

A low-angle, close-up photograph of a massive tree trunk in a forest. The bark is deeply textured, with prominent vertical ridges and grooves. It is heavily covered in bright green moss, particularly in the crevices and along the ridges. The tree trunk tapers slightly towards the top. In the background, other trees and green foliage are visible, creating a dense forest atmosphere. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day or a shaded forest floor.

ANNUAL REPORT

May 2019 — April 2020



WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE



Our Wild Vision

The Wilderness Committee celebrates 40 years of people powered wilderness preservation for a wild future in 2020.

Strategic research, community mobilizing and grassroots education are the pillars of our efforts to build broad-based support for actions to preserve wilderness, protect wildlife, defend parks, and fight for a safe and stable climate, while standing in defence of Indigenous rights and title and the public good.

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

Like you, we believe that when people learn about threats to wilderness and wildlife, they will act to protect them.



Dear friend,

Writing to you eight months into the COVID-19 pandemic — the Wilderness Committee's 40th anniversary year no less — about pre-pandemic activities is an unusual yet inspiring reflection of what we accomplish together.

Our field program flourished. From the old-growth forests of Catchacoma in Ontario to the provincial parks in Manitoba, to the wild west coast of Vancouver Island, we documented what was happening on the ground and brought it to public attention. We led groups of volunteers to clear and maintain trails through towering ancient forests. We provided opportunities for supporters and the public to hike, cycle and paddle with us to learn more about threats to wild areas and the climate. We conducted research, gathered photos and videos, and shared stories that inspired all of us to take action.

We pivoted and reacted quickly with calls to action because of you. Our independent funding model — powered by people like you giving what you can, when you can — allowed us to support efforts of First Nations and community members to stop frac-sand mining in Manitoba, oppose old-growth logging at Argenta Face in BC, and defend endangered Blanding's turtle habitat in Ontario. We partnered with allies to oppose industrial logging destruction in the home of the last three spotted owls in the wild in Canada and endangered southern mountain caribou habitat in BC.

Our grassroots approach had significant impact. Our public awareness and engagement led tens of thousands to take actions in defence of wilderness, wildlife and the climate. When our reality was restricted overnight to stop the spread of the coronavirus in March, digital engagement multiplied. Emails and online take-action requests were supplemented by Zoom webinars, live social media videos and phone chats with our canvass team.

Our interconnectedness to each other and to nature has never been a greater priority. Your support inspires us to continue. **Your engagement and action, the determination of our 30 passionate staff members and dedicated board of directors, and our endless stream of volunteers — *that* is people powered!** Thank you all for standing with us.

For the wild,



B Clarke

Beth Clarke
Executive Director



Megan Pepper-Smith

Megan Pepper-Smith
Board of Directors Chair

Board of Directors

Bryan Joe-Yeso
Emet Davis
Kegan Pepper-Smith (Chair)
Kevin Millsip
Paula Neuman
Rodrigo Samayoa
Shannon Daub (2019)

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





Wins for Nature

Fighting to protect nature is never easy, but thanks to determination, a sense of humour and your infallible support, we have gotten through tough battles. Setbacks hurt but successes heal. Wild wins continue to inspire us to keep moving forward.

