



**SIERRA  
CLUB BC**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017**



# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

Every year Sierra Club BC has been in existence, we've seen our share of highs and lows, of victories and defeats, of disturbing new signs of the destructive impact we humans are having on the planet and of our potential to put things right. 2017 was no exception.

Trump took power south of the border, galvanizing an inspiring wave of resistance. In BC, a new minority government was elected after 16 years of rule by one party. The province was engulfed by unprecedented wildfires, a stark reminder of worsening climate change impacts.

On a positive note, the BC government banned the grizzly hunt, the Ajax mine was rejected, proponents of two fracked gas plants called it quits in the face of resolute opposition, and the federal government fulfilled its promise to introduce a north coast tanker ban.

The #MeToo movement and the still unmet need for reconciliation—highlighted by the 150th anniversary of confederation—reminded us that there can be no environmental justice without social justice. We strove to further widen and deepen our commitment to social justice, reconciliation and Indigenous rights as key components of environmental solutions.

Our Executive Director, Bob Peart, retired in the spring. We would like to thank Bob for his tireless, outstanding contributions to Sierra Club BC and to BC's land, water and ecosystems over a lifetime of passionate commitment to nature. Thank you, Bob. You are missed.

Upon careful consideration of 3 commissioned reports, our board of directors adopted a shared leadership model for the balance of 2017, with leadership by an Executive Team. In 2018, Hannah Askew was hired as Sierra Club BC's new Executive Director.

It has been challenging and rewarding to share this leadership with the support of our board and our committed supporters. We can't thank you enough.

Our 50th anniversary is in 2019. It's an opportunity to reflect on our past, celebrate our achievements, and build something even stronger for the next 50 years. There's more work to be done—let's get at it!

Sincerely,

Chantal Barchard, Caitlyn Vernon and Tim Pearson



# BIG WINS

Here's what you helped achieve in 2017



**120,000+**  
**LETTERS**  
**ON SITE C**

**118,500**  
**HYDRO BILL MADNESS**  
**VIDEO VIEWS**

**NORTH COAST**  
**TANKER BAN**  
**INTRODUCED**

**3,231**  
**CALLS TO GET**  
**OUT THE VOTE**

**\$625,000**  
**RAISED FOR**  
**INDIGENOUS LEGAL**  
**CHALLENGES TO**  
**KINDER MORGAN**

**251**  
**EDUCATION**  
**WORKSHOPS**

**5,848**  
**STUDENTS**  
**REACHED**

**GRIZZLY HUNT**  
**BANNED**

**2 FRACKED GAS PLANTS**  
**CANCELLED**

**750+**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**HOURS**

**AJAX MINE**  
**REJECTED**

**45+**  
**EVENTS & OUTREACH**  
**OPPORTUNITIES**

**35,000+**  
**SUPPORTERS**

To confront climate change, BC needs to make great leaps toward stabilizing the climate, protecting nature, and supporting a just transition away from fossil fuels—all at the same time.

Most of this province is unceded land. All of it is subject to Indigenous title and rights. Land use decisions cannot occur on Indigenous territory without free, prior and informed consent. Actions to defend BC's natural environment and our global climate also need to be in alignment with the goals and values of First Nations and respect for Indigenous title and rights.

Our guiding vision, *The Future Is Here*, provides a ten-point plan for climate leadership and post-carbon prosperity in BC within this context. Everything we do is informed by this approach. You can learn more at [sierraclub.bc.ca/future-is-here](http://sierraclub.bc.ca/future-is-here).



# RECONCILIATION & LEARNING

While striving to act in solidarity with Indigenous peoples through our campaigns and deepening the ways our education program is informed by Indigenous perspectives, we took further steps in walking the path of reconciliation as an organization. An important part of this effort is acknowledging and trying to learn from our mistakes, so that we can do better now and in the future.

Our whole staff engaged in cultural perspectives training, where we learned about the history and effects of ongoing colonialism. We discussed how environmental groups including ours can strengthen our relationships and deepen our commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Our board established an Indigenous solidarity working group to identify ways that we can better align the things we do and say with our values around reconciliation and Indigenous rights and title.

While Canada was celebrating its 150th anniversary, we amplified the stories, voices and accomplishments of Indigenous peoples who have lived on this land since time immemorial. Soon after the Trump administration was sworn in, we hosted an evening of stories from inspiring women to encourage new and longtime activists to be bold in their resistance, highlighting the importance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people standing together.

"When We Are Bold" speakers L-R: Joan Morris, Songhees Elder; Rachel Vincent, editor of *When We Are Bold*; Casey Camp-Horinek, Ponca Elder; Helen Knott, poet and Indigenous activist; Caitlyn Vernon and Sue Elrington of Sierra Club BC.

