

# Sierra Club of Canada B.C. Chapter

## Annual Report 2005



# Table of Contents

<b>Our Mission</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Message from the Executive Director, Kathryn Molloy</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Message from the Chair of the Board, Lindsay Cole</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Forests, Lands and Communities</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Our Fragile Oceans</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A Clean Energy Economy</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Educating for a Better Future</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>B.C.'s Grassroots Hub</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Walking Our Talk: Organizational Sustainability Report</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Financial Statements</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Our Staff Team</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Our Supporters</b>	<b>32</b>



# Our Mission

- To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth;
- To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;
- To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and
- To use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Since 1969, the Sierra Club of Canada's BC Chapter (SCCBC) has played a leading role in environmental stewardship in this province. Our success is grounded in advocating for science-based policy, supporting solid grassroots initiatives and inspiring passionate commitment to the values of environmental stewardship.

SCCBC is the BC/Yukon Chapter of the Sierra Club of Canada. The Executive Committee acts as the Board of SCCBC and is composed of elected B.C. members as well as representatives of local groups. Sierra Club of BC Foundation is a separate organisation, with an independent board; its primary responsibility is raising charitable funds.

## Dorothy Cutting

Grandmother and climate change activist.

"I am heading North to talk to people about how the irreversible melting of the polar ice cap will affect the entire planet and loudly demand of our government the billions of dollars needed to drastically reduce GHG emissions. I hope to encourage each person I meet to do something in his or her own way to prevent the impending global disaster. I will be helped in my effort by the Sierra Club of Canada and the BC Chapter, who as always are ahead of other environmental organizations in recognizing that we are on the edge of a crisis, and then doing something about it."



# Message from Kathryn Molloy

## Executive Director

It is my privilege as the executive director of Sierra Club BC to offer my heartfelt thanks for supporting our work last year. Your generosity and deep commitment have helped us achieve important victories in our quest to conserve B.C.'s dazzling natural environment.

These pages contain highlights from 2005, a year of great successes for our work. Together we have much to celebrate.

From our Stand Tall for the Great Bear Rainforest campaign, which resulted in more than 40,000 letters being sent to Premier Gordon Campbell, to our key participation in groundfish fisheries reform, we helped forge a new vision for B.C. – one in which the natural world figures prominently and our lifestyles allow future generations to enjoy everything this province has to offer.

In 2005, we persuaded BC Hydro to cancel plans to build a coal-fired plant on Vancouver Island. That plant would have greatly—and unnecessarily—increased greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming, and augmented air pollution. Our Education Program delivered in-class environmental programs to more than 10,000 students in 2005, including, for the first time, a



Climate Change program. We distributed our “Citizen’s Guide to Seafood”, a pocket-sized card that outlines healthy and environmentally-sound seafood choices, and entered into a partnership with other environmental groups to develop a new and improved guide. We initiated our non-partisan Vote Environment program, which raises the profile of the environment as a key issue to be addressed in any election campaign. That program

kept us very busy, as federal, provincial and municipal elections all took place in 2005!

This year the Sustainability Solutions Group co-operative volunteered their services to gather data for a sustainability analysis of Sierra Club BC. We are doing our best to ensure that our travel minimizes greenhouse gas emissions, our office practices reduce paper use to a minimum, our purchasing practices are ethical and thoughtful of environmental impact, our waste is managed in the optimum manner and our staff is treated fairly and respectfully.

Regardless of our success in the past year, many challenges lie before us. Global warming has created the largest insect infestation in B.C.’s recorded history, as warmer winters facilitate the destructive spread of the mountain pine beetle. Warmer waters have impeded salmon spawning, and rising sea levels caused by glacial melting threaten to swamp low-lying areas of B.C. The real work has only just begun.

Your generosity makes our work possible and gives us great hope. On behalf of everyone at Sierra Club BC, I invite you to help us realize even greater achievements in 2006 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kathryn Molloy".

# Message from Lindsay Cole

Chair of the  
Executive Committee



“We value you,  
our supporters, for  
helping us preserve  
B.C.’s unique wild  
lands and wildlife for  
future generations.”

As I reflect on our Chapter’s numerous activities of the past year, I realize anew that we have achieved some impressive milestones.

Our role in Great Bear Rainforest negotiations, together with our non-profit partners, was instrumental in the B.C. government’s 2006 ratification of the historic Great Bear Rainforest agreement. That agreement protects from logging two million hectares of old-growth rainforest—habitat for the world-renowned white “Spirit Bear”, or Kermode Bear, and other diverse wildlife. In June 2005, we took credit, along with other key conservationists, for the federal government’s long-sought “Wild Salmon Policy”, which incorporated our stand that conservation must be an overriding principle. Our volunteer-powered Enviro911 Program was a huge hit, providing environmental research and advice to many members of the public.

We can all be proud of our growth, outreach to new constituents and increased name recognition. The year has seen us broaden our partnerships with other non-profits and begin working with some non-traditional partners. We believe that by clearly identifying our role and co-operating with others we will be assured success in reaching our goals.

Our talented staff is doing exceptional work under the leadership of our management team. Our dynamic local groups throughout the province continue to organize educational outings and run campaigns on topical local issues ranging from landfill sites to pesticide use. Our board members are committed to seeing the Sierra Club’s BC Chapter continue to grow and thrive.

We value you, our supporters, for helping us preserve B.C.’s unique wild lands and wildlife for future generations. Please join with me in celebrating our 2005 achievements. With your continued support, I look forward to even greater successes in 2006.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. Cole".



Aerial of  
Great Bear Rainforest,  
Ian McAllister.

# Forests, Lands, and Communities

Our Forest, Lands and Communities program is dedicated to conserving the rich biological heritage of B.C.'s forests, while providing a basis for sustainable local economies that respect ecological limits. As the leading forestry conservation voice in B.C., the Sierra Club's B.C. Chapter is well positioned to be effective in shaping forest policy.