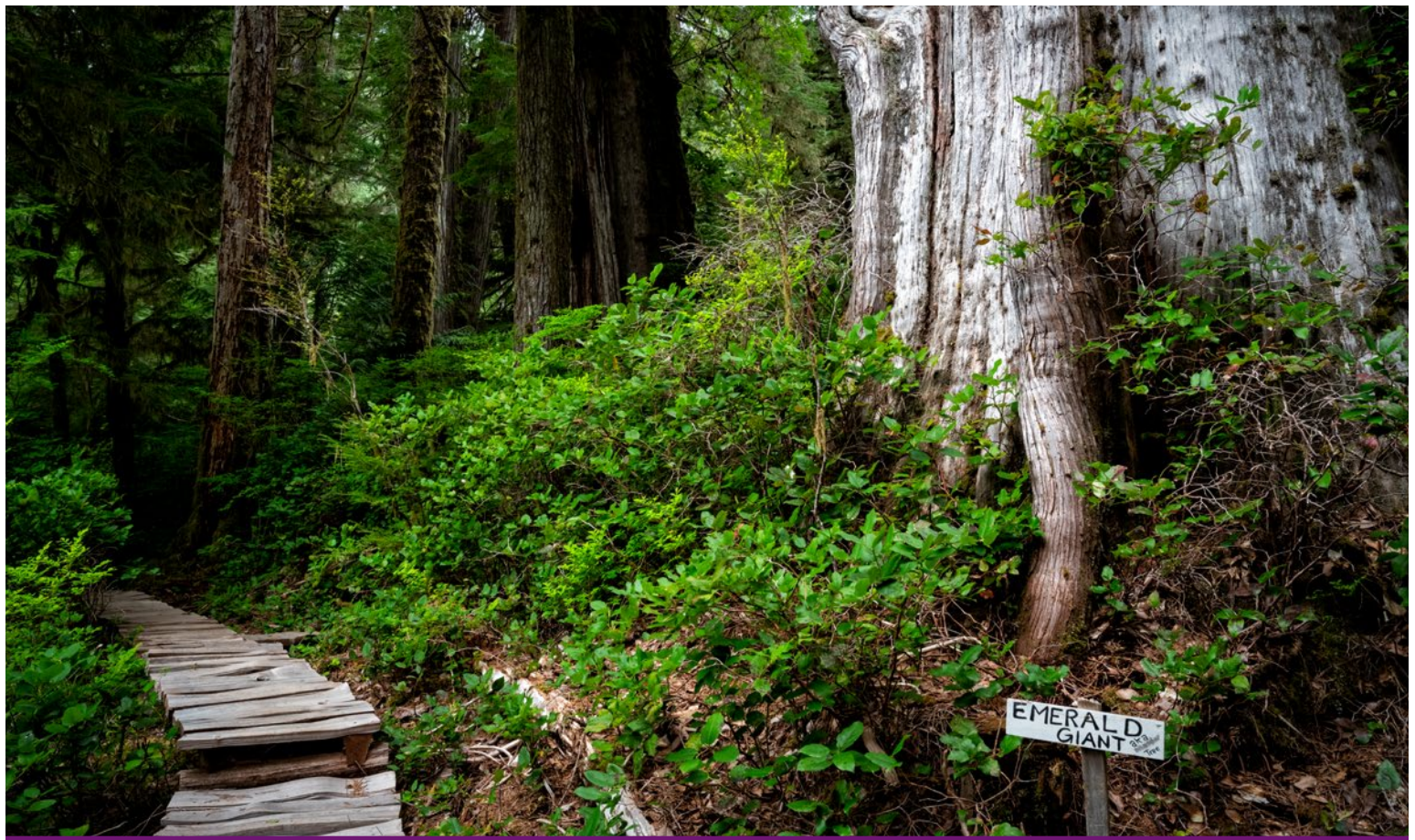
SOS National Park Reserve gets an MOU

Since 2003 we've worked hard to realize the dream of a South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Reserve. July 2019 marked the most significant step forward yet, when the sm̓alq̓m̓ix/suknaʔkinx (Syilx/Okanagan Nation Alliance), together with the federal and provincial governments, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. Thanks to all three governments for stepping up to work together to design and implement a preservation plan that will result in a life-sustaining legacy for both nature and people.

Southern mountain caribou habitat secured

In February 2020 we celebrated the signing of a landmark First Nations-led partnership agreement designed to protect endangered southern mountain caribou habitat in northeast BC's Peace Valley region. We campaigned hard to pressure the federal and provincial governments to support this groundbreaking accord led by Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations, to provide recovery and protection measures for caribou herds in the region. The plan includes the protection of over 700,000 hectares of important caribou habitat, roll-out of an Indigenous Guardians Program, and support for ongoing recovery and protection efforts by West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations.





