



# Land Trusts Conservation Fund (LTCF)

- What is the LTCF?
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- Project Eligibility
- Grant Categories
- How to Apply
- Year 1 Review





### What is the Land Trusts Conservation Fund (LTCF)?



Canadian Land Trusts Working Group\*



- The Government of Canada is investing \$100M over 4 years in the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP)
  - Part of Budget 2018's Nature Legacy Initiative
- The NHCP will contribute:
  - 200,000 hectares towards Canada Target 1
  - to the protection of habitat for the recovery of species listed under the Species at Risk Act
- Wildlife Habitat Canada will be providing Program Administration Services for the LTCF
  - Approximately \$4.5M will be available through the LTCF annually over 4 years

<sup>\*</sup> Representation from regional and community land trusts from the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Québec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and 3 provincial alliances (the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, Réseau de milieux naturels protégés, and the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia)



# Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Applicants must be a Canadian land trust;
- Applicants must be a registered Canadian charity;
- Applicants must have adopted and be in compliance with, or working towards substantial compliance with, the *Canadian Land Trusts Standards and Practices (2019)*; and,
- Applicants must demonstrate a **minimum of 2:1 in match funding** raised from sources other than Canadian Federal Government investments.





## Project Eligibility

# A project is defined as a parcel or grouping of parcels that may or may not share the same landowner:

- sharing the same conservation objectives;
- clearly contributing to Canada Target 1 (i.e., can be counted as Protected Areas or Other Effective Areabased Conservation Measures); and,
- that may consist of either conservation agreements or fee simple acquisition or a combination thereof.

#### A parcel or a group of parcels may share up to 2 individual landowners.

- Projects with more than 2 individual landowners will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Consideration of multiple ownership exists to support land trusts in cases where securing lands with multiple ownership is required for the viability of the project.





## Large Grant Projects

Year 2 program launch: coming soon, for projects with a closing date between April 1, 2020 and December 15, 2020

- Maximum of 3 Applications
  - Total ask of up to \$1M
  - Minimum ask of \$30,001
- Eligible Project Type
  - Acquisition of Fee Simple Lands;
  - Conservation Agreements; or
  - Combination thereof

### • Required:

- Minimum 2:1 Matched Funds
- Stewardship Endowment Funds
- Conservation Plan/Rationale
- Baseline Documentation Report (Conservation Agreements only)
- Financial Project Audit

#### • Evaluated on:

- Conservation and biodiversity significance
- Connection to other conservation lands
- Project resiliency
- Conservation co-benefits



### Small Grant Projects

Year 2 program launch: ~Spring 2020, for projects with a closing date between April 1, 2020 and December 15, 2020

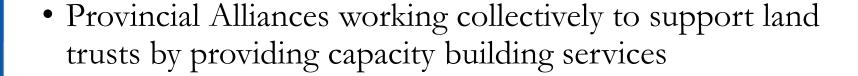
- 1 project per Application
  - Ask between \$2,000 **\$30,000**
- Multiple Applications permitted
- Required:
  - Minimum 2:1 Matched Funds
  - Stewardship Endowment Funds
  - Conservation Plan/Rationale
  - Project Financial Check

- Consider an approval approach that maximizes engagement and geographic distribution of funds.
  - Year 1 eligible projects approved in time stamped order:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> eligible project per land trust (time stamped order) funded;
    - When funds still available, 2<sup>nd</sup> eligible project per land trust (time stamped order) was funded; etc.
  - Small Grant program design undergoing review; anticipated Spring 2020 launch.



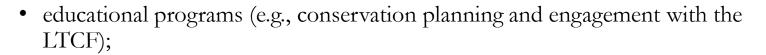
# Capacity Building Services







• LTABC supporting land trusts in Western Canada



- adherence to Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices 2019;
- support and feedback in the development of project plans (Target 1 eligible) and funding applications.







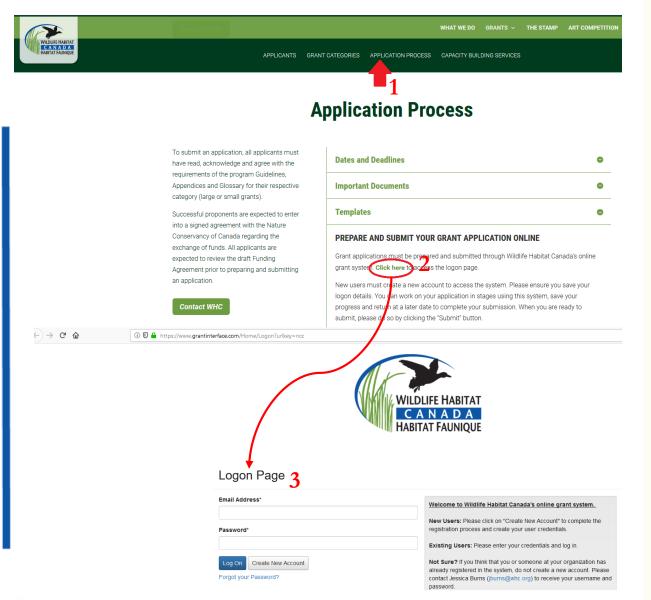
### How to Apply

#### Year 2 (2020-2021) Applications:

- <u>Large Grants:</u> launch anticipated end of February/early March 2020. Application window will be open for ~5 weeks.
- <u>Small Grants:</u> launch anticipated Spring 2020. Application window details to follow.

#### Visit Wildlife Habitat Canada's website

- www.whc.org/ltcf
- Once launched, view full Program Details
- Access Online Grant Application System
- New applicants: create a login Returning applicants: use your Year 1 login







### Year 1 Review

#### Year 1 was challenging

- Late-year launch of Large/Small Grant programs
- Tight timelines (application; awards; reporting)
- Requirements of federal funding
- New program growing pains / learning curve

#### <u>Feedback</u>

- Received from land trusts and the CLTWG
- Improvements for Year 2:
  - Earlier award notification / timeline for project completion
  - Large Grants (minimum ask increased to \$30,001)
  - Mid-term project milestones introduced to allow projects in planning stages to apply
  - Clarity around eligible expenditures / match
  - Review and modifications to application and reporting forms where possible, to reduce duplication

#### Preliminary results from the LTCF program

(final reports currently under review)

- ✓ 22 Canadian land trusts completed projects
  - 14 Large Grants
  - 17 Small Grants
- ✓ Supported projects in:
  - o British Columbia o Québec
  - o Alberta o New Brunswick
  - o Ontario o Nova Scotia
- ✓ Preliminary results indicate that LTCF funding has supported the securement of **over 3,000 hectares** of land
- ✓ Projects are expected to benefit many species at risk, such as:
  - o Monarch Butterfly o Eastern Meadowlark
  - o Grizzly Bear o ...and many more!



