



Meeting the moment

**Delivering for nature
when it matters most**



2025-2026 IMPACT REPORT

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Building meaningful relationships

The Nature Conservancy of Canada acknowledges that the work we do across the country takes place on the traditional territories, and ancestral and current homelands of diverse Indigenous Peoples and their communities. We thank and honour these caretakers and acknowledge their ongoing work and presence on the land today. Through our conservation work, we strive to build meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities founded on respect, trust and shared goals to protect nature for the long term. We are committed to listening, learning, and sharing our capacity and knowledge in support of Indigenous-led conservation.



Catherine Grenier,
president and CEO

Kelly Lawson

Letter from the president and CEO

There are moments, standing in a forest or looking across a clear blue lake, when you remember why this work matters. It is the recognition that nature is not only part of who we are, but what allows us to thrive.

Across the country, more people, governments and industries are choosing to act for nature, as it becomes clear that protecting nature means protecting our communities, economy and future. Because of your generous support, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) can do what this moment requires: build partnerships, shape policy and turn ambition into lasting outcomes.

“NCC’s ambition continues to grow thanks to the supporters and partners who work alongside us to create lasting impact.”

Catherine Grenier, president and CEO,
Nature Conservancy of Canada

This year, with our donors and partners, we completed milestone projects like Kootenay Forest Lands in BC, made possible through an extraordinary partnership with the Ktunaxa First Nations, governments, Elk Valley Resources and many private donors. This vital corridor for grizzly bear, wolverine and lynx adds to a network of more than 7,000 square kilometres of protected areas in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. In Alberta, we protected Sagebrush Flats, safeguarding habitat for the endangered greater sage-grouse while helping maintain one of Canada’s last intact working prairie landscapes. And across the country we conserved forests,

grasslands and wetlands that clean our air, store carbon and filter drinking water for millions of people. Every one of these places was protected because of your contributions.

This was also a year of new partnerships and new ways of funding conservation. Domtar made the largest private land donation in Atlantic Canada’s history, showing the growing role industry can play as a partner, funder and expert. With the City of Saint John, NB, and support from provincial and federal governments, we helped protect drinking water at its source, safeguarding ecosystems that are essential public infrastructure. And thanks to the extraordinary generosity of partners and private donors, we conserved Taiga Forests and Peatlands in northern Ontario, one of Canada’s largest carbon projects and a lasting source of funding for conservation.

We are now halfway through our strategic plan, and the pace and scale of our work keeps growing. The projects ahead are more impactful, the partnerships more diverse and the need to protect nature greater than ever before. None of this happens without your support. Thank you for your generosity, trust and belief that Canada’s natural places deserve to endure.

Sincerely,

Catherine Grenier,
president and CEO

Icon legend

These icons, used throughout the report, identify the priority habitats and wildlife supported by each project.

-  Rivers and lakes
-  Wetlands
-  Forests
-  Grasslands
-  Shorelines and coastal
-  Mammals
-  Birds
-  Reptiles
-  Amphibians
-  Insects and pollinators
-  Aquatic species

