



# ANNUAL REPORT

May 2020 — April 2021



**WILDERNESS**  
COMMITTEE



## Our Wild Vision

**F**or more than 40 years, the Wilderness Committee has stayed true to our vision of people powered wilderness preservation for a wild future.

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

Our independent, on-the-ground, grassroots 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 was like no other. We lived, learned and lost — and continue to — due to COVID-19. Through all this, we continued to witness unprecedented biodiversity loss and climate chaos. We turned 40 years old, a time to reflect on what we're able to accomplish together no matter what stands in our way.

Turning our wilderness and wildlife defence work virtual on a dime was unthinkable. Yet overnight we moved door-to-door outreach to the phones, held events on Zoom, distributed thousands of publications without our volunteers, agonized over getting into the field and out on the streets without risking people's health, and demanded increased access to outdoor spaces to visit with loved ones.

Your work defending the wild didn't falter. A fun Facebook live series "Coffee Talk" where you heard quirky stories from our campaigns. An online at-risk species trivia night. Webinars like "Quarrels with Quarries" and "Land Back: A webinar with Nuchatlaht leaders." The online "Road to Resilience" community climate plan launch. We had to do things differently.

Rather than waver, your commitment converted to unprecedented online actions and donations. Nearly 20,000 people took an online action during this year, writing letters to editors and governments, signing petitions, making calls and attending virtual meetings with decision-makers.

You fought a frack sand mine proposal in Manitoba, demanded emergency protection for spotted owls, rejected the Ontario government's environmental deregulation and put pressure on the BC government to stop old-growth logging. From your home, you reached ancient forests on Vancouver Island, the wetlands of Turtle Mountain in Manitoba, peat bogs in northern Saskatchewan and the coniferous forests of Algonquin in Ontario.

When we could, we were on the ground — the ancient village of Hiladi in Ma'amtagila territory, the Walbran Valley in Pacheedaht territory, the Skagit Donut Hole in the territories of the Upper Skagit, Stó:lō, Syilx and Nlaka'pamux peoples. We led hikes in Catchacoma old-growth forest in Ontario, attended small gatherings on the TMX pipeline route, and held rallies in front of government offices, protected by masks and physical distance.

Once again, our interconnectedness to each other and nature served as inspiration. You proved that no matter the physical distance that separates us, we are people powered. Thanks to all of you — supporters, activists, staff and volunteers — for standing with us.

For the wild,



*B Clarke*

**Beth Clarke**  
Executive Director



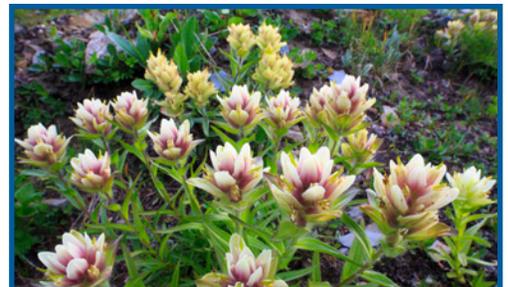
*Kegan Pepper-Smith*

**Kegan Pepper-Smith**  
Board of Directors Chair

## Board of Directors

- Bryan Joe-Yeso
- Emet Davis
- Erin Courchene
- Kegan Pepper-Smith (Chair)
- Kevin Millsip
- Nayeli Jimenez
- Paula Neuman
- Rodrigo Samayoa
- Susan Howatt

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





## Wins for Nature

Protecting nature sometimes feels like a never-ending slog through a tangled swamp. But now and then, we push through and a beautiful victory appears. This year, thanks to good ol' stick-to-it-ness, a sense of humour in the face of adversity and your vital support, we've broken through to some sweet successes.

