

CPAWS-BC

IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To our supporters, allies, and funders,

As I write this, I am confronted by the paradox of time. This past year has slipped away so quickly that I am consistently surprised that the upcoming season is fall rather than spring. Conversely, I'm deeply aware that conservation happens over time, at a measured pace. We saw significant progress over the year on initiatives that we have been working on for a decade or more — significant progress, but still no establishment of long-sought protected areas.

It's not always easy to talk about this progress, incremental and non-linear as it is. We can't do this work alone but relationship-building, including with Indigenous Nations and partners where trust must rightfully be earned, requires patience. Much of it happens behind-the-scenes, and all of it is done with deep care. Further, as the social, economic, and political winds shift, so too do the budget dollars and subsequent timelines for seeing protection enacted on lands and waters.

We do our best to insulate our work from these outside forces — to create the conditions that make conservation possible — so that we can act decisively when the opportunity presents itself.

We can only do that thanks to your trust and support.

Funders and donors who share our values and give generously even when the odds are stacked against us allow us to keep the right people in place, laying the groundwork for future successes. Supporters, volunteers, and partners who continue to speak up for Nature and take action to protect local lands, water, and wildlife help keep conservation top of mind even when on-the-ground progress is slow. Communities who welcome our team and listen to messages of resilience and hope for a wild future inspire us in the face of ever-growing threats to biodiversity.

The 2025-2026 year was critical to lay the foundation for what I believe will be some of the biggest conservation success stories our province has ever seen. We will have you to thank for that. Thank you for your patience and your resolve as we do this slow, strategic, and significant work together. I am truly thankful for your continued support, and I look forward to celebrating with you in the coming year.

In deep gratitude,

Sarah McNeil

Sarah McNeil



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRS

Dear CPAWS-BC donors, funders and friends,

Each year, we look forward to sharing our Impact Report with you because it's an opportunity to celebrate what we have accomplished together and express our gratitude to everyone who makes our work possible.

This year has brought both significant gains and deep challenges. Together, we saw meaningful progress toward protecting large land and oceanscapes, including in BC's northwest and off the central coast. We brought together young people from across the province to learn and connect, and build the skills needed to become leaders in conservation and civic engagement. We also continued to shape conversations critical to protecting biodiversity and safeguarding the environment for the well-being of us all.

At the same time, we are seeing growing pressure from all levels of government to accelerate economic development, often at the expense of environmental safeguards. Increasingly, we are asked to accept that protecting Nature takes a back seat to short-term growth. At CPAWS-BC, we believe that we can and must do better.

This work can not be done in isolation. Our collective voices are needed to secure protection for the lands and waters that make British Columbia beautiful and unique. Across our programs, we work alongside Nations, governments, partners and volunteers, on behalf of you and all those who are committed to creating healthier, more vibrant ecosystems, communities and economies.

We are deeply grateful to our staff, supporters, and the many organizations and allies who commit themselves so fully to the work of protecting lands and waters with us. And we deeply appreciate you — our donors and funders — whose trust allows us to face the challenges of this work head-on.

In the months to come, the need for strong conservation leadership will only grow. The challenges are significant, but we remain hopeful because of the strength of this community. Time and again, we have seen what can happen when people come together to protect the places and species that cannot speak for themselves.

On behalf of the CPAWS-BC Board of Directors, thank you for standing with us.

Huda Al-Saedy *Pradnya Sawant*

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





CPAWS-BC and West Coast Environmental Law staff alongside Blueprint for the Coast advocates at the 2025 UBCM Convention in Victoria. Photo: CPAWS-BC.

PROTECT THE COAST

Blueprint for the Coast

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. Two years later, progress toward implementing the strategy has stalled, so we partnered with local governments to remind the province that coastal protection is deeply important to British Columbians. We attended the Union for BC Municipalities conference in September 2025, where we met with decision-makers, partners and allies, and had a resolution to legislate the Coastal Marine Strategy championed by the District of Saanich and the City of Langford. The resolution was endorsed by the UBCM Executive, and we continue to work with local and provincial governments on implementation.

No Tankers on the North Coast

Last fall, Canada and Alberta signed an agreement to explore the building of a new pipeline from Alberta to the west coast, including exploring the possibility of providing exemptions from the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act that protects the Pacific north coast. Indigenous communities, the BC government, and environmental organizations immediately opposed the announcement.

