



Canadian Council
on Invasive Species

Conseil Canadien des
Espèces Envahissantes

CANADIAN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

#PlayCleanGo



#BePlantWise



#BuyLocalBurnLocal



#CleanDrainDry



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MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

In looking back at 2018, this has been a very pivotal year for the Canadian Council on Invasive Species. Thanks to a wide range of new partners, both as funders and advisors, the Canadian Council has moved forward on addressing high priority issues identified over the last 5 to 10 years. With a strong professional staff team, there has been significant progress on new national initiatives with pilots underway from the Maritimes to the west coast. A big thanks to the Directors who have invested time and energy into ensuring the Council is well structured to address national needs and emerging issues. To be successful, working together at all levels – at senior levels to grassroots, from governments to businesses, from home owners to individuals – there is a role for each of us. Looking forward to an even stronger 2019 – together!



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CCIS is definitely on a roll! 2018 was a great year! We made significant progress in the development of our taking action campaigns. Our revenues exceeded our expectations and we now have Chapters from coast to coast to coast. Most importantly, the achievements are the result of collaboration and partnerships. People are working together to stop the introduction and spread of invasive species. There are a lot of Canadians and Canadian organizations who want to make a difference!



The work that we do includes:

1. We are the national voice on invasive species from coast to coast to coast.
2. We build linkages across provinces and territories, governments and non-governments, indigenous organizations and businesses, to make sure that the national diversity of Canada helps guide programs and initiatives.
3. We build national campaigns that provide consistent messaging and resources to stop the spread of invasive species
4. We provide a 'hub' that provides a one-stop shop for information on invasive species programs and initiatives, with a special focus on the invasive species chapters across Canada.
5. We provide information and resources through forums, workshops, webinars and more to provide individuals and organizations key information for local approaches.
6. We provide research and national reports that can support effective work on invasive species in Canada.

BUILDING NATIONAL TAKING ACTION CAMPAIGNS

The last year has been an extremely busy year building the internal foundation for a number of national outreach campaigns. Each campaign required researching the existing initiatives, undertaking 'behaviour change' research and then working with professionals to develop tools and resources for partners. In addition to the Board, Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) had the privilege of having expert advisors volunteer their time and advice as part of campaign working groups, which helped guide the development of programs and resources. It has been an exciting and creative time as CCIS looks forward to launching new campaigns next year.

WHO WE ARE

CCIS serves as a national voice and hub to protect Canada from the impacts of invasive species. With members and chapters from all corners of Canada, along with governments and businesses, the CCIS brings people together to build practical solutions to prevent the spread of invasive species.

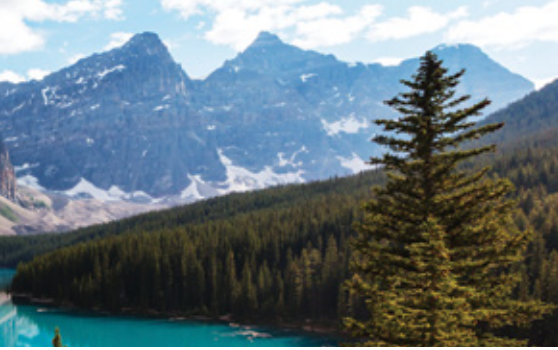
The national organization is governed by a four-chamber board that brings together governments, businesses, indigenous groups, organizations and chapters to help guide the CCIS in achieving success.

WHAT WE DO

The CCIS works with partners across Canada to deliver tools and resources that stimulate Canadians to take action and prevent the spread of invasive species to protect Canada's ecosystems and communities. The Council's Action Plan was developed to reflect national priorities mutually identified in national planning sessions while building on the direction of the National Alien Invasive Species Strategy (2004). Since 2008, CCIS primarily focused on key priority pathways of spread, with some work on high priority species such as Giant Hogweed or invasive mussels. The aim is to prevent the introduction of new invasive species and stop the spread of those that are already settled in a corner of the country. Research shows that consistent messaging on 'sound practices' targeted to specific audiences can bring about real change in behaviours. The CCIS remains committed to providing national campaigns with tested resources that will be available to governments, organizations and others to adopt and use locally. Together we can be effective in 'stopping the spread'.

The results are that Canada's environment, economy and society are protected from the damage caused by invasive species.

Invasive species cost Canadians money – the economic impacts on agriculture, crops and forestry is estimated at **\$7.5 billion**



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Based on key high priority pathways, the CCIS has undertaken the development and piloting of national campaigns that will serve as a resource for all interested partners across Canada. A special thanks to all of the volunteers from across Canada that helped guide the initial development of each campaign – your wisdom and recommendations were appreciated.