Accelerating toward 2030

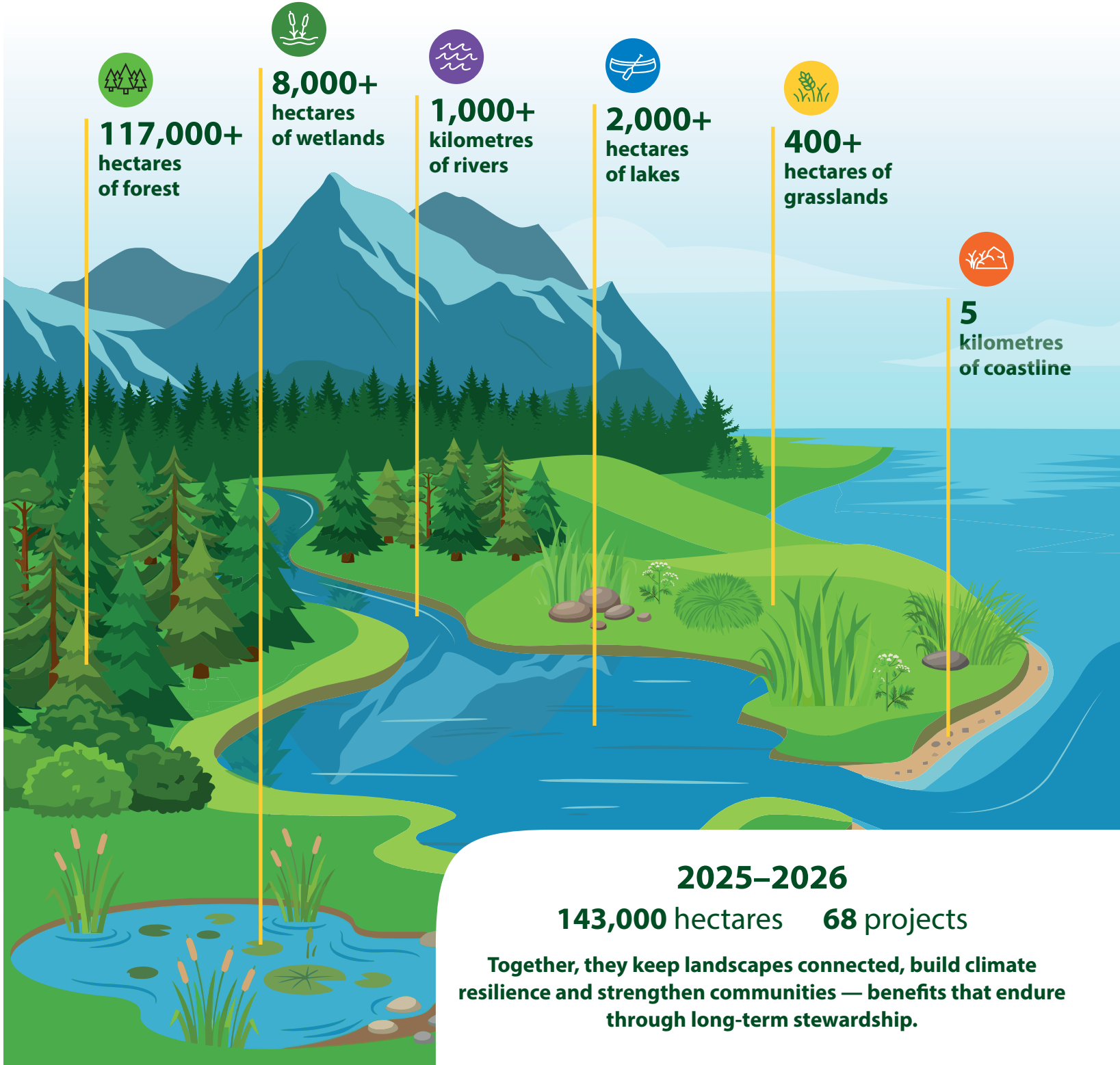
At the mid-point of our strategic plan, we have **conserved more than 515,000 hectares** of our 1-million-hectare goal and **grown our community of supporters to 730,000**, nearly three-quarters of our target. Support continues to grow, keeping us on track to exceed our 2030 goals.

In the last five years, the scale, diversity and ambition of our work have increased across the country. We have established more multi-partner projects and more sophisticated funding structures. We’ve deepened our relationships with Indigenous Nations, and communities, governments, industry and donors.

Results at a glance

Since 1962, NCC has helped conserve **20 million hectares of land and waters** across Canada, an area almost the size of the U.K. We protect and care for nature at a scale unmatched in Canada.

In the 2025–2026 fiscal year, we protected more than 143,000 additional hectares across 68 projects, exceeding our annual goal. With the support of our donors and partners, every one of these hectares is now permanently protected.



Keeping Canada’s landscapes connected

Canada holds almost a quarter of the world’s wetlands, more than a third of its lakes and a vast share of its boreal forest. That is an advantage, and a responsibility. Together with donors and partners, we are keeping these globally important landscapes whole and connected, so wildlife and natural systems can adapt and thrive.



Sagebrush Flats, Alberta

Protecting a vanishing prairie ecosystem

Near the hamlet of Manyberries in southeastern Alberta, more than 1,000 hectares of intact sagebrush prairie are now permanently conserved, protecting a critical link in one of Canada’s rarest ecosystems.

“With native grasslands shrinking, Sagebrush Flats provides both refuge for sage-grouse and connectivity to other remaining grasslands, which is only possible because of thoughtful management choices on the land.”

