



**SIERRA
CLUB BC**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016**

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM



SIERRA
CLUB BC

Our impact in 2016

11,315

letters for
Skeena
salmon

3,000

hours
spent by
kids in
nature

60+

outreach
events

250

teachers
supported

91.4%

of commenters
opposed to
Kinder Morgan

**3.1
MILLION**

hectares of
old-growth
protected

1

pipeline
rejected

2 international
awards

With great thanks for the outstanding contributions of our Executive Director Bob Peart who retired early in 2017, and after carefully weighing the recommendations of three reports commissioned to examine key aspects of our organization, Sierra Club BC's Board of Directors decided to adopt an Executive Team structure for the remainder of 2017.

Two years ago we published *The Future Is Here*, a guiding vision for all we do here at Sierra Club BC. It lays out a ten-point plan for how we can defend nature, stabilize our climate and make the transition to a post-carbon economy without leaving anyone behind.

Only a year later, 2016 saw us make some startling progress in realizing *The Future Is Here's* vision. In particular, we won two huge victories.

We protected 85 per cent of the forested lands within the enormous—and enormously important—Great Bear Rainforest, the culmination of 20 years of pressure and negotiations.

And we finally saw the end of the Enbridge pipeline and tankers proposal, through First Nations legal victories that Sierra Club BC helped fund through our Pull Together campaign.

In many ways, 2016 was a landmark year for us. We are proud of the work we did, which was recognized through two prestigious international awards.

And we are grateful to our tenacious supporters, who time and again demonstrate how people power can overcome even big corporations like Enbridge!

Annual Reports look back, yet we are always looking forward. In 2019, Sierra Club BC will celebrate its 50th year and we are focused, with our supporters' help, on building the financial resilience we will need to achieve many more victories in the years to come and to achieve the vision laid out in *The Future Is Here*.

Sincerely,

Chantal Barchard,
Elisabeth Hazell,
Tim Pearson and
Caitlyn Vernon



OUR APPROACH

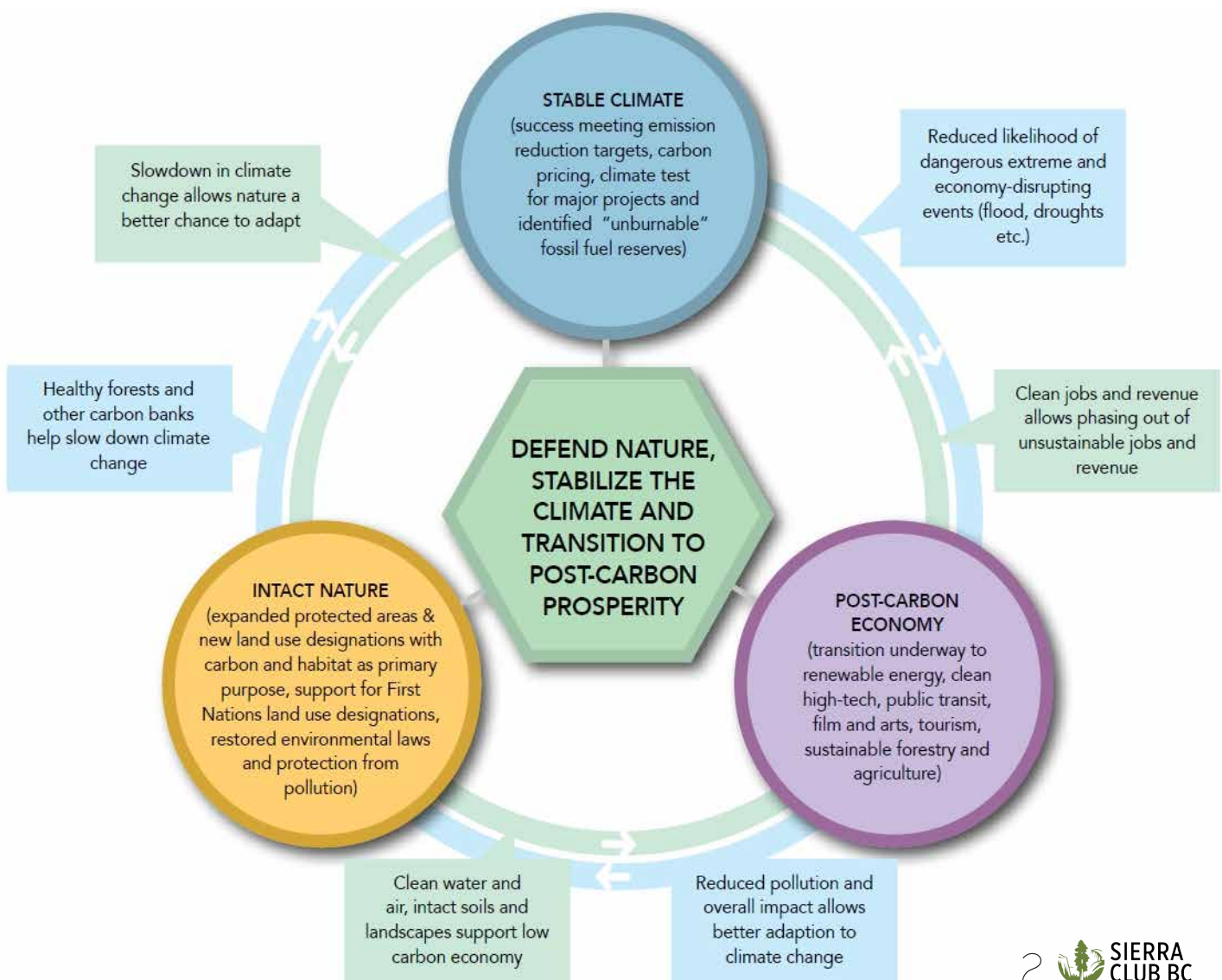
Confronting climate change requires strong leadership in three main areas of action: stabilizing the climate, protecting nature, and supporting economic transition away from fossil fuels.

