



2BILLION TREES

2 BILLION TREES SCIENCE

Research in Support of Tree Planting

NOTE 20

Digging deeper into social and cultural indicators related to the benefits of trees for human health and well-being

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PROJECT LOCATION:

National

Project Drivers

The social science research stream of the 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program takes a social science research approach to address questions related to human well-being in relations with trees and forests. Social science methodologies will be used to improve knowledge about the contribution of the 2BT program to the well-being of Canadians.

Project Approach

In collaboration with other organisations, the project team's work for the first two years of the project will fall under five main lines of inquiry:

1. To examine existing frameworks that include human well-being and health indicators and to assess their relevance for the 2BT program from a human dimensions perspective.
2. Indigenous team member-led work to craft well-being and health indicators as outlined in the "Culturally Significant Values, Interconnectedness with Trees" presentation led by team member Isabell Souliere.
3. To bring in specific considerations about the use of forests for health benefits by reaching out to health practitioners in Quebec.
4. To develop a template survey that could be used by the 2BT program to provide a glimpse into the well-being effect of funded planting projects.
5. To explore social equity to urban forest canopy, using MODIS forest cover data paired with average household income. To begin, this national analysis will combine income and MODIS forest canopy indices at the forward sortation area (FSA, first three digits of the postal code) to measure the correlation at the national, provincial and city level.

Anticipated Outputs and Impacts

The project will document key social, economic, cultural and health components underpinning the relationships between human well-being and trees. We will also propose indicators that could be used to monitor the impacts of the 2BT program. The knowledge produced by this project will also contribute outside of the program context. Knowledge of how trees impact human health and well-being, including how forests can be used in healing practices, can be integrated into public health policy and land use planning.