



or almost 45 years, the Wilderness Committee has stayed true to our vision of people powered wilderness preservation for a wild future.

Collaborative grassroots mobilization is central to our efforts to build broad-based support for actions to preserve nature, protect wildlife, and fight for a safe and stable climate, while defending Indigenous rights and title.

Our independent, on-the-ground approach reaches 12 million people a year through events, rallies, door-to-door and phone canvassing, online actions, media and social media coverage, and regular expeditions to threatened wilderness areas.

Like you, we believe when people learn about threats to biodiversity and the climate, they will join together and defend them.



Dear friend,

What a year it's been! Thanks to your incredible support, nature celebrated some major victories in the face of many tough challenges this year. Together, we've made strides that show the power of grassroots action and the strength of a shared commitment to protect the environment across Canada.

Your dedication stopped Greenbelt destruction in Ontario, silica sand mining in Manitoba and glyphosate spraying across British Columbia. It brought us closer to justice for Indigenous communities with the landmark Nature Agreement in BC, and funding and support for a First Nation working to reclaim their land. On a national scale, a major court win expanded protections for at-risk birds by redefining critical habitat — a milestone for species at risk and migratory birds.

**These wins belong to you.** Your unwavering commitment to nature is what drives change.

This year, we joined forces with allies to champion species like the redside dace, southern resident killer whale, boreal woodland caribou, spotted owl and Blanding's turtle. Together, we opposed destructive industrial projects and government policies that devalue wildlife in favor of profits. Partnerships with First Nations, local communities and organizations like Colour the Trails amplified our efforts, inspiring more people to connect with the wild and fight for its protection.

We uncovered harmful industrial practices through expeditions, mapping, and research and held governments accountable for broken promises and missed deadlines. While tackling these challenges, we made the time to connect and celebrate through our webinars, rallies and the launch of our *Whatever's Wild* videocast. Touring with Bonnie Raitt was a highlight, sparking energy and excitement across the country!

But you did much more than support our work. **You also took urgent action when it mattered most.** From halting highways through precious ecosystems to opposing LNG terminals, your letters and advocacy made a difference. You stood against greenwashing, logging in spotted owl habitat and unchecked mining expansion, while championing emissions caps, mine clean-ups and Indigenous rights to protect old-growth forests.

Every letter you wrote, every event you attended and every donation you made powered our collective voice for the wild spaces and species we cherish. **No challenge is too daunting when we work together.** Your support ensures we can continue to demand meaningful climate solutions for a thriving future.

Thank you for being the driving force behind these achievements.

For the wild,







Susan Howatt

Board of Directors Chair

#### **Board of Directors**

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Special thanks to our many photographers whose images remind us what we're working to protect.









t's important to stop along the trail from time to time and look back to see how far we've come together. Here are some of our key victories for the wild this year, all made possible by your actions, volunteer hours and donations. Thank you!

#### People power wins the day in Ontario

In September 2023, Ontario's Premier Doug Ford restored protections to all lands that had earlier been removed by his government from Greenbelt protections. This tremendous win was possible in part because you answered the call and sent in hundreds of emails — and attended events — with one clear message: we won't accept the Ontario government's cuts to environmental protections. Since its establishment in 2005, the Greenbelt has helped preserve critical wetlands, watersheds, wildlife, farmland and natural heritage. It was designated through a process involving scientific experts and local residents. Ontario almost succeeded in breaking it up, but failed thanks to people just like you who spoke up loud and clear — a great legacy for future generations to enjoy.

## **Big bucks back Nature Agreement in BC**

In November 2023, our jaws dropped to the floor when a new Nature Agreement between the governments of Canada and British Columbia, and First Nations in BC, was announced in Vancouver. The agreement allocated one billion dollars from existing programs towards increasing protected areas in this province. We've long called for financial support for Indigenous communities seeking to develop their economies while protecting nature. Though much work still needs to be done, this is a tremendous move towards protecting 30 per cent of lands and waters in BC by 2030 and worthy of wild celebration.

