



Annual Report

for the year ended 30 April 2014



WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE

**Over 30 years of protecting
Canadian wilderness and wildlife**



Thank You!

Dear Wilderness Committee members and supporters,

What an amazingly successful 12 months we have had! And it's all thanks to the generous donations, volunteer time and action taken by thousands of people like you.

Over the past year, the Wilderness Committee has played a central role in creating some very good news stories.

We celebrated a victory in the courts when a judge ruled that the federal government had unlawfully delayed recovery strategies for four endangered species living along the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline route.

We joined with the Tsilhqot'in First Nation to help stop a proposed open-pit mine near Fish Lake in the heart of Tsilhqot'in territory. The mining company did not like some of the things we had to say about their project – and they sued us! But we didn't stop speaking out, and this year the federal government said "No" to the mine proposal.

In Manitoba, a plan to ship crude oil by rail to Hudson Bay was stopped dead in its tracks, thanks to the hard work of our Winnipeg office, and new allies

and supporters across the province who stood up to defend the region's wilderness and wildlife.

These good news stories happened because of your contributions. Together we have built the Wilderness Committee into an extraordinary force for nature!

In this report, you'll read about these and other wild successes – and see the impact your support makes.

Thank you so much!
For the wild,

Joe Foy

Campaign Director

Beth Clarke

Development and
Program Director

Gwen Barlee

Policy Director

Matt Jong

Comptroller, CMA



Joe Foy, Beth Clarke, Gwen Barlee and Matt Jong

Board of Directors

Sage Aaron (Chair)
Dr. John Calvert
Shannon Daub
Mike Gildersleeve
Dr. Elaine Golds
Mark Haddock
Catherine Ludgate
Devon Page
Karen Palmer

Special thanks go out to the 18 dedicated staff members in our Vancouver, Victoria and Winnipeg offices, who devote their time every day to making a difference for wild nature.

Our Wild Vision



Founded in 1980 by a small group of citizens determined to preserve Canada's wild heritage, the Wilderness Committee has grown to an organization with over 60,000 members, supporters and volunteers from coast to coast to coast, and offices in Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg and Toronto.

Since then, we've helped achieve protection for over 55 crucial wilderness areas encompassing millions of hectares, and including critical wildlife habitats for endangered species such as caribou and grizzly bears. We are also part of a growing movement of citizens opposed to the expansion of climate-changing fossil fuel industries like tar sands and coal exports.

But much remains to be done. According to scientists, at least half of a nation's land base should be protected



in order to conserve nature and provide people with a high and sustainable standard of living.

The Wilderness Committee prioritizes protection for Canada's most threatened wild lands, such as remaining old-growth forests in BC, the 'pocket desert' in BC's beautiful Okanagan-Similkameen country and large sections of Canada's boreal forest. We defend existing parks, including advocating for better funding, more park rangers and stronger regulations to keep industrial interests from damaging our protected areas. We are dedicated to ensuring better protection for our wild rivers, streams and waterways.

Our wildlife work targets habitat protection for Canada's most critically at-risk species, including the boreal woodland caribou, endangered populations of killer whale and the northern spotted owl. We are working to strengthen legislation so that protection can be assured for all endangered species across the country.

With the weakening of environmental regulations across Canada, our efforts are needed more than ever to resist the oil industry's push to expand pipelines from the tar sands to coastal BC, and to stop massive mine proposals that put our pristine Pacific coast, wilderness and wild Pacific salmon at increased risk.

The Wilderness Committee's wild vision is to see generations of Canadians enjoying abundant clean water, fresh air, wild places and wild creatures forever. Our work to protect Canada's natural biodiversity is focused on the following priority areas:

Wild Lands

Double BC's Protected Areas, Stop Old-Growth Logging, Save Fish Lake, Clayoquot Sound, Expand Manning Park, Heart of the Boreal, Okanagan-Similkameen National Park, Cayoosh and Bendor Range, Inland Temperate Rainforest

Wildlife

BC Species at Risk, Federal Species at Risk Act, Grizzly Bear, Killer Whale, Spotted Owl, Woodland Caribou, Bees and Pollinators

Pacific Coast

Wild Salmon, Oil Tankers and Pipelines

Public Lands

Parks Defence (BC and Manitoba), BC Forestry, Rivers at Risk, Access to Information, Stop the Site C Dam, Peat Mining in Manitoba

Climate Change

The Climate Crisis, Tar Sands, Stop Dirty Coal Exports, Stop Fracking and LNG, Save the Salish Sea



Wins for Nature



Each year we achieve some exciting successes in our campaigns. Here are some recent examples where the support of our members, volunteers, local groups and concerned citizens came through for nature.

