

August 1, 2008

AFoCLT has been successful in receiving U.S. charitable tax status so that gifts by U.S. residents in support of land trusts working in Canada are tax deductible. This incentive for private land conservation has encouraged our American supporters, but another barrier to cross-border conservation remains. American donors of land do not receive the capital gains tax reduction to zero on donated lands that Canadian donors enjoy. This impediment means potential American donors are holding off on donating ecologically significant land. Many unique and irreplaceable properties in Canada, owned by Americans, are at risk.

AFoCLT has applied to the Canadian Department of Finance to have this tax benefit extended to Americans donating land (or conservation easements) in Canada. With such status (called "prescribed donee status"), donors of land or interests in land (such as conservation easements) could eliminate their capital gains tax on such gifts, as well as receiving a tax benefit against their U.S. income. AFoCLT's application for prescribed donee status is stalled at the Department of Finance, and we need your help to get it moving again.

Prescribe donee status for AFoCLT can benefit land trusts across Canada, and their American supporters. Other conservation organizations have received prescribed donee status to facilitate their cross-border work. Our application is not controversial... it has simply not been flagged as a priority for the Tax Regulations Division of the Department of Finance. **You can help change that** by letting key politicians and bureaucrats know that protecting Canada's remaining ecological intact areas is important to you, and that prescribed donee status for the American Friends of Canadian Land Trust could substantially increased the amount of land protected in Canada.

Follow the links to learn more about...

- The background and details of this issue
- A letter of support from the Canadian Land Trust Alliance
- A letter from AFoCLT to Minister Flaherty and colleagues
- A letter from the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to Minister Flaherty and colleagues

Please consider lending your support to our important cross-border conservation work by writing a letter to the following people:

The Honorable James M. Flaherty
Minister of Finance
Department of Finance
140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G5
Email: jflaherty@fin.gc.ca

People to copy (cc) on your correspondence:

Rob Wright
Deputy Minister, Finance
Deputy Minister's Office
140 O'Connor Street

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G5
Email: robwright@fin.gc.ca

The Honourable John Baird, Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0H3
John.Baird@ec.gc.ca

The Honourable Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Revenue
7th Floor, 555 MacKenzie Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0L5
oconng@parl.gc.ca

Gerald Lalonde, Director, Tax Legislation Division, Department of Finance
140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G5
Lalonde.Gerard@fin.gc.ca

Your local MP may also be able to help advance the American Friends of Canadian Land Trust's application for prescribed donee status.

Members of Parliament (MP) of Nova Scotia

You can write to all MPs for free (within Canada) at:

Name	<u>Electoral district</u>
Scott Brison, Brison.S@parl.gc.ca	Kings-Hants
Bill Casey, Casey.B@parl.gc.ca	Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley
Rodger Cuzner, Cuzner.R@parl.gc.ca	Cape Breton-Canso
Mark Eyking, Eyking.M@parl.gc.ca	Sydney-Victoria
Gerald Keddy, Keddy.G@parl.gc.ca	South Shore-St. Margaret's Bay
Peter MacKay, MacKay.P@parl.gc.ca	Central Nova
Alexa McDonough, McDonough.A@parl.gc.ca	Halifax
Geoff Regan, Regan.G@parl.gc.ca	Halifax West
Michael Savage, Savage.M@parl.gc.ca	Dartmouth-Cole Harbour
Peter Stoffer, Stoffer.P@parl.gc.ca	Sackville-Eastern Shore
Robert Thibault, Thibault.R@parl.gc.ca	West Nova

You can write to all MPs for free (within Canada) at:

(name of MP)
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Please also let us know about your correspondence/contacts in support of this issue. We appreciate your support:

Karen McKendry, Private Land Conservation Facilitator
karen[at]nsnt.ca
Nova Scotia Nature Trust
PO Box 2202
Halifax, NS
B3J 3C4