British Columbia needs to make great leaps forward in each of these areas at the same time.

That's why, since the development of our most recent strategic plan in 2014, everything we do is toward that end. Each of the campaigns and programs you'll read about in the pages that follow are guided and informed by this approach encapsulated in our guiding vision, *The Future Is Here*.

We recognize that as one small organization, we can't do it all. But when we work together, so much more is possible. Thank you for your part in helping move BC toward a more sustainable future.

Learn more about this vision and our ten-point plan for post-carbon prosperity on our website at sierraclub.bc.ca/future-is-here.



BIG WINS FOR THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

Great Bear Rainforest. Photo by Andrew S. Wright.

NATIONAL POST

Landmark deal protects huge swath of central B.C. coast from logging

Industrial logging will be prohibited across 85 per cent of forested lands within B.C.'s Great Bear Rainforest

February 2016 marked the fulfilment of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements! After a twenty-year fight, 3.1 million hectares of rainforest are now permanently off limits to industrial logging. The remaining 15% will be subject to the most stringent logging standards in North America.

The Agreements are a milestone for collaboration between governments, environmental groups, First Nations and forestry companies. By moving from conflict to collaboration, we showed how conservation can work for the economy and the environment while respecting Indigenous rights.

In recognition of our work toward this historic achievement, Sierra Club BC and our partners won the prestigious Buckminster Fuller Challenge Award and the international EarthCare Award.



Sierra Club BC's Jens Wieting was present in New York City to accept the Fuller Challenge Award with our partners.

THE END OF ENBRIDGE

In 2016, Sierra Club BC mobilized the public to call for a strong, legislated oil tanker ban to help stop the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline and protect the Great Bear Rainforest. First Nations won court challenges funded by our Pull Together campaign, marking another nail in the coffin for Enbridge. This led to the federal decision in November to legislate a north coast tanker ban and to reject this pipeline once and for all!