Keeping Manitoba Parks Wild

May 2013 – We took a leap forward in our campaign to force industrial activity out of Manitoba's provincial parks when the provincial government announced its intention to designate 4,015 hectares of land in Hecla / Grindstone Provincial Park as "Backcountry" – protecting the area from activities like logging and mining. This decision was vital in helping to stop a peat mining proposal within the park. We still have a ways to go, as 1,370 hectares of Hecla / Grindstone remain at risk from industrial development. But for now, we are cheering wildly for these gains!



Taking the Steam Out of a Northern Oil Train Scheme

September 2013 – In the midst of our new campaign to stop Omnitrax Inc.'s oil-by-rail plan through Churchill, Manitoba, the provincial government announced that it was too risky to ship crude oil across the remote and unstable rail line to a port on the shores of Hudson Bay. Although the final decision rested with the federal government, the province's opposition was a significant campaign victory. We continued to hold town hall meetings in communities along the tracks, working with local residents to make the case that it was better to stop an oil spill disaster before it was too late for Manitoba's northern wilderness and its iconic wildlife. In March 2014, the federal Transport Minister came out strongly against shipping oil through the Arctic, citing the dangers of an oil spill. This announcement came as another sign that Omnitrax's risky project had to be derailed.

Victory in the Courtroom for Endangered Species

February 2014 – Along with environmental partners and represented by Ecojustice, we

celebrated an important legal win on behalf of four endangered species that live along the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline route: the marbled murrelet, southern mountain caribou, Nechako sturgeon and humpback whale. Our lawsuit identified serious problems in the federal government's implementation of the *Species At Risk Act*. In the end, the court ruled that the government had acted unlawfully by delaying recovery strategies and failing to protect these and numerous other species threatened by industrial projects like Northern Gateway. Now thanks to your support, the pressure's on the Canadian government to step up and produce meaningful recovery strategies for the 160+ species that still need them.

Fish Lake Saved! Again!

February 2014 – Our offices erupted into joyous celebration when we learned that Canada's Environment Minister had rejected Taseko Mines Ltd.'s proposed New Prosperity Mine project, located west of Williams Lake, BC in the heart of Tsilhqot'in Nation territory. The federal government concluded that the project was "likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be mitigated." This was the second rejection of

a mining proposal that would have threatened nearby Fish Lake, the region's grizzly bears and the lands of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, which are highly valued for traditional and cultural purposes. In 2013, we had travelled to Tsilhqot'in territory twice to meet with our First Nations allies, and produced a short video about the campaign. This campaign has been tougher since we were sued by Taseko Mines because they didn't like what we had to say. We are still waiting to be heard in court, but this victory makes our troubles worthwhile indeed!



Partnerships

The Wilderness Committee achieves our goals by working with diverse groups of people to create positive change on environmental conservation issues. Our partnerships extend the reach of our work each year.

Saving Clayoquot

We worked with our allies as part of the Clayoquot Sound Conservation Alliance to ensure that the unprotected old-growth valleys and

islands of Clayoquot are legislatively protected from logging and mining, while providing economic well-being for the First Nation communities. In May 2013 we joined the Friends of Clayoquot Sound and Clayoquot Action to protest proposed mines in the region, and during the summer of 2013 we supported the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation's Tribal Park network by helping to re-clear hiking trails through the ancient rainforest.



Fracking Frenzy

We joined Sierra Club BC to mount a court challenge against the BC Oil and Gas Commission's practice of issuing short-term water withdrawal licences to companies involved in fracking for gas, thereby avoiding proper oversight. Represented in court by Ecojustice, our case was heard in March 2014. Our goal is to push the province into better defending our fresh water, which is seriously threatened by the process of fracking. The industry is withdrawing and polluting water in volumes big enough to supply a large city, with little regulation or understanding of the effects on ecosystems.



