

# Partnerships for a **resilient** world





## Finding solutions in nature

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) partners with public, private and community interests to achieve high-quality conservation outcomes that deliver environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits with long-term impacts.

Our non-partisan, evidence-based approach makes us ideal solutions-finders and problem-solvers with a wide range of expertise and tools. We also have a track record of success in working with all levels of government, Indigenous Nations and communities, corporations and industries, other non-governmental organizations and individuals from coast to coast to coast.

**Our singular conservation goal is to support resilient landscapes in Canada for people and nature to thrive.** We do this at the scales required to reduce, withstand, recover from and adapt to the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

As awareness of these challenges permeates society, we are bringing new, ambitious partners to the table who want to lean into this moment and help enable and accelerate our vision. Because nature makes it possible.



**Nature can be the solution to a lot of challenges we face, because we are not separate from nature. We depend on it for our livelihoods and well-being, as well as everything from food production to clean drinking water, climate adaptation and community safety. The Nature Conservancy of Canada brings solutions to support resilient landscapes by building strong relationships with the people who live, work and govern in these important places.”**

**Lisa McLaughlin**, vice-president, conservation policy and planning, NCC

**NCC offers a number of tried, true and novel approaches for supporting resilient landscapes from local to international scales. Throughout Canada, our teams...**

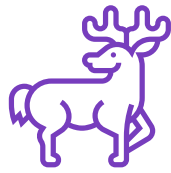
- ✔ acquire land title and secure conservation agreements;
- ✔ partner to create municipal, provincial and national protected and conserved areas;
- ✔ support Indigenous-led conservation and land relationships;
- ✔ facilitate private sector climate and nature investments;
- ✔ lead public-private conservation partnership programs;
- ✔ negotiate complex multi-party agreements;
- ✔ lead large-scale conservation strategies to create resilient landscapes;
- ✔ conduct research to expand knowledge and improve management practices;
- ✔ support provincial, federal and international conservation strategies by providing expert evidence-based advice; and
- ✔ provide capacity and technical support for protected and conserved area planning activities led by partners.

**Impact at scale**



**15.6 million**

hectares conserved since 1962

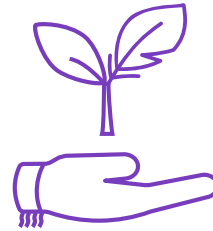


Habitat for **350+** species at risk

**80+** publicly protected areas enabled with NCC's support since 1977



**30+** collaborative conservation projects with Indigenous partners since 2019



**3 million+** tonnes per year of carbon sequestered

**1.9 billion+** tonnes of carbon stored

**84%** of Canadians live within 100 kilometres of NCC's public-private conservation projects



# Partners and projects

A showcase of expertise in action

NCC's conservation impact extends from coast to coast to coast, including all three territories. We are a truly national organization, with offices and team members in every province. We know conservation works, but we need increased investment in nature from all sectors of society to help accelerate our efforts.

As a result, we welcome the opportunity to work with anyone where there are mutual opportunities to develop creative solutions that counter biodiversity loss and help mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We do so using an evidence-based approach that encompasses information, methods, experts and insights within an ethical space, through both western and Indigenous science and Knowledge systems. This way of working furthers NCC's ability to support decisions about where we work, always targeting the highest priority ecological areas where we can achieve the greatest landscape resiliency impact.



## Leading conservation land acquisitions and agreements since 1962

*A leading force for private land conservation (Canada-wide)* – NCC's expertise is deep, and we have a proven track record of delivering conservation results with a long-term operational timeframe. Fee simple title and conservation agreements (covenants, servitudes and easements) are familiar tools in NCC's tool box. They lead to strong, long-lasting conservation relationships between people and the land. As of 2024, more than 2.2 million hectares across Canada are under NCC's governance.