#### Manitoba silica sand mine stopped

In January 2024, we raised a glass of cool, clean drinking water to celebrate this wonderous victory. It's a rare feat to have the government deny an industrial proposal, but you made it happen! Along with our partners *Line in the Sand and Manitoba Eco-Network*, we worked to maintain pressure to stop this hazardous silica sand mine endeavour. A risky and experimental plan to vacuum sand out of an aquifer and mess with drinking water in southeast Manitoba was cut short when the provincial government said no. After years of opposition so strong and persistent from folks like you and organizations like us, the Manitoba government had no choice but to deny Sio Sand's license application. Water has never tasted so good!

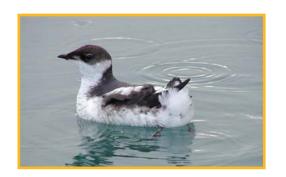






#### **Nuchatlaht Land Back**

In April 2024, the Nuchatlaht Nation won a landmark legal case, marking the first ever declaration of Aboriginal title in a trial-level court. This was the second ever declaration of Aboriginal title in Canada after the Tŝilhqot'in Nation ruling of 2014. Nuchatlaht are now in control of part of their traditional territories, a small but important step towards regaining their land rights on Nootka Island. Friends of Nuchatlaht, which includes allied First Nations, subject-matter experts and organizations like us, Awi'nakola Foundation and Stand. earth, have been supporting the Nuchatlaht since the outset. We're overjoyed to see more than 2812 acres of land returned to the rightful stewards of their Hahoulthee (territory).



#### Wait, what ... birds won in Canadian court?!

In February 2024, a Federal Court Justice ruled in our favour in a lawsuit — with our allies at Sierra Club BC and represented by our friends at Ecojustice — challenging federal Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault for failing to take action to protect the critical habitat of at-risk migratory birds across the country. This includes the threatened marbled murrelet, a seabird that relies on coastal old-growth forests in BC for nesting. Chief Justice Paul Crampton concluded that only ensuring the protection of migratory birds' nests and not the rest of their critical habitat was not justified under the law. The Chief Justice set aside the federal minister's "protection statement" and sent it back for reconsideration with the court's reasons. Chalk one up for our feathered friends!



# Forest spray stopped on northeast Vancouver Island

In March 2024, we made an exciting discovery in a BC pesticide use summary document, in collaboration with our allies from Awi'nakola Foundation. It revealed that 97 per cent of the herbicide spraying planned throughout Ma'a\_mtagila and neighboring Kwakwaka'wakw Nations territory — on northeast Vancouver Island and adjacent islands — did not proceed in 2023. What great news! This comes after Ma'a\_mtagila and Kwakwaka'wakw chiefs, elders, band council members as well as the public and environmental groups spoke up to oppose plans to spray glyphosate throughout previously logged forests. In 2023, we conducted site visits with members of the Ma'a\_mtagila and Awi'nakola Foundation to document the plants and wildlife impacted by these herbicides, including many plants significant for traditional food and medicinal purposes. We picked a big bowl of fresh salmon berries to celebrate this wonderful win.



There are no corporate or government strings attached to us. We're driven solely by thousands of individuals who love wild nature and a safe climate. Independently funded by folks like you, we're able to pivot our skills and resources to work with a diversity of activists and communities across the country on urgent environmental battles that matter. Thanks to you, we stay true to our grassroots.

# **Duck Mountain report reveals devastating impacts**

In May 2023, our campaign to stop logging in provincial parks in Manitoba culminated in the launch of our publication, the *Manitoba Duck Mountain Region Audit*. Years of your support and activism allowed us to produce this first-of-its-kind, comprehensive, independent investigation into a forest management licence area, documenting the devastating impact logging is having in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. This report connects the dots between guidance being ignored, poor policy and regulation, and their visible impacts on the ground.

