

A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking In Canada

2001 Regional Overview: QUEBEC



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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 Quebec – 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 Quebec Recipients

A total of \$3.8 million was given to recipients located in Quebec through 87 environmental grants made in 2001 by the grantmakers included in the database. This represents 5 percent of the total grant dollars and 6 percent of the total number of environmental grants given across Canada in that year. Overall 69 different Quebec recipients received grants (9% of the total number of recipients Canada-wide). Thirteen of the 51 grantmakers in the database (25%) gave grants to Quebec recipients in 2001.

Individual grant amounts to Quebec recipients vary greatly, ranging from \$1,400 to \$874,000. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and more smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$20,000. (In comparison, the median grant for recipients across Canada was \$15,000.)

Grants to Quebec 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 \$2.7 million in grants went to environmental activities taking place in Quebec in 2001 through 80 grants. This represents 4 percent of the total grant dollars and 6 percent of the total number of grants given in support of the environment across Canada in that year. In all, 66 different recipients received

Provincial Overview: Quebec 2001

By recipient location:

- | 87 grants to Quebec recipients (6%)
- | \$3.8 million (5%)
- | 69 recipients (9%)
- | 13 grantmakers (25%)

By activity location:

- | 80 grants to Quebec activities (6%)
- | \$2.7 million (4%)
- | 66 recipients (8%)
- | 14 grantmakers (27%)

grants for Quebec activities (8% of total recipients). Fourteen grantmakers (27%) gave grants to Quebec activities.

Individual grant amounts to Quebec activities range from \$1,400 to \$134,000. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$20,000.

Grants by City

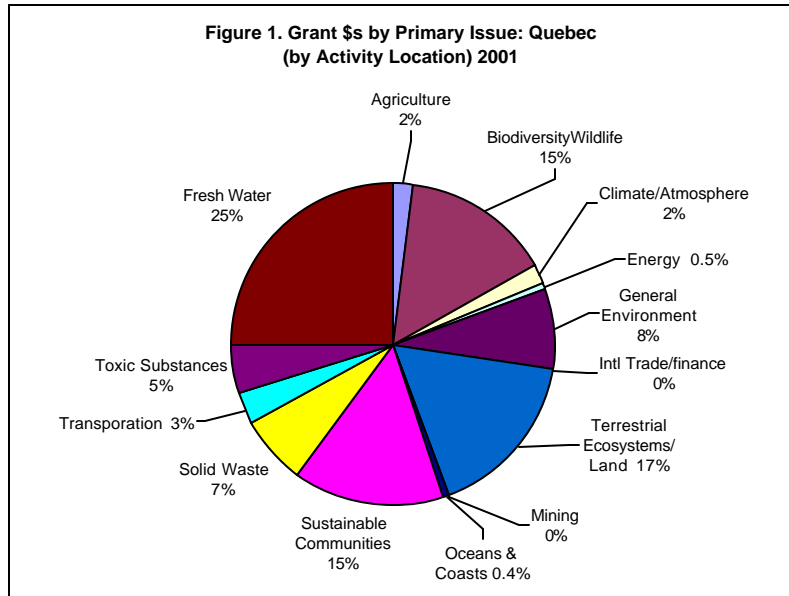
One Quebec city was among the top five cities across Canada by amount of grant dollars granted to recipients. Recipients located in Montreal received \$2.1 million in environmental grants (or 3% of total grant dollars across Canada) – the fifth largest amount of any city.

Based on the total grant dollars within Quebec alone, the top five cities in terms of environmental grant dollars (by recipient location) were: Montreal (\$2.1 million or 54% of Quebec grant dollars); Quebec City (\$254,000 or 7%); Alma (\$183,000 or 5%); Mont Saint-Hilaire (\$126,000 or 3%); and Sherbrooke (\$114,000 or 3%).

