



SIERRA  
CLUB BC

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Potawatomi plant ecologist Robin Wall Kimmerer observes that “Knowing you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond.”

For all of us at Sierra Club BC, the past year has been one of both pain and hope. Climate change and species extinction are accelerating rapidly, putting at grave risk the future of healthy ecosystems. Collectively, we are grieving the loss of many plants, animals and fish. We are deeply worried about how a warming climate will impact the future of our children and the world we are passing on to them. As we grieve, however, we are strengthened both by the ongoing beauty of the natural world and by the rapidly

growing numbers of people who want to help defend it.

Thanks to all those who support our work, this year we have been able to celebrate a number of victories. The House of Commons passed legislation to ban crude oil tankers on BC’s north coast. Thanks to Indigenous legal challenges funded in part by our Pull Together campaign, the federal approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline and tankers was quashed. Our Education Team celebrated its 20th anniversary of connecting children with nature, with 140,000 children reached since its inception.

Our campaign team made great strides in building the movement for old-growth forest protection. They were busy working in the field, meeting with government representatives, hosting dialogues in

forestry-dependent communities, and supporting more than a hundred volunteers to engage BC residents.

We are profoundly grateful to each and every one of you for your support. As we enter our 50th year, we are reflecting and gathering strength. In this era of climate crisis, our work and your help is needed now more than ever before.

Sincerely,



**Hannah Askew**  
*Executive Director*





# INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY

Sierra Club BC is committed to recognizing and upholding Indigenous jurisdiction, rights and knowledge. In welcoming environmental and Indigenous rights lawyer Hannah Askew as our Executive Director in July of 2018, we have been supported with the strategic vision to deepen this process further. Prior to coming to Sierra Club BC, Hannah was deeply involved in learning from Indigenous Nations about their systems of law and governance.

Progress was made during 2018 to shift our approach to hiring and Board representation to strengthen diversity and guidance from Indigenous peoples in our work. With support from our Board's Indigenous solidarity working group, Sierra Club BC now applies the two lenses of climate change and Indigenous rights to all of our work.

The foundations for long term relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships were built with

members of several Indigenous communities,

As Sierra Club BC enters its 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2019, much work has yet to be done. We are preparing for a deeper audit in 2019 of the impacts our work has had on Indigenous peoples over the decades, so that we can do better going forward.



# ANCIENT FORESTS

A love for the ancient forests of Vancouver Island and beyond has been at the heart of our work since Sierra Club BC's inception. Half a century later, the loss of rainforests remains one of the most challenging issues and a major focus for Sierra Club BC.

As climate impacts intensify, it becomes ever more important to save what old-growth forests remain. In 2018, we worked to change the conversation about forestry on Vancouver Island by exposing old-growth clearcutting and collaborating with rural resource-based communities.

## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

- Revealed through a review of government data and satellite imagery that logging on Vancouver Island is speeding up
- Documented proposed old-growth cutblocks in the Nimpkish watershed, the Tsitika Landscape, the Tahsish and Schmidt Creek
- Blew the whistle on BC government-operated logging in Schmidt Creek that put sensitive orca rubbing beaches at risk
- Garnered significant media attention for our "White Rhino" map, distributed across Vancouver Island, showing with in-depth detail remaining old-growth ecosystems
- Released detailed maps on the shocking amount of old-growth logging in the 25-year period since the Clayoquot Sound protests
- Released disturbing images of destruction from a flyover of Vancouver Island
- Continued our watchdog stance, monitoring government and industry commitments made in the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements

## SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION

- Hosted the first in a series of Indigenous roundtable discussions to talk forest stewardship in the context of uplifting Indigenous governance
- Amplified voices of Indigenous advocates working to stop new logging proposals, including the Ma'amtagila Nation's concern over government operated old-growth logging
- Provided ecosystem mapping support to Indigenous Nations and shared information about conservation financing and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- Offered support for land use planning and conservation proposals in Clayoquot Sound



## MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES TO STAND TALL FOR FORESTS

- Surpassed our goal of 10,000+ letters and mobilized people across the province to make phone calls calling in support of for old-growth protection
- Hosted 13 forest events on Vancouver Island for dialogue about forest concerns with community members, tourism operators, Indigenous Nations, logging sector leaders and government staff
- Delivered a petition from 200,000+ people internationally calling for action, in partnership with tourism businesses
- Trained more than 100 forest campaign volunteers and hosted a weekend action training workshop
- Spent 125+ days canvassing with teams in Victoria and Vancouver
- Garnered endorsements from BC-born celebrities Bryan Adams, Alexander Ludwig and Rachel Roberts
- Published a Forest Action Taker's Guide for BC residents concerned about poor logging practices
- Supported rural community groups defending watersheds from logging

## ADVOCATING FOR SOUND FOREST POLICY

- Met with the BC government to share our maps and data and call for solutions for intact forest areas and endangered ecosystems
- Called on 437 municipal election candidates to stand strong for ancient forests
- Coordinated a letter with 223 scientists calling on the BC government to protect old-growth
- Engaged in provincial review processes to call for major changes to professional reliance, environmental assessment and endangered species legislation

**BIG WIN**

200,000+ voices  
standing tall for  
old-growth



Photos: TJ Watt/Ancient Forest Alliance

# CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

The climate crisis intensified in 2018 with another year of unprecedented wildfires and droughts. Sierra Club BC held politicians at all levels to account on the climate crisis, calling out provincial support for LNG, building the case for bolder climate action commitments and mobilizing people to demand rapid change.

## HOLDING GOVERNMENT & INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABLE

- Conducted a review revealing BC's emissions rose in 4 of the past 5 years
- Called out provincial support for LNG and the insufficiency of BC's climate targets in light of a sobering IPCC climate science report
- Intervened in and supported a court case against the Coastal GasLink pipeline that would serve LNG Canada
- Challenged in court the exemption of 2 fracking dams from environmental assessments
- Provided rapid response media analysis following the release of BC's climate plan

## PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

- Produced a popular 11-part podcast series exploring clean energy called *Mission Transition*
- Reported on Haida Gwaii's transition to 100% renewables at a Renewable Energy Symposium hosted by the Council of the Haida Nation and Swilawiid Sustainability Society
- With Green Jobs BC, an alliance of labour unions and environmental groups, highlighted job opportunities in the clean energy transition

## BUILDING SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

- Mobilized thousands to tell the BC government to stop subsidizing LNG and invest in renewables instead
- Coordinated groups responding to the threat LNG poses to water and our climate, hosting an event with experts and affected community members
- Offered media commentary on provincial climate plan and called for even stronger commitments

## BIG WIN

\$670,000+ raised  
for Indigenous legal  
challenges

Photo (top): Jeff Kubina  
Photo (bottom): Kwekwecnewtxw –  
Protect the Inlet mobilization against  
Trans Mountain, by Rogue Collective



# PIPELINES & TANKERS

Sierra Club BC continued to work in broad coalition with Indigenous Nations, diverse groups and thousands of concerned BC residents to stop the Trans Mountain pipeline and tankers and defend the coast and freshwater in BC from devastating oil spills.

## ORGANIZING IN SOLIDARITY

- Helped raise \$670,000+ for legal actions from the Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish, Coldwater and Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc that overturned Trans Mountain's approval through our Pull Together initiative
- Worked with allies to collect 70,000+ letters of comment on Trans Mountain during a new round of NEB review
- Worked with partners to mobilize support for the Heiltsuk after a devastating diesel spill in their territory
- Amplified the voices of LNG opposition at Madii Lii, Gitxsan territory
- Helped collect 12,000+ signatures on a federal petition in favour of Bill C-48, the north coast tanker ban