# Ending fracking one town at a time

In June 2023, in anticipation of the 2024 BC provincial election, we conducted an early-bird public education campaign about our opposition to fracking. We traveled to communities across this province where we knew candidates would be seeking support in the upcoming election. When candidates went out door-knocking, they found we had gotten there first. In Vernon, for example, we left no stone unturned or door unknocked as we spread the word about the climate impacts of fracking. Together with local allies, we held a pub night, a documentary screening, door-to-door canvass days, and attended a street festival, craft fair and electric vehicle show. With your help, we ended up signing on 250 folks to join the movement to ban fracking in BC in one week!



## Bonnie Raitt gave us something to talk about

In August and September 2023, during her cross-Canada tour, Bonnie Raitt chose the Wilderness Committee as her Canadian charity to support. And just like that, we were at 11 locations across the country, talking to the public about ending old-growth logging, protections for species at risk, the need to get logging and mining out of parks, and our goal to achieve 30 per cent protected lands and waters by 2030. It was a busy few weeks but we were thrilled to be chosen and lucky to witness some awe-inspiring musicians. Thanks to the tour we signed up new activists to join our movement! And Bonnie Raitt herself gave us a few minutes backstage in Saskatoon where she had nothing but praise for the important work we're able to do, thanks to your support.



#### Overwhelming action to stop mine expansion

In September 2023, we heard the proposed New Ingerbelle Pit expansion near Princeton BC would create the world's second largest tailings dam, with an increase in height by 100 meters and an increase in capacity by 70 per cent. It would more than double the mine's permitted discharge into the Similkameen River — and we knew you wouldn't let this happen. Over 3,000 folks like you took action to demand the BC government hold an environmental assessment and 22 organizations across the province signed on to our joint submission, representing over a million people opposed to this horrible expansion scheme. The Upper and Lower Similkameen Indian Bands are calling for an Indigenous-led environmental assessment as the mine sits on their territory. Public opinion polling done by our friends at the BC Mining Law Reform show 72 per cent of residents believe the provincial government should be required to seek consent from First Nations before issuing mining claims. Together, we won't stop until this becomes a reality.





5 ometimes when we develop a strategy for nature protection and a stable climate, we need a little help from our friends. From environmental groups to social justice activists and Indigenous Nations to union leaders, we are honoured to work together with our wild friends.

#### **Enviros 1 — former Alberta Premier 0**

In May 2023, we threw our Stetson hats in the air when Alberta's superior court dismissed attempts by former Premier Jason Kenney and the Alberta government to throw out a defamation lawsuit brought forward by us and four of our closest environmental friends. Wilderness Committee together with Environmental Defence, West Coast Environmental Law, Dogwood Initiative, and Stand.earth sued former Premier Jason Kenney and the Alberta government for lying about the findings of his Public Inquiry into Anti-Alberta Energy Campaigns. The defamed groups have asked Kenney and the Alberta government to retract their statements and issue public apologies. To date, former Premier Kenney and Danielle Smith's government have not done so.



## Holding strong together against Delta Port expansion

In June 2023, the Wilderness Committee joined other environmental groups, communities and two prominent unions together in opposition to Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion project proposed for Delta, BC that was approved in April, demanding answers from federal and provincial governments. It was an incredible display of the power that can be found when environmental justice and labour justice join forces — because we are all in the same fight. If built, communities will grapple with the impacts ahead — increased noise and pollution, substantial job loss as automation replaces workers, and grief for at-risk orcas and salmon that won't have a chance.



#### United we stand for old-growth forests

In September 2023, the third anniversary of the BC provincial government's commitment to implement all 14 recommendations of the 2020 Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR), none of the recommendations were fulfilled by the deadline — while at-risk old-growth forests continue to fall. We joined with our friends at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Sierra Club BC and Stand.earth to demand the BC NDP government make up for years of delays and further loss of threatened old-growth by fast-tracking implementation milestones for all 14 recommendations — including immediate logging deferrals for the most at-risk old-growth forests.



