

A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking In Canada 2001 National Overview



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How much money is granted each year in support of the Canadian environment? Where do these dollars go geographically? What environmental issues and activities do the grants support? Are we funding what is most needed?

The Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) has launched a major research initiative to address these questions and some interesting results are already in. These initial findings are based on the environmental grants made in 2001 by 51 grantmakers – predominantly foundations – most of whom are CEGN members. This is just a start! Next year's data will include a broader range of grantmakers, including more government funders. Included below is an overview of the key national findings.

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

A total of \$71 million was given in support of the Canadian environment in 2001 through 1,464 grants made by the grantmakers included in the database.

Individual grant amounts vary greatly, ranging from \$56 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 \$15,000.

Overall 804 different recipients received grants. The majority (67%) of these recipients were organizations whose main focus is the environment. Interestingly, almost one-third (32%) of the recipients receiving grants for environmental work were other types of organizations, including universities/colleges, citizens/community groups, First Nations, sports/recreation, health, social service or youth organizations. A small proportion of the recipients (2%) were individuals.

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

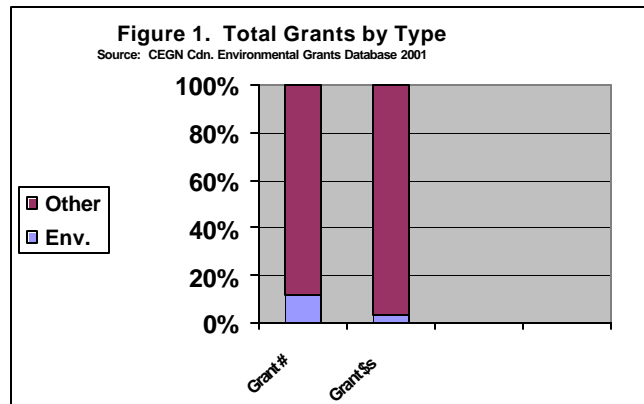
The majority (57%) of the grantmakers currently included in the database are family foundations. Others include: community foundations (12%); corporate foundations or grant programs (12%); government foundations or grant programs (6%); other types of foundations (4%); and other types of grantmaking organizations (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.

Environmental Grants in Context

Environmental grants in Canada represent a small percentage of the total grants made by grantmakers.

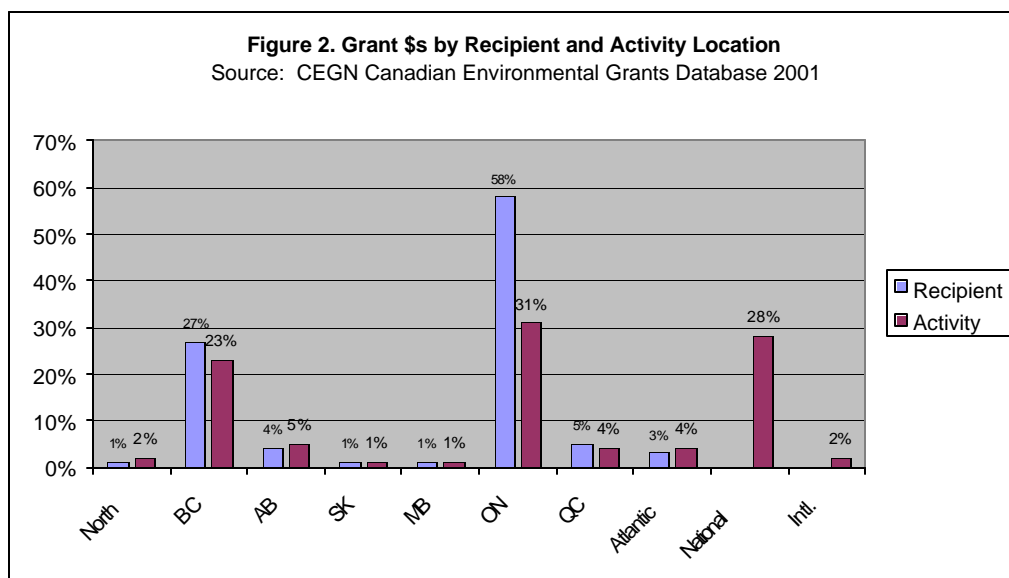
Specifically, environmental grants in Canada represent 12 percent of the total number of grants and about 4 percent of the total grant dollars made by grantmakers.



