

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE BOARD ROOM, 411 DUNSMUIR STREET
WEDNESDAY, 2014-JUN-11, COMMENCING AT 4:30 P.M.

CHAIR: COUNCILLOR DIANE BRENNAN

1. **CALL THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TO ORDER:**

2. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:**

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

(Motion required to adopt the agenda)

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the Regular Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Meeting held Wednesday, 2014-MAY-14, at 4:32 p.m., in the Service and Resource Centre Board Room.

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(Motion required to adopt minutes)

5. **PRESENTATIONS:**

- (a) Wally Wells and Gail Adrienne, presenting on the development of an environmental framework for the City of Nanaimo.
- (b) Glenda Hunter, presenting her thesis titled "Sustainability in Higher Education: A Case Study of Policy and Practice at Vancouver Island University."

6. **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

7. **STAFF REPORTS:**

- (a) **City of Nanaimo Sustainability Reserve Fund and the Regional Emission Reduction Reserve Fund**
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner
-

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Purpose: To provide ACES with further information regarding the City of Nanaimo's Sustainability Reserve Fund and the Regional Emission Reduction Reserve Fund.

Staff Recommendation: That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability receive for information.

(Motion required to adopt recommendation)

(b) **Environment Services Monthly Report** - May 2014

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8. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

(a) Aquaculture Innovation Workshop #6 – “Assessing the Technical, Biological and Economic Feasibility of Closed Containment Aquaculture” being held 2014-OCT-27 to OCT-28 at Simon Fraser University.

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(b) News release regarding University of British Columbia’s Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences study that “shows forests are significant carbon sinks.”

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(c) News release and backgrounder regarding the launching of the National Conservation Plan.

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9. **NOTICE OF MOTION:**

10. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

(Motion required to review other business)

11. **QUESTION PERIOD:** *(Agenda Items Only)*

12. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE BOARD ROOM WEDNESDAY, 2014-MAY-14, AT 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor D. Brennan, Chair

Members: S. Andre (arrived 4:58 pm)
G. Hunter
A. Kerr
T. Perry
C. Tant
W. Wells
S. Serebin (arrived 4:43 pm)

Regrets: C. Dalrymple
S. DeBoer
J. Hastings

Staff: R. Harding, Director, Parks, Recreation and Environment
(arrived 5:12 pm, departed 6:58 pm)
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner
K. Brydges, Environmental Bylaw Enforcement Officer
C. Bready, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Add Correspondence Item 7(c) Coastal Invasive Species Committee Spring Forum, Field Tour and AGM.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Regular Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Meeting held Wednesday, 2014-APR-09 at 4:41 p.m. in the Service and Resource Centre Board Room be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- (a) Bruce Joiner, Infrastructure Planning and Energy Manager, gave a presentation on the steps the City of Nanaimo is taking to corporately improve energy efficiency and lower GHG emissions.

It was moved and seconded to direct staff to return with a report on the City of Nanaimo's Sustainability Reserve Fund and the Regional Emission Reduction Reserve Fund and to report on how they are being utilized. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Eric Demers, Biology Department, Vancouver Island University, gave a presentation on the VIU Bird Banding and Monitoring Project at Buttertubs West Marsh.

It was moved and seconded to direct staff to return with a report on the topic of cat bylaws used in other cities and methods to protect wild bird populations as part of an information report to Council. The motion carried unanimously.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT:

- (a) Environmental Forum Planning

Planning for the Environmental Forum is proceeding. It was proposed that the forum replace the July meeting of ACES and take place outdoors in Bowen Park.

It was moved and seconded that planning for the Environmental Forum proceed and that staff return with a report outlining the details of the event at the June meeting of ACES. The motion carried unanimously.

7. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Environment Services Monthly Report

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability receive for information. The motion carried unanimously.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (a) Bike to Work Week is taking place on 2014-MAY-26 to JUN-01.

- (b) May is Invasive Plant Species Month

- (c) Coastal Invasive Species Committee Spring Forum, Field Tour and AGM, being held Thursday, 2014-JUN-12, from 10am to 4:00pm at the Quw'utsun Cultural and Conference Centre in Duncan, B.C.

