

April 23, 2019 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Government Announces \$100 million program for Conservation WHC is pleased to be a partner in the delivery of the Natural Heritage Conservation Program



On April 23, the Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), announced the launch of the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP). This program, which will be administered by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), will contribute \$100 million over the next four years to help provincial and national conservation organizations in establishing new protected and conserved areas on private land.



NCC will be working with conservation partners, including Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC), Ducks Unlimited Canada as well as a variety of regional and local land trusts represented by the Canadian Land Trust Working Group. The cumulative goal is to help secure private lands across Canada. This will help to achieve ECCC's Target 1 goal of protecting 17% of land and water by 2020, and roughly 200,000 hectares of private land.



As part of this initiative, WHC will provide grant administration services for the Land Trust portion of the program, which amounts to \$5 million per year. The work of Canada's Land Trusts on private land coincides directly with those landscapes at greatest risk of further development and fragmentation. This work significantly contributes to the protection of habitat and species at risk.

For 35 years WHC has managed and successfully delivered the grant program for the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp. This experience and established infrastructure will allow for the effective delivery of the Land Trust grant program, which will help to preserve Canada's natural heritage for future generations.

Wildlife Habitat Canada is a national, not-for-profit, non-governmental conservation organization established in 1984. Our objectives are to: 1) provide funding for wildlife conservation programs in Canada; 2) conserve, restore and enhance wildlife habitat; 3) foster coordination and leadership in the conservation community; and, 4) promote the conservation contributions of waterfowl hunters and encourage participation in waterfowl hunting.

Contact:

Andrew Rochon - Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Wildlife Habitat Canada
(613) 722-2090 ext. 200; arochon@whc.org