## Great Bear Rainforest: On the Home Stretch

Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter and its partners in the Great Bear Rainforest campaign launched the "Stand Tall" campaign to engage the public to help us protect the Great Bear Rainforest. Approximately 40,000 people let B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell know they wanted him to live up to his commitment to finalize a land use plan for the region by the end of summer, 2005.





While Campbell missed that deadline, in February 2006 First Nations and the provincial government announced a final land use plan that protects more than two million hectares of the Great Bear Rainforest from logging.

The Great Bear Rainforest agreement is the culmination of one of British Columbia's most significant environmental campaigns—a decade-long effort that saw blockades, international market campaigns and, eventually, an unprecedented agreement among logging companies and environmentalists. It has produced a conservation achievement of international significance, a milestone of which we can all be proud.

SCCBC played a major role in the development of a new way of logging more sustainably, or ecosystem-based management, for the Great Bear Rainforest. We remain committed to seeing ecosystem-based management implemented in the coming years.

## Responsible Forestry

Setting aside parks and wilderness areas is only half the game in successful conservation. The other half is how we treat forests and ecosystems outside of protected areas. This is why Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter and our allies have spent years working on a forest management standard that will also function as a market tool to distinguish sustainably-produced wood from other look-alike products. This made-in-B.C. standard was approved in the fall of 2005 by the international Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). FSC-certified B.C. timber is a practical, viable alternative to forest products from unsustainable sources, and one that will work for large industrial operations as well as small-scale licensees.

Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter also continued to support Isaak, a First Nations-owned forestry company in Clayoquot Sound.





## Communities: Building Skills and Capacity

Land-use plans such as the Great Bear Rainforest are hard-won milestones, and the Sierra Club is committed to working with people in coastal communities who are responsible for turning these plans into action.

### Coastal Guardian Training Project

We are working with coastal First Nations to expand existing Guardian/Watchmen programs by developing a comprehensive training program to increase local capacity to manage and protect the land. In Guardian/Watchmen programs, First Nations are the “eyes and ears” on land and water, monitoring activities within traditional territories to ensure they are responsible and consistent with regulations and plans. Representatives from six coastal First Nations communities participated in a workshop to identify their vision for expanded and strengthened Guardian programs and associated training needs.

### Coastal First Nations Environmental Education Outreach

We delivered a pilot environmental education program to more than 200 students in First Nations communities in the Great Bear Rainforest. The programming focused on environmental stewardship and local action projects in which students could participate. The pilot project also involved working with teachers to understand their needs in terms of capacity building and support for delivering classroom environmental education. The pilot was very successful and will be followed by programming and teacher training in 2006.

### Salmon Nations Youth Summit

In partnership with ReDiscovery International, we organized a gathering in Prince Rupert attended by youth from five different First Nation communities. The gathering focused on empowering youth by broadening their awareness of ecological, cultural, and community issues and developing skills for them to take action in their communities.

“The gathering focused on empowering youth by broadening their awareness of ecological, cultural, and community issues.”







## Raw Logs, Raw Deal Spring, 2005

In an unprecedented show of solidarity, SCCBC shared the stage with the IWA (a logging union) and the former CEO of a major logging company to speak to the people of Duncan about the economic and environmental consequences of raw log exports.



“SCCBC played a major role in the development of a new way of logging more sustainably, or ecosystem-based management, for the Great Bear Rainforest.”



### Emily Petett

Stand Tall campaign volunteer.

“I helped with the Great Bear Rainforest Campaign by getting the word out. We talked to hundreds of people, asking them to go to the website and send in their letter. It was rewarding to see people showing genuine concern in saving such an important and beautiful part of BC.”



# Our Fragile Oceans

British Columbia's coastal waters are home to some of the richest marine ecosystems left on this planet. However, much is threatened by overfishing, pollution and industrial activity.

The BC Chapter is dedicated to conserving B.C.'s marine ecosystems through fostering conservation-based policies and practices that maintain ecological diversity and species abundance.



Photo by Patrick McGuire, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/paddimir/>.





## Wild Salmon - Conserving B.C.'s Icon

The Sierra Club has fought long and hard for a place for a conservation voice at various fisheries committees and processes, alongside fisheries interests, First Nations and Government representatives. It is a major victory that our representatives are now at these tables. However, it does mean that our staff and consultants spend many hours in tough negotiations and in bringing forth conservation-based information. It also means speaking out strongly and publicly on issues when necessary.

Such was the case with the long-sought Policy for the Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon. The Sierra Club and the marine conservation community took a very strong stand that conservation must be the overriding principle in the document and that the important role of salmon in the whole ecosystem must be addressed. We finally achieved these goals in June 2005 with significant changes being made to the draft policy. Key to our success on this issue was our high media profile, our expert briefing of key decision-makers and the vocal support of the public, including First Nations.

Meanwhile, in our role as stakeholders on the harvest planning committee for the Fraser River salmon fishery, we have steadfastly promoted a conservation-based harvesting strategy. We had considerable success in 2005 when the Department of Fisheries and Oceans took a courageous step in the right direction and closed the sockeye fishery on the Fraser to protect endangered runs of sockeye salmon.







Our public service website Salmonopolis, targeted at stream-keepers and salmon stewards, has been especially successful in encouraging the reporting of habitat violations in salmon streams, each of which is given full legal analysis by our partners in this venture – the David Suzuki Foundation.

## Groundfish Fisheries Reform

We set the groundfish reform process in motion in 2001 with representatives of the halibut and groundfish trawl sectors. The reform process came close to fruition in 2005 with the development by industry of a Pilot Integration Proposal requiring 100% at-sea-monitoring and recording of every fish brought aboard, a procedure that significantly reduces by-catch. (Approval was gained in March 2006.)

Now, detailed logbooks are mandatory, and every vessel is required to carry either an on-board observer or be fitted out with cutting-edge camera technology that automatically records each fish hauled aboard the boat.

The new regime will provide basic catch information necessary for successful implementation of total-allowable-catch limits. Now that the industry is on its way to full integration and catch-accountability, fisheries scientists and managers can focus on stock-status research and the work of setting sustainable catch limits.