It was moved and seconded that the correspondence be received. The motion carried unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:10 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

D. Brennan, Chair
Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

R. Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Environment

2014-MAY-30
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UNADOPTED

City of Nanaimo

**REPORT TO THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

DATE OF MEETING: 2014-JUN-11

AUTHORED BY: ROB LAWRENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

RE: CITY OF NANAIMO SUSTAINABILITY RESERVE FUND AND THE REGIONAL
EMISSION REDUCTION RESERVE FUND

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability receive for information.

PURPOSE:

To provide ACES with further information regarding the City of Nanaimo's Sustainability Reserve Fund and the Regional Emission Reduction Reserve Fund.

BACKGROUND:

At the 2014-MAY-14 meeting, Bruce Joiner, Infrastructure Planning and Energy Manager presented to ACES regarding the steps the City of Nanaimo is taking to corporately improve energy efficiency and lower GHG emissions. At that meeting, the Committee made a motion directing staff to return with a report on the City of Nanaimo's Sustainability Reserve Fund and the Regional Emission Reduction Reserve Fund and to report on how they are being utilized.

The City of Nanaimo (along with 95% of BC's municipal governments) signed the Climate Action Charter – a non-legally binding commitment between the signatory local government, the Union of BC Municipalities, and the Province of BC signaling the intent of all parties to show leadership in taking collaborative action on reducing emissions causing climate change.

The Climate Action Charter requires local governments to develop strategies and take actions to achieve the following goals:

- Becoming carbon neutral in their own operations;
- Measuring and reporting on a community GHG emissions profile; and
- Creating complete, compact, energy efficient communities

In response to the signing of the Climate Action Charter, the City of Nanaimo completed a Corporate Climate Change Plan and established a Sustainability Reserve to fund projects that would assist in implementing this plan.

Despite completing and implementing a corporate climate change plan and establishing a reserve fund to help implement the plan, the City of Nanaimo is unlikely to reduce GHG

emissions to zero for the time being and will be required to purchase offsets in order to achieve carbon neutral operations. An "offset" is a financial contribution to an organization that will undertake a project to reduce GHG emissions. Offsets are measured in tonnes of CO₂ equivalents and the current generally accepted cost is \$25 per tonne.

In 2012, the Regional District of Nanaimo proposed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between its member municipalities that would establish a fund to allow carbon offset payments to be invested in regional emission reduction projects ensuring direct benefits for residents. The member municipalities (City of Nanaimo, the District Municipality of Lantzville, the City of Parksville, and the Town of Qualicum Beach) all endorsed the MoA. It was approved by City Council at its Regular Meeting on 2012-JUL-23.

DISCUSSION:

Sustainability Reserve

The Sustainability Reserve must be used to fund projects that achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- a) Reduce corporate energy consumption and/or costs
- b) Reduce corporate GHG emissions
- c) Show environmental leadership
- d) Promote energy conservation in the community
- e) Any project included in the 2007 Corporate Climate Change Plan (or updated version of this plan)

The Sustainability Reserve is used to fund projects that would not otherwise have been included in the City's budget. That is, it is not intended to be used for routine maintenance and repairs of City facilities, even if these repairs incidentally result in energy savings.

In addition to paying for capital costs, the reserve may be used to pay for studies, designs or consultants that lead to projects that implement the recommendations of the Corporate Climate Change Plan.

The highest priority for funding will be given to projects that result in the greatest reduction in energy consumption. The next highest priority will be given to projects that produce significant reductions in GHG emissions.

The fund was originally established with \$500,000 from general surplus in 2007. The rebate from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program is put into the Reserve.

The Regional Emissions Reduction Reserve

The purpose of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Regional District of Nanaimo is to:

- Formalize a collaborative, region-wide approach to developing, investing in, and implementing regional emission reduction projects for the purpose of achieving carbon neutrality with respect to local government operations;
- Establish a process for consolidating the emissions measured individually by each of the parties into a single, regional local government emission inventory in order to determine the quality of emissions, as measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂e), to be reduced on an annual basis; and
- Create the financial mechanism(s) necessary to enable each of the Parties to contribute a dollar amount equal to their individual corporate emission inventory multiplied by an agreed upon price per tonne of CO₂e for investing in regional reduction projects.

The Regional Emissions Reduction Reserve (RER) is a statutory reserve fund, which means it has its own bylaw and accounting procedures. Every year the City assesses its corporate carbon footprint and contributes \$25/tonne of GHG's to this reserve in order to maintain its commitment to be Carbon Neutral in its operations.

