

AUGUST 4, 2017

FEDERAL PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS SUBMISSION

RE: ECONOMIC ISSUES facing CANADIAN TRAILS



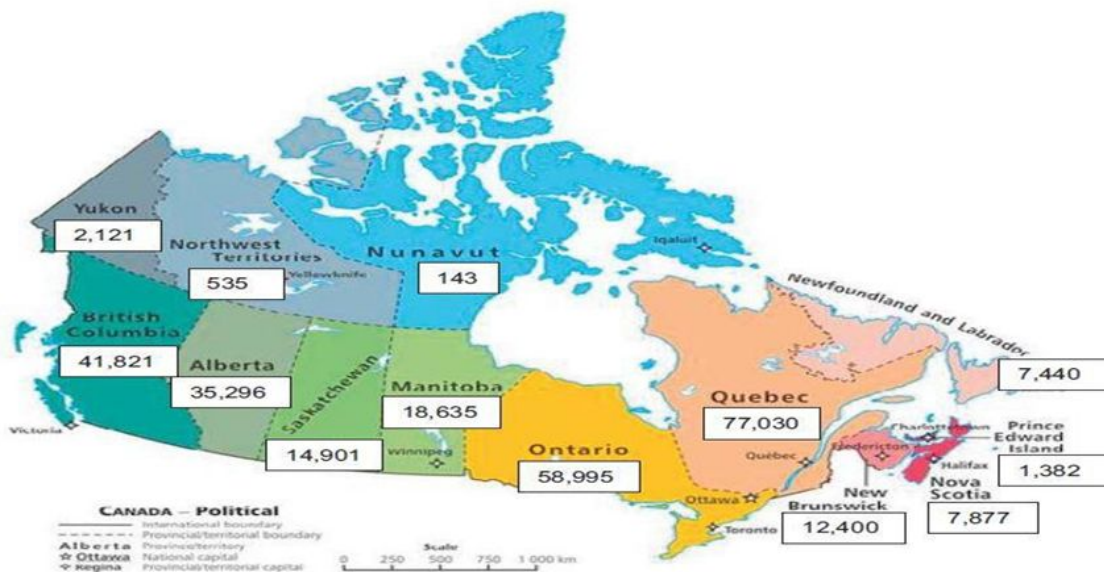
The Canadian Trails Federation-Fédération Canadienne des Sentiers (CTF-CFS), is a national not-for-profit organization that represents the interests of provincial and territorial trails organizations across Canada.

The mission of the Canadian Trails Federation is to enhance the recreational trails network in Canada by: sharing information, providing leadership and coordination and by building consensus within the trails community, both nationally and internationally.

Working with partners the Canadian Trails Federation completed the National Trails Study 2010, and is currently engaged in an update of the data contained in that first, and only, report on the number and use type of recreational trails in Canada.

This study revealed: different provinces carry different trail opportunity through inventory and types of trails:

Kilometres of Managed Trail in Each Province and Territory of Canada



Importantly, our purpose of presenting here is to reinforce the sheer magnitude of the 360,521 kilometers of trails in the Canadian trails inventory, and their significant importance to rural, wilderness and northern communities. There are thousands of communities that support trails by designing and building the infrastructure that in turn requires maintenance, whose costs are directly proportional to popularity and use. This collective effort is representative of a huge outdoor recreational business sector.

The 2010 study revealed the breakdown of trails by use and type:

MANAGED

Table 2.

Canadian Managed Trails by Number of Kilometres According to Use as of 2010

Prov. / Terr.	Single Use Trails						Shared Use Trails				Total Km Managed Trails
	Snow-mobile	ATV / ORM	Hiking / running	Cross Country Skiing	Mtn. Biking	Cycling (off road touring)	Walking & cycling	Eques-trian	Snow-mobile	ATV	
NL	3,600	1,000	1,204	316	82	0	152	0	158	928	7,440
NS	1,600	1,000	873	149	195	0	192	0	2,600	1,268	7,877
PE	600	5	137	106	32	50	98	0	354	0	1,382
NB	6,700	3,201	646	706	144	0	300	6	397	300	12,400
QC	31,745	17,182	13,214	6,312	2,333	1,601	943	3,000	700	0	77,030
ON	32,418	3,786	7,608	3,516	1,629	550	4,968	870	1,844	1,806	58,995
MB	12,506	2,660	735	760	533	110	1,036	0	295	0	18,635
SK	7,000	2,500	339	942	215	2,132	1,564	0	190	20	14,901
AB	8,614	1,000	6,841	1,752	1,640	425	2,743	782	1,040	10,459	35,296
BC	0	0	7,125	2,020	2,260	231	3,995	2,130	11,775	12,285	41,821
YT	0	0	550	106	200	0	300	0	500	465	2,121
NT	0	0	0	15	15	0	0	0	500	5	535
NU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	0	143
Totals:	104,783	32,334	39,272	16,700	9,278	5,099	16,291	6,788	20,496	27,536	278,576
% of Total:	37.6%	11.6%	14.1%	6.0%	3.3%	1.8%	5.8%	2.4%	7.4%	9.9%	

