



ANNUAL REPORT

May 2024 — April 2025



WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE



Our Wild Vision

For 45 years, the Wilderness Committee has stayed true to our vision of people powered wilderness preservation for a wild future.

Collaborative grassroots mobilization is central to our efforts to build broad-based support for actions to preserve nature, protect wildlife, and fight for a safe and stable climate, while defending Indigenous Rights and Title.

Our independent, on-the-ground approach reaches 12 million people a year through events, rallies, door-to-door and phone canvassing, online actions, media and social media coverage, and regular expeditions to threatened wilderness areas.

Like you, we believe when people learn about threats to biodiversity and the climate, they will join together and defend them.



Thank You

Dear friend,

This past year demanded courage — from all of us who refuse to give up on the wild spaces and species we love. We saw governments walk back commitments and fast-track destructive projects, but you helped keep hope alive.

Canada's promise to protect 30 per cent of lands and waters by 2030 is ambitious, but achievable. It was hard not to feel discouraged when elected officials used trade disputes and economic pressure as excuses to weaken environmental laws and accelerate resource extraction.

But your support made sure we didn't lose ground.

Across the country, your generosity powered us to work tirelessly on the land and in communities to defend what's at stake.

Your commitment mobilized thousands to challenge harmful legislation and weakened environmental oversight. You kept the focus on protecting critical habitat — from southern mountain caribou ranges to old-growth forests — and exposed how weak laws open the door to destruction.

You also made sure the climate crisis stayed front and centre. As wildfires devastated communities across Canada, your support revealed how clearcutting has increased the risk of fires, floods and landslides. You held governments accountable for delays in old-growth protection, strengthened public pressure for meaningful climate action, and fuelled research that showed reducing emissions can improve affordability and equity.

We secured real victories where they were most needed, all thanks to you. Your generosity protected the Lemay Forest in Winnipeg, and documented wildfire damage in Bird River and Nopiming Provincial Park. It advanced Indigenous-led conservation initiatives from Grassy Narrows and Catchacoma to Vancouver Island. You helped achieve a major milestone for the spotted owl: the release of a long-overdue recovery strategy mapping thousands of square kilometres of habitat needing protection. Each step forward brings us closer to safeguarding the rare and threatened ecosystems essential to reach 30x30.

This year made one thing clear: just like ecosystems, political promises are fragile. When economic winds shift, governments turn from protection to exploitation.

But you didn't. You stayed firm. And because of you, so did we.

Your advocacy, voice and generosity. It's what holds governments accountable, defends at-risk species and builds momentum toward a future where nature and communities can thrive.

Thank you for staying with us, especially in a year when it mattered so deeply.

For the wild,



B Clarke

Beth Clarke
Executive Director



Susan Howatt

Susan Howatt
Board of Directors Chair

Board of Directors

Caitlin Stockwell
Heather Fast
Mariwan Jaaf
Nayeli Jimenez
Ryann Miller
Saya Masso
Susan Howatt (Chair)

Special thanks to our many photographers whose images remind us what we're working to protect.





Wins for Nature

It's easy to get lost in the undergrowth of our day-to-day work to protect the wild. That's why it's important to poke our head up from time to time and see how far we've come, together. Here are some of this year's wins for the wild, all made possible by your actions, time and donations. Thank you!

Court slams federal delay in spotted owl protection

In June 2024, we celebrated a historic and critical win for the spotted owl and all at-risk species, handed down in a B.C. courthouse. A year prior, the then federal Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault determined the spotted owl faced imminent threats due to logging in its habitat. He then waited eight months before recommending cabinet emergency action. We went to court with Ecojustice and the Honourable Justice Yvan Roy ruled this long delay violated the federal Species at Risk Act. This landmark decision will ensure future emergency order recommendations to cabinet are within a timeline that's responsive to the nature and severity of the threat.



