ALTO AND ENVIRONMENT

Environmental organizations, positions, scientific contributors and documented cooperation

14 November 2026 | Compiled by Heather Levy, Stone Mills Against ALTO

1 Purpose and reading key

This inventory documents public ALTO-related statements, resolutions, research, and environmental engagement across Ontario and Québec. It distinguishes an organization's formal position from an individual comment, a conditional recommendation, or technical participation. Inclusion does not imply endorsement of ALTO or membership in a coalition.

O = opposes ALTO as proposed; **OR** = opposes a particular proposed route; **P** = calls for a pause or suspension (scope identified); **C** = environmental concerns or recommendations; **E** = engagement or information-sharing; **V** = original statement or formal mandate not independently verified. Multiple codes may apply.

2 2026 activity at a glance

Examples of dated public statements and engagement appear throughout the year. These are illustrative, not a ranking or a complete list; the organization directory gives individual actions and sources.

Period	Examples of documented activity	Refs
Jan–Feb	Trail connectivity, lake-association concerns, Napanee River watershed advocacy, ecologists' letter and conservation-authority input.	**S37, S35, S47, S4, S5**
Mar–Apr	Land-trust, watershed, wildlife, conservation and protected-land submissions and resolutions.	**S29, S20, S28, S42, S44, S6**
May–Jun	Source-water protection, turtle habitat analysis, Ducks Unlimited recommendations and Québec joint letter.	**S12, S36, S10, S16**
Jul–Sep	Biodiversity follow-up, ALTO–TRCA coordination announcement, and Québec environmental council comments and mobility event.	**S26, S17, S18, S27**
Oct–Nov	Joint request for ALTO analyses and alternatives; local public education on watershed and habitat impacts.	**S46, S41**

3 Organizations and documented responses

Conservation authorities and source-water protection

Organization	Documented response / contribution	Code / ref
Quinte Conservation	Unanimous 23 March board motion rejects both proposed corridors and urges better service on existing railway alignments.	**OR** S11
Quinte Source Protection Authority	April resolution and 1 May statement recommended enhancing existing passenger rail instead of proceeding with ALTO.	**O** S12
Lower Trent Conservation	Board opposed the proposed southern corridor and offered environmental information to ALTO.	**OR/E** S19, S5
Cataraqui Conservation	25 February motion requested study of a Highway 401-area alternative with a Kingston stop; not blanket opposition.	**C** S5
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority	April initial environmental assessment; a distinct adopted project-wide position has not been verified.	**C/V** S2
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	7 July ALTO announcement of a framework MOU for environmental coordination; signed text not reviewed.	**E** S17
Otonabee Conservation	Participated in conservation-authority discussions; separate formal ALTO position not located.	**E** S5
Kawartha Conservation	Participated in conservation-authority discussions; separate formal ALTO position not located.	**E** S5
Conservation Ontario	Potential coordination role discussed in board records; formal agreement or support not verified.	**V** S5

Conservation, ecology and wildlife

Organization	Documented response / contribution	Code / ref
Wildlife Preservation Canada	22 April signed letter warns of southern-corridor effects on Napanee Plain alvars and loggerhead shrike recovery; urges rerouting to exclude the plain.	**OR** S42
Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (WCS)	April technical comments assess 18 Key Biodiversity Areas and recommend early avoidance of priority habitats; July follow-up.	**C** S6, S26
Watersheds Canada	31 March statement to senators requests watershed-scale assessment, sensitive-system avoidance and meaningful consultation.	**C** S20
Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network	13 April original consultation brief warns of habitat fragmentation, 54 species at risk and potential impacts on UNESCO designations.	**C** S44
Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) Collaborative	Published landscape-connectivity mapping, an ALTO brief and technical engagement. Data sharing does not signify endorsement.	**C/E** S8
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters	Official statement cannot support ALTO as proposed given habitat and connectivity effects.	**O** S32
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Published environmental recommendations and reports technical engagement; no formal project opposition.	**C/E** S10
Ontario Nature	Organization catalogues an ALTO consultation letter; full text not accessible in this review.	**C/V** S21
Environmental Defence Canada	24 April consultation submission requests safeguards and sound project design; July commentary considers possible HSR benefits.	**C** S22, S40
Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition	Raised concerns about the studied route affecting the Oak Ridges Moraine and urged landscape protection.	**C** S23
Think Turtle Conservation Initiative	6 March original article questions the project's habitat and wetland footprint and recommends improving existing transport.	**C** S43
Turtles Kingston	12 May original analysis questions current route design and stresses turtle habitat and movement protection; no adopted stop-project resolution verified.	**C** S36
Kingston Field Naturalists	A board resolution opposing ALTO in the proposed forms is reported; primary board record still sought.	**O/V** S1, S2
Quinte Field Naturalists	Official site outlines conservation concerns and refers readers to Ontario Nature; no adopted project opposition confirmed.	**C** S7
Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council	A March letter opposing both proposed corridors is reported; original signed organizational letter still sought.	**O/V** S1, S2

