



Annual Report

for the year ended 30 April 2016



WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE

Protecting Canada's wilderness and wildlife for over 35 years



Thank You!

Dear Wilderness Committee supporters,

Looking back on the past year, we are amazed and inspired by your continued commitment to preserving wilderness, protecting wildlife, defending parks, safeguarding public resources and fighting for a stable climate.

Your dedication to ensuring a wild Canada makes all of our work possible. Thanks to you we have navigated this year full of changes, challenges and achievements. We are so grateful for your generous donations that allow us to remain on the front lines of wilderness defence.

This year, we successfully fought for the right to speak out for wilderness when we won a defamation case against Taseko Mines Limited. We cheered the end of the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort, a project that threatened local grizzly bear populations and other wildlife. We toured the Salish Sea on a solar-powered catamaran to engage communities about the dangers of tanker traffic off of BC's coast and delivered thousands of letters opposing the Energy East pipeline. We helped secure permanent protection for 30,000 hectares of wild, natural areas in Manitoba, and we've been playing a central role in the

fight to keep logging out of critical areas of old-growth forest in the central Walbran Valley on Vancouver Island.

We hope that you join us in celebrating these and other significant achievements. As you read through this report, remember that each success is a result of your passionate commitment to a wild future. Together, we will strengthen our voice for wilderness and wildlife in Canada.

For the wild,



Joe Foy
National
Campaign Director



Gwen Barlee
National
Policy Director



Beth Clarke
Development and
Program Director



Matt Jong
Comptroller, CMA



Joe Foy, Beth Clarke, Gwen Barlee and Matt Jong

Board of Directors

Sage Aaron
Don Bain
John Calvert
Shannon Daub (Chair)
Elaine Golds
Mark Haddock
Catherine Ludgate
Stuart Mackinnon
Karen Palmer
Susan Pinkus



Photo: Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park, BC (Michael Wheatley)

Our Wild Vision

The Wilderness Committee is Canada's people-powered, citizen-funded wilderness protection group. Established in 1980, the organization evolved out of desire to engage more citizens in wilderness issues and ultimately protect the best of wild Canada.

More than 35 years later, we have stayed true to our original purpose. Our campaigns have helped gain protection for millions of hectares of wilderness, as well as increased habitat protection for endangered species such as northern and southern resident killer whales. Today, the Wilderness Committee has approximately 25 active campaigns in our five priority program areas.

Preserving Wilderness:

We prioritize preserving Canada's most threatened wild lands through on-the-ground research and grassroots public education.

Protecting Wildlife:

We target protection for Canada's most critically at-risk species by advocating for habitat protection and strengthened legislation.

Thanks to the 24 passionate and dedicated staff members in our Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Victoria and Vancouver offices for making a difference everyday!

Defending Parks:

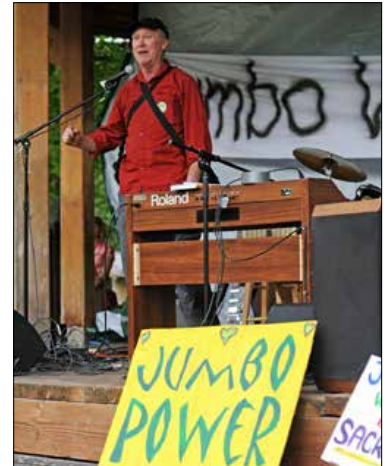
We work to defend parks by standing up for better funding, more rangers and stronger regulations protecting parks from industrial interests.

Safeguarding Public Resources:

We focus on protecting public lands from disruptive development and partner with First Nations communities in defence of their territories.

Fighting for a Safe and Stable Climate:

We expose and oppose the environmental risk presented by the fossil fuel industry in order to create a world where wilderness and wildlife thrive.



Wins for Nature



Our supporters, volunteers and concerned citizens came through this past year to help secure some big wins for nature.

