

# MUNICIPAL PROTECTED AREAS PROJECT

BC LAND TRUST SUMMIT  
NOVEMBER 2023

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THE ALLIANCE OF CANADIAN LAND TRUSTS  
L'ALLIANCE CANADIENNE DES ORGANISMES DE CONSERVATION





# OVERVIEW

1 Challenge and Opportunity

2 Municipal Conservation

3 Coalition  
Baseline

4 Pilot Municipalities

5 Sharing Out Learnings

6 Timeline

# CURRENT SITUATION

## THE GREAT CHALLENGE

- Municipalities struggle with a variety of needs that collectively can have negative impacts on biodiversity and natural spaces.
- Biodiversity has both historically high levels and current high risk levels in southern Canada.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

- Giving municipalities another tool to aid in the recognition and protection of natural areas can lead to more local conservation ethic while also contributing to national 30x30.
- An increase in recognition and contribution of these municipal conservation areas will support a greater biodiversity



# NATURE CANADA'S MUNICIPAL CONSERVATION COALITION

Currently 5 organizations working together, each offering their own expertise

- Nature Canada
- Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts
- Wildlands League
- Ontario Nature
- BC Nature

Expertise includes:

- Experience in working with municipalities to enter PAs in CPCAD
- Deep connections with a network of municipalities, land trusts, and organizations that can support
- Understanding of unique situation across provinces
- Experts in resource development
- Able to mobilize communities





# ESTABLISHING A BASELINE

## DETERMINING THE READINESS OF MUNICIPALITIES

Types of review undertaken:



