



Since Doug Campbell's 1971 vision of a National Hiking Trail (above), provincial and territorial members of Hike Canada En Marche (HCEM) have been working on a network of long-distance footpaths across Canada.

Bringing together longer hiking trails, greenways and camino-style paths on one map showcases Canada as a long-distance hiking and walking destination. Some well known, some obscure gems, these routes present Canada's cultural heritage and natural beauty, the serenity of nature, its wild and rugged character, magnificent vistas, clean air, wildlife, and in places, intact habitat — even in the heart of our communities.

A major focus of our work is to celebrate the trail stewards, the paid and volunteer folk, the organizations and governments funding, building and maintaining trails, often with a vision of protecting particular landscapes.

We want to promote best practices in trail building and maintenance, fund raising, capacity — aspects of most trails, big and small — in particular to those trying to build and maintain their local trails.

Where possible, we support the principle of hiking trails separate from trails for motorized vehicles.

We see opportunities hiking offers governments around community building, adventure tourism, healthy exercise, better mental health and helping people connect to and value the natural environment.

We hope showing this incredible variety of long-distance destination trails and the many supporting trail organizations will inspire people not only to go hiking, but to get involved. We especially want to pass on this love of hiking to our children and to their children — both as hikers and as volunteers.

Here's a video of the GDT's *Jackpine Trail* crew.