Caribou win 2,000 square kilometres of habitat

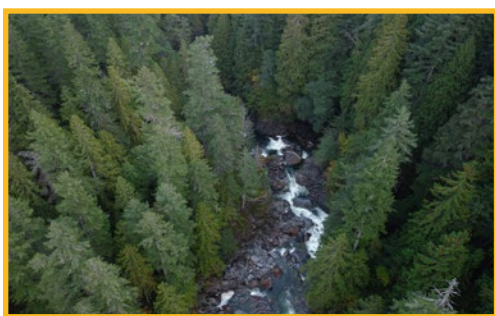
In June 2024, in a huge win for Indigenous-led conservation, the Saluteau and West Moberly First Nations, along with B.C., finalized the expansion of Klinse-za Park — the largest new protected area in a decade in the province at over 2,000 square kilometres. This protected area sets aside a large area of caribou habitat, mapped as part of the historic 2020 partnership agreement between the two Nations and the provincial and federal governments. We've long called for increased habitat protection as the key measure to recovering caribou populations. We were lucky enough to spend time with members of these communities to see their caribou protection work in action, including their successful caribou maternity pen program, as part of our collaboration to support their efforts.





76,000 hectares of new conservation in Clayoquot Sound

In June 2024, a long anticipated win in Clayoquot Sound became reality. Since our humble beginnings in the 1980s, we've done decades of advocacy work for the world-renowned rainforests in Clayoquot Sound. This win was made possible by thousands of years of First Nations leadership and stewardship — and that now has paid off in a big way. Along with the province of B.C., Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations announced ten new conservancies totalling more than 76,000 hectares that will permanently protect the vast majority of the remaining unprotected old-growth in this iconic region. The largest remaining cluster of intact coastal valleys on Vancouver Island is finally safe from industrial logging, making it a cause for great celebration!



Spotted owl habitat gets new lifeline

In July 2024, the federal government released its updated draft Spotted Owl Recovery Strategy, with 400,000 hectares of critical habitat old-growth forest mapped for the spotted owl. A big win for the spotted owl! While half of that is already protected in provincial parks and other conserved areas, the other half will require new protections. The feds have been constantly trying to wriggle out of their responsibility to protect this highly endangered species and its habitat. But this win now gives over 200,000 more hectares of spotted owl critical habitat forest a fighting chance. More than 1,000 of you wrote to the Canadian government to make this happen. Way to go folks!



Lemay Forest saved

In April 2025, Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew announced he would expropriate the Lemay Forest and turn it into a new provincial park. This earth-shaking win is about so much more than nature. What began as a public push to preserve the forest's pileated woodpecker cavities, grew into a province-wide effort to save old trees like a 237-year-old green ash, protect Indigenous sacred land, and memorialize a difficult history. The forest is home to an orphanage and burial site — and the pivotal Métis history of Riel, Ritchot and Lemay. The fight left a mark on us as we learned together the hard truths about burial sites, residential schools, care for women and children, and immediate termination of Indigenous ceremonies. We are proud to be a part of this win!



Independent and Grassroots

We set our own course through the tangled political landscape, using our compass to follow our hopes and dreams for a wild future. Thanks to your independent funding, we're able to pivot our skills and resources on urgent environmental battles that matter. Thanks to you, we stay true to our grassroots.

Fighting highway 413 with a little help from feathered friends

In the spring of 2024, you joined us and an endangered species biologist on a bird-watching hike in the Nashville Conservation Reserve. Ontario Premier Doug Ford's proposed mega-highway 413 would cross the Humber River, cut through the Greenbelt, pollute over 80 waterways, and destroy at-risk species habitat. We saw over 35 species of birds while making new friends in the fight to stop this project.

Canoeing down the Bird River

In the fall of 2024, we held our annual Paddle for Protection canoeing event on the lower Bird River, in Sagkeeng First Nation territory in Manitoba. For over a decade, we've paddled these waters — this year with a group of Chilean exchange students who were surprised to learn they were in the largest intact forest in the world. The lower Bird River is threatened by private mining claims and a massive land grab is underway for "critical minerals" and needs everyone to speak up for this special place until it's protected.

