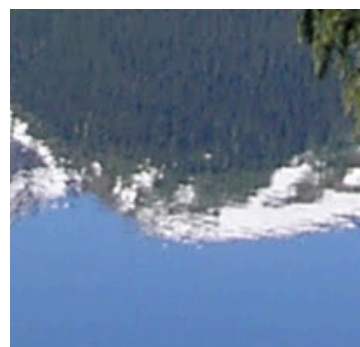
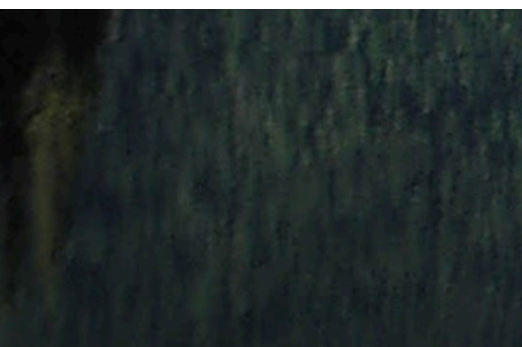
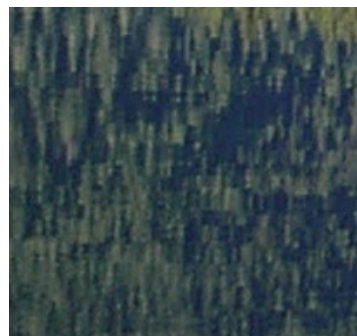
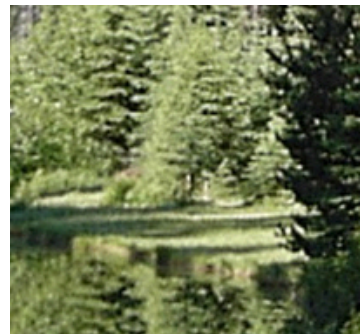
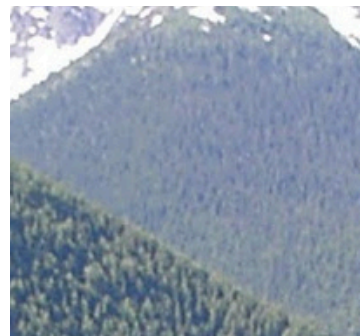


# 2025 Federal Engagement Toolkit for Land Trusts



## Land Trust Leaders and Friends,

Canadians are united in their commitment to conserve what defines us, our unique natural heritage. As stewards of Canada's lands and ecosystems, your role is vital to preserving this legacy.

With a new federal government, now is the time to act. This is a **critical opportunity to highlight the importance of conservation efforts**—not just for our ecosystems, but for the health of our lands, waters, and communities. The new federal government offers a chance to emphasize the role of land trusts in achieving Canada's ecological goals and contributing to both national and international conservation targets.

Since the election, ACLT has engaged with bureaucrats and MPs to demonstrate how land trust projects align with federal priorities, particularly those in the Prime Minister's environmental plan, which focuses on wildlife, biodiversity, Indigenous-led conservation, and global leadership in nature protection. To amplify our message, it is crucial that land trusts engage MPs and showcase the lands in their care.

We are reaching out today to highlight the urgency of this effort and invite your active participation. Specifically, we ask you to:

- 1. Sign a collective letter advocating for federal funding streams that are suitable for the land trust sector.** (see page 3)
- 2. Connect with elected officials and invite their support.** (see page 5)
- 3. Submit a letter to pre-budget consultation and encourage your supporters to do the same.** (see page 8)

This guide will provide you with tools to engage with your MP and amplify the land trust sector nationally.

**The commitments made by our government now directly impact the success of our work tomorrow.**

We are grateful for your leadership in this vital cause,

Renata Woodward  
Executive Director  
Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts

## Action 1: Join in Advocating for Federal Funding Streams

ACLT is advocating nationally to redesign and secure new funding streams to support local and regional land trusts like yours—whose work is critical to achieving Canada’s conservation targets.

Last year, 87 land trusts signed on to highlight the work and needs of the land trust sector and their voices were heard in Parliament. **Signing this letter for the new government is vital.** It shows the government that these priorities reflect the collective voice of Canada’s land trust community and ensures ACLT can represent your interests in program design and decisions.