No frac sand mine in Manitoba

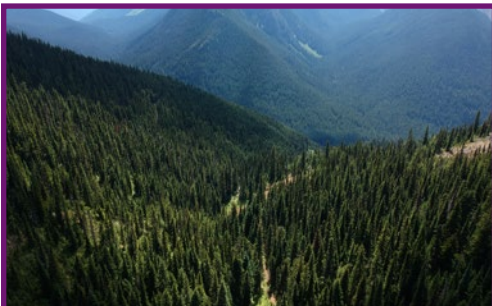
In February 2020 we received tremendous news. The proposed frac sand mine — a material used during fracking — threatening Hollow Water First Nation territory was put on hold by owners Canadian Premium Sand. They blamed declining frac sand prices. Earlier, we were able to push the Manitoba government to include 98 conditions on the environmental licence issued to the company, which didn't let them cut costs by running roughshod over wildlife and wilderness. When that happened, suddenly the mine company said it was too expensive to do the project.

Donut Hole protected from logging

For 15 years we have been calling for a ban on logging in the "Donut Hole," a 5,800 hectare endangered wild area surrounded by Manning and Skagit provincial parks. In December 2019 the BC government announced BC Timber Sales, the provincial government's logging company, would no longer be allowed to cut trees here. The long fought-for announcement ensures two unlogged valleys, Silverdaisy and 26 Mile, will remain unlogged until they can be formally protected.

Climate wins over Teck tar sands mine

In February 2020 we cheered the demise of the largest tar sands project ever proposed — the Teck Frontier Mine. We spoke out against the project at the public hearings and many of our supporters took action to stop it. The corporation withdrew its proposal just days before Ottawa was due to make a decision. The massive mine would have created six megatonnes of carbon pollution every year — more than all the vehicles in the City of Toronto. There was little economic case for Frontier since oil demand is forecast to decline in the coming decade.





Independent and Grassroots

Our work is centred on being nimble and able to collaborate with a diversity of peoples and communities across the country on environmental issues that matter to them. Each of you giving what you can powers our grassroots engagement.

Tripled success at Paddle for Protection

A 17 km unprotected section of Manitoba's lower Bird River flows out of Nopiming Provincial Park on its way to the Winnipeg River. Each year since 2013, the Wilderness Committee and supporters have held a canoe paddle event on the river to bring attention to the need for protection from mine developments. This year, overwhelming attendance from the public and the Sagkeeng First Nation, whose territory includes the lower Bird River, meant we held three wildly successful back-to-back paddle events.

Old-growth defence at Argenta Face

Towering over Kootenay Lake in BC stands Mount Willet, the highpoint of a 6,000 hectare endangered wilderness nicknamed the Argenta-Johnsons Landing Face. The local group Mt. Willet Wilderness Forever has been actively campaigning for protection of the area to stop proposed logging. Southern mountain caribou, thought to have disappeared from this region, were recently found living there. We put out a joint news release demanding the forest be protected and travelled to the community to give a slideshow about past successful wilderness preservation campaigns.

Unceded land no place for a pipeline

The lands, waters and peoples of unceded Wet'suwet'en territory in northern BC are under threat by the provincial government's approved Coastal GasLink fracked gas pipeline project. All five Wet'suwet'en Nation clans have opposed new oil and gas pipelines through their lands, and over the years we have worked hard to support their efforts as we aim to put an end to fracking and LNG in BC. We were joined by hundreds of supporters in solidarity actions, attending rallies across Canada, making calls to elected officials demanding a halt to the construction and respect for Indigenous rights and title, and attending our webinar with Indigenous youth who occupied the BC Legislature.

Blanding's turtles vs. rock quarry

The unique and elusive Blanding's turtles are endangered and at-risk of losing a critical wetland home in Ontario. Laurentian University scientists identified one of their densest populations in the Serpent River watershed north of Lake Huron, near the Township of the North Shore. Despite this, a gravel mining company has proposed a massive rock quarry there. We are working with the local citizen group and First Nations to oppose the quarry and appeal the industrial rezoning. Many supporters wrote letters to the provincial government demanding protection for the at-risk turtle habitat.





