



COMPASS

SUMMER 2025

QUEBEC-LABRADOR FOUNDATION

*With its roots in the Atlantic Region of North America,
QLF engages environmental leaders worldwide to advance
community-based and larger-scale conservation and
stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Establishing or further shaping one's relationship with the natural world has been at the core of QLF's work since its founding over 60 years ago. From coordinating summer waterside youth activities in isolated fishing villages on Quebec's North Shore, to the Living Rivers program in Tabusintac, New Brunswick, to international professional exchanges—the knowledge and respect imparted through these evolving relationships ensures the investment of our time and effort toward sustainable outcomes. Leadership by another name.

Today, QLF's Conservation and Stewardship Program offers summer Interns the opportunity to be part of that legacy by enhancing their relationship with nature while honing scientific and leadership skills.

In this issue of *Compass*, we also have news of two QLF Alumni who share the same philosophical "heart" yet whose career paths couldn't be more different.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Alling
President

www.QLF.org

QLF SPEARHEADS NEW GUIDE FOR ECOLOGICALLY CONNECTED LANDS AND WATERS IN HOME REGION

In its capacity as a leadership partner in the transboundary Staying Connected Initiative, the Quebec-Labrador Foundation is spearheading the creation of a Guide to help leaders and conservation practitioners in our “home region” sustain native biodiversity and vibrant human communities in the face of accelerating climate change and development pressures.

Titled “Pathways to an Ecologically Connected Transboundary Landscape in Northeastern North America/Turtle Island,” the Guide will present key ideas and actions to maintain and enhance an ecologically well-connected landscape across borders in this globally significant region.

The Pathways Guide follows and builds on the resounding success of the first-ever Northeastern North America/Turtle Island Landscape Connectivity Summit, which QLF co-hosted in Montréal / Tiohtià:ke, Québec during June 2024. QLF’s core partners who helped convene the Summit are also playing an important role in the development of the Pathways Guide. (For readers unfamiliar with the name “Turtle Island,” it is used by many Indigenous peoples of this region for what is commonly understood as North America.)



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VERMONT FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT



Ecologically connected lands and waters are essential for enabling native wildlife and plant species to move freely across the landscape to meet their life needs and adjust their ranges in response to climate change. A well-connected landscape also provides vital benefits to people, including clean air and water, reduced vulnerability to climate change, economic opportunities through sustainable forestry, agriculture, recreation, and tourism, and sustaining a strong “sense of place.”

The Pathways Guide, which is to be distributed widely in Spring 2025, will serve as a tool to inform collaborative, inclusive efforts to conserve and restore an ecologically well-connected landscape regionwide. In keeping with last year’s Summit, a central message of the document is encouraging all stakeholders involved in the work to think and act in ways that help blur the borders which divide the landscape and separate people – sociopolitical, cultural, institutional, and sectoral.

REALIZING THE AMBITION OF CONSERVING 30% OF THE EARTH: QLF’S ROLE IN THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



QLF Senior Vice President Brent Mitchell participates in a national 30x30 workshop in the Republic of Congo. From left: UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre Project Manager; Brent Mitchell; Republic of Congo Minister of Environment; Wildlife Conservation Society Country Director; and German Ambassador. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY





QLF continues to provide technical support for the implementation of the agreement that nearly all countries made in December 2022 to reverse the decline of nature. In his capacity as a Vice Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), QLF Senior Vice President Brent Mitchell led the development of a guide on how to implement the “30x30” target, to conserve 30% of the surface of the planet by 2030. With The Nature Conservancy and the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (or HAC, an association of 120 national governments), QLF (through WCPA) curates an online resource, 30x30.solutions.

We increasingly focus on biodiversity hotspots. In February, Brent helped the Wildlife Conservation Society deliver a national workshop in the Republic of Congo on “other effective area-based conservation measures,” a cumbersome but official term for a key way that 30x30 is being delivered. We are drafting a step-by-step guide specific to conditions in the country.

Brent also served as the key technical resource person for a workshop on 30x30 for 32 countries of central, eastern and southern Africa. We worked with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, HAC, Africa Wildlife Foundation and other partners for this weeklong training in Nairobi, Kenya.

Finally, we are looking at how the Convention on Biological Diversity might be better aligned with the 17 other Multilateral Environmental Conventions (e.g., UNFCCC on climate, Ramsar on wetlands, Trade in Endangered Species, etc.). In November, Brent supported UNESCO in a workshop hosted by Germany on how the World Heritage Convention might interlink with the CBD. A report is publicly available.

QLF CONSERVATION INTERNSHIPS SET TO INSPIRE LEADERS

QLF is pleased to announce the launch of the 2025 field Internship season, which will feature two distinct campaigns.

Through its Conservation and Stewardship Program, QLF will provide university undergraduate and graduate students – emerging environmental leaders – with hands-on field experience in community-based biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and stewardship of natural resources. The acquired knowledge and skills will inspire and enable participants to guide decision-making that protects the natural environment while maintaining vibrant, sustainable communities.