As a land trust sector, we are asking the federal government to:

**1. Renew, Expand, and Enhance the Natural Heritage Conservation Program**

**2. Establish a Canada Conservation Investment Fund (CCIF)**

Please see **ACLT’s Brief** ([here](#)) and the **joint NCC / DUC / WHC / ACLT brief** ([here](#)).

The land trust sector’s asks of the federal government are expanded upon in the letter below.

**Please contact [ACLT](#) to add your signature to the letter, or confirm re-signing.**

## Collective Sign-On Letter for Land Trusts

**Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,**

Canada’s natural heritage faces growing threats—from climate change and biodiversity loss to increasing development pressures and global demand on our land and water. In this critical time, we commend the federal government’s leadership and ambition in advancing nature protection and climate resilience for future generations.

The conservation priorities outlined in Mark Carney’s platform—including the creation of new national and urban parks, support for Indigenous-led conservation, nature-based climate solutions, and international environmental leadership—are bold and necessary. These goals cannot be achieved without strong, coordinated action on privately held lands, particularly in the southern landscapes of Canada, where most Canadians live, where local and regional land trusts are uniquely positioned to lead, and where biodiversity faces the greatest threats.



Local and regional land trusts are united in urging the Government of Canada to strengthen its investment for nature conservation through the following initiatives:

## **1. Renew, Expand, and Enhance the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP):**

We recommend renewing the NHCP for **\$250 million over five years**, matched by **\$250 million from other sources**, and renaming it to **Canadian Nature Protection Fund (CNPF)**.

- As part of this renewal, we propose that the **Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts (ACLT)** be endorsed as the national representative and administrator for local and regional land trusts through the CNPF's **Land Trust Conservation Fund (LTCF)**.

This enhanced structure will accelerate the program's outcomes—expanding protected areas, restoring degraded landscapes, safeguarding species at risk, strengthening climate adaptation, improving land management, and leveraging private investment.

## **2. Establish a Canada Conservation Investment Fund (CCIF):**

We propose the creation of a **\$150 million endowment fund** to provide a long-term, sustainable funding stream to support the stewardship and management of conserved lands by local and regional land trusts.

The CCIF would ensure the enduring care of Canada's privately conserved areas, while encouraging private sector participation in conservation finance. This fund would also enhance sector capacity, create and retain jobs, and support the growth, diversity, and long-term sustainability of the land trust community. The model could draw inspiration from existing endowment structures and be administered either by the Government of Canada or the ACLT.

These proposals align directly with Canada's stated nature goals—advancing nature conservation and stewardship, safeguarding local ecosystems, and fostering meaningful connections between Canadians and the natural landscapes that define our identity. At the same time, they address long-standing gaps in support for private land conservation, particularly at the community level. By investing in local and regional land trusts, the Government of Canada can catalyze one of the most effective strategies for conservation success—ensuring that nature protection is not only a national commitment but a locally driven, legacy.

**Sincerely,**

**[Land trust signatories + organization logos]**



## Action 2: Speak With Your Member of Parliament

We need the federal government to **hear directly from you**, the leaders of the land trust sector, as well as from the **Members of Parliament** (MPs).

We're asking you to **meet with your MP** and encourage them to express their support to key ministers, caucuses and committees.

There are several ways to do this

- request a meeting, which can be easily arranged at their constituency office
- invite your MP to visit your office or one of the lands in your care
- request the help of one of the alliances in setting up this meeting

Taking your MP for a walk, meeting at your office, or arranging a casual visit is a **proven, effective strategy**. During the meeting, discuss what you are doing in their riding, what is the national strategy through ACLT and how it advance your organization. (see **suggested discussion points** on page 7).

To make this process easier, we've included **helpful tools** in the pages following.

- Example timeline: page 6
- Discussion points: page 7
- Template letters: page 7

Please connect with ACLT or your provincial alliance if you need any assistance.