### Mining proposal battle ends for Tsilhqot'in Nation

Since 2010, we've worked to support the Tsilhqot'in Nation in their efforts to protect Fish Lake from becoming engulfed by the New Prosperity open-pit mine proposal. It was a mighty tough fight. Because the nation and their allies hung in there, in May 2020, Taseko Mines Ltd's ill-conceived project was finally stopped dead at the Supreme Court of Canada. The court now refuses to hear the company's appeal. With no further avenues, the open-pit nightmare has ended. This is a welcome relief for the Tsilhqot'in Nation and all of their friends and allies.

### Little critters win big

When some of the rarest creatures in Canada, like the endangered Blanding's turtle and Jefferson salamander, squared off against Ontario's massive rock and gravel quarry industry, it looked like the creatures would get crushed. Ontario's business-friendly government had signalled it was willing to remove restrictions for gravel mining in recognized endangered species habitat within the Greater Golden Horseshoe. You pushed back on government and industry's tag team attack by writing in opposition to proposed changes that would've quarried endangered species habitat to smithereens. As a result, in August 2020, this proposal was removed. The homes of some of the most vulnerable species in Ontario are still protected from destructive aggregate extraction because of you.





### **Argonaut Creek logging halted**

The dire situation for at-risk southern mountain caribou in BC got a slight reprieve thanks to your hard work. In December 2020, the BC government and their logging agency BC Timber Sales, gave in to public pressure. They halted logging in Argonaut Creek caribou habitat while herd planning is underway. This area, just north of Revelstoke, lies at the confluence of the Ktunaxa, Syilx, Secwépemc and Sinixt traditional territory. It's home to the endangered North Columbia caribou herd and contains huge interior old-growth. Wildlife needs habitat to survive and this decision is a welcome step forward. However, the provincial government must permanently protect more old-growth forests if this species and many others are to thrive once again.



### **Reprieve for last of the spotted owls**

There are just three adult spotted owls left in the wild in Canada due to continued logging of their dwindling old-growth forest habitat. You've been battling this habitat destruction for decades. In February 2021, thanks to your support and the leadership of the Spó'zēm Nation, the governments of BC and Canada announced a one-year halt to all logging within the forests of Spó'zēm First Nation territory — specifically the Spuzzum and Utzlius watersheds that are home to the owls. We won't stop until all the remaining spotted owl forest habitat is permanently protected.



### **Turtle Mountain off-limits to oil**

For many years, you've been chipping away at Manitoba's short-sighted policies of allowing industrial activities to despoil provincial parklands. In recent years we've seen logging banned in most — but still not all of the provincial parks in Manitoba. July 2020 gave us a chance to celebrate wildly when the province officially banned oil and gas development in Turtle Mountain Provincial Park. Of course, we won't rest until all heavy industry is banned in parks everywhere.



# Independent and Grassroots

**W**e are honoured to provide research, information and resources to a diversity of activists and communities across the country on environmental issues that matter to them. You power our grassroots engagement by giving what you can.

## Spotlight on old-growth logging

In June 2020, we launched two mapping projects to turn up the heat on BC's shameful old-growth chainsaw massacre. We discovered and mapped over 300 cutblocks recently approved by the government for logging within spotted owl old-growth habitat. We published an online ArcGIS StoryMap with images, on-the-ground documentation and locations of wide-spread old-growth logging by BC Timber Sales. In April 2021, we launched another StoryMap to track industrial projects set to destroy the critical habitat of species at risk in BC. These maps support community activists pushing back against the elimination of these ancient forests and species habitat by an out-of-control logging industry.

## Park squeeze in Manitoba

In summer and fall 2020, we broke the stories of twin threats that have provincial parklands in Manitoba in a vice grip — rising park user fees and conservation ministry staff cuts. At a time when getting out into nature was one of the only safe activities the COVID-19 pandemic afforded us all, you were up in arms. It all adds up to less protection for the environment and higher costs for those who want to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Armed with this information, we can all work with our friends and allies to improve public access and funding for at-risk wild nature in Manitoba.