## INFORMING AND MOBILIZING THE GRASSROOTS

- Produced a video exposing risks of oil spills from articulated tug barge (ATB) tankers, engaging thousands to call for restricting ATBs on BC's coast and meeting with authorities to highlight concerns
- Ran radio ads and mobilized thousands of people calling for a stop to the Kinder Morgan buyout
- Produced videos to educate people about oil spill risks and Trans Mountain, engaging thousands to call for better spill response
- Led a trip with photographer Louis Bockner to shed a light on the impacts Teck's Frontier tarsands mine would have on Wood Buffalo National Park, highlighted in a series featuring stunning photos and videos in *The Narwhal*

## BIG WIN

North coast tanker ban passed in House of Commons

Photo (top): Gary Sutton



# KIDS & NATURE

Sierra Club BC's education team was busy throughout the school year providing outdoor-based nature experiences to thousands of students and teachers across the province. These learning opportunities foster healthy development and cultivate environmental stewardship. We rely on donations to keep our programs free, accessible, and inclusive.

## SUPPORTING EDUCATORS & CAREGIVERS TO GET KIDS OUTSIDE

- Launched a program supporting Capital Region teachers from 13 schools to take their students outside, with monthly Teacher Gatherings and one-on-one mentorship
- Offered Professional Development workshops for teachers across BC, engaging 400+ teachers in 2018
- Provided resources and creative tips for educators and caregivers through our website, regular features in *Island Parent* magazine, and our monthly Education E-Newsletter

## CONNECTING KIDS WITH NATURE THROUGH HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS

- Celebrated 20 years, with 140,000+ students reached since 1998!
- Engaged 4500+ students from K-8 with our programs in 2018
- Began offering French language nature programs for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2
- Contracted an external consultant whose independent evaluation found our programming to be exemplary
- Enhanced our Grades 6-8 program to facilitate student dialogue about climate change and its implications across BC, while encouraging student action



### BIG WIN

Celebrated 20 years,  
with 140,000 kids  
reached

Photos: Student workshop participants -  
Mya Van Woudenberg



# PEACE RIVER VALLEY

When the BC government re-approved the Site C megadam at the close of 2017, Sierra Club BC vowed to keep opposing this disastrous project. Through 2018, Sierra Club BC continued to stand with Treaty 8 Nations, and shifted our focus downstream to where the Mikisew Cree are calling for action to protect the Peace-Athabasca Delta from further industrial impacts.

## RAISING AWARENESS & ENGAGING PEOPLE

- Led a media visit to investigate downstream impacts Site C would have on Wood Buffalo National Park, highlighted through a collection of stunning photos, videos and articles in *The Narwhal*
- Educated podcast listeners on the barrier Site C presents to distributed renewable energy generation
- Helped lead a session at the Site C Summit in Victoria

## ORGANIZING IN SOLIDARITY

- Helped organize stops on a tour by Peace Valley farmers Ken and Arlene Boon, which raised \$13,000+ for Indigenous legal challenges and the Peace Valley Landowner Association
- Supported Treaty 8 Nations through injunction hearings for their legal challenge to Site C, live tweeting the hearings and speaking at rallies

## HOLDING GOVERNMENT & INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABLE

- Called on Canada to implement a UNESCO recommendation to conduct an impact assessment of the Site C project on the Peace-Athabasca Delta

## BIG WIN

Launched a new podcast, *Mission Transition*



Photo (top): Peace River Valley - Louis Bockner  
Photo (bottom): (L-R) Peace Valley Campaigner Galen Armstrong with Mikisew Cree water technician Kevin Courtorielle and journalist Judith Lavoie tour the Peace-Athabasca Delta

# SOUTHERN ROCKIES

As climate change intensifies, it becomes ever more important to conserve and connect spaces where wild species can adapt. In 2018, Sierra Club BC continued to raise awareness of threats to land, water and species in the Rocky Mountains of southeastern BC.

