



# Director, Government Relations and Policy Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

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August 2023

# Organizational Profile

## About the Organization

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) is a joint Canada-US not-for-profit organization with a mission to connect and protect wildlife habitat from Yellowstone to Yukon so both people and nature can thrive.

Yellowstone to Yukon takes a scientific and collaborative approach to conservation, and highlights and focuses on local issues that affect the region. Y2Y has partnered with over 450 scientists, conservation groups, landowners, government agencies, Indigenous governments and communities and businesses to stitch together this landscape.

Without a unified vision for this deeply interconnected landscape, local conservation efforts may be isolated and less effective. Y2Y seeks to ensure conservation efforts are aligned in support of large-scale objectives, and therefore become continentally significant. Today, Y2Y is recognized as one of the planet's leading mountain conservation initiatives.

For more information, please visit [www.y2y.net](http://www.y2y.net).

## Position Description

Yellowstone to Yukon is seeking an experienced conservation professional to be their next Director of government relations and policy. This individual will report directly to the Senior Director of Conservation Programs and will assume primary oversight of Y2Y policy, law and government relations projects in the U.S., Canada and internationally. As such, this person will be responsible for oversight and support of planning, implementing and managing projects and programs that advance the Y2Y vision and deliver on the current strategic plan, using policy, law, regulations, treaties and other legal frameworks as tools for achieving Y2Y's vision and mission.

## Responsibilities

The Director of Government Relations and policy will work closely with their staff, other program directors, Y2Y's President and Chief Scientist and Y2Y's integrated policy team to:

- Lead integrated policy team including developing milestones and associated activity work plans, tracking progress throughout the year, and developing annual policy team budget;
- Oversee the government relations and policy strategist based in Canada and play leading policy role in U.S.;
- Identify, create and advance conservation policy programs through partnerships and engagement at high levels of government (federal, Indigenous, provincial, state, territorial and global) to support the implementation of priority conservation outcomes throughout Yellowstone to Yukon region;
- Develop, coordinate and implement government relations strategies, policy positions and advocacy objectives across Y2Y at regional, national and transboundary (Canada/U.S.) scales to help Y2Y achieve its strategic objectives;
- Build diverse partnerships to advance government relations priorities; collaborate with key government and community leaders; and continue to develop strong relationships at the

bureaucratic and political levels of government to bring enduring conservation solutions by sharing research findings, science-based recommendations and shaping conservation.

- Monitor and analyze targeted current global, federal, provincial and territorial policy and political environments as it applies to Y2Y by providing information and advice regarding government priorities, public policy, trends, challenges and opportunities as it relates to Y2Y's work;
- Mentor and build capacity in government relations and strategy by providing advice and guidance on government relationship management such as: preparation and follow-up for external meetings, issues management for strategic positioning, advocacy documents, submissions and other relevant communications materials and attend meeting as appropriate and helpful;
- Coordinate an ~8 person government relations/policy team;
- Support programs through engagement at high levels of government (Federal, Provincial/Territorial/State, Indigenous) and Partner relationships;
- Oversight and development of annual program planning, progress, and changes within government relations and policy
- Lead on any fundraising proposals, reports related to government relations and policy;
- Promote the Y2Y vision and programs to relevant audiences (conferences, communities, government agencies, partners, media and funders);
- Travel within and beyond the Y2Y region with some regularity.
- Raise the profile, credibility and influence of Y2Y and its initiatives among different levels of government;
- Ensure Y2Y is in compliance with all relevant policy and government relations-related regulations and reporting requirements.

## Candidate Profile

- A minimum of 10 years of successful experience managing and leading multiple staff, preferably managing remote staff;
- Experience in leading campaigns and affecting and policy change;
- Demonstrated ability to both distil complex science (biological and social sciences) and use it to guide conservation and policy change;
- Strong knowledge and practice of engaging with government agencies and elected officials at various levels of government, particularly the federal level;
- Knowledge about conservation and land management ideally of the Y2Y region;
- Demonstrated understanding of working with federal, regional and Indigenous governments, preferably related to land and water conservation;
- Experience building and maintaining diverse and successful coalitions and collaborations;
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion through continuous development, modelling inclusive behaviours, and proactively managing bias;
- Strong experience in managing budgets;
- Ability and interest to travel with some regularity.

## Terms of Employment

- The location of the successful candidate is flexible within the Y2Y region with preference given to candidates located in the US part of the region.
- Salary is commensurate with experience, ranging from \$90,000 - \$120,000 and includes Y2Y's excellent set of benefits.
- This is a full-time position (37.5hrs/week).

## Additional Information & To Apply

At Y2Y we value diversity — in backgrounds and in experience, and we need people from all backgrounds to help achieve our mission of connecting and protecting habitat from Yellowstone to Yukon so people and nature can thrive. Y2Y's team is empathetic, caring, and supportive. We are intentional about the team and culture that we are building, seeking team members that are not only strong in their own aptitudes but care deeply about supporting each other's growth.

Y2Y is an equal opportunity employer and committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our workplace and in science, conservation, and society. We strongly encourage applications from members of groups that are underrepresented and/or excluded from these sectors, including but not limited to Black, Indigenous, and people of color, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. All of our employees points of view are key to our success, and inclusion is everyone's responsibility.

**To explore this opportunity further, please send a cover letter and resume to [careers@y2y.net](mailto:careers@y2y.net).**

Short, preliminary interviews may be held via conference call or Zoom. If you anticipate needing accommodations for any part of the application or interview process you may contact, in confidence, Robyn Barton, HR Consultant at [robyn@y2y.net](mailto:robyn@y2y.net).