

# THE RIPPLE EFFECT

How wetlands are  
shoring up Canada's  
environmental and  
economic well-being

2020 **ANNUAL REPORT**



Ducks Unlimited  
Canada

A young duckling with brown and yellow downy feathers is swimming in a body of water. The duckling is positioned on the right side of the frame, facing left. Its reflection is visible in the water below it. The water is a deep blue-grey color with some ripples and small pieces of yellowish-brown debris. In the upper left corner, there is a semi-transparent circular logo consisting of four concentric circles. Inside the logo, the text "It starts with a duck." is written in a white, sans-serif font.


It starts with a duck.



This single creature has captivated our imaginations, inspired pioneering research and been the catalyst for rigorous conservation over the past 82 years.





A photograph of two ducks swimming in a marshy pond. The ducks are dark-colored and are positioned in the middle ground, facing right. The water is calm with some ripples. In the background, there are tall reeds and some fallen branches. The foreground is slightly out of focus, showing some green foliage on the right side. On the left side of the image, there is a decorative graphic consisting of several concentric circles of varying shades of gray. Overlaid on this graphic is a block of text.

Ducks have taken us to every marsh, forest and grassy plain in every corner of the continent. The journey has taught us much about the natural world — and our own place within it.





This bird's eye view has provided us with perspective on the worth of freshwater. It's taught us about the interconnectivity of species. It's showcased both the fragility and the resilience of ecosystems. Still today, it's shedding light on the sobering realities of our changing climate — and on promising conservation solutions rising from hope, hard work and a hearty commitment to building a better future.



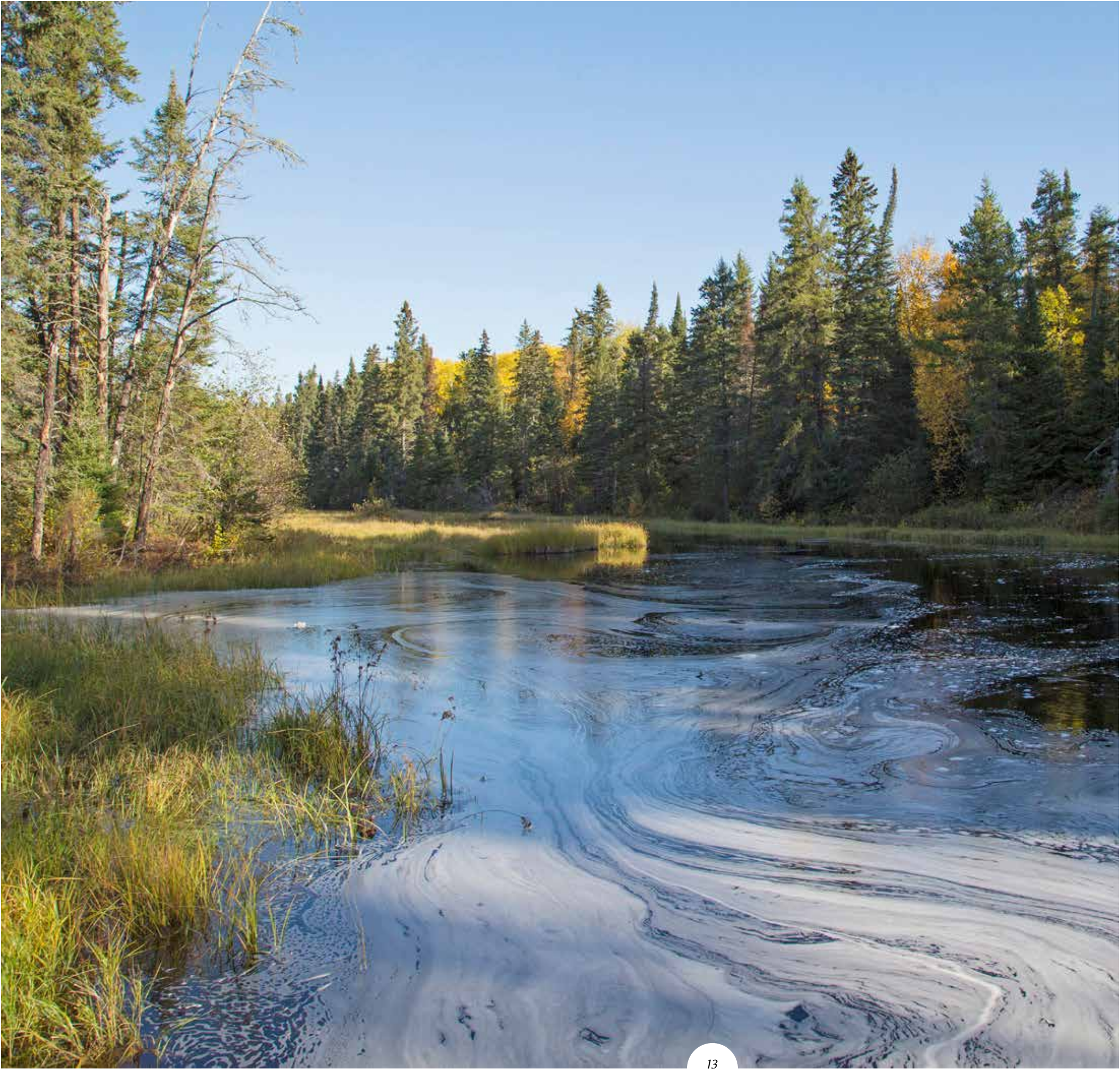


Our work for ducks creates a swell of significant benefits that flow to all Canadians. They include clean air and clean water. Lush green landscapes and lucrative green jobs. Natural infrastructure projects that safeguard our communities and sustainable practices that empower industries, developers and agricultural producers. Conserving the habitat that keeps ducks flying strong supports the environment and the economy in real and powerful ways. **This is the ripple effect.**



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# Message from the President & CEO

## Recognizing the worth of Canada's wetlands

**If** you're the kind of person who rises at dawn to watch the sun cascade over a quiet marsh, who enjoys listening to birds call back and forth from their treed hideaways or heading out with a bag of decoys for a day in the field, you know that Canada's wetlands are a priceless commodity. But even if you're not an avid outdoorsperson, these incredible natural areas and the ways in which they contribute to your life have significant value. Value that can be expressed in real economic terms — and returns.

We've titled this year's annual report "The Ripple Effect" in recognition of how wetlands are shoring up Canada's environmental and economic well-being. Flowing from the inky waters of one small pond are solutions to big issues: water quality, biodiversity, floods, droughts, sea-level rise and climate change. And by protecting this unassuming but powerful piece of nature, lucrative returns emerge. We're talking about real money manifested in things like recreation and tourism, water treatment services, flood mitigation and carbon storage. The ripple effect of wetland conservation is extensive — and it may surprise you.

At the same time, this report is a call for action and leadership on the part of all Canadians. It's an appeal to stop wetland loss, invest in nature and build the resiliency of our communities. Because there's never been a more important moment in history to do so.

When COVID-19 brought the world to a screeching halt, we were just closing the

books on our 2020 fiscal year. And while it was another banner year marked by the securement of 108,000 acres (43,706 hectares) of vital habitat, the pandemic made us pause. It gave everyone across the country time to ponder what Canadians want for the future. It became clear that we can — and must — do much more for nature. And in return, nature will do much for us.

As you flip through the pages of this report, you'll see an impressive collection of conservation projects that showcase the worth of Canada's wetlands. Let them be inspiration and motivation for all of us to continue working together to raise the bar. Because valuing nature as a central source of human well-being and environmental health is the only way forward. It's the key that unlocks a sustainable future for ducks, for us ... forever.

Yours in conservation,



**Kevin Harris**  
President



**Karla Guyn**  
Chief Executive Officer



# A Call for Action

*Saving wetlands is Canada's unique and urgent responsibility*

Canadians hold the fate of one of the world's most important ecosystems in our hands. Wetlands are a biological resource akin to rainforests and coral reefs. They teem with life and provide a host of powerful environmental benefits. As a primary keeper of these precious natural areas, Canada has a critical role to play in determining whether they flourish or fade away.



## The Canadian responsibility

- ✚ One quarter of the world's wetlands are found in Canada.
- ✚ Wetlands are scattered across every province and territory, spanning about 1.29 million square kilometres and covering 13 per cent of the country's land and freshwater areas.

## The threat

- ✚ **Rates of wetland loss are staggering.** Up to 70 per cent of wetlands have been lost in settled areas of the country — and the loss continues.
- ✚ **As many as 80 acres of wetlands are lost per day.** This is the equivalent of about 45 soccer fields every 24 hours.

## The solution

- ✚ **Conserve what's left.** Wetlands that remain intact can be protected while still allowing for economic progress and sustainable land use.
- ✚ **Restore what's been lost.** It's not too late to repair wetland areas that have been drained or destroyed. Restoration efforts can bring nature back.
- ✚ **Manage the areas under our care.** Efforts to keep wetlands healthy and productive will ensure their long-term future.

## The outcomes

- ✚ **Clean water.** Wetlands act as natural water filters, removing harmful pollutants and nutrients before they enter our lakes and rivers.
- ✚ **Habitat for wildlife.** Beyond ducks, wetlands provide homes for hundreds of other species. This includes many with populations that are at risk.
- ✚ **Flood and drought prevention.** Wetlands are like giant sponges that absorb water during wet periods and slowly release it during dry periods.
- ✚ **Protection from sea-level rise.** Coastal wetlands and salt marshes lower the amplitude and speed of ocean waves and mitigate storm damage.
- ✚ **Climate change mitigation.** Vast networks of wetlands scattered across the country are storing large amounts of carbon that, if released, would accelerate climate change.
- ✚ **Recreation.** Wetlands are incredible places to enjoy the outdoors. They're a perfect backdrop for hunting, hiking, biking, birdwatching, canoeing and nature photography.

## The path forward

- ✚ **Science.** Finding solutions to pressing environmental concerns, and the role wetlands play in addressing them, requires sound science.
- ✚ **Partnerships.** Saving Canada's wetlands demands that we work together. Strong partnerships within all sectors are needed to foster a shared commitment to conservation.
- ✚ **Advocacy.** Influencing decision-making in the interests of conservation requires diverse voices to champion environmental sustainability with governments, corporations and the public.
- ✚ **Education.** Equipping the next generation with the conservation tools and training they need will ensure they're empowered to shape the future and change the world.





# Our Response

*Ducks Unlimited Canada's progress toward a healthy and resilient natural world*

We're creating a path toward a sustainable future. It's a path that's connecting land-scapes from coast to coast to coast with healthy wetlands and clean water. Our conservation results are a testament to the commitment of our supporters, the effectiveness of our programs and the passion that fuels our efforts every day.

## NATIONWIDE CONSERVATION RESULTS

*(As of March 31, 2020; cumulative)*

- + 11,299 habitat projects
- + 6.5 million acres conserved
  - + *This includes 3.4 million acres that were restored*
- + 190.6 million acres influenced

**Definitions**

**Conserved**  
Areas DUC is directly protecting through habitat programs such as land purchases, management agreements and conservation easements.

**Restored**  
Areas previously lost or degraded, now returned to their natural state and protected by DUC conservation work.

