

# ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending 30 April 2019

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**WILDERNESS**  
COMMITTEE

# Protecting Canada's wild for over 35 years



Photo cover: burrowing owls (Roberta Olenick), photo: grizzly bear (John E. Marriot).

# Thank You!

Dear friends,

We are very lucky at the Wilderness Committee. In the face of some of the most daunting challenges of our times — severe climate change, increasing biodiversity loss, devastating levels of extinction — we know we're not alone.

That's because the number of you who support the organization with your funds and your time is growing, the number of community groups that reach out to collaborate on addressing these challenges is increasing and the number of people in the streets and at events insisting we make much-needed change is soaring.

Despite these difficult challenges and increasing hostility from those not ready to make the changes needed, we grow stronger.

We are lucky because our grassroots strategies and our independent funding model — with 98 per cent of our growing budget coming from individual supporters — means we can continue to be nimble. We're where we need to be when we need to be there to ensure we win.

We were on the ground in Nopiming Provincial Park to discover industrial destruction and mining activity damaging that protected area and the species that call this Manitoban place their home. We were on the ground on Vancouver Island to witness continued logging of the world's oldest trees, and provide you

with the latest information so you can take action and let the provincial government know we won't accept this any longer. We were on the ground in Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario where continued logging puts the future of the few remaining old-growth trees there at risk. We were on the ground in mainland British Columbia to document ongoing logging in the critical habitat needed for the spotted owl and the southern mountain caribou to survive and thrive.

None of that — not one minute — would happen without the tens of thousands of donors, activists and volunteers like you who give your time and money to make change happen.

Thank you for your continuing support. We are lucky, because together we are building a different vision for the future.

For the wild,



**Joe Foy**



**Beth Clarke**

Co-Executive Directors

Thanks to our passionate staff team of 26 wilderness and wildlife advocates in Toronto, Winnipeg, Victoria and Vancouver! Special thanks to our many photographers whose images remind us what we're working to protect.



Beth Clarke and Joe Foy

## Board of Directors

Bryan Joe Jr.  
Elaine Golds  
Emet Davis  
Karen Palmer  
Kegan Pepper-Smith (Chair)  
Kevin Millsip  
Paula Neuman  
Rodrigo Samayo  
Shannon Daub



Photo: Nopiming Provincial Park, MB (Eric Reder).

# Our Wild Vision

Wilderness Committee is the people-powered wilderness preservation group working for a wild future. Founded 39 years ago, the organization evolved out of a desire to increase awareness about threatened wilderness and wildlife in Canada, in an effort to build broad public support for preservation.

Today, our original purpose stands stronger than ever. Climate chaos means 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 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 some of the 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 post-carbon economy.

## Join

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 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 people working together to defend the environment in Canada.

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





Photo: 18 Mile Creek, BC (Paul Morgan)

# Wins for Nature

Fighting for nature is tough work. You need a sense of humour, lots of friends and the ability to pick yourself up and dust yourself off when you lose a fight tooth-and-nail. And when we win, we celebrate wildly!

## Forest reprieve for the Donut Hole

Over the summer of 2018, we raised the alarm about logging in the “Donut Hole,” a BC wilderness area near the US border surrounded by Skagit and Manning provincial parks. Discussions between Seattle’s mayor and BC’s premier led to a hold on future logging. It’s a wonderful but temporary win for nature that needs to be made permanent.

## Tetrahedron Park saved from going down the drain

In early 2019, we celebrated wildly when BC’s minister of environment decided to save Tetrahedron Provincial Park from being downsized to drain Chapman Lake. The Wilderness Committee joined with local people and like-minded environmental organizations to plead for the preservation of this much-loved park.

## Toad People takes home a Panda

In October 2018, we won the coveted Panda

Award for our film *Toad People!* Wildscreen’s Panda Awards, the “wildlife Oscars,” have been handed out since 1982 to “the best examples in the natural world storytelling genre [judged] by the industry’s most respected and accomplished leaders.” *Toad People* tells the story of people across BC taking action to save endangered species in their own backyards.

## Court of Appeal puts kink in pipeline

In August 2018, we were relieved when the Federal Court of Appeal ruled First Nations, including the Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish, were not adequately consulted before the decision to approve the Trans Mountain pipeline and halted work on the pipeline until proper consultation could be undertaken. We held a rally and called on the federal government to do the right thing and abandon its pipeline plans.