## ADVOCATING FOR TRANSBOUNDARY WATERSHED PROTECTION

- Brought attention to Teck's Elk Valley coal mines for polluting watersheds with toxic waste
- Supported a water quality program to monitor effects of mining pollution
- Highlighted concerns about impacts to water quality on both sides of the border as a result of BC's lack of proper water quality regulation

## EDUCATING AND ENGAGING PEOPLE

- Raised awareness of the biodiversity values at risk in the Flathead River Valley and the importance of this region for species trying to adapt to climate change
- Did outreach and education to build public support for a southeastern BC wildlife corridor, to be designated through a government-to-government process with the Ktunaxa Nation
- Educated the public about the impacts of the Columbia River Treaty and its renegotiation, mobilizing hundreds to call for the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations to be included fully as partners in the talks



Photo (top): Flathead Valley - Garth Lenz  
Photo (bottom): Mountain goat in the Flathead Valley - Joe Riis

### BIG WIN

36,000+  
Sierra Club BC  
supporters



# DEMOCRACY

Recognizing that electoral reform could have a transformational effect on politics and give many of our environmental campaigns a greater chance of success, Sierra Club BC undertook a special short term campaign in favour of proportional representation during the provincial referendum.

Though the referendum didn't pass, Sierra Club BC is tremendously proud of our many dedicated volunteers who worked hard to get out the vote.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

- Produced resources, opinion pieces and several videos to inform supporters about the proportional representation referendum
- Called more than 10,000 supporters to remind them to vote
- Trained dozens of volunteers to talk with BC residents about our democracy

## BIG WIN

10,000+ calls to  
get out the vote





# YOU MADE IT HAPPEN

Sierra Club BC could not do this work without the valuable contributions of our volunteers and 2,000+ members, of which over 600 are sustaining monthly contributors.

Members who donate – especially on a monthly basis – provide the financial support necessary to keep the long term view in mind. Our core capacity to affect change is determined by the strength of our membership, which has been growing at a steady pace.

Members help carry the work that our community of more than 36,000 supporters rely upon for advocacy, education, and conservation.

Did you know that as a member, you get access to exclusive invitations to events, our monthly e-newsletter Sierra Life and the ability to vote at our AGM?

Ensure your membership is up to date by making a minimum \$15 gift at **[sierraclub.bc.ca/membership](https://sierraclub.bc.ca/membership)**.



*Photo (top): Chilcotin region - Jens Wieting  
Photo (right): Brynne Morrice*



THANK  
YOU!



# YOUR 2018 VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Helped collect **10,000+** signatures in support of rainforest protection

Made **10,000+** calls to remind people to vote in BC's electoral reform referendum

Spent **125+** days canvassing

Delivered a petition to the BC Legislature from **200,000+** people calling for forest action

Helped raise **\$670,000+** for Indigenous legal actions that overturned Trans Mountain's approval

Our Quadra Island Local Group raised **\$3,500** for the Peace Valley Landowner Association and Indigenous legal challenges to Site C

Represented Sierra Club BC at **30+** events

Student volunteers hosted a hike raising **\$562** for Sierra Club BC



Photo: Victoria - TJ Watt/Ancient Forest Alliance



# LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Legacy giving means leaving Sierra Club BC a gift in your will or estate plan that will help us protect the land and water in honour of your memory for years to come.

Members of the Red Cedar Circle are committed to making Sierra Club BC part of their legacy. Like the Western red cedar, which can grow to be a thousand years old, they are deeply rooted to this place and to Sierra Club BC's work to protect it.

There are several ways to become a member of the Red Cedar Circle: bequests, in memoriam gifts, gifts of insurance and gifts of securities.

For more information on how you can join the circle, visit [sierraclub.bc.ca/legacy-giving](https://sierraclub.bc.ca/legacy-giving) or contact:

**Elisabeth Hazell**  
**Manager of Donor**  
**Engagement**  
(250) 882-3682  
[gifts@sierraclub.bc.ca](mailto:gifts@sierraclub.bc.ca)

# ACTING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

Sierra Club BC is one of 20+ members of Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT), an alliance of unions, faith groups, and environmental, education and frontline service organizations working on Lekwungen territory. In 2018, our groups undertook listening campaigns. Sierra Club BC hosted several potlucks and gatherings with our supporters, staff and Board to have conversations about the issues we care most about and the ways we can work together to make change.

