

CPAWS-BC

IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To our supporters, donors and funders,

I'm delighted to be sharing this Impact Report with you, highlighting the incredible progress we made toward safeguarding lands, freshwater, and the ocean last year thanks to your steadfast support.

Thirteen months ago, I couldn't imagine that I'd be writing this letter to you today. Almost exactly 12 months ago, I stepped into the Executive Director role unexpectedly, and it's been the joy and privilege of my career to lead the incredible team at CPAWS-BC this past year. As the ground shifts under our feet, we've simply laced our boots a bit tighter and kept at the work of advocating for permanent, robust protection for the natural places that we all love.

Last year, your support enabled us to play a leadership role in a coalition of 29 wildlife, conservation and outdoor organizations, shaping the narrative for decision makers and reminding them that habitat protection matters to all British Columbians. We partnered with legal experts to ensure that the government heard clearly that BC needs a Coastal Marine Strategy and law to safeguard coastal waters. Our team brought together hundreds of people in six different cities from Prince George to Sidney to hear about Nature and the climate directly from candidates before the provincial election. Together, we celebrated the largest provincial park expansion in a decade, which protects critical Southern Mountain Caribou habitat, and the establishment of a massive new Marine Protected Area that safeguards rare and fragile deep-sea ecosystems.

All of this is possible thanks to the generosity of our donors, funders and partners, the dedication of our Board of Directors, and the efforts of our incredible staff team. Your combined passion and commitment gives me hope for a wild future.

Since last October, three elections have reshaped how our governments are operating and therefore how they're prioritizing Nature — and how they're *not*. The ground continues to shift, and we continue to chart a course forward, one that includes protecting clean water, critical habitats, and the unique and beautiful places that make British Columbia such a remarkable place to live, work and play.

I hope reading this report will leave you inspired, hopeful, and full of resolve. That's exactly how I feel each day I come to work with my remarkable colleagues at CPAWS-BC.

In deep gratitude,

Sarah McNeil





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRS

Dear CPAWS-BC donors, funders and supporters,

Over the past year, we've had the honour of serving as Co-Chairs of the Board of Directors - a responsibility we've embraced with commitment and resolve. As the biodiversity and climate crises intensify across British Columbia, Canada, and the globe, the role of CPAWS-BC has never been more vital. We are proud to be part of an organization that is holding the line for nature, while also pushing it forward.

Thanks to your unwavering support, we've made a meaningful impact for lands, freshwater and the ocean and the communities who steward, rely on, and are deeply connected to these ecosystems. Your support is making a difference - not just for today, but for our children and grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

With that future in mind, we re-launched our Young Leaders in Conservation Program last year, welcoming 50 youth from across the province in two dynamic cohorts. Through a curriculum rooted in conservation, storytelling and advocacy, these young leaders learned how to raise their voices and mobilized their communities on behalf of Nature.

We also saw the establishment of a new Marine Protected Area off the west coast of Vancouver Island, the expansion of a provincial park to safeguard caribou habitat, and continued commitments from all levels of government to protect 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030.

This is the impact you have when you support CPAWS-BC. Every dollar is invested in the future, whether it's speaking up for imperiled species and ecosystems through community engagement, supporting the conservation visions of the Indigenous peoples who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial, or delivering a clear message to decision-makers that a strong economy cannot exist without a healthy environment, we're looking ahead.

Our shared work is more important than ever. Species on the brink of extinction, record heat and devastating droughts, fires, and floods are the backdrop for a renewed push to build more infrastructure, more mines, and other new development projects that are proposed. With you by our side, we will work to ensure that the government doesn't discount Nature in their plans.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your continued support.

Huda Al-Saedy & Pradnya Sawant
Co-Chairs, CPAWS-BC Board of Directors





Caribou. Photo: Wayne Sawchuk



Hydrothermal vents in ThT.
Photo: DFO Canada

NEW PROTECTIONS ON LAND AND SEA

Klinse-Za / Twin Sister Park Expansion

In June 2024, we celebrated the largest park expansion in a decade in British Columbia. The 170,000 hectare expansion of Klinse-Za Park is about five times the park's current size, and stemmed from a 2020 Partnership Agreement between the federal and provincial governments and West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations. The agreement established conservation commitments for endangered Southern Mountain Caribou, and the expansion is intended to protect habitat and foods for caribou in northeastern BC, as well as cultural sites.

This expansion is a testament to the leadership of the West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations, and their perseverance in securing a future for caribou. It's also an example of the types of conservation that are possible when governments work together with First Nations to safeguard biodiversity. Working toward the goal of protecting 30 percent of lands and freshwater by 2030 benefits us all.