Norine Ambrose, executive director, Cows & Fish; NCC stewardship partner

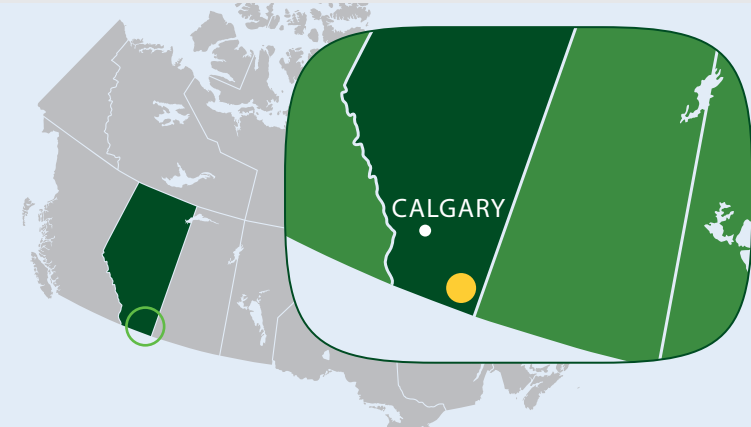
Sagebrush Flats protects one of the most important habitats left in Canada for the greater sage-grouse, a bird species that has experienced dramatic declines in population and now only survives in a small pocket of southeastern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. The site is home to some of Alberta’s last undisturbed sagebrush grassland and supports a remarkable concentration of life: 14 species at risk have been identified here, including Sprague’s pipit, a small migratory songbird. Pronghorn benefit from the wildlife-friendly fencing installed on the property, which helps keep the landscape permeable as they pass through the area on one of their longest remaining migration routes.

SIZE
1,030 ha

WILDLIFE



HABITAT



This project builds on the vision of a long-time landowner and a network of partners, donors and governments. Now permanently protected, Sagebrush Flats will remain a working landscape, where careful land management will continue to allow ranching and rare species to thrive side by side, long into the future.

Partners and supporters

- Individual Donors
- Whitecap Resources
- ATB Financial
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Government of Canada (NSCSF)

Room to roam, adapt and thrive

Intact grasslands, old-growth forests and mountain ranges: these are among our rarest and most threatened ecosystems. By protecting them now, we are keeping irreplaceable landscapes whole and giving the wildlife that depends on them room to roam, adapt and thrive.

 What this delivers

262

species at risk protected on NCC lands
(36 per cent of species at risk in Canada)

95%

of NCC projects are within 10 kilometres of a protected area, reinforcing Canada’s protected areas network by keeping ecosystems connected

 Connectivity research

This year, alongside more than 90 partners across Canada, NCC led a national research project about how wildlife moves across the land. With a focus on 20 species, the work considers: how much connectivity does wildlife need, and which land management actions best support animal movement.



Gander Lake, NL

On the Island of Newfoundland, where only three per cent of the landscape is protected, Domtar’s landmark donation of 1,800 hectares of boreal forest is reconnecting critical habitat for Atlantic salmon, caribou and other species at risk.



Domaine du Lac Léon Protected Area, QC

At the heart of an ecological corridor connecting the Appalachian Mountains of Quebec, New Brunswick and, Maine, U.S.A., Domaine du Lac Léon Protected Area supports the movement of species and builds resilience across a landscape fragmented by development.



Kiwto’qitek (Point Pleasant) Natural Area, PEI

On PEI’s southeastern shore, we’re protecting 200 hectares of mature Wabanaki (Acadian) forest, one of the rarest forest types in North America, expanding a network of protected areas.



Coppieters Acres, AB

The intact native prairie grassland and wetlands at Coppieters Acres expands a biodiversity-rich network of conservation lands near McIntyre Ranch, providing critical habitat for many species at risk.

Lee Moltzahn, NCC staff, surveying rangeland health at Coppieters Acres, AB

Credits – background: Sean Feagan/NCC-CNC; insets, clockwise from upper left: Piers Evans/NCC-CNC; La Halte Studio; Sean Feagan/NCC-CNC; Stephen DesRoches

Conserving landscapes builds climate resilience

When it comes to reducing the impacts of environmental change, nature is our first and best defence. Forests, grasslands and wetlands are critical ecosystems that store carbon and reduce flood and wildfire risks. This year, our collective efforts helped people and nature better prepare for, adapt to and recover from the impacts of our changing climate.

