

IMPACT REPORT

A REPORT PREPARED WITH GRATITUDE FOR:
QUALICO

2019 - 2021



NATURE
CONSERVANCY
CANADA

A MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT



On behalf of Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Region, thank you for your continued and generous support. Qualico is a leader for conservation in Manitoba and as one of our most valued partners we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generosity.

The past two years have presented some challenging times and the pandemic has provided us all with a reminder of how important the role of conserving nature is to the health of people and our environment.

Our partnership has allowed NCC to leverage funds to be used where they are needed most which has been critical to the conservation successes of the past two years. This report is our thanks to you. On the pages that follow, you'll find highlights of the impacts of your contributions. It is because of your leadership and support that NCC can continue with our work and we are inspired by your commitment to NCC's mission.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Teneycke', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Kevin Teneycke

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION



Children play in Tall Grass Prairie photo: NCC

Nature Manitoba Lands

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) received a generous donation of 358 hectares (885 acres) from Nature Manitoba in 2021. This acquisition is particularly important to biodiversity and species protection in Manitoba as these lands are nationally significant. In addition to supporting tall grass prairie, a habitat listed as endangered under Manitoba's Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act, these lands also support 10 provincially and federally listed species at risk.

This property supports two of the seven Poweshiek skipperling habitat sites left in the country, a portion of the world's largest population of western prairie white-fringed orchid, and a portion of Manitoba's small white lady's slippers. There are also seven other federally and provincially listed species.

Once covering 600,000 hectares (1.5 million acres), less than one per cent of the original tallgrass prairie habitat remains in Manitoba. It is home to over 1,000 different species, including seven globally imperilled species. The lands have been donated to NCC, which has the conservation planning resources and expertise needed to maintain the ecological integrity of this vitally important area. Partners such as Qualico and other donors provided financial support for the transfer of these conservation lands.

LAND STEWARDSHIP



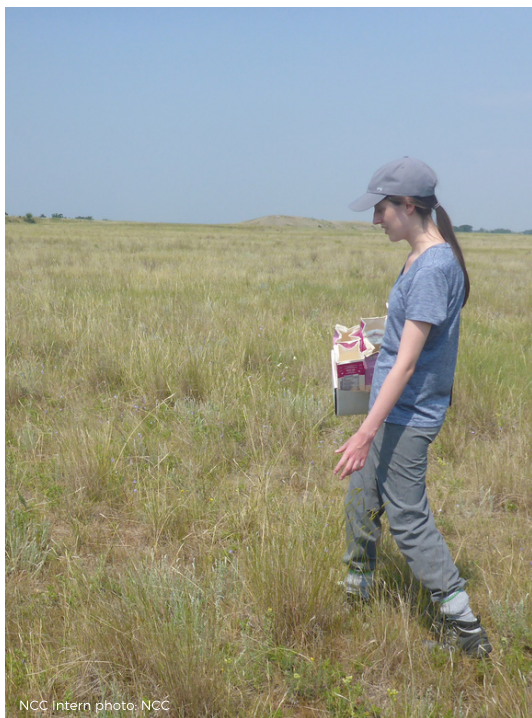
Managing the land for the long term

Qualico funds contributed to core stewardship land management activities on NCC owned properties. Agriculture land management practices including grazing, haying, and fencing upgrades are tools used to maintain natural disturbance regimes that are integral to healthy, resilience prairie ecosystems. Invasive species control activities were implemented to prevent the spread of non-native species that threatened native habitats and species and restore invaded areas. Together these practices help ensure these habitats continue to support a variety of plants and animals that depend on them.

Additionally, funds from Qualico supported the design and implementation of a multi-parcel watering system on the Waggle Springs Property in the Assiniboine Delta natural area to provide livestock with alternate, clean, water sources to reduce and prevent impacts of cattle access to the Assiniboine River and sensitive habitats, such as the freshwater springs that support roundleaf Monkey Flower, a nationally rare species.