Grants by Region

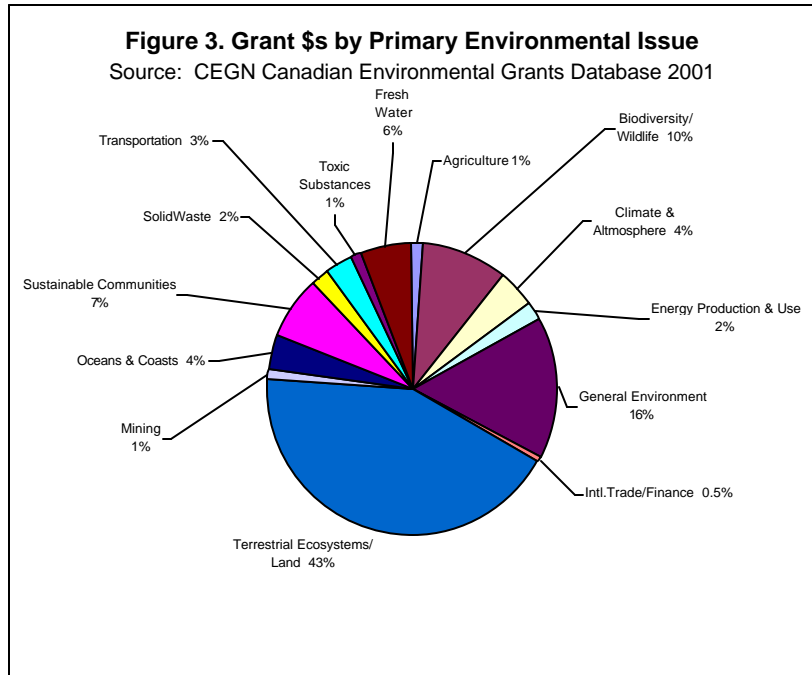
The geographic distribution of environmental grant dollars by the location of the recipient shows much variation across Canada, with most of the dollars going to Ontario and British Columbia. Specifically, fully 58 percent of the grant dollars went to recipients located in Ontario and a further 27 percent went to recipients located in British Columbia. Quebec recipients were a distant third, receiving 5 percent of the grant dollars.

These figures do not, however, take into account the fact that 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. When the location of the activity is taken into account, Ontario's share of the grant dollars drops to 31 percent. Activities that are national in scope account for 28 percent of the total grant dollars. International activities (including those taking place outside of Canada, either fully or in part – such as cross-border initiatives) received 2 percent of the grant dollars.



Grants by Issue

The grants were analyzed in terms of 14 broad environmental issue categories. Terrestrial ecosystem and land issues received by far the greatest level of support with 43 percent of the dollars going to grants focused on this issue. Closely linked in theme were grants relating primarily to biodiversity and wildlife issues, which received an additional 10 percent of the dollars. Other issues receiving higher levels of support were sustainable communities/urban issues (7% of grant dollars), terrestrial freshwater (6%) and a general category that includes grants dealing with multiple issues or with general areas like environmental law or environmental health (16%).



Grants by Keyword

Grants within the database are also described in terms of keywords to provide additional detail. There are over 200 standard keywords or phrases included in the database.

Most of the keywords are sub-issues of the 14 environmental issue categories identified above. For example, almost 17 percent of total grant dollars supported grants relating to “land trusts/conservation easements/conservation covenants”. Eleven percent of the dollars went to grants addressing “forests” issues. Grants that addressed “salmon” issues received 4 percent of the grants dollars. About one percent of the dollars went to grants addressing “recycling”. A selection of other keyword examples is shown in Figure 4.

