

# ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending 30 April 2018

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**WILDERNESS**  
COMMITTEE

# Protecting Canada's wild for over 35 years



# Thank You!

Dear friends,

It was another inspiring year. Your support makes sure we continue to be *the* “independent and grassroots” environmental group. Your gifts made up 96 per cent of our funding — the highest yet — ensuring we are nimble as urgent issues arise and on the ground where it counts. We hope you’ll enjoy this report about the work you made possible.

From logging in endangered southern mountain caribou critical habitat, to defending the parks of Manitoba and Ontario from industrial development, your support was there when needed the most. Our revenues increased again this year by 10 per cent.


The most heartfelt support was your generosity to the Gwen Barlee Memorial Fund, honouring our former organizational leader. She’s known for her defence of public parks, wild rivers and all creatures big and small including southern mountain caribou, sage grouse and killer whales. As of November 1, 2018, the fund raised over \$175,000. We are moved by your dedication.

Some of those funds have gone to defending spotted owls and their habitat, working towards a national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen, producing a federal species at risk report and taking action to get the federal government to ban neonicotinoid pesticides that are lethal to bees.

Your engagement on issues has been energizing. You took more than 12,000 actions — writing letters, signing petitions and action cards, and making calls to defend threatened wilderness and wildlife. In fact, our new “Click to Call” website tool was used to make 400 calls to elected officials this past year. Both our bee and fracking petitions grew to nearly 10,000 signatures each.

Your support funded more than 15 trips to threatened wilderness areas with supporters, volunteers and First Nations youth, and our outreach activities spanned more than 75 types of events.

That was one busy year! Thanks for your support and engagement. Together we will defend wild places and ensure a wild future for the generations to come.

For the wild,  


**Joe Foy**

Co-Executive Director



**Beth Clarke**

Co-Executive Director

Thanks to our passionate staff team of 25 wilderness and wildlife advocates in Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Victoria and Vancouver! Special thanks to our many photographers whose images inspire us.



Joe Foy and Beth Clarke

## Board of Directors

Bryan Joe Jr.  
Catherine Ludgate  
Don Bain  
Elaine Golds  
Emet Davis  
Karen Palmer  
Kegan Pepper-Smith  
Paula Neuman  
Rodrigo Samayoa  
Sage Aaron  
Shannon Daub (Chair)



Photo: Lake Winnipeg, MB (Mike Karakas/Shared Vision).

# Our Wild Vision

**W**ilderness Committee is the people-powered wilderness preservation group working for a wild future. Founded 38 years ago, the organization evolved out of a desire to increase awareness about threatened Canadian wilderness and wildlife in an effort to build broad public support for preservation.

Today, our original purpose stands stronger than ever. Climate chaos means that protecting wilderness and wildlife habitat — with all its natural biodiversity — is absolutely vital to the health of people, communities and the planet. Mobilizing citizens to stand up for our public resources and fight misguided industrial projects with lawful, democratic action is critical. Our independent, on the ground, grassroots approach reaches around 12 million people each year in local communities at public meetings, rallies, events, through our door-to-door canvassing and regular expeditions into threatened wilderness areas. Like you, we believe when people learn about Canada's threatened wilderness and wildlife they will act to support its preservation too.

The Wilderness Committee currently has more than 30 active campaigns in five program areas.

## Preserving Wilderness:

Your gifts defend Canada's most threatened

wild lands through on the ground expeditions, trail building trips, mapping, photos and videos from endangered areas, and grassroots educational publications.

## Protecting Wildlife:

Your gifts enable us to stand up for at-risk species in Canada by demanding strong, effective provincial and federal legislation to defend their habitat and ensure they survive and thrive.

## Defending Parks:

Your gifts allow us to advocate for parks that are accessible to all of us. We ensure they are defended from industrial development, properly funded and managed to protect wild nature.

## Safeguarding Public Resources:

Your gifts protect public lands from destructive development and foster partnerships with First Nations in defence of their rights and title.

## Fighting for a Safe and Stable Climate:

Your gifts mobilize opposition to fossil fuel export projects that drive climate chaos, allowing us to advocate for a just transition to a zero-carbon economy.