When considering grants supporting activities taking place in Quebec (rather than Quebec recipients), the same cities comprise the top five in the same order, although at somewhat different levels. Montreal activities received 28 percent of the total environmental grant dollars supporting activities located in Quebec. The other cities are as follows: Quebec City (10%); Alma (7%); Mont Saint-Hilaire (5%); and Sherbrooke (4%).

Grants by Issue

The grants were analyzed in terms of 14 broad environmental issue categories. Fresh water issues received the greatest level of support in Quebec with 25 percent of the dollars going to grants in this category. Grants related to terrestrial ecosystems/land received the next highest level of support at 17 percent of the grant dollars. Closely linked in theme were grants relating primarily to biodiversity and wildlife, which received 15 percent of the grant dollars. Grants in the sustainable communities category also received 15 percent of the dollars. (This category includes grants dealing with environment issues relating to urban settings or other human settlements.)



In comparison to the distribution of grant dollars by environmental issue across Canada, Quebec was very much higher than the national average for freshwater and also higher for sustainable communities, biodiversity/wildlife, solid waste, and toxic substances. Grants in Quebec were lower than average to the issues of: land; general environment; oceans & coasts; climate and atmosphere; energy production and use; international trade/finance; and mining.

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 30 percent the dollars went to grants relating to rivers/streams. Grants that addressed issues relating to parks received 10 percent of the grants dollars. Almost 7 percent of total grant dollars supported grants relating to recycling. Four percent of the dollars went to grants addressing smart growth/urban sprawl. 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 7.6 percent of the total grant dollars. (This compares to 7% of total grant dollars across Canada relating to “children & youth”).

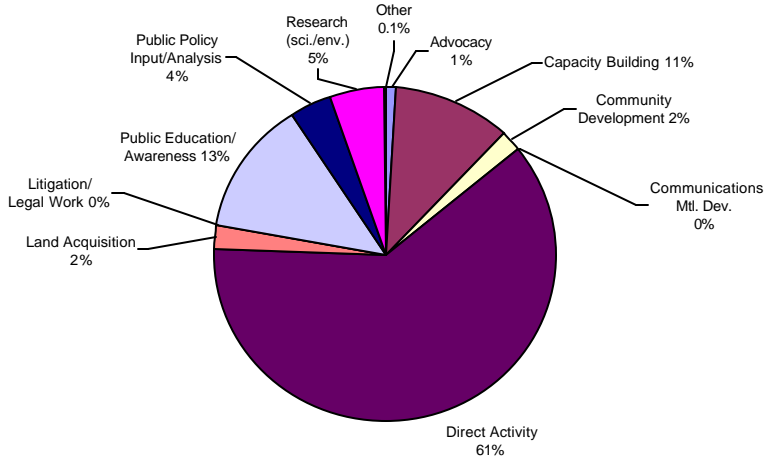
Figure 2. Examples of Keywords by All Environment Issues

	<i>Estimated % of grant \$s</i>
Rivers/streams	29.4%
Parks	10.2%
Protected areas (land)	9.8%
Lakes	7.8%
Endangered species/species survival	7.2%
Recycling	6.6%
Migration	5.3%
Wetlands	5.2%
Sustainable economic development	5.0%
Gardens	4.7%
Forests	4.6%
Urban/cosmetic pesticide use	4.6%
Birds	4.5%
Smart growth/urban sprawl	4.0%
Private landowners	3.4%
Water quality	3.0%
Fish	2.9%
Alternative transportation	2.6%
Recreation/nature trails	2.6%
Environmental health	1.8%
Animal welfare	1.0%

Grants by Activity

The type of activity directly supported by grants was also analysed. In Quebec the largest segment of grant dollars by far (61%) was in support of direct “hands-on” activities such as community clean-ups. Public education/awareness activities received the next largest amount at 13 percent of total grant dollars. Capacity building activities received 11 percent of the grants dollars. (This 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.)

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



Compared to the distribution of grant dollars for the funded activities across Canada, Quebec was much higher than average in direct activity. Quebec was much lower than the national average for capacity building and land acquisition, and somewhat lower for public policy input/analysis, scientific or environmental research, and communications material 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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