



## Dr. Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

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Government of Canada is taking action to protect species at risk

For Immediate Release

**Vancouver, BC Aug 26, 2014** –Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Environment Minister, on behalf of The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, and Minister for the Arctic Council, announced today \$11.5 million in funding from the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) that will fund more than 160 projects across Canada that will help protect Species at Risk.

Stewardship is an important step in protecting critical habitat of Species at Risk. HSP fosters stewardship measures like land and resource use practices that maintain habitat necessary for the survival and recovery of species at risk, enhance existing conservation activities and encourage new ones. Voluntary activities are clearly making a difference in habitat protection, the recovery of species, and the conservation of biodiversity.

Some examples of projects that the HSP will fund this year is a project led by the British Columbia Conservation Foundation. Their project aims to address the degradation of Coastal Sand Ecosystems on British Columbia's Southern Coast by mitigating threats due to habitat destruction, invasive plants and human recreational activities. Conservation activities will take place in Boundary Bay, Iona Beach, Thormanby Islands and Savary Island all within the Coastal Douglas Fir and the Lower Fraser Valley areas.

The HSP is also providing funding to the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre for their important work that focusses on habitat protection for cetacean and sea turtles species at risk and reducing threats such as physical disturbances, entanglements, and ship strikes.

In support of such stewardship activities, the National Conservation Plan, announced by Prime Minister Harper in May, includes funding of \$50 million over five years to support voluntary actions to restore and conserve species and their habitats. Programs like HSP are an important part of the Government of Canada's National Conservation Plan to conserve and restore our lands and waters, and connect Canadian families to our natural spaces.

### Quick Facts

- Since 2006, under the Habitat Stewardship Program, we have invested over \$86 million to support 1,467 local conservation projects, benefitting the habitat of 431 species at risk. Activities funded by the Program must take place on private, provincial Crown, or Aboriginal land, or in freshwater or marine environments across Canada.
- Non-governmental organizations, Aboriginal organizations and communities, individuals, businesses, community associations, and provincial/territorial and municipal governments are eligible for funding.

## Quotes

“Our Government is proud to support the environmental efforts of local communities through the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. With this investment and the recently announced National Conservation Plan, the Government is building a stronger Canada, a country that cares about conserving its natural heritage and a country where we can all enjoy the beauty of nature from coast to coast to coast.”

– Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to Canada’s Environment Minister

## Associated Links

More information on the [Species at Risk Act](#) and the [Habitat Stewardship Program](#) is available online.

Canadians can also learn more about the [National Conservation Plan](#).

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## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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# Background

## Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk

As part of [Canada's national strategy for the protection of species at risk](#), the Government of Canada established the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. The Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) is administered by Environment Canada and managed co-operatively with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Parks Canada Agency. It provides funding to successful applicants who conserve and protect species at risk and their habitats and helps those who conserve biodiversity.

Protecting habitat and contributing to the recovery of species at risk are the HSP's main goals. The Program focuses on results in three main areas:

- securing or protecting important habitat to protect species at risk and support their recovery;
- mitigating threats to species at risk caused by human activities; and
- supporting the implementation of other priority activities in recovery strategies or action plans, where these are in place or under development.

In addition to the above objectives, the Program aims to achieve a minimum of 1:1 leveraging on funds that it invests so that, for every \$1 provided by the HSP, at least \$1 is raised by project recipients. This leveraging can take the form of either financial or in-kind resources (volunteered labour, products or services). Partner funding and other support broaden the scope of projects, improve on-the-ground results, and strengthen the public and private collaboration that is essential to involving all Canadians in stewardship activities for species at risk.

There is a wide range of voluntary actions that Canadians take to care for the environment, ranging from conserving wild species and their habitats directly, to improving the quality of habitat by mitigating human impact. These types of conservation activities, particularly those that protect habitat, are essential to the recovery of species at risk. They are also instrumental in preventing other species from becoming at risk.

Some of the ongoing stewardship activities supported by the HSP include:

- removing invasive White Sweet Clover at Prairie Point Alvar in Ontario in order to improve the habitat of the Endangered Gattinger's Agalinis, a branching, slender plant;
- developing a landscape management strategy for the winter habitat of the Threatened Woodland Caribou in Manitoba;
- recruiting local volunteers to rope off all-terrain vehicle trails in order to protect a bog that is the habitat to the largest population of the Endangered Eastern Mountain Avens in Nova Scotia;
- monitoring marine mammal populations and protecting important habitats from disturbance along the Atlantic, Arctic, and Pacific coasts.

In support of such stewardship activities, the National Conservation Plan, announced by Prime Minister Harper in May, includes additional funding of \$50 million over five years to support voluntary actions to restore and conserve species and their habitats. Programs like HSP are an important part of the Government of Canada's National

Conservation Plan to conserve and restore our lands and waters, and connect Canadian families to our natural spaces.

Partnerships are the key to making stewardship a successful conservation tool in Canada. Federal and provincial governments encourage action by providing scientific information, technical assistance and economic incentives. Non-governmental organizations help private landowners and concerned citizens identify and implement effective stewardship activities. Many other partners are also involved, including fishers, Aboriginal organizations, educational institutions and community organizations.

Projects funded under the Program address both habitat conservation and threat mitigation. To date, these projects have benefited 431 species listed under the *Species at Risk Act*. The Program has established more than 370 partnerships with successful recipients and, overall, community involvement and partnerships are the strengths of this Program.

In 2014-2015, the HSP will provide \$11.5 million for more than 160 projects of which 73 were previously approved. This year, the 90 new projects will leverage an additional \$9.4 million from other partners, ensuring a total investment of \$20.6 million.

To find out more on how stewardship actions contribute to the protection of species at risk visit the [www.ec.gc.ca/hsp-pih/](http://www.ec.gc.ca/hsp-pih/).