



Ducks Unlimited
Canada



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

A Conservation Easement (CE):

- + is a voluntary, mutually agreed upon legal agreement between a landowner and DUC.
- + preserves the natural integrity and features of all or part of their land in perpetuity by limiting the amount and type of development that can occur.
- + Land covered by a CE cannot be developed for commercial or residential property in the future.
- + The CE is attached to the land title and applies to all future landowners. Landowners are free to sell, gift or will the property however the CE does bind future landowners to the same land use restrictions.

The value of a CE goes beyond dollars and cents

- + The landowner retains the right to manage the habitat area covered by a CE so it is possible to generate income from permissible land uses such as hay production and pasture rental.
- + Wetlands covered by a CE can be a water source for livestock and wildlife. They also provide ecosystem services such as mitigating the effects of floods and drought, filtering excess nutrients and pollutants, sequestering carbon and promoting biodiversity.
- + Non-habitat areas (portions of the property not covered by the CE restrictions) may be considered.
- + Any future activities that may be viewed as a contravention of the CE agreement can be authorized by DUC through the use of a Work Consent Form.
- + The landowner maintains control of public access to the property however DUC will require periodic access for the purposes of monitoring the CE.
- + The landowner retains all rights and privileges not specified in the CE agreement and is responsible for all taxes and obligations associated with ownership.

Factors to consider when placing a CE on your land

- + Land protected by a CE cannot be cultivated or cleared for any purpose including crop production of any kind. Activities such as drainage, filling, cultivation, pumping (other than for domestic or livestock use) of any wetlands identified under a CE are not permitted.
- + As with any legal agreement, DUC encourages landowners to seek legal advice before entering into a CE agreement.

Still have questions? We have answers. Talk to us.



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1-866-479-3825



Ducks Unlimited Canada-Alberta

Learn more at

ducks.ca