

# *North American Furbearer Conservation Award*



*An annual award to recognize outstanding  
furbearer and habitat conservation  
in North America*

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DU CANADA



*Deadline for Nomination April 1<sup>st</sup>*

# North American Furbearer Conservation Award

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# Background and Criteria for Selection

For thousands of years, the wildlife of North America sustained millions of people. With the arrival of Europeans to this continent, the value of fur resources created new economies, communities and eventually cities. With over 300 years of commercial fur harvesting activities in North America, and healthy populations of native furbearing species, furbearer management is seen as a model for sustainable and wise use practices.

This long and successful record of sustainable resource management is due to strong conservation measures and the stewardship ethic of the trapping and wildlife research communities. Over 200 years ago, the Hudson's Bay Company implemented some of the early management practices of a quota system, which evolved into the modern natural resource conservation model that took shape in the early 20th century. It is therefore fitting that North American Fur Auctions (NAFA), which is the successor to the HBC, be the inaugural sponsor of this award to be presented by the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC).

Early conservation pioneers recognized that humans can have substantial impact on our natural environment, and that measures must be taken to maintain long-term conservation and to ensure a healthy mix of social, economic and environmental benefits on the land. Their success has been the result of a continuous interest in gaining new knowledge, skills and techniques. One of the keys to adapting to changing environmental, social and economic conditions has been the leadership of individuals in developing innovative approaches to wildlife and habitat conservation, and in establishing new and successful partnerships with related natural resource users.

NAFA and the FIC want to recognize and thank those people who continue this tradition.

# The Program

**The purpose of the North American Furbearer Conservation Award is to promote awareness and recognition of individuals and organizations that have made significant efforts for sustainable furbearer management.**

**The objectives of this award are:**

- To encourage innovation and excellence in furbearer management by the recognition of outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations;
- To build public awareness for hundreds of years of successful furbearer management; and,
- To instill a greater pride and sense of accomplishment within the fur community.



## North American Furbearer Conservation Award

The North American Furbearer Conservation Award recipient will be announced at the May NAFA Auction in Toronto, and will be further recognized at the June Annual General Meeting of the Fur Institute of Canada. The North American Furbearer Conservation Award will consist of a plaque presented by the Fur Institute of Canada and a framed limited edition art print presented by NAFA.



## Award Criteria

An application/submission for this award must provide a brief description of the work history and background of the nominee. This must be followed by a more detailed description of the activities and/or innovative furbearer conservation approaches, at any scale, that have contributed significantly to the welfare of furbearer populations and their habitats. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Applied research on ecosystems, species and their habitats and genetic attributes;
- Applied management in relation to the influence of other resource/land-use sectors; and,
- Improving sustainable use practices in furbearer management.

Each completed application requires the endorsement of two other references.

## Nomination and Evaluation

The Conservation Committee will evaluate all completed applications to ensure that nominees meet the criteria. The review will include assessment of:

- Professional conduct and rigor in following accepted scientific principles;
- Extent of voluntary conservation, personal long-term dedication, and willingness to share ideas with others;
- The extent and success of involvement in partnerships that have increased the understanding and efficiencies within furbearer conservation; and,
- Demonstrated support in achieving the Fur Institute of Canada's mandate of promoting the sustainable and wise use of our fur resources.

The Awards Committee of the Fur Institute of Canada will make a decision based on these assessments in time for an announcement annually in the first week of May.

**The annual deadline for nominations is therefore April 1.**



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