# Joining together with vulnerable species against Ontario's onslaught

In 2024, we joined our friends at Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature and David Suzuki Foundation, along with more than 60 other organizations across Ontario, to oppose amendments to the Endangered Species Act that would speed up development approvals and reduce costs for developers engaging in harmful activities that impact the most vulnerable plant and animal species in Ontario. Among other devastating components, it proposed to reduce protections for the endangered Redside Dace minnow and Butternut tree habitat to allow for the expansion of Highway 413, and expand exemptions for mineral development. With over 230 species at risk and counting in Ontario, these rare plants and animals require more protection, not less!



Getting out on-the-ground and in the field to collect the latest eye-witness information, research, mapping, visual media and stories and bring them to you helps to inform, prepare, equip and inspire us all to take action. It directs our passion in the fight for nature protection.

## **Building trails and relationships**

In July 2023, we partnered with Colour the Trails to provide better access to wilderness areas. Colour the Trails is a national, Black woman-owned organization that works to increase access and remove systemic barriers to outdoor activities for Black, Indigenous and people of colour, and those within the intersection of BIPOC and 2SLGBTQAI+ community. We traveled with volunteers to the Big Tree Trail trail in the ancient forests on Meares Island, a tribal park in Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation territory in the legendary Clayoquot Sound, where we have worked since our earliest days. The trip was a huge success — we got lots of work done maintaining the trail alongside Tla-o-qui-aht quardians and had a lot of fun too.

# Logging spotted owl habitat sparks court battle

In June 2023, after months of boots-on-the-ground research and documentation of numerous logging operations in spotted owl critical habitat — with no luck from the government to stop it — we headed to court. Represented by our friends at Ecojustice, we demanded the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault take action to prevent the owl's extinction. Our lawyers argued the minister is legally obliged to immediately recommend to cabinet the issuing of an emergency order, as per federal species at risk legislation, given the imminent threat logging of the owl's critical habitat poses to its survival and recovery.

#### **Turtle protectors vs. rock quarry**

In the summer of 2023, we worked closely with the Kii Ga Do Waak Nookimisuk (Grandmothers Council) and other Indigenous allies in Robinson-Huron treaty territory to raise awareness about the threats to water and wildlife of a proposed massive rock quarry on the north shore of Lake Huron. This project would blast 68 hectares of pristine woodland surrounded by wetlands into the Serpent River watershed — the source of drinking water for Serpent River First Nation. The location is home to one of the densest documented populations of threatened Blanding's turtles and is significant moose habitat. We've been out in the field and at community meetings alongside Robinson-Huron elders presenting the case against the proposed quarry. Your support keeps us on the ground and in communities most impacted by industrial destruction.

# Discovering the truth about park mining in Manitoba

In September 2023, our boots-on-the-ground fact finding team discovered new mining claims in a Manitoba protected area inside Nopiming Provincial Park, on the popular Seagrim Lake Chain canoe route. The claims were located within the province's Backcountry Land Use Category (LUC) area of the park, where industrial activity including mining is prohibited under the Manitoba Provincial Parks Act. This area is also protected because it's core habitat for the threatened boreal woodland caribou, a species protected under federal law. With your support, we demanded a response from the Manitoba government affirming they will uphold the law and ban mining in parks.









We're all needed in the work of protecting wilderness in Canada. It's concerned people like you who've strengthened our voice with gifts of time, talent and action! We welcome your participation.

- **Volunteer:** contact your local Wilderness Committee office to volunteer.
- **Sign up:** our action alerts keep you up-to-date on our campaigns.
- **Take action:** write letters, make phone calls and show up to support critical causes in your community.
- **Spread the word:** distribute our educational papers in your community. Join the Grassroots Distribution Team.

Add your voice to the growing number of people working together to defend the environment in Canada.

