



Northeastern North America / Turtle Island Landscape Connectivity Summit

**JUNE 11 – 13,
2024**

**Montréal /
Tiohtià:ke,
Québec**



STAYING
CONNECTED
INITIATIVE



CENTER
for
LARGE LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION

SUMMIT PROGRAM

Welcome to the first-ever cross-boundary gathering focused on advancing landscape connectivity conservation and restoration in the five eastern-most Canadian provinces, seven northeastern-most U.S. states, and Indigenous territories of the region. The Summit is co-hosted by the Quebec-Labrador Foundation and Center for Large Landscape Conservation on behalf of the Staying Connected Initiative partnership.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Expanded relationships and durable mechanisms for well-coordinated, collaborative and inclusive landscape connectivity conservation at multiple scales
- Enhanced awareness of the region's significance and connectivity challenges, opportunities and strategies
- Promising approaches for advancing connectivity conservation and restoration
- Momentum toward solutions and biodiversity conservation goals like the "30 x 30" target
- Reinforced support for the principles of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers' (NEGECP) Resolution 40-3 on ecological connectivity, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation, adopted in 2016

CORE THEMES:

- Connectivity and Climate Science
- Etuaptmumk/Two-Eyed Seeing – Weaving Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science
- Coordination, Collaboration, and Partnerships
- Infrastructure
- Land Use: Protection, Planning, and Management
- Policy and Funding

OTHER KEY THEMES WOVEN IN:

- Climate Change
- Community Engagement
- Ecosystem Services
- Freshwater/Aquatic Connectivity/Riparian Areas
- Land/Climate/Social Justice
- Recreation
- Regional Vitality

SUMMIT SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

12:00 – 17:30: Registration

17:30 – 19:30: Welcome Reception

Dinner on your own

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

7:00 – 8:30: Registration and Breakfast

8:30 – 12:30: Plenary Sessions

12:30 – 13:30: Lunch

13:30 – 14:30: Plenary Session

14:45 – 17:00: Breakout Discussions

18:00 – 20:30: Connectivity Films

Dinner on your own

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

7:00 – 8:30: Registration and Breakfast

8:30 – 12:15: Plenary Sessions

12:15 – 13:30: Lunch

13:30 – 15:00: Breakout Discussions

15:30 – 17:00: Plenary Sessions

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RESPECT HER, OUR MOTHER THE EARTH

LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY SUMMIT SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024	
12:00 – 19:30	Registration
17:30 – 19:30	Opening Reception (<i>appetizers provided</i>) Delta Montreal Courtyard or Main Foyer and Exhibit Space (<i>depending on weather</i>)
19:30 – on	Dinner on your own
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024	
7:00 – 8:30	Breakfast Buffet (<i>provided</i>)
7:30 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 9:00	Plenary: Land Acknowledgement and Opening Deb Davidson, Chief Strategy Officer, Center for Large Landscape Conservation Trish Nash, Director, Apoqnamatmu'k Wksitqamu (Working Together for the Earth), Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources Sedalia Kawennotas and Owen Mayo, Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation from Kahnawà:ke
9:00 – 10:00	Plenary: Day 1 Introductory Remarks Welcome and Summit Goals from the Staying Connected Initiative Partnership Jessie Levine, Appalachians Conservation Director - North, The Nature Conservancy / Nature United Deb Davidson, Chief Strategy Officer, Center for Large Landscape Conservation Phil Huffman, Senior Vice President, Quebec-Labrador Foundation Leadership Within and Across Borders <i>Moderator:</i> Phil Huffman, Senior Vice President, Québec-Labrador Foundation <i>Speakers:</i> Hon. Benoit Charette, Minister (<i>recorded</i>) and Jacob Martin-Malus, Associate Deputy Minister for Biodiversity, Wildlife, and Parks, Quebec Ministry of the Environment, Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks Hon. Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada (<i>recorded</i>) Hon. Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality (<i>recorded</i>)
10:00 – 10:30	Refreshment Break
10:30 – 11:30	Plenary: Setting the Stage, Part 1: Weaving the Strengths of Indigenous and Western Science Knowledge Systems Toward Action for a Well-Connected Regional Landscape <i>Moderator:</i> Phil Huffman, Senior Vice President, Quebec-Labrador Foundation <i>Panelists:</i> Elder Dr. Albert D. Marshall Sr., Moose Clan of the Mi'kmaw Nation, Mi'ma'ki Dr. Mark Anderson, Director of Conservation Science, Eastern Region, The Nature Conservancy
11:30 – 12:30	Plenary: Setting the Stage, Part 2: Global and Continental Context and Perspectives <i>Moderator:</i> Deb Davidson, Chief Strategy Officer, Center for Large Landscape Conservation <i>Panelists:</i> Gary Tabor, Chief Executive Officer, Center for Large Landscape Conservation Trish Nash, Director, Apoqnamatmu'k Wksitqamu (Working Together for the Earth), Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources Darlene Upton, Vice President of Protected Area Establishment, Parks Canada Tim Purinton, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Buffet (<i>provided</i>)
13:30 – 14:30	Plenary: Setting the Stage, Part 3: Regional Context and Perspectives <i>Moderator:</i> Heather Furman, Appalachians Director, The Nature Conservancy <i>Panelists:</i> Mikael Cejtin, Coordinator, Staying Connected Initiative John Austin, Director of Wildlife, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Co-Chair, New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers' Ecological Connectivity Working Group Bill Ardren, Assistant Regional Director, Science Applications, Northeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gordon Batcheller, Executive Secretary, Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
14:30 – 14:45	Refreshment Break

