House of Commons
Chambre des communes
Canada

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** The Nature Conservancy of Canada

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Energy and the environment

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) proposes that the Natural Areas Conservation Program – a public-private partnership with the Government of Canada – be renewed in the 2014 Budget at an investment level similar to that of 2007, adjusted for inflation. Based on the success of the program to date, a renewed Government of Canada commitment of $250 million over 5 years would be expected to yield more than $700 million in NEW conservation, covering another 800,000 acres (3,200 square kilometres) of natural habitat.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$100 million -$499.9 million

5 or more years

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

From spring 2007 through 2013, the federal government provided a total of $225 million in funding to the Natural Areas Conservation Program (NACP). An additional $20 million was allocated to the NACP in Economic Action Plan 2013. This investment by the Government of Canada is the largest commitment by any Canadian government to the conservation of natural spaces through the protection of private lands.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

•All Canadians benefit from the NACP. Our conservation work is carried out from coast to coast.
•Canadian urban centres benefit from accessible natural spaces. NCC focuses on conservation projects located in southern Canada's most important natural landscapes.
•Our conservation efforts provide habitat for more than 140 species at risk.
•Canadian taxpayers benefit from this investment because NCC brings together private and public sector contributions to create added value.
•The NACP supports the Government of Canada in meeting its conservation objectives in a cost-effective manner.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

A renewed Natural Areas Conservation Program would:
•Build on the government's record of establishing and expanding parks and protected areas, and conserving important areas in Canada's working landscapes.
•Deliver another 800,000 acres of conserved land.
•Continue to leverage Government of Canada funding with cash and land donations from other sources.
•Implement critical stewardship actions to conserve species at risk and biodiversity on more than 1.5 million acres (6,400 square kilometres) of land.
•Protect valuable natural goods and services, such as clean air and water.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

Please select from the drop down menu

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

Please select from the drop down menu

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

At the Nature Conservancy of Canada, we believe it is possible to realize the goal of sustained economic growth while conserving our natural heritage and our working landscapes. In fact, we believe that the two are inextricably linked.

Through the Natural Areas Conservation Program (NACP), the Nature Conservancy of Canada engages in conservation projects that are the result of negotiated, win-win arrangements with willing landowners. The NACP represents the largest commitment by any Canadian government to the conservation of natural spaces through the protection of private lands.

The original objective of the NACP - conserving at least 500,000 acres of ecologically and nationally significant land - has been surpassed with over 875,000 acres secured over the length of the first phase of the program, with habitat for more than 140 species at risk protected.

The initial $225 million investment by the Government of Canada was leveraged to produce more than $600 million in funds and donated land. This unique public-private partnership has encouraged the collaboration of provincial governments, communities, corporations, and conservation partners including 17 local land trusts. It has delivered tangible benefits for nature, and all Canadians.

In 2012, the Natural Areas Conservation Program was evaluated per the terms of the agreement between the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the federal government. The independent evaluation determined that the NACP had been managed effectively and efficiently. Virtually all outcomes of the program were achieved. The NACP has delivered value for money, value for nature, and value for Canadians. For all its success, the evaluators determined that there is a continued need for a program that engages in private land conservation, particularly in southern Canada.

In 2013, the Nature Conservancy of Canada was pleased to receive an extension of the NACP with an additional $20 million investment announced in Budget 2013-2014. Along with its continued commitment to the NACP, the Government of Canada repeated its pledge to develop a National Conservation Plan. The Nature Conservancy of Canada recommends that a renewed NACP be a substantial part of a National Conservation Plan, with sustained and enhanced funding to carry out conservation action on the private landscape.

The NACP offers a cost-effective way to protect the environment as the federal government returns to fiscal balance. Other levels of government, communities and the private sector are being successfully engaged in contributing voluntarily to this unique public-private partnership.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada would like to extend an invitation to members of the Standing Committee on Finance to visit one of the tremendous sites protected by the Nature Conservancy of Canada under the Natural Areas Conversation Program. It’s a great opportunity to see the immense success of the NACP in yielding results you can walk on.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided