

# A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking In Canada

## 2001 Regional Overview: ATLANTIC REGION



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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 the Atlantic Region – including total environmental grants in the region 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 Atlantic Region Recipients

A total of \$2.0 million was given to recipients located in the four Atlantic provinces (New Brunswick, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island) through 76 environmental grants made in 2001 by the grantmakers included in the database. This represents 3 percent of the total grant dollars and 5 percent of the total number of environment grants given across Canada in that year. Overall 62 different Atlantic region recipients received grants (8% of the total number of recipients in Canada). Fifteen of the 51 grantmakers in the database (29%) gave grants to Atlantic recipients in 2001.

Individual grant amounts to Atlantic region recipients ranged from \$1,000 to \$228,000. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$16,000. (In comparison, the median grant for recipients across Canada was \$15,000.)

#### Grants to Atlantic Region 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.

About \$2.5 million in grants went to environmental activities taking place in the Atlantic region in 2001 through 82 grants. This represents 4 percent of the total grant dollars and 6 percent of the total number of

#### Overview: Atlantic Region 2001

##### By recipient location:

- | 76 grants to Atlantic region recipients (5%)
- | \$2.0 million (3%)
- | 62 recipients (8%)
- | 15 grantmakers (29%)

##### By activity location:

- | 82 grants to Atlantic region activities (6%)
- | \$2.5 million (4%)
- | 63 recipients (8%)
- | 12 grantmakers (24%)

grants given in support of the environment across Canada in that year. In all, 63 different recipients received grants for Atlantic region activities (8% of total recipients). Twelve grantmakers (24%) gave grants to Atlantic region activities.

Individual grant amounts to Atlantic region activities ranged from \$1,000 to \$228,000. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant of \$19,986.

**Grants by City**

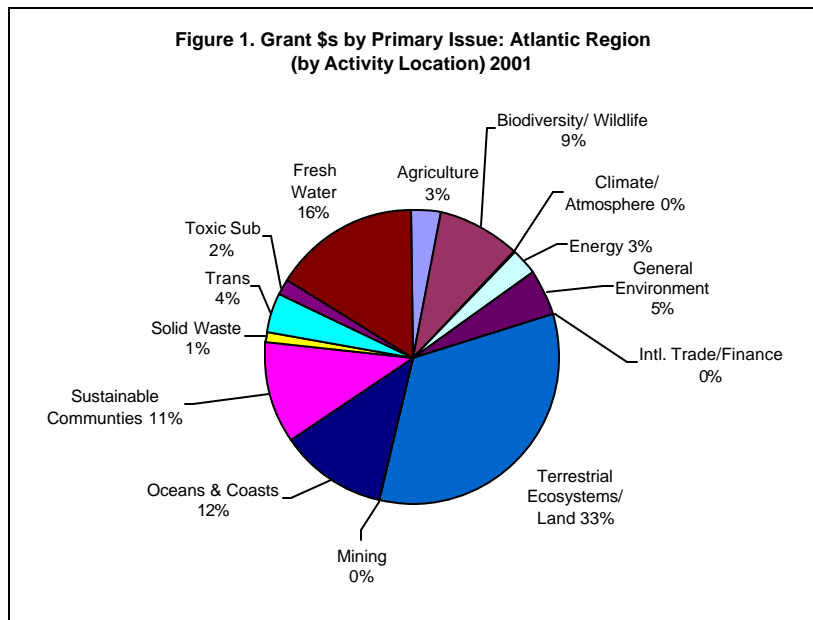
When considering the top cities across Canada by amount of grant dollars, one Atlantic region city was among the top thirty. Recipients located in Halifax received about 0.4 percent of the total grant dollars across Canada, placing it thirtieth among Canadian cities.

Based on the total grant dollars within the Atlantic region alone, the top five cities in terms of environmental grant dollars (by recipient location) were: Halifax (\$259,000 or 13% of Atlantic grant dollars); Antigonish (\$231,000 or 11%); St. John’s (\$223,000 or 11%); Fredericton (\$186,000 or 9%); and St Andrews (\$159,000 or 8%). Charlottetown was sixth at \$151,000 (7%).

When considering grants supporting activities taking place in the Atlantic region (rather than Atlantic region recipients), a somewhat different list of cities makes up the top five. Halifax received 10.2 percent of the total environmental grant dollars supporting activities located in the Atlantic region. The other cities are as follows: Toronto (9.4% of dollars for Atlantic region activities); Antigonish (9.1%); St. John’s (8.8%); and Montreal (8.6%).