14:45 – 15:45	Breakout Discussion Groups, Part 1: What Does Successful, Durable Connectivity Conservation for This Transborder Region Look Like to You?
15:45 – 16:00	Refreshment Break
16:00 – 17:00	Breakout Discussion Groups, Part 2: What Are the Key Barriers and Challenges to Achieving Successful, Durable Connectivity Conservation for the Region?
18:00 – 20:30	Connectivity Films (<i>pre-registration required at https://forms.office.com/r/s212kddMYd</i>) 18:00-19:00: Tapas and cash bar 19:00-20:30: Films and discussion Le Balcon, 463 Saint Catherine Street, Montréal (5 minute walk from Delta) <div> SCAN TO REGISTER  </div>
	Dinner on your own
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024	
7:00 – 8:30	Breakfast Buffet (<i>provided</i>)
7:30 – 8:30	Registration (<i>for Day 2-only participants</i>)
8:30 – 8:45	Plenary: Day 2 Introductory Remarks and Interactive Activity Phil Huffman, Senior Vice President, Quebec-Labrador Foundation Deb Davidson, Chief Strategy Officer, Center for Large Landscape Conservation
8:45 – 10:30	Plenary: Stories of Innovative Efforts from Near and Far <i>Moderator:</i> Mikael Cejtin, Coordinator, Staying Connected Initiative Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative <i>Presenter:</i> Jodi Hilty, President and Chief Scientist, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative Conservation at Scale: Connecting the Lands and Waters of the Appalachians <i>Presenter:</i> Jessie Levine, Appalachians Conservation Director – North, The Nature Conservancy / Nature United Passamaquoddy/Peskotomuhkati-led Transboundary Restoration of the Skutic (St Croix) River <i>Presenter:</i> Darran O’Leary, Lands Manager, Passamaquoddy Recognition Group Inc. Quebec Ecological Corridors Initiative <i>Presenters:</i> Kateri Monticone, Director of Strategic Conservation and Innovation / Initiator and Strategic Advisor, Quebec Ecological Corridors Initiative, Nature Conservancy of Canada – Quebec Region, and Marie-Lyne Després-Einspenner, Executive Director, Éco-Corridors Laurentiens Vermont Connectivity Innovations <i>Presenters:</i> Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, and Andrea Wright, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Manager, Vermont Agency of Transportation
10:00 – 10:30	Refreshment Break
11:00 – 12:15	Plenary: Unlocking Policy and Funding Opportunities <i>Moderator:</i> Peter Howell, Executive Director, Conservation Finance Network <i>Panelists:</i> Renee Callahan, Executive Director, ARC Solutions Eli Enns, Co-Founder, Director and Chief Executive Officer, IISAAK OLAM Foundation (<i>invited</i>) Abby Weinberg, Senior Director of Conservation Science and Planning, Open Space Institute Alison Woodley, Senior Strategic Advisor, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch Buffet (<i>provided</i>)
13:30 – 15:00	Breakout Discussion Groups, Part 3: Distilling Insights and Solutions for This Region
15:00 – 15:30	Refreshment Break
15:30 – 16:30	Culminating Plenary: Where Do We Go From Here? Interactive Session to Identify Key Next Steps Across Boundaries, Cultures, Scales, Sectors, and Strategies <i>Moderator:</i> Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
16:30 – 17:00	Final Plenary: Concluding Remarks and Closing Mikael Cejtin, Coordinator, Staying Connected Initiative Deb Davidson, Strategic Conservation Officer, Center for Large Landscape Conservation Phil Huffman, Senior Vice President, Quebec-Labrador Foundation Sedalia Kawennotas and Owen Mayo, Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation from Kahnawà:ke

CORE TEAM

- John Austin, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
- Mikael Cejtin, Staying Connected Initiative
- Deb Davidson, Center for Large Landscape Conservation (co-chair)
- Krista Grant, Quebec-Labrador Foundation
- Jens Hilke, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
- Phil Huffman, Quebec-Labrador Foundation (co-chair)
- Gabe Oppler, Center for Large Landscape Conservation
- Alexa Schubak, Quebec-Labrador Foundation

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In-region:

- Roberta Clowater, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – New Brunswick
- Amanda Cross, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Maine
- Marc Deblois, Quebec Ministry of the Environment, Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks – International Relations Branch
- Jennifer Dingman, Fundy Biosphere Region and Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association
- Bill Labich, Highstead Foundation
- Mélanie Lelièvre, Appalachian Corridor
- Jessie Levine, The Nature Conservancy/Nature United – Appalachians – North
- Dave MacKinnon, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change
- Kateri Monticone, Nature Conservancy of Canada – Quebec
- Trish Nash, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
- Conrad Reining, Two Countries, One Forest and Wildlands Network
- Nick Richardson, Open Space Institute
- Chris Slesar, Vermont Agency of Transportation
- Marie-Andrée Vaillancourt, Quebec Ministry of the Environment, Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks – Wildlife Branch

National/International:

- Renee Callahan (alternate: Marta Brocki), ARC Solutions
- Tracy Farrell (alternate: Natalie Cox), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Olaf Jensen, Canadian Wildlife Service
- Mara Kerry, Parks Canada
- Jen Kovacs, Salazar Center for North American Conservation
- Sarah Palmer, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (alternate: Laurel Angell)
- Jonathan Putnam, U.S. National Park Service

SPONSORS

The organizers express their deep appreciation to the following for their generous support of the Northeastern North America / Turtle Island Landscape Connectivity Summit.

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