

QLF PROGRAMS-2017

LEADERSHIP - CONSERVATION - STEWARDSHIP

QLF exists to promote global leadership development, to support the rural communities and environment of eastern Canada and New England, and to create models for stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage that can be shared worldwide.

Newfoundland - PHOTOGRAPH BY NICHOLAS GATES

FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY, the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF) has been defined through its unique approach of working across borders. In the early days of the organization, those borders were geographic — state, provincial, and U.S./Canada. In recent years, the regional model in North America is now shared with places as diverse as Latin America and the Middle East.

QLF is distinguished by its emphasis on connecting environmental problem-solving with associated needs of culture and community. Environmental issues cannot be addressed without making sure that solutions include people. QLF has always promoted the potential of individual initiative and leadership — that one person can make a difference. For example, QLF taps the energy and commitment of high school Volunteers, university Interns, and young professionals worldwide to provide experiential training opportunities for the next generation of leaders. QLF Alumni number several thousand.



PROMOTING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP – ONE PERSON AT A TIME – THROUGH CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE. INSPIRED IN THE ATLANTIC REGION, SHARED WITH THE WORLD.



I. LEADERSHIP

THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM provides experiential training and leadership opportunities for Volunteers (high school students) and Interns (university students). QLF offers Internships on a wide range of conservation programs in the field (eastern Canada), and in the organization’s offices in Montreal and Ipswich.

THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP NETWORK of Alumni—Volunteers, Interns, Sounds Conservancy Fellows, and International Fellows, Governing Boards, Staff, and Consultants—represent the organization’s greatest asset and intellectual capital. QLF’s Alumni number more than 5,000 and represent 75 countries in New England and eastern Canada; Central and South America; the Caribbean; Europe; Central and Southeast Europe; the Middle East, North Africa, the Gulf States; and Southeast Asia. By convening Alumni directly through regional meetings and through a private, online community, QLF seeks to facilitate the exchange of best practices between practitioners; establish continuous knowledge-sharing on environmental issues; encourage new programmatic partnerships; promote Alumni-directed, cross-regional meetings, tours, workshops, and exchanges; and develop GLN Consulting Teams comprised of QLF Alumni with complementary expertise.

THE SECOND QLF ALUMNI CONGRESS was held in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, (November 2016) convening 160 conservation leaders and practitioners representing 38 countries, 100 organizations, the public and private sector. The centerpiece of the *Congress* was a three-day Conservation Workshop. At the Workshop Plenary, QLF and Alumni launched new program partnerships, International Exchange Programs, and QLF Global, a consulting initiative.



Congress participants at the conclusion of the Workshop Plenary Session, Món Sant Benet, El Bages region, Catalonia - PHOTOGRAPH BY GREIG CRANNA

II. CONSERVATION

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, a signature program, is based on the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, southwestern Newfoundland, southern Labrador, and the Quebec North Shore. Working with coastal communities, marine resource users, conservation organizations, and government agencies, QLF encourages local communities to take an active role in managing natural resources, preserving biodiversity, and participating in conservation education and outreach. Projects include Important Bird Areas, Marine Bird Conservation, Piping Plover Conservation, and Coastal Biodiversity.



Minke whale in the early morning fog off Deer Island, New Brunswick. This species is being monitored in the Labrador Straits as part of QLF's *Marine Species At Risk Program*. PHOTOGRAPH BY GREIG CRANNA

MARINE SPECIES AT RISK is designed to protect species designated as endangered or threatened; support activities specified in species recovery plans; identify and protect habitats critical to species at risk; mitigate threats to species at risk; support recovery team experts and species experts; prevent the decline of marine species and the degradation of their habitats; and ensure the long-term conservation of species at risk.

THE SOUNDS CONSERVANCY MARINE PROGRAM exists to protect the estuaries and coastal waters of the Sounds of southern New England and New York from Long Island Sound to Nantucket Sound; and to secure the protection of its marine resources through a small grants program to encourage marine education, research, advocacy, and conservation.

III. STEWARDSHIP

THE CULTURE AND HERITAGE PROGRAM seeks to engage rural communities in eastern Canada using cultural heritage as a tool for community revitalization and economic diversification. These projects actively involve local residents in preserving their unique cultures, personal histories, stories, and traditional skills. QLF supports the design, development, and installation of heritage exhibits for community museums and interpretation centers, and the planning and development of interpretive trails.

CONSERVATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMS foster the exchange of knowledge, experience, and innovation across borders while promoting international cooperation between organizations and individuals facing common environmental and stewardship challenges. Exchanges focus on migratory birds, forest stewardship, protected area management, private land conservation, marine protected areas, wildlife conservation, consensus building and collaborative conservation, and environmental conflict resolution.

The **Gulf of Honduras Exchange** seeks to share models for stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage across the Western Hemisphere. Building on two decades of programs in-region, a current focus is on the Gulf of Honduras: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and southern Yucatan (Mexico), and an exchange on marine and coastal conservation in the Gulf of Maine. A core element of the program is a Fellowship for conservation leaders, which convenes Fellows from Latin American and Caribbean with their counterparts in New England to exchange innovations and experience, and to develop new strategies for meeting conservation challenges.

The **Middle East Exchange Program**, in its third decade, convenes conservation leaders from the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf States. The program's Fellowship presents an opportunity to convene conservation practitioners across the region using the environment as a bridge to mutual understanding and reconciliation, and to launch cooperative bioregional conservation initiatives across political boundaries, cultural frameworks, and socioeconomic borders.

The **Southeast Asia Exchange** is designed to convene conservation practitioners from the region to share knowledge, expertise, skills, resources, and training on biodiversity conservation, land conservation and forest stewardship, and public/private conservation partnerships.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP provide a forum to engage in innovative knowledge sharing for the comprehensive protection of landscapes. QLF's partners range from organizations to national and international coalitions seeking new solutions to restore and sustain global resources, and to refine models of stewardship with an emphasis on private land conservation—land trusts, private lands acquisition, and conservation easements—to meet the local needs and conditions of rural communities worldwide.

A **Partnership With The U.S. National Park Service** is among QLF's diverse network of partners. A primary vehicle for bringing home learning from QLF's international programs is the Stewardship Institute, which advances innovation in collaborative conservation for the stewardship of the U.S. National System of Parks and Special Places. Through this partnership, QLF promotes increased collaboration, diversification, and innovation among landscape conservationists and advocates nationwide.

International Networks are a focus of QLF's programming in conservation and stewardship whereby QLF maintains close ties to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and specifically to the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA). QLF Senior Vice President, Brent Mitchell, is the chair of a WPCA Specialist Group on privately protected areas and nature stewardship that recently completed a global survey of private reserves and their contribution to meeting the targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Mr. Mitchell also serves on the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.

IV. NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVE

QLF GLOBAL is a global initiative designed to offer consulting assignments to Alumni conservation leaders and practitioners. The assignments are expected to generate high impact and innovative solutions to shared environmental challenges in communities worldwide. QLF Global presents an opportunity for new mission-driven programs that generate diversified funding to support QLF's programmatic growth and our Network of Alumni. QLF Global has the potential to meet funding challenges as nonprofits experience increased competition for philanthropic support.



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