



VOICES FOR NATURE

Annual Report 2021-22

ENGAGE WITH NEARBY NATURE

Thanks to the support of our wonderful donors, we continue our work to address the growing disconnect between society and the environment. We do this by connecting people to Nature right where they live. **We call it the NatureHood program!**

This past year, NatureHood partners engaged 27,000 individuals, hosted hundreds of school and community groups and public events, and continued to create resources that ensure National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are appreciated and utilized by Canadians. **A big thanks from Nature Canada to all of our members and funders for their continued generosity!** You make it possible to connect thousands of school-aged kids with the magic of Nature.

“Get your children involved – let them restore habitat. Make it a family affair.”

Estelle, SK, Member since 2003



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“I believe access to Nature in any form is very important for our mental and physical health. Keep up the good work you are doing on everyone’s behalf.”

Sue, BC, Member since 2020



Gray Tree Frog



What a year for Nature!

Together with supporters like you, we are celebrating great strides to protect and restore the Nature we all cherish. Your tremendous support allows us to be a

voice for Nature across the country!

At Nature Canada we are working tirelessly to halt and reverse Nature loss. We’re defending important habitats and the endangered species that depend upon them. We’re championing Indigenous-led conservation efforts and working to protect our freshwater systems, forests, oceans and more. We’ve also helped secure big promises for Nature. Looking ahead our focus will be ensuring our governments keep their word and step up at this critical time.

In this update you will find some highlights of our work over the past year, which has only been possible because of your support and generosity. **Thank you!** We at Nature Canada hope that you feel as proud as we do to be part of this critically important work!

Yours for Nature,

Graham Saul
Executive Director



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"We (humans) ARE Nature. We're not somehow separated from Nature, Nature's health matters as much as that of our closest family and friends."

Marc, ON, Member since 2022

Moose

© Scott Rickett

INVESTING IN NATURE SOLUTIONS

Our planet currently faces two different environmental emergencies: climate change and mass extinction. At Nature Canada, **we hope that our supporters like you, who care deeply about the environment, are aware of the tremendous impact you have.** By supporting our work, you allow us to advocate on behalf of Nature and to restore and protect critical habitat. You are at the heart of the solution to halt and reverse Nature loss.

We recently coordinated tens of thousands of individuals and over 200 of our partner Nature organizations to sign a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau. The letter called for an overarching strategy about the federal government's commitment of \$4.1B to protect Nature. It asked to identify measurable actions towards recent election promises. In particular, we highlighted the need to restore degraded ecosystems, recognize Indigenous-led conservation and rights, and to promote urban biodiversity. **A big thanks to our wonderful supporters for helping to hold the federal government accountable to halt and reverse Nature loss!**



Talus Lake, YT

© Chris Beers

For example, we are also working hard to press the government to create a National Marine Conservation Area on Lake Ontario. This globally significant freshwater ecosystem is vulnerable to pollution, invasive species, and development. It is also home to hundreds of fish, birds, and plants, including 243 species at risk. These species don't have a voice, but **thanks to your support, Nature Canada is speaking for them loud and clear!**

We are feeling the heat! The Summer of 2022 was the hottest on record in many parts of the world. A healthy natural environment is not only critical for birds and other wildlife. It is also essential to defend against heat waves, droughts, wildfires and other climate-related events.

Protecting the world's forests is essential to avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. Canadian forests are the only place so many animals that we know and love, from huge moose to tiny tree frogs, have to call home. In addition to their critical importance to biodiversity, forests also play a vital role in global carbon regulation. Trees absorb and store about one third of human-caused carbon emissions from the atmosphere. When trees are cut down, that carbon is released back into the atmosphere — something we didn't understand all that long ago. That is part of the reason Nature Canada is working so hard to halt and reverse Nature loss. **A big thank you to our members and supporters who help to fund the important work we do related to keeping our forests standing!**



Chipmunk

© Hugues de Milleville

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS UPDATE

Thanks to supporters like you, we continue to work diligently at the federal level on a variety of fronts.

One big success story is our work to modernize and strengthen the Migratory Bird Convention Act — the oldest Nature law in Canada (1917). Over recent years, Nature Canada staff have strengthened the protection of birds as a result of those recommendations and advocacy work.

Did you know that Canada is home to 25 percent of the world's remaining intact forest? That represents a tremendous responsibility for us! **Thanks to your support, Nature Canada is hard at work to hold the logging industry accountable.** In 2022, we published a report that exposes some of the ugly truths about industrial logging. Clearcutters are taking out approximately 400,000 hectares of boreal forest every year, leading to the emission of as much greenhouse gas as the oil sands. We want to close the accounting loopholes that allow them off-the-hook. They should not be allowed to pretend to be carbon-neutral — that could not be further from the truth.

We're also working hard to protect Nature through proposed changes to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). We brought together Indigenous Peoples, scientists, anglers, and conservationists to develop recommendations that will help to keep wild species wild. They underline the need to protect Nature from genetically engineered (GE) species. We are getting close to tipping the political balance that will stop dangerous practices, such as the GE salmon now being raised on Prince Edward Island.

We appreciate your support tremendously, as we keep pressure on the federal government on all these fronts and more!

DEFENDING BIRDS AT RISK

In the last 50 years, North American bird populations have dropped by more than 25 percent. That number is not only alarming, it's heartbreaking. In 2021, Nature Canada put out a national call for help to protect our beloved hummingbirds, warblers and other feathered friends. We reached out to communities across the country to join the fast-growing list of Bird Friendly Cities. 17 municipalities have now earned that designation! This is a Nature Canada-built solution to the devastation our bird populations have suffered in recent decades. These communities are now actively protecting, monitoring and celebrating their local birds. They are creating safe havens to stop the rapid and steep decline in bird populations — including our many beloved songbirds. **Thanks to your support, our cities are becoming more bird-friendly than ever!**

Nature Canada works to protect birds in a variety of other ways as well. Field monitoring work and habitat protection across the country are at the core of our efforts. **Thanks to our amazing "Nature Network" — around 1,000 environmental and conservation organizations that we work with — we stand as a united front to protect birds and all Nature right across Canada!**

"There is no time to lose if we would like to have our grandchildren enjoy the Nature of our beautiful country. Please act before it is too late!"

Catharine, BC, Donor

© Paule Hjerstaas

Bobolink

