

Centre for Land Conservation

09-February-2021



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Centre pour la conservation des terres

Who are we?

- The CLC is a not-for-profit, registered charity
- Working in partnership, the CLC aims to promote conservation with the 'private landscapes' of Canada
- Our current priority is to work with land trusts and other stakeholders to explore the development of a performance assurance program
- The CLC holds a license from the U.S. Land Trust Alliance which allows the adaptation of the US Standards and Practices to the Canadian context: the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices

History

- The CLC evolved from the former Canadian Land Trust Alliance
- The transition was accompanied by an expansion of the Board of Directors
- CLC is currently supported by private foundations and donors
- CLC has also received support from ECCC

New Board of Directors

- In September 2020, two new members were elected to the Board of Directors
- CLC Board of Directors as of September 2020:
 - Nathalie Pratte, Past Chair, NCC
 - Tim Sopuck, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
 - Karen Cooper, Drache Aptowitzer LLP
 - Eliza Mitchell, W. Garfield Weston Foundation
 - Brian Springinotic, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
 - Alan Peatt, Southern Interior Land Trust
 - Tara Shea, Mining Association of Canada



Our Work

- The land trust forum on February 26-27, 2020
 - A national dialogue to explore how to best demonstrate the implementation of the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices and considerations for designing an approach that independently provides performance assurance
- There were 54 participants
 - 36 different land trusts
 - Funders
 - Other stakeholders in conservation
 - CLC Board of Directors and staff
 - ECCC staff



Program Principles

- Reflect the unique characteristics of the Canadian land trust community
- Take into account the circumstances of all land trusts from large national ones to local volunteer land trusts
- Be developed collaboratively with land trusts, provincial alliances, private funders and governments
- Be a tool to help land trusts build capacity and capabilities
- Be independent of government



Benefits of the Program

- Confidence of the public, governments and donors
- Transparency
- Development of performance indicators and measurement systems
- Encouragement of continuous improvement
- Improving capacity and capabilities within the land trust community
- Advancing land conservation

Advisory Committee

- There are 17 members
 - 14 land trusts (including from the three alliances: BC, ON, QC)
 - 1 U.S. Land Trust Alliance
 - 2 ECCC
 - And, 3 representatives from the CLC Board of Directors
- The Committee focuses on the performance assurance program based on the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices
- The Committee provides the CLC with advice and recommendations on the design of the program and on the consultation and engagement process with the broader community

The Working Group

- In addition to the Advisory Committee, we also have a smaller working group that explores the performance assurance program in more detail
- There are four members from land trusts across Canada

Consultation

- From August to October, we had an open consultation to:
 - Identify priority practice elements for the program
 - Collect feedback on a discussion document on the program's governance
- There will be more consultations and opportunities to engage
- Next step: 'Ground-truthing' the results of the consultation



Objectives of Ground-truthing

- Are the identified practice elements the best ones to provide assurance of a healthy organization that is appropriately managing risk?
- How much work (effort, time, resources) is needed for participating land trusts to gather and provide the required information and evidence?
- Is the evidence required to demonstrate compliance appropriate or how else might implementation of the selected practice elements be demonstrated?
- How best is the evidence assessed against the practice elements, particularly where qualitative assessment is involved (e.g. is it sufficient that a policy exists or does the quality of the policy need to be considered)?
- What type of support or assistance would an organization find useful while going through the performance assurance program (for example, financial or other forms of assistance)?



Ground Truthing the Program

- Seeking participants to assist with the ground-truthing
- The process is just beginning
- We will contact some land trusts directly
- If you would like to participate, send an e-mail to info@centreforlandconservation.org

Thank you!