# WildernessCommittee.org/Take-Action

# **Thank You!**

Special thanks to charitable foundations and funders whose generous support of \$1,000 or more play an important role both during and after their lifetimes in our continued success. Standing up for the wild this year:

- Andre & Trudel Kroecher Fund @
   Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
- Barr Family Foundation @ Gift Funds Canada
- Charles MacAdams Foundation @ Aqueduct Foundation
- Cumulus Fund @ Aqueduct Foundation
- David Charitable Trust
- Dennis & Kathy Meakin Family Foundation @ Aqueduct Foundation
- Dr. Hinda Avery Foundation @ Aqueduct Foundation
- Dragon Fire Fund @ Vancouver Foundation
- Ecology First Foundation
- Energy Transition Fund @ Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- Fitzhenry Family Foundation
- Funke-Furber Fund @ Victoria Foundation
- Geoffrey, Maurice & Edythe Hodgson Fund @ Victoria Foundation

- Gil & Anne Charitable Giving Fund @ Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
- Grayross Foundation @ Vancouver Foundation
- KMC Foundation
- Lewis Jackson and Dale Gardiner Fund @ Private Giving Foundation
- Peter & Laurie Thompson Fund @ Private Giving Foundation
- ShorePeakGEN Fund @ Vancouver Foundation
- Stroh Charitable Foundation
- ThanksVegan Foundation @ Aqueduct Foundation
- The Lewis Jackson and Dale Gardiner Fund @ Private Giving Foundation
- Viveka Foundation @ Victoria Foundation
- Weston Family Foundation
- And several generous funders who wish to remain anonymous

# **Support Us**

Your generosity inspires us to do more. There are many ways to make a difference:

• **Be a Trailblazer!** The heart and soul of the Wilderness Committee, monthly donors help us plan more effectively to win critical fights for the wild.



- Be a Wilderness Defender!
  With every donation, you
  strengthen our campaigns to
  protect ancient forests, wild
  waterways and at-risk species
  and the spaces they call home.
- Be a Wilderness Guardian! A special group who make future gifts in their estate plans known to us, Wilderness Guardians enjoy exclusive benefits.



• Be a wild fundraiser.

Organize a unique event to raise funds and support the Wilderness Committee's work.

WildernessCommittee.org/Support



REVENUE	2024	2023
Contributions and donations	3,135,478	2,994,942
Grant revenue	802,135	279,419
Sales of educational materials	44,042	44,059
Investment income (loss)	10,680	(261)
Miscellaneous	7,927	7,843
	4,000,262	3,326,002
EXPENSES		
Projects and education	2,108,180	1,796,156
Canvass and fundraising costs	877,970	859,493
Administration costs	508,342	465,947
Sales costs	129,431	144,417
Amortization	9,294	11,287
	3,633,217	3,277,300
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	367,045	48,702
Fund balances, beginning of year	1,023,043	974,341
Fund balances, end of year	1,390,088	1,023,043

REVENUES	
78.4% DONATIONS	20% GRANTS  1.1% SALES  0.5% MISC.

Audited financial statements are available online at: www.WildernessCommittee.org/Governance-Information

ASSETS	2024	2023
CURRENT		
Cash	896,427	765,150
Investments	78,707	
Accounts receivable	21,679	8,545
Grant receivable	137,460	
Interest receivable	8,607	2,066
Recoverable from government (GST)	21,945	19,760
Prepaid expenses	19,646	28,783
Inventory	9,522	8,125
	1,193,993	832,429
Restricted investment	300,000	300,000
Security deposits	12,804	12,703
Capital assets	20,983	19,377
	1,527,780	1,164,509

# LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES CURRENT

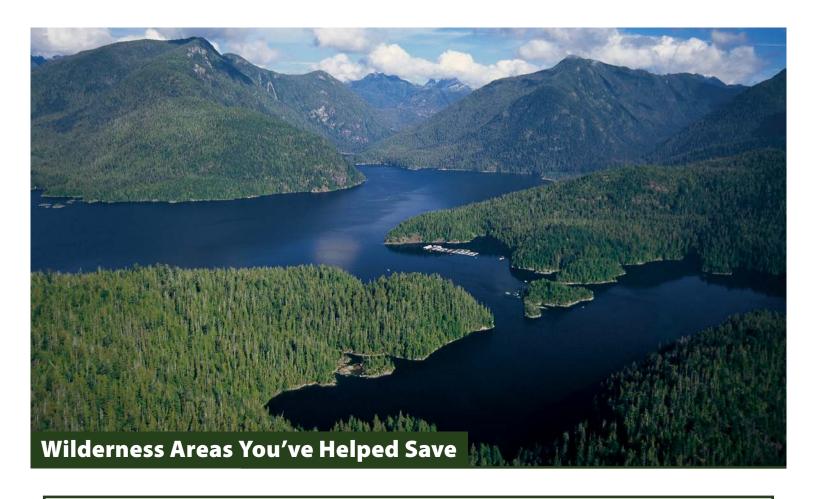
Accounts payable + 137,692 141,466 accrued liabilities

