

**2025 Canadian  
Land Trust Summit**

**Conservation through  
Communities**

**Sommet National des  
Organismes de Conservation 2025**

**Ensemble pour  
la conservation**



24 – 26 Nov  
Victoria  
Inn at Laurel  
Point

## FINAL PROGRAM

### MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER

8 AM – 12 PM

#### **MERINO** | Pre-Summit Indigenous Land Trust Session (by invitation only)

This opening session offers an opportunity for Indigenous Land Trusts and communities to connect, share experiences, and discuss their goals in advancing their conservation and community-driven work. Participants will reflect on key challenges facing Indigenous-led conservation efforts and identify topics to explore further during the Summit.

11 AM

#### **Registration**

1 – 1:30 PM

#### **SPIRIT** | Opening welcome and land acknowledgement

Guest Speaker: Victoria Mayor, Marianne Alto

1:30 – 4:40 PM (break at 3 PM)

#### **SPIRIT** | Reconciliation Workshop: *Journey of our Generation*

Elder Facilitation Team: Qwiyahwultuhw – Robert George, Teluxutstun – Raymond Tony Charlie, Silaat – Linda Modeste, Quw'utsun Cultural Connections Society

We invite everyone to join our reconciliation journey to learn the truth of our colonial history and the impacts it has had on Indigenous People and the land. During this workshop we will share

cultural teachings about living in reciprocal relationship with the land and the impact that colonial land policies have had and continue to have on First Nations communities.

Since 2006 here in Cowichan, the Quw'utsun Cultural Connections Elders have been sharing their stories, their history and their healing following the values of nuts'amaat shqaluwun, people working together with one heart, one mind, one spirit. As they remind us, the longest journey is from our head to our hearts. We each have much to learn along the way as we learn forgiveness, and the values found in kindness, expressed through love and guided by respect.

You will take a journey through time with stories of pre-contact village life, the arrival of settlers, the development of colonies and policies of colonization. Sit inside western systems and indigenous ways of being to experience the impacts, effects and changes brought about by colonization. Explore questions of how your work can support walking the journey of Q'shintul, together.

7 PM (doors open at 6:50)

#### **SPIRIT | Dinner**

Keynote Speaker: Senator Rosa Galvez

The Honourable Rosa Galvez is an environmental engineer, an independent senator at the Senate of Canada, and the President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change of ParlAmericas. She was a professor at Laval University in Québec for over 25 years and was Chair of its Civil and Water Engineering department from 2011 to 2016. She specializes in pollution control, water and wastewater treatment, municipal and hazardous waste, sustainable development, impact assessment and climate risk to infrastructure.

At the Senate of Canada, she is a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources and the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance. Since her appointment, she has published several policy papers including a discussion paper on Canada's building codes and a white paper on a clean and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2022, she published a white paper on Aligning Canadian Finance with Climate Commitments, which led to the introduction in the Senate of Bill S-243, the *Climate-Aligned Finance Act*, legislation to help guide Canada's financial sector in its transition to a net-zero economy. She was the recipient of the Clean50 Award 2021, the 2022 Ecological Society of America Regional Policy Award and the 2023 Top 25 Women of Influence Award for her parliamentary work on climate and the environment.

## TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

8 – 9 AM

### Breakfast

9 – 10:15 AM

#### **SPIRIT** | Presentation: **Land Trusts and Indigenous Partnerships**

Speakers: Katie Blake, (WSÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society), Jackie Ohayon (WSÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society), Erin Dann (Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta), Tiffani Harrison (Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta), Darran O'Leary (Passamaquoddy Recognition Group), Carli Le Roux (Nature Trust of New Brunswick), Rebecca Ellis (Conservation Manager, Edmonton and Area Land Trust), Gary Elaschuk Pruden (Conservation Coordinator, Edmonton and Area Land Trust) and Luke Wonneck (Treaty Land Sharing Network).

This session explores how land trusts (LTs) are building meaningful partnerships with Indigenous Peoples to support land stewardship, cultural resurgence, and Indigenous-led conservation. As LTs work to sustain ecologically and culturally significant lands, many are shifting toward models that honor Indigenous sovereignty, incorporate traditional knowledge, and return access or title to ancestral territories. Through shared stories and practical examples, the session highlights how these reciprocal relationships benefit both conservation goals and Indigenous communities, offering tools and insights for ethical, collaborative land care.

