



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR'S FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN: TOGETHER, LET'S PROTECT MOUNT FOSTER FOREVER!**

**Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton, October 24th, 2019** – Appalachian Corridor is asking for the local communities' help to raise the required funding to protect Mount Foster in perpetuity. The saga surrounding Mount Foster has been going on for almost a decade. Initially, the development project proposed the construction of nearly 70 houses. It now focuses on protecting 75% of the territory, i.e. 217 hectares. In addition, the conservation project will restore the public access to the Scouts Tower via a network of trails. Appalachian Corridor reaches out to the local communities to help in funding this large-than-life project. It's now time to move mountains!

Mount Foster's conservation project is a collective effort, allowing the future generations to enjoy and benefit from this exceptional natural area. The project's total cost is \$2.5 M. "We worked really hard to finance this project, we have solicited all possible funding partners. To this day, we have managed to secure a little over \$1.7 M in cash and land donations. We are pursuing our efforts! However, we still need to raise \$500,000 locally. That is why we appeal to the local communities since you will benefit most from the conservation of this pristine land" says Marie-José Auclair, president of Appalachian Corridor's Board.

#### **A Saga Unfolding**

The saga surrounding Mount Foster has been going on for almost a decade. From the beginning, the development project raised the ire of citizens as well as Appalachian Corridor, considering the number of houses to be built, the great ecological wealth of the area and strategic location at the heart of the Green Mountain range. After several years of advocacy and negotiation attempts to protect the site, Appalachian Corridor reached an agreement with the current developer in September 2018. Conservation gains are considerable; the most sensitive ecosystems and the rarest species are almost entirely protected. Of course, Appalachian Corridor would have preferred that this area had been left intact with no real-estate development, but this was not possible.

Gail Watt, a West-Bolton citizen, is relieved by the outcome. "I have lived lower down on the South flank of Foster Mountain for over 30 years, and have been walking on the mountain almost every day, long before there were any roads or even a hint of a road or development. With a sinking heart I have watched, little by little, roads materialize, a house going up here and there. What could I do? I didn't own the land. But it will not be

true anymore. Today, I'm glad because I can contribute to Appalachian Corridor's conservation project and make sure the mountain will be protected forever. Please join me and make a donation to protect this territory we are privileged enough to live on. Be assured that every donation counts – large or small – and will make a difference! Together, we can give the mountain back to the community.”

### **A Community Project**

Mount Foster's protection will benefit everyone thanks to its inspiring landscape, the quality of life it procures and the ecological services it renders. It is a collective project, each and every one is called to participate. West-Bolton and Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton municipalities have been involved since the beginning to ensure it is a win-win situation for nature and citizens. On June 7<sup>th</sup> 2019, a popular consultation in West-Bolton resulted in 76% of votes in favour of the project. The Mayor, Jacques Drolet, was very happy with the outcome: “I wish to thank the population of West-Bolton supporting this project, it's the end of many years of debate, as well as the developers who agreed to “put water in their wine” in order for this project to reach social acceptance. I also thank Appalachian Corridor for its infallible engagement, its expertise and support throughout. I invite all citizens to contribute generously”.

Michèle Turcotte, Mayor of Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton, also calls the citizens to action: “In Saint-Étienne, we have always been aiming at protecting our mountains. Since the major part of the future conservation area is located on our territory, I invite you to contribute generously to the fundraising campaign. The conservation project will have a positive impact for Saint-Étienne and the surrounding region since we will have a secured access to Mount Foster and the Scouts Tower. All contributions are important, they will make a difference. Together, we can save Mount Foster”.

### **The Time Is Now**

Appalachian Corridor expresses the urgency in finding the required funds. “We don't have much time to go ahead with the proposed financing package. This is why we urge you to contribute in a very short time. The transaction must be concluded in December 2019, please don't wait, it could be too late... We have an exceptional conservation project between our hands, this collective effort is of utmost importance for us and for the future generations” concludes Ms. Auclair.

To contribute: [www.corridorappalachien.ca/en/make-a-donation](http://www.corridorappalachien.ca/en/make-a-donation) OR 450 297-1145

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## Appalachian Corridor

Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 2002 with a mission to protect natural areas in the Appalachian region of Southern Québec. Through the implementation of a transborder conservation strategy, Appalachian Corridor works with local communities to maintain and restore a way of life that respects the ecology of the region from a perspective of sustainable development.

[appalachiancorridor.ca](http://appalachiancorridor.ca)

### Photos



Mount Foster

Credit : Corridor appalachien