#### **FUND BALANCES**

., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., .	9,377 0,748
Internally restricted 420,983 31	9,377
Unrestricted 477,201 37	2,918

1,390,088 1,023,043





Birch Island Park Reserve, MB Boundary Bay Regional Park, BC Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area, BC Caribou Mountains Wildland Provincial Park, AB Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park, BC Chitek Lake Anishinaabe Provincial Park, MB Clayoquot Sound Tribal Parks, Provincial Conservancies & Parks, BC Clendinning Provincial Park, BC Cummins Lake Provincial Park & Cummins River Protected Area, BC Duu Guusd Heritage Site/Conservancy & nine other Haida Gwaii Conservancies, BC Fisher Bay Provincial Park, MB Goose Island and Grand Island Provincial Parks, MB Graystokes Provincial Park, BC Great Bear Rainforest, BC Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, Marine Conservation Area & Haida Heritage Site, BC Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park, MB Hisnit/Power River Watershed Protected Area, BC Huchsduwachsdu Nuyem Jees/Kitlope Heritage Conservancy, BC Incomappleux Conservancy, BC Jedediah Island Marine Provincial Park, BC Kakwa Provincial Park, BC Kaskatmagan WMA & Sipi WMA Protected Areas, MB Khutzeymateen/K'tzim-a-deen Grizzly Sanctuary Provincial Park, BC Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy, BC Kilnse-za/Twin Sisters Park (expansion), BC Koeye Conservancy, BC Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve, BC Lower Tsitika River Provincial Park, BC Manigotagan River Provincial Park, MB

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park, BC Atikaki Provincial Wilderness Park, MB

Maplewood Flats Conservation Area, BC Megin/Talbot Valley (Strathcona Provincial Park), BC Mkwal'ts Conservancy, BC Nasparti Valley (Mquqwin/Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park), BC Niagara Valley (Cariboo Mountains Provincial Park), BC Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park, BC Nueltin Lake and Colvin Lake Provincial Parks, MB Pimachiowin Aki UNESCO World Heritage Site, MB/ON Pinecone Burke Provincial Park, BC Qat'muk Indigenous Protected & Conserved Area, BC Say Nuth Khaw Yum Provincial Park (Indian Arm), BC Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt, BC Skagit Valley Provincial Park, BC Snowy Protected Area, BC Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park, BC South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park, BC Spipiyus Provincial Park (Caren Range), BC Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, BC Stikine River Provincial Park, BC Sturgeon Bay Park Reserve (expansion), MB Surrey Bend Regional Park, BC S×ótsagel/Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park, BC Tahsish-Kwois Provincial Park, BC Taku River/T'akú Tlatsini Conservancy, BC Tatshenshini-Alsek Park, BC Tetrahedron Provincial Park, BC Ts'il?os Provincial Park, BC Turtle Mountain Provincial Park, MB Upper Elaho Valley, Callaghan & Upper Soo Conservancies, BC Upper Lillooet Provincial Park, BC Valhalla Provincial Park, BC

West Arm Provincial Park, BC



#### PEOPLE POWERED WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

Founded in 1980, the Wilderness Committee has around 60,000 supporters and volunteers from coast to coast to coast. We've helped gain protection for over 66 major wilderness areas in Canada, including millions of hectares of critical wildlife habitats and some of the world's last large tracts of old-growth temperate rainforest and boreal forest.

But much remains to be done.

Join us. Your gift defends nature in Canada.

#### WildernessCommittee.org/Support

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