



Alliance of Canadian  
Land Trusts

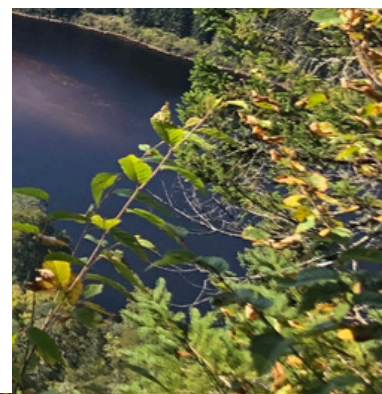
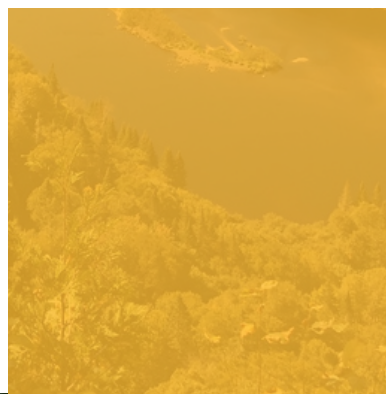
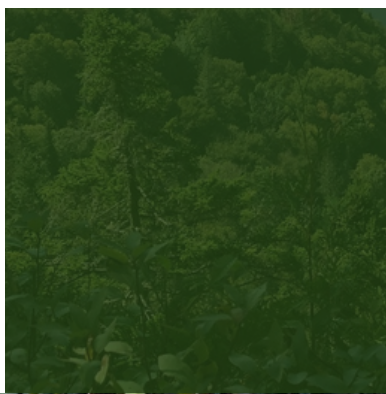
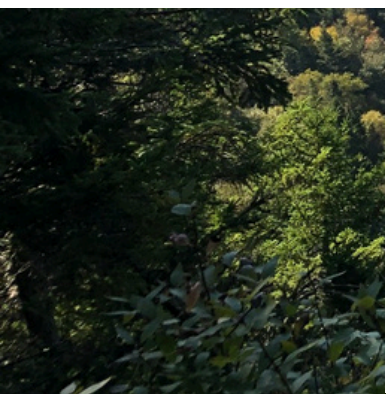
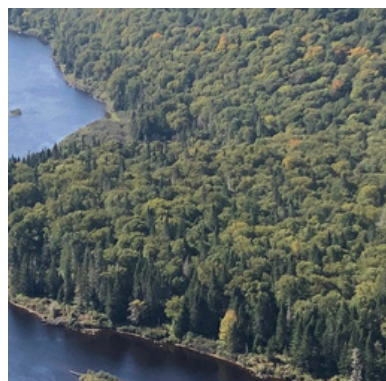
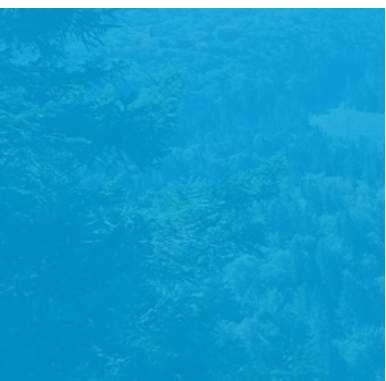
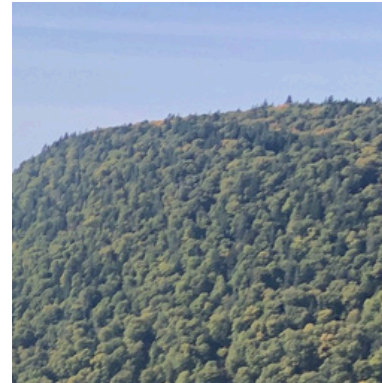


Alliance canadienne des  
organismes de conservation

# Annual Report

2023

Uniting Voices,  
Protecting Lands:  
Where Are We Now?



# The Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts (ACLT) represents 115 land trusts across Canada

## Our vision

Protecting nature through the stewardship and conservation of our most vital landscapes in communities across Canada.

## Our Mission

To support and empower land trusts across Canada to be vibrant, unified and effective in advancing land conservation.

## Our Theory of Change

If ACLT helps land trusts across Canada strengthen through finding a common voice and building capacity, then we will increase our visibility and capacity as a community and influence conservation in Canada, because we will be united, visible and vibrant.

## Conservation through Collaboration

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the ACLT, the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia, and the Réseau de milieux naturels protégés to ensure effective and unified collaboration across the country to support the critical work of land trusts in Canada.