Municipal access to natural lands currently not in CPCAD



Policies or plans that support conservation efforts



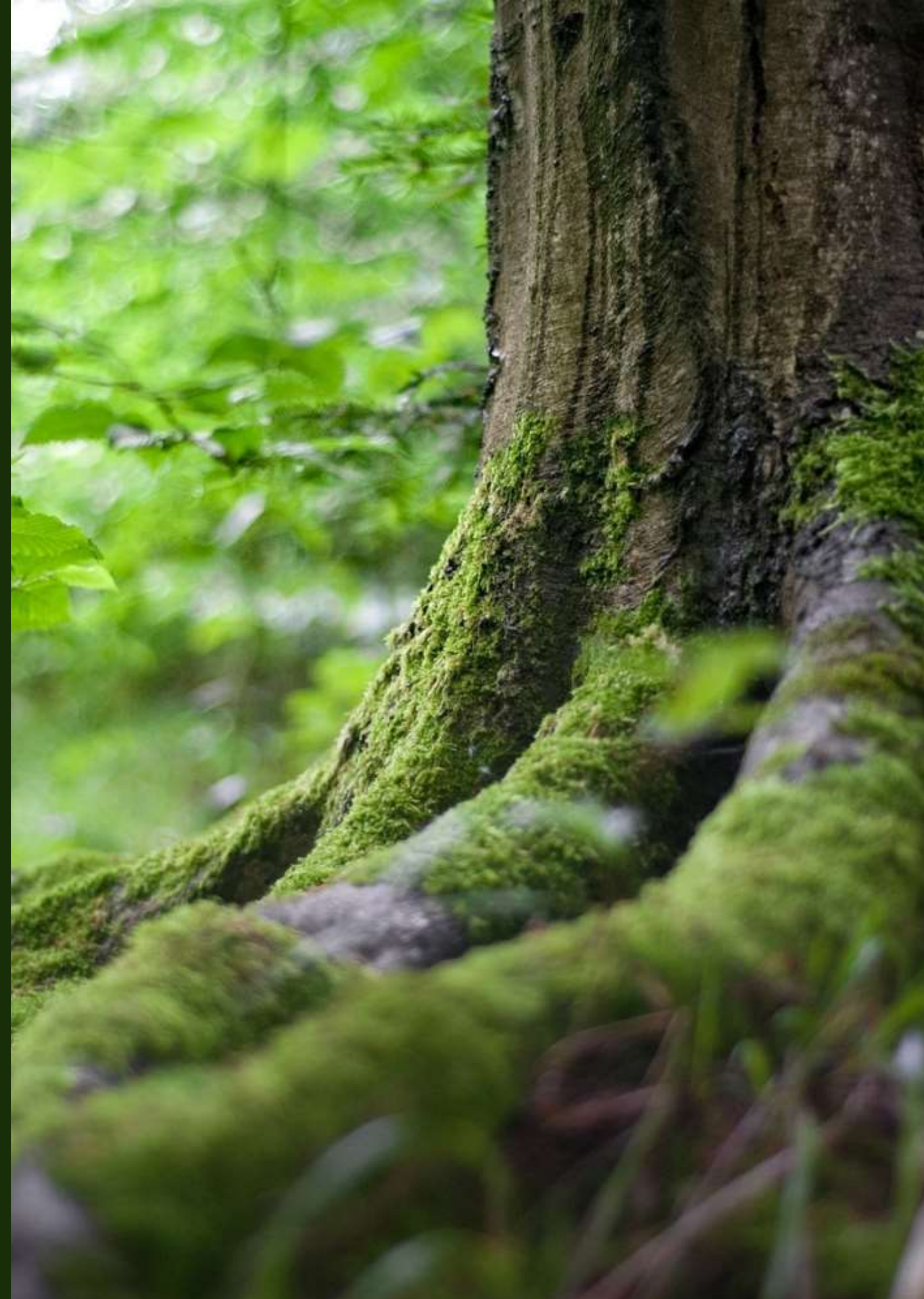
Level of development focus in the area



Interest shown during meetings/discussions on the topic



Other partners or organizations in the area that could support the work



# ESTABLISHING A BASELINE

## DETERMINING THE READINESS OF MUNICIPALITIES

Green

84

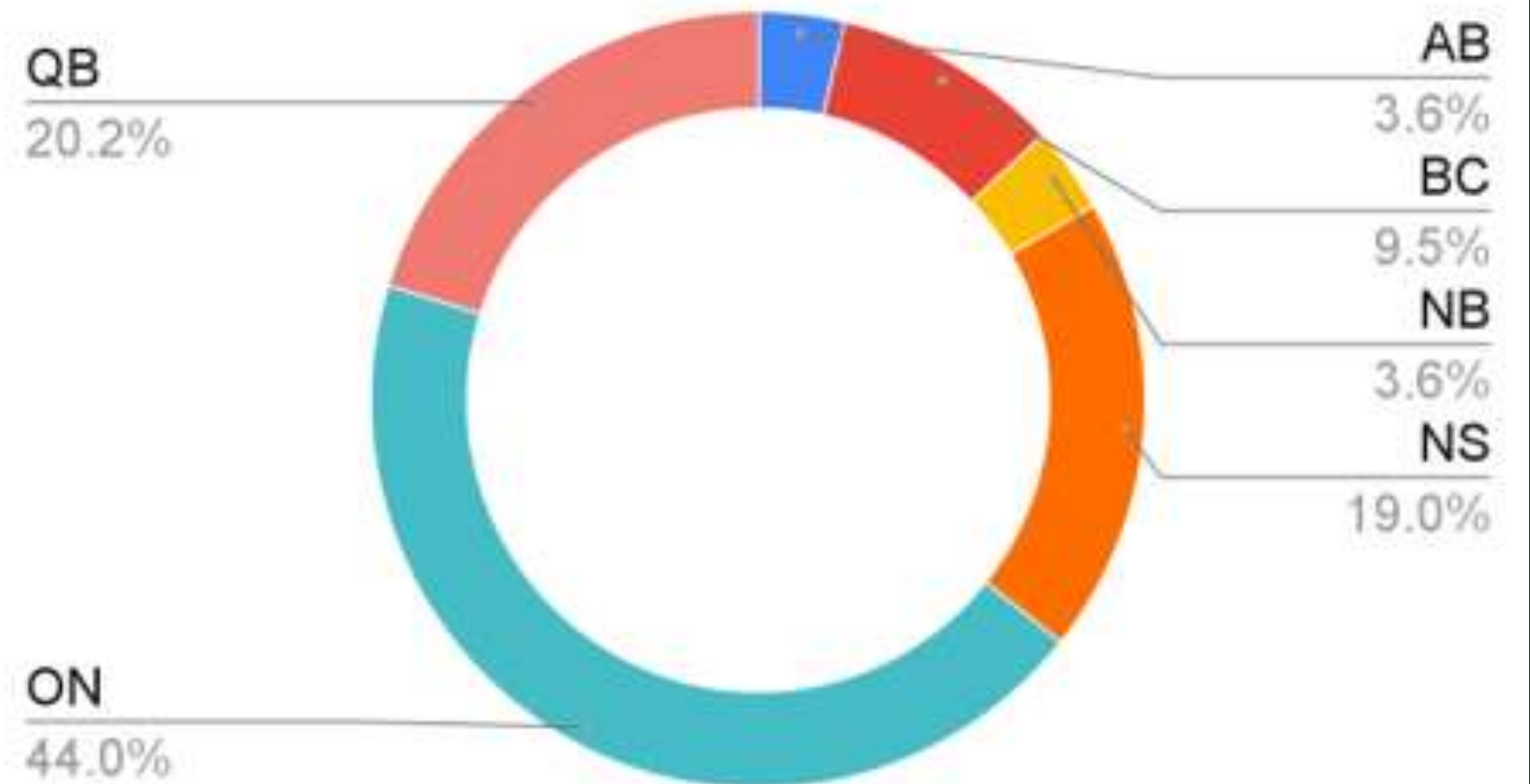
Yellow

113

Red

70

Provincial breakdown of green municipalities





# PILOT MUNICIPALITIES

## DEVELOPING THE SUCCESSFUL MODEL

From the jurisdictions that scored high in the readiness assessment, a few have been selected as pilot municipalities.

List of pilot cities will continue to evolve as the relationships with municipalities evolves. Requires buy-in with community, councillors, and municipal staff.

Interesting opportunities right now: Whistler and Hamilton.

Core partners are gathering information about what works, barriers that may exist, and how to better support municipalities.





An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. The trees are tightly packed, creating a textured canopy of various shades of green. A white rectangular text box with a thin green border is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the forest. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font, with the main title in a larger size and the subtitle in a smaller size. The overall composition is balanced and visually appealing, emphasizing the natural environment.

# SHARING OUT LEARNINGS

## DEVELOPING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ALL MUNICIPALITIES

In 2024, we will create a website for compiling success stories and resources for municipalities. It will contain the following:

- Provincial and local best practices reports for municipalities
- Municipal land conservation case studies of successful and unsuccessful CPCAD submission by municipalities
- A compilation of an online toolkit to guide municipalities.