This experience strongly reminded us of the importance of prioritizing authentic relationships with our members and we are truly grateful for these deepened connections.

The results of this listening campaign helped GVAT decide to tackle all of its campaigns through the lenses of climate change and Indigenous rights, as Sierra Club BC does. Sierra Club BC will be continuing to work across sectors in this diverse coalition to achieve transformative impacts where we live.



Photo: Grizzly bear - Andrew S. Wright



# TREASURER'S REPORT

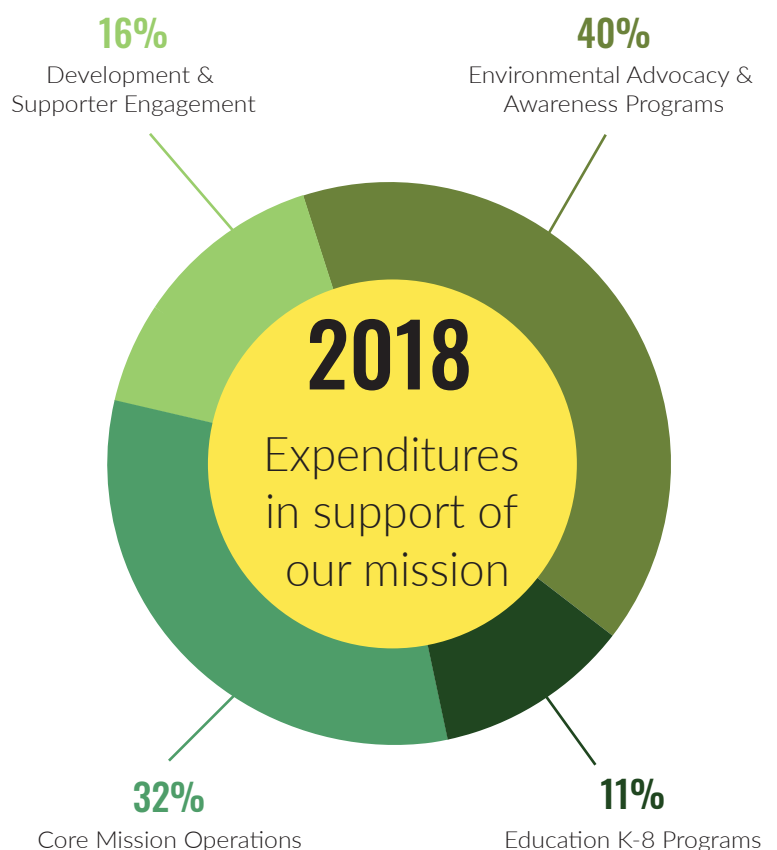
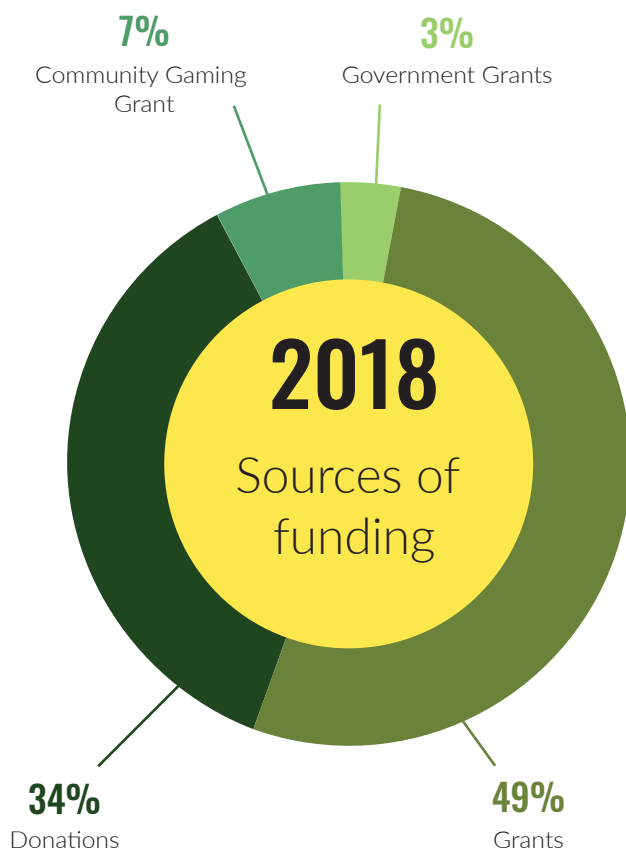
Our total expenditures in 2018 were \$1,391,047, of which 84% supported our core mission operations and program costs, with the remaining 16% used for development and supporter engagement activities.