Court win boosts sage-grouse population

June 2015 - A long, hard fight resulted in celebration when we received the great news that Canada's endangered greater sage-grouse populations are on a major rebound. This success is credited in part to the federal emergency protection order obtained by a court challenge. The Wilderness Committee and our allies, represented by Ecojustice, mounted the challenge to increase habitat protection for this remarkable species. In 2015, 35 males were counted in Alberta, representing a 150 per cent increase in its sage-grouse population. Twenty males were counted in Saskatchewan — a 233 per cent increase over 2014's numbers. This is the highest growth rate in either province for at least 20 years!

Good news for grizzlies as ski resort plans melt away

June 2015 - A lengthy and bitter environmental battle came to an end when the BC government

announced that the environmental assessment certificate for the proposed Jumbo Glacier Ski Resort had expired and would not be renewed, halting all development activities. The resort was proposed right in the middle of a critical grizzly travel corridor, which provoked the ire of local politicians, environmental groups and conservation organizations across the province. People in nearby Kootenay communities consistently voted against the resort proposal, and First Nations strongly opposed it and fought the project in the courts.

Manitoba's Red Deer Lake protected as Wildlife Management Area

November 2015 - After years of speaking up for protection of the Red Deer Lake region from industrial activity, the Manitoba government protected parts of the region as a new Wildlife Management Area. Many Manitobans joined the Wilderness Committee in asking that the wetlands and woodland caribou habitat of this region be permanently protected from development. The new designation helps preserve the beautiful Overflowing River and an important woodland caribou range.



Manitoba government grants permanent protection for wild areas

December 2015 - We cheered the long-term protection of 30,000 hectares of Manitoba wilderness when Kinnow Bay, Sturgeon Bay and Pelican Islands were granted permanent protection. Six wetland bogs in southeastern Manitoba were also protected as Ecological Reserves. All of these areas were identified for protection through our Manitoba Conservation Hotspots campaign.

A win for free speech

January 2016 - After four years of fighting a lawsuit by Taseko Mines Ltd., we rejoiced when a BC Supreme Court ruling confirmed that we were within our rights to strongly criticize a proposed mine project located west of Williams Lake, BC. In early 2012, Taseko filed the lawsuit, alleging that the Wilderness Committee made defamatory statements about the company's New Prosperity mine project during the public comment period. The judge dismissed Taseko claims and awarded the Wilderness Committee our court costs, as well as special costs incurred as a result of the lawsuit. The company is appealing the ruling, but

we remain confident of our right to speak out on critical environmental matters.

BC government buries Raven Coal Mine

April 2016 - The Wilderness Committee applauded the BC Environmental Assessment Office's decision to terminate the proposed Raven Coal Mine in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island. We stood in opposition to the proposed mine for six years with local allies, including CoalWatch, because of the risks to local water quality, ecosystems, public safety, sustainable local businesses and our shared climate.

Logging company drops lawsuit

April 2016 - The Wilderness Committee and our staff, represented by Ecojustice, successfully had a lawsuit against us dismissed. Teal Jones filed a civil suit and sought an injunction late in 2015 to prohibit blockades impacting its logging operations in the Central Walbran Valley. Although the Wilderness Committee was not responsible for the blockades, we had and continue to have a significant presence in the Walbran, bringing supporters and volunteers to witness Teal Jones' destruction of this irreplaceable old-growth rainforest.

Become a monthly donor to help us defend Canada's wild!

Join the **Wilderness Committee Trailblazers** by making a monthly gift.

Monthly giving is:

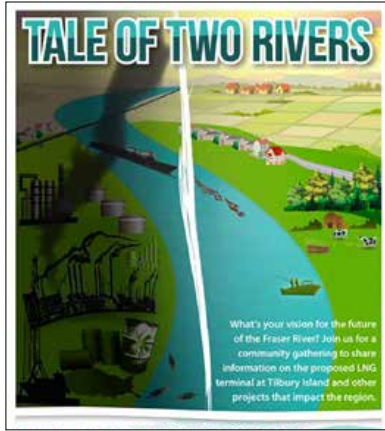
- **Convenient!** Monthly payments let you spread your donation out across the entire year and receive a single tax receipt in February.
- **Impactful!** Your gift provides predictable revenue that will help us plan campaigns, hire staff and invest in Canada's wild more confidently.
- **Fun!** As a Trailblazer, you'll become one the Wilderness Committee's most valued supporters, and you'll get perks, rewards and communications tailored just for you!