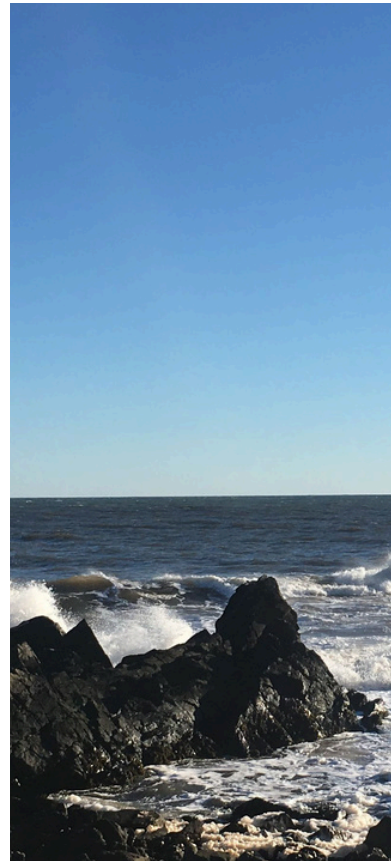
## Our Strategic Direction

### Goal 1: Organizational Health

Increase capacity, establish strong leadership & governance, and ensure the operational sustainability of the organization.

### Goal 2: National Leadership

Increase the visibility and the influence of land trusts in the national conservation movement.





## ACLT is now a Charity!

### Thank you.

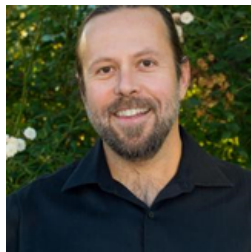
A Special General Meeting was held on August 29, 2023, where you voted to rename the ACLT with a bilingual name and update the organization’s purposes. On this day, with your help, we became a charitable organization.

## Our Board of Directors

Our first officially elected Board of Directors was established at the first ACLT AGM in November 2022. Key skills and areas of expertise include governance, legal, communications, fund development, and more.



**Brice Caillié**  
Québec



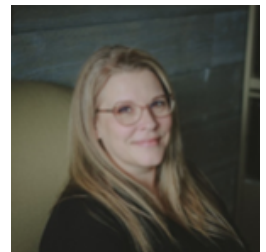
**Tim Ennis**  
British Columbia



**Max Fritz**  
Prairies



**Alison Howson**  
Ontario



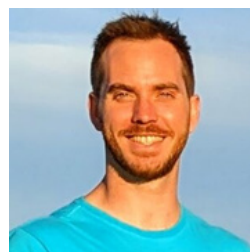
**Bianca McGregor**  
Atlantic Canada



**Bill Loughead**  
Member at large



**Paul McNair**  
British Columbia



**Joaquin Riesgo**  
Québec



**Gregory Wickware**  
Ontario

## Our Financial Health

The Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts 2023 **financial statements** can be found on our website.

## Your National Voice

The ACLT has travelled across the country, engaging with land trusts at regional conferences in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. Through these encounters, we've listened intently to ensure we can amplify their concerns and aspirations. As the national voice for land trusts, we've proudly been representing our community within the Green Budget Coalition to promote your important work to GBC partners and federal decision-makers as an essential component to achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework goals.



From left: Devon Earl, Alberta Wilderness Association; Senator Karen Sorenson; Renata Woodward, ACLT; Jordan Ignatiuc, Nature Saskatchewan

## Indigenous Relations Working Group

Established in January 2023 to develop recommendations on how we can operate and govern while meaningfully engaging with Indigenous peoples, apply an Indigenous lens on programs and leadership, and provide support to the land trust community at large in reconciliation. The group's complete and ongoing projects include ACLT's statement on Indigenous conservation and engagement; relationship-building with Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led land trusts; and the development of resources, guides, and training to support Indigenous-led conservation initiatives and established land trusts in fostering meaningful relationships.

## Land Trust Conservation Fund Working Group

ACLT has been working in collaboration with WHC, providing recommendations on the administration of the LTCF and offering presentations to WHC staff so that they may better understand your work, the complex nature of land holding, and the need for stable funding. We have also been advocating for a future for the LTCF beyond 2026



## ACLT's Ongoing Projects

### 1 Canadian Land Trusts Standards and Practices Online Tool

In collaboration with LTABC, OLTA, and RMN we have developed an online self-assessment tool to track your progress in accordance with the 2019 Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. Participating organizations will be encouraged to share their results and resources on this platform to foster an exchange of expertise and open a discussion on governance and operational best practices within our national network. Please contact us if you would like to participate.