Our major concern remains the precarious state of B.C.'s rockfish stocks. There are 34 species of rockfish that end up in the groundfish industry's landings, and only half of them are protected by adequate catch limits.





## Sustainable Seafood Canada

As partners in a sustainable seafood choices campaign with Sustainable Seafood Canada - we have prepared a revised species list. Species are assigned a red/yellow/or green assessment for, “Canada’s Seafood Guide”—a national citizen’s guide to safe and healthy seafood purchasing.

## Marine Use Planning and Marine Stewardship Council

We continue to participate in the Marine Planning Caucus formulating strategy for stakeholder participation in the implementation of the Oceans Act (1997). This includes recommendations for delivery of a network of marine protected areas and for an effective marine planning process involving local, provincial, federal and First Nations governments, industry, environmentalists and others.

We are also deeply involved in the work of the MSC. In 2005, we filed a submission regarding ecological concerns with the commercial halibut fishery, which was seeking (and since gained!) MSC certification. We also filed four major submissions analysing conservation standards of DFO assessments of B.C. sockeye fisheries seeking MSC certification, and will review the draft proposal for or against certification when it is completed.







# A Clean Energy Economy

Global warming and climate change are making headlines around the province and across the country. In B.C., warmer winters have facilitated the devastating spread of the mountain pine beetle, which is ravaging the province's interior forests. Our salmon now encounter fatally warm rivers as they migrate upstream. Recently, top climatologists from Science and NASA warned that, unless greenhouse gas emissions are significantly reduced within 20 years, melting ice sheets due to global warming are likely to trigger a sea-level rise of up to 25 metres.



Photo by Lars Waleczak, [www.flickr.com/photos/goso/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/goso/).



## Christine Carmody

Christine never thought a Sierra Club poster she had on her wall in her native Australia would end up changing her career path. With a PhD in physics, Christine decided to shift her career focus from nanotechnology to environmental issues – a move that led her to volunteer for the BC Chapter, researching how B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change. "It's interesting to compare the same issues in different countries," says Christine. "It makes you realize we all face similar problems, and that it really is a small, precious world."





At Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter, we are addressing climate change on many fronts:

## Clean Electricity Generation

As a key and founding partner in the GSX Concerned Citizens Coalition, we successfully challenged plans for a gas-fired power plant at Duke Point on Vancouver Island that would have contributed to B.C.'s rising greenhouse gas emissions. The Coalition compiled extensive evidence to refute the myth that a power shortfall could only be met by building power plants, and brought this evidence to the Utilities Commission's review of the Duke Point plan and later to the B.C. Court of Appeal.

The Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter and our partners in the Coalition provided information and focus for Vancouver Islanders who opposed the proposed Duke Point project. Public pressure persuaded the City of

Nanaimo to withdraw its earlier support for the power plant. Dozens of citizens – virtually all opposed – made presentations to the Utilities Commission in January at a town hall meeting in Nanaimo. Fifty or sixty people demonstrated outside the town hall meeting, with stilt walkers and quilters with quilts depicting pollution versus clean energy.

**“The  
Raging  
Grannies”**

at a fundraiser for GSX  
Coalition at Cobble Hill.





Working with BC Sustainable Energy Association, we brought a strong and credible voice in support of renewable energy to the Utilities Commission hearings. We successfully advocated for new electricity acquisition rules which help level the playing field for producers of renewable energy – for example, factoring in greenhouse gas liability costs and reducing penalties for fluctuations in output (a big issue for wind power producers).

## Raising Awareness: Youth in Media

In partnership with Gumboot Productions Inc., Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter sponsored Youth in Media, a climate change education project which brought together 20 youth with environmental educators and media professionals. The youth created a number of short films and animations which challenge the viewer to be personally responsible for the carbon emissions they create in their daily lives.

**“The films received national air time and attention, airing on 16 television networks Canada-wide. They were also honoured with an international award.”**

This project was made possible with funding from Environment Canada’s One Tonne Challenge Program.



Climate change workshop in Bolivia.

## The Gaia Project: Global Connections and Action

BC Chapter’s Gaia Project works with local non-profit organizations in Bolivia, Guatemala and El Salvador to empower indigenous communities to respond to climate change, desertification and degradation of the land. Our Bolivian partner, Arbolando (“Planting Trees”), runs environmental education and rehabilitation projects, while CESTA (El Salvador) and Maya Pedal focus on appropriate technology.

Through an internship project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, 11 interns travelled to South America to help on these projects, gaining valuable international experience and fostering North-South dialogue.