**Influenced**  
Areas DUC is impacting through partnerships and policy work.

**Habitat project**  
A parcel of land that DUC is responsible for protecting and managing.

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	89,875	108,274	98,766	105,902
(includes acres restored)	45,545	62,467	51,187	48,442
Habitat acres influenced	4 million	24 million	26.2 million	5.2 million

In 2020, DUC exceeded its conservation goals in both key categories. Thanks to major partnership and policy advancements in the boreal region, the number of acres we influenced was significantly higher than planned. This achievement reflects many successful collaborations among diverse partners who share a commitment to conservation, sustainability and nature-based solutions.

**Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 104,587 acres (including the restoration of 43,136 acres) and to influence 3.9 million acres of critical habitat across the country.**

## OUR LONG-TERM VISION

DUC is striving to realize our conservation vision and associated habitat goals in time for our 100th anniversary. This will be achieved by conserving 10.2 million acres (including the restoration of 7.3 million acres) by 2038.





# Our Impact

How wetland conservation is changing the future

When we conserve wetlands, we leave a lasting impression on the world around us. Some outcomes are easy to see. Others can get lost in the shadows of bigger, louder headlines about environmental and economic success. But make no mistake, our ability to safeguard these precious ecosystems will change the future for ducks, for other wildlife and for us... forever.

## For ducks...

Conserving wetlands for the benefit of North America’s waterfowl is the heart of our mission. Ensuring our beloved species have the habitat they need is our greatest contribution. Canadian landscapes provide ducks with essential breeding habitat and are the source of amazing migrations that darken the skies with massive flocks in flight. DUC plays a big role in making it possible.

Every year, more than 534,000 breeding ducks rely on the 6.5 million acres under DUC’s care. Millions more benefit from areas we support through our conservation partnerships.

### Our work for ducks is working

Annual surveys show that since 1970, North American birds have dwindled in all habitats except wetlands. And, because of sound investments in wetland conservation, duck populations have increased by 150 per cent during the same time period. The past two years have continued building on this positive trend, with 38.9 million breeding ducks in 2019 and 41.2 million in 2018.



## For other wildlife...

Look closely amongst the reeds and below the surface of a wetland’s murky water for a glimpse into an amazingly diverse ecosystem. Life flourishes in Canada’s wetlands. Here, hundreds of species find food, seek shelter and raise their young.

### More species than you’d expect to find in a marsh

Of the following 1,451 species of wildlife found in Canada, 551 of them depend on wetlands. DUC’s wetland conservation efforts benefit these finned, feathered and furry creatures by ensuring they have healthy habitat to call home.



	Total Species	Wetland Species
Mammals	202	101
Reptiles	45	38
Amphibians	47	43
Birds	457	338
Fishes	700	31
Total	1,451	551

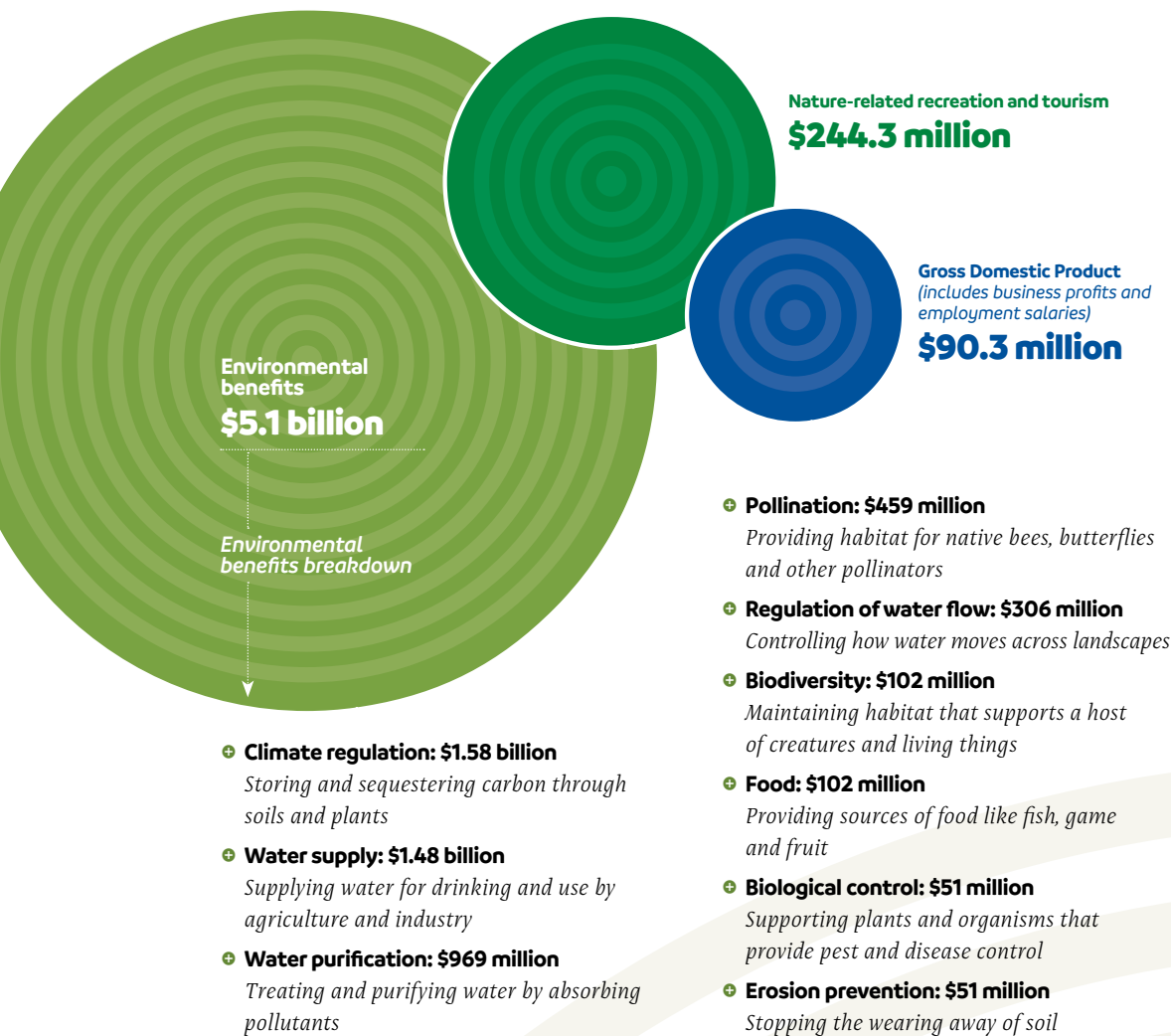


# For us...

The wetlands DUC saves aren't just for ducks. They're for all of us. These ecosystems are some of the most valuable natural resources, proving why putting your money where nature is makes (dollars and) sense.

## Economic benefits you can take from the bulrushes to the bank

For every \$1 invested in DUC conservation, restoration and wetland management efforts, society receives \$22 worth of economic, ecological and societal well-being benefits. **The total economic value of the 6.5 million acres (2.6 million hectares) of habitat under DUC's care is \$5.4 billion.\***



## A deeper look at carbon

New calculations estimate that DUC projects, throughout the course of our 82-year history, have sequestered 48.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

\* Source: Anielski, M., J. Thompson, and S. Wilson. 2014. *A genuine return on investment: The economic and societal well-being value of land conservation in Canada*. Calculations based on 2012 figures, adjusted for inflation.



# Forever...

Many of DUC's conservation projects exist in perpetuity. In these cases, the natural habitats and the valuable benefits they provide will remain forever. This is the vision and long-term commitment that's powered our work for the past 82 years. The impact we're making today will be felt by generations to come.

## Looking ahead: Helping Canada build back, better

**We were just closing the books on our 2020 fiscal year when the COVID-19 pandemic took hold.** Like other Canadian charities, DUC braced for significant financial impacts as our in-person fundraising activities were put on hold and other revenue sources were affected.

However, with the support of our board of directors, we re-cast our annual financial plan for the 2021 fiscal year and adapted our operations. By leveraging our financial strength, as well as the incredible dedication of our employees, our 2021 annual financial plan has set us up to avoid deficit and ensure that any impacts to our conservation delivery are kept to a minimum.

Looking ahead, DUC remains steadfast and

focused on delivering important conservation initiatives that will not only contribute to our mission, but will help Canada build back, better.

### Supporting sustainable working landscapes:

We will help Canadians find balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability. Working in partnership with agriculture, industry and governments, we will share our knowledge and provide conservation solutions that help everyone live in harmony with our land, water and wildlife.

**Building natural green infrastructure:** Working directly with communities, municipalities and city

planners, we will deliver conservation projects that put the power of nature to work in ways that treat and manage water, mitigate floods and store carbon.

**Conducting forward-thinking science:** We will employ our team of world-leading scientists to help address the climate challenge. Together, we'll tackle critical conservation issues by pursuing research that seeks to understand how DUC conservation supports climate change mitigation.

**Building strong partnerships:** By collaborating with other organizations with similar interests and goals, we will leverage resources and maximize conservation outcomes.

**Creating green jobs:** As investments are made in the environment, we will put Canadians to work conserving and restoring natural areas. From engineers to biologists to contractors and construction crews, there is significant and meaningful work for many.



# Our Conservation Community

A place where you belong

If you care about clean water, healthy wildlife and a sustainable environment, you belong with DUC. Our conservation community is made up of committed fundraisers, generous donors, passionate brand ambassadors and inspiring community leaders who bring our work to life. All have their own unique reasons for supporting wetland conservation. All are united by a desire to give back to the natural areas that give much to them.

## DUC’S CONSERVATION COMMUNITY STANDS 111,025 STRONG.

Here is a closer look at what some of these key ambassadors are doing:

- + 18,279 members take action to support our mission.
- + 5,236 volunteers raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation.
- + 18,894 landowners protect vital habitat on their properties.
- + 386 staff members work to advance conservation every day.
- + 44,810 event attendees participate in fundraising activities in their communities.

Our grassroots activities are also building important local relationships. DUC brings friends, neighbours and residents together in support of wetland conservation. In the 2020 fiscal year, DUC was proud to host 276 fundraising events including gala dinners, auctions, clay shoots, trail runs and more.

## WE’RE ENGAGING WITH 238,561 SUPPORTERS OF TOMORROW

These Canadians are learning more about DUC and are sharing our conservation messages with others within their spheres of influence. They’re connecting with us through social media, political advocacy websites and are exploring the world of conservation by visiting our interpretive centres. These supporters of tomorrow are in addition to the 111,025 people who make up our conservation community.



# Our Financial Commitment

Upholding high standards of accountability, transparency and trust

Making the most of every charitable dollar is a responsibility we take seriously. By directing funds in ways that produce the greatest conservation impact, every DUC donor can take pride in knowing that they’re making a difference in their backyard — and beyond. Our goal is to invest 80 per cent of our expenditures in habitat conservation annually. In the 2020 fiscal year, DUC invested 82 per cent in habitat conservation.