“Conservation in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa is a priority, as is ensuring ecosystems stay connected to support the well-being of the water, land, and all living things (ʔa·kxam̓is q̓ api qapsin). We are committed to creating, with NCC, a process to identify each of our respective interests, goals and outcomes for these lands.”

Letter from Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC), signed by KNC Chair Kathryn Teneese, and the four Ktunaxa First Nation Nasuʔkins Donald Sam, Cheryl Casimer, Heidi Gravelle and Jason Louie



Kootenay Forest Lands, British Columbia

Building climate resilience at a scale rarely seen in Canada

NCC, Ktunaxa First Nations, governments, corporate partners, and donors came together around a shared outcome: protecting more than 45,000 hectares of critical forests once used for industrial logging. Early public investment gave the project momentum. That anchor was matched by a \$20-million commitment from Elk Valley Resources, one of the largest industry-led conservation investments in Canadian history, and significant support from private donors.

Now conserved permanently, the Kootenay Forest Lands will continue to absorb and store carbon from the atmosphere, reduce wildfire risk, protect watersheds and deliver benefits at a scale rarely seen in Canada. Situated at the heart of three internationally recognized conservation areas, these lands are vital in protecting essential movement corridors that species rely on as they adapt to the changing climate.

SIZE
45,000 ha

WILDLIFE



HABITAT



Partners and supporters

- Individuals Donors
- Ktunaxa First Nations
- Elk Valley Resources
- Province of British Columbia
- BC Parks Foundation
- Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Government of Canada (NSCSF)

Protecting nature protects us

These conservation successes show climate resilience in action: ancient peatlands storing carbon deep underground and wetlands absorbing floodwaters. Each one proves that investing in nature increases the resilience of our communities.

 What this delivers

47
million tonnes of carbon stored from NCC projects completed in 2025–2026. That’s equivalent to the annual emissions of 58 million gas-powered cars

1.5
million people will benefit from flood regulation services from NCC or NCC-supported conservation projects completed in 2025–2026

 Satellite monitoring

NCC’s team has developed a way to use satellite imagery to monitor our projects for changes in forest structure caused by disturbances like fire. This in-house innovation ensures we can meet rigorous international carbon standards without the use of costly helicopter surveys.



Monk Creek Peatlands, MB
These ancient Manitoba peatlands have been accumulating carbon for thousands of years. Conserving them keeps 340,000 tonnes of carbon safely in the ground. That’s comparable to the annual emissions of a mid-sized Canadian city.



Marlborough Wetlands, ON
The Marlborough Wetlands lower the risk of flooding for communities in the Ottawa area and strengthen a connected network of more than 8,100 hectares of protected land, conserved with support from Intact Financial Corporation.



Taiga Forests and Peatlands, ON
Thanks to an extraordinary effort by private donors and partners, more than 81,000 hectares of ancient peatlands and boreal forest south of Kapuskasing are now protected forever. Here, peatlands act as a massive carbon vault, trapping greenhouse gases deep underground for thousands of years. Through innovative nature financing, Taiga will also generate carbon credits, creating value that flows directly back into conservation.

Snow covering the Monk Creek Peatlands, MB

Credits – background: Anthony Urso; insets, clockwise from upper left: Tim Teetaert/NCC-CNC; Intact Financial Corporation; Perimeter Forest

Safeguarding ecosystems strengthens communities

Healthy ecosystems do essential yet unseen work every day: filtering the water we drink, cleaning the air we breathe and supporting the well-being of the people and communities around them. Working with donors and partners, we delivered outcomes that will help secure these benefits for the long term.



City of Saint John, New Brunswick

Securing drinking water at its source

Drinking water for 80,000 City of Saint John residents comes from two nearby watersheds where mature, intact forests store and filter it before it ever reaches a tap.

“By securing these watershed lands for the long term, we are strengthening the health and resilience of our community.”

Donna Noade Reardon, mayor,
City of Saint John

Through a collaboration between NCC, the City of Saint John and the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick, the city-owned land received Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure (OECM) recognition. OECMs recognize long-term conservation on lands managed primarily for other purposes, in this case filtering water, storing carbon and providing habitat for wildlife, all while keeping the city’s drinking water clean.