For as little as \$10 per month, you can support wilderness preservation and wildlife protection year-round.

WildernessCommittee.org/trailblazers



Independent and Grassroots



The Wilderness Committee knows that grassroots organizing and community engagement are crucial strategies to protect the environment. That's why we create opportunities for people to come together to discuss issues and take action. Nurturing our grassroots support is critical in our work to protect wild nature.

Peaceful Paddle

July 2015 - We joined hundreds of canoeists to paddle down the Peace River in opposition to the proposed Site C dam. The Peace Valley Environment Association and the West Moberly First Nation were our hosts for the day. Our campaign director Joe Foy was once again MC of this long-running annual event.



Solar Sailing

July 2015 - We teamed up with Tanker Free BC, the Georgia Strait Alliance and Friends of the San Juans to conduct a solar-powered boat voyage to six communities that dot BC's Salish Sea. Along the way, we spoke with people about the threats facing this coast, shared stories and met community members working on climate change issues locally.

Walbran Town Hall

July 2015 - We hosted a town hall meeting in Victoria to discuss next steps in our campaign to protect the central Walbran Valley from ongoing logging in the area. We partnered with the Friends of Carmanah Walbran, Sierra Club BC and Ancient Forest Alliance to organize this highly successful evening.

Two Rivers

September 2015 - We joined with the Council of Canadians to hold "Tale of Two Rivers" town hall events in Delta and Richmond. We contrasted a Fraser River managed for heavy industry like LNG ports with a wild Fraser River managed to conserve salmon and other wildlife.

Damn Dam

November 2015 - We gathered with speakers from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and a crowd of more than 100 concerned citizens in front of the BC Hydro head office in Vancouver to rally against the Site C dam project.

Walking the Line

April 2016 - We invited our supporters to walk the proposed route of the Energy East tar sands pipeline in Manitoba. The suggested route goes right through a Wildlife Management Area protected by the provincial government. This work is part of our campaign to oppose tar sands pipeline expansion schemes across the country.



How do you want to be remembered?

Leave a gift in your will or estate plan to safeguard Canadian nature and ensure that you are remembered as a guardian of wild spaces and species.

Our goal is to honour your passion for wilderness and wildlife. Your legacy gift will have a significant impact on our ability to continue our work.

Want to help right now? We also accept gifts of stocks, bonds, RRSPs and life insurance. For more information visit:

[WildernessCommittee.org/legacy](https://www.wildernessguardians.org/legacy)



On the Ground



The Wilderness Committee's work is rooted in our on-the-ground research and field work. Getting out into the wild to study, map, photograph and experience wilderness areas and wildlife habitats – as well as places affected by industrial damage – allows us to provide people with the latest details about the state of Canada's environment.

Pathways to Protection

May 2015 - We kicked off our volunteer trail building season with several expeditions to the Meares Island Tribal Park in Clayoquot Sound in 2015. In spring 2016, we ventured to the central Walbran Valley on the southwest coast of Vancouver Island. Both of these areas are legendary for their big trees and lush rainforest. Our goal is to increase public concern about these areas and encourage people to take action and convince the BC government to officially recognize these old-growth forests for immediate protection.

Disappearing Old-growth

June 2015 - We ramped up our work to ban old-growth logging with a series of expeditions documenting this damaging practice on Vancouver



Island. Several trips were carried out to the central Walbran Valley where photos and video clips captured big stumps and logs in recently logged areas. We produced maps of these areas and shared them with allies working on the campaign.

Spotted Owl Habitat

August 2015 - We conducted an expedition to document a forest targeted for logging within a Wildlife Management Area. This area has been designated by the BC government to conserve spotted owl habitat, a critically endangered species, but is becoming severely fragmented by logging activity. In addition, the timber company has asked the BC government to allow its logging trucks to run through Sasquatch Provincial Park to access this forest. The photos and video clips gathered are being used in our campaign to oppose this ill-advised scheme.

