

# Our Impact 2018

The Nature  
Conservancy   
Canada Program



The Nature  
Conservancy   
Canada Program

# United for People and Nature

Thinking about the future of nature in today's world can be overwhelming. The challenges we face—from unsustainable resource development to climate change—are complex and multi-layered. The opposing sides are fierce. And the stakes are high. It may seem impossible to build a future where people and nature thrive.

**But it's not.** The Nature Conservancy brings together Indigenous and local communities, governments, industries and other partners to find new pathways towards a sustainable future. It takes courage, patience, and a steadfast commitment to finding common ground. It takes trust. And it takes donors who see the power of a united approach.

**Together, we are building a future for people and nature.**



# Our Principles

## Conserving at Scale

From forest to sea, we are working at an unprecedented scale, irrespective of borders and designed to endure, for the future of people and nature.

## Innovating for Climate Change

We advance natural climate solutions in Canada—new science-based approaches to conserving, restoring and managing nature to mitigate climate change.

## Investing in People

We bring together communities, industries and governments to set a new course that supports nature, bolsters economies, and respects culture and values.

## Advancing Reconciliation

We put Indigenous rights at the heart of conservation, creating new pathways for reconciliation and investing in leadership.

## Amplifying Global Impact

As the world's largest conservation organization, we bring innovation and investment to Canada, and we share Canadian lessons with the world.



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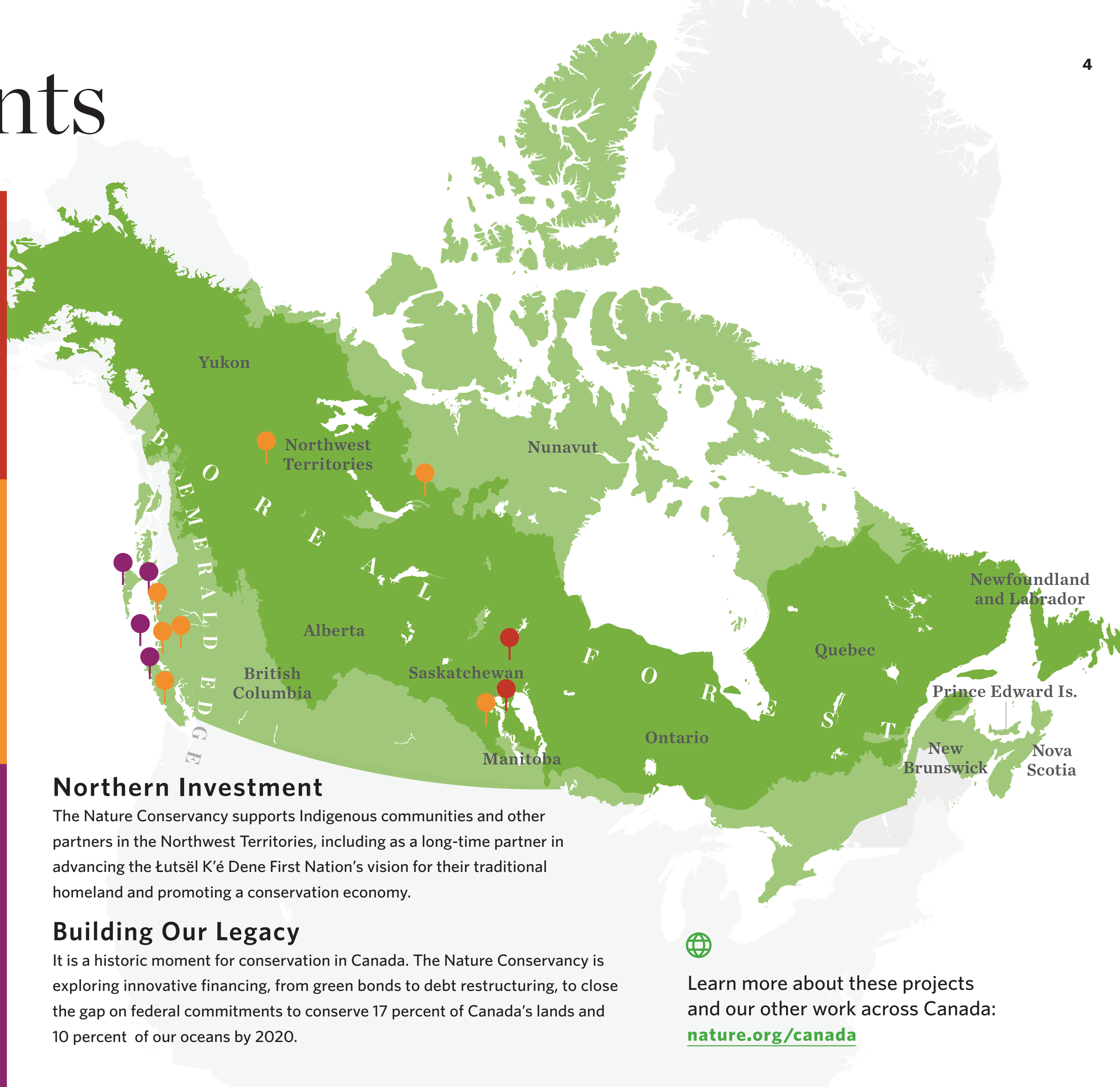
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### Northern Investment

