

BACKGROUND

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust

- The Nature Trust is Nova Scotia's leading private land conservation organization, active in protecting our natural legacy since 1994
- The organization protects ecologically significant natural areas through private land conservation, offering a unique solution for a significant conservation challenge. Unlike most of Canada, over 65% of Nova Scotia is privately owned, not government land. Land Trusts provide landowners with a non-government community based option for protecting their land
- Private lands include many of most ecologically important areas, yet face unprecedented development pressures.
- Through permanent conservation easement agreements, we help families to protect, forever, their treasured and ecologically important family lands. We also accept land donations and bequests of land, and in exceptional cases, we purchase outstanding and threatened natural areas.
- All conservation lands entrusted to our care become part of the land legacy that we safeguard for all Nova Scotians. Our commitment is to protect those lands, forever through ongoing monitoring, stewardship and management.
- An active program of volunteer "property guardians" help to care for this growing network of protected areas
- Our innovative, community-based educational initiatives are helping to build understanding and appreciation for the natural world. We give Nova Scotians the knowledge and tools they need to take an active part in protecting the places they love and ensuring that the legacy is passed on to future generations.
- The Nature Trust is an active partner and collaborator in conservation with all levels of government, with other non-profits and local communities
- Over the last 25 years, the Nature Trust has successfully and permanently protected over 11,000 acres of significant natural areas, including over 100 conservation properties across Nova Scotia.

Baddeck River Conservation Lands

- The lands are a 130 acre privately-owned inholding within the provincially protected Baddeck River Wilderness Area.
- The 6800 acre Wilderness Area, designated by the province in 2014, was established to protect a vast wilderness of old growth hardwood forest, floodplains and wetlands. It also provides a critical wildlife corridor between the lowlands and the plateau, and habitat for a rich diversity of species including the provincially endangered American Marten and Canada Lynx. Development of this inholding would pose significant ecological risk to the Wilderness Area.
- The property itself has conservation value for its forest and freshwater habitats important for the same diversity of species as the surrounding wilderness. The forested, undeveloped lands include pristine shoreline on New Glen Brook and mature Acadian hardwood forest.
- The property's Acadian hardwood forest, undisturbed for at least 80 years, has species and characteristics approaching an old growth state. Old growth Acadian forests currently represent a tiny fraction of the provincial landscape compared to their historic distribution. Their protection is a high conservation priority provincially.

- The property also preserves 400 meters of intact shoreline on the New Glen Brook and is located within the Bras d'Or Lake biosphere reserve. The reserve was designated in 2011 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for its outstanding terrestrial, marine and coastal habitats.
- The property was donated by Irene Forbes and her late husband, Ernest Forbes.

The Lasting Landscapes Campaign

- Thanks to major support from the Government of Canada's Nature Fund, the Nature Trust has launched an ambitious land conservation campaign.
- The campaign aims to protect 15 biodiversity hotspots protecting over 1215 hectares (3000) acres of priority conservation lands within seven signature conservation projects across the province.
- For every dollar raised in its public campaign, the Nature Trust can leverage another \$4 to save land. To meet its goal, the Nature Trust must raise \$750,000 by March 31 to leverage over \$3 million in funding from the Nature Fund and Nova Scotia's Crown Share Land Legacy Trust.
- The Nature Trust has raised \$600,000 for the campaign to date.
- All funds must be raised, and all lands secured for protection by March 31, 2019.
- This will be the largest federal investment ever in protecting Nova Scotia's biodiversity.

Canada's Nature Fund

- The Canada Nature Fund is a \$500 million investment to support the efforts of non-federal partners whose commitment is critical to achieving success in nature conservation. Canada Nature Fund contributions are matched by philanthropic foundations, corporations, not-for-profits, provinces, territories and other partners, raising a total of \$1 billion for conservation action.
- The Fund supports the establishment of a coordinated network of protected and conserved areas and helps with the conservation of species at risk and their habitats.
- To launch the program, the Government invested the first \$15 million with key conservation leaders across Canada through the Quick Start program.
- Quick Start was designed to support projects which had a short timeline, and would quickly add to Canada's total protected and conserved lands. These projects will help Canada reach its goal of conserving 17 percent of our land and freshwater by 2020.
- Projects/partners were selected based on their contribution to hectares protected or conserved, ecological integrity, advancement of indigenous reconciliation priorities, connectivity to each other or existing conserved and protected areas, and proximity to completion.
- The Nature Trust was chosen as one of a small number of partners selected to receive funding in 2018/19 to deliver quick wins for Canada's biodiversity. The Nature Trust could receive up to \$1.45 million towards private land conservation directly benefitting the 17% by 2020 goal.
- Additional Nature Fund programs will launch in the spring of 2019.

The Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust

- The Land Legacy Trust is a \$23 million fund established up by the Province in 2008 to support private land conservation in Nova Scotia. It was funded from Crown Share Payments
- This provincial investment has been a 'game changer' in Nova Scotia, significantly advancing the scale and pace of private land conservation
- It has supported the protection of almost 100 properties that total 7,775 hectares
- Funding committed to date, just over \$10 million, has leveraged the securement of conservation efforts worth over \$32 million.

- It has provided vital funding for the Nature Trust, including work that initiated many of the major land assemblages proposed in the Lasting Landscapes Campaign
- The Land Legacy Trust has been approached to help in leveraging this new federal investment in Nova Scotia, by supporting the proposed land projects