



NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

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Dear environmentally-concerned citizen,

I recently had a delightfully memorable opportunity to explore one of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust's protected areas. The Shelter Cove Nature Sanctuary is a place to experience the very best of Nova Scotia—wild rocky shores and pounding surf, fragile dunes and saltmarshes, coastal forests, absolutely beautiful sand beaches, and clear, turquoise waters protected by sheltered bays. Walking and paddling around its rugged shores gives an incredible sense of unspoiled beauty and “oceanness.”

I applaud the Nature Trust's excellent work in protecting Nova Scotia's special places. At the same time, I am astounded by the land conservation challenges faced in Nova Scotia. While nationally less than ten percent of land is in private ownership, over seventy percent of Nova Scotia's land, and ninety-five percent of its coastline, is privately owned. That leaves a much smaller proportion of crown-controlled land in Nova Scotia than almost anywhere else in the country – and it creates a much bigger need for a non-government land trust.

And that's where the Nova Scotia Nature Trust has such a huge role to play. The Nature Trust is stepping forward and asserting that we have a collective responsibility, not to say, “The Government needs to fix things. The Government needs to save things.” But to say, *“What can I do – as an individual, as a landowner, as a citizen – to get involved in protecting the threatened natural areas of this province that we have long taken for granted?”*

In light of these challenges, I am impressed by the Nature Trust's steady progress. At the Nature Trust's annual dinner in October we celebrated the permanent protection of six outstanding natural areas. These unique places provide refuge for endangered plants and animals, help to ensure the health of the St. Mary's River for Atlantic salmon, protect wild coastline in Cape Breton and preserve spectacular scenery from one end of the province to the other. All made possible through the contributions of countless volunteers, landowners, corporate, government and foundation partners, members and most important—the generosity of people like you.



Photos: Jeff Amos

Being in a place like Shelter Cove gives you a sense of your place in the world. The experience can make you feel so small, because the world around us is so beautiful and expansive that you question what you can possibly do to make any difference. But it also gives us a huge sense of responsibility. We must then become energized to act.

The Nature Trust and the government both play essential roles in effective and sustainable nature conservation efforts. But, above all, there is a role all of us can and need to play. Simple, small-scale efforts – volunteering to help care for a protected area, spreading the word about land conservation issues and opportunities, or supporting the work of groups like the Nature Trust – have a substantial impact.

It gives me great pleasure to support a group of passionate and dedicated people who believe in the cause of land conservation and preservation. People who are working tirelessly to make a difference, to save our natural treasures like Shelter Cove, and to get the conservation message out.

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust is doing its part to change the world. I urge you to do your part by making the Nature Trust's continued conservation successes possible through joining the Nature Trust or making a generous donation. Help the Nature Trust to preserve the places we all treasure. Help to ensure that our children's children will also experience, explore and be inspired by the incredible natural beauty of Nova Scotia.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Trudeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Justin Trudeau

p.s. Your membership or donation *will make a difference*. The best of our natural areas are disappearing fast—we need to act now, and your support can make that happen.