The Nature Conservancy supports Indigenous communities and other partners in the Northwest Territories, including as a long-time partner in advancing the Łutsël K'édé First Nation's vision for their traditional homeland and promoting a conservation economy.

### Building Our Legacy

It is a historic moment for conservation in Canada. The Nature Conservancy is exploring innovative financing, from green bonds to debt restructuring, to close the gap on federal commitments to conserve 17 percent of Canada's lands and 10 percent of our oceans by 2020.



Learn more about these projects  
and our other work across Canada:

[nature.org/canada](https://www.nature.org/canada)

## United Approach in Canada's Boreal

“We belong to the land; the land doesn't belong to us. Growing up, the land was my provider, my mentor, my healer, my life. I'm not anti-development, but we need a healthy forest as well. How do we do that? That's where we need additional capacity.”

 **Chief Clarence Easter**  
Chemawawin Cree Nation, Manitoba



2016

First Nation leaders and participants from industry, provincial and federal governments came together at a green economy workshop hosted by TNC. The aim was to envision possible futures of a thriving forest sector, with lands stewarded sustainably for future generations, and benefits flowing to local economies.

2017

TNC expanded our Boreal team, building expertise in sustainable forest management and community engagement.

2018

With the Swampy Cree Tribal Council in northern Manitoba, TNC co-developed a workshop focused on best practices in forest management to help inform First Nations community discussions and engagement with industry and government.

# United Approach in Canada's Boreal

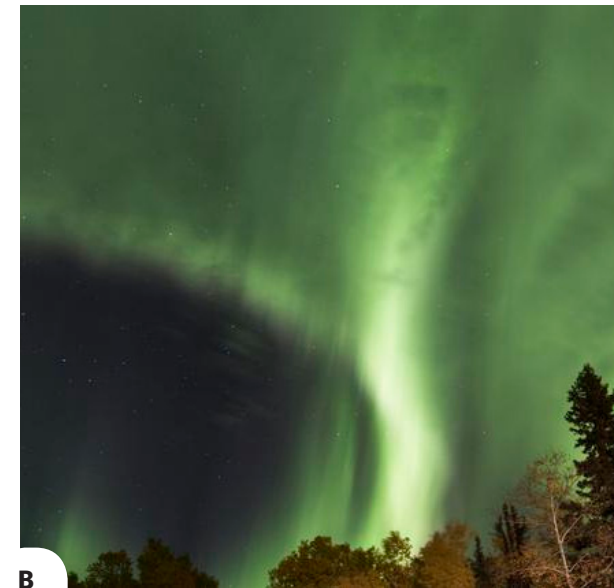
## Conserving traditional homelands and a global carbon storehouse

In an auditorium in Thompson, Manitoba, an Elder stood up and told the group that in recent years, when he's gone into the forests where his father and grandfather hunted and called for moose, there's been no answer. "The moose aren't calling back," he said. These concerns were the impetus for a gathering of local First Nations leaders co-hosted by Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Nature United.

