



Ontario Land Trust Alliance celebrates massive commitment to land conservation in Budget 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2018

Toronto, ON

[The Ontario Land Trust Alliance](#) (OLTA) was impressed with the 2018 budget announcement, which affirms Canada's commitment to the international goal of protecting 17 per cent of its land and fresh water by 2020.

A federal commitment of \$1.3 billion over five years to support land conservation will accelerate the protection of biodiversity and vibrant natural areas from coast to coast. Canada's community land trusts have already protected over 250,000 acres (101,000 hectares) of some of Canada's most ecologically significant land, including 85,000 acres (34,000 hectares) across Ontario. These conservation efforts have provided protection for over 90 federally-listed species at risk. With government support, land trusts are poised to nearly double this amount within the next five years, protecting a potential 70,000 additional acres (28,000 hectares) of critical habitat in Ontario.

In particular, OLTA was pleased to see the importance of private land conservation recognized in the budget. The government's contribution of \$500 million towards a \$1-billion Nature Fund is encouraging for Ontario land trusts and conservation groups throughout the province. This commitment to conservation will directly protect Ontario lands and waters, providing a bright future for a variety of significant species that inhabit these spaces.

"I would like to congratulate the federal government for engaging with the issues around land conservation and stepping up to help us all meet our 2020 biodiversity targets. The support and leadership shown by the Canadian government will help community and regional land trusts of all sizes to provide big wins for biodiversity across Canada." – Alison Howson, Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Ontario Land Trust Alliance promotes excellence in land conservation. OLTA promotes land conservation by providing professional training and assistance, administering funds to support land securement, promoting organizational excellence and representing the collective voice of land trusts.

OLTA represents the network of land trusts across Ontario. Land trusts are community based, non-profit organizations primarily focused on protecting significant natural landscapes for future generations.

Media contact:

Alison Howson

Executive Director, OLTA

416-588-6582

alison.howson@olta.ca