



PATH

TO

WHAT'S NEXT

PARKS AND PROTECTED
AREAS TO 2020 AND BEYOND

 **CPAWS**
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY

FIND THE FULL REPORT AT
[CPAWS.ORG/PARKS-REPORT](https://cpaws.org/parks-report)

2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CANADA'S PATH TO 2020



East Arm of Great Slave Lake, NWT.

Photo: Bob Wilson



We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis. Around the globe, people are waking up to the realization that we are losing wildlife at an alarming rate — including right here in Canada.

Canada has a unique opportunity to address this challenge. As part of the UN's *Convention on Biological Diversity*, Canada pledged to take action to safeguard biodiversity. One of Canada's promises is to achieve at least 17% protection of the country's lands and inland waters by 2020, and to improve the quality of our protected area systems.

Burrowing owl, BC.

Photo: Flickr, Passerine

Can our country achieve 17% protection of our lands and freshwaters in 2 years, and then plan for the longer-term work needed to reverse the catastrophic and ongoing decline in nature?

The answer is YES.



Diverse voices across the country are now calling for action on protected areas, and momentum is growing. With 2020 right around the corner, people are asking, “can Canada do this?” Can our country achieve 17% protection of our lands and freshwaters in 2 years, and then plan for the longer-term work needed to reverse the catastrophic and ongoing decline in nature?

The answer is YES. Thanks in part to the support of the federal government’s Budget 2018 commitment of \$1.3 billion for nature conservation, there is an unprecedented opportunity for Canada to safeguard nature in the spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous governments and public governments, and between all Canadians and nature.

Peel Watershed, YT.

Photo: © Peter Mather



CPAWS Recommendations: The Path to 2020

With 90% of Canada's land and all our waters managed by federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments, CPAWS is challenging governments to work together and take advantage of the growing momentum and support for conservation.



Our recommendations are that federal, provincial, and territorial governments:

- 1 Demonstrate their commitment by publicly announcing the areas they intend to protect by 2020 to contribute to meeting the target. These areas should, to the greatest degree possible, be representative, connected, and effectively managed for the conservation of biodiversity;
- 2 Develop a science and Indigenous knowledge-based plan by 2020 for completing an effective network of interconnected protected areas that will act as a foundation for conserving nature in the face of climate change;
- 3 Make a clear commitment to adhere to recognized standards for the protection of nature, including those developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas;
- 4 Ensure conservation funding from federal Budget 2018 is allocated primarily to support the creation of new protected areas by federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments and other partners; and
- 5 Collaborate with Indigenous governments to create Indigenous protected areas and remove barriers holding up progress.

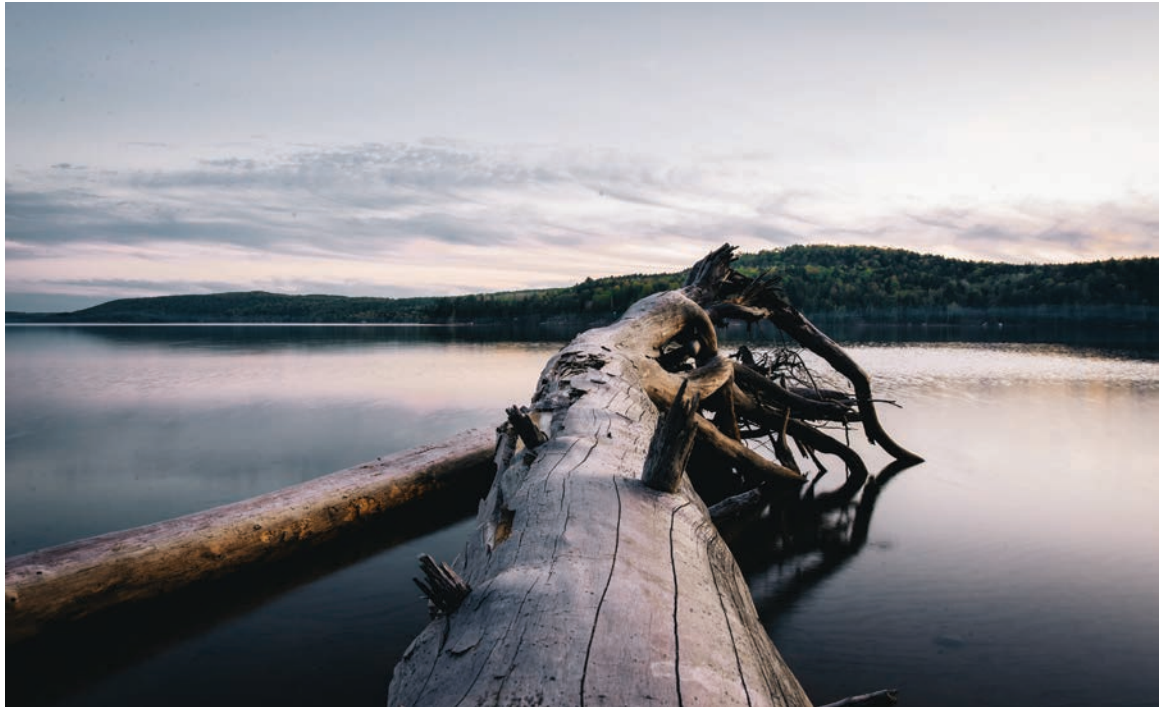
NATURE IS THE PRIORITY FOR PROTECTED AREAS

By definition,¹ a protected area is to be managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. In Canada's national parks, ecological integrity, or the natural characteristics of that park, including the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities,² is intended to be given the highest priority in park management decisions. The commitment to ecological integrity in national parks was reaffirmed by the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change in early 2018.³ CPAWS works hard to ensure that protected areas across the country are managed to protect and conserve nature and ecological integrity.