- In partnership with CPAWS National, we hosted a webinar with special guest the Honourable Stephen Guilbeault, who resigned his cabinet position in protest of the federal government's climate and Nature decisions
 - Attendees were given tools and messaging to directly voice their opposition for the plan to elected officials, resulting in multiple meetings with MPs in British Columbia
- We provided both public and private support uplifting the messaging of Coastal First Nations and the province and encouraged supporters to sign the North Coast Protection Declaration

This summer, Canada and BC announced an agreement to uphold the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act but Alberta has put forward a proposal for a southern terminal pipeline, and the fight to protect the Pacific coast continues.

Salmon Parks Declaration Feast



CPAWS-BC materials being presented at stakeholder engagement sessions for land use planning in northwest BC.

INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION

Protecting BC's Wild Northwest

Last June, the province launched joint land use planning processes with the Kaska Dena, Tahltan, Taku River Tlingit, Gitanyow, and Nisga'a Nations in northwest BC. Over the balance of the year, CPAWS-BC was deeply engaged in the planning processes, including:

- Attending numerous stakeholder engagement sessions to advocate for strong conservation within the planning areas;
- In-depth mapping and spatial analysis to identify critical corridors for habitat and connectivity both within and between planning areas;
- Multiple formal submissions with recommendations on how to best protect biodiversity and ecosystem values in the region;
- Regular meetings with provincial decision-makers and senior staff to discuss both specific planning areas and broad conservation planning in the northwest;
- Direct engagement with and support for First Nations conservation initiatives; and
- Convening and leading coalitions to develop shared messaging.

Planning in all four regions continues, and nearly 5 million hectares could be permanently protected through these processes by the end of next year.

Celebrating Salmon Parks

In December, CPAWS-BC was honoured to attend the Salmon Parks Declaration Feast in celebration of the work of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation's work to protect the h̓ahuuli (territories). CPAWS-BC began supporting MMFN's Salmon Parks in 2021, and continues to uplift these Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas with strategic in-kind and capacity support.





YOUNG LEADERS IN CONSERVATION

Youth Civic Engagement

In May 2025, participants in the Young Leaders in Conservation Program (YLICP) headed to Victoria, the culmination of a six-month conservation advocacy program. The youth met with decision makers including the Ministers of Forests, Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Environment, and Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, as well as members of the the opposition BC Conservative caucus. They shared personal stories about their connections with Nature and the environment, as well as concerns about their futures in the face of the climate and biodiversity crises, before asking elected leaders to take action to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030.

A new cohort of the program launched in March 2026, with further advocacy and lobbying in the intervening months.

Community Activation

Following their success in Victoria, youth launched summer projects to engage their home communities in conservation and climate action. They planned a host of activities based on their interests, experiences, and local needs, including:

- A month-long Nature in Transit ad series highlighting seasonal Nature facts;
- The launch of a new youth-hosted conservation podcast;
- Climate wellness walks; and
- A bike-ride and accompanying documentary highlighting Key Biodiversity Areas.

Flora and Fauna Art

In Summer 2026, CPAWS-BC hosted a species at risk art contest for youth across the province. Participants created pieces that honoured a favourite species and shared stories about their relationship with wildlife and plants. Artists of all ages used a variety of media, including, drawing and painting, beading, printing, and flower petal mosaics to depict a whole range of species found across BC. Popular subjects included black bears, sea otters, orcas, several species of owls, great blue herons, and many types of moths and butterflies.





IN THE COMMUNITY

Conservation on Film

Film is a powerful tool to engage people in conservation and advocacy. CPAWS-BC hosted a screening of *Keepers of the Land* to support the Kitasoo Xais'xais First Nation's efforts to safeguard the Great Bear Sea, followed by a speaker panel including Chief Councillor Doug Neasloss. We also sponsored two films at the Vancouver International Film Festival, which brought new stories of Indigenous resilience, art, and Nature to supporters and the broader community.

Coastal Celebrations

In June, CPAWS-BC celebrated World Ocean Week with friends and partners in Victoria, attending events and speaking to visitors about ocean conservation in and around the Salish Sea. We also hosted a weekend of events on Pender Islands, where residents and visitors from the Gulf Islands learned about seaweed from a local marine biologist, took a guided walk along the shoreline, viewed a film about eel grass meadows and kelp forests, and heard a panel of experts speak about the importance of nearshore ecosystems.

