



Déclaration de l'AAPC en réponse à *Une force de la nature : la stratégie du Canada pour protéger la nature*

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Une profession qui répond aux besoins du moment

L'Association des architectes paysagistes du Canada (AAPC), qui représente plus de 3 200 architectes paysagistes, associés et étudiants à travers le Canada, se réjouit de la publication du rapport *Une force de la nature : la stratégie du Canada pour protéger la nature*. Forte de son engagement de 3,8 milliards de dollars et d'un objectif de protection de 30 % des terres et des étendues d'eau du Canada d'ici 2030, cette stratégie représente une étape nécessaire pour enrayer et inverser la crise de la biodiversité qui menace les systèmes naturels dont dépend toute vie.

Les trois piliers du rapport *Une force de la nature*, soit protéger la nature, bien bâtir le Canada, et valoriser la nature et mobiliser des capitaux, reflètent une vision que les architectes paysagistes vivent et mettent en pratique chaque jour. Notre profession se situe à la croisée des environnements naturels et bâtis, interprétant les sciences écologiques et les traduisant en environnements réfléchis qui sont à la fois fonctionnels, régénérateurs et esthétiques. Nous occupons une position unique pour combler le fossé entre les politiques de conservation et leur mise en œuvre dans les zones sauvages, les paysages exploités et au cœur des villes canadiennes.

Pilier 1 : Protéger la nature

The CSLA strongly supports the strategy's commitment to expand protected areas and advance Indigenous-led stewardship and conservation programs. Landscape architects have long partnered with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to integrate Indigenous Knowledge Systems into the planning, design, and stewardship of landscapes.

While expanding the area of protected lands and waters is necessary, protection alone is not sufficient. The CSLA urges the government to prioritize the identification of ecologically vulnerable lands and waters, and areas of high ecological value, to ensure that conservation efforts are targeted where they are most urgently needed, and that habitat connectivity is maintained.

We also wish to highlight the critical role of urban nature. Canada's commitment to 15 new national urban parks is encouraging, but biodiversity does not stop at national park limits. Urban ecosystems include streetscapes, recreational parks, greenways, wetlands, urban forests, and waterways, all of which provide vital habitat connectivity, support human health and well-being, and represent for many Canadians their most immediate connection to the natural world. The CSLA urges the government to ensure that urban nature receives the same rigorous attention as wilderness areas, and that landscape architects are recognized as essential partners in designing and restoring these ecosystems.

Pillar 2: Building Canada Well

We are encouraged that Pillar 2 directly acknowledges nature-based solutions (NbS) as a key tool for climate adaptation and mitigation. NbS, including green infrastructure projects such as living shorelines, constructed wetlands, and enhanced urban tree canopy, are practical, evidence-based tools landscape architects bring to every project, at every scale.

We are concerned, however, that Pillar 2 currently reads more as a framework for managing development than as a mandate for fundamentally building better. In order for infrastructure to work with nature, nature must be embedded in the planning and design process from the outset.

Landscape architects believe that the materials specified, the stormwater managed, the soil preserved, and the habitat connectivity maintained, are all aspects of development that are as important as where Canada builds. The forthcoming comprehensive mapping and Key Biodiversity Area data are welcome, but data alone will not change development patterns. We recommend that this information be integrated into land use planning and development approvals at all levels of government. The CSLA offers our expertise to inform the development of national green standards and design guidance to embed nature-positive outcomes across the full range of development activity.

The CSLA also strongly encourages the federal government to support municipalities on the integration of green development standards and nature-positive requirements in their development regulations and approval processes. Canada can learn from existing international models, such as the United Kingdom's Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), which mandates measurable ecological improvements as a condition of development approval, an approach with strong potential for application in the Canadian context.

The strategy rightly notes that nature is one of Canada's most effective flood-protection systems, yet it stops short of committing to improved climate adaptation measures within planning and development frameworks. The CSLA calls on the government to address this gap explicitly, ensuring that adaptation outcomes are embedded as requirements, not afterthoughts, in infrastructure planning and approvals at all levels of government.

This is particularly important for programs such as the Build Communities Strong Fund, which represents a significant federal investment in the development of community infrastructure. The CSLA calls on the government to ensure that this and other major funding streams explicitly align with the pillars of the Nature Strategy: to prioritize nature-based solutions, require nature-positive decision-making in project proposals, and embed minimum green standards as conditions of funding.

Pillar 3: Valuing Nature and Mobilizing Capital

The CSLA welcomes the commitment to launch an Expert Taskforce on Natural Capital Accounting and Nature Financing. However, beyond investment and financing mechanisms, the value of nature must also include its impacts on human health, social cohesion, psychological well-being, and the reduction of long-term maintenance and infrastructure costs, values that remain chronically underquantified and underrepresented in public decision-making. The Taskforce should consider leading international frameworks such as the [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(TNFD\)](#) and the targets of the [Nature Positive Initiative](#). The CSLA encourages the government to develop monitoring frameworks that capture these co-benefits and accessible tools that help municipalities, developers, and project proponents integrate natural asset value into early-stage planning and design decisions.

A Call to Partner

A Force of Nature is a strong declaration of intent, and its success depends on implementation by professionals and communities who translate policy into places. Our members can contribute scientific literacy, design creativity, ecological expertise, and a deep commitment to reconciliation and sustainability. We look forward to working with the federal government, Indigenous Peoples, allied professions, and communities to turn these ambitions into on-the-ground results.

À propos de l'AAPC et de l'architecture de paysage

L'AAPC est une organisation professionnelle à but non lucratif qui a pour objet de faire progresser l'art, la science et l'exercice de l'architecture de paysage au Canada. Représentant plus de 3 200 membres (architectes paysagistes, collaborateurs/stagiaires et étudiants en architecture de paysage), l'AAPC s'engage à promouvoir et à accroître la notoriété de notre profession et à défendre divers enjeux tels que le réaménagement urbain, la planification des parcs et des espaces verts, les questions autochtones, les collectivités viables et socialement justes, les changements climatiques, les paysages protégés et le patrimoine culturel.

Les architectes paysagistes favorisent des approches multidisciplinaires et fondées sur la collaboration pour la création de véritables environnements humains agréables et pour la durabilité des écosystèmes naturels et des espaces exceptionnels. Les architectes paysagistes s'efforcent de répondre aux besoins de la société et de l'environnement naturel, et de respecter les paysages culturels du passé tout en planifiant la viabilité à long terme.

Renseignements supplémentaires

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