Moose are a cultural keystone species with critical importance as a food source and for traditional practices. But while they may not appear on federal or provincial Endangered Species lists, population declines are impacting Indigenous communities and have ripple effects in the forest ecosystem. After hearing about Indigenous moose management in British Columbia, a monitoring app



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2018

TNC supported the North Peace Tribal Council Nations to support mapping and sustaining Indigenous values in relation to forestry and other development.

2018

In Manitoba, TNC supported First Nations leadership in natural resources initiatives to protect cultural values, engage communities and develop economic opportunities, including land-use planning, wildlife management and one of the first Indigenous Guardian programs in this region, led by the Misipawistik Cree Nation.

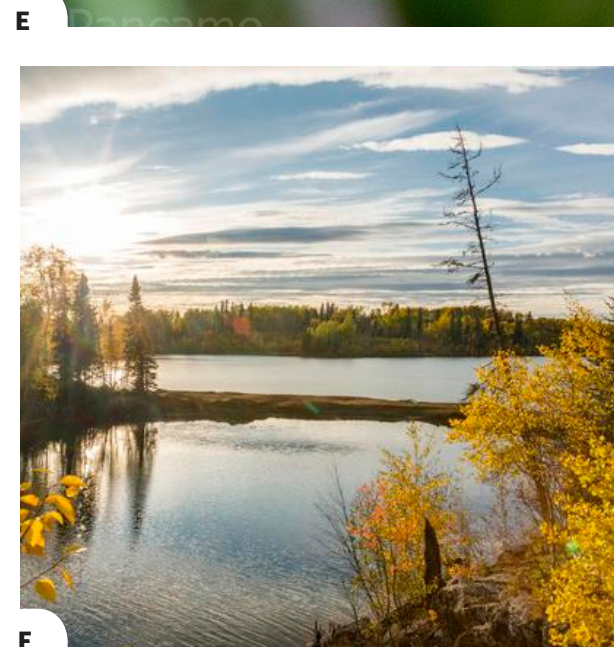
developed by an Ontario First Nation, and treaty rights related to moose, the participants explored ways of working together, including a regional Indigenous collective to care for moose.

### **Integrating Sustainable Forestry**

Conservation must go hand in hand with building local economies. Thanks to your support, The Nature Conservancy helped to develop a workshop led by Indigenous forestry experts to help inform First Nations community discussions and engagement with industry and government. This workshop also supported First Nations as they developed a joint venture between Nekote (a corporation representing seven First Nations in northwestern Manitoba) and a major forestry company to co-manage a 22-million-acre forest tenure. The partnership aims to protect environmental values, maintain sustainable forestry practices and bolster local economies.

### **Natural Climate Solutions**

One of the largest intact forests on Earth, Canada's Boreal stores 208 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide—the equivalent of 26 years of global carbon emissions. TNC initiated new science this year building on a major global study about how natural systems such as forests can help to stem climate change. These "natural climate



solutions” can provide 37 percent of the emissions reductions needed by 2030 to keep climate change below the 2°C threshold. Our research will explore how conserving, restoring and better managing all of Canada’s natural landscapes—including the Boreal forest—can help curb global warming alongside reducing emissions and transitioning to clean, renewable energy.

*Canada’s Boreal provides habitat for moose, herds of woodland caribou and billions of songbirds, and livelihoods for millions of people.*

#### 2019

TNC will expand its support of stewardship initiatives such as Guardian program development, community planning and the creation of Indigenous protected areas.

#### Looking Ahead

In Canada’s Boreal, Indigenous communities, industry and governments are working together towards a resilient future for nature and people, and the forest remains a carbon storehouse that is mitigating climate change on a global scale.

