

# A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking In Canada

## 2001 Regional Overview: SASKATCHEWAN



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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 Saskatchewan – 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 Saskatchewan Recipients*

Just over \$1/2 million was given to recipients located in Saskatchewan through 18 environmental grants made in 2001 by the grantmakers included in the database. This represents 1 percent of the total grant dollars and 1 percent of the total number of environment grants given across Canada in that year. Overall 14 different Saskatchewan recipients received grants (2% of the total number of recipients in Canada). Seven of the 51 grantmakers in the database (14%) gave grants to Saskatchewan recipients in 2001.

Individual grant amounts to Saskatchewan recipients ranged from \$1,417 to \$100,000. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$7,750. (In comparison, the median grant for recipients across Canada was \$15,000.)

#### Overview: Saskatchewan 2001

##### By recipient location:

- | 18 grants to Saskatchewan recipients (1%)
- | \$511,000 (1%)
- | 14 recipients (2%)
- | 7 grantmakers (14%)

##### By activity location:

- | 15 grants to Saskatchewan activities (4%)
- | \$497,000 (1%)
- | 12 recipients (1.5%)
- | 7 grantmakers (14%)

#### *Grants to Saskatchewan 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.

Just under \$1/2 million in grants went to environmental activities taking place in Saskatchewan in 2001 through 15 grants. This represents about 1 percent of the total grant dollars and 1 percent of the total number of grants given in support of the environment across Canada in that year. In all, 12 different

recipients received grants for Saskatchewan activities (1.5% of total recipients). Seven grantmakers (14%) gave grants to activities taking place in Saskatchewan.

Individual grant amounts to Saskatchewan activities ranged from \$1,417 to \$100,000. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant of \$14,830.

**Grants by City**

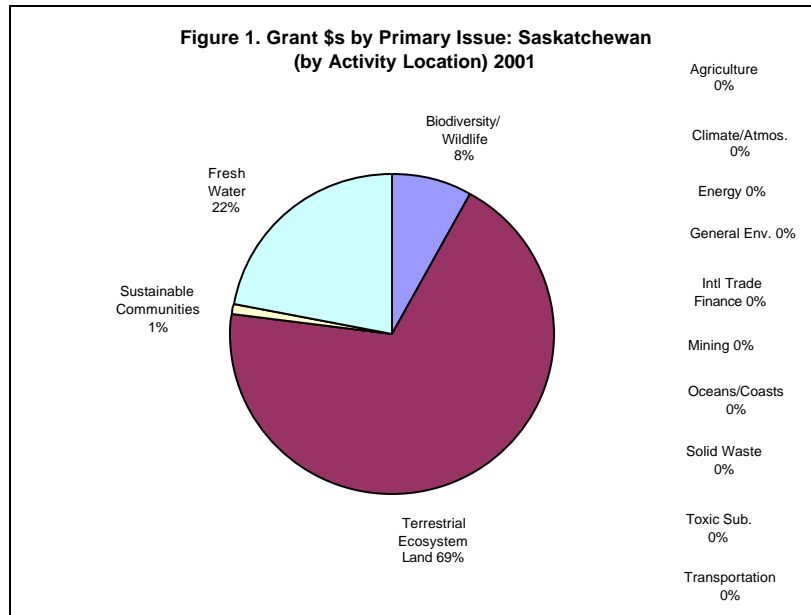
When considering the top cities across Canada by amount of grant dollars, one Saskatchewan city was among the top thirty. Recipients located in Saskatoon received about 0.4 percent of the total grant dollars across Canada, placing it twenty-eighth among Canadian cities.

Based on the total grant dollars within the Saskatchewan alone, the top five cities in terms of environmental grant dollars (by recipient location) were: Saskatoon (\$271,000 or 53% of Saskatchewan grant dollars); Regina (\$125,000 or 24%); Weyburn (\$90,000 or 18%); Ponteix (\$15,000 or 3%); and Moose Jaw (\$5,000 or 1%).

