



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities Tackling Climate Change with \$9M in Federal Funding

NEWMARKET (July 28, 2021) Conservation Ontario is receiving \$9 million over three years to support conservation authorities to use their watershed management expertise to implement nature-based solutions to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and restore and protect wetlands, riparian areas, grasslands and other lands across Ontario to address climate change impacts.

Projects will create jobs and be delivered by the conservation authorities in partnership with municipalities, other environmental agencies, landowners, Indigenous communities, community stewardship groups and land trusts. Work on the projects starts this year and continue for three years.

“We’re grateful to be supported by Environment and Climate Change Canada to do this important work,” said Andy Mitchell, Chair of Conservation Ontario, the association which represents the network of 36 conservation authorities. Conservation authorities are local watershed management organizations located throughout the province. They protect people and property from flooding as well as deliver a wide range of watershed management programs that contribute to a healthy environment and people.

“We’re all feeling climate change impacts on a regular basis these days and it’s very gratifying to see that Federal Government want to work with conservation authorities to address them”, said Mr. Mitchell.

These initiatives will deliver multiple different types of nature-based solutions such as restoration and conservation of grasslands, wetlands, riparian areas as well as enhanced land management practices that will increase carbon sequestration.

The projects will also protect and restore habitat for wildlife and species at risk contributing to Canada’s biodiversity conservation as a whole.

The projects provides a number of co-benefits for the environment, economy and human well-being, such as:

- The restoration and improved management of critical habitat for federally listed species at risk;

- The restoration and improved management of habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife;
- Improved livestock health and, potentially, producer financial returns resulting from higher quantity of forage, or quality of water, for cattle;
- Improved flood control resulting from the restoration and improved management of wetlands and riparian areas in disturbed landscapes;
- Land management that facilitates climate change adaptation; and
- Improved access to natural and semi-natural ecosystems for cultural practices, nature appreciation and recreational activities, including hunting, fishing and other gathering and foraging activities.

About Nature Smart Climate Solutions

The [Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund \(NSCSF\)](#) is a \$631 million, ten year fund to support projects that restore and enhance wetlands, peatlands, and grasslands to store and capture carbon. It is part of the Federal government's Natural Climate Solutions which also targets tree planting and support for agriculture.

NSCSF activities are geared to sequester carbon: restore degraded ecosystems; improve land management practices, and conserve carbon-rich ecosystems at high risk of conversion to other uses that would release their stored carbon.

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About Conservation Ontario

[Conservation Ontario](#) is a non-profit association that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. [Conservation Authorities](#) are community-based watershed management agencies, whose mandate is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding, and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social and environmental benefits. Conservation Authorities are legislated under the *Conservation Authorities Act, 1946*.

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