Uses of Funds (millions)	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Conservation <small>(includes capitalized land purchases)</small>	\$78.0 82% investment	\$74.0 82% investment	\$79.8 81% investment	\$78.7 81% investment
Fundraising	\$9.8	\$10.2	\$12.9	\$13.2
Administration	\$10.0	\$6.5	\$6.3	\$5.9

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

DUC is planning to realize \$80.6 million in gross revenue. Note: This is an adjusted goal due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Sources of Revenue (millions)	2020	2019	2018
Government Grants	\$42.1	\$39.3	\$48.5
Fundraising Revenue*	\$15.7	\$17.3	\$19.8
Program & Other Revenue	\$20.0	\$14.9	\$13.5
Non-Government Partnerships	\$10.1	\$11.1	\$11.4
Investment Income (Loss)	(\$7.1)	\$13.4	\$7.4

\* Includes gift-in-kind donations. DUC also leveraged lines of credit for our Revolving Land Conservation Program of \$13.6 million in 2020, \$19.3 million in 2019 and \$21.7 million in 2018.



# Conservation

*Delivering landscape-level solutions for our land, water and wildlife*

Conservation in the 21st century demands thinking and working at a landscape level. Now, more than ever, we're witnessing how changes happening thousands of miles away are impacting what we experience in our own backyards. Responding to biodiversity loss, climate change and habitat degradation requires working across many jurisdictions and in lockstep with diverse partners.

Conservation efforts at DUC are focused on leveraging resources in ways that chart a more sustainable path forward, maximizing impact.

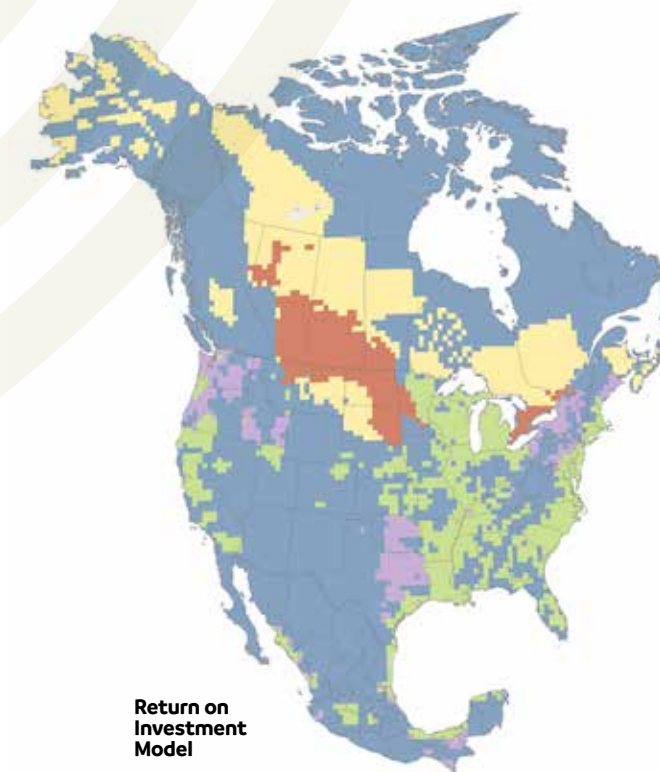
## **International Conservation Plan takes pioneering approach to habitat management**

**W**hat happens when you combine the best available conservation science with today's pragmatic business principles? An entirely new model of habitat management emerges. One that's changing the way we save wetlands and waterfowl across North America.

In recent years, it's become increasingly clear that wetland conservation needs across the continent far exceed available resources. Maximizing the impact of our conservation work is the only way to realize critical habitat gains. This prompted Ducks Unlimited organizations from Canada, the United States and Mexico to band together to create our new International Conservation Plan. It's among the first of its kind to leverage a formal return-on-investment strategy that decides how and where conservation work is delivered. Adding to the complexity — and the revolutionary approach — is the fact that these decisions span three countries.

Creating the plan was an enormous undertaking. Our conservation scientists examined the most current research related to waterfowl abundance to understand which areas of North America support the greatest number of birds. They also studied landscape capacity to determine the ability of various landscapes to sustain waterfowl populations at ideal, healthy levels. Habitat threats and rates of loss were measured, as were the financial costs to deliver conservation activities in various areas. Then, they prioritized landscapes across North America by identifying the areas that will yield the highest biological returns, generating the greatest positive impact on waterfowl populations.

Results are providing Ducks Unlimited organizations with a clear roadmap for the years ahead. By pooling resources of three countries, the International Conservation Plan is focusing efforts where and how they're needed most. It's also connecting people across an entire continent who reap the significant and wide-ranging benefits of healthy, abundant wetlands.



**Return on Investment Model**

- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Supporting Landscape

## **Canadian prairies are top, urgent priority**

Of all the landscapes that support waterfowl in North America, none is as important to their long-term success as the Prairie Pothole Region. Stretching across southern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and into areas of the northern U.S., the region is characterized by shallow "pot-hole" wetlands used extensively by breeding waterfowl. The International Conservation Plan identifies the Prairie Pothole Region as the continent's top priority area, meaning that conservation investments made here will yield the highest biological return when compared to all other areas in North America.

The situation in the Prairie Pothole Region is critical. Up to 50 per cent of wetlands have been drained, with thousands of acres continuing to be lost each year to make room for agriculture, industry, urban development and other land uses. The International Conservation Plan is showing us that we're facing an "all-hands-on-deck" moment. As much effort as possible needs to be placed on conserving and restoring wetland habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region.



# Science

## *Seeking solutions to Canada's pressing conservation issues*

The host of environmental stories that made headlines over the past year reminded citizens around the world of something very important: science is essential.

How do we address the biodiversity crisis that threatens one million species with extinction? How do we mitigate the cascading effects of climate change that are causing Canada to warm twice as fast as the rest of the world? How can we balance the demand for economic progress with the need to protect nature? These questions can be unnerving. But by committing to and following the science, answers will emerge.

This belief — that new perspectives, ideas and information will open the door for the next great environmental breakthrough — is what drives DUC's conservation mission. Our Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research is run by world-leading scientists who are helping solve fundamental problems facing North American waterfowl and wetland ecosystems. Their work is contributing to a growing body of research that says our best chance for a sustainable future is working with nature, not against it.

## ***DUC hosts prestigious North American Duck Symposium***

***You*** might be inclined to call them bird brains, and you wouldn't be entirely wrong. Every three years, top academics, biologists, consultants and professionals from around the world flock to one of the most prestigious conservation conferences: the North American Duck Symposium.

The 2020 North American Duck Symposium was hosted in Winnipeg by DUC and our conservation partners at the Province of Manitoba. Here, these top scientists shared cutting-edge research not only about ducks, but about how our understanding of these birds will shape the future of conservation and the environment as a whole.

Topics discussed during the week-long gathering ranged from population dynamics to ecosystem services to climate change. Tightly woven throughout all topics was the growing recognition that the attitudes and

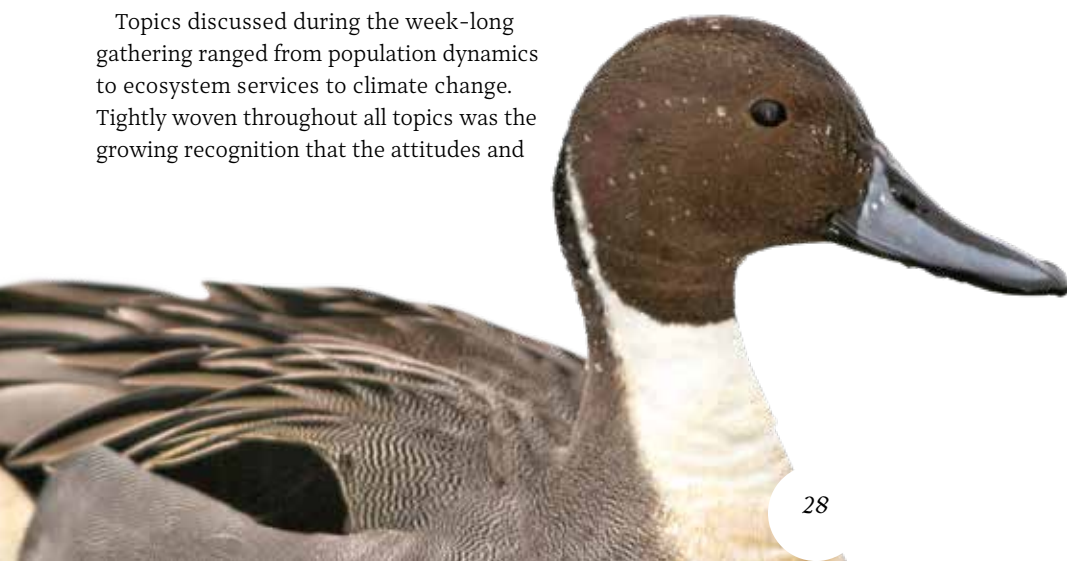
values of people — or the human dimensions of conservation, as the experts call it — are becoming more important in determining how natural resources are managed. Understanding how and why people value nature, particularly as numbers of traditional hunter conservationists in North America decline, is proving essential in planning for the future for wetlands and waterfowl.

The North American Duck Symposium also included a field trip to Oak Hammock Marsh, the site of DUC's national headquarters and an international birding hotspot, where attendees received a firsthand look at a Manitoba prairie marsh in the height of summer.



### ***Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research takes the spotlight***

Throughout the North American Duck Symposium, the strength of DUC's science team was on full display. Twenty-six of the 127 oral presentations were co-authored by Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research and other DUC staff. Of particular note and relevance was a presentation outlining impacts of climate change on wetland density and waterfowl production in Prairie Canada. As the climate crisis continues to challenge the natural world in real and significant ways, these findings will be key in establishing an effective path forward.







# Policy

## Advocating for environmental sustainability

It’s a top issue for every Canadian in every electoral district. The state of the environment has citizens looking to all levels of government for strong policies that support climate action, cleaner and greener communities as well as solutions to issues such as air and water quality.

We’re witnessing strategies for environmental sustainability play out on the international stage, where Canada’s commitment to the Paris Agreement is part of a multinational consensus to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next 30 years. At the same time, municipalities and local officials are striving to put the power of natural infrastructure and green jobs to work in their communities. Regardless of scale and scope, all environmental policy decisions rely on sound, science-based information and the support of conservation partners that can transform ideas into action.

That’s where DUC comes in. As a passionate, non-partisan advocate for Canada’s wetlands, our policy recommendations are drawn from 82 years of boots-on-the-ground experience and decades of conservation research and partnerships with people from all walks of life. We’re also proud to play a leading role in delivering policy efforts — physically moving the dirt— required to positively change the landscape in ways that benefit both wildlife and people.

## Protecting habitat on private lands with the Natural Heritage Conservation Program

Conserving at least 25 per cent of our land and oceans is an ambitious undertaking. But it’s one that the Government of Canada has its sights on achieving as part of its 2025 Biodiversity Goals and Targets.

The Natural Heritage Conservation Program is part of the Government’s game plan, which will invest \$100 million over four years to protect more than 490,000 acres (200,000 hectares) of ecologically sensitive private lands. DUC has been tapped as a key partner to help make it happen.

