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## **Québec Conservation Data Centre Top International Leader in Conservation**

**Arlington, Virginia** – The Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec (Québec Conservation Data Centre) was named the top leader in the Western Hemisphere. The Québec program was selected for the “Outstanding Leadership Award” among 75 similar natural heritage programs and conservation data centres that constitute an international network across the United States, Canada and Latin America.

The award, presented by Mary Klein, President for NatureServe, highlighted Québec’s program advanced leadership in science and conservation initiatives and their contribution to NatureServe Canada, provincial conservation data centres and the network.

“Without a doubt, the Québec CDC has been a leader in developing new partnerships at home and within the network. We hope that other provincial CDC’s will emulate the successful approach established by Québec,” said Klein.

In the past year, the Québec Conservation Data Centre (CDPNQ for its abbreviation in French) led successful partnerships and collaborations throughout Canada securing the participation of major stakeholders in the conservation of Québec’s most precious natural heritage. To name a few, the CDPNQ developed a strategic regional alliance with the Canadian Wildlife Service in the Québec region and the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean (Québec region). Also, together with the Forestry Branch and the Canadian Wildlife Service, CDPNQ developed protection guidelines to be used by the Forest industry for various forest species.

CDPNQ also played a major role co-hosting the successful East Region Conference in Québec City, which was attended by nearly 200 people among network members and partners. At the conference, CDPNQ reinforced its partnerships in Canada and increased the program’s visibility within the province and ministry. CDPNQ also secured media coverage to the release of the publication *Our Home and Native Land/La terre de nos Aïeux*, the first-ever analysis of the conservation status of Canadian species in a global context developed through a collaboration of NatureServe Canada and Canadian CDCs including the Québec program.

CDPNQ’s leadership was also revealed in their communication outreach. The program published the first geographical portrait of threatened and vulnerable species in Québec.

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The *Québec Biodiversity Atlas - Threatened or Vulnerable Species* analyzes information collected and processed by the program over the past 17 years and presents two approaches to conserving biodiversity. One identifies biodiversity hot spots, while the other provides an analysis and interpretation of data gathered on a regional scale.

“The effort of our staff and the partnerships we have made are essential to lead successful conservation initiatives to preserve Canada’s biodiversity,” said Jean Tremblay, Coordinator – Fauna for CDPNQ. “It’s rewarding to see our staff’s hard-work promoting conservation that goes beyond provinces and regions.”

Disseminating information to the general public and all of those involved in the field is highly regarded by the CDPNQ. In the past year, the program developed a new Intranet tool that provides maps and data from the CDPNQ to 17 regional offices of the Ministry of Sustainable development, Environment and Parks and to 14 regional offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Fauna for their work including environmental assessments. They have also developed and launched a new bilingual [website](#) in French and English expanding its audience reach in Canada and beyond.

The award was presented at NatureServe’s Leadership Conference, which was held in Hunt Valley, Maryland in April 2006.

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**NatureServe** is a non-profit conservation group dedicated to providing the scientific information, technology, and services needed to guide effective conservation action. Representing a network of 75 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers in the United States, Canada, and Latin America, NatureServe is a leading source for detailed scientific information about threatened plants, animals, and ecosystems. Visit us online at [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org).