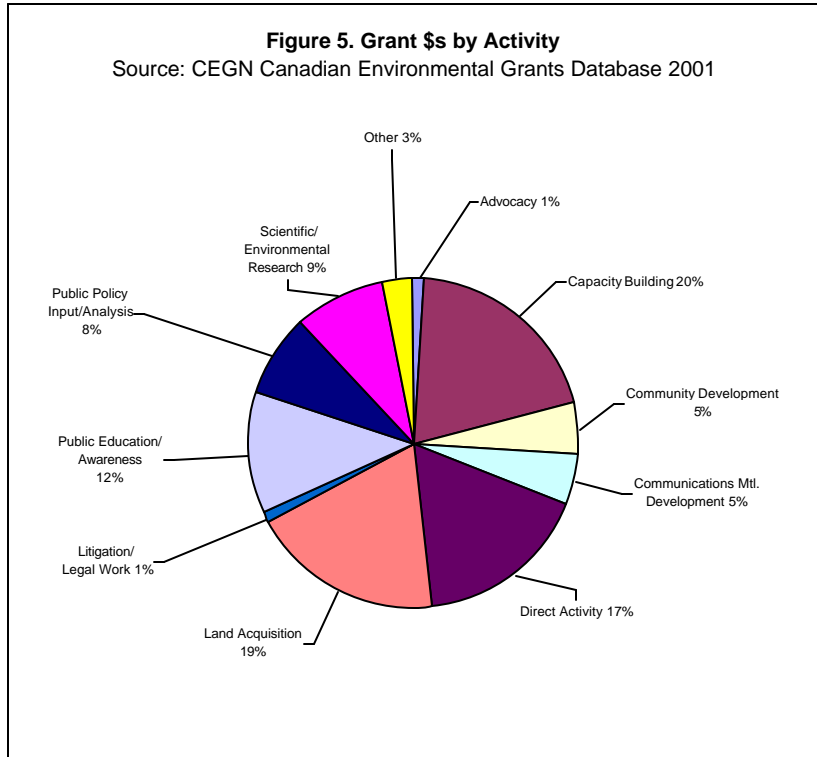
In addition, some of the keywords are general codes that cut across all environmental issues. For example, grants that involved or related to “children & youth” accounted for 7 percent of the total grant dollars. Similarly 7 percent of the grant dollars went to grants involving or relating to “First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

Figure 4. Examples of Keywords by Environment Issue

Keyword	% of grant \$s
Land trusts/conservation easements/covenants	16.8%
Forests	10.5%
- Rainforest	4.7%
- Management practices	3.3%
Recreation/nature trails	5.2%
Sustainable economic development	4.1%
Salmon	4.0%
Parks	3.8%
Rivers/streams	3.2%
Climate change	3.1%
Habitat fragmentation	3.1%
Endangered species/species survival	2.7%
Community greening	2.6%
Alternative transportation	2.3%
Coastal lands	2.2%
Private landowners	2.2%
Water quality (freshwater)	2.0%
Wetlands	2.0%
Environment & other sectors	1.6%
Animal welfare	1.3%
Marine protected areas	1.2%
Recycling	1.1%
Y2Y (Yellowstone to Yukon)	1.0%
Smart growth/urban sprawl	0.5%

Grants by Activity

The type of activity directly supported by grants was also analysed. The largest segment of grant dollars (20%) 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. Acquisition of land received the second largest amount of support at 19 percent of total grant dollars. (Not surprisingly, when considering the number of grants rather than total dollars granted, land acquisition’s share dropped significantly – constituting only 2 percent of the total number of grants.) Direct “hands-on” activities such as community clean-ups received 17 percent of total grant dollars.



Please note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Further detail on CEGN’s Canadian Environmental Grants Database, including an explanation of terms used in the database and information on how the data were compiled, 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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