When considering grants supporting activities taking place in Saskatchewan (regardless of where the recipient was located), the same list of cities makes up the top five, in the same order and with the same share of grant dollars.

**Grants by Issue**

The grants were analyzed in terms of 14 broad environmental issue categories. Grant dollars to Saskatchewan activities were heavily concentrated on the issue of terrestrial ecosystems/land, with almost 70 percent of the dollars going to grants in this category. Grants relating to fresh water received just under one-quarter (22%) of the dollars. The only other issue categories receiving support were: biodiversity/wildlife (8% of total grant dollars to Saskatchewan activities); and sustainable communities/urban issues (1%).



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

**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 40 percent the dollars for Saskatchewan activities went to grants relating to grasslands/prairie. Grants that addressed issues relating to private landowners received one-quarter (25%) of the grants dollars. Almost 23 percent of the total dollars supported grants relating to invasive species. Grants relating to fresh water quality received 20 percent of the grant dollars. Figure 2 shows a selection of other keyword examples.

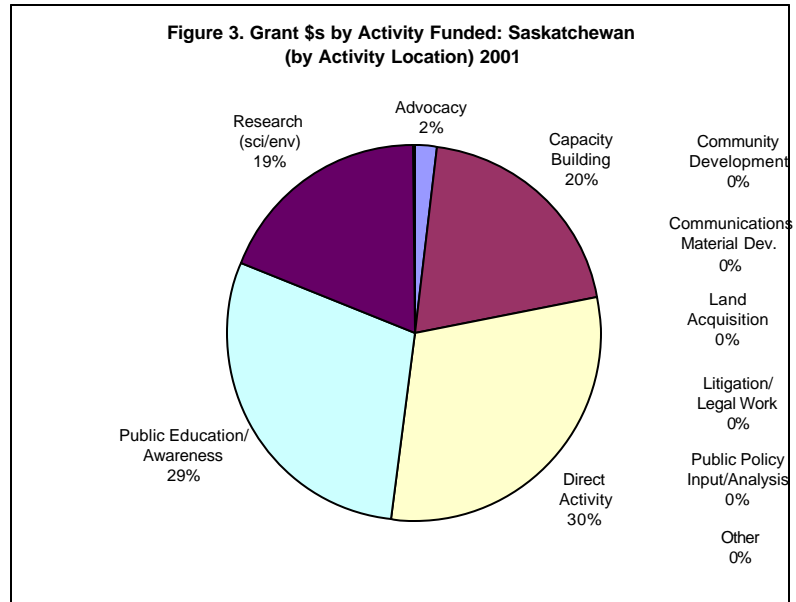
**Figure 2. Examples of Keywords by All Environment Issues**

	<i>Estimated % of grant \$s</i>
Grasslands/prairie	38.9%
Private landowners	25.1%
Invasive species	22.7%
Fresh water quality	20.1%
Plant life	8.9%
Owls	5.9%
Conservation easements	4.9%
Recreation/nature trails	4.0%
Rivers/streams	2.5%
Community greening	0.5%

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 one-fifth (20.1%) of the total grant dollars to Saskatchewan activities. (This compares to 7% of total grant dollars across Canada relating to “children & youth”.

**Grants by Activity**

The type of activity directly supported by grants was also analysed. In Saskatchewan the grant dollars were focused on a small number of activities. Close to one third of the grant dollars (30%) supported direct “hands-on” activities such as community clean-ups activities. A similar amount (29%) went to public education/awareness activities. Other activities supported by grants in Saskatchewan were: activities that help build the recipient organization’s capacity (20%); scientific/environmental research (19%); and advocacy (2%).



Compared to the distribution of grant dollars for the funded activities across Canada, Saskatchewan was much higher than average in public education/ awareness; direct activity; and scientific/environmental research. Saskatchewan was much lower than the national average for land acquisition, public policy input/analysis, community development, and communications material 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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