



# Media Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Conservation Ontario Welcomes New \$9.6 Million Federal-Provincial Investment Supporting Resilient Agricultural Landscapes**

**NEWMARKET, ON (September 22, 2025)** Conservation Ontario is pleased to welcome the announcement of an additional \$9.6 million in funding from the governments of Canada and Ontario under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) to support the continued delivery of the Marginal Lands Initiative through the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP).

With this investment, Conservation Ontario is collaborating with 16 partner organizations to help farmers create or enhance natural features such as wetlands, tree plantings, and riparian and pollinator habitats on marginal agricultural lands across the province. These features contribute to improved soil health, increased biodiversity, enhanced water quality, and long-term carbon storage – all while improving the resilience of farmland to climate extremes.

The program connects farmers to technical and financial support through organizations that can make it easier to carry out large-scale environmental projects on their land, including carbon sequestering and reducing emissions.

“Through this investment, we’re helping farmers access the tools they need to adopt sustainable land management practices that benefit both the environment and their bottom line,” said the Honourable Heath MacDonald, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. “This funding will enhance natural infrastructure on marginal lands and build a more resilient future for farmers here in the province.”

“Our government is pleased to provide this additional support to our farmers to boost sustainability, making their lands healthier, more productive and more resilient. The Marginal Lands Initiative adds to our many Grow Ontario efforts to build this sector and to help farmers manage challenges to their businesses that are out of their control,” said Trevor Jones, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness.

“Conservation Ontario is proud to work with the Province of Ontario and local partners on this project. Together, we’re helping farmers across the province take on environmental projects that support their farms and protect the land—both important for Ontario’s future and economy,” said Dave Barton, Chair of Conservation Ontario and Mayor of Uxbridge.

This renewed funding brings the total investment in the Marginal Lands Initiative to \$21.6 million and builds on Conservation Ontario's ongoing efforts to support sustainable agriculture and integrated watershed management.

Another Request for Proposals will be launched on September 22, 2025. Learn more at <https://conservationontario.ca/policy-priorities/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program>.

"We're proud to work alongside farmers who are taking proactive steps to make their land more sustainable and more productive," said Angela Coleman, General Manager of Conservation Ontario. "With this new support from the federal and provincial governments, we can continue to help farmers protect vital natural systems while strengthening Ontario's food supply chain."

### **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*.

### **About the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership**

The [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#) is a 5-year, \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

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