



The Lay of the Land

**An Inventory of Federal and Provincial
Land Stewardship Policy in Western Canada**

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This report is part of the Canada West Foundation's *Land Stewardship Initiative*—a two-year research and communications endeavour focused on the role of public policy in facilitating land stewardship in western Canada. Land stewardship is the practice of responsible land usage to ensure that natural capital is maintained or enhanced for future generations. Land stewardship policies are actions taken by government that require, enable or encourage land users to manage land in ways that maintain or enhance natural capital for future generations.

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Executive Summary

This report presents an overview of current federal and provincial government land stewardship policies in western Canada. Land stewardship is the practice of responsible land usage to ensure that natural capital is maintained or enhanced for future generations. Natural capital includes a wide range of ecological goods and services including raw materials such as timber, life-sustaining processes such as water filtration, and aesthetic assets such as vistas that contribute to our quality of life and economic prosperity. Land stewardship policies are actions taken by government that require, enable or encourage land users to manage land in ways that maintain or enhance natural capital for future generations.

The report examines land stewardship public policy in two broad areas: 1) stewardship of agricultural land; and 2) land stewardship in the natural resource sector (e.g., forestry, mining, oil and gas). This report does not attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of existing land stewardship policy, but instead provides a baseline inventory for future research.

As policy-makers, stakeholders and the public grapple with mounting pressure on western Canada's finite land base, land stewardship policy will become increasingly important. It is, in turn, essential that we have a clear sense of existing stewardship policy—the lay of the land—before moving to analysis and discussion of new opportunities in this area.

The report shows that, despite the existence of a complex set of policies that affect land stewardship, there are opportunities to expand existing policy, to introduce new policy approaches, and to learn from other jurisdictions. Future *Land Stewardship Initiative* reports will examine these opportunities.

1. Introduction

"We might be able to fence people out, but we cannot fence out the effects of people. It follows then that we can't save land through our separation from it, but only through our integration and our sense of belonging to it."

—Peter Forbes, Vermont farmer and Executive Director of the Center for Whole Communities

Western Canada has a rich supply of natural capital—from timber and minerals to ranchland and stunning vistas. A land stewardship perspective understands that we need to maintain and enhance a diverse portfolio of natural capital assets (including the underlying ecological processes that support those assets) and asks how *users* of the land can contribute to this. Simply put, how can land users act as stewards such that the region's stock of natural capital continues to pay economic and ecological dividends for generations to come?

What can be done to help keep farmers on their land and acting as stewards by providing not only agricultural products, but also ecological goods and services such as water filtration and habitat? What can and is being done in the natural resource sector to minimize negative effects on the land? These and similar questions are the focus of the Canada West Foundation's *Land Stewardship Initiative*, of which this report is a part.

In order to set the stage for the identification and examination of best practices in land stewardship policy that will take place over the course of the *Land Stewardship Initiative*, this report presents an overview of current federal and provincial government land stewardship policies in western Canada.

The report examines federal and provincial land stewardship policy in two broad areas: 1) stewardship of agricultural land; and 2) land stewardship in the natural resource sector (e.g., forestry, mining, oil and gas). These policy approaches include, for example, regulatory requirements, enabling policy, and public education. Although the two are linked, the report focuses on the land use aspects of stewardship rather than those specifically related to water.

The Lay of the Land provides a context that will serve as the foundation and baseline for further public policy research on land stewardship. The inventory is not exhaustive and there may be additional mechanisms for land stewardship that are not included, but it presents a good picture of the major policies in place for land stewardship as of early 2007.

2. The Federal Landscape

Federal departments that address land stewardship include Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. As the federal government shares jurisdiction over the protection and enhancement of the environment with the provinces and territories, additional cooperative organizations have been created including the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment and the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers.

2.1 International Agreements

Canada is a signatory to several international agreements intended to address environmental issues. These agreements include Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD is particularly relevant to land stewardship because it addresses conserving natural capital assets such as biodiversity including species, ecosystems, and genetic resources (United Nations 2006). Canada became the first industrialized country to ratify the CBD after becoming a signatory at the Rio Summit in 1992.

2.2 National Strategies

The National Strategy for the Protection of Species at Risk, Canada's Stewardship Agenda, and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy were created in response to the CBD.

The National Strategy for the Protection of Species at Risk (NSPSR) includes an intergovernmental accord, legislation, and an education program:

The Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk, signed by federal, provincial, and territorial governments in 1996, recognized the importance of habitat conservation and the protection of wildlife species at risk of decline or decimation (Environment Canada 2006). The accord committed the federal government to create legislation for the protection of wildlife and habitat applicable across Canada.

The Species at Risk Act offers some legislated security for wildlife species threatened by extinction. It prohibits the damage or destruction of critical habitat for species listed in the Act.

The Habitat Stewardship Program, coordinated through Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, and the Parks Canada Agency, allocates up to \$10 million annually to projects that protect and conserve species at risk and their habitats. Through this program, the federal, provincial, and territorial governments are responsible for providing the necessary scientific information, technical assistance, and economic incentives for stewardship, while implementation on the ground occurs through partner non-governmental organizations (Environment Canada 2006b).

The Canada Stewardship Agenda (CSA) is another federal initiative designed to adhere to the CBD. It provides a broad vision for stewardship in Canada, guiding principles, and strategic goals intended to promote collaborative approaches including the conservation and "wise-use" of resources. Goals include investment in stewardship programs, increased knowledge through education, and strengthened public policy support for stewardship (Environment Canada 2002).

Complementing both the CSA and the NSPSR, the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy (CBS) includes recognition of the priority for integrated land use planning and ecosystem-based management of natural resources.

2.3 Key Federal Legislation

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) are examples of federal land stewardship legislation that applies to the agriculture and natural resource sectors. These Acts are intended to foster environmentally responsible practices. Both the CEPA and the CEAA are guided by the following principles: sustainable development; ecosystem-based approach; scientific and traditional knowledge; the precautionary principle; integration among all levels of government; and national leadership for environmental protection.

2.4 Land Stewardship Policy and First Nations

The recent Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management developed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada establishes new priorities for land management beyond treaty rights and empowers First Nations communities to be stewards of their land and resources. Through the First Nations Land Management Act, 14 First Nations signatories to the framework now have power to enact environmental laws related to the development, conservation, and protection of natural resources and ecosystems. The federal government's Land Management Program Manual provides environmental guidelines to assist First Nations in the development of an effective and ecologically responsible land management regime (Indian and Northern Affairs 2006). For example, general requirements outlined in the manual include provisions for environmental assessments and ongoing monitoring of water, soil, and air quality.

