

# Creating Conservation Legacies



# HAT

## Planned Giving Guide



## A Legacy Gift is a powerful pledge to the future of our environment.

By providing a gift to HAT, you will join a growing number of supporters who have committed to protecting significant habitats in our region, for our families, our community and future generations to enjoy. Any gift, no matter the size, is truly appreciated and will make a difference.

*For over 15 years, Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) has been creating a conservation legacy by protecting locally significant habitats throughout southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.*

## Planned Giving

Ways to Give	How to Give	Benefits to Donor
Bequest	Name Habitat Acquisition Trust as a beneficiary in your will.	Your estate will receive a tax receipt upon completion of bequest.
Securities, Mutual Funds	Consult with your financial planner and decide to which Habitat Acquisition Trust fund you would like to donate.	When transferred in-kind, receive a tax receipt for the appreciated value of the gift, without generating a taxable capital gain.  There may be additional savings related to the Capital Dividend Account (CDA) when securities are held in a corporation or holding company.
Life Insurance, RRSP, RRIF	Name Habitat Acquisition Trust as the beneficiary of your RRSP or RRIF.	Avoid probate and leave a substantial gift with low monthly payments.
Property	Give it outright, place it in trust, retain use of it for life (Life Estate) or gift it in your will (Bequest).	Receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of the property, based on an independent appraisal.
Charitable Annuities	Transfer of property to HAT.	Protect land and receive income during your lifetime.
Life Estate	Name Habitat Acquisition Trust as a beneficiary in your will.	Eligible for a tax receipt immediately after an independent appraisal of the property.

### Habitat Acquisition Trust Endowment

Our Endowment is managed by **The Victoria Foundation**. The dividends of your endowment gift will benefit the environment and our community for generations to come.

The Endowment fund is a permanent fund from which we can only withdraw annual dividends. This fund is used for on-going costs associated with conservation covenants and administrative and office overhead. It is also our emergency fund in case of legal action on one of HAT's covenants. Donors can request that their donation to HAT be placed in the Endowment Fund. A donation can also be made directly through The Victoria Foundation (250-381-5532) by specifying that the funds be directed to HAT's Endowment Fund.

# Ways to Give

## **BEQUEST**

HAT gratefully accepts fee simple donations of properties or cash for the permanent protection of natural values. There are a number of ways to donate property, while still meeting your financial and lifestyle needs. In addition to leaving a legacy that benefit nature forever; there are potential tax benefits for you or your estate. In all cases, you should seek independent financial advice.

## **SECURITIES OR MUTUAL FUNDS**

If you own publicly-traded securities or mutual funds that have increased in value, you may want to consider donating the securities directly to HAT. Such a gift can minimize the capital gains taxes that you have to pay on those securities. Should you decide to make a gift of securities to HAT, please contact us and we will provide all the necessary information to make a smooth transfer.

## **LIFE INSURANCE OR RRSP'S**

A life insurance policy can offer a simple way to support HAT, especially if your family no longer needs life insurance for financial security after your death. You could choose to make HAT the beneficiary of a new policy. Your payments for the new policy will be eligible for tax credit. Another option is to make HAT the owner of an existing policy, allowing you an immediate tax benefit.

## **PROPERTY AND LAND DONATIONS**

The simplest form of land donation is a straight transfer of title. In most cases, you or your estate will be eligible for a tax-receipt for the value of the land as appraised by an independent AACI-certified appraiser. If you choose to bequest your land to us in your will, we strongly encourage you to speak with us about your vision for the property. There are three ways to donate:

### **Life Estate**

A life estate allows you to donate your property now, but also retain use of the property during your lifetime. Essentially, with a life-estate, the title of the property is transferred, and a legal agreement is registered that ensures the donor retains use of the property. The major advantage of a life-estate is that you would be eligible for a tax-receipt immediately. The tax-receipt value would be determined by an independent appraisal of the property, and an actuary would determine the value of the life estate. The final tax receipt would be the appraised value of the land minus the appraised value of the life estate.

### **Conservation Covenant**

A covenant can permanently and legally protect the natural values on your land, while still allowing you to retain ownership of land. For people who need to sell their property, or wish to pass the property onto heirs, a covenant is an excellent tool to help you meet your financial and life needs, while still protecting nature. Please note that there are significant upfront costs to a covenant, often between \$20,000 to \$30,000.

### **Donate Land as an Asset**

HAT can also accept gifts of land without ecological value to be used as assets to further our mission. HAT will discuss with you how your property could be used to help conserve natural landscapes. This could include selling the property and using the funds raised to conserve other land.

## **SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR BEQUESTS**

### **GENERAL – FIXED SUM**

I, give, devise and bequeath to Habitat Acquisition Trust, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used for any purpose(s) approved by the Board of Directors of Habitat Acquisition Trust.

### **GENERAL - PERCENTAGE**

I, give, devise and bequeath to Habitat Acquisition Trust \_\_\_\_% of the residue of my estate to be used for any purpose(s) approved by the Board of Directors of Habitat Acquisition Trust.

### **GENERAL – SURVIVOR RIGHTS**

Upon the death of the survivor of my (wife, husband, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ and my (son, daughter, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ I direct my trustee to transfer and deliver the balance of the residue of my Estate, including any undistributed income to Habitat Acquisition Trust to be used for any purpose(s) approved by the Board of Directors of Habitat Acquisition Trust.

### **RESTRICTED WITH ESCAPE CLAUSE**

I give, devise and bequeath to Habitat Acquisition Trust the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used for the following purpose(s) \_\_\_\_\_. If Habitat Acquisition Trust is unable to apply all or part of these funds for the specific purpose(s) stated herein, the balance of this bequest not so extended may be used for any purpose approved by the Board of Directors of Habitat Acquisition Trust.

*HAT has adopted the Ethical Fundraising & Financial Accountability Code developed by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy in consultation with charity leaders throughout Canada. The Code can be viewed at Ethical Fundraising & Financial Accountability Code [http://www.imaginecanada.ca/files/www/en/ethicalcode/updated\\_ethical\\_code\\_october\\_2007.pdf](http://www.imaginecanada.ca/files/www/en/ethicalcode/updated_ethical_code_october_2007.pdf)*

#### **Habitat Acquisition Trust**

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