Waffling on old-growth

In March 2025, we held the *Stop Waffling on Old-Growth* rally at B.C. Forest Minister Ravi Parmar's office, with friends from Awi'nakola Foundation and Stand. We fired up the waffle iron while shining a spotlight on B.C.'s ongoing failure to implement a paradigm shift in forest management, despite previous commitments. Alongside constituents, we called on the minister to stop caving to the logging industry and prioritize old-growth forest protection. Stand's satellite monitoring has identified over 38,000 hectares of old-growth destroyed in the years since the government promised change.

Travelling to the World Wilderness Congress

In August 2024, we headed to the Black Hills of South Dakota to attend the Wild Foundation's 12th World Wilderness Congress. We presented a Settler Organization Framework for Conserving Wilderness and Indigenous Culture, outlining our processes for First Nations relationship building and decolonizing parks and protected areas. This year's Wild 12 gathering was billed as a historic moment to reinterpret wilderness through the lens of traditional cultures and root Indigenous principles at the center of nature protection.

Skiing owls... wait, what?

In September 2024, thanks to a call from our friends at Cheam First Nation, a new threat to the spotted owl's forest habitat led us to pivot our focus — and your actions — to oppose a destructive ski resort proposal. The Bridal Veil Mountain Ski resort includes the construction of two gondolas running right through the middle of Elk Creek Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) 2-501, near Chilliwack B.C., designated as off-limits to industrial development after our past joint efforts with Cheam to get it protected for spotted owl habitat.





Wild Friends

Sometimes when we strategize about nature protection and climate justice, we need a little help from our friends. From environmental groups to social justice activists, and Indigenous Nations to union leaders, we're honoured and grateful to work together with our wild partners. We couldn't do it without you!



Hot air and cool friends

In May 2024, we teamed up with Stand, Dogwood, My Sea To Sky and David Suzuki Foundation to crash the Canada Gas and LNG Exhibition in Vancouver. This annual fossil fuel executive gathering was plotting how to ramp up fracking in northeast B.C., even though the climate science and bleak economic outlook for LNG doesn't align. We painted a 20-foot-wide mural out front, held a press conference and delivered over 110,000 petition signatures opposing LNG development in B.C.

A pod of friends protect whales in court

In June 2024, with a pod of friends from David Suzuki Foundation, Georgia Strait Alliance and Raincoast Conservation Foundation, represented by Ecojustice, we were in federal courts to defend southern resident killer whales. Our judicial review challenged the approval of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) project. It would destroy 177 hectares of the Fraser River estuary — one of the most biodiverse regions in Canada — supporting over 100 at-risk species, including 14 populations of chinook salmon and the southern residents that feed on them.



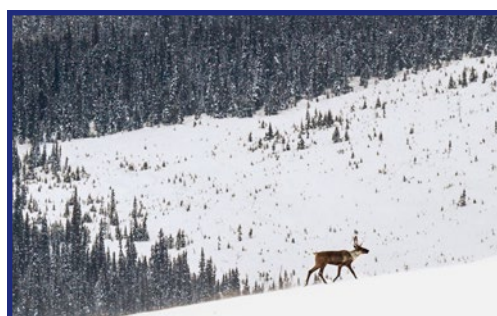
Solidarity with Grassy Narrows

In September 2024, we joined thousands in Toronto and Grassy Narrows First Nation members for River Run 2024. This annual solidarity march supports Grassy Narrows' efforts to protect their territory from unwanted logging and mining, and calls attention to their ongoing pursuit of government compensation for decades of mercury contamination to their lands, waters and bodies. We brought 50 people from Hamilton to hear Chief Rudy Turtle, elders and youth who travelled thousands of kilometres from their home in northwestern Ontario, on Treaty 3 territory.