### 2 Municipal Protected Areas Project

With our partners at Nature Canada, LTABC, and RMN, Wildlands League, Nature BC, and Nature Ontario we have conducted a survey of land trusts, laying the groundwork for informed advocacy efforts. We have also published a guide outlining Conservation Options for Municipalities. Currently, we are delving deeper into research on tax incentives across provinces and examples of meaningful Indigenous relations with municipalities.

### 3 GIS Capacity-Building

The ACLT is enhancing its GIS capacity to collect national-level data, focusing on vital conservation information. We are researching opportunities and barriers for land trusts to report protected areas to CPCAD, aiming for streamlined data integration. Recognizing the pivotal role of data in advocacy, we are committed to promoting land trusts' conservation work nationally.

### 4 Salesforce

ACLT has begun the process of implementing Salesforce as its CRM software. In tandem with organizing practices, this platform will be utilized to track critical data, engage people at a large scale, and facilitate collaboration, communication, and relationship-building across Canada.

### 5 Land Trust Starter Guide

This guide was developed by ACLT to gather critical information and resources to provide guidance for those considering starting a land trust in Canada.

### 6 Policy Development

In our strategic efforts to ensure ACLT's organizational health, we have begun developing critical operational policies such as our Governance policy, Financial Internal Controls policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, and Whistleblower Policy.



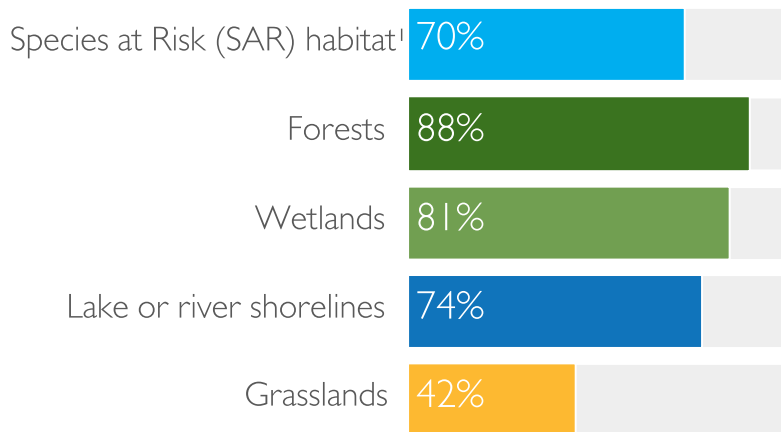
## ACLT National Survey of Land Trusts

In the fall of 2023, we conducted a national census survey of land trusts with the purpose of collecting baseline data about their properties and stewardship activities, memberships and volunteers, governance structures and human resources, funding and preferences for programs and tools. We invited 118 land trusts to complete a 44-question online bilingual survey, and nearly 73% replied. With this invaluable data in hand, we are better equipped and are actively working to support and accurately represent the Canadian land trust community to funders, governments and the general public.

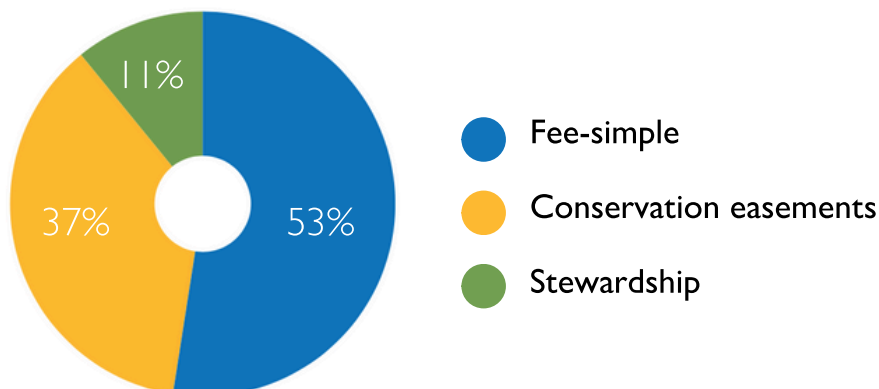
**In 2023, our land trust members helped conserve at least 218,000 ha and 3,800 properties**

**Land trusts conserved an average of 1,940 ha and 34 properties**

### Most common habitats conserved by land trusts:



### Land trust properties held or stewarded:



Online survey of land trusts operating in Canada and affiliated with the LTABC, OLTA and RMN. Data collected Sept.-Dec. 2023.  
<sup>1</sup> Federally or provincially designated SAR habitat.