Witness to Wilderness

September 2015 - We led a canoe tour on Manitoba's spectacular Bird River, a prime candidate for provincial park protection, to raise awareness and encourage citizens to take action. 25 canoes paddled

the scenic river, stopping to use portage trails that our volunteers had helped clear.

Capturing Algonquin

September 2015 - We led a photo expedition in Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park to capture the stunning early fall colours and juxtapose them with scenes of logging devastation within the park. Photo and video captured on this trip has been used in our publications and presentations calling for an end to logging in Canada's oldest provincial park.

Dasiqox Tribal Park

October 2015 - We headed out to Tsilhqot'in Nation territory, located west of Williams Lake, BC, to document BC's newest tribal park – Dasiqox. Photo and video footage supported the production of an educational newspaper and series of short films on this spectacular wilderness area.

Droning Ponds

October 2015 - We toured some of southern BC's worst tailings ponds, including the infamous Mount Polley mine site, with Jeremy Williams, a world-

renowned videographer. The Mount Polley tailings storage dam failed in August 2014 with disastrous consequences for water and wild salmon. We used a drone to capture video and still images of this site and other huge industrial sites. We used them to produce a video and an education report calling for a ban of all mining tailings ponds in BC.



Stand with us to protect Canada's wilderness!

For over 35 years, we've relied on concerned citizens across the country to support our work. You can get involved by:

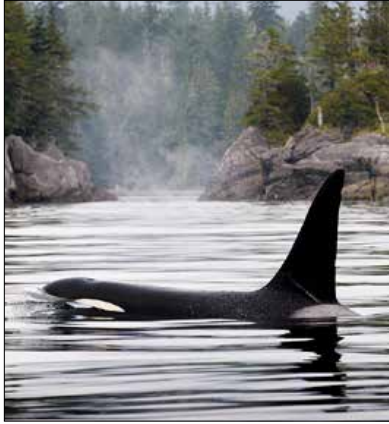
- Contacting your local Wilderness Committee office to become a volunteer.
- Signing up for our action e-alerts to stay up-to-date on our campaigns and learn about actions you can take.
- Becoming a member of our Grassroots Distribution Team to circulate our educational publications in your community.

Join us and add your voice to the growing number of citizens working together to defend Canada's environment!

WildernessCommittee.org/takeaction



Wild Friends



We know that we can't achieve our goals alone. The Wilderness Committee forms strategic alliances with diverse groups to extend the reach of our work and create positive change on environmental conservation issues.

Whale Woes

June 2015 - We joined our friends at the David Suzuki Foundation, Georgia Strait Alliance and Raincoast Conservation Foundation, represented by Ecojustice, to alert the federal government about a threat to southern resident killer whales. Some of their most important habitat would be degraded and destroyed if the



Terminal 2 shipping expansion is allowed to go ahead at Robert's Bank in BC. We continue to work together to push back on this damaging project.

Proposed Park

August 2015 - We worked with allies in BC's South Okanagan to facilitate public participation in a government consultation on the proposed South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park. Together we advocated that the proposed park boundary plan includes all areas necessary to protect the region's amazing cultural and biological diversity.

Backing Bees

September 2015 - We teamed up with the David Suzuki Foundation, Equiterre, Friends of the Earth and Ontario Nature, represented by Ecojustice, to demand that the federal government list four species of at-risk wild bees under the Federal Species at Risk Act.

Plugging Pipelines

January 2016 - We teamed up with Stand and Force of Nature to hold a march and rally in Vancouver in opposition to the Kinder Morgan tar sands pipeline expansion.

Troubled Toads

February 2016 - We joined the Valhalla Wilderness Society and Nakusp residents to oppose a logging plan within critical western toad habitat. Known as the Summit Lake toads, these amphibians are famous for their annual migrations in such high numbers that a toad “underpass” has been built under a main road to allow them to travel in safety.



Thanks so much to all of our supporters for making our work possible.

