

# A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking In Canada

## 2001 Regional Overview: ALBERTA



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The Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) has launched a major research initiative to develop a profile of environmental grantmaking in Canada. Included in this document is an overview of key findings for Alberta – including total environmental grants in the province and breakdowns by environmental issue, sub-issue, and activity supported. These initial findings are based on the environmental grants made in 2001 by 51 grantmakers – predominantly foundations – mostly CEGN members. This is just a start! Next year's data will include a broader range of grants and grantmakers.

CEGN initiated this research to address the absence of Canadian data on the issues, needs and priorities for environmental funding. The resulting Canadian Environmental Grants Database provides an aggregate profile on the size and characteristics of the environmental grantmaking sector in Canada. This research is important because without any sense of the big picture, we can have no understanding of the cumulative impact of environmental grantmaking in Canada, no sense of the context in which we each work – nor can we fully develop sector-level collaboration to address shared concerns. Ultimately, CEGN's goal in undertaking this research is to encourage discussion, debate and action on the needs and gaps in funding in the Canadian environmental sector.

### The Big Picture

#### *Grants to Alberta Recipients*

A total of \$2.5 million was given to recipients located in Alberta through 121 environmental grants made in 2001 by the grantmakers included in the database. This represents 4 percent of the total grant dollars and 8 percent of the total number of environmental grants given across Canada in that year. Overall 76 different Alberta recipients received grants (9% of the total number of recipients Canada-wide). Twenty of the 51 grantmakers in the database (39%) gave grants to Alberta recipients in 2001.

Individual grant amounts to Alberta recipients vary greatly, ranging from \$56 to \$190,000. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$10,000. (In comparison, the median grant for recipients across Canada was \$15,000.)

#### *Grants to Alberta Activities*

The location of the activity that a grant supports is sometimes different from the location of the recipient. For example, many national organizations are based in Ontario, but their work takes place across Canada. For this reason, it is also important to take into account the location of the activity supported by the grant.

A total of \$3.4 million in grants went to environmental activities taking place in Alberta in 2001 through 93 grants. This represents 5 percent of the total grant dollars and 7 percent of the total number of environment grants given across Canada in that year. In all, 68 different recipients received grants for Alberta activities (8% of total recipients). Twelve grantmakers (24%) gave grants to Alberta activities.

#### Provincial Overview: Alberta 2001

##### By recipient location:

- | 121 grants to Alberta recipients (8%)
- | \$2.5 million (4%)
- | 76 recipients (9%)
- | 20 grantmakers (39%)

##### By activity location:

- | 93 grants to Alberta activities (7%)
- | \$3.4 million (5%)
- | 68 recipients (8%)
- | 12 grantmakers (24%)

Individual grant amounts to Alberta activities range from \$56 to \$1.8 million. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$8,000.

**Grants by City**

Three Alberta cities were among the top fifteen cities across Canada by amount of grant dollars granted to recipients. Recipients located in Calgary received \$1 million in environmental grants (or 1.4% of total grant dollars across Canada) – ranking eighth among cities across Canada. Canmore was twelfth with \$571,000 in environmental grants or 0.8 percent of the total grant dollars across Canada. Edmonton was fifteenth with \$419,000 in environmental grants (0.6% of total grant dollars).