To date, the City of Nanaimo has contributed \$126,427 into the RER Reserve. In 2014, we will be contributing the amount of our tonnes of GHG's generated @\$25/tonne to the reserve.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS:

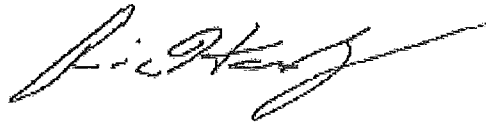
Council's resolution instructing staff to establish a Sustainability Reserve Fund is supported by the Environmental Responsibility Sustainability Pillar of the Strategic Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Lawrance
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Concurrence by:



Richard Harding
DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

2014-JUN-06

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City of Nanaimo

**REPORT TO THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

DATE OF MEETING: 2014-JUN-11

AUTHORED BY: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT – MAY 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Riparian Setback Variance Review

- Made a presentation to the Nanaimo Advisory Planning Committee (NAPC) on the Riparian Setback Variance Review.

Development Application Review

- Attended five development referral meetings.

MEETINGS / TRAINING / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Organized and participated in two conference call meetings with engineering and subdivision staff on a provincial review of the Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines. New sections are being added to address climate adaptation.
- Met with DFO staff to discuss developing an operations and maintenance protocol for the Bowen Park Side Channel.
- Hosted a regional meeting with other local government staff in order to provide input on the provincial Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) online mapping tool. Provincial staff responsible for the tool also attended.
- Met with staff from the City of Campbell River interested in discussing how the City of Nanaimo's Urban Forest Management Strategy was developed.
- Organized and participated in a morning and afternoon training session for Parks Operations, Public Works and City contractors on invasive plant management.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN:

Real Estate Energy Efficiency Program (REEP)

- Received written support for the program from VIREB.
- As part of the coordinating team, met with staff from the Coastal Community Credit Union to discuss their participation in the REEP program.
- Began meeting candidates for program coordinator and marketing. Began preparation for holding a conference call to seek advice from realtors from similar programs, elsewhere in the province.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:

Bike to Work Committee

- Attended one committee meeting
- Participated and helped coordinate the Commuter Challenge event
- Provided support at two Celebration Stations and during the wrap-up event

Invasive Plant Management Month

- Participated in media interviews to promote Invasive Plant Awareness Month. Received a lot of attention on using goats in managing invasive plants in Bowen Park.
- Began removal of Periwinkle from restoration research site in Neck Point Park. A student from the University of Victoria's School of Environmental Restoration is working with staff to implement a restoration plan for a site within Neck Point Park infested with Periwinkle (*Vinca spp.*).
- Met with residents at two City-owned sites to coordinate volunteer invasive plant removal and pick-up.
- Attended invasive plant drop zone and helped residents unload invasive plants into bins. Received 27 vehicles to the drop zone.

Invasive Plant Management in Parks

- Held two half day training sessions. Attended by Parks Operations, Public Works and City Contractors to attend. Training set for May 13th

Environmental Forum Planning

- Proceeding with the planning of the Environmental Forum, to be held in the fall.

ENFORCEMENT:

14 Calls for Service were received in May, including:

- Two dumping in the park
- Four environment Bylaw enforcement
- One Section 9 notification (Provincial Water Act)
- Two beaver dam issues
- Three development review sessions
- Two public inquiries (detailed review required)

Aquaculture Innovation Workshop

October 27 – 28, 2014
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

We are pleased to invite you to **Aquaculture Innovation Workshop #6 – “Assessing the Technical, Biological and Economic Feasibility of Closed Containment Aquaculture”** hosted by Tides Canada, the Conservation Fund’s Freshwater Institute, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. The Workshop will be held **Monday, October 27 and Tuesday, October 28, 2014, at Simon Fraser University’s Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver, BC, Canada.** Vancouver is accessible by the Vancouver International Airport (YVR).

The workshop registration fee of \$CDN 250.00 covers the cost of the 2 day Workshop, continental breakfast, lunch and break snacks each day, a feature networking reception at the Vancouver Aquarium and shuttle transportation to/from the host hotel to the reception. The cost of accommodation is NOT included in the registration fee. Please note that while your registration is non-refundable, it is transferable within your organization, up to and including, Friday, October 17, 2014. If you are transferring your registration, please contact us to advise who will be attending on your behalf. **Registration for the workshop is limited to 150 participants**, and we recommend you register early as the workshops are typically oversubscribed.