We are more powerful when we stand together. From environmental groups and social justice activists to First Nations allies and union leaders, we are honoured to work with our wild friends.

Trans Mountain pipeline

Over the past decade, we have formed long-lasting relationships with First Nations and environmental allies on our campaign to stop the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion. As we continue to monitor destruction along the proposed route and bring people together in-person and virtually to oppose the expansion of fossil fuel extraction, we are honoured to partner with friends at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Stand.earth, DogwoodBC, West Coast Environmental Law, BROKE, PIPE UP and WaterWealth, as well as showing up for our friends at Tsleil-Waututh and Secwépemc Nations as they defend Indigenous rights and title.



Killer whales in the Salish Sea

We completed our joint intervention in opposition to the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 federal environmental assessment in BC. During the assessment we fought for southern resident killer whales and chinook salmon — their main food source — bringing attention to the disastrous impacts this container port project would have. We consider ourselves lucky to stand alongside experts and friends at Ecojustice, Raincoast Conservation Foundation, Georgia Strait Alliance and David Suzuki Foundation in defense of the Salish Sea. A decision has not yet been made on the project. We remain determined to ensure it doesn't go ahead by speaking on behalf of those that can't, using science as the backbone of our arguments.

Vancouver Island trails

Our trail work gives the public hiking access to legendary old-growth forests and builds strong relationships with key First Nations and community groups. We organized seven groups of volunteers to build and maintain trails on the west coast of Vancouver Island. In the central Walbran Valley we repaired and constructed a boardwalk trail with Friends of Carmanah Walbran. We recleared the *Big Tree Trail* on Meares Island with our partners at Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks and the *Walk the Wild Side Trail* on Flores Island with friends at the Ahousaht First Nation.

Manitoba Climate Action Team

Working with our allies in Manitoba's Climate Action Team continued to spur exciting results as part of our *Road to Resilience* project. We planned events, educational materials and communications on issues related to climate such as agriculture and transportation. We held a climate fall supper, an Earth Day online speaker series, and a pre-election forum, asking candidates questions prior to Manitoba's provincial election. Our CAT partners are Manitoba Eco-Network, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba, Green Action Centre, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition and the Climate Change Connection.



On the Ground

Field expeditions to at-risk areas allow us to maintain the best up-to-date research, mapping, visual media and on-the-ground stories about active threats to wilderness and wildlife, and communicate these to the public, media and decision makers. These activities continue to inspire all of us to stand up for the wild.

Vancouver Island ancient forests

To defend the last stands of old-growth forest on Vancouver Island, we got out on the ground to document active logging in key areas like Tahsish Valley, Schmidt Creek Valley and Nootka Island. Our photo and video documentation increased public interest and concern about the plight of these remaining ancient forests. We conducted North Island forest tours, that included community events, meetings with First Nations and local politicians, and field expeditions to discuss what's needed in a transition to sustainable forestry. Partnering with the Nuchatlaht First Nation, we're supporting their Indigenous title case on Nootka Island.

Nopiming Provincial Park

We hiked Nopiming Provincial Park in Manitoba and discovered a newly bulldozed forest at a mineral exploration site. This industrial destruction was a result of the provincial government's policy allowing mineral exploration in some provincial parks — an activity not allowed in most provinces. The bulldozed forest is located in critical moose habitat and threatened boreal woodland caribou habitat. We took photos and video footage and broke the story to media outlets and our supporters as part of our battle to end mining destruction in Manitoba parks.

Endangered spotted owls

Guided by a Spuzzum First Nation member, we visited several valleys in the Fraser Canyon area in BC where the last three wild spotted owls in Canada are surviving in remaining old-growth forests. We travelled to logging sites to gather information used to push the federal government towards strengthening recovery actions for this at-risk species. We continue to use this information to advocate for a complete logging ban in spotted owl habitat.