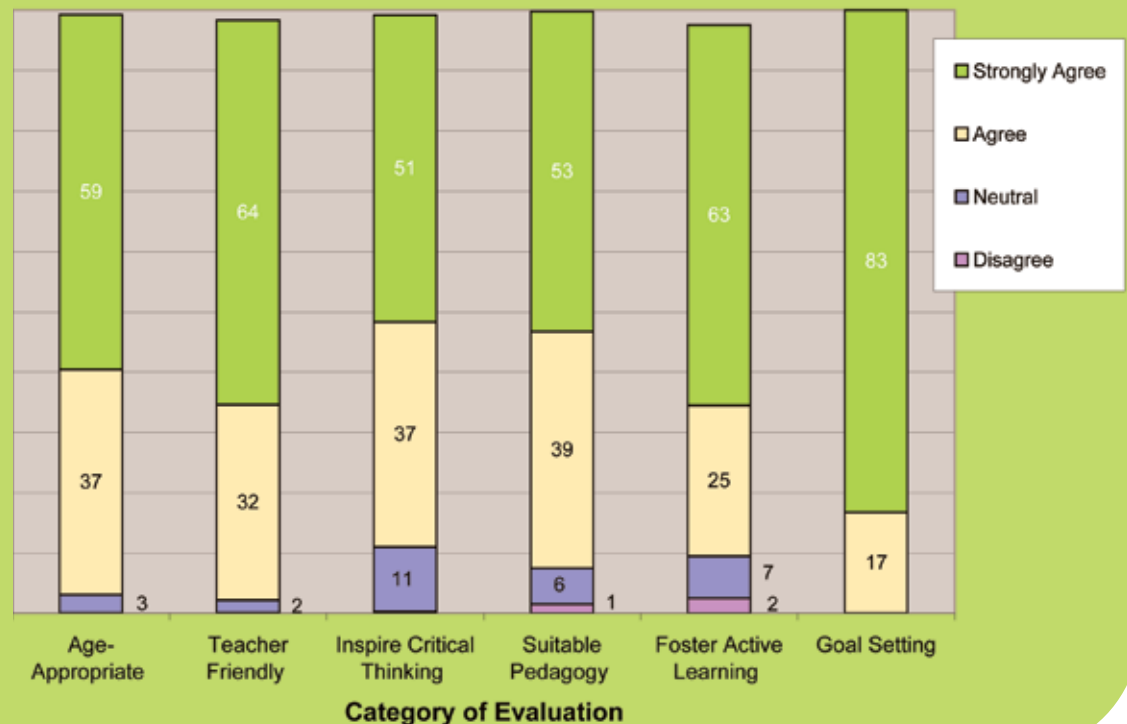
# Educating for a Better Future

Over the years, our Education Program has expanded and diversified to meet a wide range of community needs. Our dedication to high standards, rigorous evaluation and pedagogic excellence has helped us become one of B.C.'s most effective environmental education program providers.

In 2005, our Education Program provided in-class programs to more than 10,000 students. Our website made available a variety of on-line and downloadable learning resources. We managed the National Youth Engagement Program for Green Street. Print curriculum guidebooks, professional development workshops and monthly e-newsletters were developed to support B.C.'s teachers and the environmental education community.



Hands-on and outdoor learning are important components of our programs.



Results of our 2005 Evaluation.





# Our Education Program focuses on these areas of engagement:

- *School programs.* Themed multiple visit programs delivered B.C.-wide for kindergarten to grade 12.
- *Teacher services.* Networking and training opportunities, curriculum links, e-newsletters and other learning resources.
- *Youth Engagement Program.* We manage a National Youth Engagement Program, creating opportunities and information sources for youth aged 13-19.

## Active In the Classroom...Our School Programs

Since our inception, more than 45,000 students have participated in our highly interactive classroom programs. Specially designed to meet the needs of both teachers and students, each program is curriculum-linked, science-based, and centred on the principle of hands-on learning. All programs undergo a rigorous evaluation process, with input from both teachers and students.

2005 was remarkable for the positive impacts and activities resulting from our school-based programs. Students and teachers from across B.C. expressed overwhelming support. Ten different programs, with ongoing support and challenging stewardship action projects, were delivered to more than 460 enthusiastic classrooms – and almost every class we visited voiced interest in future visits.



In our Green Star! program youth learn all about the ecosystems of B.C. and the ways we can help.



Two Youth Steering  
Committee  
ambassadors  
at the Carrefour  
de Jeunesse  
event in Montreal.



## The Green Street Youth Steering Committee Representatives

attend many events as program Ambassadors.

## National Youth Engagement Program

Once again the BC Chapter managed the National Youth Engagement Program (YEP) for Green Street, a national organization that supports the delivery of accredited environmental education programs across Canada. Under our management, YEP engaged youth in on-going stewardship initiatives through a number of opportunities, including:

- A Youth Action Centre website in English and French;
- Internships ranging from banding birds to planning social justice camps;
- Support for summer camps;
- Monthly e-newsletter with opportunities and youth perspectives; and
- A dynamic Youth Steering Committee made up of youth from across Canada.

(These youth are given the opportunity to envision the future of youth engagement and help shape future functions of Green Street).

## Take Action!... Our Action Challenge Program

The Action Challenge Program was introduced in the 2005-06 school year, following overwhelming classroom interest in “doing something more to help our environment.” Grade-specific Action Challenges are left with classes between program visits and following the final visit, and projects are tracked for environmental impact and resulting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

### The Leekha Family

Like many generous members and friends of the BC Chapter, the Leekha family in Kitimat offered their sanctuary to the road-weary education team.

## Being Salmon For A Day... Learning With Our Education Team

“I have been a teacher for a very long time and in all those years I have seldom seen such sincerity and commitment from my students as when you visited to teach us about species and their habitats. There we were, in the rain and mud, running around ‘being’ salmon. We had to climb fish ladders and avoid both natural and human created hazards. Not all of us made it the first time we tried, and for the first time we understood that for the fish there was no second chance to overcome ‘hazards’ in real life. There are no second chances for our planet either... this program is the most powerful way to help all the children of the world. Thank you so much for all the good work you do.”

(Teacher, Central Middle School, Grade 6)



“...each program is curriculum-linked, science-based, and centred on the principle of hands-on learning. All programs undergo a rigorous evaluation process, with input from both teachers and students.”





# B.C.'s Grassroots Hub

Since its inception, the Sierra Club has been recognized for its dedication to a strong grassroots-based environmental movement. Through grassroots activism, individuals concerned about the environment can work under the banner of a highly respected organization to effect positive environmental change at the local, regional and global levels.

## Our Local Groups

Local groups are made up of 25 or more Sierra Club members located in the same region. Local groups host events, organize outings and run campaigns on local issues ranging from landfill sites to pesticide use and coal-fired power generation. By addressing environmental issues at their source, local groups bring the message home to people in their communities, setting the stage for change at the legislative level. Running a successful local campaign – often on a shoestring budget – takes great skill, enormous patience and dedication.



### Malaspina Group

Malaspina Group celebrates victory in a campaign to stop a highway being built in Millennium Park, a 92-hectare green space in the middle of Powell River.