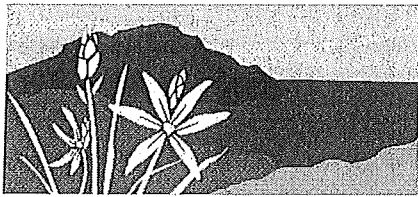
The networking reception begins at 6:30 pm, Monday, October 27th at the Vancouver Aquarium and celebrates the paring of fresh sustainable seafood produced at land based aquaculture farms across North America, with the talents of notable chefs. Registration for the Workshop includes admittance to the reception and shuttle transportation to/from the Delta Suites to the Aquarium. A limited number of additional tickets are available for the reception and, workshop attendees may purchase 1 additional ticket for the reception at a cost of \$CDN 50.00, while quantities last. Reception tickets are non-refundable.

To register for the Workshop, please [click here](#).

The host hotel for the Workshop is the Delta Vancouver Suites, which is conveniently located adjacent to the Conference Centre. Conference room rates of \$CDN 150.00/night (single or double occupancy) are available until Friday, September 26th. Please note there is limited room availability in Vancouver during this time and you are encouraged to book your accommodation early. **Please use the following link <https://www.deltahotels.com/Groups/Delta-Vancouver-Suites-Groups/Tides-Canada-Aquaculture-Innovation> or call Delta Hotel Reservations at 1.888. 890.3222 and advise that you are attending the Tides Canada Aquaculture Innovation Workshop to book your accommodation.**

For more information, contact **Catherine Emrick**, Senior Associate Aquaculture Innovation at Tides Canada, at catherine.emrick@tidescanada.org; **Steven Summerfelt**, Director, Aquaculture Systems Research at the Conservation Fund’s Freshwater Institute at s.summerfelt@freshwaterinstitute.org; , or **Jon Carr**, Director, Research & Environment at the Atlantic Salmon Federation at jcarr@asf.ca .

We look forward to seeing you at the Workshop. Please register now to ensure your space is reserved.



ISLANDS TRUST FUND

News Release

Suite 200-1627 Fort Street Victoria BC V8R 1H8

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Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421. Elsewhere in BC 1.800.663.7867

itfmail@islandstrust.bc.ca www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca

June 2, 2014

2014-03-ITF

UBC STUDY SHOWS ISLANDS TRUST AREA FORESTS ARE SIGNIFICANT CARBON SINKS

VICTORIA — Forests on B.C.'s Gulf and Howe Sound Islands – part of the Islands Trust area – came under the spotlight in a new report by researchers from the University of British Columbia's Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences. The study analyzed maps of forest biodiversity and carbon storage and concluded that protecting forests in the Islands Trust area is integral to preserving the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) zone.

"We've always known the Islands Trust area was special because it is in the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic zone," said Kate Emmings of the Islands Trust Fund. "What we were excited to find was that relative to other areas within the CDF zone, the Islands Trust area is biologically significant."

The Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone is characterized by forests of Douglas-fir, arbutus, western redcedar and salal. The unique set of ecosystems that make up the CDF zone occur on south-east Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, the Fraser Valley and the Sunshine Coast. Due to its small range, the CDF zone contains some of the most rare and endangered ecosystems in B.C. The Islands Trust area makes up 25% of the CDF zone.

The study found the forests of the Islands Trust area store and sequester more carbon than CDF forests outside the Trust area. On average, forests in the Islands Trust area store 82% more carbon per hectare and have the potential to absorb 43% more carbon per hectare over the next 20 years than forests in the rest of the CDF zone. These results are likely due to a higher forest density in Islands Trust area, and more forests in a mature or maturing state, which tend to store and take in more carbon to support their rapid growth rate.

"What we've found is that if forests in the Gulf Islands were maintained, or otherwise protected, the Islands Trust area has the capacity to be a major sink for carbon produced in the region," said Richard Shuster, PhD candidate at UBC and author of the report. "At the current growth rate, there is a potential that old growth forests could be restored in the islands within a century."

The researchers also found species diversity, specifically bird species, to be higher in the Islands Trust area than in other areas of the CDF zone. Coupled with a comparison of property values, the data showed investments in habitat protection in the Islands Trust area would be more cost effective and would achieve more biodiversity protection than investments in other areas of the CDF zone.