The foundations on this list are committed to environmental defence and play an important role in our continued success:

- **Glasswaters Foundation**
- **Goel Family Charitable Foundation**
- **Grayross Foundation**
- **Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation**
- **Laura L. Tiberti Charitable Foundation**
- **Mountain Equipment Co-op**
- **Patagonia Environmental Grants**
- **Wilburforce Foundation**
- **Winnipeg Foundation**



Financial Statement

Dear WC supporters,

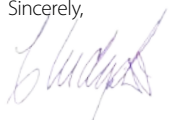
After 35 years of operations, the Wilderness Committee Board of Directors identified a need to review our internal systems and processes to ensure we have the ability to grow and meet the challenges of defending wilderness and wildlife in the future.

This fiscal year is the second of a three-year investment in improving and diversifying our revenue streams, our fund development infrastructure and resources, and our corresponding financial management systems.

In the short-term, this investment shows up as a planned deficit on the financial statement as well as a reduction in our organizational surplus.

We believe these to be wise investments of the funds that our donors and supporters entrust to us, and look forward to a greater future for the Wilderness Committee as the premier defender of Canada's wild heritage.

Sincerely,



Catherine Ludgate
Board Treasurer

2015-2016 Auditor

Loewen Kruse
Chartered Professional Accountants

REVENUE	2016	2015
Contributions and donations	1,500,643	1,644,252
Membership dues	277,529	270,413
Grant revenue	73,595	60,616
Sales of educational materials	42,812	49,273
Miscellaneous	14,754	17,792
	1,909,333	2,042,346

EXPENSES	2016	2015
Projects and education	1,204,576	1,105,100
Canvass and fundraising costs	471,373	325,274
Administration costs	232,171	203,957
Membership costs	221,378	224,160
Sales costs	76,769	88,379
Amortization	22,990	27,053
	2,229,257	1,973,923

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	(319,924)	68,423
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Net assets, beginning of year	755,150	686,727
Net assets, end of year	435,226	755,150

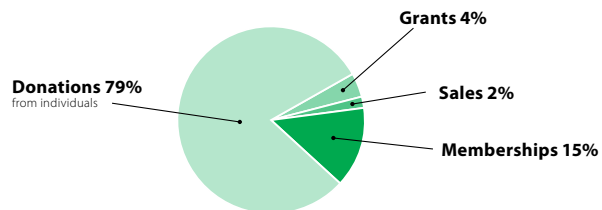
ASSETS	2016	2015
Current		
Cash	66,547	51,567
Restricted funds	13,765	32,457
Short term investments	-	369,683
Accounts receivable	57	1,396
Interest receivable	2,960	7,749
Recoverable from government (GST)	34,993	18,508
Inventory	11,878	12,585
Prepaid expenses	39,954	28,333
	170,154	522,278

Capital assets	33,602	48,496
Restricted reserve	315,073	310,570
	518,829	881,344

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current	2016	2015
Accounts payable + accrued liabilities	83,603	126,194
	83,603	126,194

NET ASSETS	435,226	755,150
	518,829	881,344



Auditors' Report for the year ended 30 April 2016

To the Members of Western Canada Wilderness Committee

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Western Canada Wilderness Committee, which comprise the statement of financial position as at April 30, 2016 and the statements of operations, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, the Committee derives most of its revenue from donations and various fundraising programs, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our work in respect of this revenue was limited to accounting for the amounts recorded in the accounts of the organization, and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenue, excess of revenues over expenses for the year, assets and fund balances. Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Western Canada Wilderness Committee

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Western Canada Wilderness Committee as at April 30, 2016, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Other Matter

The prior year financial statements were audited by another accounting firm and we were not engaged to report on any of the comparative figures. The audit report for the prior year was dated August 26, 2015 and expressed a qualified opinion.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Society Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Loewen Kruse Chartered Professional Accountants
Burnaby, BC
August 24, 2016





The Wilderness Committee is Canada's people-powered, citizen-funded wilderness preservation group with 60,000 supporters and volunteers from coast to coast to coast. Founded in 1980, we've helped gain protection for over 60 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 Canada's natural heritage!

[WildernessCommittee.org/support](https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/support)

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COMMITTEE**

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