2.5 Science and Technology for Improved Land Stewardship

Provisions for enhanced and consistent data and knowledge management can be found in the National Ecological Framework for Canada, the National Classification System of Contaminated Sites, the Canadian Soil Quality Guidelines, and the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network.

3. The Provincial Landscape

There are five general categories of provincial land stewardship policy: 1) strategic direction; 2) managing and building natural capital; 3) integrated approaches to resource management; 4) environmental protection; 5) and research, information and education.

3.1 Strategic Direction

As per the following examples, all four western provincial governments have declared their commitment to safeguard human health and the environment through vision statements and strategic documents.

In BC, the Five Great Goals seek to integrate environmental, social and economic considerations into decision-making. The fourth goal stipulates that BC wants to “lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none” (Government of British Columbia 2006).

Alberta’s Commitment to Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management was released on March 28, 1999 and “is the cornerstone of the Alberta government’s management approach to the environment. It describes a sustainable approach to environmental and natural resource management that seeks to ensure environmental health and economic prosperity continue to coexist” (Government of Alberta 1999). Alberta is currently developing a new Land Use Framework that will likely have major implications for land stewardship in the province.

Saskatchewan developed the Green Strategy with a vision of “a green and prosperous economy” (Government of Saskatchewan 2006). Complementing the Green Strategy is Saskatchewan’s Caring for Natural Environments: A Biodiversity Action Plan for Saskatchewan’s Future 2004-2009 (Government of Saskatchewan 2006b). One of the plan’s objectives is to continue to work within the Prairie Conservation Action Plan (see below) and other non-governmental organizations on stewardship of landscapes and aquatic ecosystems across the province. In addition, the plan sets an objective for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building for land managers in all sectors. The strategy acknowledges that maintaining and building natural capital is the responsibility of everyone in Saskatchewan. The principle of shared responsibility identifies private landowners and land managers, as well as industry, as among those that must work together to identify problems, opportunities, and common solutions. The plan also recognizes ecosystem-based management as an essential tool to conserve biodiversity and protect ecosystem health, while also supporting society’s social and economic needs (Government of Saskatchewan 2006b).

The Government of Manitoba’s commitment to integrating economic, social and environmental considerations with decision-making is outlined in three key documents: Green and Growing Manitoba: Manitoba’s Green Strategic Framework; the Sustainable Development Strategy for Manitoba; and the Sustainable Development Act (Government of Manitoba 2006a; Manitoba Conservation 2006). While the two former documents provide the vision of a “greener and more prosperous Manitoba,” the Sustainable Development Act sets out legislated requirements for government departments, and therefore has implications for the regulation of the natural resource and agriculture sectors. In addition, the Act includes related initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Innovation Fund and the Manitoba Roundtable for Sustainable Development, providing essential financial and human resources to successfully fulfill the commitment.

3.2 Maintaining and Building Natural Capital

The national Canadian Biodiversity Strategy includes provisions for provincial and territorial governments to develop their own strategies to address biodiversity conservation. The Biodiversity BC plan currently exists in draft format and is being prepared for public review in fall 2007. Policies for enhancing or maintaining biodiversity currently exist in the other western provinces. For example, initiated by the Foothills Model Forest in 1997, the Government of Alberta began providing resources for the continued development of the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Program (ABMP) in 2001. The ABMP attempts to address a key area of concern for environmental protection and enhancement: the lack of a comprehensive and scientifically-based environmental monitoring system to detect biodiversity change over time. The program, the first of its kind in North America, is currently conducting a prototype project whereby a trial version of the ABMP on a smaller scale is testing and refining procedures for data collection and management.

An example of a Saskatchewan-based effort to build and maintain land-based natural capital is the Representative Areas Network (RAN), which includes parks, ecological reserves, wildlife areas, and examples of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems that serve as benchmarks used to monitor the effectiveness of environmental stewardship initiatives (Saskatchewan Environment 2004). Mineral and petroleum exploration is permitted in selected RAN sites as long as the principle of “no net loss” is applied and appropriate replacement sites are considered. There is also an agreement with the federal Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food to protect native prairie on community pastures and to manage pastures in a sustainable manner that maintains ecological integrity and natural biodiversity.

In Manitoba, programs to address biodiversity conservation within other existing programs are mandated through Manitoba Conservation. For example, the Critical Wildlife Habitat Program supports a variety of initiatives including private land stewardship and natural resource inventories in order to ensure critical wildlife habitat remains ecologically viable (Manitoba Conservation 2006b). The Critical Wildlife Habitat Program is currently creating an inventory of prairie mixed grass that can indicate poor quality sites requiring extensive management for rehabilitation.

Conservation Easements: Protecting Natural Capital for Future Generations

Conservation easements are voluntary agreements to protect natural, cultural and social capital values for future generations on a specified piece of land. Through public policy enacted federally and provincially, landowners can engage in agreements with a recognized conservation organization to conserve their land and redirect development. All provinces in western Canada have some type of enabling legislation for conservation easements. In British Columbia, the Land Titles Act is used to grant and register land for conservation purposes. In Alberta, agreements are registered under the Land Titles Act or Métis Settlements Act—these agreements are guided by the Conservation Easement Registration Regulations and are included as a provision in the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

Specific legislation for the sole purpose of land conservation exists in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Conservation Easement Act and regulations in Saskatchewan enable conservation easements and are registered under the Land Titles Act. A landowner may also enter into an easement for the purpose of protecting heritage property with ecological value under the Heritage Property Act. Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food has created 72 conservation easements on approximately 7,900 acres of Crown land that has been sold to farmers during the tender sale process. Manitoba’s Conservation Agreement Act requires conservation agreements to be “consistent with the principles of sustainable development” as outlined within the Sustainable Development Act.

Although conservation easement legislation is under provincial jurisdiction, new federal income tax provisions under the Ecological Gifts Program eliminate capital gains on these properties when an easement is in place. Previously, landowners would pay 100% of the tax difference on the change in value from the highest value to the “value” of the proposed easement, thereby creating a disincentive. Changes to the capital gains tax have eliminated this disincentive, and it provides an example of integration of federal and provincial policies to enable land stewardship (Environment Canada 2007).

