

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.

The Lasting Landscapes Campaign

- Thanks to major support from the Government of Canada's Nature Fund, the Nature Trust launched an ambitious land conservation campaign.
- The campaign aimed 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.
- This will be the largest federal investment ever in protecting Canada's (and Nova Scotia's) biodiversity.

A New Opportunity

- Just this month, the Government of Canada has offered the Nature Trust an additional \$400,000 funding incentive.

- With this additional funding incentive the Nature Trust has just signed offers to acquire two additional properties as part of the Lasting Landscapes Campaign – upping the total number of potential new conservation sites from 15 to 17 to be saved.
- The Nature Trust now has to raise an additional \$100,000 in donations, which will be leveraged 4 to 1 with \$400,000 in matching funds from the Federal Government and other funders for a total of \$500,000.
- With this added matching funds incentive, the deadline for donations has been extended to April 5th, 2019

New potential properties to be protected

Frederick Lake Conservation Lands

- The 100 acre Frederick Lake property is an inholding of private land within the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.
- It includes approximately 2km of shoreline on Frederick Lake, a portion of wetland habitat, granite barrens, and multi-aged and mature forest stands.
- Acquisition of this property provides vital landscape connectivity and linkages with the surrounding Wilderness Area and ensures that diverse habitat, important for many species of plants and animals is protected, forever.
- The Five Bridge Lake Wilderness Area protects approximately 8,600 hectares of provides important habitat for the Chebucto Peninsula sub-population of Mainland Moose, which are listed as *Endangered* under Nova Scotia's *Species at Risk Act*.

Mabou Highlands Conservation Lands

- An additional property in the Mabou Highlands conservation area means a total of 11 properties can now be protected through the Lasting Landscapes campaign.
- The new 100 acres property is an inholding of private land, bordered by the Cape Mabou Provincial Wilderness Area (pending) to the east, and to the west, land currently protected or in the process of being protected by the Nature Trust
- The new property adds connectivity between 2000 acres of coastal Nature Trust properties (secured or being secured through the campaign) and the pending 3800 acre Wilderness Area
- The Mabou Highlands support stands of old-growth tolerant hardwood forest, mountain-cove ecosystems and steep forested.
- This largely undisturbed coastal wilderness is a popular hiking destination offering stunning views and contiguous forested landscapes.

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 \$1.85 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 is providing significant funding support for the campaign which is helping to maximize leveraging opportunities presented by this new federal investment in Nova Scotia