Stepping Up Efforts to Defend the Salish Sea

We teamed up with the Georgia Strait Alliance and US allies to launch a cross-border campaign aimed at stopping the Salish Sea from becoming a carbon corridor, awash with ships carrying coal, oil and liquefied natural gas. All of these products contribute to climate change, so limiting their export does a world of good. In July 2013 the Tsleil-Waututh Nation hosted the Salish Sea Summer Gathering at Cates Park in North Vancouver. Hundreds of people came out to have a good time and learn about fossil fuel threats to the Salish Sea. We welcomed



numerous supporters taking action at our information booth and spoke at the event. In August 2013 we held a series of town hall meetings in BC and Washington State to organize around the protection of these shared waters and our shared climate.

Standing for Old-Growth

Represented by Ecojustice, we launched a court case with ForestEthics Solutions in May 2013, aimed at stopping the BC government from allowing the logging of the very last of the old-growth coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. The court ruled against us, saying that under current laws the BC



government has every right to push this forest into extinction. We say the law must change, and we believe that BC endangered species legislation is what we need before this forest is logged into the history books – like the dodo bird and the passenger pigeon.

Parks Defence

We partnered with West Coast Environmental Law Association, CPAWS-BC, Greenpeace, ForestEthics Solutions and Sierra Club BC in February 2014 to resist the BC government's new policy of allowing industrial interests to carry out research within BC's parks, in order to gain access for pipelines, power lines,



logging roads and other industrial activities. Together we gathered tens of thousands of names on a massive petition calling for the protection of BC's beloved park system.

Bee Strong

Represented by the Canadian Environmental Law Association and Ecojustice, in September 2013 we

joined Sierra Club Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation and Équiterre to file a notice of objection with the federal government over its recent decision to renew the registration of the insecticide clothianidin – which is highly toxic to bees. We say that this pesticide and other bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides should be outright banned in Canada.



Growing our Grassroots!



We're always looking for opportunities to allow people to meet face-to-face, discuss issues and take action for a healthier planet. Nurturing our grassroots support is critical in our work to protect the environment. The Wilderness Committee believes that campaigns are won through community engagement and grassroots organizing.

Saying NO to Dirty Coal Exports

We worked to oppose plans to ship dirty US thermal coal by rail to a proposed transport facility on the Fraser River in Surrey. In May 2013 we added our voice to groups like the BC Lung Association, Public Health Association of BC, Voters

Taking Action on Climate Change, Dogwood Initiative and Kids for Climate Action to call for a full public hearing on the project. Starting in June 2013, we spoke out against the proposed coal shipments at multiple town hall meetings along the rail route.



Saving the Peace River Valley

In July 2013 we visited the Peace River Valley once again to take part in the annual Paddle for the Peace. Over 400 people gathered, with many canoeing down the Peace River to show opposition to the proposed Site C dam. If built, this project would flood over 100 kilometres of prime farmland and wildlife habitat.

Ending Kinder Morgan's Pipe Dream

We worked hard this year to stop tar sands bitumen exports from ruining our waters and climate. In November 2013 we headed to Langley, BC to speak at a town hall meeting about Texas-based Kinder Morgan's plans to construct a tar sands pipeline through the community, from Alberta to Burnaby. We ran an intensive public outreach campaign to encourage people to sign up to participate in the environmental review of the project. By February 2014, over 2,100 applicants had made submissions to take part in the federal review.



Community Work

Stopping an Oil Spill in its Tracks

Starting in October 2013 we embarked on a series of town hall events to explain the dangers of a plan being floated by Omnitrax Inc. to ship crude oil by rail to the northern Manitoba port of Churchill. We held events in Winnipeg, Thompson and Churchill. We were met with great support in every community we visited, as many people were concerned that shipments on this rickety rail line would result in oil spills. We helped organize opposition to the proposal, moving the provincial government to take a stand for protecting this fragile northern region.

Fraser River No Place for Toxic Waste

In December 2013 we joined 10 other like-minded organizations to hold a news conference opposing a hazardous waste plant being proposed for the south shore of the Fraser River, near Chilliwack BC – a proposal that would put the world's largest salmon river at risk.

Double Trouble - Fracking and LNG

Beginning in February 2014, we launched a series of community events around Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland to address public concerns over BC's rush to expand hydraulic fracturing for natural gas (fracking) and to export liquefied natural gas (LNG). Fracked gas from BC's northeast would supply several proposed coastal LNG plants. Together they pose a grave danger to our air, water and climate.