## Lower Mainland:

- Public outreach at the car-free Commercial Drive festival and World Rivers Day
- Salmon celebration at False Creek
- Opposed B.C. Government's plans for Highway 99 expansion through Eagleridge Bluffs

## Haida Gwaii:

- Worked with the regional district and southern communities to improve recycling on the island
- Organized an educational seminar on wind power
- Initiated a successful complaint to the Forest Practices Board on the lack of adequate management for the northern goshawk on Haida Gwaii

## Malaspina:

- Successfully mustered public opposition to stop a highway through Millennium Park, a 92-hectare green space in the middle of Powell River
- Ran a Smart Growth campaign in Powell River
- Co-hosted an all-candidates meeting in Powell River as part of the Vote Environment campaign

## Coast Mountain:

- Led outings to active forestry zones to document logging practices in their area
- Organized kayaking outings

## Quadra:

- Organized annual beach-cleanup for Earth Day
- Hosted various environmental slideshows and movie screenings
- Brought the "New Era of Lawlessness" tour to Campbell River (talk and discussion forum in partnership with West Coast Environmental Law and the Council of Canadians)

## Victoria:

- Hosted two community events, "Seasons of the Grizzlies" by photographer and naturalist Fred Seiler, and a performance by folk musician Norman Liota
- Increased community

awareness on issues such as pesticides, recycling, public transportation, large mammal habitat loss and ecosystem protection.

- Co-hosted nature outings every second week from April until October.



## Vote Environment raises the profile of the environment as a key issue to be addressed in any election campaign.

In 2005, the BC Chapter put democracy to work for the environment through our non-partisan “Vote Environment” program. The program kicks in whenever there is an election, which happened three times in 2005! (Provincial, Municipal and Federal elections)

We catalyzed discussion of environmental issues through our all-candidates forums. We got out on the streets and into different neighbourhoods to speak with average British Columbians about their concerns. Our project ambassadors – a fisherman, a cab driver, a lawyer, an Olympic athlete and a nurse - supported the project with their names, faces and reasons for “Voting Environment”. Their message highlighted the connections between the environment and “everyday” issues such as health and jobs.



Vote environment canvassers.

- 7,521 Vote Environment brochures distributed
- 3,246 Victoria households visited
- 834 People who thanked us for the information
- 562 Attendees at event with renowned ethnobotanist Wade Davis
- 87 People who partied with us May 17!
- 43 Vote Environment volunteers
- 11 Vote Environment outreach events
- 7 Vote Environment ambassadors
- 5 Vote Environment presentations to community groups
- 3 All-candidates forums held





## Donor Profile: Bob Fraumeni

Bob Fraumeni is involved with the BC Chapter on several fronts: as a donor, as an advocate for sustainable fisheries, and as a hands-on owner of a sustainable business. Bob has been fishing for twenty years, a career choice that stems from his early fascination with the sea. His business, *Finest at Sea*, employs 100 fishermen year-round and supplies Victorians with wild, sustainably caught seafood.

Bob first got involved when the BC Chapter launched the Vote Environment campaign. “I shared the same concerns – about the impact of climate change, about what’s happening to salmon - and I wanted to support people in voting for sustainable solutions,” explains Bob.

Not surprisingly, Bob takes a particular interest in all the different facets of our Fragile Oceans campaign. He worked hard to help bring about structural reforms in the way groundfish fisheries are designed, to ensure better protection of marine habitat. The newly-instituted monitoring of fishing boats (by camera or observer) is, he feels, a platform “from which to work toward the best sustainable fisheries in the world.”





## Enviro 911

Enviro 911 is a volunteer-powered program of the BC Chapter. Enviro 911 responds to calls from members of the public, providing environmental research and advice, and encouraging them in their pursuit of local environmental solutions.

Through the Enviro911 internship program, our volunteer interns gain invaluable insight into the B.C. environmental movement – what the issues are, who is concerned, and what organizations and resources are out there to help. With the guidance of Sierra Club staff, interns also learn valuable hands on grassroots organizing - skills that are difficult to learn in a classroom setting. Upon completion of this 8-month internship program, our volunteers receive a letter of reference and certificate.

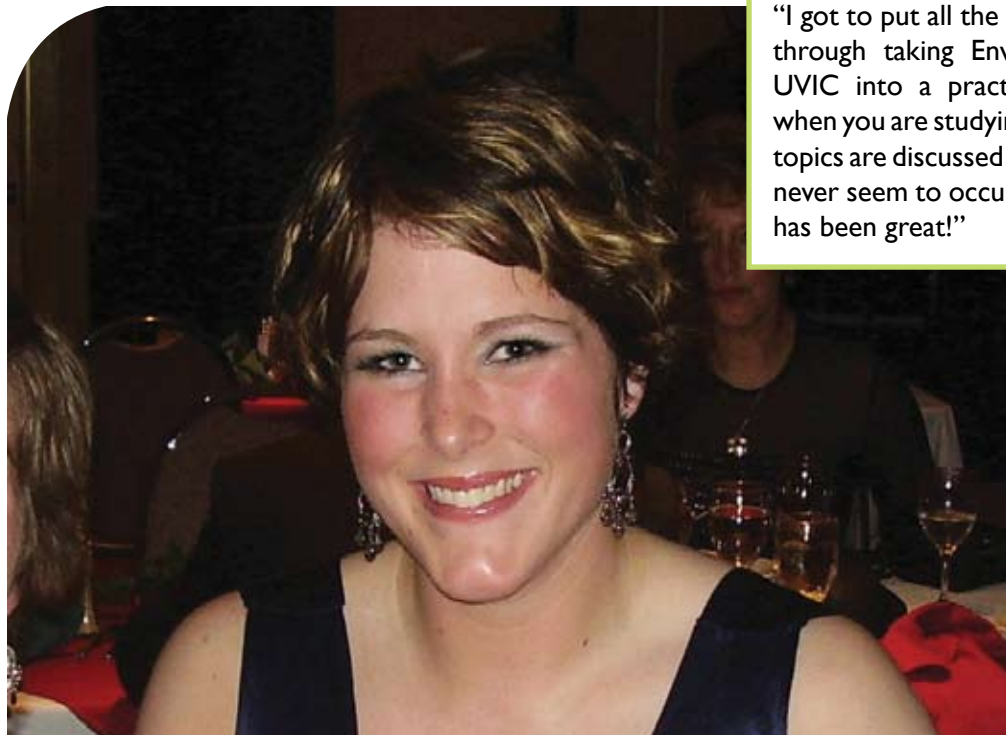


Endangered caribou.