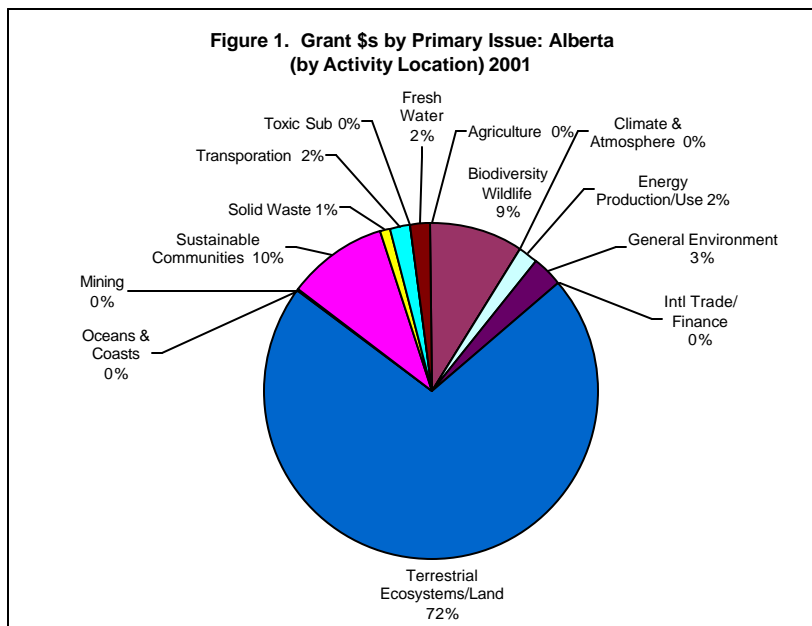
Based on the total grant dollars within Alberta alone, the top five cities in terms of environmental grant dollars (by recipient location) were: Calgary (\$1 million or 40% of Alberta grant dollars); Canmore (\$571,000 or 23%); Edmonton (\$419,000 or 17%); Drayton Valley (\$227,000 or 9%); and Pincher Creek (\$58,000 or 2%).

When considering grants supporting activities taking place in Alberta (rather than Alberta recipients), a somewhat different list of cities makes up the top five. Recipients located in Ottawa (e.g. national organizations) received \$1.8 million in grants for activities taking place in Alberta (or 54% of total grant dollars for Alberta activities). The other cities are as follows: Calgary (25%); Edmonton (11%); Pincher Creek (2%); and Canmore (1.5%).

**Grants by Issue**

The grants were analyzed in terms of 14 broad environmental issue categories. Terrestrial ecosystem and land issues received the greatest level of support in Alberta with 72 percent of the dollars going to grants in this category. (This very high level was affected by one large grant to land issues given in 2001.)

Grants in the sustainable communities category received the next highest level of support with 10 percent of the dollars. (This category includes environment issues relating to urban settings or other human settlements.) Grants relating primarily to biodiversity and wildlife issues received 9 percent of the grant dollars. Other issue categories receiving funding included: general environment (3%); energy production/use (2%); fresh water (2%); transportation (2%); and solid waste (1%).



Other issue categories receiving funding included: general environment (3%); energy production/use (2%); fresh water (2%); transportation (2%); and solid waste (1%).

In comparison to the distribution of grant dollars by environmental issue across Canada, Alberta was much higher than the national average for terrestrial ecosystems/land, and slightly higher for sustainable communities. Grants in Alberta were lower than average to the issues of: general environment; fresh water; climate/atmosphere; and oceans and coasts.

### Grants by Keyword

Grants within the database are also described in terms of keywords to provide additional detail on the specific aspects of the issues being funded.<sup>1</sup>

Most of the keywords are sub-issues of the 14 environmental issue categories identified above. For example, 55 percent the dollars went to grants addressing habitat fragmentation. Grants that addressed the Yellowstone to Yukon initiative (Y2Y) received almost 6 percent of the grants dollars. Four percent of total grant dollars supported grants relating to forests. Just over one percent of the dollars went to grants addressing recycling. Figure 2 shows a selection of other keyword examples.

In addition, some of the keywords are general codes that cut across all environmental issues. For example, grants that involved or related to “children & youth” accounted for 4 percent of the total grant dollars. (This compares to 7% of total grant dollars across Canada relating to children & youth.)

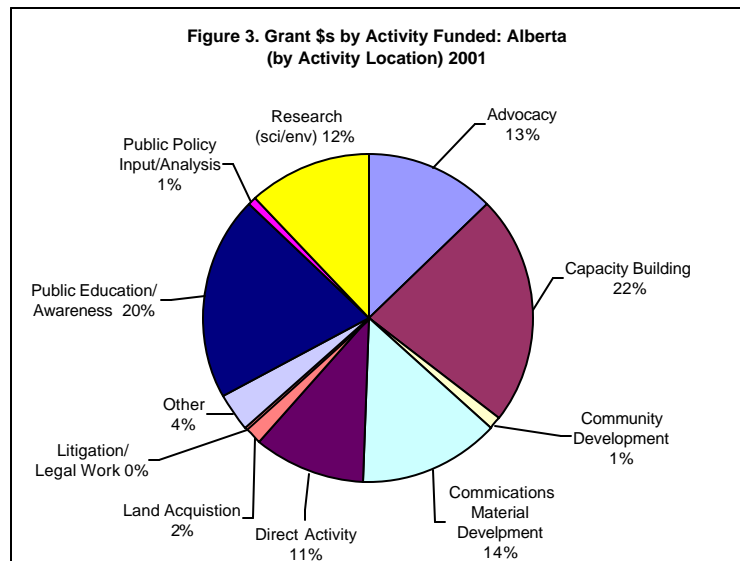
**Figure 2. Examples of Keywords by Environment Issue**

