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Canada Nature Fund: Community- Nominated Priority Places for Species at Risk

Call for Proposals

Canada Nature Fund: Community-Nominated Priority Places for Species at Risk

Now Accepting Proposals

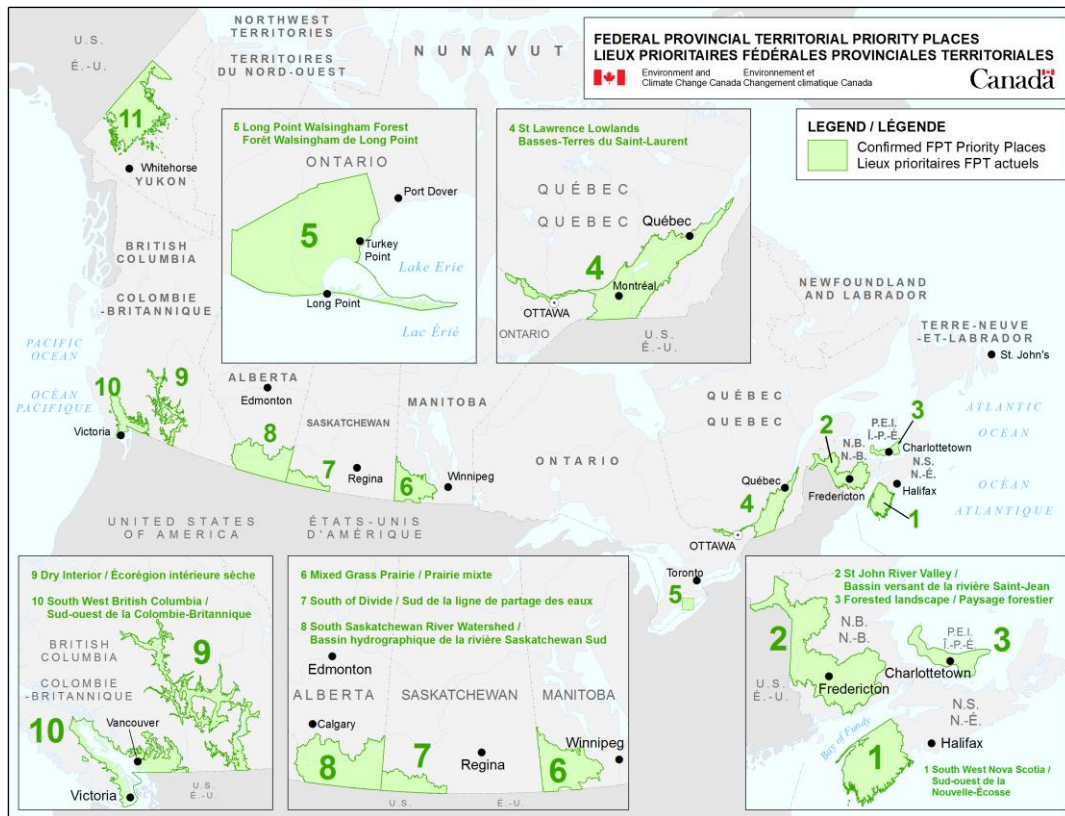
Canada Nature Fund: Community-Nominated Priority Places (CNPP) for Species at Risk is a 4-year (2019 to 2020 through 2022 to 2023) \$15.6 million funding initiative administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). CNPP is seeking joint proposals (lead applicant plus one or more partners) that:

- Identify defined priority places where there are opportunities to protect and recover multiple terrestrial species at risk listed under the *Species at Risk Act* and their habitat; and
- Implement coordinated, multi-partner conservation actions in these identified priority places.

Projects should result in a high return on investment and benefits to multiple species.

Federal, provincial, and territorial governments have selected 11 priority places to focus collaborative conservation action following the concept outlined in the [Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada¹](#). The map below shows the locations of these priority places.

¹ Quebec has not signed the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk and has its own Act on Threatened and Vulnerable Species. It actively collaborates with the federal government on the conservation of endangered species of common interest through the Canada-Quebec Agreement on Species at Risk. For example, Quebec does not participate in the development of Canada-wide policies and mechanisms for the conservation of species at risk, and as such, will not implement the proposed pan-Canadian approach. Quebec intends to work in complementarity with the federal government in setting priorities for the recovery of species in precarious situations, within already existing mechanisms.



Through CNPP, ECCC will expand on this initiative to fund similar types of projects in additional areas that are **not included** in these 11 priority places².

Examples of eligible places where an applicant could apply for funding under CNPP include the following:

Atlantic Region

- Coastal Beaches, Dunes and Marshes
- Limestone Barrens
- Boreal Forest (Labrador)
- Coastal Barrens and Arctic Tundra (Labrador)

Quebec Region

- Magdalen Islands
- Appalachian ecoregion
- Coastal area of the Lower North Shore

Ontario Region

- Bruce Peninsula
- Huron Fringe
- St. Clair Plains
- Iroquois Plain
- Pelee Island
- Eastern Georgian Bay

² If you are considering nominating a priority place near Long Point Walsingham Forest, please contact your CWS Ontario region contact for more information on boundaries

Prairie Region

- Tall Grass Prairie (Manitoba)

Pacific Region

- Ponderosa Pine biogeoclimatic zone (areas not already captured within the Dry Interior of BC Priority Place in the map above)
- Creston Valley

Northern Region

- Unglaciaded areas of central and northern Yukon, as well as adjacent areas in southwest Yukon with unique lowland habitats (grassland, riparian, old forest, dune, or saline flats habitats under 1000m) that now harbour Beringian endemic or disjunct species.

Applications for places not included in the above list are also welcome.