Managed by QLF’s Alexa Schubak, and working in partnership with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, and the Island Nature Trust of Prince Edward Island, Interns will spend several weeks focused on three key activities in the Maritimes region: biodiversity monitoring (collecting vital data for longitudinal studies to assess ecosystem and species health, as well as the impacts of climate change); habitat management and restoration



East Lake Creek, Prince Edward Island, where the QLF field team conducted species-at-risk surveys in partnership with the Island Nature Trust. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ALEXA SCHUBAK

(nature preserve monitoring and maintenance, invasive species control, and environmental clean-ups); and public engagement (facilitating outreach and environmental stewardship workshops with local community members).

Since the program's inception in 2017, QLF field teams have conducted impactful environmental work at more than 80 nature Preserves and Protected Areas throughout the Maritime provinces of Canada.

Elsewhere, at the Point Amour Lighthouse Provincial Historic Site in the Labrador Straits and at several ecologically important areas of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, QLF Interns will work side-by-side with biologists, outfitters, fish harvesters, and their families as they explore, record, and share their knowledge about the conservation of biodiversity.

The intertidal limestone flats are important stopovers for long-distant migratory shorebirds, while the islands of Hare Bay near St. Anthony are home to colonial nesting seabirds and sea ducks. In the coastal areas and fishing communities of this region, QLF Interns will monitor marine and terrestrial species at risk, train citizen scientists to observe and record, teach youth, and mentor teens who aspire to be future conservation leaders.

Returning for her second summer, Elli Gurguliatos will be joined by Interns and by experienced staff from partnering organizations such as Intervale Associates. The program, under the direction of Kathleen Blanchard, is funded with generous support by the International Grenfell Association and by several additional community, government, and nonprofit organizations such as Intervale, the Community Youth Network, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and Birds Canada.



LEBANON'S NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IS QLF ALUMNUS

The Quebec-Labrador Foundation is thrilled to recognize QLF Alumnus Nizar Hani for his recent appointment as Lebanon's Minister of Agriculture. During a laudable public career, Nizar has championed strong partnerships as the basis of sound environmental stewardship.

"I have learned a lot over the years," Nizar says, "all beginning with the exchange with QLF." Indeed, his own inclinations to engage community stakeholders in the protection and management of nature's biodiversity were enhanced by his participation in several QLF-sponsored learning exchanges. Nizar attended the 2004 Middle East Exchange Program in New England, 2008 Middle East Program Regional Meeting in Kaş, Turkey, 2010 Middle East Exchange Program, and 2012 Middle East Regional Meeting in Oman.

Since 2010, Nizar has served as the Director of the Al-Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, Lebanon's UNESCO-designated Biosphere. Containing 5% of Lebanon's land mass, the biosphere possesses great ecological, historical and cultural value, in particular, the Cedars of Lebanon.

Nizar serves as Vice President of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for North Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East.

In 2018, the Al-Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve became one of the first sites in West Asia to meet the IUCN Green List Standard, the first global standard for effective and equitable area-based conservation, a critical current-day effort in the 30x30 Global Initiative.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BRENT MITCHELL

QLF ALUMNUS USES PHOTOGRAPHY TO EXPLORE NATURE AND CULTURE DYNAMIC

Nary is there a QLF program participant who hasn't tried to capture the sheer beauty, magnitude, and richness of their natural surroundings. Stephen Gorman has succeeded in ways few do. One-time Director of QLF's Living Rivers Program (1980s), Stephen is today an internationally recognized photographer and best-selling author who trains his lenses on the nexus of nature and culture. He recalls that his awareness and early understanding of the nature/culture dynamic was shaped, in part, by his QLF experience.

"One of my most powerful memories from that time was experiencing the North Atlantic region—what the Wabanaki call Dawnland—as a unified cultural and biogeographical landscape, rather than a patchwork of political boundaries. Though artificial lines were drawn on maps, the rivers, storms, fish, wildlife, and people moved freely, undeterred by these imaginary divisions. This arbitrariness first struck me most profoundly while canoeing the St. Croix River. If we eddied out to the left, we were in New Brunswick on Atlantic Time; to the right, we were in Maine on Eastern Time. To us—and to a wandering moose—it made no difference."

During his many forays exploring the Canadian Arctic, Stephen works to create compelling images that conveyed "the quiet dignity, strength, and resilience of the Inuit people, whose rich cultural heritage and deep connection to the Arctic landscape have persisted for millennia."



Massive Iceberg Looming Over Qeqertarsuaq, Greenland. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF STEPHEN GORMAN





Heading Out On The Hunt, Qaanaaq, Greenland, 2017. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF STEPHEN GORMAN

Given the rapid changes and growing uncertainties in the world today, Stephen uses his art to advocate for greater human engagement in choices impacting nature, at all levels. It is a philosophy he gained years ago.

“When I began graduate school at the Yale School of the Environment, I quickly grew disheartened to see the environmental movement that had once inspired me losing its way,” he says. “The mission I had hoped to pursue—conserving wildlands, natural resources, and the rich cultures of those who live and work on the land—seemed increasingly outdated, replaced by a narrow, technology-driven approach to solving “environmental problems.” It was through Larry Morris, Kathy Blanchard, and QLF that I found reaffirmation: true stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage begins with community-based conservation.”

To learn more about Stephen Gorman and his work, go to: www.stephengorman.com



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF STEPHEN GORMAN



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The Quebec-Labrador Foundation has been awarded a four star
Charity Navigator Rating over three consecutive years. In
addition, QLF has earned a two-year (2023-2025)
Gold Seal of Transparency from Candid.



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