## Join

We're all needed in the work of protecting Canada's wilderness. It's concerned citizens like you who've strengthened our voice with gifts of time, talent and action!

We welcome your participation.

- **Volunteer:** contact your local WC office to volunteer.
- **Sign up:** our action alerts keep you up-to-date on our campaigns.
- **Take action:** write letters, make phone calls and show up to support critical causes in your community.
- **Spread the word:** distribute our educational papers in your community. Join the Grassroots Distribution Team.

Add your voice to the growing number of citizens working together to defend Canada's environment.

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





Photo: Greater sage-grouse (Rebecca and Glen Grambo).

# Wins for Nature

**S**aving nature is tough work. It requires a sense of humour, lots of friends and the ability to pick yourself up and dust yourself off when you lose a hard-fought fight. But when we win a campaign, we don't forget to celebrate wildly!

## Climate Versus LNG

During the summer of 2017, Malaysian corporation Petronas announced it was not going forward with its proposed massive liquified natural gas (LNG) project near Prince Rupert, BC. After years of opposing the LNG industry, this announcement produced big smiles and high fives all around our offices. Pacific Northwest LNG would have risked salmon habitat at the mouth of the Skeena River and was opposed by local First Nations' fishing families. It would have blown BC's promises to lower greenhouse gas emissions out of the water.

## Grizzly Hunt Ends

When the BC government announced an end to the bloody grizzly bear hunt we could hardly believe our ears. We worked for decades to end the legal killing of approximately 300 grizzly bears every year for "sport." Now the long-sought days have

finally come — thanks to you, the BC grizzly hunt is dead and gone for good!

## Another Pipeline Down

Great news last fall on our climate campaign in Manitoba and Ontario. The Energy East pipeline was cancelled. It would have been North America's largest pipeline project, pumping tar sands bitumen to east coast ports. Thanks to so many of you who spoke up — and even walked the route with us — in opposition to this climate change fuelling disaster.

## Mining Proposals Stopped

Last year we finally saw justice on our mining campaigns. Because of you, we celebrated a final win in our long-running case and appeal against Taseko Mines, who claimed we defamed them during our work to protect the Tsilhqot'in Nation's Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) from a proposed open-pit copper and gold mine. Days later, the BC government turned down the Ajax Mine — another open-pit copper and gold mine proposed next to Kamloops on the traditional lands of the Stk'emlupsemc Te Secwepemc Nation. We were honoured to participate in the Nation's own environmental assessment that recommended the mining proposal be rejected.



A group of approximately ten people of various ages and ethnicities are standing on a wooden bridge or walkway in a lush, green forest. They are holding a large white banner with bold black text. The banner reads "SAVE THE WALBRAN VALLEY" in large, all-caps letters. Below this, there is a logo of a tree inside a hexagon, followed by the text "WildernessCommittee.org". The background shows a dirt road leading into the forest, with a white car parked further down. The scene is surrounded by dense green foliage and trees.

# SAVE THE WALBRAN VALLEY



[WildernessCommittee.org](http://WildernessCommittee.org)



# Independent and Grassroots

**D**iversity is our value and strength. Our work remains rooted in engaging people, perspectives and voices from a variety of communities across Canada. This makes for powerful campaign activities. Thanks for making it possible.

## Paddle for the Peace

We joined hundreds of participants from First Nations and local farm families at last summer's 12th annual Paddle for the Peace near Fort St. John, BC. We all paddled down the most endangered river in the province — the mighty Peace — to support efforts to stop the Site C dam from flooding over 100 kilometres of prime wildlife habitats and farmland. Although the governments have given the go-ahead, we won't stop until the dam is dead.

## Paddle for Protection

We organized the fourth annual Paddle for Protection in Manitoba to bring attention to our campaign to have the popular lower Bird River paddling stream fully protected. Collaborating with local businesses, communities and the local First Nation make this event an excellent opportunity to raise awareness and take action to protect this critical area.

