



# Ducks Unlimited Canada

## Towards a NL Wetland Conservation Policy

Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

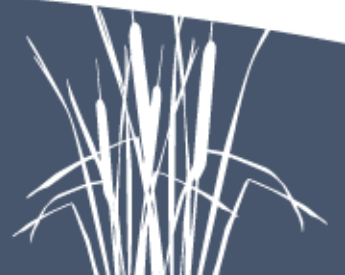
Danielle Fequet

Conservation Programs Specialist

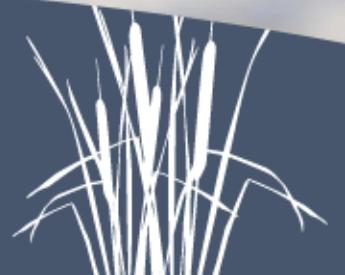


Ducks Unlimited Canada

RESCUE  OUR  
WETLANDS  
WATER—WILDLIFE—YOU



Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Conserves, restores and manages wetlands  
and other important habitat for waterfowl,  
wildlife and people.



# What is a Wetland?

Land saturated long enough to promote **wetland processes**:

- poorly drained (hydric) soils
- Wetland (hydrophytic) vegetation
- biological activity adapted to a wet environment

(National **Wetlands**  
Working Group, 1988)



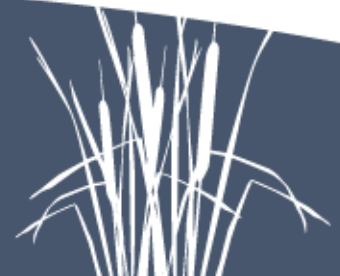


# Canadian Wetland Classification System



Hierarchical System includes:

- Wetland Class
- Wetland Form
- Wetland type



# Why Protect Wetlands?



## Wetlands Offer:

- Water Quality
- Flood Mitigation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Species at Risk Habitat
- Carbon storage
- Recreation
- Wild Food





# Who is responsible for wetlands in Canada?

- A shared responsibility
- Federal responsibility for own land, federally controlled industries, migratory birds, oceans...
- Provincial authority over public land, natural resources...
- Municipal and Indigenous governance also important

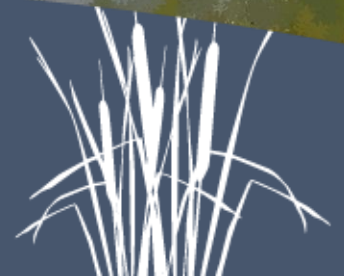


# Canada's Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation



- “to promote the Conservation of Canada’s wetlands to sustain their ecological and socio-economic functions, now and into the future”

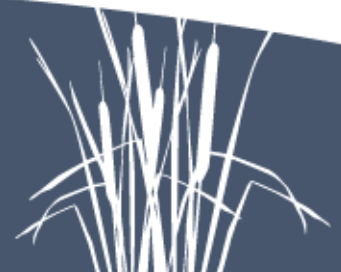
(Gov. Can, 1991)





# Goals of “The Policy”

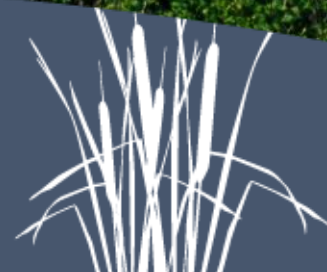
- **Maintain wetland functions** and values
- **No net loss of wetland functions** (federal lands & waters)
- **Rehabilitation of wetlands** in critical areas
- Application to **all federal programs & activities**
- **Securement of significant wetlands**
- Sustainable management & **wise use by industry**
- **Sustainable use for future generations**





# “The Policy” - Geographic Scope

- About 29% of Canada's wetlands are on federal lands and waters
- Mostly in the northern territories
- And also: National Parks, National Wildlife Areas, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries...