(A) Moose are a cultural keystone species for many Indigenous peoples. (B) Aurora borealis in Sherridon, Manitoba. © Michael Pietrocarlo (C) Ed Vystrcil from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and TNC’s Amanda Karst co-organized the moose workshop. (D) Floyd North from Mathias Colomb Cree Nation talked about the traditional uses of plants to the Nature United team. © Michael Pietrocarlo (E) Canada’s boreal forest provides habitat for songbirds including the Common Yellowthroat. (F) © Michael Pietrocarlo (G) Heidi Cook from Misipawistik Cree Nation spoke at the moose workshop. (H) Amanda Karst and Ronnie Drever from TNC with Pamela Perreault, David Flood and Peggy Smith, who facilitated the forestry 101 workshop.

## Making an Impact



**Melinda Macleod**  
Program Director,  
Environmental Resilience  
Global Program,  
BHP Foundation

At the BHP Foundation, we aim to address the most critical sustainable development challenges of our generation. And we’re particularly focused on the contributions that the global resource sector can make towards addressing those challenges.


The Foundation has three global priorities—one of them is Environmental Resilience. We know that large, natural environments play a really important role in preserving water and biodiversity, and helping people respond to climate change. We focus on improving outcomes by supporting place-based projects that engage with the people who live there, enhancing policy frameworks and mobilizing markets, such as water and carbon. We also recognize that Indigenous peoples have a profound connection to their traditional lands.

The work that The Nature Conservancy is doing in Canada’s Boreal has all of the elements for long-term change. And The Nature Conservancy has worked with the BHP Foundation since day one, helping to design and build our strategy. All of these things make the Foundation really excited about the opportunity to support this project.



## Indigenous Leadership

“It’s really important that younger generations see the places where our ancestors lived. It’s where our language and culture come from. It helps us understand that we have to take care of those places, and it inspires us to become leaders.”

 Mercedes Robinson-Neasloss  
Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation, Great Bear Rainforest



# Indigenous Leadership

## Supporting the original stewards of Canada's lands and waters

Cedar-lined paths, moss gardens, the flow of Brew Creek in Skwxwú7mesh territory. This was the setting for a gathering of Indigenous leaders in early 2018. TNC supporters helped bring together leaders from coastal communities, places famous for their spirit bears, salmon runs and cedars that have reached towards the sky for a millennium.

Our Indigenous partners give plenty—fulfilling important political and cultural roles in their Nations, negotiating agreements, supporting stewardship on the ground, and acting as role models for youth. At the Brew Creek Centre, The Nature Conservancy asked, how can we support you? These hard-working trailblazers found connection, took stock of achievements, and had a chance to recharge. The Resilient Indigenous Leaders Network came out of that gathering. A good thing is worth repeating. The leaders have organized a second gathering for early 2019.



2008

TNC helped start Coast Funds by raising \$39 million to support Indigenous stewardship in the Great Bear Rainforest across 19 million acres of new protected areas and sustainably managed lands. Coast Funds also supports local economic development.

2009

TNC launched our first programs to support Indigenous youth. Today those locally led programs connect more than 450 youth to their homelands by blending science and traditional knowledge in schools and through summer internships.

2014

TNC supported the workshop "On-the-Ground Indigenous Stewardship in Canada" to understand priority issues for Indigenous stewards in managing their lands and waters (in collaboration with Tides Canada and Indigenous Leadership Initiative).

2016

TNC worked with Indigenous communities to develop the business case for Guardian programs, which demonstrated the significant impact and benefits Indigenous Guardians have both for protecting their territories and for their communities, including a resurgence in Indigenous leadership, economic benefits and cultural revitalization.

2017

TNC supported the Indigenous Guardians Toolkit to help communities across Canada share, learn and connect about their Guardian programs. TNC also held the first Healthy Country Planning training to support Indigenous leaders in building cultural values into conservation.

