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# ANNUAL REPORT

THE CONSECON FOUNDATION



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# Message from the CEO

As the Consecon Foundation winds down another busy year, I'm grateful to our partners, grantees, and fellow funders. Your talent and vision continue to inspire me and help me remain optimistic about the direction of the world.

The Foundation maintains its core belief that without bold, science-based innovation we will struggle to create a future where both humanity and the natural world thrive. We continue to support transformative work in protein innovation, carbon removal, and the biobanking of endangered species. These technologies lie at the heart of the Consecon Foundation's mission to reshape food, climate, and conservation systems and build a more resilient future.

In late 2024, we launched a new program focused on nuclear energy. At a pivotal time in Canada's energy landscape, investing in robust public policy research will benefit long-term decision making. We are proud to support Clean Prosperity in their work to advance evidence-based energy policy.

Lauren has led the Foundation's efforts in Environmental Education and our local grantmaking program in Prince Edward County. We continue to champion education initiatives that highlight possibility, action, and the power of individuals and communities to make a difference.

In Prince Edward County, the Foundation has supported farmland preservation, the conservation of two of the County's unique habitats (the South Shore and Big Swamp) and the proposed establishment of a National Marine Conservation Area in eastern Lake Ontario.



# Message from the CEO

This report outlines progress in our six core granting areas:

- Innovative Approaches to Biodiversity Protection
- Accelerating the Protein Transition
- Canada's Nuclear Future
- Carbon Management through Negative Carbon Emissions
- Influencing Environmental Education
- Prince Edward County Local Grants

Thank you for your interest in the Consecon Foundation's work. We value your engagement and look forward to future collaboration.

Sincerely,

Geoff



**GEOFF BURT,  
CEO**



**LAUREN BURT,  
MANAGER OF  
GRANTS AND  
PROGRAMS**



**ALEX HARBIN,  
TRUSTEE AND  
PORTFOLIO  
STRATEGIST**



# Program Report: Innovative Approaches to Biodiversity Protection

In 2025, the Consecon Foundation made its largest grant to date to support the Toronto Zoo in the creation of a Centre of Excellence for Conservation Cryobanking—a national hub designed to advance the science and infrastructure of genetic preservation in Canada. This ambitious initiative reflects our belief that cryobanking represents one of the most promising frontiers in biodiversity conservation. By preserving living tissues at ultra-low temperatures, cryobanking acts as a form of biological insurance—a safety net that ensures species can be bolstered, or even recovered, after populations in the wild have collapsed or gone extinct.

Cryobanking enables a range of powerful interventions, from supporting future captive breeding and reintroduction programs, to restoring lost genetic traits critical for long-term species survival. It is particularly important for maintaining genetic diversity, which underpins the ability of species to adapt to changing environments, resist disease, and recover from population bottlenecks. As conservationists increasingly grapple with accelerating extinction risks, cryobanking provides a proactive tool to complement traditional in situ conservation strategies. By investing in this cutting-edge infrastructure, Canada has the opportunity to become a global leader in genetic conservation, bridging current efforts in habitat protection and species monitoring with next-generation tools that can future-proof biodiversity in an era of rapid ecological change.

In late 2025, we reached an agreement to provide funding to the University of Toronto's Centre for Global Microfungal Biodiversity. This funding will help ensure that a globally significant biobank remains in Canada, safeguarding biodiversity and providing benefits to Canadian researchers and industry.



# Program Report: Innovative Approaches to Biodiversity Protection

We are proud to continue our support for the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y), a global leader advancing large-scale, connected conservation across one of the most ecologically significant corridors in North America. In 2025, Y2Y made remarkable strides in its mission to secure habitat connectivity and support wildlife movement across vast landscapes. It also helped advance the development of wildlife crossings and safe-passage infrastructure across major highways in British Columbia and Alberta, helping to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and restore ecological connectivity.

## 2025 Grants

- The Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy
- The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
- Environment Funders Canada
- The University of Toronto
- CPAWS Yukon
- Ombrello Solutions



# Program Report: Accelerating the Protein Transition

Cellular agriculture has the potential to revolutionize how we produce meat, dairy, and other animal products, making food systems more sustainable, ethical, and secure. Advances in science are continually improving scalability, cost, and taste, giving us optimism that this sector will soon begin to meaningfully impact climate and biodiversity.