Since the Natural Heritage Conservation Program was launched in 2019, DUC has received \$1.9 million in funding. We’ve matched each dollar at a 2:1 ratio, resulting in a total of \$5.7 million for conservation. These funds have supported the establishment of 47 projects across four provinces that together secure 11,057 acres (4,475 hectares) of at-risk habitat.

By the time the program wraps in 2022, DUC will have leveraged up to \$18 million of federal funding from the Natural Heritage Conservation Program. And, by working with

our donors and supporters to match these funds, we will have tripled the investment and tripled the conservation impact.



## Supporting the Species at Risk Act

The Natural Heritage Conservation Program is also focused on protecting habitat for the recovery of species listed under the Species at Risk Act. Of the projects DUC has delivered thus far, more than 2,471 acres (1,000 hectares) of habitat have been conserved for the benefit of at least 10 species at risk.



# Education

## *Igniting a spark that fuels young changemakers*

This year, young conservationists captured the world's attention like never before. United and emboldened by a desire to protect the environment they will inherit, they rallied, marched and demanded that decision-makers do more to address our changing climate.

DUC is helping foster a strong conservation ethic within the next generation. Our education programs build a connection with nature from the ground up. Programs not only introduce students to the natural world but encourage them to take action through hands-on wetland conservation projects. Many of these projects include working in partnership with community groups or mentoring fellow students, combining learning and leadership in empowering ways.

DUC education programs are igniting curiosity and confidence within young people. We believe these students can change the world—and we know many already are.

## **Wetland Centres of Excellence expand across the country**

**“O**n Thursday, I got my first piece of data that was usable! I altered the way my platform attached to my drone.”

A triumphant comment left by a Fredericton high school student on a class blog offers a glimpse into the innovative projects being led by young people at DUC's Wetland Centres of Excellence (WCE)—and the enthusiasm they have for conservation, science and discovery.

WCEs are a network of schools and community partners that engage students in conservation projects, student-to-student mentored field trips and outreach in their communities.

The drone-collected data this budding conservationist is referring to is just one part of several conservation technology projects undertaken by Fredericton WCE students over the past year. Together, they used a drone to capture water samples from a near-by wetland. They programmed a computer motherboard to collect data from five probes measuring the pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, electro-conductivity and oxidation reduction potential of the water samples. And if that wasn't enough, they employed 3D printing to create a waterproof case for the probes.

Feeling inspired? We are, too. What's even better is there are hundreds more of these bright young minds working for wetlands across the country.



Other examples of student-led conservation projects include planting native plants, trees and shrubs, installing and monitoring waterfowl nest boxes, and making improvements to local wetland trails and boardwalks. Many WCE students engaged local politicians and shared their opinions on the importance of wetland conservation.

This year, DUC's WCE national network expanded, with considerable growth in Atlantic Canada where new centres were established in Halifax, N.S. as well as Florenceville, N.B. and Charlottetown, P.E.I. This brings the total number of WCEs across the country to 25. DUC has plans to establish several new WCEs in Western Canada next year. With each new student that enters the program, there's new hope for Canada's wetlands.

## **Students score new DUC scholarships**

Many WCE students go on to pursue post-secondary education in wildlife management, agriculture, environmental studies and other fields where they can continue applying their passions for the natural world. This year, DUC awarded three deserving WCE students with \$1,000 scholarships to assist with their conservation-related studies.







# International Partnerships

*A collaborative, cross-border approach that delivers results across the continent*

**International borders are lines that birds can't see. To conserve the habitats they need, we must look beyond borders as well.**

As North America's bird populations experience devastating declines, waterfowl are a beacon of hope. Powerful international partnerships dedicated to protecting wetlands and other natural areas that ducks, geese and swans depend on have kept their numbers strong.

DUC is proud of the collaborative, cross-border relationships we have with many international partners. This includes our Ducks Unlimited colleagues in the United States and Mexico, federal and state governments, Indigenous Peoples, as well as non-government organizations and private individuals. We're united in a common pursuit of conservation — and together we share the responsibility of caring for North America's wetlands and waterfowl.

## ***North American Wetland Conservation Act celebrates 30 years***

**“Well, Christmas comes early on this one... This bill will provide a steady source of funds for the purchase of critical wetlands in the United States, Canada and Mexico.”**

It was December 1989. President George H. W. Bush was addressing a room of senators, members of congress and the media prior to signing the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). This legislation set a groundbreaking funding model in motion, sending important resources north to Canada.

Fast forward 30 years and NAWCA has transformed the way that conservation is delivered across the continent. Its legacy includes 3,000 habitat projects, 30 million acres (12 million hectares) and more than 6,200 partner organizations all working together to make waterfowl population management a success.

NAWCA was established as the funding mechanism for the North American Water-

fowl Management Plan, introduced three years earlier to aid the recovery of declining waterfowl populations. NAWCA funds are allocated through unique cost-sharing grants that require each federal dollar to be matched with a non-federal dollar. Since 1989, NAWCA grants totalling more than \$1.7 billion have leveraged \$3.6 billion in matching funds and another \$1.4 billion in non-matching funds from thousands of partners. DUC is proud to be an active recipient of NAWCA grant funds.

Today, proof of NAWCA's success fills the skies. Continental waterfowl populations have rebounded and continue to thrive. This is significant given the dire state of other bird species that call North America home.

Two reports issued over the past year gave us serious pause. *The State of Canada's Birds* report, released last June, says we've lost 40 to 60 per cent of shorebirds, grassland birds and aerial insectivores. Last September, the journal *Science* echoed these findings, conclu-

ding that North America has lost three billion (yes, with a B) birds since 1970.

In the face of catastrophic losses, waterfowl offer a glimmer of hope. Thirty years of NAWCA partnerships have set a powerful example of the progress that can be made when passionate and dedicated advocates co-operate and commit to sound investments in conservation.

## ***Not just for the birds***

The benefits of NAWCA-funded conservation projects extend beyond our feathered friends. Wetlands conserved via NAWCA protect our communities by buffering against floods and sea-level rise. They sequester carbon that would otherwise end up in our atmosphere and clean the water entering our favourite lakes and rivers. **NAWCA isn't just for the birds. It's for everyone.**



# British Columbia

Canada's West Coast is a nature enthusiast's dream. Mountains tower over gleaming wetlands, salmon journey through lush estuaries and the brassy calls of trumpeter swans echo from the sky. DUC is working throughout B.C. to ensure future generations can experience and benefit from these incredible ecological gifts.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- 576 habitat projects
- 450,337 acres conserved
  - This includes 291,574 acres that were restored
- 7,042,371 acres influenced

(Additional acres influenced within the boreal region of British Columbia are reported in the boreal section of this report – see page 56.)

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	656	756	350	5,325
(includes acres restored)	51	139	172	4,979
Habitat acres influenced	12,700	15,249	20,476	23,730

In 2020, DUC exceeded its habitat goals in all areas, continuing a strong tradition of results in the province.

Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 370 acres (including the restoration of 355 acres) and to influence 10,850 acres in British Columbia.

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- 8,323 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- 775 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- 975 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- 4,798 event attendees who participate in 36 fundraising events across the province

### FEATURED WORK

## Maintaining nature's brilliance at 148 Mile Marshes

Located within the Cariboo Region's historic ranchlands, the 148 Mile Marshes are a combination of Mother Nature's keen eye for design and ability to dazzle. The picturesque marshes dot the landscape near the Cariboo Plateau in the Fraser River watershed, adding a splash of blue in the rolling green hills.

They're also part of DUC's long-standing commitment to conservation and working with the agricultural community. The marshes, lakes, and creek diversions, spread across 346 acres (140 hectares) of grassy slopes, offer a diverse landscape that is productive for waterfowl and wildlife. In total, the project covers two lakes, a creek, and 24 marshes.

To maintain this impressive habitat, DUC is upgrading water controls on Jones Lake, Redeau Lake, and the Borland Creek diversion. Dams at all segments also require upgrading to comply with new provincial safety requirements.

Critical upgrades of this almost \$1-million project are possible because of funding from the North American Wetland Conservation Act and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.

For DUC, the project offers enormous potential for protecting and enhancing waterfowl habitat that serves millions of ducks, geese and other birds migrating through and within B.C.

### Biodiversity lives here

The 148 Mile Marshes are part of the Cariboo Priority Area of the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture. The Intermountain is one of Canada's most biodiversity-rich regions. It's home to 373 bird species, 19 of which are noted as being at risk. It also boasts the highest diversity of owls, woodpeckers, swifts and hummingbirds in Canada — and approximately 1.5 million water-



fowl in the breeding season. Venture along the shorelines of the 148 Mile Marshes on any given season and you're also likely to see moose, muskrat, beavers, black bears, coyotes, and mule deer. Here in the heart of B.C.'s frontier, wildlife is living large.



# Alberta

Wetlands are woven into the fabric of the province’s culture, identity and economy. From agriculture to industry, to tourism, infrastructure and development, these powerful ecosystems contribute to the lives of all Albertans. DUC conservation programs are helping ensure these vital relationships remain.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- + 2,531 habitat projects
- + 2,383,270 acres conserved
  - + This includes 1,156,528 acres that were restored
- + 22,000 acres influenced

(Additional acres influenced within the boreal region of Alberta are reported in the boreal section of this report – see page 56.)

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	32,983	21,162	20,993	34,826
(includes acres restored)	16,082	14,497	12,174	23,542
Habitat acres influenced*	91,000	122,000	100,000	95,100

DUC continues to refine our conservation programs in Alberta and is being more strategic in the land we purchase as part of our Revolving Land Conservation Program. This accounts for the shortfall in conserved acres in 2020. However, our progress in the province remains steady year over year.

**Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 20,749 acres (including the restoration of 12,400 acres) and to influence 84,200 acres in Alberta.**

\* Annual influenced acres include the planting of winter wheat. These acres are written off each year; therefore, they do not contribute to the cumulative influenced acre total.

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- + 12,793 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- + 1,192 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- + 4,444 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- + 5,275 event attendees who participate in 42 fundraising events across the province

### FEATURED WORK

## Conservation and agriculture work together at Ames project

Surrounded by fields of cereal and oilseed crops near Sullivan Lake lies a piece of land that shines with more than 200 acres (81 hectares) of wetlands. But it hasn’t always been this way.

Years ago, these potholes were drained to make the land more productive for farming. Today, DUC and local landowners have worked together to restore its natural habitat in ways that strike a sustainable balance between conservation and agriculture.

Known as the Ames project, its 960 acres (388 hectares) are in a high-priority landscape for waterfowl in central Alberta. It’s also an area of intensive agriculture. This made DUC’s Revolving Land Conservation Program an ideal tool that would set aside a portion of the land for nature while keeping the land in the hands of agricultural producers. The result is a win-win for wildlife and working landscapes.

Through the Revolving Land Conservation Program, DUC purchased the land and got to work restoring its wetland and upland areas. Conservation easements were placed on these restored areas to protect them in perpetuity. Now that the restoration is complete, the land is scheduled to be sold back to local producers who can use it for farming activities such as haying and grazing. Funds from the sale of the land provide DUC with the capital to repeat the cycle.