3.3 Integrated Approaches to Resource Management for Land Stewardship

Integrated approaches are actions that bring together diverse capacities to achieve common public policy ends. They include, but are not limited to, cumulative impact assessments, priority land use planning, regional districts, and cross-department initiatives. BC's Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) and Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMPs) are examples of approaches that seek to address and integrate a wide range of land use demands.

Alberta has a number of public policy examples of integrated approaches between and among the agriculture and natural resource sectors. Sustainable Resource Development's Integrated Land Management Project (ILM) is an attempt to integrate social, economic, and environmental priorities into decision-making and planning processes (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development 2006a). A similar program is Alberta Environment's Integrated Resource Management (IRM) (Alberta Environment 2006a), which encourages the development of regional strategies to address multiple land and resource use effects. One example of this IRM approach is the Athabasca Oil Sands Regional Sustainable Development Strategy. While IRM and ILM are specific approaches that guide action, other examples of integrated approaches exist as well. The Grazing and Timber Integration Manual offers guidelines to Alberta's timber and beef industries that operate on the same land base to work and manage the land cooperatively, and encourages both sectors to develop Regional Grazing Plans and Grazing Timber Agreements (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development 2006b).

In Saskatchewan, land use plans are intended to increase awareness of competing values and the need to manage multiple use demands. Saskatchewan Environment defines land use planning as an "ecosystem-based tool that can link the environment, the community, and the economy in ways that help ensure the sustainability of resources" (Government of Saskatchewan 2006c). There are 11 Land Use Plans in place. In addition, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food has developed Integrated Resource Management Plans on Crown agriculture land including the Fowler and Murphy Lakes and the Minitou Sand Hills plans.

3.4 Environmental Protection

The four western provinces each have current environmental protection legislation with elements identified as land stewardship policy. All environmental protection legislation can affect, directly or indirectly, the natural resource and agriculture sectors through development approval requirements, regulation of operations, administration of penalties, and requirements for risk management. In addition, the legislation regulates individuals who operate or propose developments that are expected to have significant environmental impacts to conduct environmental assessments and reclamation activities.

BC has two environmental protection acts: the Environmental Management Act and Environmental Assessment Act. The EMA covers several areas of environmental protection, including but not limited to prohibitions and authorizations for waste disposal and hazardous waste confinement; contaminated site remediation; special provisions for the remediation of mineral exploration sites and mines; requirements for environmental impact assessments, emergency measures, and environmental management plans; and offences and penalties for corporations, continuing offences, and intentional damage. The EAA is in place for the administration and application of the environmental assessment process. It establishes what constitutes reviewable projects and the requirements for environmental assessment certificates.

Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act establishes environmental protection requirements affecting all sectors. The EPEA's intended purpose is to support and promote the protection, enhancement, and wise use of the environment. It also acknowledges that the protection of the environment is essential to the integrity of ecosystems and human health and to the wellbeing of society, and that there is a need to integrate environmental protection and economic decisions in the earliest stages of planning. The environmental assessment process, including approvals and registration, is included in the EPEA, as well as government powers for investigations, inspections, enforcement orders, offences, and penalties. The release of substances and contaminated sites is also regulated under this Act, including environmental protection orders and remediation certificates, as well as the duty to reclaim and requirements for reclamation certificates. The Public Lands Act addresses some aspects of land stewardship and it is specific to the land management in the public domain.

Saskatchewan has two acts in place for the protection of the environment: the Environmental Management and Protection Act (EMPA) and the Environmental Assessment Act. The EMPA legislates protection against the unauthorized discharge of pollution, including prohibitions on discharges, the duty to report, and when environmental protection orders may be issued. Contaminated sites and remedial action plans are also covered under this Act. The EMPA establishes general rules respecting orders and permits, including orders and authority to take emergency action. Offences, enforcement, and administrative penalties are also included. The Environmental Assessment Act includes provisions for assessment and review procedures for developments and forest management plans including ministerial review and approval of developments, public information meetings, as well as offences and penalties for the contravention of this Act.

Manitoba has a single piece of legislation for the protection of the environment. The Environment Act includes classification for development and base requirements for licenses, assessments, and public hearings based on the expectation of significant effects on the environment. The Environment Act also enables environmental awareness programs for the public and establishes the Clean Environment Commission. Unique to Manitoba is the requirement of inter-jurisdictional agreements. For developments anticipated to have an environmental impact of concern to a jurisdiction other than Manitoba, an agreement is required with the other jurisdiction and the establishment of a joint assessment process. The Environment Act also defines offences and penalties for the contravention of the Act.

3.5 Research and Education

Government initiatives that enhance our understanding of natural capital assets enable land users to make informed decisions about development of, and activities on, the landscape. Disseminating such information is an important component of these initiatives. In BC, the government provides information about land and resource use through Land Information BC, administered by the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. For example, under the Environmental Land Use Act, the Environmental Land Committee is responsible for creating awareness and fostering increased public concern regarding the preservation and maintenance of the natural environment through research, public inquires and appointing technical committees.

An example of a research and education program in the other western provinces is the Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP). Assisted by the Canadian Wildlife Service and Environment Canada, PCAP is a tri-province initiative between Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta developed in 1988 to provide education and research for the conservation of native prairie species and landscapes (Environment Canada 2006e). Subsequently, each province developed its own province-specific action plan to address prairie conservation.

The Manitoba Agro-Woodlot Program (MAWP), a joint initiative of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Manitoba Conservation and delivered through the Manitoba Heritage Habitat Corporation (MHHC), is an information and education program that provides farmers and private landowners with the necessary expertise and data to make informed decisions about the management of forest resources (Manitoba Heritage Habitat Corporation 2006). An additional program through the MHHC to educate and provide technical assistance to agricultural producers and other landowners to improve land management practices is the Riparian Stewardship Program (RSP) (Manitoba Heritage Habitat Corporation 2006b). The Alberta Woodlot Extension Program is similar to the MAWP and aims to address woodlot management on private land (Alberta Agriculture and Food 2006a).