Active Engagement

CPAWS-BC co-hosted an evening focused on well-being and conservation with friends at Patagonia in Vancouver. The event included a group run followed by short films on the intersections between movement, mental health and protecting Nature, and our staff spoke to attendees about the importance of safeguarding lands and waters in BC. In Vernon, we hosted a Paint and Learn night with local artists and community members. Attendees got a tutorial on painting BC's beautiful grasslands ecosystems, learned more about this threatened ecosystem, and took actions to advocate for their protection.

Advocacy through Art

Earlier this year, we launched Artvocracy in partnership with two arts organizations in the Okanagan. A unique program that teaches both advocacy skills and various art practices to community members, Artvocracy intends to strengthen relationships within the regions where our conservation work takes place, and invites participants to think more deeply about the natural world around them — and what they can do to protect it.

FINANCIAL PICTURE

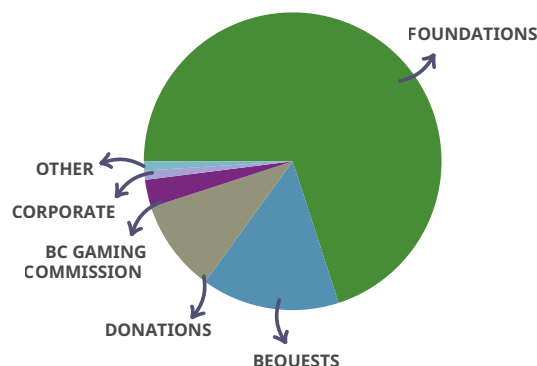
Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2026	2025
Cash and restricted cash	\$ 1,764,068	\$ 959,729
Term deposits	472,820	531,608
Accounts receivable	68,486	171,707
Prepaid expense and deposits	2,691	2,691
	2,308,065	1,665,735
Internally restricted marketable securities	432,908	400,393
Term deposits	71,000	-
Contributions receivable from National Office	682,310	637,208
Capital Assets	9,688	8,245
	1,195,906	1,045,846
Total Assets	\$ 3,503,971	\$ 2,711,581

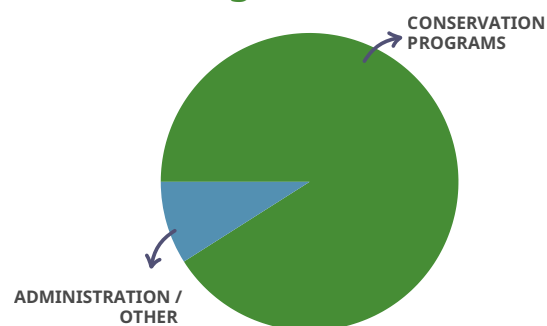
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 113,096	\$ 78,529
Deferred revenue - current portion	1,526,797	1,168,818
	1,639,893	1,247,347
Deferred revenue	682,310	637,208
Deferred capital contributions	3,800	5,428
Total Liabilities	2,326,003	1,889,983

Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 739,472	\$ 413,547
Internally restricted	438,496	408,051
	1,177,968	821,598
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,503,971	\$ 2,711,581

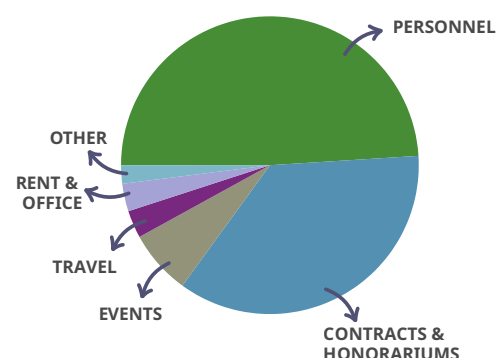
How CPAWS-BC is funded



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:

- BC Conservation and Biodiversity Awards
- BC Gaming Commission
- Darren Barefoot Legacy Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- The Houssian Foundation
- Hummingbird Foundation - Founded by Laurie Kelley and Scott Poole
- National Audubon Society
- Nature Canada
- Pew Charitable Trust
- Red Hibiscus Foundation, held at Vancouver Foundation
- Richard and Winnifred Bocking Family Fund through the Victoria Foundation
- Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation
- Rossy Foundation
- Sitka Foundation
- Small Changes Foundation, held at Vancouver Foundation
- T/GEAR Foundation
- Wilburforce Foundation
- Wyss Foundation



Photo: Adam Combs, CPAWS-BC