# TIMELINE

Evaluating the readiness of jurisdictions

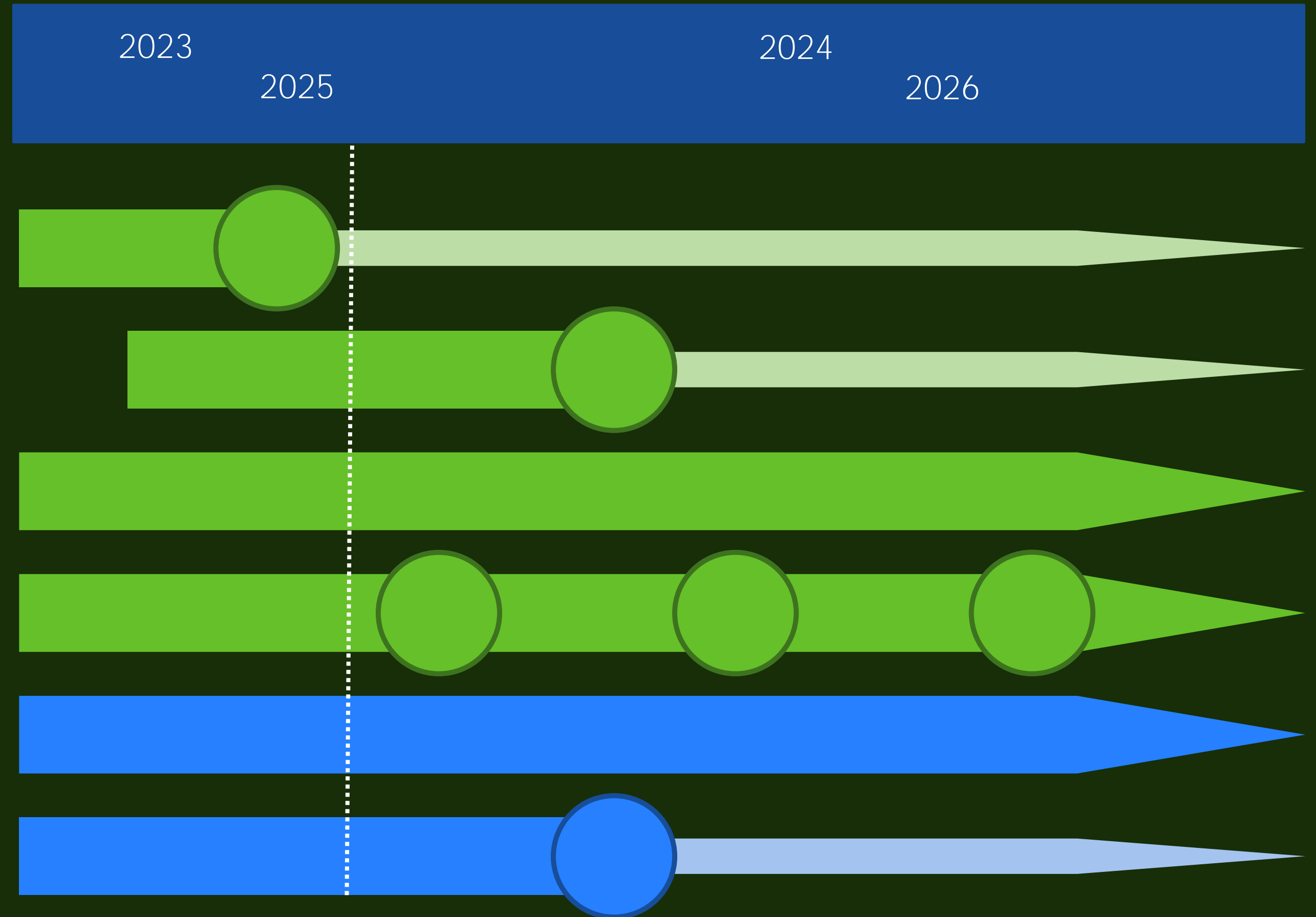
Creating the pilot areas

Expanding municipalities where we work

Inputting new PAs and OECMs into CPCAD

Developing resources and outreach

Developing a website for resources and successes





# ACTL'S WORK SO FAR

- Environmental sweep across Canada and learning about the conservation work within municipalities in most provinces
- Communication with land trusts through survey - results has told us the following:
  - More work needs to be done regarding incentives for land owners who wish to protect property. This largely falls into municipal tax reductions to compensate for the cost of easements/covenants but also the ongoing land stewardship costs and the potential decrease in land value.
  - Municipalities should explore options for funding through current tax revenues but also special grant programs and new funding options such as referendums for additional tax payer support.
  - There is a need for education and awareness for municipal leaders, specifically elected council members. It was felt many do not understand the difference between parks, green spaces and conservation lands and more had to be done to educate and ever-changing base of elected officials.
- Report on conservation options in municipalities across Canada







# THE ROLE OF ACLT

- Explore tax incentives across Canada
- Explore how to engage Indigenous peoples in the protection of lands in municipalities
- Engage with interested municipalities across Canada and connect them with land trusts and vice versa
- Develop tools that will deepen relationship between municipalities and land trusts



LAND TRUSTS INTERESTED  
IN COLLABORATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT RENATA

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# QUEBEC

Quebec is different than every other provinces. They use the Civil Code while other provinces/territories use Common law.

They are better than the rest of Canada on some points :

- Municipalities are already engaged for conservation.
- Committed to applying the Kunming-Montreal framework.

Worst off in some other aspects...







# QUEBEC

Constraints to the conservation of natural areas:

- Municipalities are depending to the property taxes
- Expropriation act
- Lack of tools for municipalities to protect natural areas in perpetuity
- Absence of OECM (scheduled for spring 2024)



# ACCOUNTING IN QUEBEC : QUICK OVERVIEW

- Quebec developed its own instruments to implement the Convention.
- The compilation of NGO conservation land is done by the RMN.

**LE RÉPERTOIRE**  
DES SITES DE CONSERVATION VOLONTAIRE DU QUÉBEC

## MELCC – Aires protégées au Québec (version du 8 septembre 2022 )

Les données du Registre des aires protégées ont été mises à jour en date du 8 septembre 2022 sur le site Données Québec.

Province de Québec Abitibi-Témiscamingue Bas-Saint-Laurent Capitale-Nationale Centre-du-Québec Chaudière-Appalaches

### Aires protégées au Québec



CPCAD

**Canada**





# DURING THE COP15

- Almost one year ago.
- We organized a day dedicated to conservation by land trusts.
- We were supported by 11 municipalities on stage.





Consolider les partenariats entre les  
organismes de conservation et les  
instances municipales