4. Federal Land Stewardship Policies for the Agriculture Sector

The federal Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) is coordinated by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The intent of the APF is to promote a stewardship ethic within the agricultural industry at the individual and group level. Each province implements the APF through province-specific policies and programs. The framework includes the National Environmental Farm Planning Initiative (EPFI) that encourages agriculture producers to develop an environmental farm plan (i.e., a plan that identifies environmental risks and

opportunities to secure economic and environmental sustainability of the operation). It currently uses two incentive programs to enable farmers to implement their own environmental farm plans (EFP): the National Farm Stewardship Program and Greencover Canada. The National Farm Stewardship Program offers land managers in the agriculture sector technical and financial resources to adopt best practices. The Greencover Canada program, by contrast, offers landowners financial incentives to take their crops out of annual production into permanent fallow.

The delivery vehicle for the Agricultural Policy Framework is the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, a branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in operation since the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act of 1935. Programs under PFRA provide a variety of initiatives including financial and technical assistance for producers to ensure the sustainable use of soil and water resources (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 2006). The National Environmental Farm Plan Program is administered and delivered by Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration staff under the APF. Examples of programs include the Community Pasture Program and the Shelterbelt Tree Program.

5. Provincial Land Stewardship Policies for the Agriculture Sector

Development and implementation of land stewardship policy in the agriculture sector varies greatly across the four western provinces. Typically, management of public land occurs through regulatory frameworks and land management regimes. In contrast, land stewardship on private land is largely voluntary. In general, the provincial governments encourage and enable private land stewardship through public outreach and educational programs, and by providing guidelines for best management practices.

5.1 Strategic Direction

In BC, the government formed the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment, a multi-department initiative including the federal and provincial government. The committee developed the 10-Point Action Plan to develop principles for achieving environmental goals on farmland and to provide educational programs for farmers (Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment 2006).

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Initiatives (MAFRI) developed a strategic vision and complementary document, Destination 2010, to enhance Manitoba's agriculture industry. One specific "strategic path" includes "sustainability," which outlines the departmental commitment for responsible stewardship involving integrated land use planning, resource management, and biodiversity conservation (Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development Initiatives 2006a). In support of the implementation of Destination 2010, the MAFRI Environment Program develops related programs providing capacity-building support for producers (Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development Initiatives 2006b).

5.2 Maintaining and Building Natural Capital

The Agricultural Land Reserve in BC was developed in 1972 to designate land for farm use in response to anticipated growth demands. Farm planning can also contribute to maintaining and building natural capital assets, and the federal Agricultural Policy Framework discussed above has a component that enables each province to develop an environmental farm plan program aimed at helping farmers become effective land stewards. In BC, the Agriculture and Lands Resource Management Branch supports the delivery of the Environmental Farm Plan by the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) on behalf of the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company delivers the APF in Alberta. It is as a nonprofit organization that operates at arms-length from the provincial government. The organization provides agricultural producers with assistance to develop environmental farm plans to address the environmental impacts of their operations and to identify additional opportunities for economic sustainability. Agricultural producers are eligible for up to \$50,000 with the development of an EFP (Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company 2006).

Under the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP), the province offers cost-share incentives to farmers to develop an EFP. As well, groups of farmers that wish to develop a cooperative plan with other farmers within a shared geographic region or to address a common issue can develop an Agri-Environmental Group Plan. Currently, there are six rural municipalities developing a group plan and best management practices on a watershed basis. Saskatchewan's Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB) deliver the EFP program. The government, in cooperation with PCAB, provides technical assistance for producers in the preparation of an EFP. Producers are provided with workshops, workbooks, and other technical assistance. The First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan Inc. coordinates the delivery of the Canada-Saskatchewan First Nations Environmental Farm Plan with similar program goals to the CSFSP, in addition to building capacity in First Nations communities.

As in Alberta, Manitoba agriculture producers are eligible for up to \$50,000 to develop EFPs for their operations. Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives delivers the APF in Manitoba. An additional program to support the stewardship activities of farmers and ranchers is the MAFRI Environment Program, which includes the Covering New Ground Initiative. A survey conducted in 2003 by MAFRI revealed that the top issues for farmers in Manitoba are soil quality and nutrient management. The Covering New Ground Initiative attempts to address these issues by funding pilot projects focused on, for example, sustainable crop management and promotion of sustainable practices (Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives 2006c).

Another land stewardship initiative in Manitoba involves an economic instrument providing an incentive for environmentally appropriate development. The Riparian Tax Credit (RTC) program, recently launched by Manitoba Finance, provides financial incentives to farm operators to upgrade their facilities and operations for enhanced protection of waterways and wetlands. The program, a first of its kind in Canada, encourages operators to act as stewards of their land for the benefit of both land-based and water-based natural capital (Manitoba Finance 2006).

5.3 Integrated Approaches to Resource Management for Land Stewardship

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development encourages responsible range management practices involving multiple users through the Range Management Program (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development 2006d). A similar program exists in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Pastures Program is an approach to address integrating multiple land uses cooperatively with the agriculture sector. Due to oil and gas exploration and mineral development on these lands, the government is working with conservation organizations such as the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and Ducks Unlimited with the intent of strengthening the environmental focus of management practices. The government wishes to promote good land planning and forage management through the delivery of this program (Government of Saskatchewan 2006c).

5.4 Environmental Protection

In order to prevent negative environmental and economic impacts, provincial governments in the West have developed public policy that seeks to address these issues. For example, in BC, the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation and the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation regulate the production, application, and storage of waste and compost produced for farm purposes.

Similar regulations to address the emissions from agricultural operations exist in the other western provinces as well. Alberta passed the Agricultural Operations Practices Act (AOPA) that sets out standards for confined feeding operations and intensive livestock operations. Approval for development (e.g., expanding livestock facilities) is contingent on planning considerations for "the effects on the environment, the economy and the community, and the appropriate use of land." Manitoba's Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation and Environmental Livestock Program aim to ensure that producers engage in environmentally sound livestock practices in the use, storage, and management of manure and mortalities (Manitoba Conservation 2006c).

Figure 1: Key Land Stewardship Policies for the Agricultural Sector in the Western Provinces

This summary of existing land stewardship policies is categorized according to whether they “require” agricultural land users to engage in certain practices, “encourage” land stewardship through strategy documents or planning or “enable” land stewardship through initiatives that build capacity.

