Taking a look back...

Our 2018-2019 year started with a bang – it came hot on the heels of the federal government’s investment of $1.3 billion in nature conservation through federal Budget 2018.

This commitment was incredibly important. As of December 2017, Canada had only achieved 10% protection of our land and freshwater and less than 4% of our ocean; we had a long way to go to achieve Canada’s international commitments of 17% protection of land and freshwater and 10% of ocean by 2020.

As of today’s date, Canada sits at 12.6% protection of land and freshwater and 13.8% protection of oceans. We covered a lot of ground (and water!) in just a year – and it was achieved thanks in large part to CPAWS’ hard work.

We have a lot to be proud of: our annual conservation reports detailing Canada’s progress and encouraging further action, our ongoing regional conservation and protected areas campaigns, and our collaborative efforts with other organizations, such as the Green Budget Coalition, all contributed to helping Canada take the steps it has taken to protect more of our cherished land and ocean over the last year.

But we still have a long way to go. Our 2018 annual parks report, *What’s Next: Parks and Protected Areas to 2020 and Beyond*, set the stage for our current focus – achieving 30% protection of land and ocean by 2030 as the next step towards slowing the nature emergency – the global loss of wildlife we are currently witnessing.

CPAWS does what it does because of the support it receives from our donors, volunteers, and partners. So, we thank you for aiding in our successes!

We will also ask you to continue supporting and working with us as we push for what Canada truly needs to protect nature. Stay tuned as we push forward to 2020!

Alison Ronson
National Director, Parks Program
Interim National Executive Director (December 2018 to September 2019)

Greetings from the new National Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new National Executive Director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. I’m thrilled to be joining an organization with such a solid reputation and an impressive history of protecting Canada’s heritage. As someone whose fondest memories are of canoe expeditions in the backcountry of the Temagami wilderness and family camping trips in provincial and national parks across Canada, I am truly grateful for the role CPAWS plays in protecting our public lands and waters.

As the second largest country in the world and home to 20% of the Earth’s wild forest, 24% of the Earth’s wetlands, and almost one third of Earth’s land-stored carbon, Canada is uniquely well positioned to become a world leader in conservation. Our identity as Canadians is deeply connected to the vast wild spaces providing a home to many iconic species of wildlife. Our legacy as a country should be protection of these important spaces.

If you have any questions about CPAWS’ work or to see how you might be able to help us keep momentum going to protect Canada’s natural heritage – a heritage which is an important part of who we are as Canadians - I’d be delighted to hear from you.

Sandra Schwartz
National Executive Director
Time to pass the torch after six years on the CPAWS National Board

This year’s President’s report is my last, after serving CPAWS as Chair of the National Board of Trustees for five years. Simply put, much has been accomplished by our organization in fiscal 2018-2019, and it is time for reinvigorated leadership and new horizons. Like most of us on the National Board, I started on a chapter board (in my case the CPAWS Southern Alberta Chapter), and was recruited to move up to National. That was back in 2014. Since then I’ve been National Finance Committee chair and served as President for five years. It has been a memorable period of service.

I followed in President Oliver Kent’s formidable wake, and began working with veteran CPAWS National Executive Director (affectionately known in our shop as “the NED”) Éric Hébert-Daly. Éric’s enthusiasm for working the Ottawa system, and the evident success of our annual Lobby Day on Parliament Hill I shall never forget. It was during Éric’s tenure that our donors embraced the concept of venture philanthropy and helped CPAWS secure its new national office in downtown Ottawa blocks from Parliament Hill. This visionary investment will support CPAWS and its conservation mandate in perpetuity.

When Éric decided to move on to a new career with the United Church, we commenced an extended period of interim NED service, notably by Aran O’Carroll and Alison Ronson, while we exhaustively searched for and found our new NED, Sandra Schwartz. I thank Aran and Alison for their exemplary service during this period, and am excited by the strong career experience and passion Sandra brings to CPAWS. We are well placed for continued conservation success in this globally challenging period of climate crisis and economic adaptation.

I want to thank our chapter and national office staff, as well as board members for all they do every day for our collective future. Simply put - a more dedicated crew doesn’t exist in Canada. It is impossible in this short message to itemize all of their conservation successes; let’s just say that from coast to coast to coast, and in offshore Canadian waters, the creation of national, provincial and territorial park reserves, parks and protected areas have in large measure been served by their cooperative and culturally sensitive efforts.

I’ll close this message by stressing CPAWS’ biggest strength and biggest challenge: our federated model of governance. In many respects we resemble our national confederation in its stresses and strains, but also in its exemplary attitudes and successes. We work out our conflicts by using diplomacy and enlightened governance principles, and we carefully steward our supporters’ contributions. All of this takes time. Over my tenure as CPAWS President, the volunteer work easily consumed two days most weeks. I now look forward to seeing more of you on the trail and in the kayak!

Mike Robinson
Chair and President, National Board of Trustees

Building on last year’s momentum 2018-2019 did not disappoint!

As CPAWS continues to push for not only greater protection for Canada’s wild spaces but also stronger standards and better management practices, we are pleased to report that in 2018-2019 we celebrated the long-awaited establishment of two very important protected areas:

• In B.C. after nearly 17 years of consultation with federal, provincial, and First Nations governments, as well as various stakeholder groups, including CPAWS, the establishment of Scott Islands marine National Wildlife Area (mNWA) became a reality.

As Canada’s first marine National Wildlife Area, the 11,540 sq km area was designated to protect the foraging and breeding habitats of numerous seabird populations that winter in the region.

• More than twenty years of persistent work to move forward by the Dehcho First Nations, Tłı̨chǫ Government, Government of Canada, and other partners, paid off as an agreement was signed to designate the new 14,250 sq km Edéhzhíe National Wildlife Area in the Dehcho region of the Northwest Territories. The area is a unique ecosystem that includes headwater lakes, abundant wildlife and numerous culturally significant sites.
Other phenomenal announcements made in the 2018-2019 fiscal year where CPAWS and our supporters were instrumental include:

- The Québec government’s announcement of its intention to invest $2.6 million over 5 years to meet protected areas goals in the province through the establishment of the Municipality Fund for Biodiversity, an idea initiated by CPAWS Quebec in collaboration with la Fondation de la faune du Québec. This initiative will offer matching funds to municipalities to protect natural spaces and biodiversity in their regions.

- The Calgary Olympic Bid Exploration Committee, listened to Canadians and made the most appropriate decision for nature in our parks, when they issued their list of potential venues which excluded the use of Lake Louise in Banff National Park as an Olympic venue.

- Parks Canada heeded the outcry of Canadians and decided to forego the construction of the proposed Icefields Trail in Jasper National Park. The trail would have paved 109 km directly through critical wildlife habitat.

- In B.C. we also saw the establishment of eight new marine refuges protecting nine of Howe Sound’s newly discovered Glass Sponge Reefs from bottom-contact fishing.

CPAWS can’t do what we do without your generous support. As we head into another exciting year, we hope you’ll renew your support and continue to stand with us in protecting Canada’s majestic wilderness.

Thank you!

For a look at all conservation gains through 2018-2019, visit [www.cpaws.org/all-publications](http://www(cpaws.org/all-publications) for CPAWS’ extended annual report.
HONOURING OUR DONORS  Thank you to those individuals, foundations, businesses, and organizations that demonstrated their leadership in our 2018-2019 fiscal year with gifts of $1,000 or more to CPAWS.

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Kroker FARms Ltd.
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative Society

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Provincial Employees Community Service Fund

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Country Day School
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