- **ACLT:** Renata Woodward | [info@acoc.ca](mailto:info@acoc.ca)
- **OLTA:** Alison Howson | [Alison.Howson@olta.ca](mailto:Alison.Howson@olta.ca)
- **LTABC:** Paul McNair | [Paul@ltabc.ca](mailto:Paul@ltabc.ca)
- **RMN:** Brice Caillié | [Brice.Caillie@rmnat.org](mailto:Brice.Caillie@rmnat.org)

## Meeting with Your MP – Suggested Timeline

### Start Here

#### Initial Contact:

- Send a letter or email to your MP requesting a meeting ([template here](#)).
- Click [this link](#) to learn more about your MP and for their contact information or contact us and we can arrange your meeting.

#### Follow-Up:

- If you have not heard back within a week, follow up with a phone call.

### Before Your Meeting

#### Preparation:

- Research your MP's history with your organization: outcomes of previous meetings, their conservation stance, and their priorities within your riding.
- Confirm the meeting details.
- Assemble a briefing about your organization and your significant conservation work. Also include [ACLT's Brief \(here\)](#) and the [joint NHCP Brief \(here\)](#).
- Download and customize ACLT's [PowerPoint Presentation for MPs \(here\)](#) to have for the meeting.
- Let ACLT and/or your regional alliance know about your meeting.

### During Your Meeting

#### Meeting Attendance:

- Plan to have 2-3 land trust representatives at the meeting who are prepared to discuss your organization's meaningful accomplishments. Alongside yourself, you might invite a board member, an influential volunteer, a donor, a representative from ACLT and/or your provincial alliance.

#### During Your Meeting:

- Emphasize your organization's dedication to conservation and your work in the riding.
- Talk about the importance of the federal programs proposed in the ACLT brief (NHCP and CICF) and the importance of ACLT becoming signatory on the NHCP-LTCF portion to represent the interest of the local and regional land trusts.

### After Your Meeting

#### Follow-Up:

- Send a thank you email to your MP that summarizes key points discussed ([template here](#)). Ask them whether they are willing to take actions such as speak about this issue at their caucus meeting, speak with the ministers or committees.
- Let the ACLT and your regional alliance know how the meeting went.

## Meeting with Your MP – Suggested Discussion Points



**Introduction:** Start by introducing yourself and your organization. If meeting on a property your organization protects, provide a brief overview of the property, explaining why this area was chosen for the meeting and its significance.



**Community Connection:** Emphasize the vital role that land trusts play within your riding's communities, highlighting their benefits and the need for continued support.



**Advancing Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions:** Outline the key efforts your organization has undertaken to meet Canada's nature targets, underscoring your group's commitment and progress.



**Federal Funding Successes and Future Plans:** If your organization has previously received funding from the NHCP-LTCF, discuss its impact and the positive changes as a result. Explain the national efforts to renew, expand, and enhance the NHCP-LTCF and create the \$150M Canada Conservation Fund.. Highlight the work your group would be able to accomplish should these changes occur.



**Local Projects Needing Attention:** Highlight specific land conservation and stewardship projects within your riding that require attention, detailing the potential benefits and the urgency.



**Action Items for Your MP:** Request that your MP speaks with ministers and fellow MPs at caucus and committee meetings. Would they consider to use our issue in their private bill?



**Closing Thanks:** Thank your MP for their time and express your intention to follow up on the action items discussed to ensure momentum.



**Snap a Photo:** Conclude your meeting by taking a photo with your MP to post on your organization's social media platforms, tagging ACLT and your regional land trust alliance. This serves to document the visit and holds your MP accountable for following up on the discussed points.

## Action 3: Make a submission to the finance committee

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To secure funding for land trusts in the coming federal budget, we have prepared a [template letter \(here\)](#) to the Minister of Finance. **Before August 28<sup>th</sup> 2025**, please send a letter to pre-budget consultation and encourage your supporters to do the same. Once customized, the letter of support can be **submitted by email** to [yourbudget-votrebudget@fin.gc.ca](mailto:yourbudget-votrebudget@fin.gc.ca) copying in your local MP.

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**Thank you** for your dedicated efforts to protect Canada's natural heritage and for your commitment to securing sustainable funding for land trusts. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact us at any time.

**Renata Woodward**  
**Executive Director**  
**Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts**



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