**Grants by Issue**

The grants were analyzed in terms of 14 broad environmental issue categories. Terrestrial ecosystem/land issues received the greatest level of support in the Atlantic region with 33 percent of the dollars going to grants in this category. Grants related to terrestrial fresh water received the next highest level of support at 16 percent of the grant dollars. Other issues receiving higher levels of support included: oceans and coasts (12% of grant dollars); sustainable communities – including grants dealing with environment issues relating to urban settings or other human settlements (11%); and biodiversity/wildlife (9%).



In comparison to the distribution of grant dollars by environmental issue across Canada, the Atlantic region was much higher than the national average for fresh water, and oceans and coasts. Grants in the Atlantic region were lower than average to the issues of terrestrial ecosystems/land and general environment. (This latter category includes grants dealing with multiple environmental issues or with general areas like environmental law or environmental health.)

**Grants by Keyword**

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

Most of the keywords are sub-issues of the 14 environmental issue categories identified above. For example, almost 12 percent the dollars went to grants relating to freshwater quality. Grants that addressed issues relating to marine ecosystems/species received 11 percent of the grants dollars. Rivers/streams received 10.7 percent of the grants dollars. Four percent of total grant dollars supported grants relating to birds. Over 2 percent of the dollars went to grants addressing salmon issues. Figure 2 shows a selection of other keyword examples.

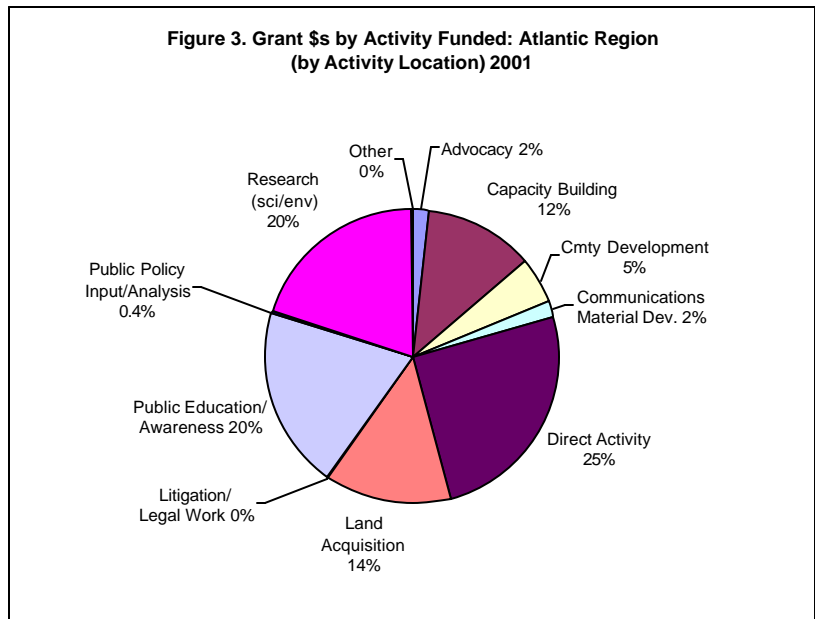
In addition, some of the keywords are general codes that cut across all environmental issues. For example, grants that involved or related to “children & youth” accounted for over 3 percent of the total grant dollars. (This compares to 7% of total grant dollars across Canada relating to “children & youth”.) Grants related to First Nations issues received just over 1 percent of the dollars (compared to 7% of total grant dollars across Canada).

**Figure 2. Examples of Keywords by All Environment Issues**

	<i>Estimated % of grant \$s</i>
Fresh water quality	11.9%
Marine ecosystems/species	11.4%
Rivers/streams	10.7%
Private landowners	8.4%
Forests	6.7%
Wetlands	6.4%
Watershed	6.0%
Parks	5.5%
Energy efficiency	5.3%
Land trusts/conservation easements/covenants	4.8%
Birds	4.1%
Alternative transportation	3.9%
Endangered species/species survival	3.4%
Oil and gas	3.2%
Coastal lands	3.0%
Plant life	2.6%
Salmon	2.4%
Pesticides	1.6%

**Grants by Activity**

The type of activity directly supported by grants was also analysed. In the Atlantic region one quarter (25%) of the grant dollars supported direct “hands-on” activities such as community clean-ups. Two activities – public education/awareness and scientific/environmental research – received the next largest amounts at 20 percent of total grant dollars for each. Other activities receiving higher levels of support were land acquisition (14%), and capacity building (12%). (The latter category comprises 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.)



Compared to the distribution of grant dollars for the funded activities across Canada, the Atlantic region was higher than average in scientific/environmental research, public education/awareness, and direct activity. The Atlantic region was lower than the national average for capacity building, public policy input/analysis and land acquisition.

<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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