Tang.ḡwan – ḡačxwiqak – Tsigis Marine Protected Area

In July 2024, the country's newest Marine Protected Area, Tang.ḡwan – ḡačxwiqak – Tsigis (also known as ThT), was announced by the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, the Council of the Haida Nation, Pacheedaht First Nation, Quatsino First Nation and the federal government. CPAWS-BC began campaigning for the protection of this deep-sea oasis in 2017, and we were thrilled to celebrate the permanent protection of rare seamounts and hydrothermal vents — ecological hotspots that are home to an array of wildlife, including species found nowhere else in the world.

The new MPA protects more than 130,000 square kilometres of the ocean about 150 kilometres west of Vancouver Island. The collaborative establishment and management of Tang.ḡwan – ḡačxwiqak – Tsigis by First Nations and Canada is another example of the exceptional vision and leadership of Indigenous peoples in conservation across the province.



Celebrating BC's Coastal Marine Strategy.

BC GETS A COASTAL MARINE STRATEGY

Blueprint for the Coast

For years, BC stood as one of the only jurisdictions in North America with 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.

In 2018, alongside partner West Coast Environmental Law, CPAWS-BC launched a campaign to create a Blueprint for the Coast. Over the last six years, we've been connecting with coastal communities, governments and other environmental non-governmental organizations to advocate for the implementing an effective, long-term Coastal Marine Strategy. In June 2024, we delivered more than 400 postcards from supporters in support of a Coastal Marine Strategy to the Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Kelley Greene.

Coastal Marine Strategy Announcement and Celebration

In July 2024, the Province of BC released its first-ever Coastal Marine Strategy. The 20-year plan, co-developed by First Nations and the BC government with input from the public and coastal stakeholders, lays out actions to ensure coastal areas remain healthy and resilient to climate change and can support community well-being and a sustainable ocean economy well into the future.

- Following the release, more than 500 messages of thanks were sent by CPAWS-BC supporters to Premier Eby, Minister Cullen, and Parliamentary Secretary Greene.
- CPAWS-BC was featured in multiple media and releases, including as a key validator in the provincial government release and as an expert in the National Observer.
- With partners West Coast Environmental Law and Ocean Legacy, we hosted a celebration for the release of the Coastal Marine Strategy, with guests including the First Nations Fisheries Council, Parliamentary Secretary Greene, and Indigenous youth.
- In February of 2025, the District of Saanich and the City of Langford both voted unanimously in favour of pushing the BC government to enshrine the strategy into law — and we'll be at the Union of BC Municipalities later in 2025 to see a resolution on CMS put to a vote!



Community events in support of Lower Similkameen Indian Band.



Minister Guilbeault, Tori Ball, Kate MacMillan and Patrick Weiler.

PROGRESS REPORT: 30x30

Protecting 30% of lands, freshwater and ocean by 2030

Protecting 30% of lands and freshwater by 2030 (30x30) is globally recognized and significant goal in order to halt the biodiversity crisis in BC. CPAWS-BC played a key role in securing the province's commitment to 30x30 in 2021, and continues to lead advocacy and coalition efforts.

- In May of 2024, CPAWS-BC organized and co-hosted two public events to support Lower Similkameen Indian Band's conservation priorities, the Ashnola sməłqmíx Protected Area, and the proposed South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Reserve. More than 50 people attended a traditional materials art build with Indigenous artist collective ULLUS, and a land tour with Indigenous knowledge holders.
- In July of 2024, we attended the celebration of a \$50M investment for major conservation projects alongside Minister of Environment and Climate Change Stephen Guilbeault and MP Patrick Weiler.
- In September 2024, CPAWS-BC created and shared a suite of resources for supporters to engage with their local candidates on issues of biodiversity, protected areas, and the Coastal Marine Strategy.

Townhalls for Nature and Climate

In September and October 2024, CPAWS-BC organized and co-hosted six townhalls on Nature and climate in advance of the 2024 provincial election.

- Townhalls were held in Sidney, Vancouver, Squamish, Kamloops, Golden and Prince George.
- Candidates from all three major parties came out to answer questions about Nature and climate change prepared by youth and members of the local community.
- Nearly 500 people attended in person and more than 100 people attended online.

On the Path to 2030: A Report Card

In March of 2025, CPAWS-BC shared in the release of CPAWS National's report card on progress to protect land and ocean across Canada. We released a provincial fact sheet and summary, and shared the report with partners and government, as well as the media. Executive Director Sarah McNeil did three radio interviews and was quoted in syndicated local media across the province.



