

November, 2010

NTC Newsletter

National Trails Coalition

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA & NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS AND IMPROVES TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

Not bad for a year's work! The National Trails Coalition (NTC) made up of motorized and non-motorized trail groups recognized the importance of bringing the broad spectrum of trail-users together and were successful in implementing a cooperative trail development model for nationwide trail development.

The NTC model to strategically plan trail projects in a coordinated manner was used when allocating the Federal Government's EAP/NTC funding support of \$25 million for trail development. The final results translated into over 474 recreational trail projects that were completed across Canada during the programs mandated one year timeframe.

Further proof that the NTC model for trail development is a success shows in the numbers. The federal government's initial \$25 million funding allocation generated over \$56 million in investments for trails. This unprecedented funding initiative resulted in the building, upgrading or rehabilitating of 20,128 km of trails including 766 bridges throughout Canada in just one year.

One of the greatest benefits of

the coalition partnership to date has been the acknowledgement and recognition of the importance that trails have to Canadians. Government's, both federally and provincially, are starting to recognize that an investment in trails is an investment in healthy living, safe recreation, better environmental education and management, community development, economic activity and employment.

We all recognize and agree that exercise and stress relief are key to our general health. There are so many people who get their energy from the outdoors and we need to recognize that what one person enjoys should not be discounted because it doesn't fit into another person's definition of physical activity.

As trail use popularity increases so does the demand for trails that can accommodate the many different uses. Collaboration rather than exclusionary practices is where the future of trail development is headed.

The NTC and trails communities across Canada are committed to building on this collaborative model. As Canadians who value

trails for supporting economic growth and encouraging active living, the NTC through its membership look forward to developing a common long-term vision that will allow Canada's trail systems to become a key international tourism attraction.

The National Trails Coalition includes the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council and its partners, the All-Terrain Quad Council of Canada and the Motorcyclists Confederation of Canada and the Canadian Trails Federation. The National Trails Coalition can say with certainty that virtually all forms of trail-based activity are represented and respected under the Coalition banner. Check out the NTC website at: www.ntc-canada.ca



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Moving Forward

NTC Highlights

- 474 projects completed nation wide
- 20,128 KM of new trail construction and refurbishing
- 120,197 of person days worked
- More than 100 announcements and events were held around the nation for NTC trail projects
- Open lines of communications with trail organizations

It has been a very prosperous year for Canadian trails. Since the National Trails Coalition program initiation in June of 2009 more than 20,128 km of trail have either been constructed or upgraded.

The people from different organizations that were met along the way have helped to build lasting friendships that will continue to grow with the trails movement all across the country.

Communities throughout Canada were brought together, by connecting our trails and making our nation even stronger. Collaboration rather than exclusionary practices is the future of trail development .

The members of the NTC board of directors are continuing to look for

additional funding. They are striving to keep the government of Canada aware of the impact of trails on our country and looking for a dedicated trail fund that organizations can utilize for many years in the future.

All citizens of Canada can do their part as well. The backbone of trails is volunteers. If you don't already belong to a trail organization in your area look into membership today. One of the many benefits from trail use is a more stable economy and increased tourism.

If you want it you have to make your voice heard. Take photos of your friends and family

enjoying trails and send them to your community leaders, MLAs and MPs. Enhancing trail networks requires collaboration and planning. Let's work together to provide Canadians with safe places to enjoy outdoor recreational activities.

Happy Trails To You!!!



Final 10 % Holdback was Released

The final payments for the 2009-2010 NTC funding program have finally been released. The 10% holdback for each of the 474 projects has been distributed to project managers and trail organizations across Canada. It's been a long wait and we thank everyone for their understanding. The Federal Government agrees that the NTC met all of its milestones. The National Trails Coalition audit passed with flying colours and proved that this program has what it takes to continue to strengthen our nation through trails.

A big thank you and congratulations to all of the project participants. The NTC looks forward to establishing many more great partnerships in the future.

Job Well Done Everyone!!!



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“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement . Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”

~ Helen Keller~

