



## **For Immediate Release**

### **Stable future now secured for 26 high-value conservation properties formerly owned by The Land Conservancy**

**September 30, 2015, Victoria** – The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is pleased to confirm it has acquired 26 ecologically significant conservation areas from The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC). This transfer of lands is part of the TLC’s plan to sell many of its properties in order to deal with its debt.

These high-priority conservation properties contain some of the most significant habitats for biodiversity in BC, including species at risk and vulnerable rare ecosystems. Spanning forest, wetland and grasslands, these lands provide habitat for migratory birds, grizzly bears, salmon and many other native wildlife.

Today’s transfer of title to NCC marks a significant step in securing a conservation future for these properties.

For more than a year, NCC has worked with The Nature Trust of BC, TLC and others to find a way to ensure the conservation status of TLC’s high-priority conservation lands and provide for their long-term stewardship.

Some of the 26 properties will be transferred to The Nature Trust; final details about subsequent transfers are still being worked out.

The properties are located all across the province, with many on southern Vancouver Island. (Full list attached at end of release.)

#### **Quotes:**

“The Nature Conservancy of Canada was extremely motivated to ensure these important properties remain protected, and to uphold the expectations of the donors who had originally contributed to their conservation. We are committed to providing for the long-term stewardship of all our conservation properties, and we are honoured to assume responsibility for these special places,” said Nancy Newhouse, acting regional vice president for the BC Region, Nature Conservancy of Canada.

“The Nature Trust of BC is pleased to be working with TLC and NCC on conserving TLC’s ecologically significant properties,” said CEO Jasper Lament. “Through this partnership The Nature Trust will be

taking responsibility for some very special places from Vancouver Island to the Rocky Mountains. We are committed to ensuring the lands transferred to us will be conserved for future generations.”

“The transfer of properties to NCC and TNTBC is the culmination of months of diligent work to see TLC’s ecologically sensitive properties protected through appropriate new ownership while raising funds needed to repay creditors,” said Briony Penn, TLC Board Chair. “Essential to TLC’s successful restructuring has been our partnerships with other land trusts and societies. We wish to thank NCC’s and TNTBC’s directors, staff and volunteers for being a part of the solution.”

## **Learn More**

**The Nature Conservancy of Canada** is the nation's leading land conservation organization, working to protect our most important natural areas and the species they sustain. Since 1962, NCC and its partners have helped to protect more than 2.7 million acres (over 1.1 million hectares), coast to coast. Over one-third of these acres are in British Columbia. [www.natureconservancy.ca/bc](http://www.natureconservancy.ca/bc)

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## Lands transferred to the Nature Conservancy of Canada

	Property	Size (acres)	Location (nearest community)	Key Conservation Features
1	Avola Creek	7.4	Wells Gray Country	Channels and pools for salmon spawning
2	Centre Creek	19.8	Surrey	Restored creek and streamside ecosystem; salmon habitat
3	Cowichan River Properties	9.5	Cowichan Valley	Streamside habitat with fisheries values; maple forest grove with rare wildflowers
4	Creekside Rainforest	19.5	Salt Spring Island	Salmon-bearing stream, rare red-legged frogs and culturally modified trees
6	Cusheon Cove	8.1	Salt Spring Island	Estuary, Garry oak and arbutus habitat and grassy meadows
8	Elizabeth Lake	1.5	Cranbrook	Key wetland habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds; home to deer, moose, fox and coyote, among other wildlife
9	Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area	962	Cariboo	Riverfront and floodplain habitat on important salmon river; migratory birds, moose and grizzly bear habitat
10	Kindwood	72	Highlands	Mature second-growth forest adjacent to existing parks
11	Laux Property	101.7	West Kootenay	Mature cedar-hemlock forest, wetlands and streamside habitat; large maternal colony of little brown bats
12	Lehman Springs Conservation Area	59.3	Osoyoos	Some of BC's largest western larch trees
13	Lohbrunner Woods	25.8	Langford	Douglas-fir forest
14	Luke Creek Wildlife Corridor	160	Kimberley	Wetlands, grassland and aspen forest habitats for migratory birds and at-risk species
15	Nanaimo River	140	Nanaimo	Last remaining intact riparian area on the lower Nanaimo River; old-growth Douglas-fir forest
16	Natasha Boyd Wetland Conservation Area	155.1	Robson Valley	Wetland habitat for moose, mule deer, grizzly and black bear, wolf, beaver, songbirds and waterfowl.
17	Peachcliff Conservation Area	42.5	Okanagan Falls	Globally-imperilled antelope-brush plant community; bighorn sheep, many species of snakes, canyon wren, Behr's hairstreak
18	Raymond M. Goodall Ecological Land Reserve	9.9	Salt Spring Island	Oceanfront property with old-growth cedar and fir, pockets of Garry oak and rocky outcrops
19	Clare Winnett Copeland Property	2.2	Shawnigan Lake	Mature to old-growth Douglas-fir forest, large western red cedars, wetlands
20	Similkameen River Pines	113.2	South Okanagan	Rare riparian flood plain and upland grasslands habitat for species at risk
21	South Winchelsea Island	25.7	Salish Sea (off of Parksville)	Exceptional Garry oak and Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems

22	Talking Mountain Ranch	1,466	Clinton	A working ranch that protects endangered native grasslands
23	Turtle Valley Farm	244.6	Chase	Native forest and agricultural lands; original homestead of George Chase
24	West Twin Protected Area	157	Robson Valley	3 kms along the Fraser River; adjacent to West Twin Provincial Park
25	Woods Family Property	78.3	Castlegar	Adjacent to Syringa Provincial Park; habitat for bighorn sheep
26	Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor	902.4	Kimberley	Open grasslands with wildlife trees, hoodoo formation and rock outcrops; cottonwood stands and wetland habitat for songbirds, turtles and amphibians
	<b>Total acreage</b>	4,783.5		