	Require	Encourage	Enable
Federal Government (General)	Canadian Environmental Protection Act Canadian Environmental Assessment Act Species at Risk Act First Nations Land Management Act	Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk Canadian Biodiversity Strategy Canada Stewardship Agenda Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk National Strategy for the Protection of Species at Risk Prairie Conservation Action Plan UN Convention on Biological Diversity	Canadian Soil Quality Guidelines Ecological Gifts Program Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network First Nations Land Management Program Habitat Stewardship Program National Ecological Framework for Canada
Federal Government (Agriculture Specific)	Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act	Agricultural Policy Framework Environmental Farm Planning Initiative	Community Pasture Program Greencover Canada National Environmental Farm Stewardship Program Shelterbelt Tree Program
BC	Agricultural Waste Control Regulation Environmental Management Act Environmental Assessment Act Land Titles Act Organic Matter Recycling Regulation Pesticide Control Act Waste Management Act	2006-2009 Service Plan: BC’s Five Great Goals Conservation Easement Regulations Environmental Farm Plan Land and Resource Management Plans Sustainable Resource Management Plans PCAE 10 Point Action Plan: Principles for Achieving Environmental Goals on Farmland	Agricultural Land Reserve Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment (PCAE) Farm Practices in BC Reference Guide
Alberta	Agricultural Operations Practices Act Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act Land Titles Act Métis Settlements Act Public Lands Act	Alberta’s Commitment to Sustainable Resource and Environment Management Conservation Easement Regulations Grazing Timber Agreements Integrated Land Management Project Integration Resource Management Regional Grazing Plans Prairies Conservation Action Plan 2006-2010	Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Program Alberta Woodlot Extension Program Grazing and Timber Integration Manual Range Management Program
Saskatchewan	Environmental Assessment Act Environmental Management and Protection Act Heritage Property Act	Action Plan for the Economy Agri-Environmental Group Plan Canada-Saskatchewan First Nations Environmental Farm Plan Caring for Natural Environments: A Biodiversity Action Plan for Saskatchewan’s Future 2004-2009 Conservation Easement Act and Regulations Environmental Farm Plan Green Strategy Integrated Resource Management Plans Prairies Conservation Action Plan 2003-2008	Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program Representative Areas Network Prairie Stewardship Program Saskatchewan Pastures Program
Manitoba	Environment Act Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation Sustainable Development Act	Conservation Agreement Act Destination 2010 Green and Growing Manitoba: Manitoba’s Green Strategic Framework Sustainable Development Strategy for Manitoba	Critical Wildlife Habitat Program Covering New Ground Initiative Environment Program Environmental Livestock Program Manitoba Agro-Woodlot Program Manitoba Soil Survey Riparian Stewardship Program Riparian Tax Credit Program Soil Management Guide Sustainable Development Innovation Fund

5.5 Research and Education

Western Canadian provincial government departments responsible for agriculture have developed programs to build awareness and knowledge amongst producers as a means of improving their stewardship practices. For example, in BC, the Farm Practices in BC Reference Guide provides information about existing government legislation, industry guidelines, and suggestions for best management practices (Government of British Columbia 2006c). In Alberta, a capacity-building initiative, the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture program, aims to transfer technology and knowledge to agricultural producers to reduce the ecological footprint of operations for improved land stewardship (Alberta Agriculture and Food 2006b). Research and education for grazing disposition holders on range management on public land is another example of land stewardship policy in Alberta. Previously mentioned, the Range Management Program provides the expertise of ranchland agrologists to foster environmentally-responsible grazing opportunities to support the health of the rangeland and ensure public land grazing does not jeopardize other resources or land values (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development 2006d).

The Prairie Stewardship Program, administered by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, aims to increase awareness among landowners about the benefits of riparian and native prairie ecosystems so that they may enter into voluntary stewardship agreements to protect native prairie, streams and wetlands. Similarly, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives also provides research and education programs to support producers. It includes a technology transfer to improve agri-environmental management practices, technical assistance to ensure awareness, and the Manitoba Soil Survey to provide interpretive maps to discern suitability for crop production, irrigation and soil quality. Producers also have access to the Soil Management Guide that outlines key information about the environmental aspects of their operations and alternative practices (Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives 2006b).

6. Federal Land Stewardship Policies for Natural Resource Sectors

All natural resource sectors are required to fulfill obligations under three key federal acts: the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the Species at Risk Act. In addition, there are a number of specific federal land stewardship policies that exist for the forestry sector and for the mines and minerals sector.

6.1 Forestry

The National Forest Strategy provides strategic direction to the Canadian forest resource community so that it may contribute to the sustainable use of forest assets. The strategy's vision is "the long-term health of Canada's forest will be maintained and enhanced, for the benefit of all living things, and for the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of all Canadians now and in the future" (National Forest Strategy Coalition 2003). Each province is responsible for establishing public policy that regulates the forest resource industries in alignment with the National Forest Strategy.

The national Forest Act encourages land stewardship through a provision outlining the goals of the protection, wise use, and management of forest resources. The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) and the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) are mandated to provide leadership and guidance to the provinces for the responsible and sustainable development of Canada's forest resources. The CCFM is specifically responsible for the National Forest Strategy, as is the National Forest Strategy Coalition, and the CFS provides information and technical expertise to stakeholders. For example, provinces, citizens, and industry can utilize the CFS's National Forest Inventory (NFI) for information and decision-making purposes. The NFI is an aggregate source and classification system of Canada's forest resources compiled every five years (Natural Resources Canada 2006a).

Another Canadian Forest Service program is the Model Forest Program established in 1992 and now coordinated through Natural Resources Canada. The federal government provides funds to demonstrate sustainable forest management practices and cooperative approaches managed by multiple stakeholders, including the forest industry and First Nations. Working scale models provide different

visual demonstrations of sustainable forestry management that protects biodiversity in four general categories: integrated resource management; scientific research; public awareness and education; and technology transfer and development. These model forests, including four in the western provinces, form a network across the country and contribute to the International Model Forest Program. The Model Forest Program will conclude in 2007 (Natural Resources Canada 2006b).

An ongoing federal forest initiative is the First Nation Forestry Program—a joint initiative of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Natural Resources Canada. The program encourages First Nations to engage in partnerships with other communities, industries, environmental non-government organizations and others to develop and implement forest management plans to benefit from on- and off-reserve forest-based development opportunities. The key elements of the program include training and technical assistance, funding for pilot projects, forest protection measures, and forest-based business planning (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 2006b).

6.2 Mines and Minerals

Recently, the federal government developed public policy for this sector aimed at incorporating the concept of sustainable development to ensure long-term economic success through meeting environmental and social objectives. The Mines and Minerals Policy of the Government of Canada: Partnerships for Sustainable Development encourages industry to examine its practices and assess its operations in terms of integrating economic, environment and social considerations (Natural Resources Canada 2006d).

