

A2A Receives Grant to Build Capacity for Enhancing Habitat

Lansdowne - The Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative (A2A) is a big step closer to its vision of enhancing and connecting habitat in the region from Ontario's Algonquin Park to New York's Adirondacks Park, now that it's received a \$172,600 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to hire a full-time coordinator. Since 2002, the volunteer-run group has been focused on raising awareness, protecting and restoring the A2A region, a critical link for wildlife habitat in eastern North America.

"I want to congratulate the volunteers with the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative who have worked tirelessly for more than a decade to build the partnerships that have strengthened their organization," said Leeds-Grenville MPP Steve Clark. "I'm so pleased the Ontario Trillium Foundation has recognized the work and commitment of these volunteers with this three-year grant."

"It's essential that we protect and restore habitat in the region", explained A2A's president Emily Conger, "because it will mitigate against the disrupting impacts of climate change and it will improve the quality of life for everyone living in the area. We are enormously grateful to OTF."

The A2A Collaborative is focused on ensuring the region continues to be a resilient, ecological space, supporting the rich and diverse animal and plant life that exists here. But this diversity is fragile and threatened by inappropriate development and climate change.

"A full-time coordinator will ensure that A2A and its collaborating partners have the administrative capability to enable partnering organizations to work more effectively through cooperation and through the sharing of scientific data. He or she will facilitate partners planning and carrying out projects together, as well as upgrade the A2A website to make it more useful for partners, the scientific community and the general public. He or she will also do outreach to communities throughout the region where landowners and organizations may be interested in participating," said Conger.

To learn more about A2A and the work it's doing, please visit its website at:
www.a2alink.org

A leading grant-maker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. To learn more, please visit: www.otf.ca