

NATIONAL TRAILS ROUNDTABLE

July 11, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

JOIN THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON RECREATIONAL TRAILS!

The National Trails Roundtable is calling on all Canadians who use motorized and non-motorized recreational trails, or who develop, build, maintain, fund or advocate for trails in their provinces, territories, regions or communities, to give their input by responding to the **National Trails Survey**.

This Survey has been prepared by the National Trails Roundtable following a meeting in November 2010, that included trail enthusiasts from all parts of Canada.

The objectives of this Survey are to determine the most important challenges and priorities of Canadians who care about trails, to see where there is general agreement and to identify areas for potential collaboration.

For more information about the National Trails Roundtable please read the **Backgrounder** which accompanies this News Release.

To access the Survey go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NTRsurvey>

To respond to the Survey it will be necessary to review the National Trails Roundtable **Summary Report** which can be viewed on the following websites:

National Trails Coalition

<http://ntc-canada.ca/pdf/110706-Final-NTR-Summary%20Report.pdf>

Canadian Trails Federation: <http://www.ctf-fcs.ca/web/development/natroundtab.html>

Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations: <http://www.ccsso-ccom.ca/index.htm>

Canadian Off-Highway Vehicles Distributors Council: <http://www.cohv.ca/index.htm>

TransCanada Trails at: www.tctrail.ca

This is an ideal way to send or emphasize your messages about trails to policy makers and managers who make key decisions about trails across Canada.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! COMPLETE THE SURVEY!

If you have questions please contact the following representative of the National Trails Roundtable working group:

**Jo-Anne Farquhar
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Director of Communications & Public Affairs
Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV)
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NATIONAL TRAILS ROUNDTABLE

BACKGROUND

In November 2010 trail leaders from across Canada participated in a two day National Trails Roundtable workshop in Banff Alberta. This workshop was attended by delegates from all provinces and territories. Most of them are volunteers. The non-profit organizations and government agencies with which they are affiliated undertake advocacy for or the promotion, development, funding, building or maintenance of trails.

This Roundtable Conference was initiated and organized by TransCanada Trail and Parks Canada, who also provided funding for certain events during the conference.

The objective of the conference was to determine if there is a need for and support for greater collaboration at the national level between the different groups of stakeholders concerned with trails. Participants in the workshop concluded that collaboration between stakeholder groups must become a high priority.

Over the two days delegates developed their vision for trails throughout Canada and agreed on the many values they share. These include their passion for trails, the importance of safety and education, respect for diversity and accessibility, the need for cooperation, collaboration and inclusiveness, the importance of volunteer and community involvement, the importance of health, and active living and respect for nature and sustainability.

The delegates agreed in principle that the following are essential: collaboration between trail stakeholders, the need for trails to have a higher profile with the public and governments, increased funding and resources, respectful conduct on trails, sharing of information and knowledge and interaction with governments.

The delegates identified ten areas with major challenges which impact on achievement of their vision. These include government involvement, funding, fragmentation of the trails sector, user group conflict, land use, marketing, trail building and maintenance, education and engagement, risk management and environmental stewardship.

The Roundtable published a comprehensive Report with the results of the workshop. A working group was formed to engage trail stakeholders and follow up on the issues identified during the workshop.

A Summary Report has also been prepared and a Trail User Survey has been structured to solicit input from as many trail groups and users as possible across Canada.

The Summary Report can be accessed on the websites to the following organizations: National Trails Coalition, Canadian Trails Federation, Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council, TransCanada Trail. Links are provided in the accompanying News release.

The Roundtable Workshop ended on a high note with unanimous agreement on the need for more collaboration on virtually all issues concerning trails throughout Canada

If you have questions about this initiative or wish to contribute please contact the Roundtable's contact person listed in the News Release for your Organization, Province or Territory.