#### **MERINO** | Presentation: **Strengthening small water cycles to mitigate climate change**

Speakers: Rébecca Pétrin (Eau Secours)

Explore how restoring local water cycles and natural evapotranspiration can help cool communities and build resilience. This session will highlight practical ways to address heatwaves, drought, and erosion while supporting biodiversity.

#### Topics Covered:

- How the small water cycle works and the importance of water retention
- Impacts of human activities and land-use planning on this cycle
- The role of water-rich natural environments in climate regulation and other nature-based solutions.

10:15 – 10:45 AM

### Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

**SPIRIT** | Climate Resilience Panel: **From Local Actions to National Climate Resilience**

Speaker(s): Joaquín Riesgo (Fondation SÉTHY), Nico Muñoz (OLTA), Aaron Rusak (Georgian Bay Land Trust), Meghan Duell (The Couchiching Conservancy), Esteban Salcedo (Commission de coopération environnementale)

This panel will showcase strategies from regional initiatives that demonstrate how protected natural areas contribute to climate resilience. Speakers will explore practical tools, innovative approaches, and collaborative efforts that strengthen both local and national responses to climate challenges. Discover how conservation leadership, community partnerships, and forward-thinking policies can work together to buffer climate impacts.

Featured Topics:

- Preparing land trusts for climate change and extreme weather events
- Using road allowances as a tool for protection and mitigation
- Novel approaches to land conservation, including the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Program
- The SEM (Strategic Environmental Management) process as a citizen-driven tool for environmental enforcement.

**MERINO** | Presentation: **CEA Best Practices for Preventing and Managing Violations**

Speakers: Emily Little (Nature Conservancy of Canada), Meghan Duell (The Couchiching Conservancy), Shannon MacDonald (Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy), Tracey Moss (Nature Conservancy of Canada)

Through this interactive session, we will discuss lessons learned in the stewardship of Conservation Agreements and share strategies to improve stewardship policies and practices to help reduce risks and respond effectively to situations of non-compliance to come to a resolution.

Participants will learn:

- The overarching themes across Canada as they relate to CA stewardship – enabling conditions and opportunities for resolution
- How to tweak your approach to reports, site visits, and partnerships to maximize your CA stewardship efficiency
- Why you should develop a CA violation and enforcement policy – and how
- Approaches to training staff and volunteers to better prepare them for CA monitoring.

12 – 1:15 PM

**Lunch**

1:15 – 2:45 PM

**SPIRIT** | Panel: **Thriving through uncertain political times**

Speakers: Jennifer Miller Herzog (Land Trust Alliance), Jody Gunn (Australian Land Trust Conservation Alliance), Guy Greenaway (Corvus Centre for Conservation Policy), Dylan Rawlyk (Nature Canada)

In an era marked by shifting political landscapes and growing environmental challenges, how can land trusts not only survive but truly thrive? This dynamic panel brings together leading voices from alliances in Australia, the United States, and Canada to explore the power of advocacy in uncertain times.

Panelists will share real-world challenges, successes, lessons learned, and strategies that have enabled their organizations to drive meaningful change despite political headwinds. From building broad coalitions to leveraging grassroots momentum, this session will demonstrate how bold, persistent advocacy can influence policy and support nature even in moments of instability.

Whether you're navigating a turbulent policy environment or seeking inspiration to strengthen your own advocacy efforts, this discussion will offer practical insights, renewed motivation, and a reminder that collective action is more powerful than politics.

2:45 – 3:15 PM

**Break**

3:15 – 5:00 PM

**SPIRIT** | Workshop: **Advocacy in Action – Strategies, Messaging, and Mobilization for Land Trusts**

Speakers: Alison Howson (OLTA), Richelle Martin (ACLT-ACOC), Rachelle Dubois (Nature Canada), Dylan Rawlyk (Nature Canada)

This hands-on workshop will equip participants with the tools and confidence to plan and execute effective advocacy campaigns. Through real case studies, interactive exercises, and facilitated discussion, participants will explore:

- How is government structured
- How to get involved in lobbying efforts
- Strategies for engaging with policymakers and building bipartisan support
- Crafting compelling messages that resonate with decision-makers and the public
- Building alliances and grassroots networks to increase influence
- Navigating legal boundaries and nonprofit advocacy rules (especially for land trusts)
- Participants will leave inspired to join lobbying efforts.