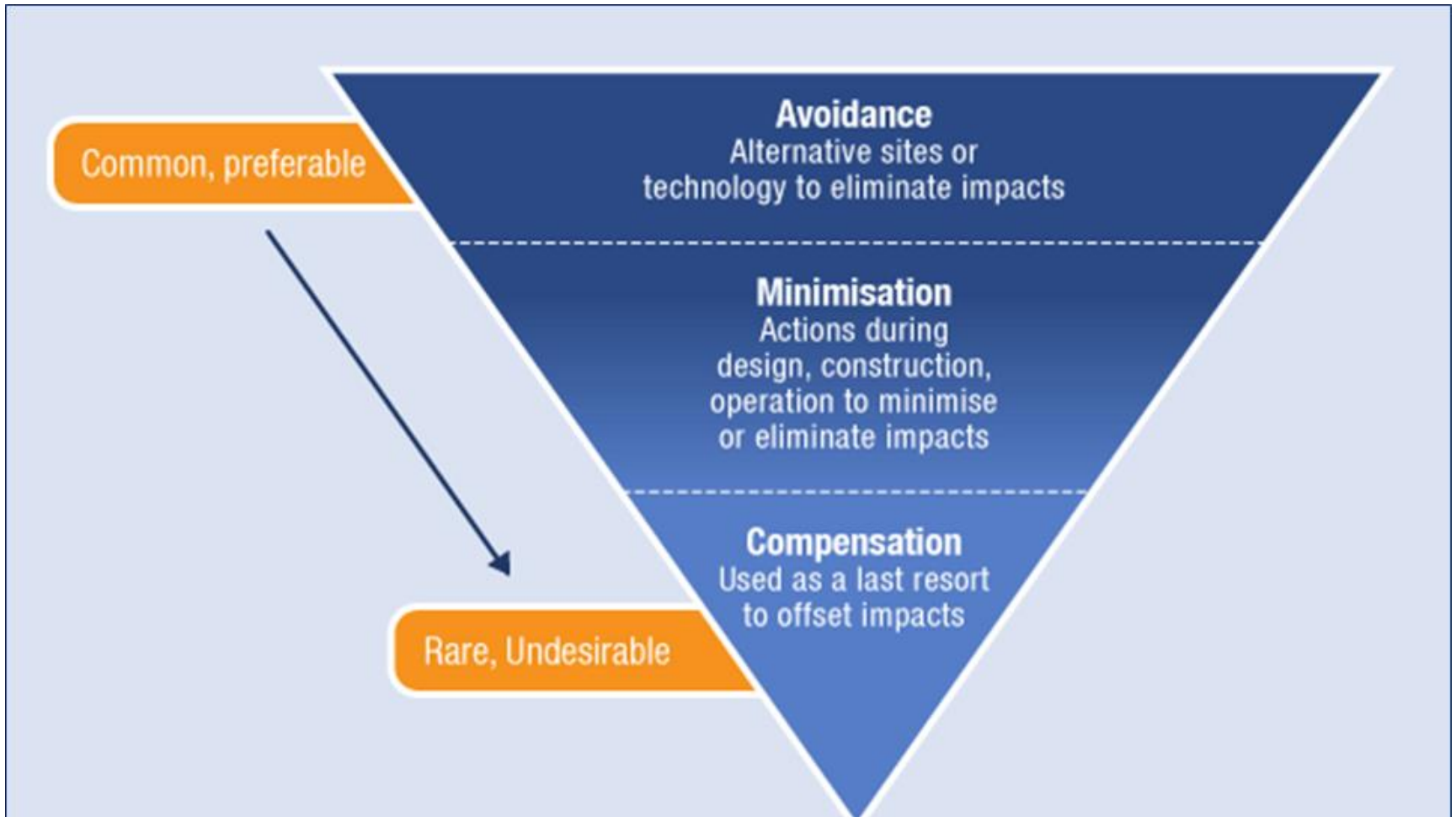




# Elements of Effective Wetland Conservation Policy



- Wetland conservation objectives
- No net loss of wetland/ wetland function goals
- Application to all or most wetlands
- Application of the Mitigation Hierarchy



## Wetland Mitigation Hierarchy



# Atlantic Canada Wetland Protection

- NB Wetland Conservation Policy (2002) 2:1
- PEI Wetland Conservation Policy (2003) 3:1
- NS Wetland Conservation Policy (2011) 2:1
- NL Policy for Development in Wetlands (2002)



# NL Policy for Development in Wetlands (2002)

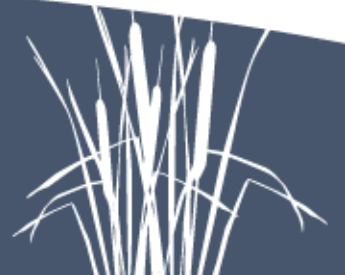
## Policy Objectives:

- Establish criteria for issuing permits under S 48 of the *Water Resources Act* for development activities in and affecting wetlands
- To only permit developments in wetlands which do not adversely affect water quantity, water quality, hydrologic characteristics or functions and terrestrial and aquatic habitats of the wetlands



# NL Policy for Development in Wetlands

- Conservation Objective? Not main intent
- No net loss goal? Not mentioned specifically
- Scope of policy application? Outlines developments requiring written permission and those not permitted
- Mitigation Hierarchy? Requires mitigative measures where hydrological functions affected, case by case





# Advancing NL Wetland Conservation Policy

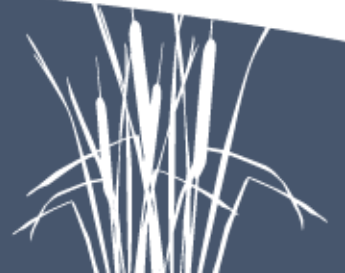
- A marathon not a sprint...
- Engaging in public consultation opportunities
- Public awareness and education about wetlands
- Collaboration with municipalities on wetland/watershed conservation
- Using consistent classification, assessment tools (ex. Canadian Wetland Classification System, Wetland Ecological Services Protocol)
- Citizen science (ebird)

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# Wetland Policy Support - WESP

- Wetland Ecological Services Protocol WESP now calibrated for Atlantic Canada (including NL)!
- A Wetland Functional Assessment Tool
- Provides a science-based method to compare wetland attributes
- For example: stream flow support, water storage, nesting water bird habitat...