## Catchacoma Forest hikes

In August 2020, we toured 50 people through the endangered Catchacoma old-growth hemlock forest in Ontario to showcase the area's beauty, educate them on the active logging threats and the ongoing campaign to protect it. The Wilderness Committee has used this tried and true strategy throughout our four-decade history. It's hard to beat the boots-on-the-ground effectiveness of a public guided hike through an endangered wild area for building unstoppable momentum to fight for preservation!

## BC's LNG climate fraud

In February 2021, we left no stone unturned in a report connecting BC's fracked gas industry, the province's LNG pipe dreams, and extreme weather events that leave battered and burned landscapes and communities in their wake. We produced and distributed *Planet on Fire: Let's End Fracking in BC*, containing the names, numbers and dirt on the province's fracking and LNG industry following a growing network of off-shore petro corps, pipelines, abandoned well sites, waste ponds and farmlands drowned behind the hydro dams needed to power the whole mess. It revealed a massive beast of a tax-sucking, climate-wrecking, water-polluting fracked and liquefied gas industry. This publication is essential reading for activists taking the future back from these climate fraudsters. In July 2021, we followed this with our *Voices and Vision of Northern BC* report following a research project into economic alternatives for the region that don't involve fossil fuels.





## Wild Friends

**W**are stronger when we stand together. We go further through difficult terrain with the support of others. From environmental groups and social justice activists to First Nations allies and union leaders, we are honoured to partner with our wild friends.

### Standing against raw log exports

In June 2020, we came together with allies to oppose a timber company's push to weaken federal restrictions on raw log export limits. We partnered with forestry industry unions Unifor and the Public and Private Workers of Canada, forest company San Group Inc., and public policy group Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - BC Office. Raw log exports squander BC lumber jobs and cause the needless logging of too many forests in BC.



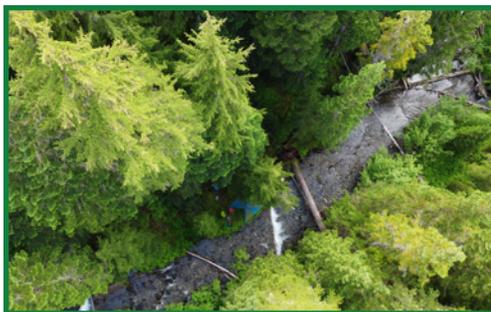
### BC saves and saves caribou habitat

In summer 2020, we discovered a shocking contradiction during an investigation in Argonaut Creek with our friends at Wildsight and Echo Conservation Society. The BC government was spending tax dollars to restore southern mountain caribou habitat while at the same time, less than two kilometres away, clearcutting old-growth habitat caribou need for survival. Together we were on the ground documenting and publicizing yet another blow to the at-risk southern mountain caribou population. Your critical actions in the aftermath led to the province protecting old-growth in Argonaut Creek.



### Skagit headwaters cross-border cooperation

In early 2021, we were proud to form part of an international coalition of more than 200 conservation, recreation and wildlife groups, local elected officials, businesses, and Indigenous nations in Canada and the US opposing a mining permit for Imperial Metals in the Skagit river headwaters. Your letters to the BC government demonstrated increasing opposition to this mining threat in the "Donut Hole," a wild region surrounded by Manning and Skagit provincial parks. We have long advocated the government extinguish this mining tenure and permanently protect the region in partnership with First Nations.



### Old-growth report card

In March 2021, we issued a report card assessing the BC government's progress on protecting old-growth forests with our friends at Ancient Forest Alliance and Sierra Club BC. The date marked six months since the government's independent old-growth panel released their final report calling for a complete "paradigm shift." Premier John Horgan promised to implement the panel's recommendations "in their totality" but in six months had made little progress towards moving past the "promises phase" to the "protect old-growth phase." It all added up to a failing grade for BC.



**F**ield expeditions to at-risk areas lets us get the best up-to-date research, mapping, visual media and on-the-ground stories about threats to wilderness and wildlife. We communicate these to the public, media and decision-makers. These stories inspire all of us to stand up for the wild.