2018

TNC (in collaboration with Tides Canada) held a gathering of Indigenous stewardship leaders throughout BC that led to the development of the Resilient Indigenous Leaders Network.

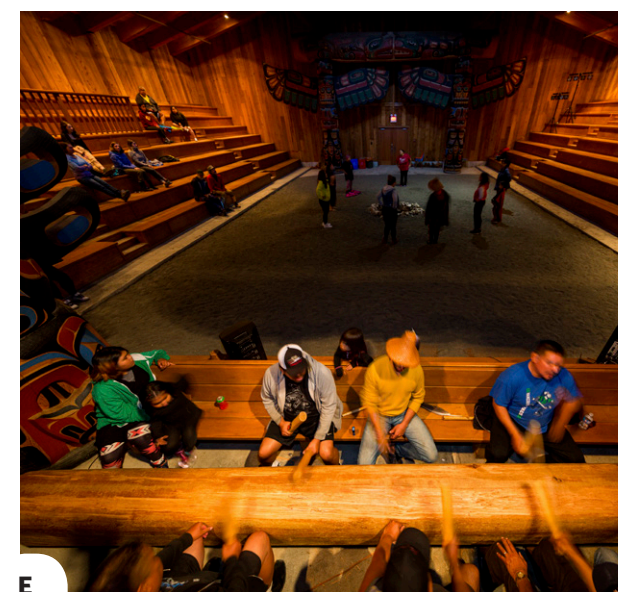
### A Toolkit for Indigenous Guardians

Guardians might spend a day rescuing kayakers from cold waters, mapping caribou migrations, working with youth and Elders, protecting important cultural sites, or managing fishing permits. Within the past decade, the commitment to Guardian programs has grown to nearly 100 communities in Canada. Thanks to your support, TNC has fostered that growth with the Indigenous Guardians Toolkit—the only online resource for sharing knowledge about everything from hiring staff to building relationships with resource agencies. Since its launch, there have been more than 9,000 visits to the website to learn, download, and place pins on the national map of programs.

Face-to-face exchanges are investments that pay off too. TNC has already supported more than dozen community visits for Guardians to learn from and inspire each other’s work. And moving forward, TNC will support a technical team to provide direct support to Guardians.

### What Does Indigenous-Led Planning Look Like?

Developed in Australia, with Indigenous leadership, Healthy Country Planning builds culturally appropriate values right into conservation. To introduce the method here, TNC hosted a workshop with Indigenous stewardship practitioners from Manitoba, Alberta and the Northwest Territories in August 2017.



Communities in the NWT are already using Healthy Country Planning to make land use decisions and, with your help, a second workshop will give in-depth training to facilitators in spring 2019. These facilitators can then support Indigenous communities interested in applying this framework.

### Emerging Indigenous Leaders

Guided walks led by naturalists, field trips with Elders to cultural sites, the chance to hear whales through a hydrophone—experiences that foster stewardship skills for more than 450 Indigenous students from kindergarten to grade twelve. A recent evaluation of the SEAS (Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards) program showed unequivocally positive gains in youth leadership, school performance, character development, opportunity, connection to territory and culture, and health and wellness. Now TNC is building a toolkit to support locally led Indigenous youth programs in communities across Canada.

(A) SEAS student from the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation in the Great Bear Rainforest © Jason Houston. (B) The first gathering of the Resilient Indigenous Leaders Network. (C) An Elder from the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation. © Jason Houston (D) Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation, Northwest Territories. © Pat Kane (E) Drumming in the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Big House. © Jason Houston (F) A Healthy Country Planning workshop in Vancouver. © Michael Pietrocarlo (G) First Nations-led ecotourism in Clayoquot Sound.

