



Canadian Council  
on Invasive Species

Conseil Canadien des  
Espèces Envahissantes



# CANADIAN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

#PlayCleanGo



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**Gail Wallin**  
Chair

## MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

In reflecting back over 2019 and beyond, it is truly rewarding to see the growth in the Canadian Council on Invasive Species (Council). Since inception, the goal was to work in partnership to help close the pathways and introduction and spread of invasive species to Canada's lands and waters. In 2019, the number of partnerships and actions continued to grow to help protect Canada's abundant and important biodiversity. Thanks to the dedication of volunteer Directors from all corners of Canada, the Council has tackled important issues to reduce the spread. Whether it is facilitating dialogues on data management or bringing people together to develop 'codes of conduct' or developing educational resources for use across Canada - all of these provide critical tools for building a strong national foundation. A special thanks to all the partners who have guided the work of the Council and to all the funders who helped create national wide programs and resources.

As we move to 2020, the Council looks forward to growing its work in building responsible practices to guide Canadians in preventing the spread of invasive species. The strong focus on youth is important to provide tomorrow's leaders with tools and activities that they can implement in their communities. There is much more to be done and more partnerships to build - we look forward to working with all our growing members and partners in this new decade.



## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Barry Gibbs**  
Executive Director

CCIS is definitely on a roll! 2019 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!



## We bring about change through our work which 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 deliver 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.

## WHO WE ARE

Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) is 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 CCIS 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 those 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.**

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL TAKING ACTION CAMPAIGNS

The last year has been an extremely busy year as we continued to strengthen the foundation of our national outreach campaigns. 2019 has focused on strengthening and implementing our national taking action campaigns. This has consisted of creating additional resources, expanding the website and building new partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholders.

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

## 2019 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS.

### PlayCleanGo

This campaign is focused on encouraging 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. 2019 saw the increase in new partners for implementing this campaign across Canada, including provincial and territorial partners, as well as national ones, such as Parks Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The most popular resource was the boot brush sign, in which partners tailored to suit their needs and then installed at various locations across Canada. Partners across Canada can find out more at [www.playcleango.ca](http://www.playcleango.ca).



### Buy Local, Burn Local

Moving firewood, to or from a campground or cabin, can spread invasive pests and diseases and can severely impact our environment and economy. Guided by the National Firewood/Forest Pest Working Group, this campaign is focused on helping firewood producers, retailers and campgrounds to prevent the spread of invasive forest pests through safe firewood practices. 2019 consisted of spreading knowledge about the campaign and obtaining new program partners. Our biggest partner is Parks Canada, who worked with CCIS to implement Buy Local Burn Local, along with PlayCleanGo and Clean Drain Dry in various national parks across Canada. Buy Local, Burn Local has a number of resources including 'Best Practices' for firewood producers, retailers and campgrounds along with youth resources found at [www.buylocalburnlocal.ca](http://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 a National Horticulture Invasive Plants Working Group, 2019 consisted of developing an action plan to assist in incorporating the National Code of Conduct into existing training programs, including the development of a postcard for easy promotion. The CCIS also launched 'Canada's Unwanted Invasive Plants' list. This list outlines some of Canada's unwanted invasive plant species from coast to coast to coast. The goal of the list is to raise awareness of invasive plant species across Canada (*Note: the list of Canada's unwanted invasive plant species and the Code of Conduct are completely separate documents and the list of Canada's unwanted invasive plants is not a prerequisite for the Code of Conduct*). Find more at [www.beplantwise.ca](http://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 develop signage, educational resources and videos to promote the actions of cleaning, draining and drying all boats and equipment. Some key accomplishments in 2019 included the installation of 174 signs by 34 partners in BC and the successful start of Clean Drain Dry in New Brunswick including several resources developed, training workshops held, and various partners recruited. Visit [www.cleandraindry.ca](http://www.cleandraindry.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 forum that attracts leaders from across the country to share ideas and information on invasive species. Our 2019 National Invasive Species Forum, held in Ottawa ON from February 12-14, was a great success! We had over 125 participants, along with over 30 speakers, including two keynote speakers from both Australia and Nova Scotia! Our next national forum will be held in spring of 2021 and will be combined with the North American Invasive Species Forum, a bi-annual forum held by three countries rotationally including Canada, the US and Mexico. Stay tuned by checking out our website [www.canadainvasives.ca](http://www.canadainvasives.ca) and by signing up to our newsletter!

### Take Action Be Aquatic Wise

Starting in 2018 the CCIS received funding from the EcoAction Community Grant Program, through Environment and Climate Change Canada, to partner with the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISC BC) and the Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council (SISC) to work with local partners in both provinces and adopt aquatic habitats to remove aquatic invasive species, resulting in restored shoreline and wetland areas. Some accomplishments to note in year one included the adoption of 45 km of the South Saskatchewan infested with Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) by SISC to monitor and remove patches, removal of Yellow Flag Iris by the ISC BC and its partners and the completion of our 'Adopt an Aquatic Habitat Toolkit' – a document to guide grassroots initiatives in the removal of aquatic invasive species.

### Communication and Outreach

With a commitment to working in both official languages, CCIS overhauled its website to be more robust for all the new campaigns and is now a central hub of important invasive species information. Our ebulletin shares information across 100's of organizations and governments across Canada. New resources are uploaded frequently. A key feature of the website is a partner map, which displays all our program partners across Canada and their contact information, for easy access.



## WORK UNDERWAY

**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, we are developing resources to provide 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 in May 2020.

**PlayCleanGo Week:** CCIS will join forces with the North American Invasive Species Association to develop resources and promote PlayCleanGo week in June 2020.

## 2019 FUNDERS

Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Eco Canada  
EcoAction Community Funding Program  
Government of New Brunswick - Energy and Resource Development  
Natural Resources Canada  
Invading Species Awareness Program  
Invasive Species Centre  
Parks Canada



## 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.



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





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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](http://www.canadainvasives.ca)



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