



*The human spirit needs places  
where nature has not been  
rearranged by the hand of man.*

~Author Unknown



**Today you can walk through Alberta's natural landscapes and experience:**

- banks of Saskatoon and chokecherry blossoms on forest hillsides
- goslings swimming amongst the wetland reeds
- the spectacular colors of autumn taking your breath away in the foothills
- a mountain meadow of snow sparkling in the winter sun

**Private land conservation will guarantee the same experience for future generations...**

**The time to act is NOW.**



**MISSION**

To represent the Land Trust community and build capacity in Land Trusts to conserve diverse and ecologically important landscapes in Alberta

**VISION**

Alberta's future landscapes are rich in biodiversity and have strong ecological integrity



# Conservation of Alberta's natural landscapes is at a critical juncture.

## Private Land Conservation in Alberta

With each passing year, private landowners face more challenges regarding land use and land management. They understand and are passionate about what their land has to offer and how their individual contributions benefit all Albertans:

1. Land left primarily in its natural state provides critical ecological goods such as healthy land, clean air and abundant fresh water.
2. Natural landscapes also provide ecological services such as air and water purification, decomposition of waste, recharge of groundwater and mitigation of the effects of greenhouse gases.
3. Natural habitat is necessary to maintain a diverse array of flora and fauna.



## Alberta Land Trust Alliance

For many years Land Trust organizations across Alberta have attempted to create an alliance in order to maximize resources and ensure effective and efficient conservation of ecologically important land. Alberta Land Trust Alliance (ALTA) was formed in 2006. Land Trusts and other committed stakeholders are now working together with a common goal to conserve private land in areas of the province where competing land uses threaten ecological diversity, habitat, recreational activities and native landscapes.

### ALBERTA LAND TRUST ALLIANCE *Serving the Land Trust Community*

<b>EDUCATION &amp; AWARENESS</b> Virtual Resource Centre	<b>CAPACITY BUILDING</b> Grant Program for Land Trusts	<b>ONE VOICE</b> Input to government processes affecting land conservation in Alberta (all levels of government)
Community Outreach	Annual Conference	Referral Service
Public Awareness and Understanding	Ongoing Training	Networking and Coordination

*Land Trusts have been working in Alberta for over 100 years. In the last ten years the land trust movement has grown, resulting in the creation of several locally based Land Trusts.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How does ALTA help Land Trusts build capacity?

With over half of existing Land Trusts in Alberta having fewer than two staff, training and education are critical to their success. Increased capacity to secure, monitor and steward land effectively; raise funds; and think strategically will help ensure Land Trusts, new and current, are able to sustain themselves and the work they do in perpetuity.

## Why does ALTA want to provide a granting program for Land Trusts?

Part of building capacity is having the funds in place to get the job done. There are many costs associated with private land conservation in Alberta. Through an application process, ALTA's Grant Program will provide much needed funding to build capacity through training, land securement and stewardship.

## What is a Virtual Resource Centre?

A Virtual Resource Centre, established and maintained by ALTA, will provide a means to communicate information between and among its members, all levels of government, landowners, conservation professionals, the media and others. Constant communications is important in order to share new and emerging trends, ensure collaboration amongst Land Trusts, reduce duplication of efforts and learn from the success and challenges of others.

## Why is public awareness and understanding important?

Conserving private land is critical to the overall health of this province. Greater understanding of what is at stake will help ensure the urgency of this issue is recognized. ALTA also provides informed answers to inquiries from interested landowners, media, environment groups and all levels of government and puts interested landowners in contact with appropriate Land Trust(s) in a timely manner.

## How does ALTA help Land Trusts work with governments?

ALTA provides one single voice on behalf of the Land Trust community to work with all levels of government on issues critical to land conservation in Alberta including: the Land Trusts' involvement with the implementation of the Land-use Framework; conservation and stewardship funding, incentives and tools; legislative coordination/changes; and tax reform.



*Land  
Trusts  
are now  
working  
together*

*with a  
common  
goal of  
conserving  
land.*



# Conservation of Private Land

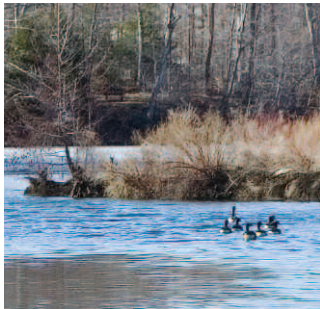
While there are a number of tools in place for the conservation of private land, direct ownership of land and conservation easements are the two primary methods Land Trusts use today.

## DIRECT OWNERSHIP

Private landowners may sell or donate their land outright to a Land Trust in order to ensure conservation into the future.

## CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conservation easements enable landowners to retain ownership and use of their land while relinquishing certain rights in order to protect the ecological value of all or part of their land.



## TAX BENEFITS TO LANDOWNERS

By donating land, or partial interest in land through conservation easements, to a qualified Land Trust, landowners could realize a significant tax benefit.

## COSTS RELATED TO LAND CONSERVATION

The costs related to fulfilling the vision of land conservation in Alberta are significant. These costs include acquisition, land appraisals, travel, monitoring and stewardship. As some of these costs continue in perpetuity endowment is truly the only way to ensure private land conservation into the future.

## The Opportunity

Conservation of private land has been taking place for many years. Acting independently, Land Trusts have done a remarkable job of creating awareness, conserving land and working with all levels of government.

As an umbrella organization, ALTA is in a position to bring one voice to the table and continue the momentum created by its members. ALTA works to ensure:

- Land Trusts have access to resources in order to work efficiently and effectively
- Duplication of services is limited and services are maximized
- New Land Trusts are created where gaps in services currently exist
- All levels of government enact legislation and policies that are truly helpful to landowners and encourage land conservation that is practical and enforceable in perpetuity



A Land Trust is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that has as one of its main objectives the conservation of land.

## With Your Support...

Land Trusts are working together with a single goal – **to conserve ecologically important private land.**

Alberta Land Trust Alliance is seeking your support to help ensure:

- Clean air, healthy land and abundant fresh water for all Albertans
- Habitat for wildlife, including wildlife corridors
- A diverse array of flora and fauna
- Natural landscapes
- Appropriate recreational landscapes for outdoor enthusiasts

*Alberta Land Trust Alliance  
thanks the Alberta Real Estate  
Foundation and Alberta  
Environment for their generous  
support for this project.*



For more information on how you can invest in conserving Alberta's natural landscapes, please contact:



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