## Making an Impact



**Nuskmata**  
Nuxalk First Nation  
Participant in the  
Resilient Indigenous  
Leaders Network

*When we arrived at the first gathering, we were wrapped in blankets in ceremony. When you're wrapped, it's an honour. It's to uphold you and protect you. And it's a public acknowledgment of the valuable work you've been doing. It was a beautiful way to start, and it grounded the work we were doing there.*

*Often in our communities, it's one person doing 10 jobs and we don't have time to think about taking care of ourselves as people. This network provides the opportunity to connect with others facing similar challenges, working to protect our lands and waters and strengthen our culture while dealing with the realities of colonization. Just to know we're not alone is valuable. Sharing ideas and stories of resilience and staying healthy through it all—that was empowering for me.*

*I'd like to thank the organizers and funders of the network, because I've never come across anything like this. The gathering and year-round support changed my life. The relationships I've had with other funders have been very transactional. This network focuses on taking care of the whole person. It reflects the deeper relationships that are expected in Indigenous communities, because that's our culture.*

### 2019

TNC will support a cohort of trainers for Healthy Country Planning. Our toolkit for Indigenous youth programs will launch across Canada, providing support and resources to communities building their own programs. TNC will continue to provide support to the Resilient Indigenous Stewardship Leaders Network.

### 2020

TNC will expand our support of Indigenous youth programs, helping to share lessons and successful models in other geographies across Canada.

### Looking Ahead

Indigenous Nations across Canada are leading the stewardship of their homelands, and emerging leaders are taking up the mantle, bringing social and economic benefits into their communities.

## World-Leading Marine Conservation

“The seascape is shifting in terms of how business is done through shared decision-making and innovative marine planning. Just to be a part of that—and to have the opportunity to help steer where it goes—is incredibly exciting.”



Jenn Burt

British Columbia Marine Lead, Canada program,  
The Nature Conservancy



# World-Leading Marine Conservation

## Advancing protection and local economic development in the Great Bear Sea

Three years into implementation, the impacts of the Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) for British Columbia's Great Bear Sea are felt far and wide across this 25-million-acre region. Already, MaPP has fundamentally changed how sustainable marine planning is done on the North Pacific Coast, whether it's through boosting the capacity of the Coastal Stewardship Network or providing the decision-making platform through which industry and government can work together with First Nations to coordinate and plan marine-based activities and conservation.

MaPP involves a deep collaboration between 17 First Nations and the Province of British Columbia, which means that First Nations values are at the core of how the marine environment is managed and its sustainable future envisioned. It has shifted the governance and decision-making towards First Nations leadership and values in a way that strengthens Nations' stewardship capacity and economic development.

2016

The Marine Plan Partnership was signed between 17 First Nations and the Province of British Columbia, with the support of TNC, to implement marine spatial plans that advance ocean management, enhance coastal communities and recognize Indigenous rights in the Great Bear Sea.

2017

TNC started supporting technical support in the ongoing design process for marine protected areas, as well as support for stakeholder engagement and science coordination amongst First Nations, and provincial and federal governments.



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*The Nature Conservancy's Canada program has partnered with MaPP to support the implementation of the Great Bear Trust, which will provide bridge financing for the ground-breaking marine use planning initiative.*

**2017**  
 TNC initiated a partnership with the Central Coast indigenous Resource Alliance, Central Coast Commercial Fisheries Association and Ecotrust Canada to design an investment fund to shift fisheries-license ownership to local communities.

**2018**  
 TNC expanded its BC marine team, building expertise in marine planning and ecosystem-based ocean management.

**Seeing the Results of a United Approach**

As a marine program coordinator for one First Nation said during the annual MaPP funders meeting in Vancouver, “We decide amongst First Nations what data to collect and are making management decisions with BC and the federal government.” A director of a First Nations council added, “MaPP was the great equalizer ... We developed plans to show how to implement dreams.”

Those dreams are already having direct and positive impacts on marine management. Last year, many First Nations noticed a decline in kelp forest habitat—coupled with a two-fold increase in requests for permits to harvest kelp. A swift collaboration between the Coastal Guardian Watchmen, who were on the water collecting data, and Provincial aquatic harvest experts meant invaluable information could be gathered that is directly impacting decision-making around kelp management. The vast reach of these monitoring programs can’t be overstated: In the North Vancouver Island sub-region, the network of Coastal Guardians monitored over 800 linear kilometres of nearshore habitat, while nearly 250,000 acres of the North Coast were also monitored. These types of results are playing out across the region.