Joining the global biodiversity stage

In October 2024, we headed to Cali, Colombia with allies to raise our voices at the 16th United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16). We provided live updates and joined creative actions to demand Canada translate commitments made in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 to real action on the ground. COP16 resulted in a big win: after 20 years of advocacy, a subsidiary body of Indigenous People was adopted to give them a seat at the biodiversity table.



Caribou need all the friends they can get

In December 2024, with our friends at Wildsight, we discovered legislative loopholes that enable extensive logging in southern mountain caribou critical habitat. In 2009, the B.C. government put protections in place for these deep-snow caribou. However, map analysis proves more than 78 hectares of these protections, in no-harvest zones, have been logged or approved for logging since. An additional 1,367 hectares in conditional-harvest areas were also logged. These caribou have declined from approximately 2,500 in the late 1990s to 1,250 today.



Getting out on-the-ground to witness, and adding research, mapping and visual media to our stories, allows us to inform, equip and inspire action for nature. Building pathways into wild spaces gives people an opportunity to experience what's at stake and allows Indigenous and rural communities to build visions for a conservation economy. Together we lay the trail for nature protection.

Trail blazing by canoe

In the spring and summer of 2024, we led conservation volunteers on canoe-camping excursions in Ontario to maintain old-growth trails in Temagami, Robinson-Huron Treaty territory and Teme-Augama Anishnabai traditional territory, as well as Rushbrook, Robinson-Huron Treaty territory and Anishnaabeg traditional territory. We conducted canoe excursions at Bird Lake on Sagkeeng First Nation territory in Manitoba, where we took volunteers along the wild rice-bordered waterway to experience the beauty of the lower Bird River and act to protect it.

Frack lands road trip

In the summer of 2024, we took a road trip through the frack lands of northeast B.C. overflowed with drill sites, pipelines and waste water pits found across the landscape, as part of our work to end the climate-destructive practice of fracking for methane gas. We took photos, video and drone footage, and collected stories from residents in the area being squeezed out to feed new liquified natural gas plants on the coast.

Clearing the way through coastal ancient rainforests

In the summer of 2024, we built trails in B.C. in the old-growth forests of Walbran Valley (Kaxi:ks) on Pacheedaht territory, Koksilah Grove on Cowichan territory and Clayoquot Sound on Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht territory. Partnerships with Colour the Trails, an organization working to increase access to outdoor activities for Black, Indigenous and people of colour, and the Inter-cultural Association (ICA) of Greater Victoria, which supports immigrants and refugees, allowed more people to experience these forests. ICA youth at Koksilah Grove worked to maintain trails while talking about the importance of these ancient ecosystems.

Backpack full of owl hopes

In the summer of 2024, we launched a number of expeditions into spotted owl country, including a week-long backpack trip up Teapot Creek Valley, an intact watershed covered in old-growth forests that make critical spotted owl habitat. Recently all pending cutblocks in Teapot Valley have been dropped by the logging company — great news! However, the threat from logging remains in the valley, even though most of it falls within spotted owl critical habitat mapped by the federal government. Witnessing what's happening on the ground is how we'll end logging in owl habitat, for good.

Walking the talk in Catchacoma Forest

In the summer of 2024, we led several old-growth hikes in Catchacoma Forest, traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations. We introduced people to the special features of this old-growth eastern hemlock forest, along with our efforts to protect it. Participants measured trees and used forest bathing techniques to soak in the health benefits forests like Catchacoma offer.





Join Us

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

- **Volunteer:** contact your local Wilderness Committee 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 people working together to defend the environment in Canada.

WildernessCommittee.org/Take-Action

Thank You!

