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## **National Trail Organizations in Canada**

This document is intended as a succinct description of the national umbrella trail organizations in Canada, their structure, how they operate and who they represent. The three national umbrella trail organizations are the National Trails Coalition, the Canadian Trails Federation and the Trans Canada Trail.

### **The National Trails Coalition**

The National Trails Coalition is made up of three national trail groups – the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO), the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV) and the Canadian Trails Federation (CTF).

The CCSO is the national, non-profit organization representing the provincial snowmobile organizations. The provincial snowmobile federations through their affiliated clubs maintain and manage snowmobile trails across Canada. Snowmobile trails make up approximately 40% of the 360,000 km of managed trails in Canada. Recently the CCSO completed an important trails impact study “Facts and Myths About Snowmobiling” which provides detail on trail management practice, multi-use trails and the environment. (see <http://www.ccsso-ccom.ca/en/homepage/> )

The COHV is a national, not-for-profit trade association. COHV funds and works closely with the national and provincial Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) rider federations which fall under the umbrella of the All-Terrain Quad Council of Canada (AQCC) or the Motorcyclists Confederation of Canada – off road council (MCC). AQCC and MCC are national not-for-profit associations whose members are the provincial federations of off-highway vehicle clubs. The individual clubs develop, maintain and manage approximately 44,000 km of OHV trails across Canada. (see <http://cohv.ca> )

The CTF is a national non-profit trails organization representing the provincial trails federations. The provincial trails federations mainly include non-motorized trail user organizations. A few of the provincial trails federation also have motorized user organizations. This varies from province to province based on the leadership of the associations in those provinces. Ontario Trails Council is heavily invested in motorized for example, where Sentiers New Brunswick is not.

The National Trails Coalition has refurbished or built more than 24,000 km of trail with an investment of only 35 million dollars of federal funds. The federal funds were matched by over 48 million dollars from CCSO, COHV and CTF provincial federations and their affiliated clubs and organizations. This was achieved during two very short periods of time in 2009-2010 and 2014-2016. For more information go to: <http://ntc-canada.ca>

## **The Canadian Trails Federation**

The Canadian Trails Federation is a national non-profit organization made up of the various provincial and territorial trail associations. Some of the provincial and territorial associations are supported by provincial trails legislation, direct funding from lead ministries for trails, such as the Ministry of Parks and Recreation in Nova Scotia. Some, but not all have a direct contractual relationship to the Trans Canada Trail, and these provincial associations receive funding and staff-support to complete the Trans Canada Trail in those provinces. Provincial trail associations in Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador do not.

Some of the provincial trail associations that make up the membership of CTF are in turn representative of the major activity associations in those provinces. However, this is not the case in all provinces, such as Quebec, where there are other provincial federations that represent themselves to the province. Some of these provincial activity federations may have a relationship with Trans Canada Trail, or receive funding from other national organizations. (see <http://canadiantrails.org>)

## **The Trans Canada Trail (TCT)**

The TCT is a national body but does not directly maintain or manage any trails themselves. The TCT is a non-motorized trail, except for a few sections which were grandfathered in at the time that the TCT enacted its Greenways policy.

The TCT trail is the sum of its local parts. It relies on provincial grass roots clubs and organizations to construct sign and maintain the trail. For example, 70% of the TCT in Quebec is the Velo Quebec Cycling trail. The TCT sometimes funds local trails that are part of the TCT-designated trail system. In total, the TCT is approximately 24,000 km of the 360,000 km of Canadian trails.

Originally, the TCT supported the formation of the Canadian Trail Federation (CTF), but it has not been a supporting partner since 2005. They also do not engage with or provide any funding to the National Trails Coalition (NTC). Since 2009 approximately \$10 million of NTC funding was directed in support of TCT completion.

## **Closing remarks**

Hopefully this short document helps bring clarity to the relationship that exists amongst the national umbrella trail organizations in Canada. We would be pleased to meet with you to answer any additional questions you may have.

We would be pleased to provide the latest in trail studies to you. We would encourage you to meet with us at [Trailhead Canada 2017](#) where you could interface directly with the trail leaders in Canada.

Thank-you for your support and ongoing interest in trails.



Mr. Patrick Connor.  
President, Canadian Trails Federation; Chair National Trails Coalition.