

A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking In Canada

2001 Regional Overview: NORTHERN REGION



By Kathryn Townshend, Coordinator, CEGN

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 Northern 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 Northern Region Recipients

A total of \$641,000 was given to recipients located in the three Northern territories (Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon Territory) through 24 environmental grants made in 2001 by the grantmakers included in the database. This represents 1 percent of the total grant dollars and 2 percent of the total number of environment grants given across Canada in that year. Overall 17 different Northern region recipients received grants (2% of the total number of recipients in Canada). Six of the 51 grantmakers in the database (12%) gave grants to Northern recipients in 2001.

Individual grant amounts to Northern region recipients ranged from \$1,100 to \$132,000. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$9,400. (In comparison, the median grant for recipients across Canada was \$15,000.)

Grants to Northern 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 \$1.1 million in grants went to environmental activities taking place in the Northern region in 2001 through 28 grants. This represents 2 percent of the total grant dollars and 2 percent of the total number of grants given in support of the environment across Canada in that year. In all, 18 different recipients

Overview: Northern Region 2001

By recipient location:

- | 24 grants to Northern region recipients (2%)
- | \$641,000 (1%)
- | 17 recipients (2%)
- | 6 grantmakers (12%)

By activity location:

- | 28 grants to Northern region activities (2%)
- | \$1.1 million (2%)
- | 18 recipients (2%)
- | 8 grantmakers (16%)

received grants for Northern region activities (2% of total recipients). Eight grantmakers (16%) gave grants to activities taking place in the Northern region.

Individual grant amounts to Northern region activities ranged from \$1,000 to \$204,000. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant of \$19,370.

Grants by City

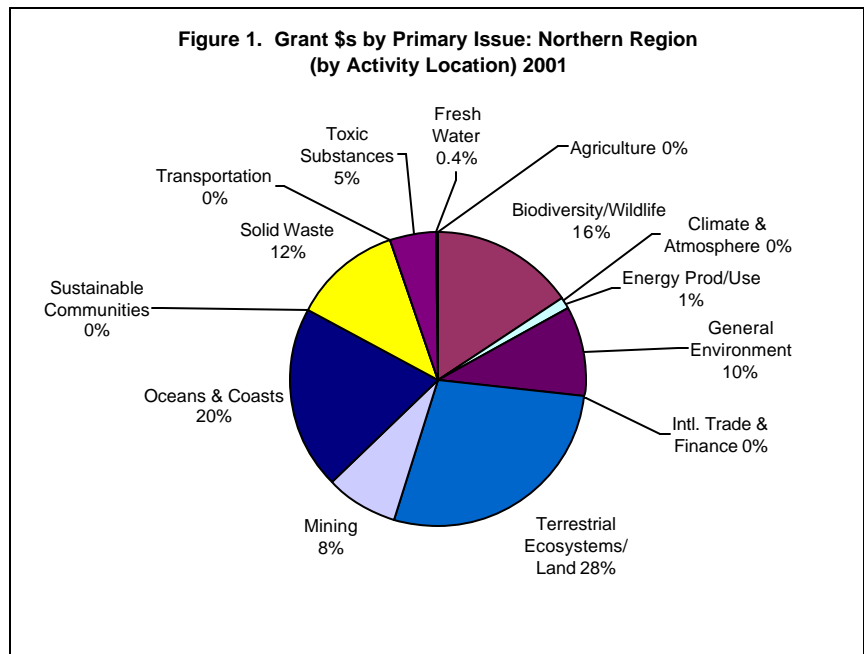
When considering the top cities across Canada by amount of grant dollars, one Northern region city was among the top twenty. Recipients located in Whitehorse received about 0.6 percent of the total grant dollars across Canada, placing it seventeenth among Canadian cities.

Based on the total grant dollars within the Northern region alone, the top five cities in terms of environmental grant dollars (by recipient location) were: Whitehorse (\$418,000 or 65% of Northern region grant dollars); Yellowknife (\$100,000 or 16%); Old Crow (\$35,000 or 5%); Pangnirtung (\$19,000 or 3%); and Fort McPherson (\$5,000 or 1%).