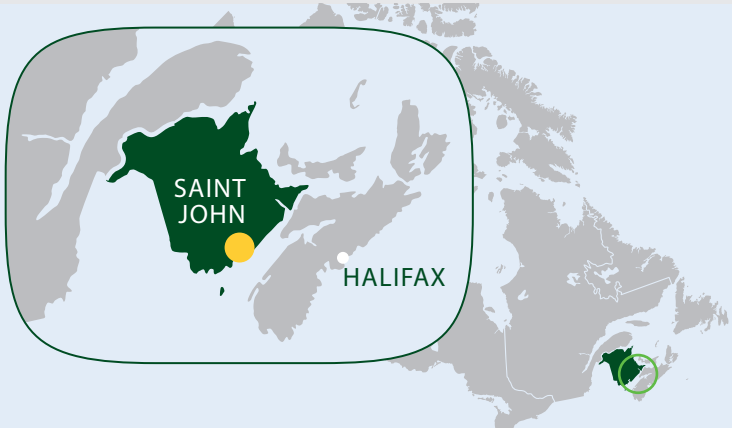
With these watersheds now permanently protected, the City of Saint John is securing essential natural infrastructure that makes the whole community more resilient for years to come.

SIZE
4,800 ha

WILDLIFE



HABITAT



Partners and supporters

Individual Donors

City of Saint John

Government of New Brunswick

Government of Canada (NHCP)



L to R: Emilie Day, NCC; Hon. Min. John Herron; Hon. Min. Julie Dabrusin; Kate Elman Wilcott MLA; and Mayor Reardon, at the Saint John OECM announcement (Aly Gray).

Unlocking nature’s benefits for all

Healthy landscapes support our physical and mental well-being and sustain the local economies we rely on. This year, donors and partners supported projects that made communities safer and healthier, showing that conservation protects more than just the nature we love.

 What this delivers

90%

of NCC’s properties in Alberta and Saskatchewan are grazed by local producers, supporting healthy grasslands.

600

NCC properties are open to the public

 Flood mitigation science

Drawing on national datasets, NCC has identified sub-watersheds that could retain more water if protected or restored, highlighting areas where conservation can best support flood reduction in the Ottawa Valley. This work creates opportunities for industry investment in nature-based solutions that reduce risk for communities and benefit biodiversity.



Buffalo Pound, SK

The native grasslands surrounding Buffalo Pound Lake help filter drinking water for approximately one quarter of Saskatchewan’s population, including the cities of Regina and Moose Jaw.



Tourbière-de-Venise-Ouest Nature Reserve expansion, QC

Thanks to a generous land donation from the Neville family, the Tourbière-de-Venise-Ouest Nature Reserve has expanded. The reserve filters water flowing into Missisquoi Bay and helps absorb seasonal floodwaters from Lake Champlain, reducing flooding impacts on nearby communities.



Musquodoboit River Valley Nature Reserve expansion, NS

A community-led initiative supported by NCC has secured a much-loved trail network, protecting Wabanaki (Acadian) forests and wetlands while keeping the area open to the public.



Waterton-area conservation, AB

Ranching families keep native grasslands intact and productive within a growing network of working landscapes near Waterton Lakes National Park.

Cowboys with cattle on the Waldron Ranch, AB

Credits – background: Sean Feagan/NCC-CNC; insets, clockwise from upper left: Jason Bantle; La Halte Studio; Sean Feagan/NCC-CNC; Mike Dembeck

Stewarding the land secures our future

Conserving a piece of land is just the first step in building more resilient landscapes. Restoring what has been lost, protecting what remains, and guiding ecosystems back to health is how that impact endures.

This long-term care is made possible by our Stewardship Endowment Fund, built entirely through the generosity of donors. This more than \$300-million fund is invested rather than spent, and a portion of the returns (approx. \$11 million in 2025-2026) goes directly into caring for NCC lands. Every gift becomes a permanent source of support, ensuring that the lands we protect today will continue to be looked after for generations to come.

Rice Lake Plains, Ontario

Two decades of transformation

When John O'Neill bought his land in the Rice Lake Plains in 1996, he knew little about the rare tall grass prairie and oak savanna beneath his feet. These habitats had all but disappeared from Ontario due to fragmentation, invasive species and disruption of natural fire cycles.

