

An aerial photograph of a moose wading through a river. The moose is in the center-right of the frame, moving from the grassy bank into the water. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. The banks are covered in tall, vibrant green grass. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Annual Report $\frac{2021}{2022}$

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 **CPAWS**
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER



Executive Reflection

As I look back on my year leading CPAWS-BC, I find myself reflecting on the power of time in conservation.

I know we all share a sense of urgency to act, to do something now in the face of the continued loss of Nature, which we, plants, and animals rely on in order to thrive. Unfortunately, our shared urgency is often at odds with the way our work gets done. Campaigns for Nature, parks, and protections tend to be slow-moving. They're governed by processes that can take years or even decades longer than we like.

Our sense of urgency is also at odds with the pace at which lands and people both need to heal. From the Māori of New Zealand, I learned to plan for a generation rather than a few years. We must look far into the future and imagine the impacts of what we say and do, or don't do, today.

This is the work that you're doing with us to protect lands and waters. It's the work of generations, not months or years. We all need this, regardless of whether you are someone who goes out into nature or lives in a city.

In recent years, CPAWS-BC has learned a lot about how to work in allyship and as partners in conservation. I hope that I've helped our team go further down this path more effectively. Nurturing trusting relationships and engaging diverse perspectives in meaningful consultation requires us to embrace a deliberate slowness in our work.

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There's a growing understanding of the need to weave science and storytelling together to protect both nature and people, so we can adapt and thrive in a changing world. The actions we make for Nature now will set the course for the next 30 years, so we need to be thinking 30 years (*a generation*) ahead as well.

We're following the leadership of Indigenous Nations, who have long-held connections to the lands and waters where we all live, work and play. We're grateful for the vision of the Kaska Dena as they work to establish Dene K'éh Kusān, a four million hectare Indigenous Protected and Conserved area of sweeping wilderness: wild rivers, stretches of alpine, canyons, freshwater lakes.

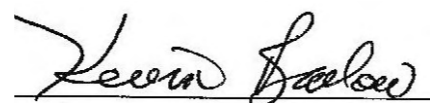
We're indebted to coastal First Nations for their role in seeking the establishment of a network of marine protected areas along the coast to add further protections to our ocean. We look toward partners in the Okanagan, the north, and all

along the coast with gratitude and respect for sharing their wisdom with us, for the good of all life on earth.

And I raise my hands in gratitude to each of you as well. Funders, donors, and supporters like you are critical in our ability to pursue this patient, powerful work. Some of you have been with us since the beginning; thank you for sticking with us. We couldn't do this work without you! If you're newer here, welcome, and thank you for joining our incredible family of Nature-lovers and advocates.

Though my time with CPAWS-BC is now nearing its end as I will soon move onto another chapter of my life, I will be forever grateful for the time I've spent working with the incredible team of staff, partners, funders, and donors. I know our shared resolve and our commitment to protecting lands and waters has not and will not waiver. And I know the future is in good hands.

Together, we can safeguard the places we all love.



Kevin Barlow
Executive Director, CPAWS-BC

Note from Catarina Moreno, Board President:

Kevin served as our Executive Director on an interim basis from September 2021 through September 2022. He provided invaluable support for our team during this period of transition, and we are grateful for his leadership. I know the lessons he shared with our staff and board will stay with each of us as we continue to evolve and grow our understanding of the role conservation must play in reconciliation and decolonization.

Our organization is in a period of change and growth, similar to those experienced by the natural systems we are working so hard to protect. These times can be challenging, but also transformative. I am eager to see what we can do together as we continue to build resilience and strength within ourselves, our team, and of course the wild and beautiful places that make our home so special.

Yours in conservation,



Catarina Moreno
President, CPAWS-BC Board of Directors

Conservation Snapshot



-  **+1300**
individuals made gifts for nature this year
-  **+3000**
actions in support of lands and waters
-  **+100**
media stories put nature in the spotlight

Stellar sea lion PHOTO: MARKUS THOMPSON THALASSIA ENVIRONMENTAL

Welcoming Indigenous-led Protected Areas



**Wilp Wii Litsxw
Meziadin IPCA**



**Tenh Dzetele
Conservancy
(Ice Mountain)**



**Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala 1
(Lull Bay/Hoeya Sound)
IPCA**

PHOTO (from left): Adam Combs, Adam Combs, Markus Thompson @ Thalassia Environmental

To read more conservation highlights and stories from this year, visit:
cpawsbc.org/media-centre

Your Voice for Nature

The need to protect Nature now for our collective future well-being is becoming more universally accepted.