"In 2008, the Province determined the ecosystems of the CDF were critically imperiled and of greatest provincial conservation concern," said Emmings. "The reason this new study is significant is because it now provides scientific data showing that resources dedicated to preventing further loss of CDF ecosystems in the Islands Trust area would be a superb investment in biodiversity protection and carbon storage. Most of these carbon storing and sequestering forests are the result of good private land stewardship. The challenge is to ensure that these forests are maintained in a landscape that is over 68% privately owned."

"A Conservancy for Canada's Islands in the Salish Sea"

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

The study was commissioned by the Islands Trust Fund, a conservation land trust for the Islands Trust area. To learn more about the Islands Trust Fund's efforts to preserve habitat on the Gulf Islands and in Howe Sound, visit www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca. The Islands Trust Fund and the Islands Trust Council are members of the Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Partnership (CDFCP), a collection of governments, non-government organizations, citizens, universities and industry professionals. The CDFCP is working to develop a coordinated, strategic and science-based plan to identify and implement high priority actions necessary to protect the CDF.

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CONTACT

Kate Emmings
Ecosystem Protection Specialist, Islands Trust Fund
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Background

Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone

- Biogeoclimatic zones are a classification system used by the Province of British Columbia. A biogeoclimatic zone is defined as a geographical area having similar macroclimate and vegetation
- The Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) zone is one of fourteen biogeoclimatic zones within B.C. The CDF zone covers a small area of B.C.'s south coast, including a band of lower elevation along southeastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and a fringe of mainland along the Georgia Strait.
- In its 2008 report *Taking Nature's Pulse*, the Province identified the CDF zone as that of highest provincial conservation concern. The CDF zone has the highest density of species of global and provincial concern of all zones in the province.
- B.C. is integral to the ecosystems of the CDF, as the majority of its global range falls within province.

Islands Trust Area

- Makes up 25% of the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic zone
- Recognized as a unique area in B.C. in need of special care by legislation enacted in 1974
- Includes the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island, including Howe Sound and as far north as Comox
- Contains 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering approximately 5,200 square kilometres of land and water
- Major islands include Denman, Hornby, Lasqueti, Gabriola, Thetis, Valdes, Galiano, Salt Spring, Mayne, Saturna, North and South Pender, Gambier, Keats and Bowen.

The Report – *Carbon and Biodiversity Mapping and Assessment for the Islands Trust Area*

- Data analyzed and report prepared by Richard Schuster, PhD candidate at UBC. Report commissioned by Islands Trust Fund.
- Report analyzed to produce three data sets used to determine the importance of the Islands Trust area to conservation:
 - Predictive maps of standing carbon and carbon sequestration potential for the Islands Trust and CDF zone
 - Maps of bird community diversity (used as a measure of biodiversity) based on bird point counts and predictive distribution models
 - Cost-effectiveness of land protection based on biodiversity values and assessed land values.
- Study conclusions:

"A conservancy for Canada's islands in the Salish Sea"

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

- While the Islands Trust area makes up only 33% of the study area and only 25% of the CDF, it holds a disproportionate amount of the zone's high carbon and high biodiversity landscapes
- To maximize carbon storage and biodiversity in the CDF, investments in conservation would be most cost effective if spent in the Islands Trust area

Assessment of Carbon

- Forests, woodlands and savannah ecosystems in the CDF remove (sequester) and store carbon from the atmosphere.
- Carbon storage and predicted carbon sequestration was measured using the methodology outlined in *Evaluation of Carbon Storage within Forests in the Coastal Douglas-fir Zone* by Brad Seely. To create the carbon modelling, the following factors were considered and inputted into a stand-level forest ecosystem simulator approved by the BC Ministry of Forests for carbon budget assessments:
 - Forest stand age
 - Forest cover
 - Primary vegetation species
 - Estimation of forest growth
- Using the carbon modelling, researchers projected an estimated rate of carbon sequestration in CDF ecosystems over the next 20 years to understand the role these ecosystems play in climate change mitigation. The study limited the projected timeline to 20 years as the frequency of forest fires beyond that timeline was more difficult to predict.
- Using data and predictive model results, this report found that although the Islands Trust area makes up 33% of the study area, its ecosystems hold 47% of the total carbon stored in the CDF area. Therefore, the Islands Trust area holds 82% more standing carbon than ecosystems in non-Islands Trust area parts of the CDF.
- The contribution of the Islands Trust area to future carbon sequestration potential was also found to be high, with 41% of the total carbon sequestration potential of the study area held in the Islands Trust area. This means the Islands Trust area has 43% higher carbon sequestration potential than ecosystems in non-Islands Trust area parts of the study area

Assessment of Biodiversity

- This study used bird species diversity to estimate the overall biodiversity of each habitat in the study area. Birds are the most widely used indicators of vertebrate diversity in particular habitats because they are easily mapped and represent a wide range of tolerances to human development.
- This report found that habitat in the Islands Trust area support 39% more bird species than non-Islands Trust areas within the study area.

