these properties can be stewarded over the long term.

NCC continues to maintain a healthy balance sheet and reserves, with no bank borrowings nor significant debt.

Donor Funds Invested

5 Years Average (from 2015-16 to 2019-20)

As per Audited Financials





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May 31, 2020

Independent auditor's report

To the Members of
The Nature Conservancy of Canada

Opinion

The summary financial statements of **The Nature Conservancy of Canada** [the "Conservancy"], which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at May 31, 2020, and the summary statement of operations and changes in operating surplus for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the complete audited financial statements of the Conservancy for the year ended May 31, 2020.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, on the basis described in note 1.

Summary financial statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all of the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.



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The audited financial statements and our report thereon

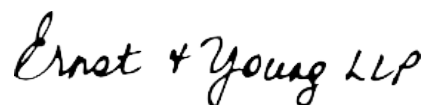
We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated October 1, 2020. The audited financial statements and the summary financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date our report on the audited financial statements.

Management's responsibility for the summary financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the complete audited financial statements in accordance with the basis described in note 1.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.



Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

Toronto, Canada
October 1, 2020



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Summary statement of financial position

As at May 31

Assets

Current

Cash and cash equivalents	4,404,481	21,358,731
Short-term investments	51,129,155	12,481,037
Accounts receivable and other	7,945,667	5,548,013
Trade lands	—	45,000
Total current assets	63,479,303	39,432,781
Investments	147,127,408	143,769,019
Capital assets, net	1,052,794	1,156,086
Conservation lands and agreements [note 3]	772,422,968	744,964,916
	984,082,473	929,322,802

Liabilities and net assets

Current

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,363,170	1,955,821
Current portion of long-term debt [note 6]	—	135,424
Deferred contributions	53,017,801	30,967,604
Total current liabilities	54,380,971	33,058,849
Long-term debt [note 6]	1,634,500	1,634,500
Total liabilities	56,015,471	34,693,349
Contingencies [note 7]		

Net assets

Internally restricted		
Invested in conservation lands and agreements	770,788,468	743,199,142
Other	13,826,565	11,379,028
	784,615,033	754,578,170
Operating surplus	1,849,751	1,747,338
Science and Stewardship Endowments	141,602,218	138,303,945
Total net assets	928,067,002	894,629,453
	984,082,473	929,322,802

See accompanying notes

On behalf of the Board:

Board Chair

Audit Committee Chair



FINANCIALS AND GOVERNANCE

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Summary statement of operations and changes in operating surplus

Year ended May 31

Revenue

Donations of conservation lands and agreements
Other donations and grants
Other

Expenses

Conservation lands and agreements acquired
 Purchased
 Donated
Loan repayments for prior-year acquisitions
Contributions to properties acquired and
property-related expenses incurred by others

Property-related
Support

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year

Net transfer from (to) internally restricted net assets
Net transfer from internally endowed net assets
Net increase in operating surplus

Operating surplus, beginning of year
Operating surplus, end of year

See accompanying notes

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue		
Donations of conservation lands and agreements	7,036,876	11,006,687
Other donations and grants	87,363,479	69,698,313
Other	10,003,518	8,286,460
	104,403,873	88,991,460
Expenses		
Conservation lands and agreements acquired		
Purchased	21,086,176	27,737,314
Donated	7,036,876	11,006,687
Loan repayments for prior-year acquisitions	131,274	219,842
Contributions to properties acquired and property-related expenses incurred by others	24,900,806	5,735,931
	53,155,132	44,699,774
Property-related	24,173,429	21,601,225
Support	25,143,304	23,343,663
	102,471,865	89,644,662
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	1,932,008	(653,202)
Net transfer from (to) internally restricted net assets	(2,019,345)	335,431
Net transfer from internally endowed net assets	189,750	1,229,264
Net increase in operating surplus	102,413	911,493
Operating surplus, beginning of year	1,747,338	835,845
Operating surplus, end of year	1,849,751	1,747,338



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Notes to summary financial statements

May 31, 2020

1. Summary financial statements

The summary financial statements are derived from the complete audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations as at May 31, 2020, and for the year then ended.

The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in the summary financial statements so that they are consistent, in all material respects, with or represent a fair summary of the audited financial statements.

These summary financial statements have been prepared by management using the following criteria:

[a] Whether information in the summary financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete audited financial statements; and

[b] Whether, in all material respects, the summary financial statements contain the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the related complete audited financial statements, including the notes thereto.

Management determined that the statements of changes in net assets and cash flows do not provide additional useful information and, as such, has not included them as part of the summary financial statements.

The complete audited financial statements of The Nature Conservancy of Canada [the “Conservancy”] are available upon request by contacting the Conservancy.

2. Revenue recognition

The Conservancy follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Revenue related to the sale of carbon offset credits is recognized when the Conservancy has transferred to the buyer the significant risks and rewards of the ownership of the carbon credits, the amount is fixed and determinable and collectability is reasonably assured.



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3. Conservation lands and agreements

Purchased conservation lands and agreements are recorded at cost when title is transferred. The purchases are recorded as an expense to the extent that the purchase is internally financed. Repayments of debt related to property acquisitions are expensed when made. An amount equal to the expense related to purchases and debt repayments is added to net assets invested in conservation lands and agreements. When a loan is obtained in a subsequent year related to an internally financed purchase, an amount equal to the debt is transferred from net assets invested in conservation lands and agreements to operating surplus.

Contributed conservation lands and agreements are recorded at fair market value when title is transferred. When purchased conservation lands and agreements are acquired substantially below fair market value, the difference between consideration paid and fair value is reported as contributed conservation lands and agreements. The contributions are recorded as revenue and expenses and also as an asset offset by net assets invested in conservation lands and agreements.

