Centre for Land Conservation
Centre pour la conservation des terres

2025-2026

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Letter from the Chair

Bruce MacLellan

This is a pivotal moment for Canada's conservation sector.



We are facing urgent needs to protect nature and biodiversity in Canada. At the same time, Canadians are rising to protect our nation in the face of new threats. At the Centre for Land Conservation (CLC), we are addressing this pivotal moment with programs that build capacity and inspire ambition in our conservation community. We could not be doing this without our supporters. As a registered charity and Canada's only independent organization focused solely on strengthening frontline conservation efforts, we are making a difference. Thank you.

We're providing resources, enhancing capacity and encouraging more ambitious thinking. We're fostering global connections through initiatives with the International Land Conservation Network. And we're helping shape the policies that govern federal conservation priorities and investment across the country.

Our sector has opportunities to seize.

Thanks to an aging population, charitable bequests are at an all-time high, and most land trusts have more properties in the pipeline than they have the capacity to handle.

Governments are looking for capable, well-resourced partners to help achieve ambitious conservation goals.

And a growing number of First Nations are launching Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas or looking to partner with non-Indigenous land trusts.

By strengthening land conservation groups across the country, CLC is readying the sector to meet this moment. And your investment makes it possible.

Thanks to the support of individuals and organizations committed to advancing land conservation in Canada, CLC ended 2025–26 in a strong financial position with our revenue exceeding $1.1 million.

Likewise, our programs have expanded significantly, thanks to our Executive Director Lara Ellis and our talented staff.

As Chair, I'd like to recognize my predecessor, Nathalie Pratte, who capably steered our board over the past five years and continues as a very engaged board member. CLC continues to be led by a very experienced, competent and passionate Board of Directors. We thank Eliza Mitchell for her many years of guidance and support and welcome new Directors, Paul Thiel and Andrew Boyne.

Together, we have big goals to achieve.

Over the next five years, we aim to provide meaningful programs that scale up conservation across Canada. With your continued support, we can build a stronger sector so that nature and communities can thrive.

Letter from the Executive Director

Lara Ellis

2025 was a year of raising standards, bringing changemakers together and empowering Canada's next generation of conservation leaders.



Over the past year, we moved from planning and program development into implementation at the Centre for Land Conservation and the results are adding up.

In October, we welcomed the inaugural cohort of 24 participants to the Ivey-CLC Conservation Leadership Program at Ivey Academy, Western University. Over five intensive days, leaders honed their negotiation and management skills, built an entrepreneurial mindset and connected with peers nationwide. A second cohort of 25 more leaders followed in 2026.

We certified four more organizations through our Conservation Excellence Certification program, bringing the total to 10. This rigorous, third-party assessment lets land trusts demonstrate that they meet the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. To certify more organizations in the years ahead, we also trained 12 new volunteer assessors.

We launched Building Capacity for Conservation Impact to help high-performing land trusts double the amount of land they conserve. From 46 expressions of interest, we selected 12 organizations to receive three years of mentorship and up to $300,000 each in matching funding.

We also surveyed the sector on a proposed Conservation Legal Defence program, in which participating organizations would pool resources to protect one another against legal risk. The findings were striking: land trusts reported 112 legal incidents since 2015, from trespass to title challenges to boundary disputes, at an average cost of $36,000 each. An advisory group is now using this data to design the program, including premium rates, coverage and initial capitalization.

We continued to contribute to national and international conversations, speaking at the Land Trust Alliance's Rally: National Land Conservation Conference in Cleveland, Ohio and the first-ever Canadian Ecological Connectivity Conference in Banff.

In November, we co-hosted the Future of Prairie Grasslands workshop in Brandon, Manitoba, with the Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association, Saskatchewan Stock Growers' Foundation and other partners, bringing together 46 Prairie producers to set priorities for grassland conservation and stewardship. Expert focus groups followed in 2026, building towards our Grasslands Policy Forum in Saskatoon.

We sponsored the 2026 Indigenous Land Symposium in Sudbury, which drew more than 300 delegates from over 35 First Nations and 60 partner organizations. We also launched Growing Roots, an Indigenous-led review of the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices that creates a pathway for Indigenous perspectives to shape our certification framework directly.

And we published *Valuing Nature Conservation on Private Land*, exploring how Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) could support conservation on privately owned agricultural and forested lands.

Thank you to the staff, partners, volunteers and supporters whose commitment makes this work possible. Together, we're building a stronger conservation sector, and I look forward to all we will accomplish in the year ahead.