“The revolving model speaks to the kind of collaboration that makes conservation successful,” says Bob Thomson, the DUC conservation program specialist who led the project. “Because land is in such high demand, it’s important that we find effective and sustainable ways of making it work for all people and wildlife who depend on it.”

In addition to restoring the property’s wetlands, 244 acres (99 hectares) of upland habitat were restored. The Ames project also includes approximately 480 acres (194 hectares) of intact perennial ground cover, making it a highly attractive site for breeding waterfowl.

## Supporting rural economies

DUC’s conservation efforts contribute to the economies of many rural communities. Work completed as part of the Ames project employed local contractors who were hired to construct a rock chute water control structure, create earthen ditch plugs and assist with converting and establishing upland habitat. It’s another example of conservation’s ripple effect, and how environmental investments provide many valuable returns.





# Saskatchewan

Expansive views with seemingly endless skies are a hallmark of Saskatchewan. So, too, are the millions of waterfowl that ride the province’s prairie winds every year. Nowhere in North America will you find the kind of abundant and productive wetland habitat that exists in Saskatchewan—and DUC is working hard to keep it that way.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- + 3,316 habitat projects
- + 1,746,888 acres conserved
  - + This includes 1,138,830 acres that were restored
- + 5,433,378 acres influenced

(Additional acres influenced within the boreal region of Saskatchewan are reported in the boreal section of this report – see page 56.)

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	31,172	39,457	42,265	45,737
(includes acres restored)	15,470	17,398	20,216	13,623
Habitat acres influenced	136,000	300,277	294,829	924,014

In 2020, DUC exceeded its goals for conserving and influencing important habitat in Saskatchewan. In particular, the significant achievement in influenced acres can be attributed to an ongoing partnership with the Province of Saskatchewan to protect habitat through its community pastures program.

Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 62,087 acres (including the restoration of 20,968 acres) and to influence 80,000 acres in Saskatchewan.

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- + 14,491 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- + 700 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- + 4,576 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- + 8,739 event attendees who participate in 40 fundraising events across the province

### FEATURED WORK

## Foam Lake Heritage Marsh Rebuild

Saskatchewan is known as a prime destination to witness the twice-yearly spectacle of migrating waterfowl and other birds. Foam Lake Heritage Marsh is nearly unrivalled in its capacity to put on a good show.

Restored in the mid-1980s via a series of dikes and water control structures, Foam Lake Heritage Marsh provides 6,368 acres (2,577 hectares) of wetland and upland habitat, an area the size of the city of Yorkton.

Foam Lake’s remarkable habitat value has won the project an Important Bird Areas designation. Each fall, it sees large numbers of staging waterfowl, sandhill cranes and shorebirds, as well as the occasional endangered peregrine falcon and whooping crane. Less conspicuous but no less impressive, up to 60 pairs of breeding ducks can be found per square mile in some areas. Overall, the marsh supports more than 200 species of birds.

In recent years, significant flooding has wreaked havoc with the project’s aging

control structures and dams. Located in a landscape with some of the highest rates of wetland loss in the country, the need to maintain this important habitat was clear. Works to rebuild structures at Foam Lake were completed thanks in part to a grant from Wildlife Habitat Canada.

Foam Lake Heritage Marsh has become a shining example of how what’s good for wildlife can be good for communities, too. The Town of Foam Lake has embraced the project and its ecotourism potential, developing walking trails and wildlife viewing areas. Each fall, the town welcomes throngs of waterfowl hunters who travel to the region to hunt over this important staging marsh.

As a Saskatchewan Heritage Marsh, Foam Lake Heritage Marsh is a partnership of the Government of Saskatchewan, Nature Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Rural Municipality of Foam Lake, local landowners and DUC.



## Controlling the flow for flood mitigation

Foam Lake Heritage Marsh holds excess water and helps to slowly release it downstream. In fact, the marsh is capable of storing 10.2 million cubic meters of water. This is equal to the amount of water found in 4,080 Olympic-sized swimming pools. With more extreme weather events anticipated, the project’s flood protection capabilities become even more critical to local agricultural producers, landowners, and municipal infrastructure.





# Manitoba

DUC's history is firmly rooted in Manitoba's soils. Our first project was completed here in 1938 and today, we're working across the province. From potholes to peat bogs to grasslands, wetlands and surrounding habitat play a vital role in the health and prosperity of the province.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- + 1,471 habitat projects
- + 723,754 acres conserved
  - + This includes 485,438 acres that were restored
- + 846,118 acres influenced

(Additional acres influenced within the boreal region of Manitoba are reported in the boreal section of this report – see page 56.)

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	9,548	34,082	22,867	10,573
(includes acres restored)	4,167	26,289	15,701	3,337
Habitat acres influenced	157,000	682,286	78,675	112,815

In 2020, DUC significantly exceeded its habitat goals in both key categories in Manitoba. A large wetland project in northwestern Manitoba that was completed earlier than expected, along with increases in our conservation easement and forage programs, boosted the number of acres we conserved. New wetland regulations in the province also increased the number of acres we were able to influence through policy.

**Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 14,080 acres (including the restoration of 6,663 acres) and to influence 140,700 acres in Manitoba.**



## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- + 12,923 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- + 695 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- + 3,251 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- + 6,254 event attendees who participate in 40 fundraising events across the province

### FEATURED WORK

## Hamel project makes family's conservation dream a reality

*It* was their parents' wish that the family farm would one day be a wildlife refuge. DUC was happy to play a part in helping four siblings make that dream come true.

The result is 320 acres (129 hectares) of protected habitat near Alexander, Man., once the site of Roly and Eileen Hamel's farm. It's a beautiful slice of the province's iconic prairie landscape, marked with tranquil ponds, lush grasses and emerald-leaved poplar trees.

"The property provides excellent habitat for waterfowl and wildlife," says DUC conservation programs specialist, Ian Witherspoon. "The generous donation by the Hamel siblings in memory of their parents has given us the opportunity to ensure this habitat remains on the landscape for the long term."

When Roly and Eileen passed away, their four children — Donald, Robert, Sandra and Barbara — inherited the land and set to work fulfilling their parents' wish. The Hamel siblings were determined not to sell the land once farmed by their parents and ultimately decided to donate it to DUC.

Across Manitoba's southwest, ditches have been dug to drain wetlands to make way for

crops and other development; but the Hamel farm is remarkable in that no attempt to drain its wetlands was ever made. All its 67 basins remain intact. Had the property been sold, a new owner might have elected to drain these ponds. Instead, the undisturbed wetlands, surrounding grassland and trees will remain home to ducks and songbirds, as well as other wildlife including hawks, muskrats, moose and deer.

## Intact wetlands deliver big impact

Left intact, the wetlands on the Hamel family farm have been quietly contributing to the surrounding environment in powerful ways for generations. Every year, it's estimated that they filter 292 kilograms of phosphorus and 2,919 kilograms of nitrogen, helping to keep the surrounding watershed free of harmful nutrients.



# Ontario

From the fertile farmland in the south, to the rocky, mineral-rich Canadian Shield, to the grassy lowlands of the north, Ontario is rich in forests, wetlands, lakes and streams. DUC is conserving these amazing places so ducks, fish and people can enjoy them for generations.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- + 1,838 habitat projects
- + 993,708 acres conserved
  - + This includes 186,614 acres that were restored
- + 718,282 acres influenced

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	4,691	8,693	8,081	5,919
(includes acres restored)	490	1,302	1,352	1,359
Habitat acres influenced	3,000	3,000	–	333,089

In 2020, DUC significantly exceeded its goals for conserving habitat in Ontario. After completing some important large wetland conservation projects in northeastern and southern areas under budget, we were able to make additional waterfowl habitat investments elsewhere in the province.

**Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 2,713 acres and influence 1,000 acres in Ontario.**

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- + 19,988 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- + 974 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- + 3,397 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- + 14,574 event attendees who participate in 70 fundraising events across the province



### FEATURED WORK

## Phosphorus retention research in Ontario’s farm country

Not long ago, many of us believed that clean water was Canada’s natural heritage. That was before summers were tainted by fear of blue-green algae and its toxic discharges in rivers and lakes, threatening the health of wildlife, pets and people. Excess phosphorus is a main cause of these dangerous outbreaks, and new DUC research is showing how wetland restoration in the province’s agricultural landscapes can help keep Ontario’s iconic lakes clean.

DUC studied phosphorus retention in restored wetlands to better understand the extent that wetlands capture phosphorus from surface-water runoff before it moves downstream. Our researchers assessed eight recently restored wetlands, located north of Lake Erie in rural southwestern Ontario, over the course of one year. They monitored the sites weekly, in all four seasons, to measure how nutrients were being captured.

Results show the restored wetlands act as “phosphorus sinks.” They were found to capture the most worrisome form of phosphorus —called soluble reactive phosphorus—at a 59 per cent reduction efficiency. Further, three of the wetlands performed extremely well with 93 per cent, 96 per cent and 99 per cent efficiency.

Knowing these small wetlands can make a big difference in restoring water quality, DUC is using this research to inform how small wetlands are designed across Ontario. Conservation staff are adding a “sediment capture basin” to project designs where significant surface-water flow enters the wetland. The feature will trap sediment before it enters, removing excess nutrients while protecting the health and longevity of the wetland.

DUC’s phosphorus retention research will continue for two years, adding to our knowledge of the nutrient-retention abilities of restored wetlands.

## Wetlands as natural green infrastructure

By reducing the amount of nutrients that run off the land and into waterways, wetlands function as a valuable form of natural infrastructure. The better we understand the role of wetlands, the better landowners, municipalities and conservation groups can work together on strategic actions that support productive and resilient landscapes.





# Quebec

Exceptionally rich in wetlands, more than a quarter of “la Belle Province” is made up of ponds, marshes, swamps, peat bogs, lakes, rivers and riparian areas. In Quebec, wetlands are essential for maintaining biodiversity and water quality. They also help with the fight against climate change. DUC is working with our partners to safeguard these benefits for all Quebecers.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- + 272 habitat projects
- + 79,894 acres conserved
  - + This includes 33,322 acres that were restored
- + 42,921,458 acres influenced

(Additional acres influenced within the boreal region of Quebec are reported in the boreal section of this report – see page 56.)

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	1,740	2,762	1,871	1,866
(includes acres restored)	1,292	2,314	449	383
Habitat acres influenced	100,000	203,548	340,716	124,256

In 2020, DUC exceeded its habitat goals in both key areas, and continues making steady progress in Quebec.

**Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 1,082 acres (including the restoration of 465 acres) and influence 100,000 acres in Quebec.**

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- + 2,876 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- + 206 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- + 337 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- + 561 event attendees who participate in five fundraising events across the province

### FEATURED WORK

## Restoring Digue-aux-Aigrettes Marsh

Winter isn't typically wetland construction season. But when you're working in a National Wildlife Area like Quebec's Lac-Saint-François, you must tread lightly.

So once the snow flew and many migratory species had moved on, DUC got to work carefully restoring one of its prized attractions: Digue-aux-Aigrettes Marsh.

