



**2024 Latornell Conservation Symposium
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:
Subject Areas & Focus Questions for Submissions**

LATORNELL THEME:

COLLABORATION: The Future of Conservation is Collaborative

In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges, collaboration is key to finding effective and innovative solutions. The theme for this year’s conference reflects our commitment to exploring and promoting partnerships that can drive positive change.

We welcome abstracts for presentations, field tours, webinars, panels, and workshops related to the following topics within the frame of *Collaboration*.

SUBJECT AREAS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Water Collaboration	Land Collaboration	People Collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation • Watershed Management • Advancements in flood prediction and extreme event forecasting • Natural Hazards • Source Water Protection • Stormwater Management • Aquatic species-at-risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation • Terrestrial species-at-risk • Nature-based Solutions • Natural Heritage and Biodiversity • Land-Use Planning and Development • Landscape level erosion and sediment control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Perception of Environment and Conservation • Fundraising, Finance, and Governance in Conservation Sector • Transformation of Program and Service Delivery • Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion • Mental Health in the Workplace • Conflict Management

Water Collaboration	Land Collaboration	People Collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Monitoring • Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing innovations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban and rural land conservation and restoration • Healthy and sustainable soils • Environmental Monitoring • Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing innovations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Authority Governance, Public Administration, and Business Area Leadership Wisdom/Experience sharing • Hybrid work challenges and opportunities for managing and supporting employees • Demographic Change in Canada and its effect on the Conservation Sector • Artificial Intelligence Applications and Impacts on the Conservation Sector

The above subject areas are intended to spark ideas *but are not exhaustive*. Please feel free to submit presentation ideas in other areas. Your topic may also fit within more than one category. We strongly encourage content from Indigenous communities and other under-represented groups within the conservation sector.

Typical presentation length is 20-30 minutes, and in-person sessions are 1.5 hours long. We also welcome ideas for **longer workshops, panels, or field trips**. Field trip locations should be within a 30-minute radius of the venue, which is located at 222 Rowntree Dairy Rd., Woodbridge, ON.

CHIT-CHAT TALKS (PECHAKUCHA) – 20 SLIDES FOR 20 SECONDS OF COMMENTARY EACH

This year, we are accepting abstracts for PechaKucha—a “talk less, show more” presentation style. Learn more: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PechaKucha>

Share your brief and visually focused stories around this year’s collaboration theme!

Tips:

- Slides should have as little wording as can be read in 20 seconds (think billboard advertising).
- Images that tell a story, like an infographic, are a neat way to speak without excessive word use.
- Try to keep your entire presentation to one theme; it is easier to get your message across.

Some examples for your inspiration can be found here: <https://www.pechakucha.com/>

FOCUS QUESTIONS¹ FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Focus questions to be answered through Abstracts (adapted from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute)

Focus questions are intended to ensure that abstracts and, ultimately, symposium content are aligned with the collaboration theme and objectives associated with the 2024 gathering. Focus questions are also intended to:

- **Cause genuine and relevant inquiry** into big ideas and core content;
- **Provoke thought**, lively discussion, sustained inquiry, and new understanding;
- Require learners to **consider alternatives, weigh evidence, support their ideas, and justify** their answers;
- **Stimulate vital, ongoing rethinking** of big ideas, assumptions, and prior lessons;
- **Spark meaningful connections** with prior learning and personal experiences; or
- **Naturally recur**, creating opportunities for transfer to other situations and subjects.

Water Collaboration Focus Questions	Land Collaboration Focus Questions	People Collaboration Focus Questions
1. What are the responsibilities and obligations of a	1. How have or can conservation professionals successfully	1. What are the external pressures (changes in

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Water Collaboration Focus Questions	Land Collaboration Focus Questions	People Collaboration Focus Questions
<p>conservation professional in the context of climate change, natural hazards, source water protection and stormwater management?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Effective water management often involves multiple government agencies, NGOs, and private stakeholders. Coordination among these entities can be challenging due to differing priorities, regulations, and organizational structures. What can conservation professionals learn from water case studies that contain collaborative elements in different regions, watersheds, provinces, and countries? 3. How can the risk of natural hazards be communicated effectively and accepted by a skeptical or oppositional public? 	<p>navigate recent changes in legislation and socioeconomic pressures in land use planning and regulation?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. What are the responsibilities and obligations of a conservation professional in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss, wetland, and natural heritage conservation? 3. What can conservation professionals learn from nature-based studies with collaborative elements in different regions, watersheds, provinces, and countries? 4. Conservation Authorities are significant landholders in the province. How are land managers balancing human needs, revenue generation, and conservation to ensure those lands' long-term health and resilience? 	<p>legislation, technology, climate change, societal shifts) and internal pressures (mental health and wellbeing, changes in the work environment, work-life balance, etc.), that conservation professionals face and how can they overcome and respond to these pressures? What opportunities do external pressures present?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. In what ways are demographics, ableism, racism, sexism, or genderism changing the perception or practice of conservation work? 3. Has the relationship between conservation and the public changed (based on technology, societal changes, etc.), and how is the public interest evolving? 4. How do conservation professionals act as integrators or educators to address conservation issues and drive change?

Water Collaboration Focus Questions	Land Collaboration Focus Questions	People Collaboration Focus Questions
		<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. How can organizational leaders best navigate today's challenges and opportunities?6. Technology and Innovation: How are technological advancements and innovations advancing conservation and sustainable practices, and how are collaborative efforts accelerating their implementation?7. Conservation Authorities' services to their member municipalities are evolving mainly due to regulatory changes. What business or partnership opportunities are emerging from these changes?