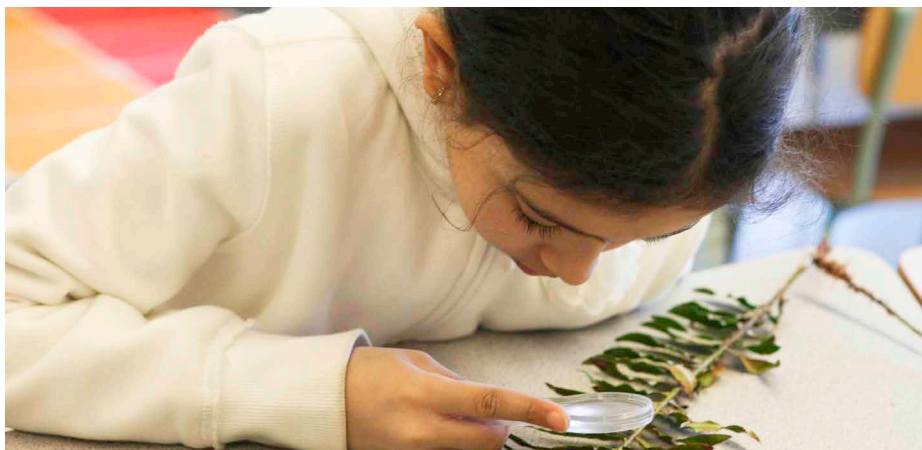
Children are becoming less connected with the natural world, spending increasingly more time inside in front of screens and less time outdoors. We're reconnecting kids with nature by providing place-based, curriculum-linked environmental education for students across BC.

4000+ STUDENTS REACHED

In 2016, our Education Program directly engaged over 4000 students across 14 school districts. Our environmental educator led 172 nature-based workshops with hands-on activities both in the classroom and outside. We also facilitated 4 teacher professional development workshops and supported over 250 teachers with the tools to confidently take their students outside to learn in nature.

Over 2100 educators received ideas and inspiration from our monthly education e-newsletter and also benefited from the lesson plans and teaching resources available for free on our website.

250 TEACHERS SUPPORTED



*A student at Quadra Elementary explores fern species of southern Vancouver Island.
Photo by Craig Janzen.*

Our free, accessible nature-based programs have a waitlist each year. You can help us reach more kids next year and help cultivate future generations of British Columbians who are inspired to care for and defend nature.

KIDS & NATURE

Educator Kirsten Dallimore with Ecole Poirier students

ANCIENT FORESTS

There was acute awareness about BC's endangered rainforest and growing support for old-growth protection on Vancouver Island in 2016.

Sierra Club BC was at the forefront of this shift with our media coverage, presentations and events. Our years of work on forests was key to highlighting the serious limitations of the BC Climate Plan.

We continued to build diverse alliances to explore solutions and hold off logging in hotspots. A Vancouver Sun op-ed jointly written by our campaigner Jens Wieting with union, First Nation, business, science and local government representatives showed a new level of unity in calling for protection of Vancouver Island's last endangered old-growth forests.

MILESTONE LAND USE VISION FOR AHOUSAHT TERRITORY

Our decades-long work with First Nations in Clayoquot Sound helped lead to the milestone announcement of the Ahousaht First Nation land use vision calling for the protection of 80% of their territory. This was the best news for Vancouver Island forests in decades, offering a way forward for Indigenous-led stewardship of spectacular old-growth. With your help, we'll assist similar efforts by the Tla-o-qui-aht and Hesquiat Nations.



Jens Wieting of Sierra Club BC was present for the announcement of the protection of 80% of Ahousaht territory in Clayoquot Sound.

Our Google Earth mapping tool received strong media attention and is now being utilized by First Nations and communities. Sierra Club BC's data shows Vancouver Island old-growth logging has grown to 9,000 hectares annually.

Our research and media coverage also sparked an investigation of poor logging practices in East Creek, highlighting dramatic destruction of old-growth and the difficulties of finding out what is happening in the forests of Vancouver Island. With our allies, we managed to keep logging company Teal Jones out of the unprotected Central Walbran Valley—for the time being. Your membership will help build support for a lasting solution for the Walbran.

Walbran Valley. Photo by TJ Watt

We worked hard to shine an international spotlight on the threat the Site C dam poses to ecosystems, wildlife and cultures. You also helped us lay the groundwork for Site C to become a major BC election issue.



Our volunteers and staff paddled in support of protecting the Peace Valley at the 11th Paddle for the Peace and a solidarity paddle in Saanich Inlet. Photo by Greg Holloway.

UNESCO SCRUTINY OF SITE C

We jump-started a process resulting in a 10-day UNESCO mission to assess the threats posed by Site C to Wood Buffalo National Park. The resulting report strongly criticized Canada for failing to protect its largest World Heritage Site. We also met with Fisheries Minister Dominic Leblanc to draw attention to Canada's obligations to protect the park.