TOTAL USE PATTERNS - MANAGED AND UNMANAGED

Table 1. Canadian Managed Trails

by Number of Kilometres per Province / Territory as of 2010

Province Territory	Single Use Trails		Shared-Use Trails		Total Km Managed Trails	% of Total Managed Trails	Water Routes	Roads	Total Km
	Motorized	Motorized	Motorized	Motorized					
NL	1,602	4,600	152	1,086	7,440	2.7%	0	0	7,440
NS	1,217	2,600	192	3,868	7,877	2.8%	263	89	8,229
PE	325	605	98	354	1,382	0.5%	0	62	1,444
NB	1,496	9,901	306	697	12,400	4.5%	94	0	12,494
QC	23,460	48,927	3,943	700	77,030	27.7%	38,642	5,190	120,862
ON	13,438	36,204	5,703	3,650	58,995	21.2%	22,447	7,500	88,942
MB	2,138	15,166	1,036	295	18,635	6.7%	0	705	19,340
SK	3,627	9,500	1,564	210	14,901	5.3%	351	220	15,472
AB	10,658	9,614	3,525	11,499	35,296	12.7%	830	200	36,326
BC	11,697	0	6,064	24,060	41,821	15.0%	0	1,269	43,090
YT	856	0	300	965	2,121	0.8%	0	1,269	3,390
NT	30	0	0	505	535	0.2%	2,239	574	3,348
NU	0	0	0	143	143	0.1%	0	0	143
Totals:	70,544	137,117	22,882	48,032	278,576	100.0%	64,866	17,078	360,521
% of Total:	25.3%	49.2%	8.2%	17.2%	100.0%				

We wish to address both the funding deficit for operation and the funding imbalance between management groups in the country; which in our view has no discernible bearing on the value of the activities, or the relative size of the trails by sector, or authority to total number of trails.

There are significant cost of operation, and revenue generation pressures facing trails in the country. These pressures impact in the following domains:

- 1) **Recruitment and retention of volunteers:** this is both a benefit and a cost.
- 2) **National Nonprofits:** these organizations are not in the main core funded, those that are are more activity than trail based, and the one that is, receives 100% of current federal funding.
- 3) **Bias of Funding to Sport:** elite athletes in cross country, marathon, canoe, kayak, mountain biking begin most learning on trails, trails are not supported but the sport is? This is a systemic bias against recreation.
- 4) **Land Management:** land management organizations may receive public funding, such as Seaway Authorities, but they may or may not have trail policies and water course protections curtail trail development due to costs.
- 5) **Number and size of organizations receiving core funding:** 1 of 100's only. There is no equity in federal funding approaches for NGO organizations that operate as businesses without profit or share capital, but that are businesses nonetheless.
- 6) **Providers of Funding:** there is no secure program relative the the size and number of trails in Canada, a funding formula relative to service needs to be developed.
- 7) **Policy and Regulation:** there is no coordinated trails policy, trails policies that exist can be divisive - for example Nature Conservancy of Canada secures land that may have trails and them seals off traditional use. A policy of land for trails must be developed as the trails sector that receives no funding cannot compete with organizations that do.
- 8) **Taxation:** there is no licence fee recapture for trail development on machines sold in Canada, there is no return on goods sold for trails despite the huge industry that supplies equipment to 22 different uses; nor is there a tax capture for trails through environmental carbon tax despite the greenway benefits eco-trails provide. A funding mechanism needs to be developed to address this.
- 9) **Liability:** the risk exposure borne by non-profits and trail operators is excessive and unsustainable, we would ask that a funding formula for trails contain a mechanism for covering all, or a significant portion of trail liability management costs.
- 10) **Infrastructure:** we request the federal government, identify a range of ministries and departments to work with our organization to facilitate an inventory of trails, with a directory of trail refurbishment, land use, and other supports for the members of our sector.
- 11) **Lack of Standard or Equally Applied Measure Tourism/Trade Economy:** there are no comprehensive measurement practice in place to track the value of each activity, each trail, trail network or aggregator of these various economies.

- 12) Programs:** we wish to work with identified government departments and receive appropriate funding to develop methods to engage first nations, heritage, facilitate land use, contribute to urban planning, and affect active transportation, rail to trail, infrastructure, environmental protection, greenway development, health and welfare, international relations, sport and recreation, parks and processes with other stakeholders in trail operations and development.
- 13) Non-directed Grant Programs:** unfortunately too many grant programs are geared to activity, the environment or other tangential types of programs that rely on trails for support. What happens in the trail infrastructure sector does not happen in other service sectors - trail non-direct funding processes are, by in large similar to sporadic funding would be akin to sustaining road infrastructure through grants to car and bike companies, rather than direct funding to Ministries responsible for roads. A more direct and consistent funding approach needs to be supported and sustained.
- 14) National Trail Marketing Strategy:** a process for coordinating branding is needed so we can drive off shore sales through international tourism.
- 15) National Trails Policy:** there needs to be a funded process to engage government and the trails sector, through the CTF and its members, or recognized partners in the completion of a National Trails Policy that supports a National Trails Funding Model.
- 16) National Trails Conference and Events:** there needs to be a funded series of meetings where all trails groups come together to discuss trails issues, the trails economy, projects and other issues of benefit to the government and the public organizations that are invested in and sanctioned by the sector and government, such that the resolution of issues secures a better future for Canadians through better investments and supports in the trails sector.

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment. We believe that a process to address these issues in whole or in part will make a more robust trails economy that will achieve the second goal of:

*2) improving federal measures that help **Canadian businesses** to be more productive and competitive;*

I look forward to discussing these issues further.

Sincerely,



Mr. Patrick Connor, CAE, SSA, BAH
President, Canadian Trails Federation

C.c. CTF Executive
OTC Executive