### Laura Gray

2005 Intern

"I got to put all the knowledge I had gained through taking Environmental Studies at UVIC into a practical setting. Too often when you are studying environmental issues, topics are discussed in ideal situations which never seem to occur in the real world. ....It has been great!"





# Walking Our Talk: Organizational Sustainability Report

Building on our tradition of innovation in the environmental movement and in society, in 2005 we challenged ourselves with a sustainability assessment. We looked at our environmental impact, calculated our greenhouse gas emissions and scrutinized our waste disposal habits. We also analysed our social impact and our performance as an ethical employer.

It was not an easy decision to make. We didn't know how many imperfections the study would reveal. Also, if we were to replicate this periodically - which is the only way to discern meaningful trends - it would mean a considerable resource commitment.

In the end, we decided to go ahead. We felt it was an important opportunity to increase accountability and build trust with our stakeholders. And the results showed we were right: while there is certainly room for improvement, especially in terms of reducing CO2 emissions, the findings supported our efforts to minimize our footprint, concluding that "SCCBC is walking its talk in terms of its ecological impact".

The study also endorsed our consistent efforts to support our employees in their professional development, personal growth and maintaining a healthy work/life balance. We're looking forward to doing even better in 2006!

The 2005 assessment was conducted by members of the Sustainability Solutions Group co-operative, who generously donated their work.

...the findings supported our efforts to minimize our footprint, concluding that "SCCBC is walking its talk in terms of its ecological impact".







Photo by Craig Hunter Parker.

## Highlights from the Sustainability Report:

**Paper use :** A total of 85,000 sheets of photocopy/printer paper were used in 2005 – 850 pounds' worth. An additional 8,000 sheets of text stock and 2,500 of cover stock were used. All of the paper was 100-percent post-consumer recycled and unbleached.

**Greenhouse gas emissions :** SCCBC's total production of greenhouse gases was 61.3 tonnes. This includes emissions from travel and heating and electricity in the office. 97 percent of the emissions resulted from airplane travel, mostly associated with the Gaia Project in South America.

**Waste disposal :** Two people conducted waste audits on two separate occasions, sorting through 42 kg and 20 kg of recyclables and garbage. The results showed that 90 percent of the waste was going into the recycling stream, primarily paper and glass. Of the items in the garbage, however, ½ by mass was recyclable or compostable.

## Minimizing our footprint:

### Paper use:

- We practice double-sided printing.
- All the paper we use is 100-percent post-consumer recycled and unbleached.

### Greenhouse gas emissions :

- All staff living in Victoria walk or cycle to work.
- Two staff telecommute from Alberta and Seattle.
- The Education Team travel around Victoria and the Lower Mainland in a car share co-op vehicle.

### Waste disposal:

- We compost our food waste in a worm composting bin.
- We collect plastics and Styrofoam to take to a local recycling depot.

# Sierra Club of Canada, B.C. Chapter Financial Statements

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Executive Committee of  
Sierra Club of Canada, British Columbia Chapter

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Sierra Club of Canada, British Columbia Chapter (the Chapter) as at December 31, 2005 and the statements of operations, and changes in fund balances for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Chapter's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Chapter derives revenues from donations and membership dues, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, my verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Chapter and I was not able to determine

whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenue, excess of revenue over expenditures, assets or fund balances. In addition, the Chapter funds environmental projects in Bolivia for which it does not receive sufficient details and support for expenditures made outside of Canada. During the period, these expenditures totaled \$47,438. Accordingly, I was unable to satisfy myself with respect to the nature and propriety of the final use of these funds. As a result, I was unable to determine whether adjustments might be necessary to expenditures, excess of revenue over expenditures, assets or fund balances.



In my opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which I may have determined to be necessary had I been able to satisfy myself concerning the completeness of the revenue and propriety of expenditures referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Chapter as at December 31, 2005 and the results of its operation for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Victoria, Canada  
March 8, 2005  
*Rodney K. Munro CA*  
Chartered Accountant

# Sierra Club of Canada, British Columbia Chapter

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2005

	Operating Fund	Program Fund	Capital Fund	Total 2005	Total 2004
<b>Assets</b>					
<b>Current</b>					
Cash	4,185	\$ 70,387	\$ -	\$ 74,572	\$ 14,341
Receivables	3,817	330	-	4,147	65,088
Inventories	-	-	-	-	225
Prepays	1,002	613	-	1,615	800
	9,004	71,330	-	80,335	80,454
Capital assets (Note 6)	-	-	28,346	28,346	37,381
	\$ 9,004	\$ 71,330	\$28,346	\$ 108,680	\$ 117,835
<b>Liabilities</b>					
<b>Current</b>					
Payables and accruals	\$ 6,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,600	\$ 29,998
Due from Sierra Club of British Columbia Foundation (Note 5)	-	-	-	-	31,259
	6,600	-	-	6,600	61,257
<b>Fund Balances</b>					
Investment in Capital Assets	-	-	28,346	28,346	37,381
Restricted	-	71,330	-	71,330	109,381
Unrestricted	2,404	-	-	2,404	(90,184)
	2,404	71,330	28,346	102,080	56,578
	\$ 9,004	\$ 71,330	\$ 28,346	\$ 108,680	\$ 117,835
<b>On behalf of the Chapter</b>					
	Executive Committee Member		Executive Committee Member		

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.