OUTREACH AT 24 EVENTS

We engaged citizens on Site C at over 24 events, including a province-wide speaking tour with members of Treaty 8 First Nations. We also placed billboards in the Lower Mainland and mobilized hundreds to call on the federal government not to issue permits for the project.

You can help keep the pressure rising as Site C faces new scrutiny at the provincial and federal levels.

Peace River Valley. Photo by Don Hoffmann

PEACE RIVER VALLEY



CLIMATE & ENERGY

With your help, we continued to demand bold government climate leadership. Our submission to the BC Climate Leadership Team highlighted the need for a carbon tax increase and stronger emissions reduction targets. We also mobilized citizens to have their say on the BC climate plan – and garnered significant media attention in calling out the government for the lousy “Climate Inaction Plan” it subsequently released.

91.4% AGAINST KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE

We continued to highlight the flaws in the Kinder Morgan NEB review, demanding a new process. When a new review was announced in the middle of summer, we supported citizens to write op-eds and mobilized hundreds to be part of the 91.4% to speak against the pipeline. So many citizens arrived to the Victoria meeting that more than 100 people were shut out. We organized a rally outside featuring the Mayor of Victoria which drew wide media attention. When it became clear MPs didn’t understand our concerns, we sent briefing notes to all 338 MPs.

You also helped us lay the groundwork for a new Pull Together campaign to support First Nations legal challenges opposing Kinder Morgan.

11,315 LETTERS OPPOSING PETRONAS LNG

Our flash online and phone action mobilized citizens to speak out for salmon and our climate and reject Petronas’ Pacific Northwest LNG proposal. More than 11,315 people sent letters to the Prime Minister and almost 400 people called the federal environment minister.

Our supporters also scaled up petitioning and letters calling for the inclusion of a climate test in environmental reviews.

With your support, we’ll keep working hard to stop expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure that puts our climate, water and communities at risk.

By highlighting the low-carbon initiatives that are already thriving in BC, we're showing there are real alternatives to fossil fuels.

RECONCILIATION

Our Salish Sea and WSÁNEĆ Gathering on Vancouver Island supported steps to reconciliation while highlighting opportunities to move beyond fossil fuels. More than 300 people gathered at Tsartlip Nation for a day of learning about First Nation cultures and traditional crafting, a delicious salmon feast and talks by Indigenous Elders, scientists and nonprofits.



Keynote speaker Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs speaks at our Salish Sea and WSÁNEĆ Gathering with Tsartlip Nation.

POST-CARBON TRANSITION

We co-hosted a Saanich town hall on what it will take to transition to a post-carbon economy. Soon after, along with our partners at Green Jobs BC, we brought together the labour and environmental community, financial institutions, First Nation speakers, and science broadcaster Bob MacDonald to identify a vision for supporting workers through the transition. We also offered several public talks on clean energy transition in rural communities.

With your support, we will continue to assist communities to choose sustainable energy alternatives and advocate for fossil fuel subsidies to be replaced by investments in renewable energy and green jobs.





FLATHEAD RIVER VALLEY

Wolf in the Flathead Valley. Photo by Joe Riis.

In 2016, we worked with the Flathead Wild Coalition to keep the campaign for protection of the Flathead Valley in the public eye. Our outreach efforts and events helped connect people on the coast with the globally significant biodiversity and rivers of Southeastern BC that are under threat from logging, mining and development.

GROWING SUPPORT FOR FLATHEAD PROTECTION

Our panels at Vancouver’s Science World and the Royal BC Museum highlighted the incredible biodiversity and importance of connectivity in the region. Presenters included entomologists Claudia and Darren Coupley, journalist Brian Keating, RBCM’s curator of Botany and Earth History Dr. Richard Hebda, internationally renowned conservationist Harvey Locke and Troy Sebastian of the Ktunaxa Nation.



More than 22,000 people have signed the Flathead Wild petition. Photo by Dave Hadden.

Our standing room-only panel at the University of Victoria on threats logging poses to fragile cave and limestone karst landscapes—present both in the Flathead and Vancouver Island ecosystems—stimulated the renewed push for tabling a Cave Protection Act in the BC legislature.

We also released a statement of support for the Ktunaxa Nation’s Qat’muk (Jumbo) Declaration, furthering our relationships for conservation.