Special thanks to charitable foundations and funders whose generous support of \$1,000 or more play an important role both during and after their lifetimes in our continued success. Standing up for the wild this year:

- Andre & Trudel Kroeher Fund
@ Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
- The Antle/Mears Charitable Foundation
@ Gift Funds Canada
- Barr Family Foundation @ Gift Funds Canada
- Charles MacAdams Foundation
@ Aqueduct Foundation
- Chisholm-Glover Family Giving Fund
@ Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
- Cumulus Fund @ Aqueduct Foundation
- David Charitable Trust
- Dennis & Kathy Meakin Family Foundation
@ Aqueduct Foundation
- Dragon Fire Fund @ Vancouver Foundation
- Ecology First Foundation
- Energy Transition Fund
@ Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- Esling Family Fund @ Canada Gives
- Fitzhenry Family Foundation
- Funke-Furber Fund @ Victoria Foundation
- Geoffrey, Maurice & Edythe Hodgson Fund
@ Victoria Foundation
- Gil & Anne Charitable Giving Fund
@ Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
- Glynne Evans Private Giving Fund
@ Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
- Grayross Foundation @ Vancouver Foundation
- Hamilton Family Fund @ Benefaction Foundation
- Hummingbird Fund @ Aqueduct Foundation
- KMC Foundation
- Lewis Jackson and Dale Gardiner Fund
@ Private Giving Foundation
- Peter & Laurie Thompson Fund
@ Private Giving Foundation
- Russell-Mossoff Family Fund
@ Benefaction Foundation
- Sharp Foundation
- Small Changes Foundation @ Vancouver Foundation
- ThanksVegan Foundation @ Aqueduct Foundation
- Viveka Foundation @ Victoria Foundation
- Weston Family Foundation
- And several generous funders who wish to remain anonymous

Support Us

Your generosity inspires us to do more. There are 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 the 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

Financial Summary

REVENUE	2025	2024
Contributions and donations	3,558,514	3,135,478
Grant revenue	648,120	802,135
Sales of educational materials	30,862	44,042
Investment income	21,104	10,680
Miscellaneous	5,050	7,927
	4,263,650	4,000,262

EXPENSES		
Projects and education	2,306,573	2,108,180
Canvass and fundraising costs	976,524	877,970
Administration costs	545,197	508,342
Sales costs	114,351	129,431
Amortization	13,804	9,294
	3,956,449	3,633,217

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	307,201	367,045
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Fund balances, beginning of year	1,390,088	1,023,043
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Fund balances, end of year	1,697,289	1,390,088
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ASSETS	2025	2024
CURRENT		
Cash	909,099	896,427
Investments	16,049	78,707
Employee receivable	11,086	21,679
Grant receivable	100,000	137,460
Interest receivable	13,256	8,607
Recoverable from government (GST)	45,144	21,945
Prepaid expenses	32,021	19,646
Inventory	13,211	9,522
	1,139,866	1,193,993

Restricted investment	510,529	300,000
Security deposits	12,804	12,804
Grant receivable	100,000	-
Intangible assets	43,542	-
Capital assets	25,608	20,983

	1,832,349	1,527,780
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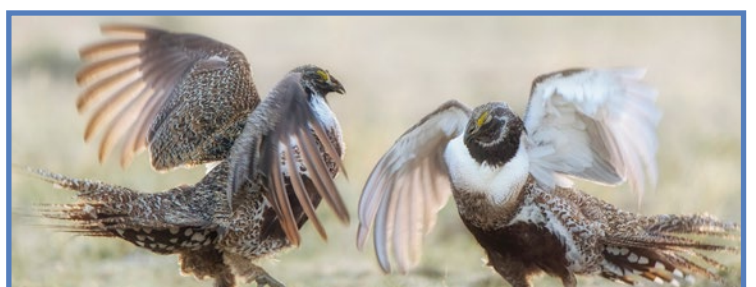
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

