

CPAWS-BC
**IMPACT
REPORT**
2023-2024



Chief Bill Williams of the Squamish First Nation at the opening night of *Precipice*.

"Conservation, Indigenous-led conservation, is my most profound hope for how we build back resiliency. We allow the earth to heal itself. How we restore the watersheds that have become so damaged from the extraction and become stewards."

- Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship during *Precipice*, 2023

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Our office is located on the unceded territory of the sə́lílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.



EXECUTIVE REFLECTION

Stewarding Hope: Reflections on a Year of Conservation and Collaboration

When we reflect on this past year, a moment from September 2023 stands out vividly. During a panel discussion hosted by CPAWS-BC, Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, spoke words that deeply resonated: "Conservation, Indigenous-led conservation, is my most profound hope for how we build back resiliency. We allow the earth to heal itself. How we restore the watersheds that have become so damaged from the extraction and become stewards."

Those words struck a chord, encapsulating the essence of our work at CPAWS-BC. They remind us of the profound hope that fuels our efforts every day—the hope that through our collective actions, we can heal the wounds of the past and build a resilient future where Nature and people thrive together.

This year has been a journey of healing, hope, and profound change. Just two months after that panel, the provincial government announced a \$300 million nature fund dedicated to supporting Indigenous-led conservation in BC. This was not just another funding announcement; it was a powerful recognition of the central role that Indigenous communities play in stewarding their lands—a recognition that has been long overdue.

Then came the historic Trilateral Framework Agreement for Nature Conservation, a landmark moment that saw the federal and provincial governments committing \$500 million each to protect BC's natural beauty. This was not just an agreement on paper; it was a promise—a commitment to honour the deep connection that Indigenous peoples have with these lands and to work together to safeguard the ecosystems that sustain us all.



These milestones are deeply aligned with the heartbeat of CPAWS-BC. They are the result of years of advocacy, collaboration, and, at times, difficult conversations. But it is in these challenging moments that our strength and purpose shine brightest. This year, our team has been invited into many exciting spaces to collaborate on solutions, thanks to the trust we've built with Indigenous partners and stakeholders.

As we look to the future, we are filled with hope and anticipation. CPAWS-BC is well-positioned to continue its vital work, protecting the natural beauty and biodiversity of British Columbia. We are ready to deepen our partnerships, particularly with Indigenous communities, and to advocate fiercely for policies that prioritize the health of our ecosystems and the resilience of our society.

In the coming year, we are focused on several key initiatives, including expanding our work in marine conservation and launching new projects that directly support Indigenous-led conservation efforts. We are also committed to continuing our pilot of the four-day work week, a reflection of our belief that sustainability must extend to our team as well as the natural world.

None of this progress would have been possible without the generosity of our members, donors, and funders like you. Your belief in our mission fuels our efforts, and together, we are making a lasting impact on the landscapes we cherish. As we move forward, we invite you to deepen your involvement with CPAWS-BC. Whether through a donation, volunteering, or simply spreading the word about our work, your support is crucial to our continued success.

Thank you for being on this journey with us. We can't wait to see what we accomplish in the coming year—
together.

Yours in conservation,



Meaghen McCord
CPAWS-BC Executive Director



Catarina Moreno
Chair and President, Board of Directors



Historic conservation agreement in BC

CONSERVATION INVESTMENTS

01

New \$300M BC Conservation Fund

The Conservation and Stewardship Alliance Fund will help the province deliver on its commitment to protect biodiversity in BC and, in partnership with First Nations, will set nature on a path to recovery by 2050.

02

New Trilateral Framework Agreement with \$1B investment

A historic Trilateral Framework Agreement for Nature Conservation set the stage for significant action to beat back the biodiversity crisis and advance a new model of leadership to advance conservation in BC.

03

\$60M for Great Bear Sea shows ongoing collaboration

The funding will support ongoing work, including the Great Bear Sea Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network– a process started over a decade ago between Indigenous Nations, BC, and Canada.