BC Species on the Big Screen

In March 2014 we collaborated with Sustainable SFU and the SFU Wildlife Conservation Club to host a film screening and panel discussion about the threats facing BC's many species at risk. We showed a series of short films featuring some of BC's most charismatic endangered wildlife – including the barn swallow, American badger, Oregon spotted frog and phantom orchid. This was all in support of our campaign to see BC endangered species legislation enacted.



Out in the Field



The Wilderness Committee's campaigns are grounded in our research and field work. It is critical to get out on the land to study, map, photograph, video and experience wilderness areas and wildlife habitats – as well as sites suffering industrial damage – to give people a better idea of the state of nature protection in Canada.

Photographing the South Okanagan

In May of 2013 we embarked on a photo expedition to capture the springtime beauty of the proposed South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park. We have been working to see this unique area attain National Park status for several years now. This arid region in southern BC is home to some of the highest concentrations of endangered species in Canada.



BC's Fracking Front Line

In July 2013 we headed north to Fort St. John and on to Fort Nelson to document the impacts of fracking for gas in northeast BC. We met with First Nations leaders, farmers, hunters and community activists. We visited active fracking sites, documenting the impacts to the region's water resources from the air and on the ground. We used the information and images to produce a video and an educational report.

Documenting a Dammed River

In December 2013 we conducted a photo expedition to document the Kokish River on northern Vancouver Island, as it was being dammed and diverted into a pipe for a private hydropower project. We had argued that the project was far too risky for the Kokish's prized salmon and steelhead populations, but eventually the BC government gave the green light and construction began. We oppose BC's private hydropower program because of the damage it causes to our wild rivers, and because the expensive, unneeded electricity is a drain on BC Hydro ratepayers and taxpayers.

New Research

Exposing the Truth about Private Hydropower

In May 2013, newspapers across Canada reported that BC's private hydropower producers had a startling number of compliance problems, and that the province had insufficient staff to monitor the projects. The information came out as a result of our research using BC's Freedom of Information (FOI) law. The internal documents we uncovered revealed that there were fish kills and recommendations for enforcement action at several private hydro projects. In July 2013, again as a result of our FOI research, news reports revealed serious concerns from provincial wildlife experts about potential

impacts to endangered grizzly bears as a result of the proposed Upper Lillooet private power project. Finally, another series of documents we discovered through FOI resulted in news stories showing how the majority of private hydropower projects in BC's South Coast region are not being operated in a satisfactory environmental manner. Enough is enough – we say it's time for BC to turn its back on private hydro!

Investigating Park Damage

In March of 2014 we headed out to Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park near Chilliwack, BC to check for evidence of industrial research in the

park. Texas-based Kinder Morgan wants to put its tar sands pipeline through a number of parks, including this one. The BC government was about to pass legislation that permits this kind of intrusive research, and we wanted to see if Kinder Morgan had started its research under an unlawful permit before the new law came into effect. We found evidence of trenches being dug in the park and other invasive survey work. BC's provincial parks are under increasing threat as industrial interests seek to build logging roads, pipelines and other infrastructure in our protected areas.



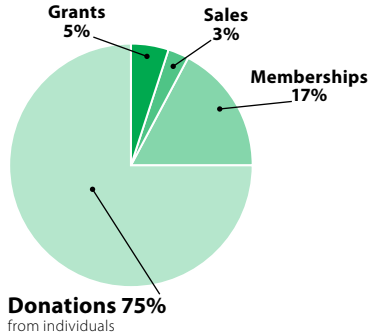
MAPPING THE WILD

Since the beginning of the Wilderness Committee, mapping has been an essential part of our campaign work. In the last year, we produced maps of newly created Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) for the protection of BC's spotted owls, and we updated maps of the Kinder Morgan pipeline route through Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley to highlight schools, waterways and wildlife habitat affected by the proposed tar sands pipeline. We also produced detailed maps to support our court cases regarding fracking water use in BC and the endangered coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem on Vancouver Island.

Financial Statement

2013-2014 Auditor

Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton
LaBonte LLP Chartered Accountants



2013-2014 Revenues

Each year it is profound how much of our organization's revenue comes from individual donations, memberships and monthly donors – this year it is up to 75 per cent! Sometimes we need to criticize decision-makers and industry for environmental transgressions, which is why we have chosen not to receive money from government or corporations – so we are not constrained in our ability to speak truthfully. This gives us all a louder voice. Thanks again for your support in making this happen.