Land trusts and academic research sites

Organization	Documented response / contribution	Code / ref
Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington	1 April statement expresses concerns about both routes and recommends existing transportation corridors.	**C** S24
Rideau Waterway Land Trust	6 March board-chair letter urges abandoning or substantially rerouting the southern corridor due to protected-land impacts.	**OR** S29
Kawartha Land Trust	9 April statement raises protected-land and habitat concerns and describes information shared with ALTO.	**C/E** S9
Ontario Farmland Trust	22 April submission calls for an immediate suspension pending impacts analysis and meaningful consultation.	**P** S25
Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS)	March concerns about southern-corridor impacts on research and conservation lands are reported; direct original QUBS statement still sought.	**C/V** S1

Local lakes, watersheds, heritage and trails

Organization	Documented response / contribution	Code / ref
Friends of the Tay Watershed	13 November article and infographic address wetlands, watershed health, habitat connectivity, farmland and accountability; call for evidence, cumulative-impact assessment and public consultation.	**C** S41
Friends of the Salmon River	31 March signed letter says it cannot support ALTO as presented, calls for a halt and promotes lower-impact alternatives.	**O/P** S28
Friends of the Napanee River	9 February chair Ted Darby presentation opposes the southern corridor over watershed and habitat effects; a March submission rejecting both proposed routes is reported in a secondary directory.	**OR** S47, S1
Sydenham Lake Association	8 February board letter opposes the southern corridor over lake, source-water and ecology impacts.	**OR** S35
Loughborough Lake Association	17 March signed board letter urges rejection of proposed routes while supporting environmentally responsible transport.	**OR** S30, S45
White Lake Cottagers Association	Environmental and fisheries concerns reported in secondary directory; direct statement still sought.	**V** S2
Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes Association	Comments attributed to representative Lynn Watson; adopted association position not confirmed.	**V** S1
Kashwakamak Lake Association	Comments attributed to Sue MacGregor; separate board statement not confirmed.	**V** S1
Silver Lake and Area Environment Protection Association	Comments attributed to Greg Ellis; formally adopted position not confirmed.	**V** S1
Opinicon Property Owners Community	Comments attributed to Shelagh Hurley; organization-wide adopted position not verified.	**V** S1
Chaffey's Lock and Area Heritage Society	Statement warns of environmental and cultural heritage loss if ALTO passes through or near the hamlet; original approval record needed.	**C/V** S1
Friends of the Cataraqui Trail	26 March board motion formally opposes the southern route and requests an alternative alignment.	**OR** S33
Rideau Trail Association	Board trail and ecological concerns reported; full first-person organizational publication not inspected.	**C/V** S1
Trans Canada Trail	27 January organization statement documents participation and concern for connected trails; not opposition.	**E** S37
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)	17 March dedicated ALTO newsletter informs members; no independent formal opposition established.	**E** S39