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## British Columbia's First Marine Protected Area Network

In addition to our continuing support of MaPP, Nature United is also supporting the creation of British Columbia's very first Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network through providing science, technical and communications support and expertise to the MPA Network's technical team.

Thanks to the support of our visionary donors, our work in the Great Bear Sea will continue and be supported by our investments in sustainable, locally-led fisheries that drive meaningful environmental, social and economic outcomes for local Indigenous and coastal communities. We will also be cultivating fisheries sector participation in the final MPA Network design, something that we know from our experience in marine protected area management around the world is critical for their lasting success.

(A) Seals in Clayoquot Sound © John Beatty. (B) SEAS student from the Kitasoo/Xai'Xais Nation. © Jason Houston (C) © Jason Houston (D) The Koeye River flows into the Great Bear Sea. © Mark Godfrey (E) SEAS students kayaking in the Great Bear Sea. © Jason Houston (F) Fishing boats in the Great Bear Sea. © Jon McCormack (G) A spirit bear enjoying a fishy meal in the Great Bear Sea. © Jon McCormack

## Making an Impact



**Jenn Burt**  
British Columbia  
Marine Lead,  
Canada program,  
The Nature Conservancy

This new role is a culmination of all the things I've done in my past—working at the Vancouver Aquarium, doing research at the University of British Columbia on the Fraser River's sockeye salmon, doing marine planning for CPAWS, and completing a PhD on kelp forest dynamics on BC coast through Simon Fraser University. I love being at the nexus of social and ecological systems, where marine ecology meets human communities.

Because of TNC's focus on communities and science, it seemed like a natural fit. I truly believe that in order to understand what's going on and effect change that is durable over time, you have to work at the local level with the people who are on the water and deeply connected to the resources.

My vision is to make waves in advancing sustainable oceans management. There's so much happening on the BC coast to get excited about, whether it's the implementation of the globally significant MaPP plans or ensuring that robust science informs a new MPA network. Just to be part of that—to have the opportunity to drive positive change—is exciting for me.

### 2020

TNC will continue to work with partners to support a BC Marine Protected Area Network, sustainable fisheries and First Nations values and leadership in marine management.

### Looking Ahead

Marine management in the Great Bear Sea enhances the health of ecosystems, fosters the sustainable harvest of marine resources, and supports thriving coastal communities and economies.





© Courtesy of Carolyn and Jack Long

# Maximizing Your Impact

**To broaden our reach and achieve results at scale, Canada needs champions.**

Carolyn and Jack Long have been guiding voices for conservation for nearly 30 years, with a passion that radiates far beyond their home of Texas. The Longs are challenging others to invest in conservation by offering a 1:1 match on qualifying gifts of \$50,000 to \$150,000. They have seen the potential Canada and Canadians have to offer the world and want their match to inspire new gifts over the next five years, helping us expand our presence as a conservation leader.

*We are now at a critical moment to amplify our conservation impact across Canada working in partnership with communities, governments, industries and others.*

*Our Conservation Champions have chosen to support TNC with gifts of \$10,000 or more and designate a portion to core funding, which fuels:*

## **Stability:**

*Steadying the ship so we can make long-term investments that matter*

## **Innovation:**

*Tapping into creative energy and new forms of partnership*

## **Responsiveness:**

*Responding to unexpected opportunities, as well as the needs of partners*

## **Leadership:**

*Unlocking potential and inspiring teams to respond strategically*

## **Growth:**

*Ensuring that we have the resources to act effectively and at scale*

## Why We Chose Canada

We believe Canada has the opportunity to set the bar for conservation in a way that balances the needs of people, industry, and the environment. It's a chance to work at scale, maximize enabling conditions, and share results with the rest of the world—which is why we've chosen to invest in Canada and TNC's proven approach to drive change.