### **Mining discovery in park**

In May 2020, we discovered an illegal mining claim while on the ground in Nopiming Provincial Park in Manitoba, in an area where staking claims is prohibited as it's crucial habitat for at-risk boreal woodland caribou. Together we successfully forced the Manitoba government to remove this claim and ensure future claims don't infringe on the protected area.

### **Uncomfortable secret in Algonquin**

In June 2020, we travelled to Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario to document its uncomfortable secret. Hidden from campers and canoeists behind a screen of trees, extensive fragmentation from logging and road building plagues this huge park. We collected information, photos and video to make our case that a park is no place for industrial logging — they are for protecting wild nature.

### **Eye on a pipeline spill**

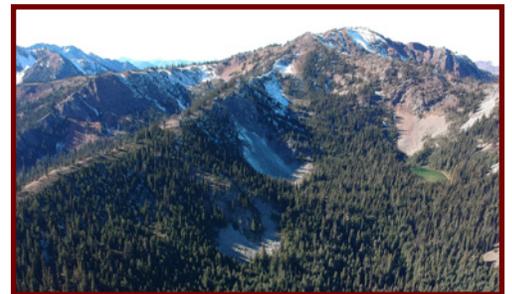
In June 2020, we took photos to show the true extent of an oil spill from the Trans Mountain (TMX) pipeline in the Fraser Valley in BC. TMX says its pipeline spilled about 190,000 litres of crude oil — the latest of around 90 major spills from the 67-year-old pipeline. In October, we produced a short video that takes you down the route through the interior of BC to highlight where construction and resistance are happening.

### **Skagit Donut Hole delights**

In summer 2020 we travelled into the Skagit river headwaters in BC to document the beauty of 6,000 hectares known as the Donut Hole. The area remains unprotected due to mine claims. We recleared an old pack trail, explored a wilderness valley and collected hundreds of photos and video clips to ensure the Donut Hole is pruned away from mining tenure so First Nations and the province can designate this area permanently protected.

### **Trail building in Ma'amtagila territory**

In summer and fall 2020, volunteer crews headed to Hiladi, a traditional village site of Ma'amtagila First Nation on northeastern Vancouver Island. They cleared trails and roads as part of a cultural resurgence and repatriation project. These trips provide support for the nation, who're fighting to get their land back and stop industrial old-growth logging and fish farms in their territory. Our trail building work continues to make critical contributions to education and advocacy work in favour of wild areas and Indigenous rights and title.





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

## Thank You!

Special thanks to our charitable foundations and funders who play an important role both during and after their lifetimes in our continued success. Standing up for the wild this year:

- Andre & Trudel Kroecher Fund @ Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
- Antle/Mears Charitable Foundation @ Gift Funds Canada
- Balaclava Estate Fund @ Vancity Community Foundation
- Barr Family Foundation @ Gift Funds Canada
- Bill & Rosemarie McMechan Fund @ Abundance Canada
- Bramfeld Foundation @ Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
- David Charitable Trust
- Dennis and Kathy Meakin Fam. Found @ Aqueduct Foundation
- Dr. Hinda Avery Foundation @ Aqueduct Foundation
- Funke-Furber Fund @ Victoria Foundation
- Geoffrey, Maurice & Edythe Hodgson Fund @ Victoria Foundation
- Gerard & Trudy Bloem Fund @ Private Giving Foundation
- Gil & Anne Charitable Giving Fund @ Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
- Grant MacEwan Nature Protection Fund @ Calgary Foundation
- Grayross Foundation @ Vancouver Foundation
- Rosenberg Family @ Harweg Foundation
- Hawkins & Bargeman Fund @ Vancity Community Foundation
- KMC Foundation
- Laura Tiberti Charitable Foundation
- Lewis Jackson and Dale Gardiner Fund @ Private Giving Foundation
- MacMillan Family Fund @ Benefaction Foundation
- McAllister Foundation @ Gift Funds Canada
- Nick & Lynn Ross Charitable Foundation
- Peter & Laurie Thompson Fund @ Private Giving Foundation
- Richard & Winnifred Bocking Fund @ Victoria Foundation
- Sara Gerring Fund @ Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
- Small Change Foundation @ Vancouver Foundation
- Tannahill Fund
- Vlad Tucakov @ ZLC Financial
- Weston Family Foundation
- Winnipeg Foundation