With your support, we will continue to push for increased protection of landscape values, water quality and wildlife in the Southeastern Rockies.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Sierra Club BC. They provide crucial support to help achieve our mission.

In 2016, Sierra Club BC hosted or attended more than 60 events. Our volunteers provided crucial support at many of these events, including carrying out weekly outreach at farmers' markets in Victoria and the Lower Mainland. They also helped get kids outside through our education program, gathered signatures on petitions and helped us build coalitions to grow our campaigns. Thanks to all for your stellar contributions!

**OVER 70 VOLUNTEERS
PUT IN 1,000+ HOURS**



Our members are working together to build a just and ecologically sustainable province. When you join the Club, you become part of a community of over 27,000 supporters in BC who believe climate change is the defining issue of our time. You'll be part of the oldest environmental charity in BC—one with an unparalleled track record of success.

Become a member. Membership starts at just \$15 annually. To become a member, visit sierraclub.bc.ca/membership.

Volunteer. Host a house party, write a letter to the editor, attend a rally, and do what you love while making a difference.

Get informed. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, subscribe to our newsletter, and get the knowledge you need to change the world.



Finn Kreischer, Sierra Club BC's youngest volunteer.

**JOIN
THE
CLUB**

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ended December 31, 2016

Every year at the Sierra Club of British Columbia Foundation, we rely on the generous support of our funders and donors, which allows us to continue to carry out the important work we do.

In this fiscal year, our total expenditures were \$1,264,952, of which 85% supported our core mission operations and program costs, with the remaining 15% used for development and supporter engagement activities.

We generated a \$34,488 surplus for fiscal year 2016, allowing us to increase our total unrestricted net assets from \$75,087 to \$109,575. While this was a favourable result for 2016, Sierra Club BC operates on a budget largely supported through restricted program grants. The reality is: we also require a healthy base of unrestricted donations to support our core mission operating costs and to continually invest in capacity building within our organization.

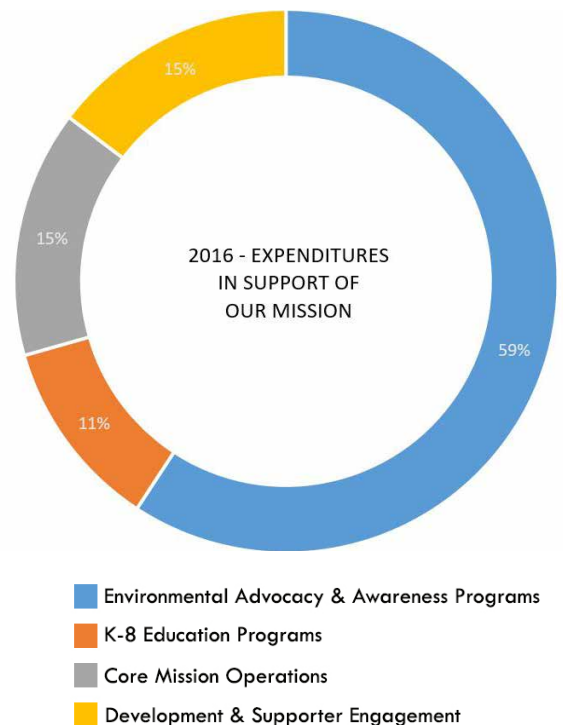
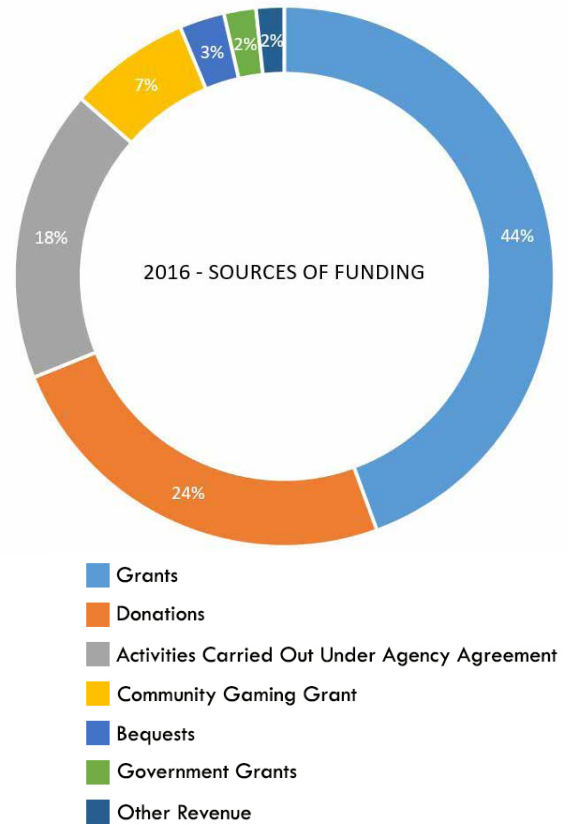
In 2019, Sierra Club BC turns 50 years old. As we approach this important milestone anniversary, we are actively investing in our fund development infrastructure such that we can have a greater impact in the world. We look forward to working with our valued supporters in building this wonderful legacy for Sierra Club BC.