6.3. Oil and Gas

The scan of existing federal policy did not identify any policies aimed at requiring, enabling or encouraging the oil and gas sector to engage in land stewardship. (Note: Policy related to air quality, carbon emissions and water resources were not included in this scan of land use policy.)

7. Provincial Land Stewardship Policies for Natural Resource Sectors

7.1 Forestry

7.1.1 Strategic direction

The federal National Forest Strategy requires province-specific plans to incorporate principles of sustainable forest management aligned with provincial priorities. In BC, the Forest Revitalization Plan sets the strategic direction for desired sustainable forest management and outlines the implementation of the Forest and Range Practices Act. The government describes the Act as maintaining or exceeding standards set by the previous Forest Practices Code and states that it now allows “flexibility” in meeting those standards through “ongoing investments in research, and an improved role for professional foresters, agronomists, biologists and engineers” (Government of British Columbia 2006d).

In order to fulfill its obligations under the National Forest Strategy, Alberta developed the Alberta Forest Conservation Strategy and Alberta’s Forest Legacy – Implementation Framework for Sustainable Forest Management. Based on the principles of adaptive management, sustainability, and integrated approaches, the provincial government encourages collaborative and responsible forms of forest management planning on public and private lands (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development 2006e).

Saskatchewan developed the Forest Environment Policy policy to fulfill its role in administering the Forest Resources Management Act. The vision, principles and goals outlined in the policy were adapted from the Saskatchewan Long-Term Integrated Forest Resource Management Plan of March 1995.

Manitoba developed a strategic vision for its forestry sector entitled *Sustaining Our Forests* (Government of Manitoba 2006b). This strategic vision and complementary policy developments, including the Sustainable Development Act, incorporate values to encourage activities of the forest sector to maintain the ecological integrity of forest communities.

7.1.2 Maintaining and building natural capital

There are some provincial initiatives intended to build and maintain existing natural capital services and products. In BC, for example, the Private Managed Forest Land Act describes land-based forest management objectives including soil conservation, providing critical wildlife habitat and reforestation. A provision of the Act is the creation of the Private Managed Forest Land Council, whose role is to “encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land, taking into account the social, environmental and economic benefits of those practices.” The Forest and Range Practices Act aims to improve compliance and efficiency. For example, companies are required under the Act to produce a single forest stewardship plan instead of three operational plans (required in the previous Forest Practices Code). Publicly-available site plans are required before operations can begin. Forest stewardship plans must outline how companies will meet standards.

In Manitoba, the Forest Act guides the allowable cut for the forest industry sector. While the Act does not specifically outline stewardship practices for the forestry sector, the government has developed guidelines to support the Act including the 10-Year Forest Management Plan Submission Guidelines. Forest companies seeking licenses are required to develop 10-year forest plans, which are then submitted to the appropriate government department (e.g., Manitoba Conservation) for review. Forest plans are guided by principles including sustainable forest management, ecosystem-based management, and forest management units. The guidelines require the forestry sector to use forest management units as the primary unit of administration but also encourage addressing larger ecologically relevant landscape units in the plan. A specific Manitoba Conservation program for all users of forest resources is the Forest Practice Initiative, intended to promote sustainable forest management, and while this is not legislated, particular guidelines are enforceable when included on work permits (Manitoba Conservation 2006d).

7.1.3 Integrated approaches to resource management for land stewardship

In BC, the use of Land and Resource Management Plans and Sustainable Resource Management Plans are examples of integrated approaches for land stewardship. Alberta Sustainable Resource Development adopted the CAN/CSA-Z809-2002 Sustainable Forest Management: Requirements and Guidelines Document, which provides national standards for forest management planning prioritizing integrated resource management. This document provides the foundation for the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development 2006f). All forest industries under Forest Management Agreements (i.e., area based tenure agreements) are required to develop forest management plans utilizing the planning standard for guidance every 10 years.

To meet its objective of conserving native ecosystems and managing wild species within sustainable harvest levels, Saskatchewan Environment is working with the forest industry to adopt ecosystem-based forest management planning under the Biodiversity Action Plan (Government of Saskatchewan 2006b). Saskatchewan Environment is conducting an ongoing review of Forest Management Plans every 10 years to ensure that they reflect ecosystem-based forest management, and plans to ensure that ecosystem-based forest management plans are adopted and implemented for all major developments.

The Manitoba government also requires the forestry sector to develop 10-year plans under Manitoba Environment regulations. In addition, short-term planning is required by the Manitoba Forest Act and Regulations for industry to develop an Annual Operating Plan involving an interdepartmental review process. Manitoba Conservation also provides industry with the Planning and Submission Requirements for Annual Operating Plan guidelines to encourage integrating environmental considerations within the Annual Operating Plan.

7.1.4 Environmental protection

The forestry sector is mandated to fulfill obligations under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and provincial environmental

legislation. There are also other pieces of legislation that are intended to protect the natural environment. In BC, the enforcement of the Forests and Range Practices Act occurs through inspections to ensure compliance with environmental standards. Legislative requirements for the forest industry in Alberta are detailed in the Alberta Forests Act, including the annual allowable cut, and provisions to prohibit damage to forests. For example, the Forest Resource Improvement Regulations established the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta with a mandate to improve forest resources in Alberta, promote integrated management, and ensure the reforestation of public land. The legislation is similar in BC with the Cut Control Regulations under the Forests and Range Practices Act.

In Saskatchewan, under the Forest Resources Management Act, forest companies are required to prepare 20-year forest management plans. The plans must show how activities will affect other land users and the health and condition of the forest ecosystem. In addition, annual operating plans are required for specific sites. Reforestation is required for all harvested areas, including roads and mill sites. Companies must also engage in ongoing monitoring, assessing and reporting of their activities with the intent of encouraging companies to use the most up-to-date scientific information as it becomes available. Companies are also required to have an independent audit every five years on the health of the forest on its license area and to determine whether they are meeting the objectives set forth in their plans.

7.1.5 Research and education

While the federal government, through the Canadian Forest Service and Natural Resources Canada, provides technical expertise and scientific research, there are examples of provincial initiatives to provide additional information for the forestry sector. For instance, the strategic documents and legislation by all provinces enable research programs, data compilation and education programs. For example, the Saskatchewan Forest Centre was established to increase knowledge and to stimulate innovation and technology transfer with the goal of supporting a sustainable forestry industry (Saskatchewan Forest Centre 2006).

