



SUMMARY ON THE PATH TO 2030

A REPORT CARD ON PROGRESS TO PROTECT LAND AND OCEAN ACROSS CANADA

As the mid-point of the decade approaches, CPAWS has assessed progress made by federal, provincial and territorial governments towards their commitment to protect at least 30% of land and ocean in Canada by 2030, and assigned grades to each government based on their efforts.

This report card highlights major conservation achievements over the past three years since we published a [Roadmap to 2030](#), as well as shortcomings, and provides recommendations for what needs to be done to effectively achieve the goal of 30% protection by 2030. In conducting this review, we assessed not only progress made in the percentage of land and ocean conserved, but also what areas and mechanisms are being used to ensure long-term, effective and equitable protection.

THIS ASSESSMENT IS BASED ON HOW WELL GOVERNMENTS HAVE APPLIED THE SIX RECOMMENDATIONS WE IDENTIFIED IN OUR 2022 [ROADMAP TO 2030](#):



1. Collaboration to achieve Canada's 30% targets



2. Setting ambitious regional targets



3. Prioritizing Indigenous-led conservation



4. Completing existing conservation projects

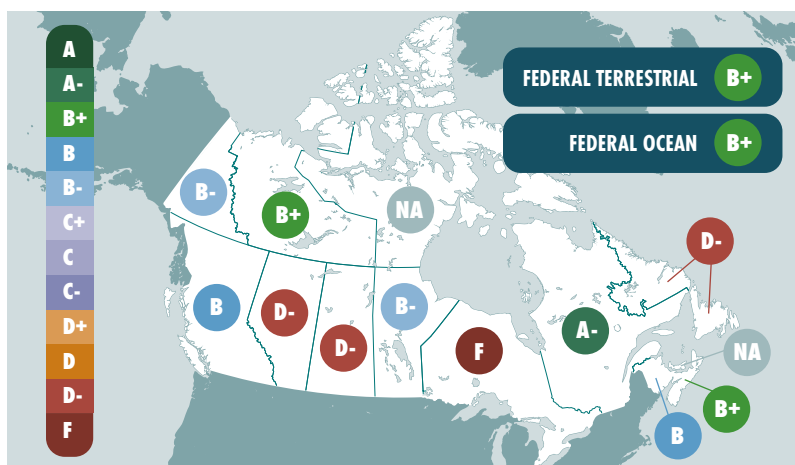


5. Identifying additional high-quality areas for protection



6. Increasing long-term conservation funding

Overall, we found that meaningful progress has been made towards achieving the target, enabled by ambitious commitments and significant federal funding, which has leveraged other public and private funding. While the percentage of areas formally protected and conserved has been slow to increase, many new commitments, proposals and planning initiatives are underway that offer hope for effectively achieving the 30% commitment in collaboration with Indigenous governments and local communities. To build on this progress, continued investment in conserving nature will be critical.



Report card grades for the 2022-2024 conservation actions of federal, provincial and territorial governments.

RESULTS FROM ACROSS CANADA FELL BROADLY INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

LEADERS: Quebec, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, and the federal government (for both terrestrial and ocean conservation separately) are leaders due to their significant investments, ambitious targets, and innovative approaches to establish protected areas. Despite progress, these governments must maintain conservation momentum with long-term funding commitments and continued support of Indigenous-led conservation efforts.

MIXED REVIEW: Governments of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Yukon and Manitoba have made notable commitments and progress in conservation, including collaboration with federal partners and Indigenous communities. However, they face challenges such as slow planning and implementation, and the need for stronger legislative and cooperative frameworks to achieve goals.

LAGGARDS: Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario received the lowest grades due to a lack of political will to establish and expand protected areas or pursue equitable conservation processes. These jurisdictions have rolled back nature protection, prioritized development or implemented ineffective and even harmful environmental laws.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

While federal, provincial and territorial governments face their own specific opportunities and challenges, CPAWS' assessment found that the following conclusions apply broadly to all jurisdictions:

1. Continuing with ambitious goals, increased funding, and Indigenous-led stewardship will keep conservation momentum strong through to 2030.
2. Creating new protected areas takes time because of the need for strong relationships, planning, and full partnership with Indigenous rightsholders.
3. Leveraging additional investments from provincial, territorial, philanthropic, and NGO sources is made possible by federal financial support for conservation.
4. Achieving Canada's 30x30 target is possible and requires sustained federal funding to 2030 and beyond, including renewed support for critical conservation programs.
5. Simplifying funding processes and building trust-based models will accelerate conservation results.
6. Investing in Indigenous-led preliminary land use or marine spatial planning is essential and builds a foundation of knowledge and lasting relationships.
7. Implementing policies and legislative tools that support and recognize Indigenous-led conservation initiatives and governance models will improve all conservation outcomes.
8. Prioritizing quality and equity in protected areas ensures effective conservation outcomes.
9. Tailoring conservation strategies to regional needs is crucial to success.
10. Ensuring robust protection and effective management of current and future conservation sites means Canada's conservation efforts will meet international quality and equity standards.