Sincerely,



Shirley Franklin, CPA, CMA
Board Treasurer

This 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, 2016.



THANK YOU

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Health Sciences Association
Patagonia

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Charlotte Senay
Karen Shirley
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Robin Walker
Carole Ward
Vanessa Wiebel
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THANK YOU

Funders

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The Barthel Foundation
Blue Planet Links
The Brainerd Foundation
Gabe and Andi Davis Foundation
Government of Canada (Canada Summer Jobs)
GVSCU Legacy Foundation
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
The McLean Foundation
Mountain Equipment Co-operative
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
New Venture Fund
North Growth Foundation
Patagonia Environmental Grants Fund of Tides Foundation
The Province of British Columbia
The Schein Foundation
The Sitka Foundation
SpencerCreo Foundation
Tides Canada Foundation - Anonymous Grantor
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
Vancity
Victoria Foundation
The Wilburforce Foundation
Willowgrove Foundation

Thank you for helping create an ecologically sustainable future. We rely on the generosity of British Columbians to continue this work.

Please donate today at sierraclub.bc.ca/donate.

Agency Agreement Partners

BC Sustainable Energy Association
Canopy
Creatively United for the Planet Society
Peace Valley Environmental Association
Sarah Cox
Sea to Cedar Foundation

Support for Activities Under Agency Agreement

The Annual Foundation
Brad Jarvis
Horne Coupar
Luna Trust
Marilyn Spink
The McLean Foundation
Patagonia
Philippa Blake
Tides US Foundation
Willow Grove Foundation



Photo: C. Lyon



OUR TEAM

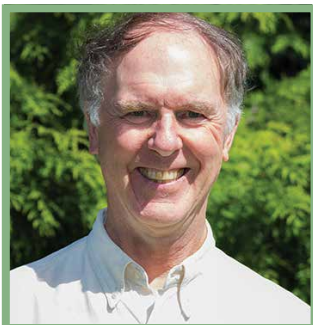
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 Simone Cotterill
 Kirsten Dallimore
 Lisa Dumoulin
 Sue Elrington
 Kate Fairley
 Sheleena Forfar
 Elisabeth Hazell
 Laura Hope
 Britton Jacob-Schram
 Anna Kemp

Marie-Joelle Lachance
 Lynn Mathieson
 Tim Pearson
 Bob Peart
 Ana Simeon
 Anika Sparling
 Larissa Stendie
 Caitlyn Vernon
 Jens Wieting
 Mark Worthing
 Maureen Yao
 Kat Zimmer

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 Brenda Brown, Member at Large
 Howie Chong, Member at Large
 Valine Crist, Member at Large
 Shirley Franklin, Treasurer
 Bruce Hill, Member at Large
 Geraldine Kenny, Member at Large
 Patricia Lane, Legacy Member
 Jackie Larkin, Secretary
 Robert Mitchell, Member at Large
 Jarrad Reddekop, Member at Large
 Gail Riddell, Chair
 Stan Tomandl, Legacy Member



2016 was the last full year in which Bob Peart served as our Executive Director. He retired in early 2017. We are grateful for Bob's contributions and his outstanding legacy at Sierra Club BC.



SIERRA CLUB BC

sierraclub.bc.ca

**301-2994 Douglas Street
Victoria BC V8T 4N4**

Registered charity number:
119149797 RR0001

Photo by Andrew S. Wright