

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR PLANS OFFICE MOVE TO ENSURE THE PURSUIT OF ITS MISSION IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

The community is invited to contribute to propel the organization to new heights

Eastman, Quebec (July 27, 2020) - Appalachian Corridor is launching a fundraising campaign to raise \$175,000 needed to complete the acquisition of a new workspace essential to the growth of its activities in natural environment conservation for the Appalachian region of southern Quebec.

Since its founding 18 years ago, Appalachian Corridor has participated - with the help of numerous partners - in the perpetual protection of more than 14,400 hectares of land in the region. As a result of its rapid growth, the Eastman-based organization has spent the last five years exploring offices better suited to its expanding operations and able to meet current and future needs.

"The growing requirements of local communities in terms of the environment, combined with the fine expertise in nature conservation that we possess, means that we are increasingly solicited," explains Marie-José Auclair, President of the board of directors for Appalachian Corridor. "Our current offices don't allow us to house the essential resources we need to meet the many opportunities that present themselves to us in the realm of conserving our precious natural heritage. Many projects are put on hold or are downright declined since it is currently impossible for us to add members to our team," she explains.

Riding on the wave of its <u>most recent Mount Foster conservation announcement</u>, Appalachian Corridor recently found the perfect space in Eastman to continue its operations and support its growth. Located in the heart of its intervention territory, this new refuge will triple the office space available to the Appalachian Corridor team which currently includes 14 regular employees and eight interns. The offices will also provide a more reliable access to an essential high-speed internet connection.

"This new space will have a direct impact on the current team in addition to allowing the organization to expand its service offerings and further share its expertise with a multitude of stakeholders such as property owners who wish to get involved in conservation, our 17 affiliated members, the 43 municipalities and the six municipalities in our territory, in addition to schools, and day camps, etc.," says Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director for Appalachian Corridor. "The whole community will benefit," she adds.

To achieve this ambitious project, which marks a turning point in the history of the organization, Appalachian Corridor first looked for financial aid programs. Provincial and federal deputies provided help to identify available funding sources, however it turns out that no program exists for this purpose. As a result, the organization is reaching out to the entire community for financial contributions from individuals, businesses, municipalities, and foundations. A donation recognition program has been put in place and tax receipts will be issued for all donations made to the organization for this new office project.



To support this large-scale project with a donation and have an impact on the advancement of conservation projects in the region, go to https://www.corridorappalachien.ca/en/make-a-donation/ or call 579-488-6670.

ABOUT

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 cross-border 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. http://www.corridorappalachien.ca/en/

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