# Sierra Club of Canada, British Columbia Chapter

## Statement of Operations

December 31, 2005

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds			
		Program	Capital	Total	Total
	2005	Fund	Fund	2005	2004
<b>Revenue</b>					
Sierra Club of British Columbia Foundation (Note 5)	\$ 197,033	\$ 653,099	\$ -	\$ 850,132	\$ 636,804
Contributions from other not-for-profit organizations	17,374	50,399	-	67,773	234,322
Donations		1,969	-	1,969	6,238
Event revenue, net	150	4,218	-	4,368	6,044
Government contracts and grants		307,972	-	307,972	415,725
Interest	1,150	-	-	1,150	11,079
Membership dues	8,683	-	-	8,683	10,513
Other	21,989	137,333	-	159,322	121,981
Product sales	2,229	3,316	-	5,545	5,696
	248,608	1,158,306	-	1,406,914	1,448,402
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Advertising and promotion	1,198	10,754	-	11,952	2,918
Bank charges	1,347	101	-	1,448	701
Depreciation	-	-	11,463	11,463	10,662
GAIA joint projects (Note 7)	-	47,438	-	47,438	105,999
Insurance, licences and dues	552	2,006	-	2,559	4,802
Office	-	23,564	-	23,565	29,927
Other	2,387	12,258	-	14,645	9,465
Professional fees	6,600	3,199	-	9,799	9,569
Rent and utilities	-	59,950	-	59,950	69,601
Sierra Club groups	-	886	-	886	10,439
Sierra report and printing e publications	-	25,772	-	25,773	28,573
Subcontractors and consultants	-	248,331	-	248,331	290,980
Supplies	12,275	7,924	-	20,199	23,777
Telephone and conferences	6,722	8,587	-	15,309	13,998
Travel and Conferences	15,376	106,945	-	122,321	156,246
Wages and benefits	109,563	638,642	-	748,204	735,971
	156,020	1,196,357	11,463	1,363,840	1,503,628
<b>Excess</b> (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ 92,588	\$ (38,051)	\$ (11,463)	\$ 43,074	\$ (55,226)

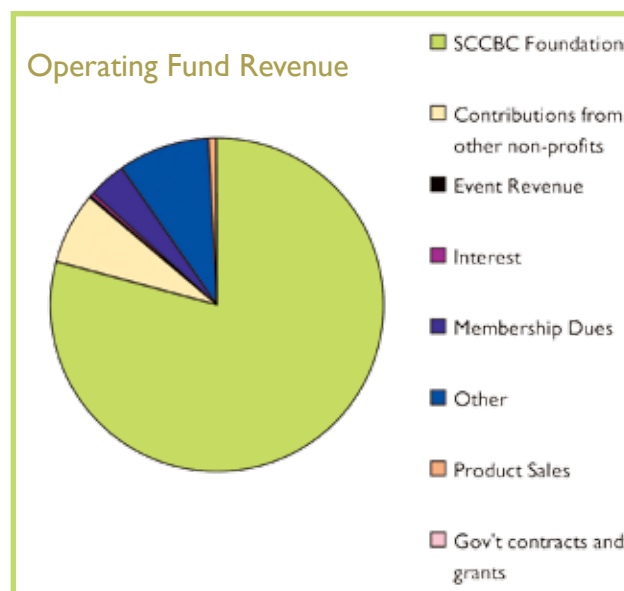
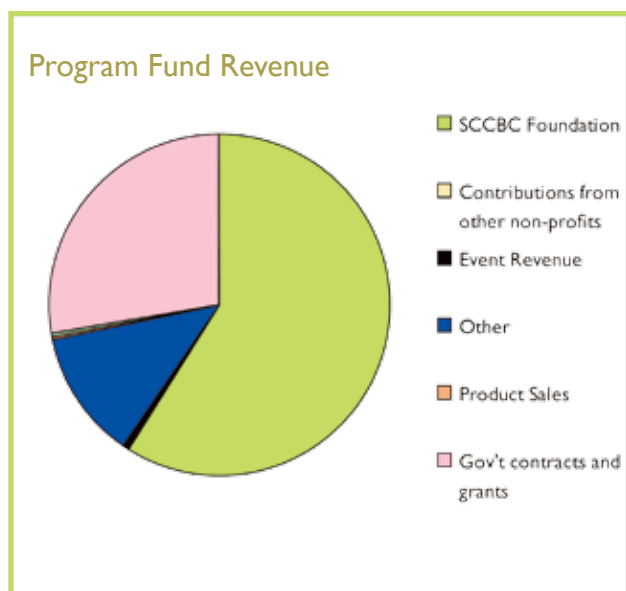
See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

# Sierra Club of Canada, British Columbia Chapter

## Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

December 31, 2005

	Operating Funds	Restricted Funds			
	2005	Program Fund	Capital Fund	Total 2005	Total 2004
Balance, beginning of year	\$ (90,184)	\$ 109,381	\$ 37,381	\$ 56,578	\$ 111,804
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	92,588	(38,051)	(11,463)	43,074	(55,226)
Investment in Capital Assets	-	-	2,428	2,428	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 2,404	\$ 71,330	\$ 28,346	\$ 102,080	\$ 56,578



See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

# Sierra Club of Canada, British Columbia Chapter

## Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2005

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### 1. Purpose of organization

The Sierra Club of Canada, British Columbia Chapter (the Chapter) is a chapter of the Sierra Club of Canada, which is a registered not-for-profit entity based in Ottawa, Canada. Operating as an autonomous not-for-profit organization, the Chapter encourages exploration and preservation of the earth's waters, wildlife, and wilderness and promotes research on natural resource usage and preservation. The Chapter also promotes its activities by means of establishing "Groups", as entities of the Club to provide provincial contacts in the overall scope of the constitution of the Sierra Club of Canada.

*The Sierra Club of Canada, British Columbia Chapter's mission is:*

- to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth;
  - to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;
  - to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment
  - to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.
- 

### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

#### Fund Accounting

The Operating Fund accounts for the Chapter's general support and administration functions.

The Program Fund accounts for donations and grants received for which donors have specified certain uses. The majority of these donations have been transferred from the Sierra Club of British Columbia Foundation and are governed by agency agreements.