When considering grants supporting activities taking place in the Northern region (regardless of where the recipient was located), a different list of cities makes up the top five. Toronto received 35 percent of the total environmental grant dollars supporting activities located in the Northern region. The other cities are as follows: Whitehorse (20%); Ottawa (19%); Yellowknife (9%); and Nanaimo (9%).

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 Northern region with 28 percent of the dollars going to grants in this category. Grants related to oceans and coasts received the next highest level of support at 20 percent of the grant dollars. Other issues receiving higher levels of support were: biodiversity/wildlife (16%); solid waste (12%); general environment (10%) – including grants dealing with multiple environmental issues or with general areas like environmental law or environmental health; and mining (8%).



In comparison to the distribution of grant dollars by environmental issue across Canada, the Northern region was much higher than the national average for mining, oceans and coasts, solid waste, and toxic substances, and somewhat higher for biodiversity/wildlife. Grants in the Northern region were lower than average to the issues of terrestrial ecosystems/land, fresh water, general environment, sustainable communities, and climate and atmosphere.

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.¹

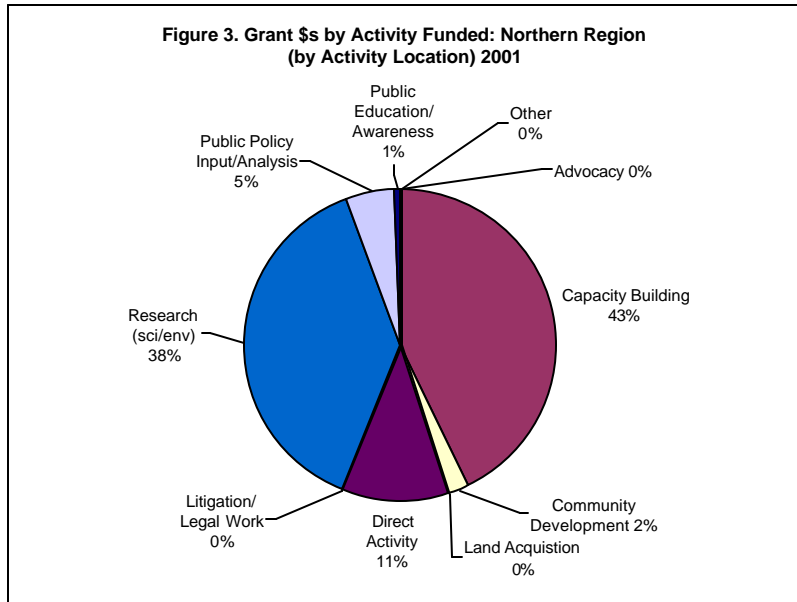
Most of the keywords are sub-issues of the 14 environmental issue categories identified above. For example, almost 21 percent the dollars went to grants relating to marine protected areas. Grants that addressed issues relating to parks received 18 percent of the grants dollars. Eleven percent of total grant dollars supported grants relating to forest issues. Almost 5 percent of the dollars went to grants addressing persistent organic pollutants. Grants relating to northern oil and gas issues received just under one percent of the grant dollars. Figure 2 shows a selection of other keyword examples.

Figure 2. Examples of Keywords by All Environment Issues

	<i>Estimated % of grant \$s</i>
Marine protected areas	20.7%
Parks	17.8%
Chemicals	13.8%
Protected areas (land)	13.8%
Forests	11.2%
Recycling	9.2%
POPs (persistent organic pollutants)	4.7%
Quarries	2.8%
Boating impacts	1.8%
Whales	1.8%
Oil and gas	0.9%

Grants by Activity

The type of activity directly supported by grants was also analysed. In the Northern region the grant dollars were focused on a few types of activities. Fully 43 percent of the grant dollars supported activities to help build the recipient organization’s capacity. The next largest activity was scientific and environmental research at 38 percent of the region’s total grant dollars. Direct “hands-on” activities such as community clean-ups received 11 percent of total grant dollars to Northern region activities.



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

¹In 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 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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*Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network
615 Yonge Street, Suite 502
Toronto ON M4Y 1Z5
T: 416-961-1273
F: 416-323-9301
ktownshend@cegn.org
www.cegn.org*