

Nickel District Conservation Strategic Plan 2011 – 2016



Lake Laurentian Nature Chalet

Nickel District's Past, Present and Future

Our watersheds are made up of communities - places where we live, work, gather and play. The Nickel District Conservation Authority (N.D.C.A.) has a responsibility to manage our watersheds and help the residents in our communities. To do so, we must consider how changes in our landscapes impact our watershed ecosystems and communities.

Since 1973, when the N.D.C.A. was established as an amalgamation of two former Conservation Authorities, the Junction Creek and Whitson Valley, the well-being of present and future generations has always been front and centre. Nickel District Conservation responsibilities include flood control, hazard land management, environmental education, drinking water source protection and watershed stewardship, among others. With the looming impacts of climate change for example, the N.D.C.A. must ready the community for the inevitable impact on our water systems, water resources and other watershed resources valued by the community.

To ensure we are truly connected to the common and varying needs of the citizens within our watersheds, the General Board directed that the N.D.C.A.'s first comprehensive Strategic Plan be completed. This summary report represents the outcomes from the planning process. The N.D.C.A. Strategic Plan is our commitment to ensuring that the watersheds are resilient and sustainable due to change and emerging issues. We want to be proud of and celebrate our vision.

Who Are We?

Nickel District Conservation is one of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. We are a community based environmental protection agency. Our main goal is to ensure the healthy interaction between the watersheds, the environment and the economy. Our area of jurisdiction includes the watersheds of the Wanapitei, Vermilion and Whitefish Rivers. We provide important conservation services within the City of Greater Sudbury in a watershed area exceeding 7,600 km². Our success is based on local initiative, watershed jurisdiction and partnerships. We protect people and property from natural hazards and provide education and recreation opportunities.



Nickel District
Conservation
Authority



Forces of Change

- Climate change impacts are *real*
- Partnering, collaborating and sharing expertise is essential
- Technology is forcing organizations to provide real time service delivery
- Green spaces, clean water and a healthy environment attract and keep citizens in the area
- Building a healthier environment improves the health of people



Our Mission

The Nickel District Conservation Authority, in collaboration with partners, stakeholders and citizens, leads the conservation, management and restoration of our watersheds.

Our Vision

“People working together to protect our watersheds”



Our Values

Accountability and Integrity

Transparent decision-making and responsible actions.

Community Needs and Commitment

Providing excellent customer service; dedicated to open communication; responsive to community needs.

Productivity and Excellence

Adaptability to change to best serve the emerging needs of the watershed communities.

Research and Innovation

Collaboration on environmental issues and priorities while continuing to be innovative and proactive.

Growth and Capacity

Commitment to having the resources required to meet our responsibilities.



Our Strategic Directions: 2011-2016

With the Forces of Change, our Vision, Mission and Values as the framework for future activities, three over-arching strategic directions have been developed for 2011-2016.

Engage and Collaborate

- Build a strong N.D.C.A. to proactively respond to issues and communicate effectively with the community
- Promote eco-tourism and Greater Sudbury's ecosystem restoration at Lake Laurentian N.D.C.A. Centre
- Reach and involve residents, staff, Board members and municipal Councillors/staff
- Be the "go-to" environmental resource in the watershed
- Expand conservation/stewardship awareness locally to strengthen existing and emerging partnerships

Build and Connect Scientific Expertise

- Gather up-to-date science on our watershed's natural features
- Monitor and report on water quality/quantity in surface and groundwater systems
- Value our watershed resources; quantify value of losses
- Work to ensure safe drinking water sources for all watershed residents
- Update the technology of flood forecasting, warning and mapping
- Build the "Weather Watchers" program to assist with monitoring and emerging issues identification

Sustainable and Value Added Funding

- Attract and keep high calibre professional staff and Board members
- Build an active Conservation Foundation - fund-raising, grants, sponsorships, marketing
- Partner with school boards, colleges and universities to advance environmental sciences
- Secure value-added contracts in areas of expertise such as climate change adaptation at community level
- Provide fee for service technical advice and consultations
- Identify, support and recognize people of influence who will advocate for the N.D.C.A. vision



2011 General Board Members and Staff

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DWSP = Drinking Water Source Protection