Assessment of Cost-Effectiveness of Land Protection

- This study used assessed land values to determine the most cost effective strategy to protecting bird diversity, standing carbon and carbon sequestration potential in the study area
- Because biodiversity, carbon storage and sequestration potential were higher, and land values were marginally lower in the Islands Trust area, the study found that conservation in the Islands Trust area would contribute more to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem carbon than non-Islands Trust areas in the study area.



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

Release

For immediate release

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER LAUNCHES NATIONAL CONSERVATION PLAN

May 15, 2014

Fredericton, NB

Prime Minister's Office

Introduction

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today launched the National Conservation Plan (NCP), which will provide a more coordinated approach to conservation efforts across the country with an emphasis on enabling Canadians to conserve and restore lands and waters in and around their communities, and making it easier for citizens living in cities to connect with nature. The Prime Minister was joined by Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council, and Keith Ashfield, Member of Parliament for Fredericton.

The NCP, which was a commitment made in the 2013 Speech from the Throne, will include significant additional investments over five years to secure ecologically sensitive lands, support voluntary conservation and restoration actions, and strengthen marine and coastal conservation. In addition, it includes new initiatives designed to restore wetlands and to encourage Canadians to connect with nature close to home through protected areas and green spaces located in or near urban areas.

The Plan will expand opportunities for partners, including municipalities, environmental interest groups, hunters and anglers, landowners and community groups, to take practical actions to safeguard the land and water around them in the three following priority areas:

- **Conserving** Canada's lands and waters.
- **Restoring** Canada's ecosystems.
- **Connecting** Canadians to nature.

Progress under the NCP will be measured against a set of outcomes related to land and ocean conservation, restoration of lands and shorelines, opportunities for Canadians to experience nature, and access to improved information about Canada's natural environment.

The NCP also complements the proposed 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada, which were developed together with our conservation partners, as part of our participation in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. NCP initiatives will help us make progress on many of the targets. The goals and targets will also help to measure and report on progress for some areas of the NCP.

The NCP is one of the many initiatives the Government has undertaken to protect Canada's natural heritage for the benefit of future generations. It complements significant efforts, including creating new parks, protecting ecologically sensitive lands, protecting species at risk and their habitat, and improving water quality.

Quick Facts

Since 2006, our Government has:

- made a six-fold expansion of the Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories, considered to be the most significant conservation achievement in a generation;
- secured almost 4,000 km² of ecologically sensitive private lands;
- added an area nearly twice the size of Vancouver Island to the network of federal protected areas;
- advanced work to create the first national urban park and have designated three additional marine protected areas;
- supported partners in the delivery of hundreds of local projects to protect species at risk and their habitats; and,
- taken steps to improve water quality in the Great Lakes, Lake Simcoe, and Lake Winnipeg, rehabilitated recreational fisheries habitat, and are working to clean up contaminated sites.

Quote

"Our Government is committed to working closely with Canadians so that together we can provide effective stewardship of Canada's rich natural heritage for present and future generations. The National Conservation Plan will help ensure the sustainability of our nation's greatest resources, contribute to our country's long-term prosperity and further position Canada as a world leader in conservation. It will also help ensure that Canadian families and visitors can enjoy the beauty of our country from coast to coast to coast for years to come." – *Prime Minister Stephen Harper*

Related Product

- National Conservation Plan

Associated Links

- National Conservation Plan Webpage
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Canada's Economic Action Plan



Background

NATIONAL CONSERVATION PLAN

On May 15, 2014, Prime Minister Stephen Harper launched the National Conservation Plan (NCP), which will provide a more coordinated approach to conservation efforts across the country with an emphasis on enabling Canadians to conserve and restore lands and waters in and around their communities, and making it easier for citizens living in cities to connect with nature.