Photo: Jerry Charlton

Photo: Matt Garies



Let's Get Moving

CPAWS is a unique conservation organization — we have chapters in almost every province and territory across the country that work with Indigenous and public governments, other conservation organizations, and industry representatives to achieve conservation on the ground. We know that Canada can achieve its goal to be a leader in protecting nature.

CPAWS is ready to work with all governments to help them achieve our nationwide conservation goals. We've been doing this for over 50 years and we'll be doing it until Canada's wilderness and wildlife are truly protected — for now and forever, for the benefit of current and future peoples and all life.

This report shows the way. It provides a trailmap to 2020 and beyond. Together, we can do this.

Let's get started.



Photo: Bruce Petersen

MOMENTUM IS BUILDING

In early 2018, the government of Alberta announced the protection of 1.36 million hectares in northeastern Alberta — an unprecedented announcement that, together with Wood Buffalo National Park and Caribou Mountains Wildland Provincial Park, created the world's largest contiguous protected area of boreal forest. This announcement shows that conservation is possible on busy landscapes in Canada — and throws down the challenge to other provinces and territories: what areas will they put forward, and by when?

Canada's Path to 2020

	Square km	Percentage (%)
Total area of Canada:	9,984,670	100
Area currently protected (end 2017):	1,053,151	11
Area remaining to protect by 2020:	644,243	6
Area in proposals below:	338,031	3
Remaining Area Needed by 2020:	306,212	3

Province/Territory	Name	Approximate Area (Square km)
Newfoundland and Labrador	Eagle River	3,000
Nova Scotia	Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan – protected areas approved but not yet designated, including St. Mary's River, Wentworth Valley, Mabou Highlands, Sacville River, and Giants Lake	880
New Brunswick	Restigouche River Waterway	300
	Upgrading protection for identified high value ecosystems – proposed for 2020 protection, including pealands, watersheds, old forest communities, coastal areas, and provincially significant wetlands	3,650
Quebec	Regional proposals for new protected areas, including the Magpie River watershed, Dumoine, Noire and Coulonge River watersheds, Pimpuacan, Lac Manouane, Mishigamish, Innu sacred sites, Expansion of the Parc national Iles-de-Boucherville and protection fo Sainte-Therese Island, and Bas Saint Laurent candidate protected areas	130,000
Ontario	North French River proposed protected area	5,070
	Algonquin Park – phasing out logging	3,400
Manitoba	Polar Bear potential protected area	29,000
Saskatchewan	SK River Delta proposed protected area	4,000
Alberta	Bighorn Backcountry	6,700
	Alberta Caribou Action Plan Commitment	18,000
British Columbia	South Okanagan–Similkameen proposed National Park Reserve	250
Northwest Territories	Proposed protected areas, including Thaidene Nene, Edehzie, Ka'a'gee Tu, Sambaa K'e, Ejie Tue Ndade, Lue Tue Sulai, Dinaga Wek'ehodi, and Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta	79,557
Yukon	Peel River Watershed Land Use Plan (proposed permanent protection)	37,087
Nunavut	Proposed territorial parks, including Coral Harbour, Kugaaruk, Aggutinni (Clyde River), and Hall Beach	17,137
TOTAL		338,031

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Front cover: Moraine Lake
Road, Lake Louise, AB.

Photo: Kalen Emsley

This page: Northern lights,
SK.

Photo: Bill Allen



About CPAWS

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) is Canada's only nationwide charity dedicated solely to the protection of our public land and water, and ensuring our parks are managed to protect the nature within them. Since 1963 we've played a lead role in protecting over half a million square kilometres — an area bigger than the entire Yukon Territory! Our vision is that Canada will protect at least half of our public land and water so that future generations can benefit from Canada's irreplaceable wilderness.



CPAWS National Office

613-569-7226 | 1-800-333-WILD (9453)
Info@cpaws.org | www.cpaws.org

CPAWS British Columbia

604-685-7445
www.cpawsbc.org

CPAWS Northern Alberta

780-328-3780
www.cpawsnab.org

CPAWS Southern Alberta

403-232-6686
www.cpaws-southernalberta.org

CPAWS Saskatchewan

306-469-7876
www.cpaws-sask.org

CPAWS Manitoba

204-949-0782
www.cpawsmb.org

CPAWS Wildlands League

416-971-9453
www.wildlandsleague.org

CPAWS Ottawa Valley

819-778-3355
www.cpaws-ov-vo.org

SNAP (CPAWS) Québec

514-278-7627
www.snapqc.org

CPAWS New Brunswick

506-452-9902
www.cpawsnb.org

CPAWS Nova Scotia

902-446-4155
www.cpawsns.org

CPAWS Newfoundland and Labrador

709-726-5800
www.cpawsnl.org

CPAWS Yukon

867-393-8080
www.cpawsyukon.org

CPAWS Northwest Territories

867-873-9893
www.cpawsnwt.org