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NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION COALITION NATIONALE SUR LES SENTIERS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – National Trails Coalition pleased with investments in 2019 federal budget**

OTTAWA, ON – Following the release of the federal government's 2019 budget, the National Trails Coalition (NTC) is pleased by a number of direct and indirect investments that will positively impact trails and trails-based activity in Canada.

"These commitments advance the positive momentum we've seen from the federal government to invest in recreational trails," said Patrick Connor, Board Member of the National Trails Coalition. "The funding will ensure that our provincial and municipal partners have access to the stable and ongoing funding they need to continue creating jobs and promoting the outdoors".

In particular, Budget 2019 is investing \$58.5 million over two years for the creation of a Canadian Experiences Fund, which will support creation, improvement, and expansion of tourism-related infrastructure. The National Trails Coalition is pleased with the Fund's suggested focuses on Indigenous tourism, winter tourism, and inclusiveness.

As well, the NTC is pleased by the \$5 million allocation to Destination Canada for a tourism marketing campaign to help Canadians discover areas in rural and remote communities around the country. This investment will aid Canadians in utilizing the existing and expansive trails network and will create further economic opportunity in rural communities where trails exist.

The NTC is further pleased with a number of additional measures in the 2019 Budget which will have indirect benefits to the future of Canada's trails network, including a \$2.2 billion investment into the Federal Gas Tax Fund.

"This budget represents an opportunity for groups such as the National Trails Coalition to explore ways and means to bring the trails that Canadians want to their communities, and we look forward to working with the federal government to further those objectives," said Connor.

The National Trails Coalition is comprised of both motorized and non-motorized trails user groups, including the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council, and the Canadian Trails Federation. Together, the Coalition represents volunteer-based trail building, operating and maintenance organizations in every province and territory, managing and supporting over 260,000 kilometres of community tourism-based trails networks.