## BC legislature passes anti-SLAPP

The spring of 2019 saw BC lawmakers unanimously vote to pass legislation to protect people like you and I from strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP). We spent five long years fighting Taseko Mines’ defamation suit and are thrilled BC residents will no longer get SLAPPed for taking on big industrial companies.





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

# Independent and Grassroots

Diversity is our value and strength. Our work is rooted in engaging people face to face to hear perspectives and voices from a wide variety of communities across Canada. This makes for some powerful campaign activities.

## Paddle for the Peace

The 13th Annual Paddle for the Peace saw the Peace River Valley near Fort St. John, BC filled with hundreds of participants from First Nations and local farm families. We paddled down this mighty river in solidarity with efforts to stop the Site C dam from flooding over 100 km of prime wildlife habitat and farmland. Although the BC and federal governments have given the go-ahead for the dam and work is underway, we oppose the project because the destruction is too severe, the electrical power needed is better produced in other ways, and Treaty 8 First Nations do not consent.

## Vancouver Island Forestry Tour

We joined with Sierra Club BC and headed to northern Vancouver Island to hear ideas from the residents of Port McNeill on how to better manage the remaining precious old-growth forests.

Vancouver Island's iconic rainforests are under threat — much of the original old-growth rainforest has been cut down and many ecosystems have been pushed to the brink. In an era of climate change, the importance of healthy, intact old-growth rainforests couldn't be greater.

## Tiny House Warriors

Our campaign and media teams travelled up to the BC community of Blue River and Mount Robson Provincial Park to do podcasts and collect video clips of the Tiny House Warriors in action. The warriors are lead by Secwepemc Indigenous activists opposed to the Trans Mountain pipeline. As a unique form of resistance, the warriors build and occupy tiny houses along the pipeline route in Secwepemc territory.

## Paddle for Protection

We put on the Fifth 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 and communities we were able to pull together the Paddle for Protection and raise awareness for this cherished waterway.

## 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](http://WildernessCommittee.org/Support)



Photo: southern mountain caribou herd (David Moskowitz).

# On the Ground

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We ensure we have the best up-to-date information possible when we meet with members of the media or governments. That's why we're 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. Your support makes this unique strategy possible.

## Schmidt Creek Old-Growth

Together with our allies at Sierra Club BC, we travelled to the Schmidt Creek Valley on the northeast coast of Vancouver Island. We heard of BC Timber Sales plans to log old-growth forest near the famous killer whale beaches of the Tsitika River estuary. There, we mapped the roads and cutblocks and took photos and video clips to aid in our campaign to ban logging in BC's remaining old-growth forests.

## Manning Park Donut Hole

To further our campaign to permanently protect the Donut Hole, a 5,800 hectare area sandwiched between Manning and Skagit provincial parks, we made numerous trips into the endangered wilderness area to record the advance of new clearcut logging by BC Timber Sales.

## Algonquin Park

We headed into Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park; one of the most famous provincial parks in Canada still open to industrial logging. We mapped logging sites and roads and took photos and video clips to help our campaign to see logging banned in this much-loved provincial park.

## Nopiming Provincial Park

To check up on reports of mining exploration inside Manitoba's Nopiming Provincial Park, we trekked in to check it out. We found a tangled maze of recently cut roads and cat tracks bulldozed through the park forests. We made a video and demanded the Manitoba government end the outdated practice of allowing mining within provincial parks.

## Southern Mountain Caribou

We went on several fact-finding tours of the forested habitat of BC's at-risk southern mountain caribou. We filmed BC government-approved clearcut logging in important caribou habitat, designated by the federal government. We are using the images and data from these tours to support our campaign to preserve and protect this imperilled caribou.





Photo: Walbran Valley, BC artist trip (Torrance Coste)

# Wild Friends

We've found friends are one of our most powerful resources. This year was no exception. We work with many groups to push for positive change.