**MERINO** | Presentation: **Integrative Conservation of Working Lands**

Speakers: Justin Thompson (Southern Alberta Land Trust), Laurie Marchand (Appalachian Corridor), Christine Schmalz (Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust)

Working lands play a vital role in conservation – not only sustaining valuable landscapes that provide for human needs, but also through preserving biodiversity, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and the provision of ecosystem services. In this presentation, panelists will bring perspectives from different provinces and diverse working lands – from ranchlands to farmlands to forests. Learn about the work they do, emerging issues and trends, and strategies and opportunities for conserving working lands.

5:15 – 6:30 PM

**Explore Victoria**

5 – 7 PM

**SPIRIT** | Land Trust Forum: **Alliances and Land Trusts Planning for the Future**

We want to hear from you! Join us for a Members' Forum, with the representatives from the Alliances while helping to shape ACLT's new strategic plan. This will be an open and engaging conversation about our collective ambitions, the challenges you face, and the opportunities ahead. We will serve pizza and drinks!

7 PM

**MERINO** | **Film Screening:** *Snkmíp Dig Deeper* Feature Film

Introduced by Lorna Visser, Valhalla Foundation for Ecology and Robin Annschild, wetland restoration expert and president of Rewilding Water & Earth Inc.

With multiple laurels from film festivals and a multitude of packed screening events, it's clear that *Snk'mip Dig Deeper* is a fan favourite. Don't miss your chance to see this documentary film produced by the Autonomous Sinixt and the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology.

In a beautiful area of rural BC, a land-trust organization embarks on a mission to restore a wetland, only to uncover an extraordinary surprise: the site is an ancient Indigenous village. This documentary challenges the settler constructs of history, land, and power.

## WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

8 – 9 AM

### Breakfast

9 – 10 AM

#### **SPIRIT** | Closing Keynote

Karla Point, Pathways to Reconciliation

Karla Point *Hii nulth tsa kaa* is the Indigenous Resurgence Coordinator for the University of Victoria Faculty of Fine Arts. She guides the Faculty's responses to the TRC Calls to Action, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the provincial Declaration on the *Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) Action Plan.

Karla also develops and delivers faculty-wide workshops that gives insights on decolonizing teaching and curriculum, and integrates Indigenous Resurgence initiatives for the Fine Arts faculty and staff.

She consults with Indigenous staff, faculty, local Elders and other knowledge holders when necessary, while also providing support and advocacy for Fine Arts Indigenous Students.

Part of the Hesquiaht First Nation, Karla is a life-long learner and UVic alumna with a BA (Humanities, 2003) and LL.B (Law, 2006).

10 – 10:15 AM

### Break

10:15 – 11:45 AM

#### **SPIRIT** | Presentation: **Innovations in Conservation**

Speakers: Mike Hendren (Ontario Conservation Accelerator), Guy Greenway (Corvus Centre and LTCF Working Group), Christine Drake (Parks Canada), Doug Makaroff (Living Forests Trust), Debra Morse (Living Forests Trust)

Land trusts have traditionally partnered with governments, foundations and donors to secure land – hear how new and innovative models are evolving and how their leadership and support can work alongside your land trust.

**MERINO** | Presentation: **Compliance Countdown: Eight hot topics in eight minutes each**  
Speakers: Paul Peterson (Lawyer, private practice), Lara Ellis (Centre for Land Conservation), Margaret Sasges (Camas Law)

In this fast-paced session, we will hear presentations from multiple speakers on topics related to the responsibilities of land trusts from a legal perspective and in relation to the Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices. You will learn about:

- Conservation agreement and covenant amendments, updates and enforcement
- EGP change in use and dispositions – tax risk to land trusts
- Holding land subject to trust conditions – Provincial legislation ON and BC
- Charitable receipting and appraisal pitfalls
- Beware private benefits, advantages
- Income Tax Act amendments and updates – qualifying disbursements and asset dispositions
- Lessons from land trust certifications
- Updates on supporting land trust capacity and insurance.

12 PM

**SPIRIT** | Farewell Remarks and Thanks