## Forestry Tour

We were in central and northern Vancouver Island holding six community events over ten days in forest-dependent communities. Because of you, we had important discussions with community members and local politicians on the need to transition to a sustainable forestry model. This includes stopping raw log exports, protecting local mill jobs and putting an end to old-growth logging to protect endangered ecosystems and species habitat.

## Trans Mountain Pipeline

Our campaign to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline was bursting with action this past year. Your gifts enabled mapping workshops, an updated species at risk interactive map, countless visits to Burnaby Mountain, to communities and landowners along the pipeline route and to Kinder Morgan's tar sands export terminal. We produced a short video on the monetary, environmental and Indigenous rights costs associated with increased tankers and a bitumen spill in the Burrard Inlet and the Salish Sea. Our podcast *Line in the Sand* brought voices of resistance to listeners across the country and we were on the ground monitoring the initial stages of construction all along the pipeline route.

## Support us

Your generosity inspires us to do more. There's many ways to make a difference:

- **Be a Trailblazer!** The heart and soul of the Wilderness Committee, monthly donors help us plan more effectively to win critical fights for Canada's wild.



- **Be a Wilderness Defender!** With every donation, you strengthen our campaigns to protect ancient forests, wild waterways and at-risk species and the spaces they call home.
- **Be a Wilderness Guardian!** A special group who make future gifts in their estate plans known to us, Wilderness Guardians enjoy exclusive benefits.



- **Be a wild fundraiser.** Organize a unique event to raise funds and support the Wilderness Committee's work.

[WildernessCommittee.org/Support](https://WildernessCommittee.org/Support)



 WESTERN CANADA  
**WILDERNESS  
COMMITTEE**  
Wilderness Committee of Manitoba (204) 942-9292

Photo: Paddle for Protection, MB (Eric Reder).

# On the Ground

**W**e ensure we have the most detailed, up-to-date information when we meet with members of the media or governments. We are out on the ground in at-risk areas recording what we learn and transferring this information to our mapping and visual media teams to bring it to you. You make this unique strategy possible.

## Southern Mountain Caribou

Using information garnered from the BC and federal governments' own records, your gifts allowed several trips to forests designated by the federal Species at Risk Act as critical habitat for southern mountain caribou. This habitat was being actively clearcut under permits from the provincial ministry of forests. As a result, we mapped and filmed these sites in our ongoing campaign to get strong habitat protection for this threatened species.

## Vancouver Island Trail Building

Your gifts allowed us to organize several volunteer trips this past year to the world-famous Clayoquot Sound and the endangered Walbran Valley on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Volunteers camped in these ancient rainforests

and, side by side with the First Nations who steward the territory and local allies and residents, helped clear hiking trails vital to community eco and cultural tourism. This work is critical to our efforts to gain support for protection of these remaining ancient forests from industrial logging.

## Spotted Owl

In southwest BC we travelled to areas recently logged within Wildlife Habitat Areas — regions set aside to conserve the forest habitat of the highly endangered spotted owl. Your gifts made several videos possible and we used them to build support for more action to save this species from disappearing completely from Canada.

## Manitoba Provincial Parks

We got our boots on the ground in Nopiming Provincial Park to break the story of new mineral exploration activity bulldozing sensitive boreal caribou and moose habitat. Photos and videos of the destruction we discovered raced across social media, prompting lengthy discussions in the legislature and television news coverage. Your gifts are generating momentum towards banning industrial activity in all Manitoba's provincial parks.





Photo: T'Souke First Nation solar tour, BC (Torrance Coste)

# Wild Friends

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Over the years we have found that friends are one of our most powerful resources. This year was no exception. We work with many like-minded groups to push for positive change.

## Together for the Bees

We continued to stand up for the bees in court with our friends at Ecojustice, David Suzuki Foundation, Friends of the Earth and Ontario Nature. We believe the government shouldn't have registered neonicotinoid pesticides as safe for use because they are harmful to bees and other pollinators. The federal government attempted unsuccessfully to get our case dismissed. Thanks to your support, the bees will soon have their day in court.

## Fighting the Mount Polley Injustice

We partnered with MiningWatch Canada, West Coast Environmental Law and First Nation Women Advocating For Responsible Mining to support Indigenous advocate Bev Sellars as she attempted to hold the government to account in court for the infamous Mount Polley tailings dam collapse.

