



## Mission Statement

The Land Trust Alliance of B.C. is dedicated to the stewardship and conservation of our natural and cultural heritage through support of land trusts, conservancies and others. We provide education, research, communication and financial services.

## Land Trusts in BC

*A Land trust is a charitable organization that, as all or part of its mission, actively works to conserve land by undertaking or assisting in land and conservation covenant acquisitions, and engages in the stewardship of land.*

Land trusts in B.C. have protected more than a million acres of land, through conservation agreements, conservation covenants, and acquisitions in cooperation with private landowners, government agencies, and individual donors.

### **The Land Trust Alliance of BC is comprised of:**

**Land Trusts** 32 voting member organizations  
**Associated Organizations** 22 organizations  
**Professionals and Individual members** 40 members

## Strategic Plan to 2010

In order to most effectively support and encourage the protection of natural and cultural heritage areas, we have chosen to focus on the following goals (in order of priority).

### **Goal 1: Build an alliance of strong land trusts: increasing the quality and sustainability of land conservation and stewardship,**

- a) Provide networking and professional development for land trusts, regionally and provincially.
- b) Facilitate partnerships and collaborations between land trusts and other conservation-related organizations and government agencies.
- c) Promote the adoption and application of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practises.
- d) Assist with land trust strategic planning, including recognition of and financing for long-term stewardship, management and conservation with operational capacity.
- e) Ensure the vitality and health of the Land Trust Alliance of BC, so that it can effectively achieve its mission and goals.

### **Goal 2: Build public awareness and involvement with land conservation and stewardship:**

- a) Increase public knowledge of conservation options and support to land trusts generally.
- b) Help build financial support through increased public donations and memberships, and build knowledge of and support to land trusts from other agencies and foundations.

- c) Educate associated professionals about conservation options and land trust services.
- d) Support and promote land trusts in providing increased opportunities for contact between people (with a focus on young people) and nature.

**Goal 3: Advocate for improved tax incentives and financial support for land conservation**

- a) Advocate for increased tools for land conservation including improved tax laws, legislation, and other financial and economic incentives.
- b) Research and create written and digital resources on the above and deliver to members, the public and other associated professionals, organizations and government bodies.
- c) Build knowledge and support of land trusts with government agencies.

**Goal 4: Promote the connection between the work of land trusts and healthy communities**

- a) Promote the links between healthy communities and the protection of sites with natural, cultural and historic values.
- b) Build public knowledge and support for the protection of vital ecological systems and services (especially wetlands, riparian areas, and habitats for wildlife and species at risk).
- c) Support and promote protection of healthy working lands that also protect ecological systems and wildlife corridors and habitats.

**ON-GOING PROGRAMS:**

**Professional Development and Member Education:** We host an annual three-day professional development Seminar Series with our AGM, in addition to providing regional workshops on practices related to the Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices (S & Ps), including an on-line collection of template documents and policies to meet the S & Ps.

**Communications and Outreach:** Our bi-annual magazine, **The BC Kingfisher**, features conservation success stories, current campaigns, and informative articles on land stewardship, restoration and conservation including professional and general educational opportunities and resources. We have a BC Landtrust listserve, and we communicate monthly via email through the ENEWS. We provide outreach through presentations and articles for professionals associated with land use and charitable donations. We also provide outreach to associated government agencies, representing our members' interests and providing networking support.

**Research, Resources and Financial Services:** We research issues of relevance, which are then posted on our website or printed as resources for our members and the public. A separate list of these resources is available. The LTABC has a **Group Insurance Policy** for land trusts through Aon Reed Steinhouse. We offer a **Conservation Assistance Fund** for hard costs associated with acquisitions and covenants: legal fees, appraisals, baseline inventories and surveys, as funding allows.

**LTABC Lands In Trust Registry and Website:** Our website [www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca](http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca) provides information and links to our members, other related programs, land conservation case studies, current campaigns, descriptions of conservation tools, LTABC research and publications and The CLTA Land Trust Standards & Practices. The BC Lands in Trust Registry provides maps and descriptions of sites protected by BC's land trusts.