## Partnering to create and expand provincial and national parks

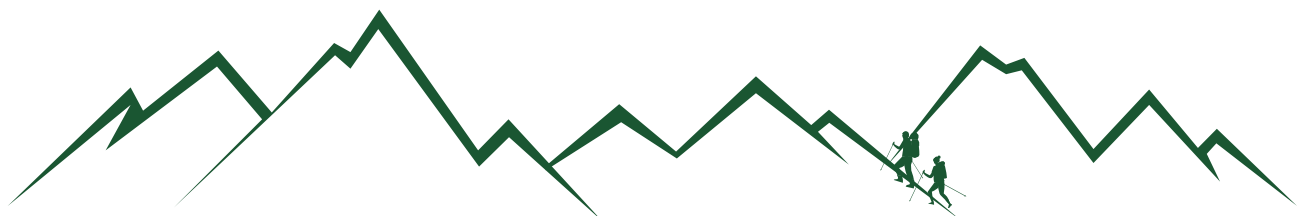
*Birch River Wildland Provincial Park (Alberta)* – A unique collaboration brought together by NCC created a 330,000-hectare protected area in northeast Alberta. A series of complex agreements between NCC, the

Tallcree Tribal Government, the Province of Alberta and Syncrude Canada enabled the creation of the protected area. The park borders the southern boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park, creating a total contiguous protected area that measures 6.7 million hectares — one of the largest in the world.

*Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (Nunavut)* – In 2016, NCC partnered with Shell Canada to relinquish exploratory oil and gas permits north of Baffin Island, at the eastern entrance to the Northwest Passage, representing more than 8,600 square kilometres. This charted a course for completing Canada's largest National Marine Conservation Area, measuring 10.9 million hectares.

## Reconciling relationships with the land and each other

*Kwesawe'k (Prince Edward Island)* – In 2023, NCC purchased the privately owned island, also known as





Oulton’s Island, which features nearly 85 hectares of salt marsh, freshwater wetlands and Wabanaki forest. Working in collaboration with the Epekwitnewaq Mi’kmaq, NCC supports Indigenous-led conservation and our commitment to Reconciliation through a partnership that will see Kwasaw’k transferred to the Epekwit Assembly of Councils.

hectares in 350 municipalities from coast to coast to coast. This partnership has put nature-based solutions to work to increase resiliency through the provision of healthy ecosystems and prosperous communities. As of 2024, the NHCP has attracted over \$1 billion in matched funding beyond federal sources, creating over \$1.5 billion in conservation outcomes.

**Facilitating business investments in nature**

*Boreal Wildlands (Ontario)* – The largest private land conservation project ever undertaken in Canada, Boreal Wildlands showcases NCC’s ability to work with businesses to invest in nature. In 2022, TD announced a \$10-million dollar investment in support of NCC’s crucial efforts to protect nearly 1,500 square kilometres of boreal forest in northern Ontario. NCC used the funds for further on-the-ground conservation, while TD leveraged the project to announce the launch of its carbon advisory business and support the growth and continued development of the voluntary carbon market.

**Delivering results through public-private partnerships**

*Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP) (Canada-wide)* – The NHCP is a federal partnership program that has delivered, since 2007, more than 2,000 projects to protect and conserve more than 800,000

**“We’ve had a lot of success working with the NCC staff here in Saskatchewan. I’ve been able to work really closely with a lot of them, immersing them in Indigenous ceremony and culture. We’ve been able to share, in ceremony, and end up in a lot of good experiences that build friendships and trust.”**

**Philip Brass,**  
Peepeekisis Cree Nation,  
Saskatchewan

*Landscape Resiliency Program (Canada-wide)* – In 2023, NCC and Parks Canada launched a \$30-million program to conserve up to 30,000 hectares near national parks to help connect habitats and create protected buffers around those parks. This program, funded half by Parks Canada and half by NCC, will see NCC working with Indigenous Nations, local communities, property owners and other partners to ensure the future of some of the most iconic landscapes in Canada.

*Accélérer la conservation dans le sud du Québec (ACSQ) (Québec)* – The AQSC is a five-year co-funding agreement (2023–2028) between the gouvernement du Québec and NCC, and engages with provincial conservation organizations. The \$144-million provincial investment is matched

by NCC and our partners and aims to conserve natural habitats of ecological interest, notably through the acquisition of private land and the establishment of ecological corridors, as well as providing public access to nature.