The Capital Fund reports the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses related to the Chapter's net capital assets and investments of capital contributions.

#### Revenue Recognition

The Chapter follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the Operating Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.



## Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2005

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### 5. Sierra Club of British Columbia Foundation

The Sierra Club of Canada, British Columbia Chapter and the Sierra Club of British Columbia Foundation are controlled by an Executive Committee and Board of Directors respectively.

The Chapter operates in a large part with funds received under agency agreements from the Foundation. The agency agreements govern the specific use of the funds.

### 6. Capital Assets

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>2005 Net Book Value</u>	<u>2004 Net Book Value</u>
Office furniture	\$ 12,487	\$ 11,561	\$ 926	\$ 1,158
Computers	<u>72,991</u>	<u>45,571</u>	<u>27,420</u>	<u>36,223</u>
	<u>\$ 85,478</u>	<u>\$ 57,133</u>	<u>\$ 28,346</u>	<u>\$ 37,381</u>

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### 7. GAIA Joint Projects

GAIA, a program administered by the Chapter, has entered into a joint project with CIRDEMA – Arbolando in Bolivia. Contributions received by the Chapter for this joint ecological project are transferred to CIRDEMA directly by the Chapter or through agencies contracted by the Chapter.

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### 8. Statement of Cash Flows

A statement of cash flows has not been prepared as it was considered this statement would not provide any further meaningful information.

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## Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter Executive Committee



#### *Elected:*

Kate Blomfield  
Lindsay Cole, Chair  
Yuill Herbert  
Patricia Lane, Treasurer  
Marcia McKenzie, Vice-Chair  
Karen Mahon  
Jane Worton, Secretary

#### *Local Group representatives:*

Judy Leicester  
Eric Lorenz  
Jacques Morin

#### *Appointed Conservation Chair:*

Vicky Husband

# Our Team at the BC Chapter

## Our Home Base:

Kathryn Molloy, Executive Director  
Lindsay Hill, Finance Manager  
Micki Stirling, Operations Manager  
Kelly Babcock, Executive Assistant  
Lenore Rankin, Development Officer  
J. Scott, Development Associate  
Taylor Bachrach, Communications Director  
Ana Simeon, Communications Coordinator  
Gagan Leekha, Public Outreach Coordinator  
Mehri Shahmiri, Bookkeeper

## Forests, Lands and Communities:

Lisa Matthauss, Coast Campaign Coordinator  
Claire Hutton, First Nations and Community Outreach  
Justin Calof, Forestry Specialist  
Renee Mikaloff, Forest and Land Use Specialist

## Our Fragile Oceans:

Colin Campbell, Marine Campaign Coordinator  
Terry Glavin, Conservation Advisor (contractor)  
Scott Wallace, Marine Ecologist (contractor)  
Craig Orr, Salmon Biologist (contractor)  
Ken Wilson, Fisheries Biologist (contractor)  
Christopher Pollon, Researcher (contractor)

## Educating for a Sustainable Future:

Jenn Hoffman, Education Program Coordinator  
Pharis Patenaude, Education Program Staff  
Kerri Lanaway, Education Program Staff  
Erin Desautels, Education Program Staff  
Ali Donelly, Education Program Staff  
Hana Hermanek, Education Program Staff  
Elizabeth Matthews, Education Program Staff  
Mark Hart, Enviro Educator  
Lindsay Janes, Enviro Educator  
Matthew Sasaki, Enviro Educator  
Jackie Zinger, Enviro Educator

## B.C.'s Grassroots Hub:

Jill Thompson, Grassroots Coordinator  
Nikko Snow, Outings Coordinator

## Mapping/IT:

Steve Young, GIS Mapper  
Dave Lerversee, GIS Mapper

## International:

Alvaro Moreno, GAIA Project Coordinator

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# An Investment In The Future

The financial support received by the Chapter strengthens our ability to help preserve the earth's ecological wealth. Donations to the Sierra Club of BC fund dozens of environmental projects.

Gifts create a solid financial base for the Club. Donors help support major research and educational initiatives, such as:

- Protection of critical ancient forest and wilderness areas (e.g., Clayoquot Sound, Mainland Coast Great Bear Rainforest)
- Satellite mapping projects
- Forest management practice reforms
- Protection of wildlife (e.g., salmon, grizzly bear and caribou)

# We wish to thank the following funders, who supported us in 2005:

- Bullitt Foundation
- Endswell Foundation
- Finest at Sea
- Gov't of BC, Gaming Commission
- Gov't of Canada; EcoAction, CIDA, Dept of Fisheries &; Oceans, HRDC
- Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation
- Green Street
- J.W. McConnell Foundation
- Lazar Foundation
- Luna Trust
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- N.M. Davis Corporation
- Packard Foundation
- Patagonia, Inc.
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Resource Legacy Fund
- Sacharuna Foundation
- Sierra Club of BC Foundation
- Tides Canada Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Van City Credit Union
- Victoria Foundation
- Wallace Global Fund
- Wilburforce Foundation

• And many Individual donations. Individual donors are a key to our success, allowing us to work most effectively with our grassroots community on pressing and emerging issues.

## Make a donation today.

Your donation to Sierra Club of BC will help us continue to act as a strong advocate for B.C.'s environment. Even small donations make a big difference. You can donate on-line at: [www.sierraclub.ca/bc/donate](http://www.sierraclub.ca/bc/donate). If you would prefer to donate by mail, you can send a cheque payable to:

*"Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter".*

*302-733 Johnson St., Victoria, BC, Canada, V8W 3C7*

*or call (250) 386-5255.*

Please note that the BC Chapter is not a registered charity. To make a tax-deductible donation please visit the Sierra Club of BC Foundation website at [www.sierraclubbc.org](http://www.sierraclubbc.org). If you would prefer to donate by mail, you can send a cheque payable to:

*"Sierra Club of BC Foundation".*

*304-733 Johnson St., Victoria, BC, Canada, V8W 3C7*

*or call (250) 386-0162.*

## Thank you for your support!



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