Properties transferred to others are recorded as a reduction of conservation lands and agreements and net assets invested in conservation lands and agreements.

Conservation lands and agreements, either purchased or donated, are assets held as part of the Conservancy's collection. Conservation agreements are legal agreements entered into by the Conservancy under which a landowner voluntarily restricts or limits the type and amount of development that may take place on his or her land to conserve its natural features. Once registered on title, that agreement runs with the title and binds all future owners.

4. Allocation of expenses

Salaries and benefits expenses are allocated between property-related and support expenses based on the primary job responsibilities of the employee's position. No support expenses are allocated to property-related expenses.

5. Donated materials and services

Donated materials and services are not recognized in the summary financial statements.

6. Debt

The Conservancy has provided a general security agreement over all of its assets, excluding conservation lands and agreements,



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with one financial institution. In addition, as at May 31, 2020, the Conservancy has one long-term debt facility of \$1,634,500 that is secured by conservation lands and agreements with a carrying value of \$1,673,275.

7. Contingencies

The nature of the Conservancy's activities is such that there is often litigation pending or in progress. Where the potential liability is likely and able to be estimated, management records its best estimate of the potential liability. With respect to claims as at May 31, 2020, it is management's position that the Conservancy has valid defences and appropriate insurance coverage to offset the cost of unfavourable settlements, if any, which may result from such claims. In other cases, the ultimate outcome of the claims cannot be determined at this time, and as such, no accruals have been made as at May 31, 2020.

8. COVID-19 pandemic

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the spread of the novel coronavirus ["COVID-19"] to be a global pandemic. This resulted in governments worldwide enacting emergency measures to combat the spread of the virus, including travel restrictions in and out of Canada, barring gatherings of people, and the implementation of other social distancing measures. These restrictions had no significant impact on the operations of the Conservancy as systems were sufficiently flexible and robust to facilitate remote work.

Management considered the impact of COVID-19 in its assessment of the Conservancy's assets and liabilities and its ability to continue as a going concern. Management believes that the current stability of its revenues and sufficiency of its liquid resources enable the Conservancy to effectively manage through the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Officers

Elana Rosenfeld

Chair

Invermere, British Columbia

Mike Pedersen

Vice Chair

Toronto, Ontario

Bruce MacLellan

Past Chair

Toronto, Ontario

John Lounds

President & Chief Executive Officer

Whitby, Ontario

Michael Paskewitz

Secretary

Toronto, Ontario

Directors

Paul Archer

Montreal, Quebec

Alexandra Blum

Oakville, Ontario

Chloe Dragon Smith

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

John Grandy

Toronto, Ontario

Alan Latourelle

Ottawa, Ontario

Bruce MacLellan

Toronto, Ontario

Maureen McCaw

Edmonton, Alberta

Kevin McNamara

Chester Basin, Nova Scotia

Michael Paterson

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Mike Pedersen

Toronto, Ontario

Dave Phillips

Lumsden, Saskatchewan

Robert Rabinovitch

Toronto, Ontario

Elana Rosenfeld

Invermere, British Columbia

Dorothy Sanford

Toronto, Ontario

Janice Wattis

West Vancouver, British Columbia

Barry Worbets

Calgary, Alberta



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Board committee membership

Audit & Risk

Dorothy Sanford, *Chair*

Howard Phillips

Karly Healey

Mike Pedersen

Paul Archer

Shamir Alibhai

Karen McGuinness

Governance, Nominating & Human Resources

Mike Pedersen, *Chair*

Alan Latourelle

Bruce MacLellan

Dorothy Sanford

Elana Rosenfeld

Kevin McNamara

Marketing

Maureen McCaw, *Chair*

Stephen Dixon

Bruce MacLellan

Elana Rosenfeld

Fraser Stark

Matt Thompson

Conservation

Alan Latourelle, *Chair*

Chloe Dragon Smith

Ken Mould

Nathalie Pratte

Sylvie DeBlois

Investment

Robert Rabinovitch, *Chair*

Chris Young

Doug Hayhurst

Erin O'Brien

Ian Griffin

Julie Wood

Mike Downs

Ad Hoc Campaign Advisory

Bruce MacLellan, *Co-Chair*

Mike Pedersen, *Co-Chair*

Alana Gavin

John Grandy

Janice Wattis

Nathalie Pratte

Shelley Ambrose

Alexandra Blum



LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead

In the next few years, we are working toward developing a few new areas:



Catherine Grenier

Welcoming our new president & CEO.



Next Creek, BC

Developing our new strategic plan.



Adam Cheeseman, NCC staff, in the field

Building innovation through technology.



Jumbo Valley Celebration, BC

Integrating Indigenous cultural heritage into our conservation planning and land management.



Conservation Volunteers at Five Mile Ranch, AB

Launching the largest collaboration ever in support of grasslands and ranchers.



Celebrating a successful completion of the Landmark Campaign and the immense impact our donors' support has had on conservation in Canada.



LOOKING AHEAD



Securing at least 20,000 hectares (4,920 acres) from coast to coast to coast:

- continuing our work towards conserving 200,000 hectares (494,211 acres) under the Natural Heritage Conservation Program by 2023;
- supporting the Government of Canada's goal of conserving 30 per cent of our lands and waters by 2030; and
- making significant progress on projects in excess of 5,000 hectares (12,000 acres).



Positioning NCC as the top environmental charity of choice for all aspects, including bequests.



NCC will be further developing conservation finance instruments and nature-based solutions in the spring.



Nature Conservancy of Canada | 245 Eglinton Ave. East, Suite 410 | Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 3J1

Phone: 800-465-8005 | Email: supporter.services@natureconservancy.ca

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