LAND STEWARDSHIP

Qualico supported the site clean up and preparation of the Fort Ellice property's prairie restoration. This 350 acre field was historically mixed-grass prairie surrounded by a mixture of grassland and intact native habitat on the Ellice-Archie Community Pasture and Fort Ellice property. NCC plans to restore this area using local, native seed sources over the next 5 years. In preparation for restoration, fencing was removed and temporary fencing was installed at the end of the 2021 growing season for livestock to graze the remaining crop for in preparation for seeding of the field in spring 2022.



Partnering with landowners through Conservation Agreements is one of the ways that NCC commits to conserving biodiversity in our province. Regular communication with Conservation Agreement (CA) landowners is key in strengthening the conservation partnership and relationship. NCC annually monitors the lands protected by CAs for any concerns relating to the easement restrictions and compatible activities. This provides NCC with annual opportunity to check in with the landowners and talk about their land management as well as review the agreement. With support from Qualico, we engaged landowners on the 16 CAs that we monitored in the 3 natural areas (Riding Mountain, West Souris Mixed-Grass Prairie and Oak Lake Sandhills and Wetlands).

Conservation Agreement: A voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization that permanently protects the natural values of a parcel of land. Conservation agreements allow private landowners to continue to own and use their land, donate, sell it or pass it on to their heirs while protecting the natural values of the property.

SCIENCE

Qualico's contributions have supported many exciting projects for the region. NCC staff worked with students at Assiniboine Community College on a Wildlife Camera Tracking project on the Fort Ellice property. Students were provided training to review images; identify species; and process the image files. Building on a previous year of data collection the data is then analyzed to provide better insight into how wildlife are using the property's various habitats, which include sandhill and mixed-grass prairie, oak savannah, wetlands, upland and riverbank forests. This then assists NCC in reviewing the effectiveness of land management practices over the long term.

Funds also supported ongoing data collection on migratory shorebirds, a group experiencing significant population declines. The data was collected using wildlife tracking towers that read and document information from birds tagged with radio tracking devices. This data will provide key information on which species are travelling through an area, where they came from, what routes they are taking and at what times. There is still limited information on the reason for the decline of many of these species that have ranges that can span from the wintering grounds in the gulf of Mexico, to stop-over or breeding sites in southwestern Manitoba, to breeding grounds in the arctic. More information about these species is needed to ensure conservation efforts are effective and occurring in the right places.

Property management planning is a key component to NCC's conservation work, this process allows us to set our goals to conserve or restore habitats and species, identify what strategies are needed to achieve those goals, prioritize resources, and monitor to ensure the actions we take are working. With support from Qualico, we were able to update existing plans for the Waggle Springs and Fort Ellice projects where we have collected new information and begun developing new partnerships to collaborate with neighbouring land owners, land managers and Indigenous community members. By including new information and new records of species at risk into our plans, we will better ensure these species continue to thrive on our lands, and by collaborating with neighbours and partners we can further support local communities, expand our conservation action to a larger area, and be more effective in the work we do.



WITH NATURE WE BUILD A THRIVING WORLD

Rapid biodiversity loss and climate change demand urgent conservation solutions. We believe there is no solution to climate change without nature. The two crises are inextricably linked which is why we have to work on them together. In its Strategic Plan, 2022-2030, NCC commits to delivering those solutions faster and on a larger scale than ever before.

We will mobilize Canadians to accelerate conservation, doubling our impact by 2030. Delivering \$1.5 billion of new conservation outcomes, NCC will conserve 1 million additional hectares and unlock solutions for Canada to reach 30x30 — our nation's goal to conserve at least 30 percent of the our lands and waters by 2030. Nature Conservancy of Canada's partnership with Qualico will help accelerate Manitoba's future conservation goals. Without your generous investment in NCC and your ongoing commitment to conservation in Manitoba, none of this would be possible.

Thank you!



Children at Tall Grass Prairie Interpretive Centre photo: Frickes, T

**We thank you for your contributions to
protect Canada's biodiversity, now and
into the future.**

If you have any questions about our
work, please do not hesitate to be in
touch.

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