### **Negotiating complex multi-party agreements**

*Incomappleux Conservancy (British Columbia)* – One of NCC's most influential roles is as a creative problem solver to support the creation of public or Indigenous-led protected and conserved areas. The Incomappleux Conservancy, which encompasses 58,000 hectares of globally rare inland temperate rainforest in southeastern BC, is a case in point. Established by the province in 2023, and managed in collaboration with local First Nations, the conservancy came into being after NCC helped broker an agreement with Interfor Corporation to relinquish its forest tenure in the Incomappleux Valley.

### **Marshaling landscape-level ambition**

*Prairie Grasslands Action Plan (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba)* – The Prairie Grasslands Action Plan's goal of conserving, stewarding and restoring more than 500,000 hectares of Prairie grasslands by 2030 reflects NCC's commitment to landscape-level conservation. Achieving it means partnering with ranchers, livestock producers, grazing groups, Indigenous Nations, industry and all levels of government across three provinces. With over 80 per cent of Canada's grasslands already lost, the plan seeks to ensure the future of the best of what's left as a foundation for wildlife and local communities.

*Restoring lands for people and nature to thrive (Canada-wide)* – NCC's Restoration Framework guides how we care for ecosystems and partner with others to ensure that effective, efficient, engaging and equitable ecological restoration practices are implemented. Our pan-Canadian partnerships have supported the development of guidelines and standards, conducting staff training and completing, beginning and planning restoration projects across the country. NCC undertakes ecological restoration in partnership with others to support the recovery of biodiversity, support (re)connection between people and nature, and respond to climate change, today and over the long term.





**When it comes to biodiversity conservation across Canada, there will be a set of different tools that we collectively within the conservation community can work with. That's where NCC has really demonstrated its willingness to work with all types of groups on moving forward with conservation outcomes that are meaningful for biodiversity and resilience."**

**Kate Lindsay**, senior vice president and chief sustainability officer, Forest Products Association of Canada



### Providing trusted advice

*Sharing our deepening expertise (Canada-wide and international)* – Increasingly, conservation subject matter experts within NCC are called on by governments, research institutions, industry forums and international conventions and consortiums to provide expert input and advice into conservation processes and decision-making bodies. Areas of expertise include, and are not limited to, conservation finance, land protection measures, landscape resiliency, biodiversity and climate policy, conservation technology and communications.

### Conducting research to strengthen nature's safety net

*National ecological connectivity research program (Canada-wide)* – This new research program is a cornerstone for supporting resilient landscapes and key to successful area-based conservation. Well-connected lands let animals move freely to eat, find mates, reproduce and thrive. But fundamental information has been lacking about how connected current protected areas are and where to make the best improvements, as well as how much connectivity is enough in different ecosystems and which management strategies are most effective and feasible.

NCC is collaborating with external researchers, Parks Canada, and local and regional partners to study these

problems, including Canada-wide mapping and case studies in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia. By harnessing decades of experience and data, powerful new conservation technology and strategic relationships, NCC applies findings to protect important habitats and plan stewardship, restoration and monitoring actions to reach connectivity goals.

This novel multi-year research program includes partnerships and communication channels to ensure all land authorities throughout Canada and beyond benefit from our learning.

### Using cutting-edge technology to grow capacity

*Cree Regional Conservation Strategy (Quebec)* – Since 2015, NCC has worked in collaboration with the Cree Nation Government and Cree communities (Quebec) to implement leading-edge conservation planning tools and bring together science and Indigenous Knowledge to create long-term conservation measures. This initiative has resulted in a network of candidate protected areas totalling 8 million hectares, which was jointly announced by the Cree Nation Government and the Province of Quebec in 2020. NCC continues to provide ongoing support to the *Cree Regional Conservation Strategy* under a renewed memorandum of understanding with the Cree Nation Government.



TOGETHER, LET'S UNLOCK NATURE'S  
POWER, SO LIFE CAN THRIVE

To learn more, visit:

**[natureconservancy.ca/partnerships](https://natureconservancy.ca/partnerships)**

Photos: Common eastern bumblebee on aster  
(Stock photo); Wabano Aki, MB (Fayaz Hasan/NCC staff);  
McIntyre Ranch, AB (Leta Pezderic/NCC staff).