



Conservation Land Trusts in Alberta

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Conservation Land Trusts

- Land trusts enable the long-term stewardship of private land by using a variety of management approaches. These include:
 - fee simple purchase
 - habitat donation
 - property management
 - acquiring and maintaining partial rights in the land through tools such as conservation easements (called covenants in BC and servitudes in Quebec), leases or donations of remainder interest



Pertinent Legislation

- 1995: Canadian government created the Ecological Gifts Program to provide tax incentives for the protection of ecologically significant private land and waterscapes
- 1996: Alberta government amended the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act to create conservation easements



Pertinent Legislation

- October 2009: Alberta Land Stewardship Act
 - Conservation Easements - expanded to include protection, conservation and enhancement of agricultural land or land for agricultural purposes
 - Conservation Offsets to allow for the counterbalance the effects of an activity or proposed activity
 - Conservation Directives utilized in regional land use plans; does not constitute an estate or interest in the land; allows land owner may apply for compensation if market value of land has decreased due to CD
 - Transferable Development Credits stipulated in regional land use plans or identified by local authorities to protect conservation areas, recreational areas, open spaces, agricultural lands and historical resources traded for development areas



Key Questions Investigated and Our Findings

- How does the structure and ethos of land trusts compare with other social economy actors?
- What are the moments of engagement, influence, or opportunity seized by land trusts as they mobilize across spatial/temporal dimensions to advance their conservation agendas?



Research questions to be investigated

- How will the new legislation affect and alter existing conservation land trust activities in the province?
- Are land trusts in Alberta using a multi-dimensional approach to determine and achieve their conservation priorities, and how robust are these models?