

A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking In Canada

2001 Regional Overview: ONTARIO



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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 Ontario – 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 Ontario Recipients

A total of \$41.3 million was given to recipients located in Ontario through 552 environmental grants made in 2001 by the grantmakers included in the database. This represents 58 percent of the total grant dollars and 38 percent of the total number of environmental grants given across Canada in that year. Overall 291 different Ontario recipients received grants (36% of the total number of recipients Canada-wide.) Thirty-eight of the 51 grantmakers in the database (75%) gave grants to Ontario recipients in 2001.

Individual grant amounts to Ontario recipients vary greatly, ranging from \$300 to over \$10 million. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$24,000. (In comparison, the median grant for recipients across Canada was \$15,000.)

Grants to Ontario 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 \$21.4 million in grants went to environmental activities taking place in Ontario in 2001 through 377 grants. This represents 31 percent of the total grant dollars and 28 percent of the total number of

Provincial Overview: Ontario 2001

By recipient location:

- | 552 grants to Ontario recipients (38%)
- | \$41.3 million (58%)
- | 291 recipients (36%)
- | 38 grantmakers (75%)

By activity location:

- | 377 grants to Ontario activities (28%)
- | \$21.4 million (31%)
- | 238 recipients (30%)
- | 24 grantmakers (47%)

grants given in support of the environment across Canada in that year. In all, 238 different recipients received grants for Ontario activities (30% of total recipients). Twenty-four grantmakers (47%) gave grants to Ontario activities.

Individual grant amounts to Ontario activities range from \$300 to \$1 million. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$25,000.

Grants by City

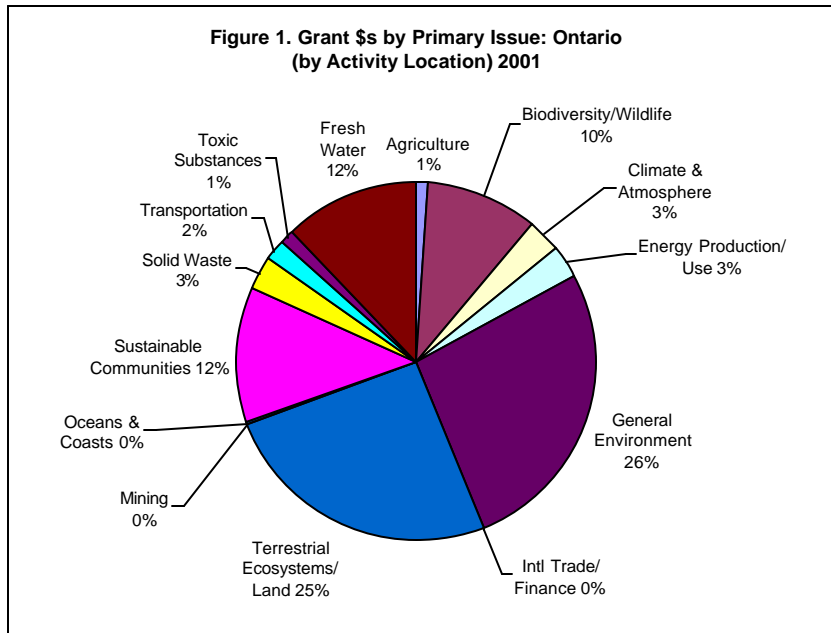
Two Ontario cities were among the top three cities across Canada by amount of grant dollars granted to recipients. Recipients located in Toronto received \$21.3 million in environmental grants (or 30% of total grant dollars across Canada) – the largest amount of any city. Ottawa was third with \$5.6 million in environmental grants or 8 percent of the total grant dollars across Canada.

Based on the total grant dollars within Ontario alone, the top five cities in terms of environmental grant dollars (by recipient location) were: Toronto (\$21.3 million or 52% of Ontario grant dollars); Ottawa (\$5.6 million or 14%); Mactier (\$2.6 million or 6%); Hamilton (\$1.3 million or 3%); and London (\$0.7 million or 2%).

When considering grants supporting activities taking place in Ontario (rather than Ontario recipients), the same cities comprise the top five although with small differences in order and level. Toronto activities receive 32 percent of the total environmental grant dollars supporting activities located in Ontario. The other cities are as follows: Mactier (12%); Hamilton (6%); Ottawa (4%); and London (3%).