Indigenous Nations are already leading efforts on the ground toward a conservation vision that will protect 25% by 2025 on the path to reaching 30% by 2030, and our decision makers are taking concrete steps to protect lands and waters. Here's a sample of what we achieved last year together.

You called for...

Conservation win:

Investing in **Nature-based solutions** for economic recovery, climate action plans and healthy future

Canada announces an historic **\$3 billion investment over five years for Protected and Conserved Areas**, Indigenous Guardian programs, and other initiatives that safeguard nature.

Funding for BC's parks including improved infrastructure from trails to toilets, added rangers, and planning and management

BC announces a **+\$80 million boost to upgrade BC's parks** over the next three years. In addition, funding for youth jobs and Indigenous Guardian programs to strengthen cultural and ecological awareness for parks visitors.

Uplifting **Indigenous-wisdom and leadership alongside science-backed solutions** to steer the conservation movement

We celebrate **new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)** including the Tahltan's Tenh Dzetle Conservancy (Ice Mountain Lands) adjacent to Mount Edziza Provincial Park, Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala (Lull Bay/Hoeya Sound) in Mamalilikulla First Nation Territory on the central coast of BC, Wilp Wii Litsxw Meziadin Indigenous Protected Area in Gitanyow Territory and others that will protect ecological and cultural values for future generations.

Tahltan Territory PHOTO: ADAM COMBS

Biodiversity Hotspots

British Columbians have been confronted with impacts of climate change head on. In 2021, a summer heat dome had us all sweating as we got a taste of a world with rising temperatures. Wildfires devastated whole communities, and left only charred forest slopes in their wake. An atmospheric river swelled streams, flooded roads and farmlands, and carved new riverbanks through old valleys.

Nature-based solutions are becoming a central strategy to create a livable future: supporting healthy communities, climate change, and thriving economies. Your unwavering support over decades is moving the needle for protection of biodiversity hot spots across BC.

You called for... Conservation win:

Protection for the **Skagit Donut Hole**, a patch of wilderness between Skagit Valley and E.C. Manning provincial parks



In a new agreement between the BC Government, Imperial Metals, and our partner the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) will **Imperial Metals give up its mining rights to the area** (the Silverdaisy watershed), providing an opportunity for its protection.

Protection for all living **glass sponge reefs** in Átl'ka7sem/ Howe Sound



Fishing closures were implemented for all remaining unprotected glass sponge reefs. The closures prohibit bottom contact fishing such as trawling and prawn trapping from destroying these ancient reef systems.

Coordinated strategy of laws and policies to support a **healthy BC coast**



BC announces **new Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship**. This will include oversight of coasts, lands, rivers and mountains facing cumulative impacts from economic activity.





PHOTO: CARTER KIRILENKO

Weaving Story and Science

First Nations, conservation groups and community members have sounded the alarm of poor quality lands and ocean protection in Canada for years.

In order to protect enough wilderness to sustain us all, we must follow the leadership of Indigenous Peoples. Guided by our Indigenous partners, we will bring together both Indigenous knowledge, western science, and cultural values so that healthy lands and waters can support whole communities to thrive.

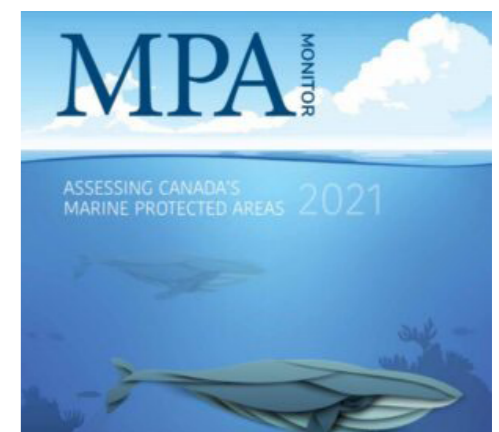
Our vision for healthy lands and water is backed by intergenerational stories and science.

Highlights from the past year include:

The new **Salmon Parks documentary** shares a vision led by NTC to protect wild-salmon-bearing streams in Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island. The film made a splash at BC Culture Days, Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival and community screenings across the province. [Watch the documentary.](#)



The MPA Monitor: Assessing Canada's Marine Protected Areas, a CPAWS report, shows that BC has the tools in place to implement Canada's minimum standards to effectively conserve ocean life. Modeling new and existing MPAs after effective protections will set BC and Canada on course for strong protections from Vancouver Island and along the North and Central Coasts. [Read the Report.](#)



A joint report with Ecojustice exposes troubling flaws in BC's accounting for its protected and conserved areas. **An Honest Accounting: Improving BC's Approach to Claiming Other Conserved Areas** cautions that the BC government is counting an extra four per cent as protected, when it's actually still open to industry threats. [Read the Report.](#)