Known among Montérégie-region bird-watchers as a hotspot for local favourites such as redheads, sandhill cranes, sedge wrens and great egrets, Digue-aux-Aigrettes Marsh is a 76-acre (31-hectare) wetland that was built in the early 1980s. It's surrounded by a 3.5-kilometre dike that serves as a trail, giving visitors a 360-degree view of diverse flora and fauna.

After nearly 40 years of use and enjoyment, Digue-aux-Aigrettes Marsh needed some repairs. DUC's restoration work consisted of raising, reshaping and waterproofing the earthen dike. Water control structures were also replaced to maintain the quality habitat that a host of plants and animals rely on.

"In keeping with efforts to minimize the impacts on the sensitive habitat, an innovative technique for waterproofing the dike was used," says Bernard Filion, DUC manager

of provincial operations in Quebec. "A geomembrane, which is a low-permeability synthetic liner, was inserted vertically into the dike. This limited physical disturbance on site and the amount of earth needed to strengthen the dike."

The Lac-Saint-François National Wildlife Area is recognized as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Improvements made to the Digue-aux-Aigrettes marsh will ensure this area remains healthy and productive for generations to come.

*Restoration of the Digue-aux-Aigrettes marsh was completed in partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada.*

## Supporting species at risk

The Digue-aux-Aigrettes Marsh contains critical habitat protected under the Species at Risk Act for the Blanding's turtle. As a result, DUC followed strict requirements and undertook specific environmental protection measures during our restoration work. Blanding's turtles can take up to 25 years to reach maturity, but can live for more than 75 years in the wild. As habitat loss around urban areas forces turtles to look for new places to call home, many are being killed or injured on roadways. Digue-aux-Aigrettes Marsh provides a much-needed refuge for these slow-moving reptiles.



# New Brunswick

New Brunswick is home to sandy beaches and salt marshes brimming with life. The Tantramar Marshes stretch flat across the Chignecto Isthmus. Rivers like the Saint John and Miramichi run like veins through the province, creating floodplains and wetlands critical to waterfowl and wildlife. These are places worth conserving. These are places where DUC is hard at work.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- + 449 habitat projects
- + 55,784 acres conserved
  - + This includes 31,935 acres that were restored
- + 940,423 acres influenced

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	1,565	375	1,110	712
(includes acres restored)	1,270	366	718	557
Habitat acres influenced	–	168	–	–

We were unable to complete all the conservation and restoration acres that were planned in New Brunswick after significant funding that we anticipated receiving from the federal and provincial governments was not approved. Other acre accomplishments that were achieved will not be reported until next year following the completion of new partnership agreements.

Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 517 acres (including the restoration of 213 acres) in New Brunswick.

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- + 2,655 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- + 202 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- + 593 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- + 1,565 event attendees who participate in 15 fundraising events across the province



### FEATURED WORK

## Nesting research on the St. John River floodplain

The St. John River winds through New Brunswick like a snake, creating a lush valley perfect for farming, boating, hiking and a diversity of wildlife. High in the trees near the water’s edge, for example, waterfowl like the colourful wood duck, common goldeneye and hooded merganser can be found.

University of New Brunswick graduate student Heidi Harding has spent a lot of time trudging through this abundant landscape, looking for these birds and their nests. As part of a research project, which she’s undertaking in partnership with DUC, she’s trying to determine how many natural cavities exist on the floodplain and how well they’re used as nests. She’s also tracking the use of constructed nest boxes, which have been installed and managed over the past three and a half decades by DUC volunteers. This effort is part of a larger conservation renewal project DUC started in the floodplain in 2019 to ensure critical wetland areas remain on the landscape for decades to come.

Harding and DUC are hoping her cavity-nest research will indicate how waterfowl are being affected by development and other

land-use practices in the floodplain, and what kind of impact DUC’s stewardship program is having on waterfowl. In 2019, she and her team found 44 natural cavities and monitored 88 nest boxes. Not one natural cavity had been occupied by a duck that year, but 57 per cent of the constructed nest boxes were being used.

“I’m very interested in how humans and wildlife interact in places where there’s overlap,” says Harding. “How can we live together better?”

## Science informs conservation planning

The St. John River floodplain is recognized within the Atlantic region as a significant waterfowl breeding and staging site. It encompasses a wide variety of wetlands, and provides a huge complex of lakes, rivers and streams. Harding’s work will not only guide future development and wetland conservation decisions in this priority area, it will help DUC understand the full impact of its 35-year nest-box stewardship program.



# Nova Scotia

Rugged shoreline, lush salt marshes and fertile valleys—this is Nova Scotia. Coastal regions support colonies of sea ducks and shorebirds while sprawling freshwater wetlands provide habitat for a host of wildlife species, from mallards to moose. DUC is proud to safeguard the storied landscapes of Nova Scotia, which are tightly woven within the unique culture of the Maritimes.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- ✚ 418 habitat projects
- ✚ 41,533 acres conserved
  - ✚ This includes 20,900 acres that were restored
- ✚ 969,687 acres influenced

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	7,215	807	399	308
(includes acres restored)	6,618	18	96	99
Habitat acres influenced	400	6,300	2,042	2,854

The shortfall in the number of acres we were able to conserve and restore hinged on a single project, which accounts for 6,250 acres. While work has been completed, these acres cannot be officially reported until a new conservation agreement has been signed by the Government of Nova Scotia. DUC did, however, exceed our influenced acre goal thanks to the new Treasured Wetlands of Nova Scotia program and the Agricultural Stewardship Program in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry.

Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 836 acres (including the restoration of 69 acres) and to influence 812 acres in Nova Scotia.

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- ✚ 3,429 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- ✚ 170 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- ✚ 707 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- ✚ 1,575 event attendees who participate in 12 fundraising events across the province



### FEATURED WORK

## Putting the McIntosh Run watershed on the map

You won't find many better places in Halifax for a rugged hike or an exciting mountain bike ride than McIntosh Run's new single-track trail. Shaded by a thick canopy of trees, the secluded trail takes you through Acadian forest and past placid lakes and wetlands.

It's a wild and special place in the heart of Atlantic Canada's most populous region. That's why DUC and the Province of Nova Scotia partnered with the McIntosh Run Watershed Association to feature West Pine Pond, which sits just off the trail, as a Treasured Wetland of Nova Scotia.

The Treasured Wetlands program highlights a collection of unique wetland sites and encourages Nova Scotians to get out and explore their natural wonders. Every year, four wetlands are selected that have ecological or cultural importance to the community.

"The program, now in its third year, attracts adventure seekers from across the province," says Jodie Hambrook, DUC's manager of development and outreach in Atlantic Canada. "When visiting these locations, they can snap photos at the designated photo posts and search for geocaches hidden nearby."

Last year, DUC staff worked with the McIntosh Run Watershed Association to build

a spur trail to a new look-off point on the wetland, where the trail's many visitors can rest and learn more about the importance of the ecosystem.

This special project and partnership at McIntosh Run not only highlights important wetland systems that play a critical role in filtering water and managing runoff in an urban watershed, it's helped DUC connect with a whole new audience of nature lovers.

*Treasured Wetlands of Nova Scotia is a collaboration between DUC and the Province of Nova Scotia with financial support provided by Wildlife Habitat Canada and the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund.*

## Supporting local recreation and tourism

The Treasured Wetlands of Nova Scotia program provides locals and visitors with another reason to explore the province's stunning landscapes. Areas like the West Pine Pond in the McIntosh Run Watershed can sometimes be taken for granted by Nova Scotians, but are critical to the flora, fauna and people that call them home.



# Prince Edward Island

Amid Prince Edward Island's red-faced cliffs, sandy shores and gentle rolling hills, nature thrives. The province's wetlands and coastal areas support waterfowl from as far south as the Caribbean and as far north as the sub-Arctic. They give birds a place to nest and raise their young. They filter water, protect our coastlines, and give people a place to connect with nature. Don't let its size fool you. Prince Edward Island is delivering big conservation wins.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- + 383 habitat projects
- + 14,702 acres conserved
  - + This includes 5,642 acres that were restored
- + 81,306 acres influenced

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	204	156	830	606
(includes acres restored)	4	120	309	533

In 2020, DUC advanced two restoration projects in the province which resulted in more restored acres. Nearly all DUC's work in the province takes place on private land through partnerships with landowners. Therefore, influencing acres through policy and other conservation measures has not been a key conservation priority in recent years.

**Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 230 acres (including the restoration of 80 acres) in Prince Edward Island.**

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- + 1,220 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- + 50 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- + 580 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- + 562 event attendees who participate in four fundraising events across the province

### FEATURED WORK

## Classes in session at Charlottetown Wetland Centre of Excellence

Look across the parking lot at Charlottetown Rural High School to see its newest classroom. If you're having trouble spotting any desks or computers, that's exactly the point.

The Heritage Creek wetland and trail system adjacent to the school is DUC's newest Wetland Centre of Excellence. Here, students will enhance their studies by immersing themselves in this natural habitat. No desks. No computers. Just hands-on activities that teach students about the importance of wetland conservation.

Charlottetown Rural High School has a long history of providing conservation education. For more than 50 years, it has been offering courses in conservation that have helped shape many students into conservationists with strong environmental ethics.

In fact, Tom Duffy, DUC's manager of provincial operations in the Atlantic region, is an alumnus of Charlottetown Rural High School. He sees the addition of the Wetland Centre of Excellence as an opportunity to further equip young Islanders with the knowledge and experience they need to become future conservation leaders.

"What we hope students take with them is why they need to consider the environment in every future decision they make, whether they go into construction, banking, politics or teaching," says Duffy.

With the Wetland Centre of Excellence located so close to the school, students can easily go canoeing, tend to the community garden and examine the fresh and saltwater species that find their way into this coastal wetland.

"There's no better way to learn about the natural world than experiencing it firsthand," says Duffy.

## Supporting an urban watershed

The Wetland Centre of Excellence at the Heritage Creek wetland is part of an estuary called the Ellen's Creek Watershed. This watershed differs from most other watersheds in the province in that it's located in an urban environment. This poses its own unique set of conservation challenges. The conservation activities that students at Charlottetown Rural High School are conducting will provide DUC and community members with valuable insight into how to best protect this natural system.



# Newfoundland & Labrador

From quiet marshes to soaring coastal cliffs, some of Canada’s most dramatic scenery is found in Newfoundland and Labrador. Wetlands here provide critical habitat for a variety of wildlife including sea ducks, songbirds and the province’s famous moose population. They also play an important role in buffering high tides and storms that cause erosion and flooding along coastlines. DUC is working to help ensure these picturesque places remain for people to explore and enjoy.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

(cumulative)

- + 45 habitat projects
- + 9,580 acres conserved
  - + This includes 8,279 acres that were restored
- + 14,332,627 acres influenced

(Additional acres influenced within the boreal region of Newfoundland and Labrador are reported in the boreal section of this report – see page 56.)

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres conserved	101	24	–	30
(includes acres restored)	101	24	–	–

While DUC recorded a small number of conserved acres in Newfoundland and Labrador this year, we are delivering other important habitat programs across the province. This includes managing a collection of dams, dikes and fishways that support fish and wildlife. DUC also delivers a common eider program that’s focused on promoting the growth of natural vegetation for nest cover.

**Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to conserve 1,923 acres (all of which will be restored) in Newfoundland and Labrador.**

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

- + 2,421 supporters who are contributing to our mission
- + 258 volunteers who raise funds and awareness for wetland conservation
- + 25 landowners who protect vital habitat on their properties
- + 907 event attendees who participate in 12 fundraising events across the province



### FEATURED WORK

## Mapping wetlands in the Conne River watershed

Indigenous Peoples have travelled along the Conne River in Newfoundland’s southern coast for centuries, gaining an intimate understanding of the natural systems that connect its land, water and wildlife.

Today, members of the Miawpukek First Nation are sharing their traditional knowledge to help map and protect the region’s precious wetlands.

Members of the Miawpukek First Nation worked in partnership with DUC and C-CORE, a research and technology solutions provider, to complete the first comprehensive wetland map of this area. Together, they visited 72 sites, gathered field data and conducted remote sensing to classify and inventory wetland habitat.

“Having accessible wetland data is critical for decision-making,” says Danielle Fequet, a DUC conservation specialist in Newfoundland. “That’s why developing an inventory that identifies the location and type of wetlands found within the watershed is so important. Understanding what exists on the landscape is the first step in conservation planning.”

Wetlands play a critical role in the Conne River watershed. They regulate water, store large amounts of carbon, provide habitat for a multitude of species of flora and fauna, and facilitate foraging, hunting and fishing. This new mapping product, which brings together traditional knowledge and the latest conservation science, provides an all-important baseline that will inform how the Conne River watershed is managed going forward.

## Supporting south coast salmon

The Conne River watershed is home to vital habitat for Atlantic salmon, a culturally important species for the Miawpukek. In recent years, salmon populations in the Conne River have reached historic lows. Wetlands help maintain water quality and the overall health of freshwater ecosystems that these fish rely on by providing shoreline stabilization, capturing sediment and transforming nutrients.



# Boreal Region

Eighty-five per cent of Canada’s wetlands are in the boreal forest. They support waterfowl from all over North America, filter an immense amount of water and store millions of tonnes of carbon. DUC is proud to be a conservation partner in the boreal forest, sharing our tools and knowledge to help keep this vast ecosystem healthy.

## OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESS

Statistics include cumulative acres from all provinces and territories within the boreal region.

+ 117,303,523 acres influenced

Annual Conservation Progress and Planning	2020 Goals	2020 Results	2019 Results	2018 Results
Habitat acres influenced	3,500,000	22,767,156	25,373,241	3,627,482

For the second year in a row, DUC vastly exceeded its influenced-acre goal. In 2020, the completion of some significant protected areas and land-use agreements caused our results to skyrocket. Because the boreal forest is made up largely of Crown land, DUC’s conservation efforts are delivered via partnerships. Our results are measured exclusively in habitat influenced. We do not deliver direct programs that result in “habitat conserved” or “habitat projects” as reported in other provinces.

Looking ahead to 2021: DUC is planning to influence 3,500,000 acres in the boreal region.

## OUR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

+ DUC works closely with industry, Indigenous communities, and all levels of government throughout the boreal region.

### FEATURED WORK

## DUC and Louisiana-Pacific Building Solutions sign landmark conservation agreement

Canada’s boreal forest is the largest intact forest on the planet. Conserving this fortress of nature requires bold measures and state-of-the-art stewardship practices.

A new 10-year agreement signed between DUC and Louisiana-Pacific Building Solutions (LP) checks both boxes in an effort that will positively impact more than 6.2 million acres (2.5 million hectares) of Manitoba’s boreal forest — an area half the size of Nova Scotia.

LP, an international engineered wood products company, has been working with DUC over the past 18 years to improve the sustainability of its forestry operations. The new agreement is a culmination of our collaborative work, marked by a commitment by LP to continue implementing wetland best management practices in the boreal landscapes where it operates.

“Early in our forest management operations in Manitoba, we recognized the benefit of

working with organizations like DUC to ensure we have the right information in support of our sustainability efforts,” said Brad Southern, CEO of LP. “We’re committed to being good forest stewards and working with DUC and other partners to continue to sustain boreal wetlands and waterfowl within our Manitoba-based operations.”

Together, DUC and LP have mapped much of the boreal forest in Manitoba, surveyed thousands of wetlands for waterfowl, designed improved wetland crossings, published a widely used boreal wetland field guide, and developed a new method for measuring carbon in wetlands.

The new conservation agreement is the first of its kind, setting a new standard for how industry and conservation groups can work toward a shared vision of sustainability.

In addition to our work with LP, DUC realized significant habitat achievements via the Peel

Watershed Land Use Plan (Yukon). This resulted in approximately 16.6 million acres (6.7 million hectares) influenced, two million of which are new acres and 14.6 million acres that were transitioned from interim to perpetual protection.

## Working together on carbon and climate change

Within a portion of LP’s Forest Management License Area where wetlands are present, it’s estimated that 250 million tonnes of organic carbon are stored in the soil. Should forestry or other industrial activities disrupt the soil, these carbon reservoirs could be released into the atmosphere as greenhouse gas. LP’s efforts to conserve boreal wetlands will keep these vast carbon stores in place and help protect against the effects of climate change.





# Board of Directors & Leadership

## Officers

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*Chairman of the Board*

Kevin Harris  
*President*

Roger d’Eschambault  
*Vice-President*

Patrick O’Connor  
*Treasurer*

Shawn Graham  
*Secretary*

Karla Guyn  
*Chief Executive Officer*

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Greg Sawchuck\*  
Nancy Wilkin

## Alberta

Geoff Badger  
David C. Blom  
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Robert Kozminski\*

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James E. Couch  
Bryan Leverick  
James McHattie, FRCPC,  
AGAF\*

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Kevin McFadden  
Patrick O’Connor  
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Roger d’Eschambault\*

## Nova Scotia

Grenville Jones\*  
James Lawley

## New Brunswick

Shawn Graham\*  
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## Northwest Territories

Clayton G. Balsillie

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Gary Butler  
Sarah Curtis  
Bill D’Alonzo  
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Grady Hartzog, Jr.  
Rogers Hoyt, Jr.  
James Konkel  
Rusty Legg  
Monty Lewis  
Joseph G. Mazon  
Joseph Nicosia  
Clay Rogers  
Doug Schoenrock  
John Tomke  
Mike Woodward

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Peter D. Carton  
C. Neil Downey  
Malcolm M. “Mac” Dunfield  
John C. Eaton  
Jack H. Hole  
Arthur L. Irving  
Duncan M. Jessiman  
John D. McDiarmid  
John R. Messer  
George C. Reifel  
Duncan W. Sinclair  
William G. Turnbull  
Tom Worden  
G. Tod Wright

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Duncan Campbell  
Hugh D. Fairn  
Ross E. Gage  
Ronald J. Hicks  
R. Timothy Kenny  
D. Gavin Koyl  
H. Graham LeBourveau, FCA  
W. Bruce Lewis  
James D. MacDonald  
Barry H. Martin  
David McCoy  
Travis G. Peckham  
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Gilles Rivard, Q.C.  
Mauri M. Rutherford  
Terry Sparks  
Fred Wagman  
W. John D. Woodward

## Executive Vice-President Emeritus

D. Stewart Morrison

## Leadership Team

Karla Guyn  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Gary Goodwin  
*Executive Corporate Secretary and Counsel*

David Howerter  
*Chief Conservation Officer*

Kim Jasper  
*Chief Fundraising Officer*

Linda Monforton  
*Chief People Operations*

Nigel Simms  
*National Director Communications and Marketing*

Marcy Sullivan  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Raj Perumal  
*Chief Information Officer*

Mark Gloutney  
*Director of Regional Operations – Eastern Canada and B.C.*

Scott Stephens  
*Director of Regional Operations – Prairies and Boreal*

## Past Presidents

Honorable Mr. Justice William G. Ross †  
*Regina, SK – 1938-39*

O. Leigh Spencer †  
*Calgary, AB – 1940-42*

William C. Fisher, K.C. †  
*Calgary, AB – 1943-44*

S.S. Holden †  
*Ottawa, ON – 1945-46*

Honorable Mr. Justice William G. Ross †  
*Regina, SK – 1947*

Dr. Walter F. Tisdale †  
*Winnipeg, MB – 1948-49*

Judge L.T. McKim †  
*Yorkton, SK – 1950-51*

Colonel W.F.W. Hancock, O.B.E. †  
*Edmonton, AB – 1952-53*

Gordon E. Konantz †  
*Winnipeg, MB – 1954*

Chief Justice William M. Martin †  
*Regina, SK – 1955-56*

## Role of the Board

- Approve the values, mission and vision, as well as the broad long-term objectives, ethical considerations and governing policies of DUC.
- Hire, establish objectives and monitor performance of the CEO and provide for succession planning.
- Provide support to staff, where appropriate, to achieve the objectives of DUC—particularly in fundraising and policy.
- Approve the budget and the risk management approach of DUC.
- Monitor the performance of DUC, as well as its management, committees and task forces in achieving our vision, mission and broad long-term objectives.
- Recruit, orient, develop and motivate directors, officers and senior provincial directors who are willing and capable of helping DUC achieve its objectives.
- Facilitate the operations of the board through appropriate governance processes.
- Monitor management’s compliance with legislative and fiduciary requirements.

Richard H.G. Bonnycastle †  
*Winnipeg, MB – 1957-60*

Fred S. Auger †  
*Vancouver, BC – 1961-62*

W. Kenneth Martin, D.D.S. †  
*Regina, SK – 1963-64*

Robert A. Kramer †  
*Regina, SK – 1965*

W. Kenneth Martin, D.D.S. †  
*Regina, SK – 1966*

Festus S. Sharpe †  
*Winnipeg, MB – 1967*

W. Kenneth Martin, D.D.S. †  
*Regina, SK – 1968*

Lorne M. Cameron †  
*Victoria, BC – 1969-70*

Robert A. White †  
*Vancouver, BC – 1971-72*

Roderick O.A. Hunter †  
*Winnipeg, MB – 1973-74*

Duncan M. Jessiman  
*Winnipeg, MB – 1975-76*

Hugh H. Mackay †  
*Rothsay, NB – 1977-78*

John D. McDiarmid  
*Vancouver, BC – 1979*

Douglas C. Groff †  
*Winnipeg, MB – 1980*

G. Fitzpatrick Dunn †  
*Victoria, BC – 1981*

Herbert H. Cowburn, D.D.S. †  
*Saskatoon, SK – 1982-83*

Honorable W. John McKeag †  
*Winnipeg, MB – 1984-85*

Arthur L. Irving  
*Saint John, NB – 1986-87*

Duncan W. Sinclair, M.D.  
*Aylmer, ON – 1988-89*

John C. Eaton  
*Toronto, ON – 1990-91*

Claude H. Wilson †  
*Winnipeg, MB – 1992-93*

William G. Turnbull  
*Calgary, AB – 1994-95*

George C. Reifel  
*Vancouver, BC – 1996-98*

G. Tod Wright  
*Burlington, ON – 1999-2000*

Mel F. Belich, Q.C.  
*Calgary, AB – 2001-02*

John R. Messer  
*Tisdale, SK – 2003-04*

Peter D. Carton  
*Regina, SK – 2005-07*

C. Neil Downey  
*Red Deer, AB – 2007-09*

Jack H. Hole  
*Gunn, AB – 2009-11*

Tom Worden  
*Courtice, ON – 2011-13*

Mac Dunfield  
*Riverview, NB – 2013-15*

James E. Couch  
*R.M. of Corman Park, SK – 2015-17*

David C. Blom  
*Calgary, AB – 2017-19*

## Board Committees

- Executive Committee
- Conservation Programs Committee
- Membership & Revenue Committee
- Development Committee
- Finance & Risk Committee
- Governance Committee
- Personnel Policy Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Audit Committee



# Financial Overview

## Message from the Chief Financial Officer

**D**UC achieved strong results in the 2020 fiscal year, with a continued focus on financial strength and sustainability.