Photo by Kat Zimmer  
Top: Drumming on Haida Gwaii. Photo by Mike Ambach



# KIDS AND NATURE

Our team worked hard in 2017 to provide hands-on, nature-based learning across the province through our Environmental Education program.

We were honoured to work with kOwat'st'not (Charlene George) from T'Sou-ke Nation to refine the content and delivery of our workshops. Her insights from Coast Salish and Nuu-Chah-Nulth perspectives helped immensely in our efforts to ensure our workshops address students' mental, physical, emotional and spiritual learning needs.

We expanded our reach by hiring a second Environmental Educator, based in the lower mainland, and led professional development workshops in Fort St. John, Surrey, Victoria and Vanderhoof to support teachers in bringing students outside more regularly. In total, we led 251 workshops for 5,848 students in 80 schools across 21 school districts!

We also delivered an exciting new pilot program for grade 6-8 students based on our vision for climate leadership in BC, *The Future Is Here*. Our "Climate and Place" workshop invites students to talk about climate change implications across BC and collaborate together to learn about climate solutions.

We co-hosted a gathering at Royal Roads University on the importance of getting children and families outside to connect with nature, featuring Dr. Richard Louv (award-winning author of *Last Child in the Woods*) and the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of BC.

Through our Education E-Newsletter, website resources and regular features in *Island Parent* magazine, our team continued to offer bright ideas to parents and teachers who understand the importance of encouraging children to connect with nature and see themselves as nature stewards.

Our staff and members also took up the call to connect with nature as part of our October Outdoors challenge, committing to spend time outside every day during the month of October.

Photo: Staff member Laura Hope with her son Marlow  
Top: Environmental Educator Kirsten Dallimore takes students outside. Photo by Sierra Club BC





# ANCIENT RAINFORESTS

Leading up to the provincial election, we gathered 25 international organizations to call for the protection of Vancouver Island rainforests. We highlighted that the destruction of Vancouver Island's old-growth is occurring three times faster than primary forest loss in tropical rainforests, speeding up to over 10,000 hectares in 2016—equivalent to more than 26 Stanley Parks.

We also appealed to BC election candidates to stand tall for old-growth. When the new BC government was elected, we launched a government relations strategy to bring the heat directly to top officials. And we continued building a diverse alliance of environmental groups, unions, business representatives, and Indigenous groups.

Our team hit the road with tours in the spring and fall to talk forest solutions with loggers, business owners, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members. We got people out to visit some of BC's largest old-growth trees and created a new website hub, RainforestIsland.ca, to engage the public in helping defend them. Through presentations, reports and media, we kept the urgency for improved forest management in the public eye.

We supported Clayoquot Sound First Nations leaders seeking lasting protection of intact rainforest valleys through land use planning and conservation financing.

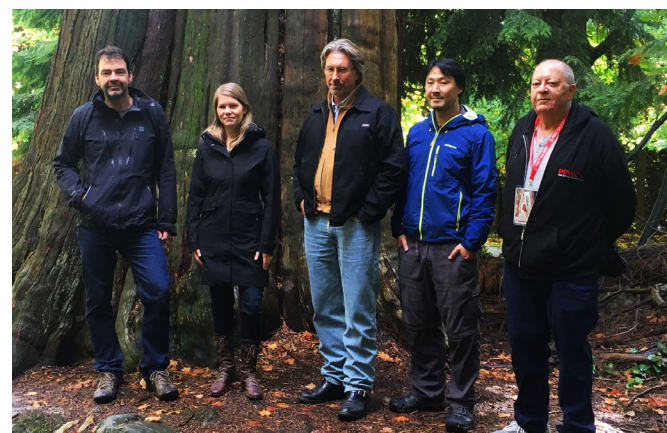
In response to a Sierra Club BC complaint about Lemare Lake Logging Ltd. practices in East Creek, a Forest Practices Board report showed how badly provincial laws and the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan are failing to protect forests and ensure transparency.

We maintained our watchdog stance to ensure commitments made as part of the historic Great Bear Rainforest Agreements are honoured by industry and government.

With your help, we'll keep pushing for the protection of these globally important forests and the wild species that rely on them.

Old-growth protection media conference in Stanley Park. L to R: Jens Wieting, Sierra Club BC; Andrea Inness, Ancient Forest Alliance; Dan Hager, Port Renfrew Chamber of Commerce; Ken Wu, Ancient Forest Alliance; Arnold Bercov, Public and Private Workers of Canada.