Financial Picture

Statement of Financial Position

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 768,112	\$ 776,417
Accounts receivable	102,037	17,152
Marketable securities	434,403	382,140
Prepaid expense	8,647	14,114
Due from National Office	600,000	600,000
	1,913,199	1,789,823
Investments	96,000	96,000
Capital assets	7,636	3,648
	\$ 2,016,835	\$ 1,889,471

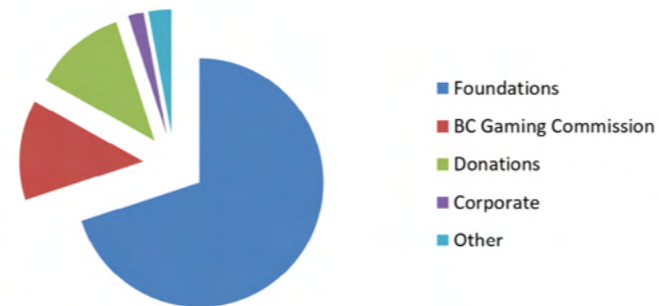
LIABILITIES

Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 69,017	\$ 33,939
Deferred revenue	1,224,317	1,184,179
	1,293,334	1,218,118
Deferred capital contributions	7,636	3,648
	1,300,970	1,221,766

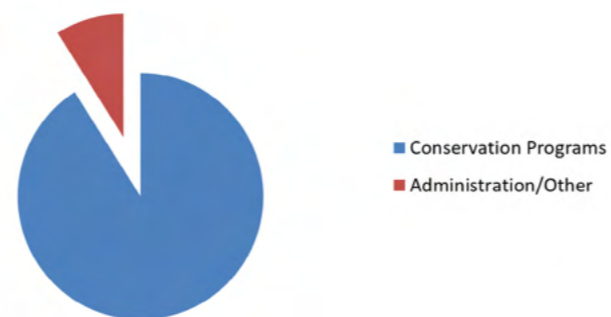
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	277,646	274,956
Internally restricted	438,219	392,749
	715,865	667,705
	\$ 2,016,835	\$ 1,889,471

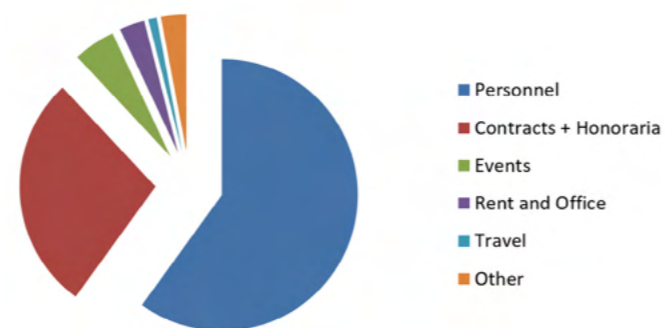
How CPAWS-BC is funded



Your gifts at work



Conservation program



To learn more and view CPAWS-BC Audited Financial Statements, visit: cpawsbc.org/financial-picture



Thank You

Thank you to our community of members, partners and staff, volunteers and more.

Funding Partners

Arc'teryx
Alan & Gill Gray Foundation
BC Gaming Commission
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
JB Doherty Family Foundation
Makeway Foundation
Sitka Foundation

T/GEAR Foundation
The Conservation Alliance
The Pew Charitable Trust
Vancouver Foundation
Westcoast Wills & Estates
Wilburforce Foundation



Defending the Great Bear Sea

Canada's first Network of Marine Protected Areas in the Great Bear Sea on the North and Central coasts of BC. [Learn more.](#)

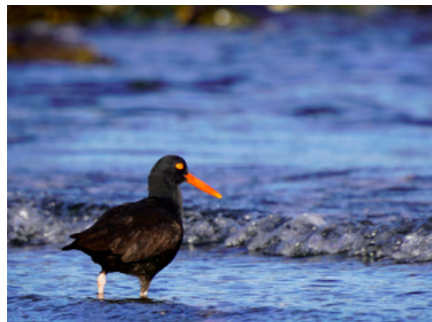
Photo: Markus Thompson @ Thalassia Environmental



Dene K'éh Kusān

Dene K'éh Kusān proposed Indigenous Protected Area in northern BC within ancestral Kaska Dena Territory. [Learn more.](#)

Photo: Adam Combs



Creating a Blueprint for the Coast

BC needs a coastal strategy with laws and policies to achieve these goals. [Learn more.](#)

Learn more about the lands and water we're defending together:
cpawsbc.org/campaigns



Whisky Point marine life PHOTO: MARKUS THOMPSON THALASSIA ENVIRONMENTAL



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