

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

Wednesday, April 1 2026

SeaBlue Canada welcomes the Government of Canada release of “Canada’s Strategy to Protect Nature”

The Federal Government of Canada’s announcement of \$ 3.8 billion in funding for nature clears up significant uncertainty on Canada’s plan to preserve vital ecosystems

On Wednesday, March 31, Prime Minister Mark Carney released the long-awaited “[Force of Nature: Canada’s Strategy to Protect Nature](#)”, which articulates priorities and funding for nature conservation over the next five years.

The plan announced a \$ 3.8 billion investment in nature, which will cover a suite of activities, including concluding the long-standing body of work on Canada’s protected area targets, buoying nature-based climate solutions, and ensuring Indigenous and Inuit Guardian programs can continue to provide vital support in coastal communities. Achieving the promises of the plan will ensure that many years of investment in these areas can produce the multiple benefits associated with protected areas.

[SeaBlue Canada](#) welcomes this vital step in preserving Canada’s ocean:

“After a long period of uncertainty, it was very heartening to see Canada recommit to and acknowledge the importance of nature as one of this country’s greatest assets, providing benefits to our economy and culture,” says Jennifer Josehans, National Director of SeaBlue.

“Recommitting to Indigenous Guardian programs provides much needed certainty and ensures that this essential work can continue. The strategy reaffirms that conserving nature is a priority to this government and acknowledges that the health, wellbeing and prosperity of all Canadians is tied to our vast and unique lands and waters.”

The Prime Minister referenced on several occasions during the announcement that protecting nature is a critical element of his government's nation building agenda as well as nature's role in Canadian national identity.

SeaBlue Canada is a coalition of eight of Canada's most well-respected non-government organizations, working collectively to ensure that Canada's ocean is meaningfully and equitably protected.

Quotes from our partners:

"Today's announcement reflects what Canadians already know: protecting nature is an essential national project. With resource development set to move faster across the country, long-term investments to safeguard nature are more important than ever. We are pleased to see a renewed commitment by the federal government to address the biodiversity challenges ahead of us. We look forward to working with them to ensure this promising step forward results in science-based, community-led action to restore and protect biodiversity in our ocean."

- Shannon Arnold, Associate Director, Ecology Action Centre

"It is great to see Canada acknowledge, in this strategy, the fundamental importance of nature and the ocean for this country. Canada's ocean and coastal ecosystems provide billions of dollars worth of benefits to Canadians. Protecting ocean spaces and meeting the commitments laid out in this strategy will be crucial for our well-being, safety and economic prosperity."

- Michael Bissonnette, Staff Lawyer, West Coast Environmental Law

"We're happy to see Canada meaningfully invest in its commitment to protect 30 percent of its lands and waters by 2030 and continue to fund locally led conservation initiatives. As Canada moves to build new infrastructure, we also need to protect the natural infrastructure we all depend on. Today's announcement shows the government recognizes what nature provides for people, and we appreciate that they are taking meaningful steps to invest in and sustain those benefits for the long term."

- Sheena Kennedy, Executive Director, Oceans North

"Today is a good day for nature. The government's Nature Strategy affirms the real commitments Canada has made to protect and restore nature — essential commitments as biodiversity loss and climate change intensify."

- Megan Leslie, President and CEO, WWF-Canada

“The measures announced today build on a decade of work for one of the most ambitious nature protection strategies in the world. Canadians value nature more than any other part of our national identity. These measures are a strong signal that nature remains a priority for our government, too.”

- Emily McMillan, Executive Director, Nature Canada

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