**CPAWS-BC 'S
YEAR BY THE
NUMBERS**

100+
mentions in the
media

1,400+
emails to
government

230+
letters sent to
the editor



Precipice: Changing the Course of the Extinction Crisis in BC

OUR WORK

We are in the midst of a planetary health crisis, where the diversity and resilience of species and ecosystems across the earth are plummeting. The role that CPAWS-BC plays in turning the tide on the extinction crisis is to advocate for safe havens for wildlife. Through connected and effectively protected areas that centre the rights and responsibilities of First Nations, we can also improve community well-being and mitigate local impacts of climate change. This past year, we saw governments work together to make bold commitments to nature conservation thanks to continued public pressure, historic collaboration and the leadership of First Nations working to protect their traditional territories.

Precipice: Changing the Course of the Extinction Crisis in BC

CPAWS-BC hosted *Precipice*, an art exhibition that told powerful stories of biodiversity loss and hope in British Columbia. This event brought together artists, biologists, and activists to engage the community in conversations about biodiversity. The exhibition attracted hundreds of visitors, providing them with a deeper understanding of the biodiversity crisis.

Minister Cullen participated in a 30x30 panel, making significant statements that highlighted the urgency of conservation efforts. With coverage on CBC Radio, *Precipice's* impact was amplified, reaching thousands more British Columbians and raising awareness of the urgent need to protect Nature.

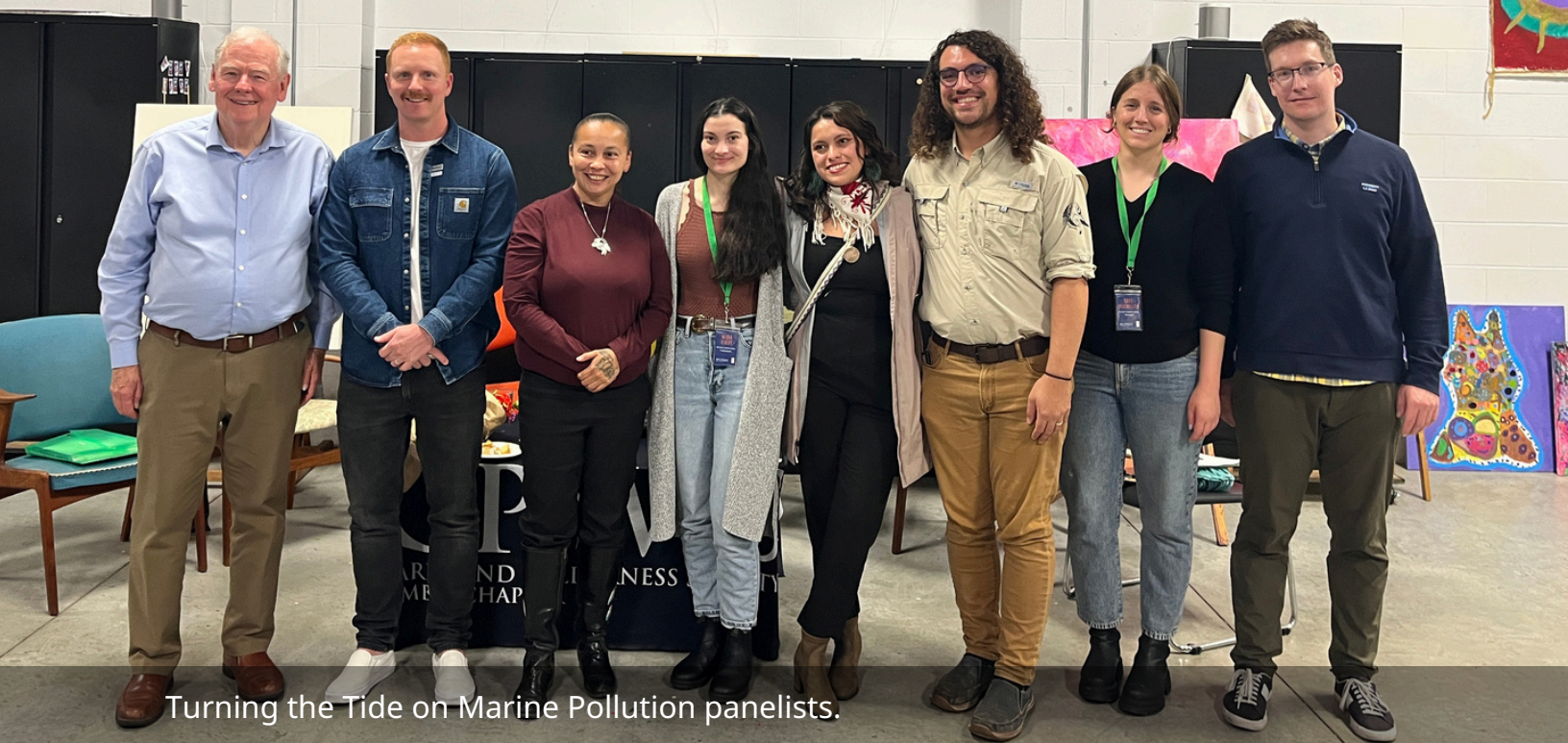
Fish, Wildlife & Habitat Coalition: Working Across Differences

