

# **Bat Conservation Strategy for British Columbia and Alberta**

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Of the 16 bat species present in British Columbia (BC) and Alberta, 8 are provincially listed as species at risk, and anecdotal evidence suggests that other species might also be declining. Currently 1 species, *Antrozous pallidus*, is federally listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as Threatened, and updated or new status reports are being prepared for 4 other species (*Myotis keenii*, *M. thysanodes*, and *Euderma maculatum* designated as of Special Concern in 1988, and *Corynorhinus townsendii* which is a Candidate Species). Lack of even basic information for many species such as locations of maternity roosts and hibernacula, population trends, and issues affecting habitat have limited the effectiveness of bat conservation to date. In addition, coordination of inventory and research on bats in western Canada has been minimal.

The B.C. and Alberta governments are collaborating on a Bat Conservation Strategy for the region. The Strategy provides a framework for future conservation and management activities for bats in B.C. and Alberta. It identifies issues that have the potential to affect bats and bat habitat, outlines conservation goals and objectives, and identifies key knowledge gaps. In addition, the Strategy identifies research and inventory work necessary to fill information gaps. The Conservation Strategy will integrate with the Recovery Strategy process and proactively extend the same themes to a guild of all bat species (both listed and unlisted), in an effort to prevent future declines in bat populations. The Strategy could be used as a template to coordinate conservation efforts across a broader geographic area, or for other species groups or guilds.