CURRENT

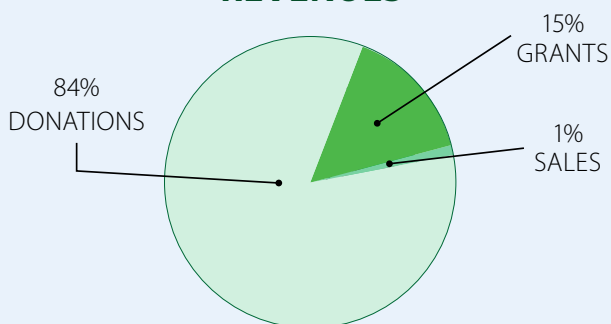
Accounts payable + accrued liabilities	135,060	137,692
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FUND BALANCES

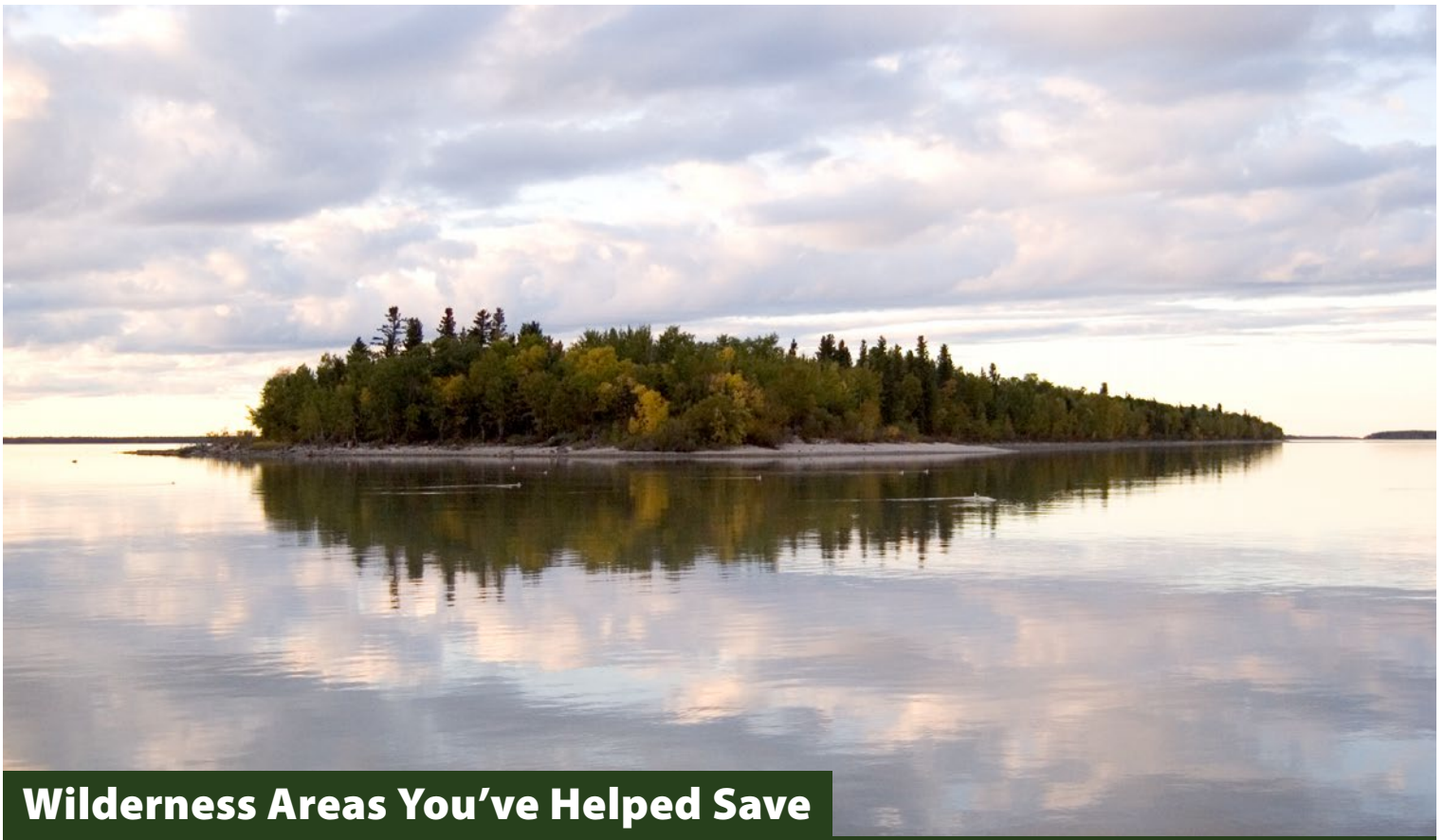
Unrestricted	723,021	477,201
Internally restricted	592,935	420,983
Externally restricted	381,333	491,904
	1,697,289	1,390,088