For years, DUC has invested in science, engineering, adaptive management and geographic information systems (wetland mapping) to guide and deliver conservation efforts. This, combined with our investment in landowner and partner relationships as well as our Revolving Land Conservation Program, gives us a strategic advantage in providing wetland restoration expertise and services.

Sustainability is a focus for DUC and at March 31, 2020, we have internally restricted \$122.6 million for our long-term commitment to habitat asset management and \$20.3 million for future conservation opportunities. DUC is committed to outreach and education, communicating the importance of wetlands for water, wildlife and the environment to all Canadians. Internally restricted funding for conservation opportunities provides the flexibility to act quickly when opportunities arise.

DUC partners with the Alberta Treasury Branch and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in our Revolving Land Conservation Program. DUC placed 3,030 acres (1,227 hectares) of conservation easements leveraged by \$4.7 million draws on loans in the 2020 fiscal year.

Investments in DUC's business systems transformation with our partners Traction on Demand and Salesforce saw us implement a new constituent relationship management system. This is the third and final phase in a multi-year project to update DUC's techno-

logical tools and streamline its business processes.

With our research pedigree, strong partnerships, educational outreach and a conservation community that stands more than 111,000 strong, DUC is transforming the way conservation is both delivered and perceived. Our governance and commitment to transparency continue to make us the premier conservation organization the nation looks to for leadership.

DUC strives to maintain a more than 80 per cent investment in conservation expenditures of its total expenditures, including fundraising. DUC achieved an 82 per cent investment in conservation expenditures in 2020 (2019 – 81 per cent).

Due to the timing and size of some philanthropic gifts, as well as the experience of 276 community fundraising events across Canada, the overall fundraising efficiency ratio can vary year over year. Merchandise is utilized through a variety of on-site raffles and auctions and is included in the fundraising expenditures. The fundraising efficiency ratio has improved year over year (expenses/revenue) and was 39 per cent in 2020 (2019 – 47 per cent).

Thank you for the vital role you've played in our accomplishments this past year. We look forward to your continued support.



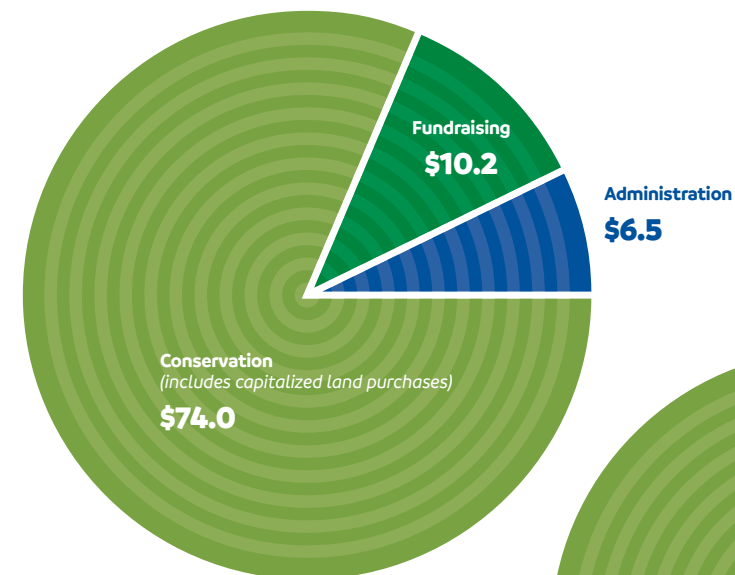
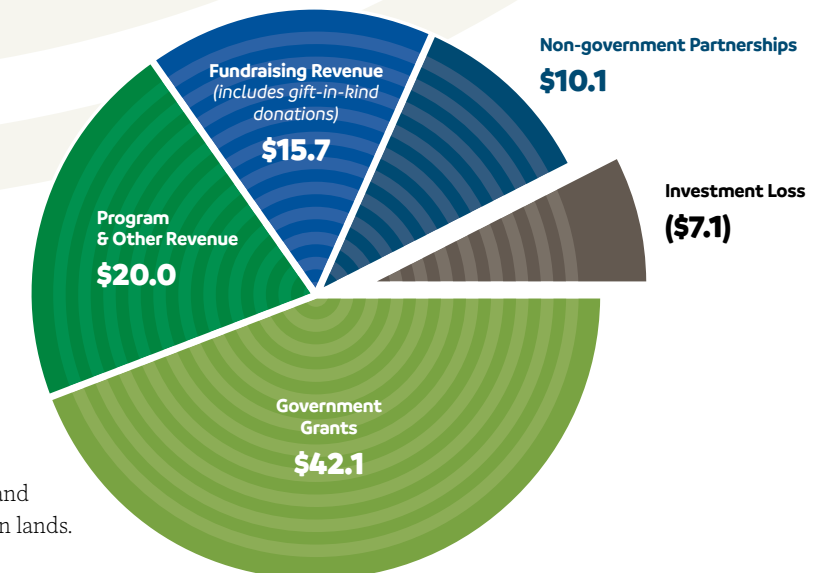
**Marcy Sullivan**  
Chief Financial Officer

## Overview

### Sources of Revenue (\$ millions)

DUC generates revenue from four primary sources:

- Grants from a variety of government sources including federal (both Canada and U.S.), provincial, state and municipal, and from other non-government organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Inc. in the United States.
- Fundraising income, which includes philanthropic giving and grassroots fundraising.
- Program and other revenue, including fee-for-service revenue and ancillary revenues from the management of owned conservation lands.
- Investment loss from short and long-term investments.

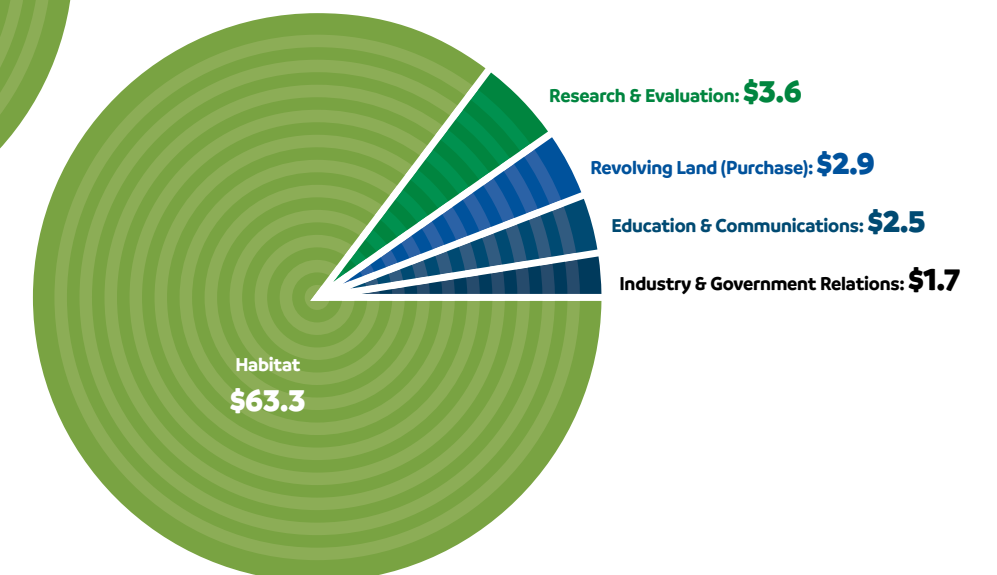


### Uses of Funds (\$ millions)

DUC benefits from:

- Diverse revenue sources;
- Efficient use of funds;
- Leveraging dollars raised; and
- Financial strength.

### Conservation Mission Priorities (\$ millions)





# Financial Summary

## Ducks Unlimited Canada condensed statements of financial position

(in thousands of dollars) | As at March 31

	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets		
<i>Cash</i>	\$13,998	\$18,034
<i>Short-term investments</i>	\$5,477	\$19,010
<i>Other current assets</i>	\$27,463	\$24,821
	<b>\$46,938</b>	<b>\$61,865</b>
Investments	\$157,735	\$179,799
Land held for resale	\$15,384	\$20,779
Property, plant and equipment, net	\$6,952	\$7,205
Conservation lands	\$181,841	\$178,127
	<b>\$408,850</b>	<b>\$447,775</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts payable and current portion of borrowings	\$24,157	\$53,312
Current portion of deferred contributions and unearned revenue	\$20,672	\$18,152
Accrued pension and other post-employment benefits	\$15,673	\$13,007
Non-current deferred contributions and unearned revenue	\$15,607	\$20,038
	<b>\$76,109</b>	<b>\$104,509</b>
Net assets to support conservation activities:		
<i>Internally restricted</i>	\$133,884	\$149,129
<i>Invested in land held for resale, property, plant and equipment and conservation lands</i>	\$187,706	\$183,654
<i>Unrestricted</i>	\$11,151	\$10,483
	<b>\$332,741</b>	<b>\$343,266</b>
	<b>\$408,850</b>	<b>\$447,775</b>

These condensed financial statements do not contain all of the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on DUC's financial position, results of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows, reference should be made to the complete financial statements of Ducks Unlimited Canada as at and for the years ended March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019, on which PwC expressed an opinion without reservation in their report dated June 13, 2020. Visit [ducks.ca/annualreport](https://ducks.ca/annualreport)

## Ducks Unlimited Canada condensed statements of revenue and expenses and changes in unrestricted net assets

(in thousands of dollars) | For the years ended March 31

	2020	2019
<b>Revenue</b>		
Philanthropic fundraising	\$8,345	\$ 9,231
Grassroots fundraising	\$6,757	\$7,491
Non-government partnerships	\$10,134	\$11,122
Government grants	\$42,145	\$39,329
Program and other	\$19,988	\$14,922
Investment (loss) income	(\$7,069)	\$13,421
	<b>\$80,300</b>	<b>\$95,516</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Conservation program	\$67,352	\$67,454
Fundraising	\$10,171	\$12,931
Administration	\$6,484	\$6,299
	<b>\$84,007</b>	<b>\$86,684</b>
Surplus (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	(\$3,707)	\$8,832
Transfers from unrestricted net assets	\$4,375	(\$10,660)
Change in unrestricted net assets	\$668	(\$1,828)
Opening balance unrestricted net assets	\$10,483	\$12,311
<b>Closing balance unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>\$11,151</b>	<b>\$10,483</b>





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**ducks.ca**

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