

# ENGAGE

WITH CWF

BioBlitz Canada 150's inaugural "nature selfie" by Canadian Heritage Minister Melanie Joly



## OPEN CALL FOR CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

# Canada's 150th Nature Celebration

This milestone year offers a good reason for Canadians to join the bioblitz party. Together, let's count our blessings — literally! — by tracking Canada's wildlife species

As part of celebrations to mark Canada's 150th birthday, the Canadian Wildlife Federation is helping to organize a massive cross-Canada bioblitz campaign—a series of biological surveys to record all the living species in selected areas.

Many events are already planned, with more to come. All you need to do is check our new dedicated website [www.bioblitzcanada.ca](http://www.bioblitzcanada.ca) to find blitz events near you. While you are there, look at the resources that may inspire and support you to put on your own independent bioblitz event, and discover how to add your observations in real time throughout the year.

### IT'S BIOBLITZ CANADA 150—AND YOU'RE INVITED!

One of the 38 Canada 150 signature projects, the national bioblitz is calling you and thousands of other Canadians of all ages, cultural backgrounds and regions to join together on a mission for our terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine habitats. It's all about uniting the power of individuals, clubs, not-for profit groups, and federal,

provincial, territorial and municipal agencies to make a grand inventory of nature. BioBlitz Canada 150 events will connect professional scientists, amateur experts and keen beginners of all ages to get together to find, identify and record as many species as possible in a given area in a given time.

What better way to bring people from across Canada out into nature to celebrate our natural heritage?

It is also important work. You can add or track results and observations in real time on [iNaturalist.ca](http://iNaturalist.ca), the official database platform for

the project (itself a joint venture by CWF, NatureServe Canada and other partners). All discoveries will be open-source, so they can be used to shape conservation decisions to help ensure wild species and spaces remain for generations to come.

### CWF LEADING CROSS-CANADA BIOBLITZ EVENTS IN 2017

Under BioBlitz Canada 150, five flagship events and 20 community events across Canada will each be a combo of species inventory, wildlife workshop activities and nature jamboree. Ten science-intense blitzes by specialists will survey ecologically important areas.

CWF is pleased to lead the BioBlitz Canada alliance working with many groups to reach out to everyone: urban, suburban, rural, remote, new Canadian, indigenous, sporty, outdoorsy, young, old, individual and family. Everyone is welcome to join the fun. We at CWF are a natural fit for the project, through our Wild Family Nature Clubs, our Wild About Gardening program and our active daily work nationally and internationally for wise conservation action.

### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CANADA'S CITIZEN SCIENTIST HEROES

At the heart of the Canadian identity is a tradition of knowing and loving the living things of this land. Many of the knowledge-keepers of the past did this painstaking, generous work out of sheer joy and curiosity, as fervent amateur naturalists. Think of Samuel de Champlain's *Récits de voyages en Nouvelle-France* from the early 17th century. Catharine Parr Traill, trail-blazing Upper Canada botanist, wrote the Canadian landmark *Backwoods of Canada* (1836) and several authoritative plant guides. Later, Frère Marie-Victorin created the master reference *Flore laurentienne* (1935). And the astonishing Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, who lived in Russia immediately after the Bolshevik Revolution, went on to become nurse to the Dionne quintuplets and, even later in life, one of the era's great amateur ornithologists. More recently, consider Taamusi Qumaq Allatangit, the much-honoured Inuit leader who preserved accumulated expertise of his culture through two groundbreaking works in the 1980s: *Sivulitta Piusituqangit*, an encyclopedia of Inuit traditional customs and knowledge, and a comprehensive 30,000-word Inuktitut dictionary.

### NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO CELEBRATE CANADA'S BIODIVERSITY

As a citizen scientist today, you can build on this historic legacy, helping to add new scientific knowledge and data in partnership with others who share a passion for Canada's outdoor and living things.

# TAKE ACTION

## CHILDREN & NATURE

Register for the 2017 Children & Nature Network International Conference. Because it's so important to get children outside, the Canadian Wildlife Federation has partnered with the Children and Nature Network to deliver this conference on connecting and restoring communities through the power of nature. So mark your calendar for April 18–21, 2017 and book your flight to Vancouver. Use the promo code 2017CWF to receive \$25 off the price of a full conference registration package (limited time offer!).

## IS YOUR GARDEN WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY?

CWF's Backyard Habitat Certification Program recognizes the amazing efforts Canadians are taking to meet the habitat needs of wildlife, and allows individuals to have their property certified by officially designating their gardens as wildlife friendly. Whether you have a small patio or acres of land, you can make your garden a haven for the critters in your neck of the woods. Visit [WildAboutGardening.org](http://WildAboutGardening.org) to learn more.



# STAY ACTIVE

## NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

Join CWF in celebrating National Wildlife Week, April 9–15. It's an opportunity for Canadians to get outside and connect with nature. This year's theme is #ConserveTheWonder, an invitation for all Canadians to join in efforts to conserve Canada's natural heritage for future generations. Plan or join an event, participate in the second annual B.I.R.D. (Bird Impact Reduction Day), take a Walk for Wildlife, or simply step outside and experience the wonder of nature. Details at [NationalWildlifeWeek.org](http://NationalWildlifeWeek.org).

## WALK FOR WILDLIFE

By simply going for a walk, you can help deliver big "change" for wildlife. Join students and nature-lovers coast to coast on April 12 for Walk for Wildlife, an annual event held during National Wildlife Week. Join a walk that's already planned, or start your own. The loonies, toonies, quarters and nickels you will be collecting feature the very species the walk will be helping. Details at [WalkForWildlife.ca](http://WalkForWildlife.ca).

## #CONSERVETHEWONDER

There is no better country in the world in which to experience the awe-inspiring wonder of nature than Canada. During Canada's 150th anniversary, CWF is encouraging Canadians to explore our natural wonders and share their experiences via #ConserveTheWonder.