I. A Better and More Integrated Approach to Planning

1. **Create more tools and enable process for regional land use planning and governance**

o Act on commitment to a new approach to land use planning, which would involve indigenous partners and other groups and which would improve jurisdictional alignment on matters of planning and permitting.

o Develop **stronger connections/linkages between Provincial Initiatives and the work of regional non-government and government conservation Partnerships that are implementing conservation.**

- Enable a step down of priorities from Provincial Initiatives but also a step up of needs from partnerships that are implementing conservation.
- Identification of regional FLNRORD/MoECC priorities

II. Better Align Law and Policy with Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Objectives

2. Government is urged to follow through on commitment to introduce **stand-alone species at risk legislation** (currently in consultation under MoECC).

o Make an ecosystem-based conservation approach core to the implementation of this.

o Ensure that such legislation allows for the effective and efficient management of conservation projects, and that it does impose unnecessary or onerous burden on conservation partners.

3. Given the widespread impact of development on habitat, we ask that government move to **introduce new province-wide requirements for habitat mitigation** that would support both ecological and economic goals through tangible habitat mitigation strategies that:

- delineate and protect the most critical habitats, including wetlands and grasslands, and species through conservation designations;
- help to avoid impacts to sensitive ecosystems through tools and creating incentives for innovative conservation practices;
- minimize impacts where possible;
- and set out clear parameters for mitigation where residual impacts occur:

o Consider the establishment of a centralized mitigation body to ensure that mitigation efforts are coordinated, prioritized, effective and implemented as efficiently as possible.

o Introduce a province-wide **Wetland policy** as a first step "pilot" in the habitat mitigation strategy that could expand to include other ecosystems and values.

III. Long-term, Dedicated Conservation Funding for Habitat Securement, Management and Stewardship

4. Government is urged to make significant **funding for private land securement a long-term funding priority**, in order to fully capitalize on conservation opportunities inherent in conservation partnership and leveraged funding models. Implement **new and innovative approaches to conservation funding that have worked in other jurisdictions** that engage the public in regional conservation, invoke the user-pay model and/or facilitate voluntary giving.

IV. Unbiased and long-term oversight:

5.Consider the creation of an **independent oversight body** – perhaps Natural Resources Board (could be modelled after, or an expanded mandate for the Forest Practices Board) which could, among other things, steer future action and evaluate progress on species and habitat goals.

o Government is urged to consider an indigenous co-chair model.