ACSQ DAY DURING COP15

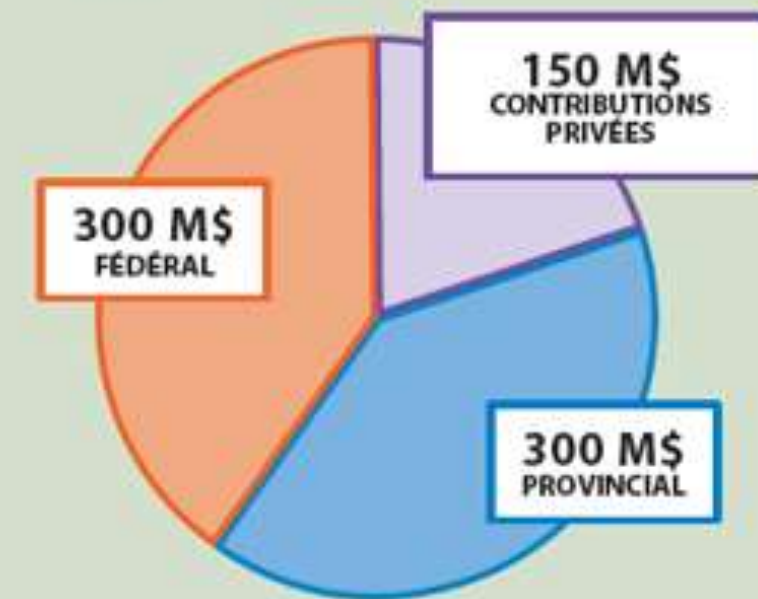


# WHAT IS ACSQ?

- From 2023 to 2030
- 750 Millions \$
- 300 from Quebec
- 300 from Canada
- 150 from private funding.

## ACCÉLÉRER LA CONSERVATION AU SUD DU QUÉBEC —2023–2030—

Un projet collaboratif  
de 750 M\$ pour accélérer la  
protection de notre nature



Une proposition innovante de partenariat en co-financement, permettant à l'ensemble des organismes de conservation de doubler leurs résultats concrets sur des milieux naturels prioritaires.





A lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a warm and vibrant atmosphere. The image is used as a background for the slide, with a white rounded rectangle containing text overlaid on the right side.

# WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- Many municipalities committed to protect 30% of there land.
- Many of them have also taken actions to enforce protection.
- Some of them created their own land trust.

So why are we in the MPAP project? What can we do?

Help municipalities to protect land!



# WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

## FEW EXAMPLES:

- Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities (LPTAA).
- No OECM in Quebec yet.
- Expropriation Act





# EXPROPRIATION ACT

- The recent decisions are against municipalities when the use there planning tools.
- In may 2022, the CMM adopted an Interim Control By-Law to protect natural environments and threatened species in the territory of Greater Montreal.
- Today, lawsuit for disguised expropriation are up to 1 billion dollars in Greater Montreal only.

<b>Golf</b>	<b>Superficie</b>	<b>Usage / Zonage</b>	<b>Valeur*</b>	<b>Montant réclamé</b>
Rosemère	53,7 ha	Golf	18 M\$	278 M\$
Candiac	52,2 ha	Récréatif	22 M\$	69,2 M\$
Mascouche	40,4 ha	Milieu naturel Récréatif	6,3 M\$	62,7 M\$
Terrebonne	70,7 ha	Récréo- touristique	8 M\$	98 M\$



# ADVOCACY ON MANY ONGOING REFORMS.

- Implementation of OECM.
- Nature Plan to adapt Kunming-Montreal Framework to Quebec legislation.
- Government policy directions for land use planning.
  - In the latest version, municipalities will have to identify and protect ecological corridor on their land.
- LPTAA : Better integration of biodiversity and nature in agricultural activities.
- Expropriation act.



# EXAMPLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF IRLANDE

June 20

Presentation of the project to Irlande's municipality

August 29

Approval of the project by the Executive Director of the Municipality of Irlande

September 14

First contact with the three conservation organizations active in Irlande: Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Avenir and Capital-Nature.

September 21

Meeting with DUC to discuss their relationship with Irlande and upcoming projects on their territory

November 6

Meeting to linking conservation projects to Irlande



# EXAMPLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHELSEA

Collaboration between ACRE and Chelsea.

ACRE is a volunteer based land trust. The RMN help them through these steps :

- 1 Calculate Chelsea's land area
- 2 Define categories of protected land
- 3 Calculate the area of each category of protected land and collect data on vulnerable endangered species habitats.
- 4 Calculate the missing area to reach the conservation target of 30% of the territory
- 5 Identify potential lands to reach the conservation target of 30% of the territory

# ACTIVITIES WITH FIRST NATIONS

- Full-Day to collaborate with Abenakis and Firstlight from Maine to reconnect Abenaki territory cross border.
- Half- or full-day online training to be held in February, type 101, on First Nations in Quebec and their role in conservation.
- Two-day face-to-face training in June in collaboration with Jean-Michel Beaudoin, professor at ULaval and holder of the Native Forestry Leadership Chair on Native conservation projects.





# THANK YOU

YOUR ORGANIZATIONS ARE MAKING  
THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

Thank you to Nature Canada and Réseau de milieux naturels protégés for  
their work to develop this presentation.

W : A C L T - A C O C . C A

E : I N F O @ A C O C . C A