

# Weston Family Prairie Grasslands Initiative

**“Sustainable land use and healthy soils are essential for our environment, as well as the productivity of Canada’s agricultural lands. I congratulate the Weston Family Foundation for launching these grants, which will help land managers preserve prairie grasslands and protect important wildlife habitats. This funding also contributes to Canada’s commitment to protect 25 percent of land and marine areas by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030.”**

— The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau,  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

**“Addressing the impacts of climate change, including its effects on biodiversity, is a top priority for the Government of Canada. Parks Canada is proud to be a partner with the Weston Family Prairie Grasslands Initiative, which will support the recovery of many important species at risk in Grasslands National Park, like the greater sage-grouse, by protecting and restoring healthy resilient ecosystems.”**

— The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson,  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

**“Congratulations to the five organizations receiving funding through the Weston Family Prairie Grasslands Initiative. Working together to support grasslands conservation efforts will help ensure that Manitoba’s grasslands, and the values they provide, will continue to serve future generations.”**

— The Honourable Blaine Pedersen,  
Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development, Manitoba

**“We believe that in the long-run a successful ranch and healthy grasslands are directly related. Areas with species at risk and grasslands that require rejuvenating require years of management. Engagement with the ranchers and managers of the grasslands is crucial to understanding the local animal habits/tendencies to create an accurate plan for protecting the species that play critical roles in a healthy ecosystem.”**

— Chay Anderson, Saskatchewan Cattle Rancher



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Foundation**

The Weston Family Foundation invests in innovation and learning in Health and Landscapes that deliver measurable impacts to the well-being of Canadians

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**“We are excited to be part of this important initiative working with our land trust colleagues to support ranching partners who steward these globally unique prairie grasslands. Caring for our grasslands means caring for our natural systems that give us clean drinking water, fresh air, food and provide for our health and well-being.”**

— Catherine Grenier,  
President & CEO, Nature Conservancy of Canada

**“In Prairie Canada, the greatest threat to biodiversity is the conversion of grasslands and wetlands. One of the most effective tools to maintain existing grasslands involves partnering with landowners to establish conservation easements on their property. Ducks Unlimited takes pride in delivering conservation solutions that support a sustainable and resilient future, and we believe this initiative is a powerful step in the right direction.”**

— Karla Guyn,  
CEO, Ducks Unlimited Canada

**“The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation plans to conduct projects which enhance the grasslands and, in turn, will also increase the viability of ranching, enabling a younger generation of ranchers to continue caring for the prairie.”**

— Ray McDougald, President,  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation

**“This Initiative brings decades of informal partnerships conducting prescribed fire on the Canadian prairies into an era of mutual support, training and standards to increase community understanding and acceptance for this important tool in restoring grasslands biodiversity. Meewasin has partnered with a number of groups including Indigenous organizations and governments, government agencies, municipalities, producer groups, and non-government organizations. These partners will share the group’s efforts with First Nations, remote communities, and many other stakeholders across the Prairie Provinces.”**

— Andrea Lafond,  
Chief Executive Officer, Meewasin Valley Authority



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