National Survey on Invasive Species Awareness

To establish a baseline of information, a national online survey was conducted to determine the awareness and ‘actions’ that Canadians currently practice related to invasive species. The national survey report provides information that will help shape all of the national campaigns focused on ensuring that Canadians adopt and practice responsible actions to reduce the spread of invasive species.



PlayCleanGo

The CCIS is now the ‘Canadian home’ for this international program that encourages hikers, campers and other recreationalists to enjoy the outdoors while adopting practices to prevent the spread of invasive species and protect Canada’s natural beauty. With the help of the national PlayCleanGo working group, 2018 was focused on developing the framework, systems, websites and resources for launch in early 2019. Partners across Canada can find out more at www.playcleango.ca.



Buy Local, Burn Local

Moving firewood, to or from a campground, home or cabin, can spread invasive pests and diseases and can severely impact our environment and economy. Guided by our National Firewood Working Group, and based on work by the Canada Food Inspection Agency, **Buy Local, Burn Local** is now ready for pilot in early 2019. The campaign has ‘Best Practices’ for firewood producers, retailers and campgrounds along with communication resources found at www.buylocalburnlocal.ca.

Be Plant Wise

Over 60% of Canada’s invasive plants were intentionally introduced over the last 150 years. Although most introduced plants do not disrupt ecosystems, there are some that are ‘high risk’ and a direct threat to human health and safety, the environment, and the economy. In collaboration with the National Horticulture Invasive Plants Working Group, a National Code of Conduct on Invasive Species has been completed with support from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association. Further work will be completed with Invasive Species Chapters across Canada to link current ‘Plant Wise’ and Grow Me Instead programs together. Promotion and training of the Code of Conduct are the next steps for the Working Group. Find more at www.beplantwise.ca

Clean Drain Dry



Canada is proud to be home to the second largest amount of fresh water in the world and is bounded on three sides by oceans. Encouraging and supporting boaters and aquatic recreationalists to clean, drain and dry all boats and equipment will prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species such as invasive mussels, fish, and aquatic plants to pristine waters. With partnerships in New Brunswick and BC, CCIS has and is continuing to pilot signage, educational resources and videos to promote the actions of cleaning, draining and drying all boats and equipment. Visit www.cleandrindry.ca to learn more.

National Forums and Workshops

Bringing together leaders to share information has been one of the actions that the CCIS has done since inception. Every two years, the CCIS holds a national workshop that attracts 100 leaders across the country to share ideas and information on invasive species. The 2019 Forum will highlight the approaches and lessons learned from Australia.

Communication and Outreach

With a commitment to working in both official languages, CCIS is currently overhauling its website to be more robust for all of the new campaigns and will become a central hub of important invasive species information. The National Invasive Species ebulletin shares information across 100’s of organizations and governments across Canada. New resources and social media are being developed to support all campaigns.

The National Alien Invasive Species Strategy, released in 2004, set the direction for the CCIS national priorities.



NEXT STEPS

In addition to the current initiatives, CCIS has also initiated work on a number of other high priorities which you will hear more about in the future. Be in touch with us to discuss how you can partner and work on these and other national priorities.

Don't Let It Loose: to help stop the release of unwanted pets and the dumping of aquariums.

Aquatic Invasive Species Stewardship Toolkit: to inspire and support local stewardship groups to 'adopt' their lakeshore and protect it from invasive species.

Best Practices and training resources for industry: from forestry to roadside management to provide developing resources and practical tools for implementation into standard operations.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week: 2020 has been declared the year International year of Plant Health and to coincide this, the CCIS will launch a National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

2018 FUNDERS

BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Eco Canada

EcoAction Community Funding Program

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Government of New Brunswick – Energy and Resource Development Natural Resources Canada

Invasive Species Centre

Invasive Species Council of British Columbia

Northwest Territories Conservation Data Centre – Wildlife Division, Environment and Natural Resources

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



CHAPTERS

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species has strength through its network of Chapters located across Canada from coast to coast to coast. From the Yukon to Prince Edward Island, there are currently seven provincial/territory chapters, each dedicated to providing leadership and deliver taking action campaigns. While working to address specific provincial or territorial issues, all are united in working together to build consistent messaging and resources to help Canadians implement responsible actions. Each Chapter is unique in its structure and mandate, and all of them work to build bridges in their area and deliver programs that address local issues





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GET INVOLVED

Become a Supporter or Partner! Get involved with one or more programs or support the work of Canadian Council on Invasive Species.

Sign-up for our E-Bulletin! Stay up to date on the latest CCIS news and information.

Become a Member! Join and help take action to protect Canada's environment, economy and society from invasive species.

Visit www.canadainvasives.ca



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