*Photo by Sierra Club BC  
Top: Vancouver Island forest. Photo by Travis McLachlan*



# PEACE RIVER VALLEY

Sierra Club BC focused our election efforts on stopping the Site C dam, hosting all-candidates debates and partnering with environmental groups across BC to launch an unprecedented Get Out The Vote campaign for the BC election, together making nearly 44,000 calls. Your support helped make Site C an election issue!

People said we couldn't turn around the previous government's decision on Site C. But with the pressure of thousands of citizens, the newly elected government fulfilled their promise to send Site C to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) for review. Buoyed by a BCUC report that affirmed our worst predictions about Site C, we launched a series of hard-hitting radio ads and mobilized thousands to call for its cancellation through rallies, messages, letters to the editor, phone calls and visits to MLAs.

After the BC government made the monumentally bad decision to continue construction, we focused our attention on stopping Site C at the national level.

We laid the groundwork for this by shining an international spotlight on Site C with the Mikisew Cree. In response, UNESCO strongly criticized Canada for failing to protect Wood Buffalo National Park and called for an action plan to address impacts of Site C and tarsands development. Site C could further damage the park, home to the Peace-Athabasca Delta—threatening the way of life of Indigenous peoples. The park was classified as having the worst conservation outlook in Canada and could soon become Canada's first World Heritage Site listed as "in danger."

With your support, we'll keep pressuring Prime Minister Trudeau to honour his promises on Indigenous rights and save Canada's largest national park by halting construction of Site C.



With Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and Chief Bob Chamberlin of UBCIC and other allies, we presented signatures to BC MPs – and later in the year, to BC MLAs – from more than 120,000 people calling for an immediate halt to Site C construction.

*Photo by Joe Foy  
Top: Peace Valley Campaigner Galen Armstrong at the Paddle for the Peace. Photo by Louis Bockner*



# CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

We released a report and video linking power from the proposed Site C dam to energy demand from fracking and proposed Liquefied Natural Gas plants (LNG), garnering significant media coverage and more than 118,500 video views. The report revealed massive subsidies offered by the BC government to oil and gas corporations that could leave taxpayers and hydro ratepayers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

We partnered with Unifor in Prince George and the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce to host town halls on clean energy solutions in preparation for launching our *Mission Transition: Powering BC's Clean Energy Economy* podcast in early 2018.

When the federal government announced a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen environmental regulations, we mobilized our supporters to call for Environmental Assessment and National Energy Board reform, with a focus on the need for a climate test that considers the impacts of fossil fuels when burned at their final destination.

With our allies, we called on BC local governments to hold fossil fuel companies responsible for the costs for climate change.

In the media and through government relations, we also continued to call on the provincial government for bold climate leadership. We called out its promotion of LNG, highlighting the climate impacts and advocating for investments in renewables. The newly elected BC government announced it would finally raise the carbon tax by \$5 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> every year.

However, a much stronger commitment to climate action is needed and we need your support to keep the pressure on.

Our “Hydro Bill Madness” report and video revealing massive taxpayer subsidies to oil and gas corporations received 14 media mentions and more than 118,500 video views.

Graphics by Kat Zimmer and Corrina Keeling  
Top: Great Bear Rainforest, Haida Gwaii. Photo by Andrew S. Wright

# PIPELINES & TANKERS

When the federal government announced its approval of Kinder Morgan’s pipeline and tankers project, we relaunched our Pull Together campaign, raising \$625,000 in 2017 for legal challenges from the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Coldwater and Stk’emlupemc Te Secwepemc Nations. We gathered allies to support the nations over 9 days of hearings and amplified Indigenous opposition along the route through organizing, events and digital campaigning.

In part thanks to our ongoing work to educate British Columbians about the risks posed by diluted bitumen pipelines and tankers, a new BC government was elected on a promise to use every tool available to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline and tankers.

Due in part to the hard work of our supporters, who spoke up over many years against Enbridge’s Northern Gateway pipeline and tankers proposal, and in defense of coastal communities and ecosystems, the federal government introduced a tanker ban for BC’s north coast. When oil lobbyists began pressuring government officials to weaken the bill, we presented to the federal Transport Committee and mobilized thousands of supporters to call on Trudeau to further strengthen this hard-won piece of legislation.

We amplified the voices of LNG opposition at Madii Lii in Gitxsan territory and helped build pressure on Petronas to cancel its \$36 billion Pacific Northwest LNG project. Faced with court challenges from four Indigenous groups and strong opposition from thousands of citizens, Petronas cancelled their massive fracked gas terminal in the middle of the salmon nursery on Lelu Island.