7.2 Mining and Minerals

The provincial governments have jurisdiction over the mining sector on public and private lands, as well as the infrastructure required to service developments. In addition, the federal government plays a role in the mining and minerals sector through the Mines and Minerals Policy of the Government of Canada: Partnerships for Sustainable Development.

7.2.1 Strategic direction

In Alberta, the Mineral Development Strategy was released in 2002 and is intended to “ensure commitment to sustainable development” for the mining sector in response to federal and other provincial policy initiatives. The strategy supports the development of the mining sector “while protecting Alberta’s valuable resources: people, wildlife, air, water, and land” (Alberta Energy 2006). In 1993, the Alberta government merged existing legislation for the natural resource sectors, including mining, into the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

7.2.2 Maintaining and building natural capital

One means of potentially maintaining and building natural capital in the mines and minerals sector is reclamation activities designed to restore a mining site to its reproductive potential prior to the development. In Alberta, the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act requires an environmental impact assessment conducted for all major mine proposals, in addition to requiring reclamation. Alberta Environment will not release a company from responsibility for a mining site until obligations of the certificate requirements are met.

7.2.3 Integrated approaches to resource management for land stewardship

Integrated approaches identified as land stewardship policy in the mines and mineral sector are limited. One example emerged in Saskatchewan through a multi-stakeholder approach to address environmental concerns. The Saskatchewan Mineral Exploration and Government Advisory Committee developed *Mineral Exploration Guidelines* to help the industry minimize environmental impacts and meet relevant legislative requirements.

7.2.4 Environmental protection

Environmental protection that regulates this sector is found in respective provincial environment and assessment related acts and regulations. Specific to BC is the Mines Act. The Act's health, safety and reclamation code applies to all mines during exploration, development, construction, production, closure, reclamation, and abandonment. When any contravention of the Act has a detrimental impact on the environment, an inspector may order immediate remedial action, suspension of regular work until remedial action is taken, or full or partial closure of the mine until remedial action is taken.

The Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations under the Environmental Management and Protection Act of Saskatchewan includes provisions for the construction and operation of pollution control and also the discharge of liquid effluent to the environment.

In Manitoba, the Mines and Minerals Act includes provisions to guide mining and mineral development in a manner consistent with the established sustainable development principles outlined in the Sustainable Development Act. For example, if drilling is likely to pose an environmental concern, conditions can be imposed to protect the environment.

7.2.5 Research and education

The scan of existing public policy did not reveal any mines and minerals sector-specific provincial public policy related to land stewardship activities/education programs/information or research.

7.3 Oil and Gas

Note: While oil sands development is also part of the mines and minerals sector, it has been included in this section.

7.3.1 Strategic direction

Each province has developed environmental health objectives related to the oil and gas sector. For example, the BC Energy and Mines Service Plan 2005-2008 calls for reduced well application fees for wells utilizing existing well sites and reduced approval times of well applications for wells utilizing existing well sites (the use of existing well sites can reduce the ecological footprint) (BC Energy and Mines 2005).

7.3.2 Maintaining and building natural capital

Alberta has developed guidelines for oil and gas development including the Conservation and Reclamation Guidelines. For example, operators are to return sites to pre-disturbance land capability (Alberta Environment 2006b). Alberta also recognizes that land changes are inevitable and alternate use, as long as the site is reclaimed, is acceptable. The guidelines specify that all aspects of a development plan need to integrate conservation and reclamation guidelines, including project planning, site preparation, construction, operations, reclamation and land management. While not legislated, Alberta Environment has also developed the Upstream Oil and Gas Reclamation and Remediation Program, which provides guidelines for minimal environmental impact. The guidelines require operators to ensure that they have environmental protection plans in place, long-term monitoring plans, and a means to address adverse environmental impacts (Alberta Environment 2006c). Certificates are issued to oil and gas developers once the guideline standards are met.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) created guidelines and procedures for the restoration of agricultural Crown rangelands affected by oil and gas sector activity. SAF maintains that "it is the responsibility of developers to ensure that these guidelines and procedures are followed" and that "it is the responsibility of SAF representatives to ensure developers are aware of these guidelines and procedures" (Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food 2006). The purpose is "to ensure the use of native plant materials when re-seeding or re-vegetation is required as part of site restoration" (Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food 2006). Plans for site restoration are required within project proposals for review by Saskatchewan Environment under the Environmental Assessment Act.

Legal mechanisms have been developed in Saskatchewan to support environmentally responsible development of oil wells. Enacted in

1995, Saskatchewan's Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act are intended to "promote sustainable development of Saskatchewan's oil and gas resources and to protect the environment and prevent waste." The Orphan Well and Facility Liability Management Program was developed and has two program areas: 1) the Orphan Fund directs industry-funding for abandonment and reclamation costs of well sites with no apparent owners; and 2) the Licensee Liability Rating provides a system that can affect future development potential based on financial capacity to conduct remediation (Saskatchewan Industry and Resources 2006).

7.3.3 Integrated approaches to resource management for land stewardship

There are a number of examples of sector-specific public policy to encourage integrated approaches. For example, the Saskatchewan Petroleum Industry/Government Environment Committee was formed in 1992 with the overriding goal for industry and government to work together to ensure the continued growth of the oil and natural gas industry with development proceeding in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental effects. The committee has created several guidelines for the petroleum industry including the Preparation of a Project Proposal, the Preparation of an Environmental Protection Plan, and the Environmental Evaluation Checklist for Oil and Gas Development Projects on Private Land. The guidelines are meant to provide companies with the information they need to be in compliance with all provincial environment regulations that impact their industry.

7.3.4 Environmental protection

In addition to provincial legislation for environmental protection, the scan of existing policy identified other land stewardship policies in the oil and gas sector. BC has stewardship-related guidelines for the oil and gas sector. For example, the Code of Practice for the Discharge of Produced Water from Coalbed Gas Operations regulates where produced water may be discharged, the maximum discharge, contaminants, and registration information as well as environmental baseline monitoring, record keeping and reporting. The purpose is to protect drinking water quality and stream and streamside habitats from contamination, erosion, or impairment of ecological function.