CPAWS-BC is a founding and integral member of the Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Coalition, a diverse group of 27 businesses, associations, and organizations. This coalition unites interests from fishing, trapping, hunting, guide outfitting, recreation, tourism, and conservation sectors to emphasize the importance of protecting habitats for fish and wildlife.

CPAWS-BC took the lead in organizing a coalition reception in Victoria for elected representatives from all parties. The event highlighted the coalition's key policy priorities, including:

- Enacting a Biodiversity Law that prioritizes ecosystem health and the protection of species at risk;
- Developing a clear process to advance Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, supporting Indigenous-led conservation efforts; and
- Increasing funding for the protection and restoration of wildlife habitats.

Through this collective effort, the coalition has successfully elevated the urgency and visibility of these critical issues within the government and broader public.



Turning the Tide on Marine Pollution panelists.

OUR WORK

Blueprint for the Coast

Unlike most coastal jurisdictions in North America, BC had no existing coastal strategy or law to direct its coastal management. The array of provincial policies and legislation that addressed marine and coastal issues were not designed to deal with the current pressures of climate change, development, and user conflicts.

- CPAWS-BC led the submission of a feedback letter with 19 NGOs for public consultation on the Coastal Marine Strategy Policy Intention's Paper.
- CPAWS-BC facilitated the panel Turning the Tide on Marine Pollution as well as multiple webinars with representation from the BC Government, demonstrating the positive relationship that CPAWS-BC holds, and continues to develop, with the province.

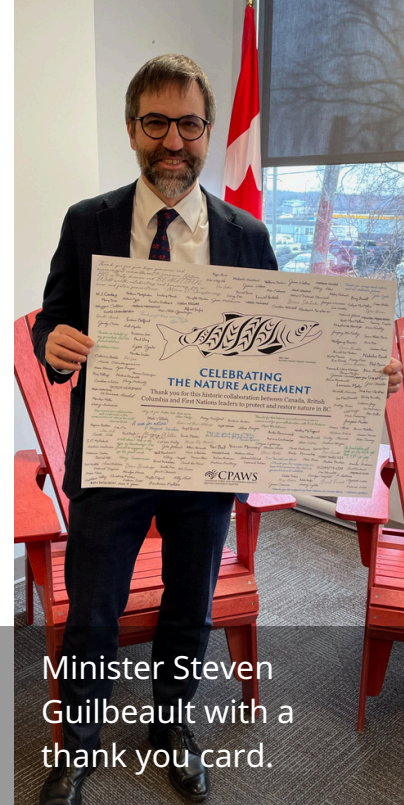
Great Bear Sea Marine Protected Area Network

The Great Bear Sea (Northern Shelf Bioregion) is located off the North and Central Coasts of BC, from Haida Gwaii along the coast of Northern Vancouver Island. For over a decade, 17 First Nations in partnership with the federal and provincial governments, have been working together to create Canada's first network of marine protected areas here.

- CPAWS-BC released strategic communications to counter misinformation and grow support.
- CPAWS-BC launched a communications plan to educate the public about each site within the network.
- CPAWS-BC celebrated the announcement by BC to contribute \$60M towards the Great Bear Sea.
- CPAWS-BC raised awareness about the importance of MPAs through media interviews.



CPAWS-BC's Tori Ball (centre) celebrates the Nature Agreement with, from left to right, Minister George Heyman, Hugh Braker of the First Nations Summit, Minister Josie Osborne and Minister Nathan Cullen.