We also mobilized public commentary on the Aurora LNG terminal proposed for Digby Island near Prince Rupert. There were so many submissions—the vast majority opposed—that the review was paused for nearly three months. In the fall, the proposal was cancelled.

You can help us keep up the fight against Kinder Morgan, LNG and oil tankers on BC’s coast.



In July, we celebrated 3 years of impact with our supporters and Pull Together partners, Raven Trust and Force of Nature. Between the Enbridge and Kinder Morgan fights, you helped raise more than \$1 million for Indigenous legal challenges.

Graphic by Pull Together  
Top: Walk 4 the Salish Sea. Photo by Mark Worthing



# SOUTHERN ROCKIES & INTERIOR

In partnership with other groups concerned about protecting biodiversity in the Southern Rockies, we educated the public on mining issues in the Elk Valley as well as the biodiversity at risk next door in the Flathead River Valley, a region of critical importance in enabling species to adapt to climate change. Through government relations, research, events and media, we continued to raise awareness on the coast of the environmental issues faced in this region.

We hosted a public conversation between community leaders, ecologists, activists and policy makers on pollution and water protection in Ktunaxa territory, focusing on the impacts of toxic selenium leaching from Teck's Elk Valley coal mines into watersheds that span across the border with Montana. Selenium is taken up by fish, birds and amphibians in toxic concentrations that can prevent reproduction and cause birth defects.

In December, the BC government announced it would not issue an environmental certificate for the proposed KGHM Ajax Mine near Kamloops. This was in response to strong opposition from the Stk'émłúpsəmc te Secwépəmc Nation and others, including Sierra Club BC supporters, who sent hundreds of comments calling for the mine to be rejected. The proposed copper and gold mine would have destroyed 1,700 hectares of grasslands and waters in the culturally important Pípsell and Jacko Lake area.

We also continued advocating for an end to trophy hunting of grizzly bears. In December, the BC government finally announced an immediate, BC-wide end to the hunt.

At Sierra Club BC's "The Living Watershed" event, Conservation and Climate Campaigner Mark Worthing presented to a full house on Elk Valley mining impacts alongside academics and scientists.

*Photo by Kat Zimmer  
Top: Grizzly bear in Flathead River Valley. Photo by Joe Riis*

# OUR PEOPLE MAKE IT HAPPEN

Sierra Club BC could not do this work without the valuable contributions of our volunteers and members.

In 2017, we hosted or had a presence at more than 45 events. Volunteers organized and provided crucial support for a majority of these. They made more than 3,200 phone calls to help get out the vote during the BC election, collected signatures on petitions and helped with our environmental education program. Our volunteers also mobilized more people to take action on our campaigns by hosting their own fundraisers, rallies and letter writing parties.

All in all, over 75 volunteers put in more than 750 hours in 2017!

Together with volunteers, our members keep Sierra Club BC strong.

Members provide the financial support necessary to keep the long term view in mind. Individuals who donate – especially those who contribute on a monthly basis – are the backbone of Sierra Club BC. Our core capacity to affect change is determined by the strength of our membership, which is currently growing at a steady pace.

When you become a member, you're officially joining the 1,500+ people who make a commitment of financial support. And you help carry the work that our community of 36,000 non-financial supporters rely upon for environmental advocacy, education, and conservation. Thank you!

Learn more at [sierraclub.bc.ca/membership](http://sierraclub.bc.ca/membership).



Sierra Club BC volunteers made more than 3,200 phone calls to get out the vote during the BC election as part of a coordinated effort among environmental groups.

*Photo by Sierra Club BC  
Top: Stand Up For What You Love Rally. Photo by Kat Zimmer*



# THANK YOU

## FUNDERS

Ball Family Environmental Foundation  
The Brainerd Foundation  
Catherine Donnelly Foundation  
Government of Canada (Canada Summer Jobs)  
GVSCU Legacy Foundation  
The McLean Foundation  
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada  
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TELUS  
Tides Canada Foundation – Anonymous Grantor  
Tides Canada Foundation – Full Circle Small Grants Fund  
Vancouver Foundation  
The Victoria Foundation  
The Wilburforce Foundation  
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

## AGENCY AGREEMENT PARTNERS

Ancient Forest Alliance  
Creatively United for the Planet  
Peace Valley Environment Association

## SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES UNDER AGENCY AGREEMENT

Anonymous Donor Advised Fund (Vancouver Foundation)  
Horne Coupar  
Patagonia Environmental Grants Fund

# MAJOR DONORS

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Lisa Ross  
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Arthur Smith  
Joan Stelling  
Lorna Visser  
Carole Ward  
Rita Widmer  
Karyn Woodland  
James Wyse