## Mayoral Candidates Panel

We put on an evening of fast-pitch environmental policy and pressing questions for Winnipeg's mayoral candidates to hear their ideas and plans to keep the environment healthy, clean and sustainable. We co-hosted with Manitoba Eco-Network, Climate Change Connection, CCPA, Functional Transit Winnipeg, Transition Winnipeg, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, Green Action Centre, Bike Winnipeg, Green Action Committee of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg, University of Winnipeg's Sustainability Office, University of Manitoba's Sustainability Office, Prairie Climate Centre and Winnipeg Trails Association.

## Spotted Owls

Together with Ecojustice we visited BC's Fraser Canyon to check out the home of the last remaining wild spotted owls in Canada. We were shocked and saddened to find ongoing clearcut logging by BC Timber Sales, destroying the area's few remaining stands of old-growth forest they need to survive. We're demanding the federal government step in and insist the BC government stop logging so this species comes back from the brink.

## Trail Building

We ran many trail building projects on Vancouver Island with allies including the Indigenous communities of Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht in the big-tree forests of Clayoquot Sound, and the Friends of Carmanah Walbran to construct trails in the Kaxi:ks (Walbran Valley) rainforest.

## South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Reserve

Activists from the South Okanagan in BC took us to their favourite nature spots to take photos and videos. This was in support of the cooperative work between the Okanagan's First Nations governments together with the governments of BC and Canada to designate a national park reserve in this biodiverse landscape.

## Peg City Climate Jam

We were proud to organize this public event with our allies in Manitoba's Climate Action Team, a coalition of organizations advocating for a non-partisan, specific and actionable path for achieving climate resilience and a zero-emissions economy. The partners include Wilderness Committee, Manitoba Eco-Network, Climate Change Connection, Green Action Centre, Prairie Climate Centre, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, CCPA and the University of Winnipeg's Sustainability Office.

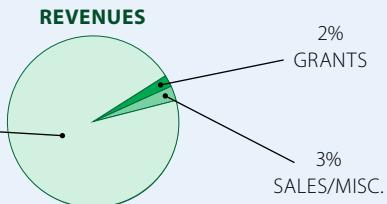




Photo: Whitelake grasslands (Charlotte Dawe), back page photo: Walbran Valley (Chris Istace).

# Financial Summary

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Contributions and donations	2,436,598	2,431,685
Grant revenue	55,000	100,263
Sales of educational materials	56,771	60,877
Miscellaneous	10,166	15,238
	<b>2,558,535</b>	<b>2,608,063</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Projects and education	1,423,822	1,265,715
Canvass and fundraising costs	754,510	680,701
Administration costs	313,717	288,766
Sales costs	126,705	86,240
Amortization	25,126	14,512
Loss on disposal of capital assets	1,540	–
Membership costs	–	638
	<b>2,645,420</b>	<b>2,336,572</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	(86,885)	271,491
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	<b>671,063</b>	<b>399,572</b>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<b>584,178</b>	<b>671,063</b>



<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	236,104	330,507
Accounts receivable	926	19
Interest receivable	2,066	2,039
Recoverable from government (GST)	23,754	17,637
Prepaid expenses	35,926	42,184
Inventory	13,477	12,881
	<b>312,253</b>	<b>405,267</b>
Restricted investment	322,223	320,142
Capital assets	86,928	72,512
	<b>721,404</b>	<b>797,921</b>

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable + accrued liabilities	137,226	126,858
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Unrestricted	64,710	251,783
Internally restricted	409,151	392,654
Externally restricted	110,317	26,626
	<b>721,404</b>	<b>797,921</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:

- Balaclava Estate Fund, at Vancity Community Foundation
- Dennis & Kathy Meakin Family Foundation
- Geoffrey, Maurice and Edythe Hodgson Fund, at Victoria Foundation
- Gil & Anne Charitable Giving Fund
- Grant MacEwan Nature Protection Fund, at Calgary Foundation
- Grayross Foundation, held at Vancouver Foundation
- Jeffrey Watt Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation
- KMC Foundation
- Maja Foundation, at Calgary Foundation
- Nancy Hawkins & Bill Bargeman Fund
- Richard & Winnifred Bocking Family Fund, at Victoria Foundation
- Small Changes Foundation, held at Vancouver Foundation
- St. Louis Community Foundation
- Winnipeg Foundation
- W. Garfield Weston 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](http://WildernessCommittee.org/Support)

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