	<i>Estimated % of grant \$s</i>
Habitat fragmentation	55%
Forests	4.2%
Y2Y	5.7%
Parks	3.6%
Gardens	3.4%
Environment & other sectors: social services	2.5%
Land trusts/conservation easements/covenants	2.5%
Birds	2.2%
Human-wildlife interaction	2.1%
Land use planning	2.0%
Energy efficiency	1.8%
Wolves	1.6%
Migration	1.4%
Schoolyard naturalization	1.4%
Alternative transportation	1.2%
Recycling	1.1%

### Grants by Activity

The type of activity directly supported by grants was also analysed. In Alberta the largest segment of grant dollars (23%) was in support of activities to help build the recipient organization’s capacity. This includes activities such as strategic planning, fundraising development, staff development and equipment, as well as general or operating support. Public education/awareness activities received 20% or total grant dollars. Other activities receiving higher levels of support were communications material development (14%), advocacy (13%), scientific or environmental research (12%), and direct “hands-on” activities such as community clean-ups (11%).

**Figure 3. Grant \$s by Activity Funded: Alberta (by Activity Location) 2001**



Compared to the distribution of grant dollars for the funded activities across Canada, Alberta was much higher than average in advocacy, communications material development, and public education/awareness activities. Alberta was lower than the national average in terms of the percent of grant dollars supporting the activities of land acquisition, direct activity, public policy input/analysis, and community development.

<sup>1</sup>In most cases, grants were coded by one or more keywords in an attempt to provide some additional detail of the grant's issue focus. Identification of keywords was based on the description of the grant as provided by the grantmaker. Where the described focus of the grant was general in nature (e.g. "conservation" or "general support"), it was not feasible to identify or note all of the potential keywords or sub-issues that may be addressed by the grant. A wide range of individual words and phrases were used as keywords. For example, there are over 200 standard keywords or phrases included in the database. These keyword categories are not mutually exclusive – there is often overlap among them in recognition of the interconnections among so many environmental issues. As a result each grant is usually associated with several keywords. For these reasons, the figures for keywords are estimates and should be considered as approximate indications of relative levels only.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

**Please Note! Profile of Grantmakers**

It's important to keep in mind the composition of the 51 grantmakers included in this release of the database when interpreting the findings.

**Grantmakers by Region**

Over one third (35%) of the grantmakers currently in the database are located in Ontario. Twenty-two percent (22%) are located in the U.S.A. British Columbia has the second largest number of grantmakers among the provinces at 16 percent (16%). Percentages of grantmakers located in the other provinces are as follows: Quebec (14%); Alberta (8%); and Manitoba (6%).

**Grantmakers by Type**

The majority (57%) of the grantmakers currently included in the database are family foundations. Others include: community foundations (12%); corporate foundations or grant programs (12%); government foundations or grant programs (6%); other types of foundations (4%); and other types of grantmaking organizations (10%).

As mentioned, the 2001 data set is heavily weighted toward foundations, with some other types of grantmakers – government in particular – being underrepresented. The next release of the database will include a greater number and range of grantmakers.

*Further detail on CEGN's Canadian Environmental Grants Database, including an explanation of terms used in the database, information on how the data were compiled, and additional data profiles, is available on CEGN's website at [www.cegn.org](http://www.cegn.org) under "About Environmental Grantmaking".*

*Also available on CEGN's website is an interactive feature of the grants database that allows specific searches (e.g. by environmental issue and province).*

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