



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Katanontanohnha': 92 hectares of land added to Appalachian Corridor's network of protected areas

Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton, August 23, 2018 – Appalachian Corridor is pleased to announce the protection in perpetuity of 92 hectares (227 acres) of land in Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton. This land features a remarkable ecological diversity and its protection brings to more than 13,300 hectares the total area protected by private owners on the territory where Appalachian Corridor and its partners focus their efforts. "We are thrilled to announce the acquisition of this property. It is a key element in our conservation strategy aiming to connect the Sutton Mountains to Mount Orford to safeguard the connectivity of large forest blocks, critical for biodiversity" said Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor. "We sincerely thank the previous landowners, Mr. Brisebois and Ms. Surprenant, for working with us to protect this land of great ecological value" she added. Michèle Turcotte, Mayor of Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton declared: "I take my hat off to all the partners who worked together to protect this property in Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton. This is an outstanding initiative and I hope it will have a springboard effect with other citizens wishing to protect natural areas of high ecological value throughout our territory."

A protected area in tribute to Aboriginal people

The protected area will be named Katanontanohnha', which means "I keep the mountain" Kanien'keha: ka (in Mohawk language). By choosing this name, the organization wishes to pay tribute to the First Nations who have always had this great concern to protect nature and from whom we have so much to learn. "This land is of great importance to us. In Native American culture, there is a principle that says we must anticipate the consequences of our actions for the next seven generations. By bequeathing this land to Appalachian Corridor, we are inspired by this philosophy. This land will now be protected forever: it is a precious gift for generations to come" said Terry Brisebois, former landowner.

A remarkable ecological value

The watercourses flowing through this protected area provide prime habitats for stream salamanders. This area is home to Two-lined Salamander, Spring Salamander and Northern Dusky Salamander, the latter being susceptible to be listed as threatened or vulnerable under Quebec's Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species (LEMV). The Spring Salamander is also designated as Threatened under Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA). The presence of the Pickerel Frog, also susceptible to be listed as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec,

was been recorded on the property along with several turtle species. “The Nature Conservancy of Canada applauds the work of Appalachian Corridor in its efforts to preserve this important habitat and the many species that rely on it. Through the Natural Areas Conservation Program, NCC is pleased to partner with Environment and Climate Change Canada and groups across the country on the protection of important habitats” said Joël Bonin, associate vice-president for the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) in the Quebec Region.

The Honourable Denis Paradis, MP for Brome-Missisquoi, stated “On behalf of my colleague, Catherine McKenna, I congratulate Appalachian Corridor and its partners for the conservation of 92 hectares of important habitat in St-Étienne-de-Bolton. The protection of species at risk and the preservation of biodiversity is paramount for future generations. Today's actions are the results of hours of research and negotiation between extraordinary partners. Thank you for contributing to the protection and conservation of wildlife habitats. Congratulations!”

Appalachian Corridor wishes to thank the following partners for their financial support: Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Natural Areas Conservation Program, the *Projet Ensemble pour la nature* from Quebec’s ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Open Space Institute, the Fondation de la faune du Québec, the Echo Foundation and the Sweet Water Trust.

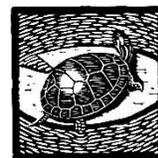
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Environnement et
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SWEET WATER TRUST



About

Appalachian Corridor is a charitable conservation organization created in 2002, with a mission to protect natural habitats and biodiversity in the Appalachians of southern Quebec. By implementing its transborder conservation strategy, Appalachian Corridor provides local communities with the means to maintain and restore a living environment that respects the ecology of the region, in a perspective of sustainable development.

www.appalachiancorridor.ca

The Government of Canada's Natural Areas Conservation Program is a public-private partnership aiming to accelerate land conservation in southern Canada. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) administers the program. Through matching contributions, NCC and its partners enhance federal funding. Protected habitats under the Natural Areas Conservation Program consolidate the protection of natural corridors and other protected areas.

Projet Ensemble pour la nature (PEPN) is a \$ 15 million, three-year grant to NCC from Quebec's ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques. It aims to establish financial partnerships and the acquisition of scientific knowledge to ensure the conservation and protection of natural habitats on private lands in Quebec by March 31, 2020. It tends to create solidarity with respect to protected areas by encouraging the Quebec community to take action to preserve the environment.

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