REVENUES



Audited financial statements are available online at:
WildernessCommittee.org/About-Us/Governance



Wilderness Areas You've Helped Save

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park, BC	Maplewood Flats Conservation Area, BC
Atikaki Provincial Wilderness Park, MB	Megin/Talbot Valley (Strathcona Provincial Park), BC
Birch Island Park Reserve, MB	Mkwál'ts Conservancy, BC
Boundary Bay Regional Park, BC	Nasparti Valley (Mquq'win/Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park), BC
Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area, BC	Niagara Valley (Cariboo Mountains Provincial Park), BC
Caribou Mountains Wildland Provincial Park, AB	Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park, BC
Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park, BC	Nueltin Lake and Colvin Lake Provincial Parks, MB
Chitek Lake Anishinaabe Provincial Park, MB	Pimachiowin Aki UNESCO World Heritage Site, MB/ON
Clayoquot Sound Tribal Parks, Provincial Conservancies & Parks, BC	Pinecone Burke Provincial Park, BC
Clendinning Provincial Park, BC	Qat'muk Indigenous Protected & Conserved Area, BC
Cummins Lake Provincial Park & Cummins River Protected Area, BC	Say Nuth Khaw Yum Provincial Park (Indian Arm), BC
Duu Guusd Heritage Site/Conservancy &	Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt, BC
nine other Haida Gwaii Conservancies, BC	Skagit Valley Provincial Park, BC
Fisher Bay Provincial Park, MB	Snowy Protected Area, BC
Goose Island and Grand Island Provincial Parks, MB	Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park, BC
Graystokes Provincial Park, BC	South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park, BC
Great Bear Rainforest, BC	Spiipiyus Provincial Park (Caren Range), BC
Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, Marine Conservation Area &	Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, BC
Haida Heritage Site, BC	Stikine River Provincial Park, BC
Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park, MB	Sturgeon Bay Park Reserve (expansion), MB
Hisnit/Power River Watershed Protected Area, BC	Surrey Bend Regional Park, BC
Huchsduwachsd Nuyem Jeas/Kitlope Heritage Conservancy, BC	Sxótsaqel/Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park, BC
Incomappleux Conservancy, BC	Tahsish-Kwois Provincial Park, BC
Jedediah Island Marine Provincial Park, BC	Taku River/T'akú Tlatsini Conservancy, BC
Kakwa Provincial Park, BC	Tatshenshini-Alsek Park, BC
Kaskatmagan WMA & Sipi WMA Protected Areas, MB	Tetrahedron Provincial Park, BC
Khutzeymateen/K'tzim-a-deen Grizzly Sanctuary Provincial Park, BC	Ts'il?os Provincial Park, BC
Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy, BC	Turtle Mountain Provincial Park, MB
Kilnse-za/Twin Sisters Park (expansion), BC	Upper Elaho Valley, Callaghan &
Koeye Conservancy, BC	Upper Soo Conservancies, BC
Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve, BC	Upper Lillooet Provincial Park, BC
Lower Tsitika River Provincial Park, BC	Valhalla Provincial Park, BC
Manigotagan River Provincial Park, MB	West Arm Provincial Park, BC



PEOPLE POWERED WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

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 66 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 nature in Canada.

WildernessCommittee.org/Support

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