Minister Steven Guilbeault with a thank you card.

OUR WORK

Protecting 30% by 2030 in partnership with First Nations

Protecting 30% of lands and waters is critical in halting the biodiversity crisis in BC. CPAWS-BC led and participated in multiple efforts to get closer to this goal.

- CPAWS-BC coordinated a joint, open letter to Premier Eby and two Ministers applauding them for using interim measures to halt mineral claim registrations and mining activities.
- CPAWS-BC supported the Lower Similkameen and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations with provincial and federal government relations to advance Indigenous-led conservation.
- CPAWS-BC has led a coordinated lobbying effort to secure a strong Nature Agreement with the inclusion of First Nations, were invited for both major announcements and held a celebration for the Nature Agreement with representatives from the BC government, First Nations Leadership Council, Federal government, and ENGO partners and a giant thank you card signed by supporters.

Keeping Protected Areas Protected

CPAWS-BC released a new report, *Felling Short: British Columbia's Old Growth Management Areas Falling Short on Protecting Old Growth Forests*. The report found that areas the BC government counts as 'protected' and uses to conserve biodiverse old-growth forests do not meet conservation standards and contain little old growth.

- It received wide-spread media coverage including CBC, Glacier, Black Press and the Narwhal.
- Hundreds of supporters emailed the government to demand action.
- Government invited CPAWS-BC to discuss the findings and recommendations.



False Creek Friends Society Boat Tour



OUR WORK

Collaboration, Partnerships & Outreach

CPAWS-BC cannot achieve its goals in isolation. Collaborating with partners and other ENGOs is key to achieving the desired outcomes.

- CPAWS-BC partnered with West Coast Environmental Law, David Suzuki Foundation, Pacific Wild, and WWF-Canada to support Indigenous-led marine conservation initiatives.
- CPAWS-BC joined False Creek Friends Society for a boat ride around the waters of sən'a?q w (hən'q'emin'am') / Sen'ákw (Skwxwú7mesh), colonially referred to as False Creek.
- We presented a Northeast Pacific Deep-sea Exploration Project ship-to-shore presentation highlighting new discoveries in the then-proposed Tang.əwan – ɬačxwíqak – Tsígis Marine Protected Area.

Southern Strait of Georgia

Over the past year, CPAWS-BC has been building support for a Marine Protected Area in the Southern Strait of Georgia through outreach and presentations in local communities in partnership with other ENGOs.

- CPAWS-BC supported marine planning and conservation for the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council through in-kind staff time and GIS expertise.
- CPAWS-BC worked with the Georgia Strait Alliance to coordinate a coalition advocating for the protection of the waters and ecosystems across the Gulf Islands.

OUR OPERATIONS

Young Leaders In Conservation

Young people are often excluded from accessing the resources, skills and opportunities to shape environmental policy. That's why we're backing youth. This program is an opportunity for youth to connect with others who care for nature and learn how to make an impact.

- A new Youth Engagement Coordinator was hired to re-launch the Young Leaders In Conservation Program.
- CPAWS-BC has been preparing to relaunch the program in 2024 with opportunities for youth to learn and connect as well as participate in the election.

Organizational Restructure

CPAWS-BC has focused on empowering conservation through clarity, growth, and leadership.

- Strategic Restructuring for Growth: We have implemented a strategic restructuring to clearly define roles and responsibilities, enabling team expansion and fostering personal development. This new structure is key to driving our conservation mission forward.
- Enhanced Leadership Roles: We've created Conservation Program Director positions for Lands & Freshwater and Ocean programs, as well as an Operations Director, to lead focused efforts and streamline operations, significantly boosting our impact.

Communications Department

CPAWS-BC previously operated without a dedicated communications department, leading to gaps in critical skills and consistency, which affected the reach and impact of our initiatives.

- CPAWS-BC has established a Communications Department that collaborates closely with our conservation teams. This new department is enhancing the effectiveness and consistency of our campaigns, significantly amplifying our impact and ensuring that our conservation message reaches and resonates with a broader audience.