Catchacoma old-growth forest

We teamed up with the Ancient Forest Exploration and Research group in Ontario to demand the provincial government put an immediate halt to planned logging in Catchacoma Forest in Peterborough County, and to establish permanent protection for this unique old-growth ecosystem. On the ground research recently documented the largest known stand of old-growth eastern hemlock in Canada, in the Catchacoma Forest, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Mississauga First Nations. We produced a video showcasing this rare surviving forest.





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 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

Thank you!

We appreciate the charitable foundations and funders who play an important role in our continued success, standing up for the wild again this year:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Andre & Trudel Kroeher Fund, held at Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation | • Maja Foundation, at Calgary Foundation |
| • Antle/Mears Charitable Foundation | • Marion Pearson & Jim Orr Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation |
| • Balaclava Estate Fund | • Nancy Hawkins/Bill Bargeman Fund |
| • Bill & Rosemarie McMechan Fund | • Peter and Chloe O'Loughlin Charitable Fund |
| • Brameld Foundation | • Richard & Winnifred Bocking Family Fund, held at Victoria Foundation |
| • Brian & Norma Sagar Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation | • Richard Krieger Foundation |
| • Dennis & Kathy Meakin Family Foundation | • ShorePeakGEN Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation |
| • Dr. Hinda Avery Fund | • Small Changes Foundation, held at Vancouver Foundation |
| • Geoffrey, Maurice and Edythe Hodgson Fund, held at Victoria Foundation | • Solomon Foundation |
| • Gerard & Trudy Bloem Fund | • St. Louis Community Foundation |
| • Gil & Anne Charitable Giving Fund | • Sustainable Markets Foundation |
| • Grayross Foundation, held at Vancouver Foundation | • Tannahill Fund |
| • Hillard Family Foundation, held at Vancouver Foundation | • Viveka Foundation Fund, held at Victoria Foundation |
| • James Lindfield Fund | • W. Garfield Weston Foundation |
| • Laura Tiberti Charitable Foundation | • Winnipeg Foundation |
| • Lewis Jackson & Dale Gardiner Fund | |

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 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	2020	2019
Contributions and donations	2,331,178	2,436,598
Grant revenue	176,581	55,000
Sales of educational materials	59,830	56,771
Federal government payroll subsidy	17,523	–
Miscellaneous	9,863	10,166
	2,594,975	2,558,535

EXPENSES		
Projects and education	1,478,848	1,423,822
Canvass and fundraising costs	793,485	754,510
Administration costs	347,451	313,717
Sales costs	104,621	126,705
Amortization of intangible assets	20,500	10,250
Amortization	18,491	14,876
	2,763,396	2,643,880

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses from operations	(168,421)	(85,345)
Loss on disposal of capital assets	–	1,540
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(168,421)	(86,885)

Fund balances, beginning of year **584,178** **671,063**

Fund balances, end of year **415,757** **584,178**

ASSETS	2020	2019
CURRENT		
Cash	206,175	251,137
Accounts receivable	2,090	926
Interest receivable	2,066	2,066
Recoverable from government (GST)	23,086	23,754
Prepaid expenses	3,783	25,704
Inventory	9,392	13,477
	246,592	317,064

Restricted investment	324,318	322,223
Security deposits	9,204	10,222
Capital assets	39,025	35,678
Intangible assets	30,750	51,250
	649,889	736,437

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

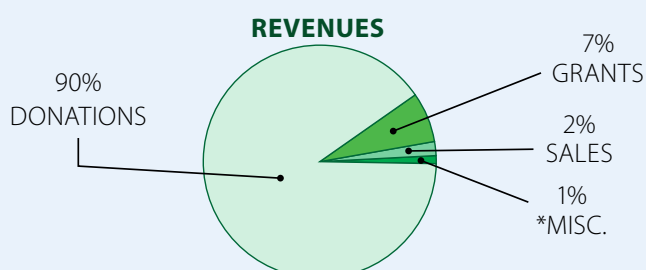
CURRENT		
Bank indebtedness	142,609	15,033
Accounts payable + accrued liabilities	91,523	137,226