## LEGACY GIFTS

Estate of Mary McCartney  
Katy Madsen  
Tony Wind

*These individuals contributed substantial gifts to Sierra Club BC. We are so grateful to have been chosen to receive donations in their memories.*

## PARTNERS \$5000+

A.S.T.C. Science World Society  
BCGEU  
Greater Victoria Savings and Credit Union Legacy Fund  
Telus Community Engagement  
William J. Andrews, Barrister & Solicitor

*Peace River. Photo by Louis Bockner*

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Congregation of Our Lady of Sion  
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IONICA Inc.  
Island Tech Solutions  
Outer Shores Expeditions  
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Laura L. Tiberti Charitable Foundation

## SUPPORTERS \$500+

Eagle Wing Whale & Wildlife Watching Tours  
First Unitarian Church of Victoria  
Go Concepts  
Harvey McKinnon Associates  
Health Sciences Association of BC  
Kevco Tub Repair  
Poets for the Peace  
Spirit of the West Adventures



We offer deep gratitude to our major donors for their significant contributions in defending BC's natural environment. Thank you!

*Photo: Site C rally, by Ali Harris  
Top: Kinder Morgan rally. Photo by Brynne Morrice*



# TREASURER'S REPORT

2017 financial highlights for the year ended December 31, 2017

With the continued generous support of our funders and donors, our total expenditures in 2017 were \$1,098,330. Of this, 85% supported our core mission operations and program costs, with the remaining 15% used for development and supporter engagement activities.

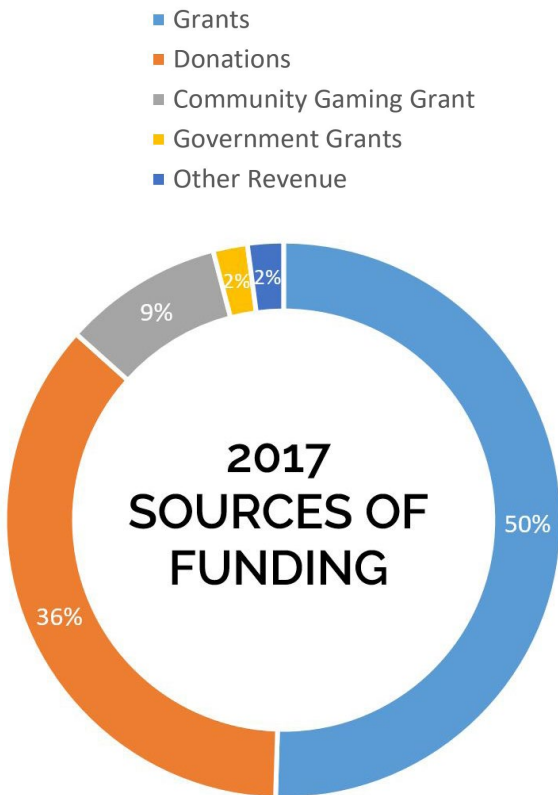
We continue to build a healthy base of unrestricted funds to sustain our core mission operating costs and to invest in capacity building within our organization. In 2017, we generated a \$54,981 unrestricted surplus, increasing our total unrestricted net assets from \$109,575 to \$164,556.

In 2018, we will invest in our fund development and outreach capacity to ensure that as Sierra Club BC celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2019 we have sustained resources in place to inspire generations to defend nature and confront climate change, so families, communities and the natural world can prosper together.

Sincerely,

Shirley Franklin, CPA, CMA  
Board Treasurer

*The below 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, 2017.*



## 2017 STAFF

Galen Armstrong	Elisabeth Hazell	Tim Pearson
Lynn Bakken	Laura Hope	Bob Peart
Chantal Barchard	Britton Jacob-Schram	Caitlyn Vernon
Kirsten Dallimore	Amira Maddison	Jens Wieting
James Davis	Lynn Mathieson	Mark Worthing
Simone Cotterill	Brynne Morrice	Maureen Yao
Tyler Engert		Kat Zimmer
Kate Fairley		

## 2017 BOARD

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James Coccola, Member	Robert Mitchell, Vice Chair
Jamie Coutts, Member	Jarrad Reddekop, Member
Valine Crist, Member	Gail Riddell, Chair
Shirley Franklin, Treasurer	Stan Tomandl, Legacy Member
Geraldine Kenny, Member	Roanne Weyermars, Member
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# SIERRA CLUB BC

[sierraclub.bc.ca](http://sierraclub.bc.ca)

301-2994 Douglas Street  
Victoria BC V8T 4N4

Registered charity number:  
119149797 RR0001

Photo: Looper Creek by Tristan Crosby  
Cover photo: Brynne Morrice