“We observed firsthand how this rare ecosystem was threatened by expanding resource development and creeping urban sprawl, and by invasive non-native plant species. We agreed that we should somehow find a way to preserve it.”

John O'Neill, land donor

In 2021, O'Neill donated his land to NCC, expanding the neighbouring Hazel Bird Nature Reserve. Thanks to prescribed burns, invasive species removal and native seeding, the prairie began to return. The endangered red-headed woodpecker came back after nearly two decades, along with native wildflowers that had been absent for years.

That visible transformation inspired others. James Massie first met NCC staff more than a decade ago, when the restoration of Hazel Bird Nature Reserve began. He came to believe deeply in our stewardship work, and in 2025, his gift of land in his Will expanded the reserve once more, to 215 hectares.

What began as one person's decision to protect a rare habitat has grown, gift by gift, into one of Ontario's most important tallgrass prairie restorations.

Cherry Meadows, British Columbia

Witnessing the return of the wetlands

For a century, the wetlands at Cherry Meadows were ditched, drained and filled to make way for hay fields. Carol and Walter Latter decided to partner with NCC to conserve their land near Kimberley in 2014, and successfully brought the wetlands back. In 2018, NCC began the work of filling ditches, reshaping the land and loosening compacted soils until spring runoff could once again fill the meadow.

The transformation unfolded right outside the Latters’ window.

Today, more than 16 hectares of wetland have returned, and so has the wildlife. Ducks, geese and trumpeter swans have found the new ponds, and the wetlands are alive again with the sounds of nature. Restoration takes patience, expertise and lasting support — the kind that NCC’s donors make possible.

“We were enthralled watching the wetlands and ponds evolve from acres of [invasive] reed canary grass, to expanses of raw dirt, to the gradual filling of the ponds as the water rose from below.”

Carol Latter



Carol and Walter Latter
(Jolene Rudisuela/NCC-CNC)



Looking ahead

Seeding at Rice Lake Plains, ON
(Chelsea Marcantonio/NCC-CNC)



Canada holds some of the largest, most intact natural landscapes on Earth. We have a globally unique responsibility and opportunity to protect them. NCC is ready to act at greater scale.

In the year ahead, we aim to conserve over 240,000 hectares through more than 60 projects across Canada. Our portfolio includes more than 350 potential projects across 11 million hectares that could be conserved by 2030. That depth lets us plan years ahead, take on larger and more complex projects, and bring individual donors, governments, Indigenous Nations and communities, as well as foundations and companies into conservation at a scale none of us could reach alone.

This year’s results show what collective action can achieve. The opportunity now is to go further, together.

Governance

Letter from the board chair

I spent my 38-year career with Parks Canada helping to establish and conserve protected areas. This traditional approach to conservation has safeguarded many critical ecosystems and generated billions for our economy. But conservation continues to evolve, thanks to organizations like NCC and the donors and partners who make it possible.

One thing is clear: Canada’s conservation ambitions will only be met by mobilizing and recognizing the conservation efforts and potential of others. The team at NCC is critical in bringing these diverse players to the table.

Every day, NCC staff work with Indigenous Nations, landowners, industry partners and environmental stewards, all of whom care for critical landscapes. Again and again, they have developed and championed innovative approaches that balance the needs of nature with those of communities, conserving lands that hold cultural importance, emotional connection and economic value.

In British Columbia’s Elk Valley, for example, NCC and its partners conserved more than 45,000 hectares within ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa in one of the largest private conservation efforts in Canadian history. Conservation here is a Ktunaxa priority, and the Nations and NCC are working together to guide the long-term stewardship of these lands.

The impact of this work reaches well beyond Canada. NCC is sharing experience, skill sets and innovations that are helping to scale up conservation efforts globally.

As I consider the year ahead, I am energized by NCC’s momentum. I see a team committed to bold thinking, new ideas and continued evolution and growth. The opportunity before us now is to fully mobilize the system NCC has built. The partnerships and financing tools are in place. What is needed is the ambition and commitment to scale them. NCC is ready to seize this opportunity. With donors and partners alongside us, we can achieve enormous impact together.

Sincerely,



Rob Prosper,
Board chair



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Front cover: Katie A.H. Bell, NCC staff, at Cherry Meadows, BC
(Jolene Rudisuela/NCC-CNC)

Back cover: Rice Lake Plains, ON (Chelsea Marcantonio/NCC-CNC)

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