YLICIP participants. Photos: Mike Crane

YOUNG LEADERS IN CONSERVATION

Empowering and Uplifting Youth Voices

In August 2024, after months of planning, CPAWS-BC officially re-launched the Young Leaders in Conservation Program (YLICIP), welcoming a cohort of 25 youth from across the province. A second cohort of 25 youth launched in January 2025. Young Leaders in Conservation provides youth with knowledge, skills and opportunities to advocate for conservation issues in BC, including issues of importance in their home communities. A series of virtual workshops and training are bookended by in-person gatherings to build connections and community. Trainings include:

- The history of conservation in BC (including the colonial history of protected areas);
- Indigenous-led conservation and knowledge;
- How government works;
- Government, community and media relations;
- Strategic campaign planning and management;
- Advocacy and lobbying; and
- Radical self care in the environmental movement.

In their own words...

“CPAWS-BC showed us that anyone can make a difference in conservation as long as they put all their care and passion into it. Although there is no quick and easy answer to our current conservation issues, CPAWS has proven that intentional discussion and collaboration allows us to come closer to a resolution.”

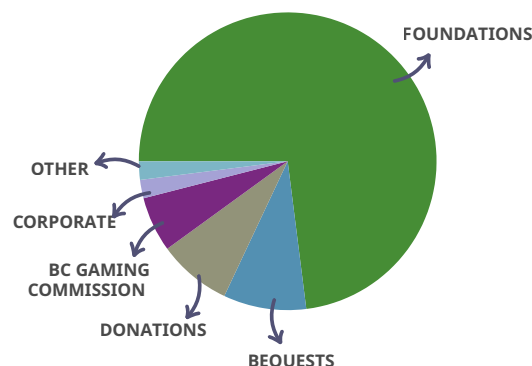
“Learning about CPAWS’ strategy for 30x30 was really interesting; it’s still hard for me to put into words but I gained a lot of understanding of how exactly big, national goals can be tackled. It filled me with hope to get to know everyone and realize there are so many amazing young people doing incredible work in conservation and environment.”

FINANCIAL PICTURE

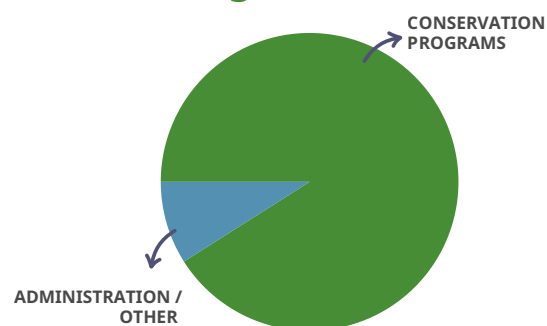
Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2025	2024
Cash and restricted cash	\$ 959,729	\$ 550,984
Term deposits	531,608	419,847
Accounts receivable	171,707	18,875
Prepaid expense and deposits	2,691	2,786
	1,665,735	992,519
Internally restricted marketable securities	400,393	364,214
Term deposits	-	97,714
Contributions receivable from National Office	637,208	591,269
Capital Assets	8,245	8,962
	1,045,846	1,062,159
Total Assets	\$ 2,711,581	\$ 2,054,678
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 78,529	\$ 54,556
Deferred revenue - current portion	1,168,818	720,450
	1,247,347	775,006
Deferred revenue	637,208	591,269
Deferred capital contributions	5,428	8,962
Total Liabilities	1,889,983	1,375,237
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 413,547	\$ 308,556
Internally restricted	408,051	370,885
	821,598	679,441
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 2,711,581	\$ 2,054,678

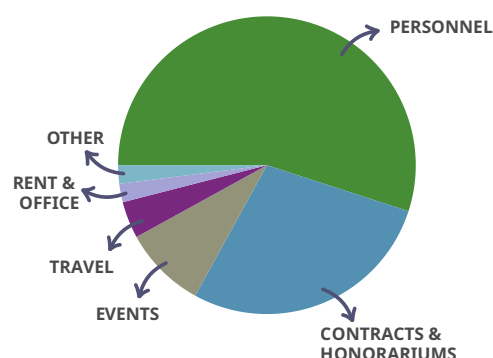
How CPAWS-BC is funded



Your gifts at work



Conservation Program



For more details, you can view our full Audited Financial Statements on our website.

THANK YOU

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

We'd like to extend special thanks to the following funding partners:

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- Environment and Climate Change Canada
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- The Houssian Foundation
- Hummingbird Foundation - Founded by Laurie Kelley and Scott Poole
- Hunter MacLeod Realty Corporation
- National Audubon Society
- Nature Canada
- The Pew Charitable Trust
- Resources Legacy Fund
- Richard and Winnifred Bocking Family Fund, held at Victoria
- Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation
- Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
- Sandra Kamm & Gregory Jones Legacy
- Sitka Foundation
- Small Changes Foundation, held at Vancouver Foundation
- T/GEAR Foundation
- Wepper Family Foundation via Canada Helps
- Wilburforce Foundation



Great Bear Sea. Photo: Markus Thompson