A priority place may be described as a defined geographic area of high biodiversity value with a recognizable ecological theme and social relevance that may be intuitively identified as a distinct “place” by the people that live there and manage its infrastructure and renewable and non-renewable natural resources. The size and boundaries of the nominated priority place should enable the effective conservation of species at risk and their habitats (e.g. biosphere reserves, small watersheds or sub-watersheds, ecosystems, regional district or municipal boundaries, etc.). A “community”, as used in the title of the funding initiative, refers to the partners (e.g. Indigenous peoples, non-profit and for-profit organizations, individual landowners, local governments) that are interested in working together to undertake action in the proposed priority place.

To make a collective impact within a priority place, partners should work together to develop a coordinated and integrated approach to identify and implement priority conservation actions. Adaptive management approaches such as the [Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation](#) may be used to guide the process, informed by species at risk recovery strategies, action plans, and management plans, if available.

In general, activities that could be implemented in an identified priority place could include the following:

- 1) Cooperative multi-species, ecosystem/area-based action planning
 - Develop goals, objectives, strategies, and project monitoring and implementation plans for selected conservation targets
 - Activities could include data collection, including Indigenous Knowledge, mapping, governance-building, stakeholder engagement, capacity building for the use of adaptive management tools
- 2) Implementation of planned actions
 - Implement on the ground recovery and protection actions (e.g. species management and restoration, species and habitat protection, habitat improvement, threat reduction)
- 3) Monitoring, analysis and evaluation
 - Gather and analyze project monitoring data and update monitoring plan (e.g. Are threats reduced? Are strategies effective?); adapt actions as needed.

In cases where applicants have already completed initial stages, such as action planning, proposals can focus on implementation and other subsequent stages. In order to achieve

conservation action on the ground quickly, it is recommended that projects do not allocate more than 50% of all funds requested in the first two years of the project (2019 to 2021) to planning activities. No funds should be allocated to planning activities in year 3 or 4 of a project.

Proposals for CNPP should address the following priorities:

- Contributes towards recovery of species at risk
- Advances partnerships and collaboration, including with Indigenous peoples
- Contributes to priority co-benefits (e.g. contribution to achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1³, provision of ecosystem services, climate change adaptation and mitigation, socio-economic benefits)

Elements of an example priority place proposal are included below for illustrative purposes (complete criteria are included in the application guide):

- Joint proposal demonstrates how partners from across the community will work together to achieve better outcomes for species at risk than could be achieved by working independently. The proposal includes:
 - Multiple species at risk listed under the *Species at Risk Act* (e.g. 8 species at risk), as well as migratory birds and other important wildlife (e.g. species known to be important to Indigenous peoples), being targeted for conservation actions
 - A sound understanding of the threats to biodiversity in the priority place and meaningful actions that would be taken to address them
 - A landscape-scale, but pragmatically-sized area where partners would be able to facilitate local coordination and site management and achieve results (e.g. 1000 km² watershed)
 - A plan that will begin to achieve significant and measurable conservation outcomes that are feasible within a reasonable timeframe (e.g. 5–10 years)

This call for proposals will be the first of two calls for proposals over the four years of the CNPP funding initiative. This first call for proposals targets projects in the first two years of the initiative (2019 to 2021), while the second call targets projects during the second two years of the initiative (2021 to 2023). Applicants have the option to submit proposals for three or four years (with requested funding ending no later than March 31, 2023), if they have the required information and commitment of matching funds to complete a fully costed application for those years.

It is anticipated that 13 community-nominated priority places (approximately 1 per province/territory) will be selected in the first call for proposals. Up to \$3.9 million is available to support projects in each year of the four years of funding. Federal contributions will be no more than \$500,000 per recipient per fiscal year of the funding agreement.

Joint proposals (i.e. lead applicant plus one or more partners) are required. It is expected that the lead applicant will be the sole recipient of funding and responsible for then distributing funding to the other partners.

³ Target 1 of Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets states that: *By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, are conserved through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.*

Interested applicants will need to meet the following eligibility requirement:

- Matching funding of at least 0.2:1 for Indigenous recipients from non-federal sources (\$0.20 confirmed match for each \$1 of federal funding) and at least 1:1 for other recipients from non-federal sources (\$1 confirmed match for each \$1 of federal funding). Match may include in-kind sources.

Timelines:

The CNPP Expression of Interest stage was launched on February 26, 2019.

Community -Nominated Priority Places for Species at Risk will be accepting Expressions of Interest until March 22, 2019 at ec.lpdc-cnpp.ec@canada.ca. The submission of an Expression of Interest is strongly encouraged, particularly for applicants who have not received Canada Nature Fund support or other ECCC funding in the past.

The web portal for submissions of Formal Proposals will open on March 14, 2019.

The deadline for the Formal Proposal submissions is April 26, 2019.

For more information or to discuss implications for your project, contact your regional CWS coordinator:

- Northern: Dawn Andrews (dawn.andrews@canada.ca)
- Pacific: Ivy Whitehorne (ivy.whitehorne@canada.ca)
- Prairie: Karl Zimmer (karl.zimmer@canada.ca)
- Ontario: Kim Laird (kim.laird@canada.ca)
- Québec: Pierre Aquin (pierre.aquin@canada.ca)
- Atlantic: Karen Potter (karen.potter@canada.ca)

Please refer to the [CNPP webpage](#) for additional information, guidance for Expressions of Interest, and other details on project eligibility.

The complete formal Proposal Guide and Application Form will be made available through the ECCC web portal called the Grants and Contributions Enterprise Management System (GCEMS) on **March 14, 2019**. More information regarding GCEMS will be posted to Canada's Nature Legacy webpage when available.

Thank you for your interest in Community-Nominated Priority Places for Species at Risk. We wish you the best in your proposal.