

Cross Border Land Conservation

Overview: American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts is a US 501 (c)3 charity that partners with Canadian conservation organizations and American owners of environmentally and ecologically significant lands to protect Canada's natural lands, clean water, abundant habitat and quality of life for citizens of both countries.

American Friends of Canadian Conservation (American Friends, <https://afocc.org/>) partners with Canadian conservation organizations and American owners of environmentally and ecologically significant lands to protect Canada's natural lands, clean water, abundant habitat and quality of life for citizens of both countries. A gift of land or a conservation easement made through American Friends qualifies for a US charitable deduction with the IRS because American Friends is a 501 (c)3 charity in the US. Furthermore, if the property is ecologically significant, then such donations avoid the Canadian capital gains tax that normally applies to property transfers because American Friends is a prescribed donee in Canada. So, the landowner saves taxes on both sides of the border, and the land is protected first by American Friends and then by its Canadian conservation partner after the title or easement is transferred north.

Since completing its first project in October 2011, American Friends has demonstrated that its collaborative approach and unique niche in land conservation produces valuable conservation results. In partnership with 9 different Canadian conservation organizations, American Friends has completed 25 projects protecting close to 3,000 acres of important habitat in 5 provinces.

American Friends seeks engaged Board members from both Canada and the US and stands ready to help facilitate gifts of environmentally and ecologically significant lands in Canada owned by US taxpayers. For more information, please contact John Peirce D '68, President AF0CC (john.peirce@conservecanada.ca).

- **John Peirce**
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