Grants by Issue

The grants were analyzed in terms of 14 broad environmental issue categories. Grants in the general environment category received the greatest level of support, with 26 percent of the dollars for Ontario activities. (This category includes grants dealing with multiple issues or with general areas like environmental law or environmental health.) Terrestrial ecosystem and land issues received 25 percent of the grant dollars. Other issues receiving higher levels of support included: freshwater (12% of the dollars for Ontario activities); sustainable communities/urban issues (12%); and biodiversity/wildlife (10%).



In comparison to the distribution of grant dollars by environmental issue across Canada, Ontario was higher than the national average for general environment, sustainable communities and freshwater. Grants in Ontario were lower than average to the issues of: terrestrial ecosystems/land; international trade/finance; mining; 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 issues being funded.¹

Most of the keywords are sub-issues of the 14 environmental issue categories identified above. For example, 10 percent of total grant dollars supported grants relating to sustainable economic development (in general). Almost 9 percent of the dollars went to grants addressing “forests” issues. Grants that addressed issues relating to “birds” received about 4 percent of the grants dollars. About 2 percent of the dollars went to grants addressing “recycling”. Figure 4 shows a selection of other keyword examples.

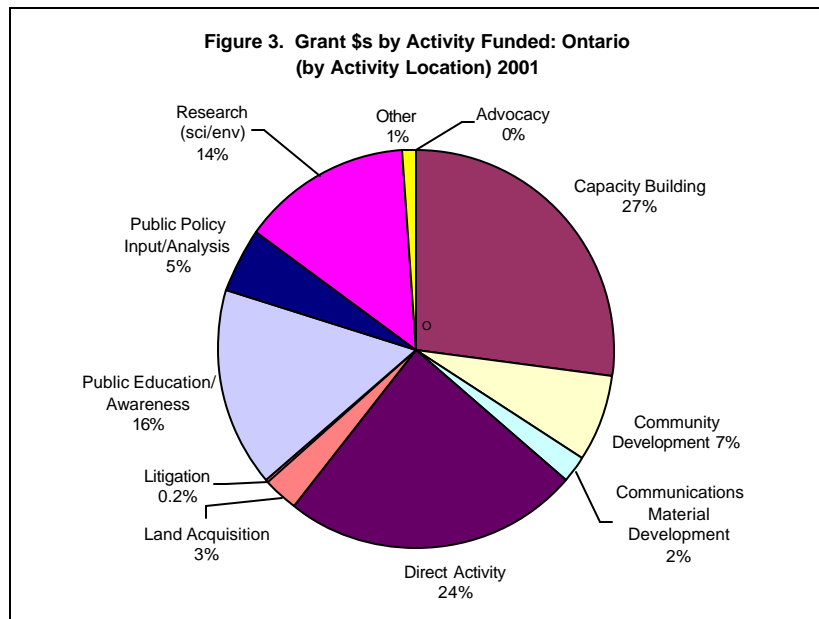
In addition, some of the keywords are general codes that cut across all environmental issues. For example, grants that involved or related to “First Nations” issues accounted for 13 percent of the total grant dollars. (This compares to 7% of total grant dollars across Canada relating to First Nations.) Ten percent of the grant dollars went to grants involving or relating to “children & youth”. Grants relating to “Northern” issues accounted for 3 percent of the total grant dollars.

Figure 2. Examples of Keywords by Environment Issue

	<i>Estimated % of grant \$s</i>
Sustainable economic development	10.3%
Forests	8.9%
Recreation/nature trails	4.9%
Birds	4.2%
Air pollution	4.1%
Rivers/streams	4.1%
Wetlands	3.9%
Parks	3.4%
Private landowners	3.4%
Health & environment/environmental health	3.3%
Water quality (freshwater)	3.1%
Fish	3.0%
Environment & other sectors	2.9%
Community greening	2.6%
Land trusts/conservation easements/covenants	2.5%
Recycling	2.0%
Energy efficiency	1.9%
Animal welfare	1.7%
Alternative transportation	1.4%
Alternative sources (energy)	1.4%
Climate change	0.8%
Smart growth/urban sprawl	0.4%

Grants by Activity

The type of activity directly supported by grants was also analysed. The largest segment of grant dollars (27%) 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. Direct “hands-on” activities such as community clean-ups received 24 percent of total grant dollars. Other activities receiving higher levels of support were public education/awareness (16%) and scientific/environmental research (14%).



Compared to the distribution of grant dollars for the funded activities across Canada, Ontario was somewhat higher than average in capacity building, direct activity, public education/awareness, and scientific/environmental research. Ontario was significantly lower than the national average in terms of the percent of grant dollars supporting the activity of land acquisition.

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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