Québec environmental and sustainable-mobility organizations

Organization	Documented response / contribution	Code / ref
Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec (RNCREQ)	24 April memorandum presented 20 recommendations; not a categorical rejection of HSR.	**C** S13
Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal (CRE Montréal)	April consultation recommendations and September ALTO event; hosting a presentation is not endorsement.	**C/E** S14, S27
Équiterre	April joint recommendations and June letter seek continued studies with conditions.	**C** S15, S16
Piétons Québec	April joint recommendations and June letter seek continued studies with conditions.	**C** S15, S16
Vivre en Ville	April joint recommendations and June letter seek continued studies with conditions.	**C** S15, S16
CRE de la Mauricie	Represented by signatory of 27 June letter urging further study and scrutiny.	**C** S16
CRE de Lanaudière	14 September letter urges ALTO to respect natural areas and communities. A 29 October co-issued release with agricultural federation UPA Lanaudière cites a CRE board resolution favouring study of frequent rail on existing lines, habitat connectivity risks, public analyses and a pause in fieldwork; also in June letter.	**C/P/E** S18, S46, S16
CRE de Laval	Represented by signatory of 27 June letter.	**C** S16
Trajectoire Québec	Represented in the 27 June letter.	**C** S16
Vélo Québec	Represented in the 27 June letter.	**C** S16
Réseau des centres d'expertise en mobilité (RCEM)	Represented in the 27 June letter.	**C** S16
Centre d'écologie urbaine	Represented in the 27 June letter.	**C** S16

Recreation and land-use organizations

Organization	Documented response / contribution	Code / ref
Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs	7 April official statement opposes ALTO as proposed due to trail, landowner and rural economy impacts.	**O** S31
Ontario Federation of All-Terrain Vehicle Clubs	24 April president's letter opposes the current project over trail severance and rural economy effects.	**O** S34
Upper Canada Snowmobile Region	16 April board motion opposes ALTO as proposed and requests protection of trail access.	**O** S38

4 Scientists and named contributors

Nine Carleton ecologists, 24 February: Steven J. Cooke, Joseph R. Bennett, Grégory Bulté, Dalal Hanna, Lenore Fahrig, Federico Riva, Christina M. Davy, Rachel Buxton and Jesse Vermaire. Their joint letter weighs environmental risks and possible transport benefits and calls for early science-led mitigation. [S4]

WCS Canada: Chloé Debyser, Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne, Peter Soroye and Victoria Goodday co-authored the biodiversity submission; Debyser published a July follow-up. [S6, S26]

Québec collective letter, 27 June: Fabien-Kenzo Sato, Maggie Harvey, Marc-André Viau, Lauréanne Daneau, Kassandra Martel, Jean-François Rheault, Sandrine Cabana-Degani, Patrick Robert-Meunier, Chaïma Ben, Marie-Eve Dontigny and David Paradis signed the letter supporting continued study with environmental scrutiny, not unconditional approval. [S16]

Other named contributors: Stephen Lougheed and Shelley Arnott are cited in public discussions of QUBS ecological research; this does not establish a joint ALTO paper or an adopted University position. Jacques Roy (HEC Montréal), Jean Mercier (Université Laval) and Pierre Filion (University of Waterloo) co-authored a separate HSR policy report, not ecological field research. Shelagh Hurley, Lynn Watson, Sue MacGregor and Greg Ellis are named in local reports, without independently established association-wide mandates. [S1, S2]

5 Documented coordination and joint initiatives

When	Participants	Documented action	Refs
24 Feb	Nine Carleton ecologists	Co-signed ecological letter urging assessment before route choice.	**S4**
March	Conservation-authority representatives	Lower Trent, Quinte, Otonabee and Kawartha discuss sharing data; a completed Conservation Ontario agreement is not established.	**S5**
April	Four WCS Canada contributors	Co-authored original biodiversity technical submission assessing 18 Key Biodiversity Areas.	**S6**
April	Équiterre, Piétons Québec and Vivre en Ville	Joint recommendations for studying HSR with environmental safeguards.	**S15**
27 Jun	Eleven Québec signatories	Collective letter urging continued project study with scrutiny; not collective opposition.	**S16**
7 Jul	ALTO and TRCA	Announced environmental coordination MOU; full signed text not reviewed.	**S17**
29 Oct	CRE Lanaudière (environment) and UPA Lanaudière (agriculture)	Co-issued statement seeks published comparative analyses, assessment of farm and habitat impacts and a pause in fieldwork.	**S46**
2026	A2A, Kawartha Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited	Each describes its own technical communication with ALTO; no three-way campaign inferred.	**S8, S9, S10**

6 Scope and verification

The inventory records what sources support as of 14 November 2026; it does not certify a current position for every organization. Original materials include statements from Wildlife Preservation Canada, Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network, Think Turtle, Friends of the Napanee River and CRE Lanaudière. The 29 October environmental–agricultural statement is available in its original co-issued release. Friends of the Tay Watershed's 13 November article ("ALTO High-Speed Rail: What Is at Stake for Eastern Ontario?") and accompanying infographic were supplied in full from its official Facebook page; no separate website article or direct post permalink was verified.