FUND BALANCES

Unrestricted	(107,578)	64,710
Internally restricted for capital and intangible assets	69,775	86,928
Internally restricted	324,318	322,223
Externally restricted	129,242	110,317
	649,889	736,437

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

*COVID-19 federal government payroll subsidy included





Wilderness Areas We've Helped Save

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park, BC
 Atikaki Provincial Park, MB
 Birch Island Provincial Park, MB
 Boundary Bay Regional Park, BC
 Bridge River Delta, French Bar Creek, Fred Antoine
 and Yalakom Provincial Parks, BC
 Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area, BC
 Caren Range (Spipiyus Provincial Park), BC
 Caribou Mountains Wildland Provincial Park, AB
 Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park, BC
 Chitek Lake Provincial Park, MB
 Clayoquot Arm, Clayoquot Plateau and Flores Island Provincial Parks, BC
 Clendinning Provincial Park, BC
 Cummins River Valley (Cummins Lakes Provincial Park), BC
 Duu Guusd and nine other Haida Gwaii Conservancies, BC
 Fisher Bay Provincial Park, MB
 Goose Island and Grand Island Provincial Parks, MB
 Graystokes Protected Area, BC
 Great Bear Rainforest, BC
 Greendrop Lake (Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park), BC
 Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, BC
 Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, BC
 Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park, MB
 Huchsduwachsd Nuyem Jeas/Kitlope Heritage Conservancy, BC
 Indian Arm (Say Nuth Khaw Yum Provincial Park), BC
 Jedediah Island Marine Provincial Park, BC
 Kakwa Provincial Park and Protected Area, BC
 Kaskatmagan WMA and Sipi WMA Protected Areas, MB
 Khutzymateen Provincial Park, BC
 Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy, BC
 Koeys Conservancy, BC
 Lasca Creek (West Arm Provincial Park), BC
 Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve, BC

Lower Tsitika River Provincial Park, BC
 Manigotagan River Provincial Park, MB
 Maplewood Flats Conservation Area, BC
 Megin/Talbot Valley (Strathcona Provincial Park), BC
 Mkwalt's Conservancy, BC
 Nasparti Valley (Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park), BC
 Niagara Valley (Cariboo Mountains Provincial Park), BC
 Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park, BC
 Nueltin Lake and Colvin Lake Provincial Parks, MB
 Pimachiowin Aki UNESCO World Heritage Site, MB/ON
 Pinecone Burke Provincial Park, BC
 Power River Watershed Protected Area, BC
 Qat'muk Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area, BC
 Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt, BC
 Skagit Valley Provincial Park, BC
 Snowy Protected Area, BC
 Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park Reserve, BC
 South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park, BC
 Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, BC
 Stikine Grand Canyon (Stikine River Provincial Park), BC
 Sturgeon Bay Park Reserve (protection extended), MB
 Surrey Bend Regional Park, BC
 Tahsish-Kwois Provincial Park, BC
 Taku Watershed (10 new conservancies), BC
 Tatshenshini-Alsek Park, BC
 Tetrahedron Provincial Park, BC
 Ts'il'os Provincial Park, BC
 Turtle Mountain Provincial Park, MB
 Upper Elaho Valley, Callaghan and Upper
 Soo Conservancies, BC
 Upper Lillooet Provincial Park, BC
 Valhalla Provincial Park, BC
 West Arm Provincial Park, BC



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 65 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

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**WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE**
WildernessCommittee.org

WILDERNESS COMMITTEE — NATIONAL OFFICE

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

Toll free: 1-800-661-9453

☎ (604) 683-8220 📠 (604) 683-8229

VICTORIA OFFICE WildernessCommittee.org/Victoria

1501 Haultain Street, Victoria, BC V8R 2K1

☎ (250) 388-9292 📠 (250) 388-9223

MANITOBA OFFICE WildernessCommittee.org/Manitoba

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

☎ (204) 942-9292 📠 (204) 942-8214

ONTARIO OFFICE WildernessCommittee.org/Ontario

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

☎ (416) 849-6520



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