Through careful stewardship and a generous transformative bequest from a donor choosing to leave a legacy in support of our organization, we generated a \$154,371 unrestricted surplus, increasing our total unrestricted net assets from \$164,556 to \$318,927.

Looking into 2019, we've identified the need for new approaches in addressing climate change. To do our work most effectively, we will direct a significant portion of our surplus funds towards overdue investments in our information technology to both support and complement our field organization, program delivery and community engagement initiatives.

Sincerely,

**Gordon Stewart**, *Board Treasurer*



The above financial information is a summary only and not intended to reflect the complete financial status of the Sierra Club of BC Foundation. Please refer to our website for a full copy of our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2018.

# THANK YOU

**We offer deep gratitude to our funders, corporate partners, monthly contributors and major donors for their significant contributions in helping defend the land and water in BC. Thank you!**

## FUNDERS

Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Blue Planet Links Foundation  
The Brainerd Foundation  
Charles and Lucille Flavelle Fund held at Vancouver Foundation  
Conservation Alliance  
Funke-Furber Fund held at Victoria Foundation  
Gabe and Andi Davis Foundation held at Vancouver Foundation  
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
Government of Canada (Canada Summer Jobs)  
GVSCU Legacy Foundation  
The Harweg Foundation  
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation's Innoweave Initiative  
Lance Priebe Foundation  
The Laura L. Tiberti Charitable Foundation  
The McLean Foundation  
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North Growth Foundation  
Patagonia Environmental Grants Fund  
Patagonia Foundation  
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## CORPORATE AND SOCIETY SUPPORTERS

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The Calgary Foundation  
The Catherine Donnelly Foundation  
Glasswaters Foundation  
The Langara Foundation  
Patagonia Environmental Grants  
Tides Canada Foundation - Pacific Salmon Watersheds Fund and Full Circle Small Grants Fund

## NON-CHARITY PARTNERS

Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA)  
Canopy  
Indigenous Climate Action (ICA)  
Wilp Luutkudziwus, Gitxsan Nation

## LEGACY GIVING

Estate of Chloe O'Loughlin  
Estate of Hilary Stewart  
Estate of J-Anne Thornthwaite

*These individuals contributed substantial legacy gifts to Sierra Club BC. We are so grateful to have been chosen to receive these gifts as we celebrate them in memory.*



## MAJOR DONORS

Larry Appleby	Thomas Hall	Eileen O'Byrne
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# OUR 2018 TEAM

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Kirsten Dallimore  
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Simone Cotterill  
Elisabeth Hazell  
Britton Jacob-Schram  
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Patricia Lane, *Legacy Member*  
Jackie Larkin, *Legacy Member*  
Nadia Nowak, *Member*  
Jarrad Reddekop, *Vice-Chair*  
Gordon Stewart, *Treasurer*  
Roanne Weyermars, *Member*





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*Cover photo: Garibaldi Provincial Park - Jens Wieting*

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