The NCP will include significant additional investments over five years for securing ecologically sensitive lands, supporting voluntary conservation and restoration actions, and strengthening marine and coastal conservation. In addition, it will contain new initiatives designed to restore wetlands and to encourage Canadians to connect with nature close to home through protected areas and green spaces located in or near urban areas.

More specifically, the Plan will expand opportunities for partners, including municipalities, environmental interest groups, hunters and anglers, landowners and community groups, to take practical actions to safeguard the land and water around them in the three following priority areas:

- **Conserving** Canada's lands and waters: safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystems through conservation and stewardship actions, including on working landscapes and seascapes.
- **Restoring** Canada's ecosystems: supporting the restoration of degraded ecosystems, which, once restored, will provide habitat for wildlife and clean water, and are essential for the protection and recovery of species at risk.
- **Connecting** Canadians to nature: leveraging existing successful initiatives to help foster an appreciation for nature and building a "community of stewards" among Canadians of all ages.

The Plan recognizes the efforts of countless Canadians who are working to conserve and protect our natural world. It will encourage on-the-ground action and partnerships

leading to tangible conservation results. Views from stakeholders across all regions and sectors helped to shape the National Conservation Plan, including input from three conservation-related studies by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.

Progress under the NCP will be measured against a set of outcomes related to land and ocean conservation, restoration of lands and shorelines, opportunities for Canadians to experience nature, and access to improved information about Canada's natural environment.

Building on the conservation measures announced in Budget 2014, the National Conservation Plan includes funding of \$252 million, primarily over a five-year period (2014 to 2019) for a variety of conservation initiatives:

- \$100 million over five years to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to secure ecologically sensitive lands;
- \$37 million over five years to strengthen marine and coastal conservation;
- \$3.2 million over five years to support the development of a complete national inventory of Canadian conservation areas;
- \$50 million over five years to restore wetlands;
- \$50 million over five years to support voluntary actions to restore and conserve species and their habitats;
- \$9.2 million over five years to connect urban Canadians to nature;
- \$3 million over three years to Earth Rangers to expand family-oriented conservation programming.

Since 2006, the Government of Canada has taken important steps to conserve and restore our country's natural environment and connect Canadians to our rich natural heritage:

- We have made a six-fold expansion of the Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories, considered to be a significant conservation achievement.
- We have secured almost 4,000 km² of ecologically sensitive private lands.
- We have added an area nearly twice the size of Vancouver Island to the network of federal protected areas, including the world's first protected area extending from the mountain tops to the sea floor (Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site) and the world's largest freshwater protected area (Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area).
- We have created three National Wildlife Areas (Akpat, Ninginganiq and Qaulluit) in Nunavut, protecting 4,554 km² of marine, coastal and terrestrial habitats including the world's sanctuary for bowhead whales.
- We have designated three new Marine Protected Areas under the Oceans Act: Musquash Estuary in New Brunswick, Bowie Seamount off the coast of British Columbia, and Tarium Nirjutait in the Beaufort Sea.
- We have invested nearly \$6 million under the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program to support 94 fisheries habitat restoration

projects across Canada. Funding to support up to an additional 128 projects, for a total of up to \$5.5 million, is underway.

- We have advanced work to create the first national urban park.
- We have taken steps to improve water quality in the Great Lakes, Lake Simcoe, and Lake Winnipeg, rehabilitated recreational fisheries habitat, and are working to clean up contaminated sites.
- We have supported partners in the delivery of hundreds of local projects to protect species at risk and their habitats, for example:
 - Under the Habitat Stewardship Program, we have invested over \$86 million to support 1,467 local conservation projects, benefitting the habitat of 431 species at risk.
 - In 2010 alone, EcoAction provided more than \$2 million to support 58 local biodiversity conservation and restoration projects in communities across Canada.
 - We have successfully expanded the population of Blanding's turtles in Kejimikujik National Park and are assisting in the recovery of Garry oak ecosystems in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site.
- Under the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk program, we have invested over \$23 million to support more than 680 local aquatic and terrestrial conservation projects, benefitting the recovery needs of 287 species at risk.

The NCP complements the proposed 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada, which were developed together with our conservation partners, as part of our participation in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. NCP initiatives will help us make progress on many of the targets. The goals and targets will also help to measure and report on progress for some areas of the NCP.