CENTRE FOR LAND CONSERVATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2026

Independent Auditor's Report
Statement of Financial Position
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures and Changes in Net Assets
Statement of Cash Flows
Notes to the Financial Statements

KELLY HUIBERS MCNEELY
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Directors of Centre for Land Conservation

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Centre for Land Conservation ("the Centre"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2026, and the statements of revenue and expenditures and changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Centre as at March 31, 2026, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Centre in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Management either intends to liquidate the Centre or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Centre's financial reporting process.

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Centre's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Centre to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Kelly Huibers McNeely
Professional Corporation

Stittsville, Ontario
September 1, 2026

Authorized to practice public accounting by
The Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

CENTRE FOR LAND CONSERVATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash (note 3)	$ 1,038,094	$ 690,647
Short-term investments (note 5)	1,484,722	212,200
Accounts receivable	131,368	87,175
HST recoverable	46,570	20,833
Prepaid expenses	7,043	15,835
	$ 2,707,797	**$ 1,026,690**
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 150,864	$ 182,985
Government payables	9,271	7,068
Deferred contributions (note 4)	2,289,286	634,081
	2,449,421	824,134
NET ASSETS	258,376	202,556
	$ 2,707,797	**$ 1,026,690**

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Director

Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

CENTRE FOR LAND CONSERVATION

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
REVENUE		
Contributions (note 4)	$ 1,099,916	$ 1,086,844
Donations	21,296	128,724
Interest and other income	45,424	18,712
	1,166,636	1,234,280
EXPENDITURES		
Collaboration support	244,772	132,000
Office operations	23,374	14,890
Professional fees	29,398	46,613
Program consultants	405,207	509,758
Program materials and communications	23,597	63,514
Salaries and benefits	263,392	295,706
Technology and communications	40,783	26,798
Travel and meetings	80,293	62,895
	1,110,816	1,152,174
NET REVENUE	55,820	82,106
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	202,556	120,450
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	**$ 258,376**	**$ 202,556**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

CENTRE FOR LAND CONSERVATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN)		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net revenue	$ 55,820	$ 82,106
Net change in non-cash working capital items:		
Accounts receivable	(44,193)	(60,175)
HST recoverable	(25,737)	(6,551)
Prepaid expenses	8,792	(10,330)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(32,121)	140,315
Government payables	2,203	(14,111)
Deferred contributions	1,655,205	173,025
	1,619,969	304,279
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of short-term investments	(1,468,630)	(210,000)
Maturity of short-term investments	196,108	200,777
	(1,272,522)	(9,223)
NET CHANGE IN CASH	347,447	295,056
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	690,647	395,591
CASH - END OF YEAR	**$ 1,038,094**	**$ 690,647**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

CENTRE FOR LAND CONSERVATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2026

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Canadian Land Trust Alliance / Alliance des organismes de conservation du Canada ("the Centre") was incorporated on April 3, 2006 under Part II of the *Canada Corporations Act*. On September 19, 2014, the Centre continued under the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*. On May 22, 2019, the Centre was renamed Centre for Land Conservation / Centre pour la conservation des terres. As a registered charity in Canada, the Centre is exempt from income taxes.

The Centre was established to work with the community as an independent voice to enhance public trust and confidence in private land conservation in Canada.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The principal accounting policies of the Centre are summarized as follows:

Revenue Recognition

The Centre follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Short-term Investments

The Centre's short-term investments are initially recorded at cost and subsequently recognized at fair value. Interest income is recognized as revenue in the period earned.

Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires Management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

3. CASH

Cash includes $10,000 held as security against the Centre's available credit card facility. At March 31, 2026, there is $1,273 owing on the credit card.

4. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

	Opening balance	Amounts received	Revenue recognized	Closing balance
Non-government organizations	$ 32,949	$ 526,479	$ 261,219	$ 298,209
Federal government	72,239	308,732	302,732	78,239
Foundations	528,893	1,919,910	535,965	1,912,838
	$ 634,081	**$ 2,755,121**	**$ 1,099,916**	**$ 2,289,286**

5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Centre's financial instruments consist of cash, short-term investments, accounts receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. It is Management's opinion that the fair value of these instruments is not materially different than their cost and that the Centre is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency or credit risk.

The Centre's short-term investments consist of guaranteed investment certificates earning interest at rates between 1.95% and 2.65% maturing between May 2026 and March 2027.

Credit Risk

The Centre is exposed to credit risk in the event of non-performance by counterparties in connection with its accounts receivable. The Centre does not obtain collateral or other security to support the accounts receivable subject to credit risk but mitigates this risk by dealing only with what Management believes to be financially sound counterparties and, accordingly, does not anticipate significant loss for non-performance.