



KAWARTHA LAND TRUST

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# Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) Strategic Planning Terms of Reference: Integrated Landscape Management (ILM)

## Why Integrated Landscape Management?

In the Kawarthas, forestry and agriculture are important aspects of a thriving rural landscape.

Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) is about recognizing that conservation cannot be scaled if its planning and execution are separate from and at odds with other important uses of our landscape.

On a practical level, ecologically valuable land is often on the same parcel as active agriculture, forestry and residential lands. At best, these uses coexist in a mutually beneficial way; at worst, they threaten one another. Socially, we would struggle to scale our impact without being relevant to landowners who are farmers and foresters and allow these uses on their properties.

The conservation sector is realizing that when our work acknowledges *and supports* working land goals, conservation outcomes can be better planned and more broadly adopted.

## KLT's Background with ILM

- We hold three conservation easements that protect agricultural land as a value, four KLT conservation easements enable sustainable forestry, and one owned property allows sustainable timber harvest to continue through a retained use agreement.
- In 2021, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and KLT began working with agricultural organizations to bridge the divide between our sectors, specifically making our landowner outreach program, Partners in Conservation, relevant for agricultural landowners.
- We've partnered with the Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA) to help landowners better manage plantations on private land through a forestry co-op. This work improved forest diversity and resulted in timber production. It connected us with landowners interested in protection.



## Other Inspiring ILM Work in the Land Trust Sector

[Vermont Land Trust](#)  
[The Nature Conservancy - Soils](#)  
[Woodlands and Wildlands](#)

### Your Participation

- We want your expertise and vision to plan what can be accomplished in the next eight years if we take an integrated landscape management approach.
- We want you to be bold and think creatively.
- We expect everyone to listen deeply. A simple protocol for careful listening and a process for making decisions will be presented by a facilitator at the first meeting of each group.
- You are not required to attend all meetings and can attend meetings for other strategies as you like. However, any decisions made at meetings where you are not present need to be considered final and will not be revisited due to absence.
- We expect participants to also help research their topic, possibly interviewing key informants who cannot participate in the meeting. A basic interview tool and instructions will be provided.
- We request that everyone read the information circulated in preparation for the meeting and participate in discussions.

### Outcome

The working group will create a recommendation to the KLT Board, related to how an integrated landscape management approach will help us achieve our strategic objectives. It will address the following:

- Define the strategy. Include a metric that indicates what KLT will have accomplished by 2030 by taking an integrated landscape management approach.
- Describe eight years of tactics that KLT might use to best implement the strategy.
- Use the “KLT Toolkit” to inform the tactics. Propose new tools if required.
- Connect the tactics to progress towards KLT’s strategic objectives. Often, a tactic will help achieve multiple strategic objectives.



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## Milestones

- Mid-May: First meeting
- Late June: Draft circulated to the Board
- October: Wrap-up

## Meetings

The Committee will meet bi-weekly starting mid-May and end in October. Meetings will be held in person in the KLT boardroom with an option to attend virtually if needed.

The designated KLT staff member will maintain written notes of all meetings, which will be shared with members of the Committee, KLT staff, Board members and other involved strategic planning committees and advisors.

## Resources

The Committee will receive the necessary resources from the KLT to fulfil its mandate, including administrative support from the designated KLT staff member and technical expertise from the Director of Community Conservation and/or Executive Director.

## KLT Toolkit

When considering how we will create impact by enacting an ILM strategy, consider the following toolkit.

### Permanent Protection

We become owners of land to protect it forever against development. Donations of land and acquiring rights on land (CEAs) are major tools. Purchasing land is used to protect pieces of critical importance.

### Land Stewardship

We manage our lands to minimize impact, enhance nature, and invite the public to experience nature. We work with other conservation organizations to steward and restore their protected land.



## **Volunteers**

People power our impact. Boots in the mud or behind the scenes, our impact is because of the contributions of people who love the land.

## **Community Conservation**

Finding synergy between land protection and the needs of the community can make conservation projects relevant to more people and grow our impact. This can be achieved by listening and responding to the needs of the community.

## **Support Landowners**

Landowners will decide the future of our landscape. Our Partners in Conservation program thanks them for the care they take of their lands and helps them to take on stewardship and restoration projects.

## **Fundraising**

We bring in government investments in conservation to this region and increase conservation-minded philanthropical efforts. Individuals are inspired to donate because of their connections to our cause.

## **Communication**

We have a voice that can inspire and educate people on why land is worth protecting.

## **Partnerships**

We work with others with skills in social services, education, research, technology, environment, agriculture, and business to expand the impact of our land conservation efforts.

## **Back End**

Good governance, technology, and systems are all critical enablers of our work.