## Protecting Lake Winnipeg

We joined with Hog Watch Manitoba and the Organic Food Council of Manitoba to make waves

against the Manitoba government's plans to increase the number of industrial hog barns in the province and water down waste regulations. Their plan will raise the level of phosphorus from hog waste entering Manitoba waters, fuelling aggressive algae growth in Lake Winnipeg.

## Calls to Halt Site C

Although the BC government approved the Site C dam project in December, we won't stop fighting. Thanks to a few special donors, we joined Sierra Club BC, LeadNow and Fight C to produce radio advertising calling on the government to reject Site C. We worked with these and other friends from the West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations, the local Peace Valley groups, Amnesty International, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the Council of Canadians to generate calls telling government to stop the dam.

## Defending Vancouver Island Forests

We ramped up the campaign to end old-growth logging on the Island with our friends at Sierra Club BC and Ancient Forest Alliance. We had meetings with the forest ministry, joint events and rallies, and launched online action tools and petitions to increase pressure on the government to ban old-growth logging and raw log exports in a transition to sustainable forestry.





Photo: Killer whale pod (Roberta Olenick).

# Financial Summary

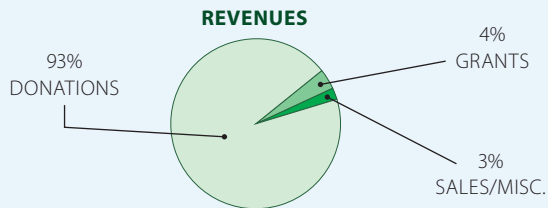
REVENUE	2018	2017
Contributions and donations	2,431,685	2,000,861
Grant revenue	100,263	127,318
Sales of educational materials	60,877	51,189
Miscellaneous	15,238	11,826
Membership dues	–	143,519
	<b>2,608,063</b>	<b>2,334,749</b>

EXPENSES	2018	2017
Projects and education	1,278,015	1,350,146
Canvass and fundraising costs	685,301	506,452
Administration costs	271,866	296,711
Sales costs	86,240	41,131
Amortization	14,512	18,257
Membership costs	638	157,706
	<b>2,336,572</b>	<b>2,370,403</b>

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year      271,491      (35,654)

**Fund balances, beginning of year      399,572      435,226**

**Fund balances, end of year      671,063      399,572**



ASSETS	2018	2017
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	330,507	62,083
Accounts receivable	19	11,183
Interest receivable	2,039	2,039
Recoverable from government (GST)	17,637	23,565
Prepaid expenses	42,184	41,228
Inventory	12,881	17,603
	<b>405,267</b>	<b>157,701</b>

Restricted investment	320,142	318,075
Capital assets	75,512	17,397
	<b>797,921</b>	<b>493,173</b>

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

CURRENT	2018	2017
Accounts payable + accrued liabilities	126,858	93,601

## FUND BALANCES

Unrestricted	251,783	38,022
Internally restricted	392,654	335,472
Externally restricted	26,626	26,078
	<b>797,921</b>	<b>493,173</b>

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

## Thank you!

We appreciate the foundations and funders who play an important role in our continued success:

- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Society
- Dennis & Kathy Meakin Family Foundation
- Gil & Anne Charitable Giving Fund
- Glasswaters Foundation
- Grant MacEwan Nature Protection Fund, at Calgary Foundation
- Grayross Foundation, held at Vancouver Foundation
- KMC Foundation
- Maja Foundation, at Calgary Foundation
- Mountain Equipment Co-Op
- Nancy Hawkins/Bill Bargeman Fund
- Patagonia
- Peter & Chloe O'Loughlin Charitable Fund
- Somerset Foundation
- St. Louis Community Foundation
- Winnipeg Foundation
- W. Garfield Weston Foundation
- Willow Grove Foundation





### PEOPLE-POWERED WILDERNESS PRESERVATION FOR A WILD FUTURE

Founded in 1980, the Wilderness Committee has around 60,000 supporters and volunteers from coast to coast to coast. 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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