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

# Financial Summary



| REVENUE                             | 2021             | 2020             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Contributions and donations         | 2,500,469        | 2,331,178        |
| Grant revenue                       | 209,000          | 176,581          |
| Sales of educational materials      | 52,534           | 59,830           |
| Federal government payroll subsidy* | 84,128           | 17,523           |
| Miscellaneous                       | 19,601           | 9,863            |
|                                     | <b>2,865,732</b> | <b>2,594,975</b> |

| EXPENSES                          | 2021             | 2020             |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Projects and education            | 1,305,605        | 1,478,848        |
| Canvass and fundraising costs     | 630,976          | 793,485          |
| Administration costs              | 402,533          | 347,451          |
| Sales costs                       | 115,336          | 104,621          |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 20,500           | 20,500           |
| Amortization                      | 20,072           | 18,491           |
|                                   | <b>2,495,022</b> | <b>2,763,396</b> |

|  |         |           |
|--|---------|-----------|
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses from operations | 370,710 | (168,421) |
| Gain on disposal of capital assets                           | 2,500   | -         |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses                 | 373,210 | (168,421) |

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

**Fund balances, end of year**      **788,967**      **415,757**

| ASSETS                            | 2021           | 2020           |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>CURRENT</b>                    |                |                |
| Cash                              | 620,066        | 206,175        |
| Accounts receivable               | 1,369          | 2,090          |
| Interest receivable               | 2,066          | 2,066          |
| Recoverable from government (GST) | 13,969         | 23,086         |
| Prepaid expenses                  | 16,767         | 3,783          |
| Inventory                         | 9,392          | 9,392          |
|                                   | <b>663,629</b> | <b>246,592</b> |

|                       |                |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Restricted investment | 200,000        | 324,318        |
| Security deposits     | 8,958          | 9,204          |
| Capital assets        | 21,583         | 39,025         |
| Intangible assets     | 10,250         | 30,750         |
|                       | <b>904,420</b> | <b>649,889</b> |

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

### CURRENT

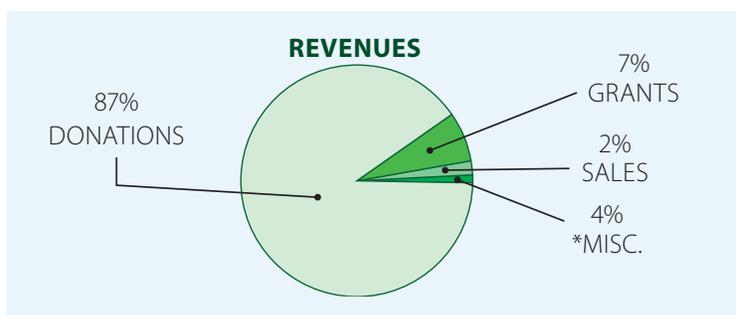
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| Bank indebtedness                      | -       | 142,609 |
| Accounts payable + accrued liabilities | 115,453 | 91,523  |