The Consecon Foundation is proud to be a founding supporter of the Cellular Agriculture Prairies Ecosystem (CAPE) initiative, a groundbreaking collaboration led by New Harvest and funded through federal and provincial partnerships. CAPE aims to build the foundational infrastructure, talent networks, and regulatory readiness needed to establish the Canadian Prairies as a global hub for cellular agriculture innovation. By anchoring research in local strengths—such as biomanufacturing, agricultural feedstocks, and bioscience expertise—CAPE is creating a regionally grounded ecosystem that can accelerate the development and commercialization of sustainable, animal-free food technologies. This kind of coordinated, systems-level investment is essential for turning Canada’s early leadership in cellular agriculture into long-term economic and environmental impact.

We continue to support Cellular Agriculture Canada, which drives national research, policy development, and public education. In 2025, we established the New Harvest Student Activation Fund, which empowers emerging Canadian researchers to conduct self-directed projects.



# Program Report: Accelerating the Protein Transition

The Consecon Foundation is pleased to support Ontario Genomics and their leadership in advancing genomics-driven innovation in food and agriculture. In 2025, Ontario Genomics released “Food Innovation in Canada: A Roadmap for a Resilient Tomorrow,” a forward-looking report that outlines how cutting-edge biotechnology can help build a more sustainable, secure, and competitive agri-food sector. The report identifies strategic opportunities in areas like precision fermentation, gene editing, and cellular agriculture, while also emphasizing the importance of public-private collaboration, regulatory readiness, and inclusive workforce development. By supporting this work, the Consecon Foundation is helping to catalyze a science-based transformation of Canada’s food systems that aligns environmental sustainability with economic opportunity.

## 2025 Grants

- New Harvest Canada
- Ontario Genomics
- University of Toronto Alt Protein Project



# Program Report: Canada's Nuclear Future

The global nuclear sector is experiencing a renaissance. Rising electricity demand—from electrification, climate imperatives, and AI-powered data centres—is driving a strong shift toward nuclear power as a reliable, low-carbon energy source. In 2024 alone, more than 7 GW of new capacity came online globally, representing a 33% increase over the previous year. Over 65 GW is currently under construction.

The Consec Foundation launched its nuclear energy program to address a critical gap: the need for independent, high-quality public policy research. As governments commit billions to infrastructure, evidence-based guidance is essential to ensure long-term value, environmental integrity, and public trust. We're proud to support Clean Prosperity's growing body of research on nuclear energy's role in Canada's net-zero transition.

Their 2024 report, "Nuclear for a Net-Zero Canada," makes the case for nuclear power as essential to deep decarbonization, calling for clear policy direction, accelerated regulatory processes, and early investments in both large-scale and small modular reactors (SMRs).

Their 2025 follow-up, "Nuclear Nation-Building," goes further—highlighting how a robust nuclear strategy can drive long-term economic development, industrial innovation, and energy security across Canada. It recommends building national capacity in nuclear supply chains, workforce development, and export opportunities, positioning nuclear energy not just as a climate tool, but as a nation-building project with broad public and economic benefits.

## 2025 Grants

- Canadians for Clean Prosperity



# Program Report: Carbon Management through Negative Carbon Emissions

The Consec Foundation continues to support Canada's carbon dioxide removal (CDR) sector at multiple levels:

- **Carbon Removal Canada (CRC):** The Consec Foundation continues to support CRC's efforts to shape policy and market conditions for carbon dioxide removal (CDR) in Canada. Their influential report, "Procuring with Purpose," made a compelling case for government-led demand signals as a way to catalyze the sector. This work was instrumental in the Government of Canada's decision to commit to purchasing at least \$10 million in CDR services by 2030, a foundational step toward building a viable domestic CDR market.
- **MaRS Discovery District:** Through its cleantech programming and the Carbon Management Coalition, MaRS is playing a critical role in advancing CDR technologies from lab to market. Their work connects emerging startups with investors, researchers, and policymakers to help scale solutions across Canada's carbon management ecosystem. In 2025, MaRS ran an innovative carbon dioxide removal (CDR) credit purchasing and education program in collaboration with M-Lab, a Japanese consortium that includes Mitsubishi Corporation.
- **Pembina Institute's Carbon Dioxide Removal Centre:** A national policy hub advancing research and convening stakeholders. Pembina hosted the April 2025 Carbon Catalyst forum in Calgary, which brought together over 300 national and international experts and helped establish a shared policy agenda for scaling CDR in Canada.
- **Carbon Business Council:** In 2025, the Council expanded its work in Canada by hosting industry roundtables, engaging with government stakeholders, and facilitating cross-border dialogue with U.S. counterparts. The council



# Program Report: Carbon Management through Negative Carbon Emissions

also commissioned polling to better understand Canadian attitudes toward carbon dioxide removal, revealing broad support for government investment in CDR technologies.