Primary statements or board records remain to be obtained for Kingston Field Naturalists, Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council, QUBS and several lake associations. Nature Conservancy of Canada has relevant conservation properties but no distinct direct public ALTO position was established here. General comments on environmental legislation are not automatically counted as ALTO positions.

7 Sources

Numbered references correspond to the entries above. Links open the originating organization or its original document whenever available; otherwise the listing identifies secondary reporting, an organizational index or the hosting platform.

[S1] Citizen Research | Stakeholder statements (secondary index)

[S2] Save South Frontenac | Opposition maps and references (secondary index)

[S3] Citizen Research | Resources and studies (supplementary index)

[S4] Nine Carleton ecologists | Signed open letter, 24 February

[S5] Lower Trent Conservation | March board package and coordination record
[S6] Wildlife Conservation Society Canada | Biodiversity submission, April
[S7] Quinte Field Naturalists | Organization statement and resources
[S8] A2A / Frontenac Arch Safe Passage | Original ALTO material
[S9] Kawartha Land Trust | Original ALTO position, 9 April
[S10] Ducks Unlimited Canada | Original ALTO position, updated June
[S11] Quinte Conservation | Board resolution and official statement, 23 March
[S12] Quinte Source Protection Authority | Official statement, 1 May
[S13] RNCREQ | Original consultation memorandum, April
[S14] CRE Montréal | Original ALTO submission, April
[S15] Équiterre / Piétons Québec / Vivre en Ville | Joint recommendations
[S16] CRE Montréal | Collective letter, 27 June
[S17] ALTO | TRCA environmental collaboration announcement, 7 July (proponent)
[S18] CRE Lanaudière | Original ALTO remarks in 14 September open letter
[S19] Lower Trent Conservation | Original southern-corridor position
[S20] Watersheds Canada | Original statement to Senate, 31 March
[S21] Ontario Nature | Organization listing of ALTO submission
[S22] Environmental Defence | Original consultation submission, April
[S23] STORM Coalition | Original Oak Ridges Moraine statement
[S24] Land Conservancy KFLA | Original ALTO route-impact statement, 1 April
[S25] Ontario Farmland Trust | Original signed submission, 22 April
[S26] WCS Canada | Chloé Debyser biodiversity commentary, 20 July
[S27] CRE Montréal | September ALTO event listing
[S28] Friends of the Salmon River | Original signed letter, 31 March
[S29] Rideau Waterway Land Trust | Original board-chair letter, 6 March (hosted by Lanarkist)
[S30] Loughborough Lake Association | Original organization website
[S31] Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs | Original statement, 7 April
[S32] Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters | Original position
[S33] Friends of the Cataraqui Trail | Original March board motion
[S34] Ontario Federation of All-Terrain Vehicle Clubs | Original letter, 24 April
[S35] Sydenham Lake Association | Original signed letter, 8 February
[S36] Turtles Kingston | Original analysis, 12 May
[S37] Trans Canada Trail | Original statement, 27 January
[S38] Upper Canada Snowmobile Region | Original board resolution, 16 April
[S39] FOCA | Original March ALTO newsletter archive
[S40] Environmental Defence | Original high-speed rail commentary, 23 July
[S41] Friends of the Tay Watershed | ALTO article and infographic, 13 November (official Facebook page)
[S42] Wildlife Preservation Canada | Signed ALTO letter, 22 April
[S43] Think Turtle Conservation Initiative | Original ALTO article, 6 March
[S44] Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network | Original consultation brief, 13 April
[S45] Loughborough Lake Association | Signed 17 March letter (archived by Save South Frontenac)
[S46] CRE Lanaudière / UPA Lanaudière | Original joint press release, 29 October
[S47] Friends of the Napanee River | Ted Darby original ALTO presentation, 9 February