REVENUE	2014	2013
Membership dues	302,116	312,244
Donations	1,297,072	1,302,797
Grant revenue	87,715	120,586
Sales of educational material	60,308	72,882
Unreceipted donations	29,713	39,985
	1,776,924	1,848,494

EXPENSES	2014	2013
Administration costs	217,563	204,052
Amortization	24,679	13,373
Campaign & grant project costs	1,048,449	1,118,951
Canvass costs	226,471	221,928
Membership costs	205,489	211,127
Sales costs	92,498	99,498
	1,815,149	1,868,929

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenses from operations	(38,225)	(20,435)
--	----------	----------

OTHER INCOME

Rental income	-	-
Gain on disposal of assets	-	-
	-	-

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenses for the year	(38,225)	(20,435)
---	----------	----------

Members' equity, beginning of year 724,953 745,386

Members' equity, end of year 686,728 724,953

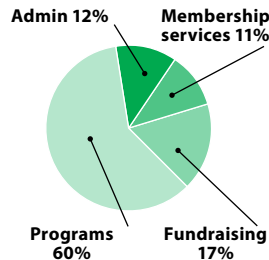
ASSETS	2014	2013
Current		
Cash and equivalent	130,711	198,353
Restricted funds	44,033	34,560
Short term investments	165,631	457,511
Accounts receivable	19,115	36,679
Inventory	15,645	20,645
Prepaid expenses	31,532	17,290
	406,667	765,038
Capital assets	63,147	23,146
Restricted cash reserve	307,952	-
	777,766	788,184

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current

Accounts payable + accrued liabilities	91,038	63,233
	91,038	63,233

NET ASSETS	686,728	724,951
	777,766	788,184



2013-2014 Program Costs

As usual, we are committed to using your funds efficiently and effectively to have an impact on our wilderness and wildlife campaigns. As these numbers show, we keep our administrative and fundraising costs down, spending the majority of funds on our campaigns and our members. Without you, we couldn't do what we do!

Auditors' Report for the year ended 30 April 2014

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, 2014 and April 30, 2013 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the years ended April 30, 2014 and April 30, 2013, 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 generally accepted 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 not-for-profit organizations, Western Canada Wilderness Committee derives a portion of its revenue from unreceipted fundraising activities the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the year ended April 30, 2014 and April 30, 2013, current assets and net assets as at April 30, 2014 and April 30, 2013.

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, 2014 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

DALE MATHESON CARR-HILTON LABONTE LLP CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Vancouver, BC

August 14, 2014

Giving monthly helps us defend Canada's wild places!

Join our **Wilderness Savings Plan** and help out in more ways than one:

- Monthly donations help us plan our nature protection work knowing that we'll have the resources to succeed.
- With your monthly donation, you'll become a Wilderness Committee member as well! Your donation is tax-deductible, less the \$10 that goes toward your membership.
- You won't receive renewal notices, which saves paper, trees, forests and your time.

For as little as \$5 a month, your support will make a world of difference!





The Wilderness Committee is Canada's largest membership-based wilderness preservation group with 60,000 members, supporters and volunteers. Founded in 1980, we've helped gain protection for over 55 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 annual membership fee makes a world of difference!
WildernessCommittee.org/join

Printed in Canada on 60 lb Enviro 100 paper using vegetable-based inks.
© 2014 Wilderness Committee.



**WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE**

WILDERNESS COMMITTEE — NATIONAL OFFICE

46 E. 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 1J4

Toll free: 1-800-661-9453

Phone: (604) 683-8220 Fax: (604) 683-8229

VICTORIA OFFICE

#202 - 3 Fan Tan Alley, Victoria, BC V8W 3G9

Phone: (250) 388-9292 Fax: (250) 388-9223

MANITOBA OFFICE

3rd Fl. - 303 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B4

Phone: (204) 942-9292 Fax: (204) 942-8214

ONTARIO OFFICE

#207 - 425 Queen Street W., Toronto, ON M5V 2A5

Phone: (416) 849-6520

WildernessCommittee.org

 **[/WildernessCommittee](https://www.facebook.com/WildernessCommittee)**

 **[@WilderNews](https://twitter.com/WilderNews)**