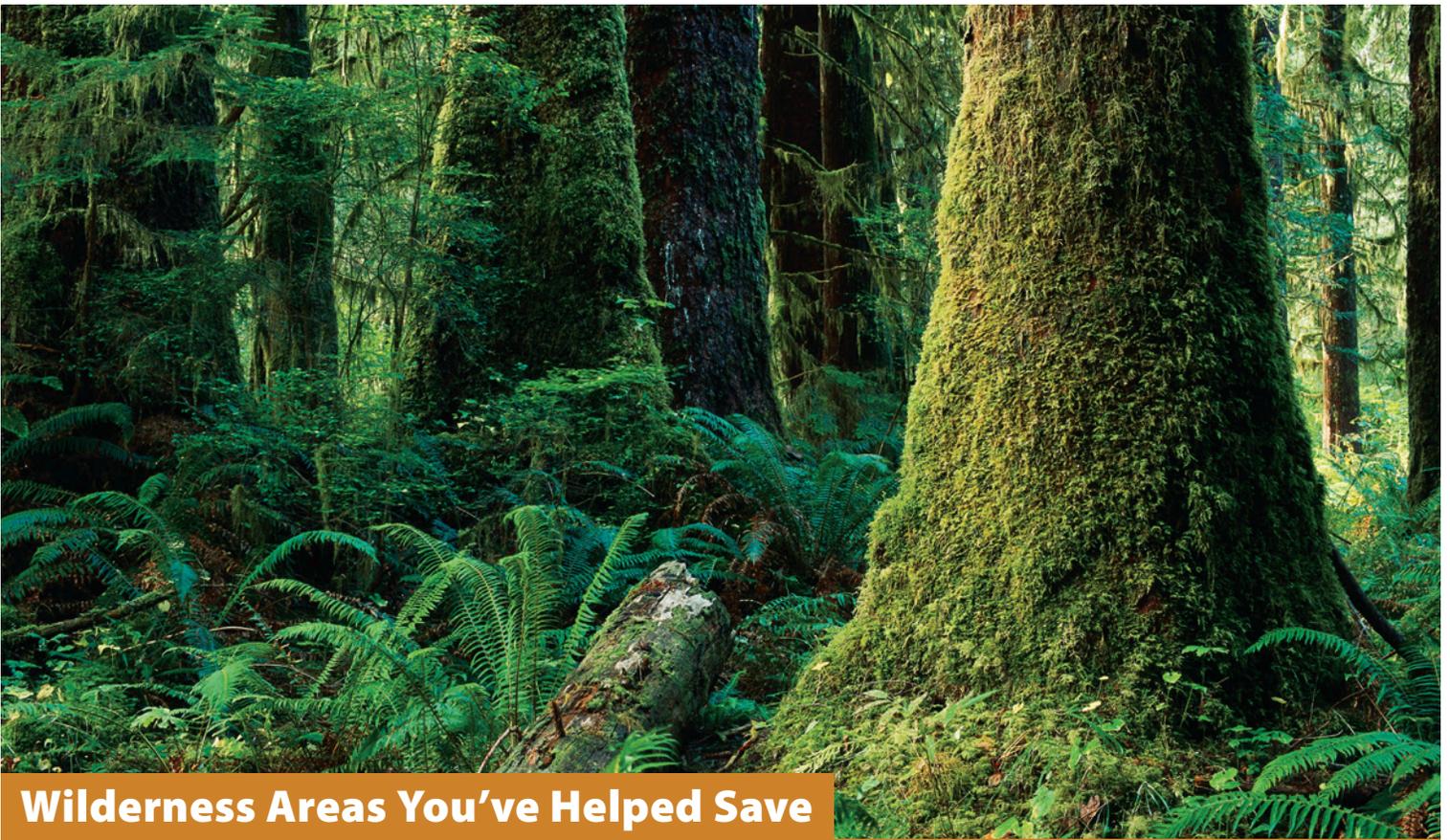
### FUND BALANCES

|                       |                |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Unrestricted          | 377,137        | (107,578)      |
| Internally restricted | 331,833        | 394,093        |
| Externally restricted | 79,997         | 129,242        |
|                       | <b>904,420</b> | <b>649,889</b> |

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

\*COVID-19 federal government payroll subsidy





## Wilderness Areas You'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 (Spiiyus 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  
 Huchsduwachsdu 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  
 Khutzeymateen Provincial Park, BC  
 Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy, BC  
 Koeye 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  
 Mkwál'ts 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 natural heritage in Canada!

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

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**WILDERNESS  
COMMITTEE**  
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