

Another 223 hectare protected in Sainte-Emelie-de-l'Énergie!

Joliette, June 6, 2024 – The Lanaudière Ecosystems Conservation Trust (FiCEL) is pleased to announce the protection of a vast 223.4 hectare property in Sainte-Emelie-de-l'Énergie thanks to the generosity of Ms. Linda Reven, the all through Environment and Climate Change Canada's Ecological Gifts Program.

"Twenty-two years ago, I acquired a large mountainous territory with many wetlands, but devastated by clearcutting. I had the unconventional idea of caring for and returning this immense land to Nature rather than to developers. I thank the FiCEL for realizing my original dream of restoring and protecting this beautiful land in perpetuity for the benefit of future generations. I hope that my donation will inspire other citizens of Lanaudière to join the Trust's efforts to protect our forests." Dr. Linda Reven

Nineteen forest stands have been identified on the property, which constitutes a mosaic of forest environments and various wetlands including a peat lake, swamps, permanent and vernal ponds, permanent or intermittent streams. Although the property was subject to felling over large areas a little over two decades ago, natural regeneration is vigorous and due to the rugged topography, mature stands have been maintained and constitute cores of great interest for biodiversity.

No less than 89 animal species and 107 plant species were noted on site, including species at risk such as the tri-colored bat and the northern myotis (both endangered in Canada and threatened in Quebec) or the Canada warbler (special concern in Canada and considered likely to be designated vulnerable or threatened in Quebec).

This territory is part of a vast natural forest area north of Sainte-Emelie-de-l'Énergie and is part of one of the 14 priority conservation cores for regional connectivity in Lanaudière. The protection of the 223.4 ha Reven's property is in addition to the 3,570 ha of public land and the 181.7 ha of private land (FiCEL heritage) already protected in perpetuity to the north of the village of Sainte-Emelie. The conservation of these habitats on either side of the Noire River plays an important role in terms of biodiversity, because it constitutes a travel corridor, used in the spring and fall by a large number of migratory species (forest passerines, birds of prey, waterfowl).

"The Lanaudière Ecosystems Conservation Trust is a bright model for nature conservation. The Trust does not belong to anyone or any legal entity. It is a heritage of land grouped around a common and unchanging mission: the conservation of Lanaudière's ecosystems. Within the Trust, nature belongs to itself and can live free in perpetuity. Isn't it beautiful? I am proud of the Lanaudois who give their time or their land to help the Trust in its mission!" Marie-Pierre Thibeault, general director of FiCEL.

The conservation of this property was made possible in part thanks to the Protect wildlife habitats – Protection program of the Fondation de la faune du Québec and has benefited from the financial support of the Ministry of the Environment, through the Partnership Project for Natural Environments. The Foundation's program aims to support initiatives to protect habitats of high wildlife value through conservation agreements with legal significance with private land owners.

This project was also carried out with the financial support of the Government of Canada acting through Environment and Climate Change Canada.

About partners

The Fondation de la faune du Québec mission is to promote the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats. Thanks to the contribution of more than a million hunters, fishermen and trappers from Quebec, thousands of donors and numerous private companies, the Foundation has supported more than 2,000 organizations throughout Quebec since 1987, thus creating a real wildlife movement.

The Partnership Project for Natural Environments (PPMN) was a grant of more than \$53 million spread until 2023, awarded by the Quebec Ministry of the Environment to Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). It provided, through the establishment of financial partnerships with conservation organizations in the province, support for carrying out voluntary conservation initiatives to ensure the protection of natural environments of interest. The PPMN thus aimed to develop and consolidate the Quebec network of protected areas located on private lands. This funding was enhanced and renewed until 2028 and now bears the name Accelerate Conservation in Southern Quebec (ACSQ). It will help achieve the target of protecting 30% of Quebec territory by 2030.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is the lead agency for Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) program. It is a ten-year fund of \$1.4 billion that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from land management and strengthening resilience to climate change. The NSCSF supports projects that reduce the loss, restore, or improve the management of ecosystem such as forests, wetlands, peatlands and grasslands.

About the Lanaudière Ecosystems Conservation Trust

FiCEL is a social utility trust. Its mission is to protect, preserve in perpetuity and enhance natural environments and landscapes of high ecological, heritage or aesthetic value, located primarily in the Lanaudière region, for the benefit of local communities and the general public. The management of FiCEL's natural heritage is entrusted to a group of seven volunteer trustees. The Fiducie's heritage currently includes 20 territories located in different municipalities of the Lanaudière region and totaling 645 hectares.

The area of natural areas protected by it is expected to grow in the months and years to come.

FiCEL has charitable status with Revenue Canada, Revenue Quebec and is eligible for Environment Canada's Ecological Gift Program. It can therefore issue tax receipts for the donations it receives from citizens and businesses. People interested in taking action for biodiversity and ensuring that their property is protected in perpetuity can visit the FiCEL website (www.fcelanaudiere.ca) or contact a representative of the Fiducie at (450) 756-0186 (ext. 3).