We're also proud to support influential public education efforts to bring clarity, depth, and critical thinking to the complex world of CDR. Through a partnership with the Clean Economy Fund, Consecan was able to support the Carbon Curve and Energy vs. Climate podcasts.

We also supported the production of Scrubbing the Sky, a documentary-style podcast focused on direct air capture technologies. In Scrubbing the Sky, host Ed Whittingham takes listeners on a journey through the history, science and politics of CDR, bringing this emerging climate solution to life.

These media initiatives align with our commitment to fostering public understanding, informed dialogue, and critical engagement with one of the most urgent and fast-moving fields in climate innovation.

## 2025 Grants

- Carbon Removal Canada
- MaRS
- The Pembina Institute
- The Clean Economy Fund
- The Carbon Business Council
- The Climate Solutions Prize



# Program Report: Influencing Environmental Education

We remain committed to environmental education that inspires hope, agency, and resilience in youth. 2025 saw our largest-ever grant for Earth Rangers, giving young people a direct way to care about the natural world.

Earth Rangers is Canada's largest conservation organization for children, with over 300,000 members engaged through its mobile app, school programs, and community "missions."

Through school programs and an active online community, Earth Rangers makes environmental learning accessible and exciting. The Foundation values this approach because it builds early awareness and a sense of responsibility that lasts. Funding from the Foundation helps expand Earth Rangers' educational reach. This year, our support for Earth Rangers will help them develop new digital tools that keep kids engaged. The Foundation's support also means that more than a dozen schools in Prince Edward County will receive a visit from Earth Rangers, some of them for the first time ever.

This partnership reflects a shared belief that environmental protection starts with the next generation. By backing Earth Rangers, the Consecon Foundation invests in confident, informed young stewards who understand they can make a difference. The support strengthens a program that turns curiosity into action and helps shape lifelong advocates for the planet.

We also supported the creation of two documentary series:

- **Edge of Frame:** Follows photographer Andrew Budziak as he captures Canada's urban wildlife.
- **Under the Ice:** This multi-year documentary explores the ecosystems hidden beneath Canada's frozen lakes, highlighting groundbreaking research on life in extreme cold environments and their sensitivity to climate change.



# Program Report: Influencing Environmental Education

## 2025 Grants

- Earth Rangers
- EcoSchools
- Albert College
- Birds Canada



# Program Report: Prince Edward County Local Grants

The Consecon Foundation remains deeply committed to Prince Edward County, where the Burt family has lived for over 35 years. Prince Edward County is a uniquely rich ecological region shaped by its location on the northeastern shore of Lake Ontario and its diverse mix of wetlands, shorelines, forests, and agricultural lands. The County's South Shore is one of the last undeveloped stretches of shoreline on the north side of Lake Ontario and serves as a critical stopover for migratory birds, including many species at risk. Its waters and coastal habitats support over 50 species of conservation concern. Prince Edward County's Big Swamp is a vast, ecologically rich wetland. However, ongoing threats from real estate development, habitat fragmentation, and farmland loss place increasing pressure on these sensitive ecosystems.

Farmland preservation is a priority. Between 2006 and 2021, the County lost nearly 35,000 acres of farmland, almost 24% of its total. From 2016–2021 alone, over 15,000 acres disappeared, largely due to development and real estate pressure. Ontario loses 319 acres of farmland daily, jeopardizing food security and ecological integrity. We are proud to partner with:

- Ontario Farmland Trust: By placing conservation easements on farmland, OFT ensures long-term protection from development.
- Centre for Land Conservation: Helping to align conservation priorities across the various actors working in Prince Edward County.



# Program Report: Prince Edward County Local Grants

We are also pleased to support Nature Canada in its efforts to establish a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in eastern Lake Ontario. This proposed NMCA would protect habitats for more than 50 at-risk species. It would also support sustainable recreation, fisheries, and contribute to Canada's 30x30 protection goals.

In 2025 we continued our support of the Quinte Museum of Natural History as they prepare for two new exhibitions launching in 2026. "Expedition Alert: Stories from the High Arctic" features polar bears, narwhals, and Arctic research. "Roots of Resilience" is an interactive exhibit on pollinators, complete with a seed library for visitors to act in their own gardens.

## 2025 Grants

- Ontario Farmland Trust
- Ontario Conservation Accelerator
- Centre for Land Conservation
- Nature Canada
- Reaching for Rainbows
- Quinte Museum of Natural History



**Thank you for your continued support of the Consecon Foundation. Together, we can create a future rooted in scientific excellence, environmental resilience, and shared prosperity.**

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