Legislated conservation in Alberta for oil sands development and other energy resources falls under three separate public policy mechanisms: the Oil Sands Conservation Act, the Energy Resources Conservation Act, and the Oil and Gas Conservation Act. In addition to promoting the efficient and orderly development of Alberta's energy resources, these acts seek to control surface and subsurface pollution that can adversely affect natural capital assets. Manitoba's Oil and Gas Act is intended to align oil and gas development with principles of sustainable development outlined in the Sustainable Development Act.

7.3.5 Research and education

In BC, the Science and Community Environmental Knowledge Fund, administered by the Oil and Gas Commission, supports practical research related to the management of environmental and social impacts from the oil and gas sector (Oil and Gas Commission 2006). In Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Energy Sector Initiatives Fund aims to support the Action Plan for the Economy as a means to support research in energy development, climate change, and conservation.

Figure 2: Key Land Stewardship Policies for Natural Resource Sectors in Western Canada

This summary of existing land stewardship policies is categorized according to whether they “require” natural resource sector land users to engage in certain practices, “encourage” land stewardship through strategy documents or planning or “enable” land stewardship through initiatives that build capacity.

		Require	Encourage	Enable
Federal Government	All or Most Sectors Affected	Canadian Environmental Protection Act Canadian Environmental Assessment Act Species at Risk Act First Nations Land Management Act	Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk Canadian Biodiversity Strategy Canada Stewardship Agenda Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk National Strategy for the Protection of Species at Risk Prairie Conservation Action Plan UN Convention on Biological Diversity	Canadian Soil Quality Guidelines Ecological Gifts Program Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network First Nations Land Management Program Habitat Stewardship Program National Ecological Framework for Canada National Classification System of Contaminated Sites
	Forestry	Forest Act	National Forest Strategy	First Nations Forest Program National Forest Inventory Model Forest Program
	Mines and Minerals		Mines and Minerals Policy of the Government of Canada: Partnerships for Sustainable Development	
	Oil and Gas			
British Columbia	All or Most Sectors Affected	Contaminated Sites Regulation Environment Assessment Act Environmental Land Use Act Environment Management Act Land Titles Act	2006-2009 Service Plan: BC's Five Great Goals Conservation Easement Regulations Land and Resource Management Plans Sustainable Resource Management Plans	Environmental Land Committee Land Information BC
	Forestry	Cut Control Regulations Forest and Range Practices Act Private Managed Forest Land Act	Forest Revitalization Plan	Private Managed Land Forest Council
	Mines and Minerals	Mines Act Mineral Exploration Code		
	Oil and Gas		Energy and Mines Service Plan 2005-2008	Code of Practice for the Discharge of Produced Water from Coalbed Gas Operations Science and Community Environmental Knowledge Fund
Alberta	All or Most Sectors Affected	Conservation Easement Regulations Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act Land Titles Act Métis Settlements Act Public Lands Act	Alberta's Commitment to Sustainable Resource and Environment Management Grazing Timber Agreements Integrated Land Management Project Integration Resource Management Regional Grazing Plans Prairies Conservation Action Plan 2006-2010	Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Program Alberta Woodlot Extension Program Grazing and Timber Integration Manual Sustainable Resource and Environment Management
	Forestry	Alberta Forests Act Forest Resource Improvement Regulations	Alberta's Forest Legacy – Implementation Framework for Sustainable Forest Management	CAN/CSA-Z809-2002 Sustainable Forest Management: Requirements and Guidelines Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta
	Mines and Minerals		Mineral Development Strategy	
	Oil and Gas	Energy Resources Conservation Act Oil and Gas Conservation Act Oil Sands Conservation Act	Athabasca Oil Sands Regional Development Strategy	Conservation and Reclamation Guidelines Upstream Oil and Gas Reclamation and Remediation Program
Saskatchewan	All or Most Sectors Affected	Environmental Assessment Act Environmental Management and Protection Act Heritage Property Act	Action Plan for the Economy Caring for Natural Environments: A Biodiversity Action Plan for Saskatchewan's Future 2004-2009 Conservation Easement Act and Regulations Green Strategy Integrated Resource Management Plans Prairies Conservation Action Plan 2003-2008	Representative Areas Network
	Forestry	Forest Resources Management Act	Forest Environmental Policy Forest Management Plans	Saskatchewan Forest Centre
	Mines and Minerals	Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations		Saskatchewan Mineral Exploration and Government Advisory Committee
	Oil and Gas	Oil and Gas Conservation Act Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations		Orphan Well and Facility Liability Management Program Saskatchewan Energy Sector Initiatives Fund
Manitoba	All or Most Sectors Affected	Environment Act Sustainable Development Act	Conservation Agreement Act Green and Growing Manitoba: Manitoba's Green Strategic Framework Sustainable Development Strategy for Manitoba	Critical Wildlife Habitat Program Manitoba Agro-Woodlot Program Riparian Stewardship Program Sustainable Development Innovation Fund
	Forestry	Forest Act	Sustaining Our Forests	10-Year Forest Management Plan Guidelines Forest Practice Initiative
	Mines and Minerals	Mines and Minerals Act		
	Oil and Gas	Oil and Gas Act		

8. Conclusion

This report presents a snapshot of current federal and provincial land stewardship policy in western Canada. While neither exhaustive nor evaluative, the report provides a valuable platform of information upon which new and improved land stewardship policy can be developed and highlights the complex array of existing policies that affect land stewardship in western Canada.

The Lay of the Land raises a number of questions for further investigation:

1. What are the key indicators of successful land stewardship policy?
2. What are the winning conditions that facilitate successful land stewardship policy implementation and outcomes?
3. Who should be responsible for land stewardship?
4. Who should pay for land stewardship?
5. What can we learn from other jurisdictions?

Despite the existence of numerous federal and provincial land stewardship policies, there remains considerable opportunity to expand land stewardship in western Canada through innovative and proactive public policy.

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In 1970, the One Prairie Province Conference was held in Lethbridge, Alberta. Sponsored by the University of Lethbridge and the Lethbridge Herald, the conference received considerable attention from concerned citizens and community leaders. The consensus at the time was that research on the West (including BC and the Canadian North) should be expanded by a new organization. To fill this need, the Canada West Foundation was created under letters patent on December 31, 1970. Since that time, the Canada West Foundation has established itself as one of Canada's premier research institutes. Non-partisan, accessible research and active citizen engagement are hallmarks of the Foundation's past, present and future endeavours. These efforts are rooted in the belief that a strong West makes for a strong Canada.

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