

Federal-provincial wildlife conferences, at which delegates of provincial and federal game agencies meet to co-ordinate their activities, are held annually. The subjects considered vary widely, from the perennial topics concerned with setting bag limits and season dates for waterfowl hunting and the effects of pesticides on wildlife to briefings on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Provincial and federal wildlife activities are supplemented by a great number of private and public associations active in wildlife conservation. Fish and game associations composed of hunters and fishermen study and practise wildlife conservation with intense interest. Provincial federations of fish and game clubs have a national voice in Ottawa, the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Youth organizations like the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides introduce their members to wildlife conservation as part of their experience of the outdoors.

The Canadian Nature Federation fosters appreciation of wildlife and supports measures for its protection. Provincial museums and the National Museum of Natural Sciences of Canada stimulate public interest in animals, fish and birds and carry out basic biological and taxonomic research.

All these agencies -- federal, provincial and private -- are closely concerned with aspects of wildlife management. Effective co-operation among them is essential in dealing with many wildlife problems. This co-operation has been achieved not only through formal meetings like the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference but also through the development of effective working arrangements to exchange information and co-ordinate activities.

Wildlife as a
natural resource

The economic value of Canada's wildlife resources in relation to recreations like photography, nature study and casual sightseeing is difficult to estimate, but it probably exceeds that of fishing and hunting. For thousands of people it is a rare privilege to observe a wild animal or bird in its natural surroundings and preserve the experience on film.

While recreation appears to be the major use for wildlife, many Canadians still rely directly on game for their livelihood, and even for their existence. Fur-trapping is still an important occupation. In 1970-71, Canadian wild-fur sales totalled more than \$27.4 million. Many Eskimos and Indians earn their livelihood from fur-trapping, and need wildlife for food and clothing. Much of the economic and social difficulty that has been experienced by some groups of Eskimos stems directly from a decline in the number