## Making a Difference with Core Support

We want our support to go to the highest needs—including investing in the best people to do the work and to build the relationships that are critical to mission success.

We've been fans of The Nature Conservancy for over 40 years, and supporters for over 25 years, so it's easy for us to give unrestricted funding because we know and trust the organization. We know they'll put our gift to the best use possible.

## Amplifying Impact

Conservation is about connection: the birds you see in the Boreal Forest spend the winter in the Yucatan Peninsula. A global lens is one of the things that makes this organization so unique and effective. We can see how the tools and strategies developed in Canada will help inform conservation in places around the world.



Learn more about how you can maximize your conservation impact at [nature.org/canada](https://www.nature.org/canada)



Indigenous communities are intrinsically linked to the Great Bear Rainforest.  
© Jason Houston

# Thank you for Investing in People and Nature

*The following donors have made gifts, pledges, or pledge payments of \$1,000 or more to support our work in fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018).*

## \$500,000+

BHP Foundation \* †  
McCall MacBain Foundation †  
Craig & Susan McCaw Foundation \*  
Satter Family Foundation \*  
And 2 anonymous donors

## \$100,000-\$499,999

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## \$10,000-\$99,999

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R & J Stern Family Foundation  
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And 2 anonymous donors



## \$5,000-\$9,999

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 Dr. Charles Wheatley III and  
 Judith Wheatley \*  
 And 4 anonymous donors

\* Gifts made to The Nature Conservancy  
 in US dollars to support work in Canada

† Pledge Payment

‡ In-kind Gift

# United in Hope for the Future

*This has been a hopeful year for nature. Through our work, I've watched communities and industries work together to find common ground; Indigenous Guardians reclaim their responsibility for their lands and waters; world-leading agreements translate into results that benefit people and nature; and many different groups work together to achieve what none could do alone.*

*The hope I feel is embodied in the partnerships that are vital to every success we share in this report. And hope is infused in our integrated approach to conserving nature, strengthening local leadership and advancing sustainable development. Nature is the foundation of strong communities and a prosperous economy. And our approach benefits both, to build a viable future for Canada and the world.*

*Our donors are also valued partners in propelling our mission forward—they make it possible for TNC to be ambitious and responsive in these challenging times. Their trust and support is deeply felt by every member of our team.*

***Thank you to our donors, our partners and our team across Canada for all of your hard work in making this year a hopeful one for nature and people.***



**Hadley Archer**



## Thank you to our 2018 Board of Directors

### **Arlin Hackman, Board Chair**

Principal, BG&E Consulting Ltd.; former Vice President and Chief Conservation Officer, WWF-Canada

### **Florence Eastwood, Board Vice Chair**

Board Member, Lake Winnipeg Foundation; former educator

### **Shari Austin**

CEO, Century Initiative; former Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, RBC

### **Debbie Cervenka**

Consultant; Board Member of The Nature Conservancy's North American Advisory Group and Wisconsin Chapter; former co-owner of Phillips Plastics Corporation, USA

### **Toni Hardesty**

Pacific Northwest Division Director, The Nature Conservancy

### **John Honderich**

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### **Jess Housty**

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### **Peter Kendall,**

Executive Director, Schad Foundation; President, Earth Rangers

### **Avrim Lazar**

Consultant, policy and communications; former CEO, Forest Products Association of Canada

### **Doug Neasloss**

Elected Chief Councillor and Resource Stewardship Director, Kitsoo/Xai'xais First Nation

# The Nature Conservancy is the world's largest conservation organization.

*We unite partners in Indigenous and local communities, governments, industries and other groups to define new pathways towards a sustainable future; to advance reconciliation; and to conserve nature, the foundation of all life on Earth.*



[nature.org/canada](https://www.nature.org/canada)



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## GLOBAL STATS

72 countries

3,600 staff

400 scientists

1 million members

1,350 active volunteers