Pilot 4-Day-Work-Week

CPAWS-BC is dedicated to staying at the forefront of conservation. This commitment extends to leading an organization that prioritizes a people-centred work environment—one that values human well-being alongside our conservation successes.

- To honour our team's hard work and promote a healthy work-life balance, CPAWS-BC has implemented a 4-Day Work Week. This initiative reflects our belief that prioritizing people and professional success go hand in hand.
- This change is designed to inspire and energize our team, reinforcing our collective commitment to our mission.
- We are closely monitoring this transition, ensuring that our focus on staff health and well-being complements, rather than compromises, our conservation impact.

FINANCIAL PICTURE

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 550,984	\$ 301,323
Investments	419,874	404,698
Accounts receivable	18,875	31,312
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,786	20,029
	992,519	757,362
Internally restricted marketable securities	364,214	384,840
Investments	97,714	96,625
Contributions receivable from National Office	591,269	554,246
Capital assets	8,962	7,444
Total Assets	\$ 2,054,678	\$ 1,800,517

Liabilities

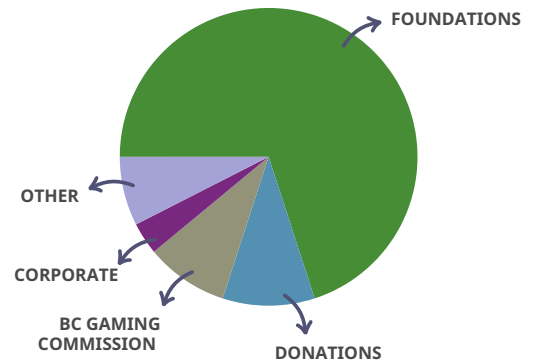
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 54,556	\$ 54,965
Deferred revenue – current portion	720,450	496,683
	775,006	551,648
Deferred revenue	591,269	554,246
Deferred capital contributions	8,962	7,444
	1,375,237	1,113,338

Net Assets

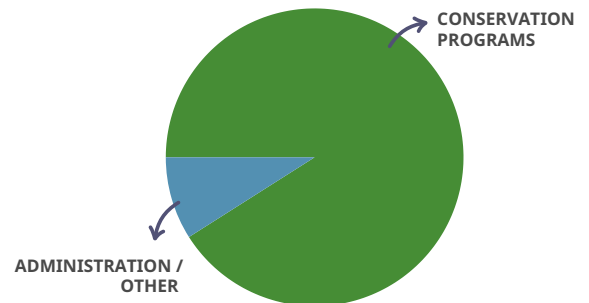
Unrestricted	308,556	300,747
Internally restricted	370,885	386,432
	679,441	687,179
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 2,054,678	\$ 1,800,517

[For more details, view our Audited Financial Statement.](#)

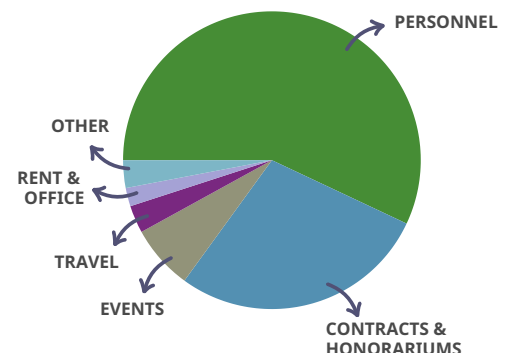
How CPAWS-BC is funded



Your gifts at work



Conservation Program



THANK YOU

We could not have done this important work without our supporters, including our members, partners, staff, board members and funders.

We'd like to extend special thanks to our funding partners:

- Alan & Gill Gray Foundation
- Allan and Cynthia Arnold Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation
- BC Gaming Commission
- Brian and Norma Sagar Fund for the Environment and Animal Welfare, held at Vancouver Foundation
- ECO Canada
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- National Audubon Society
- Patrick and Kimberly McVeigh Fund
- The Pew Charitable Trust
- Robert and Jennifer Sadee Fund, at Calgary Foundation
- Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation
- Schaffer-Marel Giving Fund, held at Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
- Sitka Foundation
- T/GEAR Foundation
- Vancouver Foundation
- Walker and Weller Family Foundation
- Wilburforce Foundation





**WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE
MORE PROTECTION
IN 2024-2025!**