



VOICES FOR NATURE

Annual Report 2022-23



WHAT A YEAR FOR NATURE!

Ever have one of those days where you barely have time to catch your breath? Well, it feels like we've had an entire year of that at Nature Canada. From celebrating new protected areas like Tang.gwan — ḥáčxwíqak — Tsigis Marine Protected Area off the coast of British Columbia and the Monarch Point Conservation Reserve in Ontario; to championing Indigenous-led stewardship, doubling down on our calls to protect forests from clearcutting and logging emission loopholes; to increasing our efforts to make cities more wildlife friendly — it's been a busy year!

The Nature COP in Montreal was a huge success to secure pledges for action on biodiversity. In advance, we held thirty mobilizing events to inspire and engage Canadians to send their messages of hope to halt and reverse nature loss. Thousands of people attended, and their letters and pieces of art were presented to the Prime Minister. **We are grateful to each and every one for standing together to show support for the protection of our lands, waters and wildlife.**

With peaks come valleys, and the recent floods and wildfires remind us how important it is to defend our forests, oceans, wetlands and grasslands which help counter climate change. But we were never on our own even in the most challenging moments: our supporters and partners were with us every inch of the way. **Thanks to your help, this whirlwind year has**



© Nelson Gagnon

Owl

“The outdoors and nature have never been more important. Saving green spaces and species is a priority!”

– Jennifer, QC, Member since 2003

seen some very heartening wins. From the ocean depths off BC, to the wetlands and forests around James Bay, to the grasslands of the Prairies, to your special green spaces closer to home—we salute you!

Yours for Nature,

Emily McMillan, Executive Director



© Gary Sutton

Orca

PROTECTED AREAS — NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

This year has seen some milestones relating to our campaign to protect 30 percent of Canada's lands and waters by 2030. **In February, we celebrated that the federal government and coastal First Nations announced the protection of Tang.gwan — ḥačxwiqak — Tsigis Marine Protected Area, formerly known as the DeepSea Oasis, off the coast of Vancouver Island.**

Nature Canada members have rallied around protection of this area for years. This amazing site spans over 133,000 square kilometres and holds hydrothermal vents, seamounts and coral forests which are a gathering place for sea life. This is great news for the Pacific Octopus, Sharks, Whales, and other iconic ocean creatures. This unique marine area will be co-managed by multiple coastal First Nations and represents 2.31% of Canada's ocean territory.

And a few months later, we also celebrated the announcement of the newest conservation reserve in Ontario (and the first in 10 years!) called the Monarch Point Conservation Reserve.

“Nothing is more critical now than looking after the planet on which we live.” – Mary, ON, Member since the 1970s.

It will protect nearly 4,000 acres along the south shores of Prince Edward County. This helps protect the vulnerable shoreline, rare geology, migratory bird flyways and the habitat of 39 rare and at-risk species such as Blanding's Turtles, dozens of migrating bird species, and of course, Monarch butterflies. Thanks to our members who supported our campaign for protection of this area over the past decade. But we cannot rest as we aim next to secure a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in nearby Lake Ontario's eastern basin and others throughout the Great Lakes. **This past year, we arranged and published a public declaration of support, signed by 64 organizations, to push for NMCAS in the Great Lakes.**

The wildfires of the past months, highest ocean temperatures ever recorded, and smoke-filled days reminded us that we must push ahead on our efforts to protect the remaining Boreal Forest. This past year, we released the *Lost in the Woods* report, calling louder for the protection of our forests from clearcutting and proper accounting of the emissions from forestry. We ramped up our outreach and capacity building with our partners across the country to get nature based strategies into municipal climate plans. **And we increased our**

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS UPDATE

We thank our members for their financial support of our Intervener Action at the Supreme Court this past March. Because of your support, we were able to stand up and fight for the **Impact Assessment Act**. Ensuring strong environmental laws helps protect nature and wildlife in Canada so that this Act can be used to understand, consider and stop potential harm from major industrial development projects to our environment, our health, and our climate. **Nature deserves and needs us to stand on guard with strong environmental laws like the Impact Assessment Act.** And even though the Act will need amendments, the Supreme Court confirmed our argument that the federal government should have authority to carry out impact assessments on projects such as mines, pipelines and dams, if proposed projects impact fisheries and species at risk.



Bighorn Sheep

© Lisa Bourgeault

Continued from page 2

calls to the federal government to ensure that the commitment to plant 2 billion trees contributes to Canada's climate targets and acts to halt and reverse nature loss.

Urban nature keeps cities cool, captures carbon, shelters wildlife, reduces stress, and provides flood and erosion control. Nature Canada is getting behind municipalities in their push to protect natural spaces within their boundaries. **Together**



Male Eastern Bluebird

© Julie Drummond

DEFEND BIRDS AT RISK

Nature Canada's national certification standard, the only one of its kind in Canada, certifies eligible cities as "Bird-Friendly." This effort is powered by volunteer Bird teams that take conservation actions including planting trees and pollinator gardens to provide food and shelter for birds and educating citizens about ways to protect birds in their neighbourhoods. They also install nest boxes and infrastructure to observe and study birds to ensure improvements to the health and safety of Canada's birds. This work restores nature and increases resilience to climate change, too. Over the past 12 months, we added 10 bird-friendly cities to the list, bringing the total to 20. **A big thank you to our donors who supported these important wildlife projects to make cities more bird- and wildlife-friendly!**

"Dear Government, please take a stand for the environment. This could be your legacy." – Linda, ON, Member since 1995

with our partners, we've launched a campaign to encourage municipalities to contribute to Canada's 30x30 pledge. The campaign will educate municipalities and groups about tools and pathways for conserving lands and water, and support municipalities in their efforts to expand protected areas within their boundaries.

COLLABORATING TOGETHER

Nature Canada works to discover, defend and restore nature, and for that, we need an engaged and informed community. This past year, our organizers got out there to local communities all across Canada — to elevate your voices and bring back your calls for action to the world and delegates at the UN Nature COP in Montreal. Reaching tens of thousands, the Nature Bus rallies brought letters of hope so decision-makers could find common ground to secure biodiversity protection for this decade. With promises in hand, now the hard work begins to have the **National Biodiversity Action Plan** finalized in the coming months to halt and reverse nature loss. **Thanks to tens of thousands of members and Canadians for standing together for nature!**



Board of Directors

Chair: Sabine Dietz

Vice Chair: Logan McIntosh

Directors: Réal Bisson, William David, Ziona Eyob, Jeannie Parnell, Bill Ross, Renata Woodward



© Karen Rebeiro Gruthi

Monarch caterpillar

“Nature is pretty resilient but can only remain renewable if we take care of it, so it is able to renew itself.” – Evelyn, MB, Member since 1993



Day Camp

ENGAGE WITH NEARBY NATURE

This past year, 20 partner organizations provided immersive experiences that nourish childhood curiosity, reduce screen time and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. **Together, we engaged 39,000 youth and family members, hosting 825 school and community groups and 482 public events.** We are once again so proud of the work our local partners achieved to reach communities that are marginalized and lack access to nature. **Thank you to members and funders for their continued investment in connecting school-aged kids with the wonders of nature.**



240 Bank Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X4

Telephone: 1-800-267-4088 | info@Naturecanada.ca | Naturecanada.ca

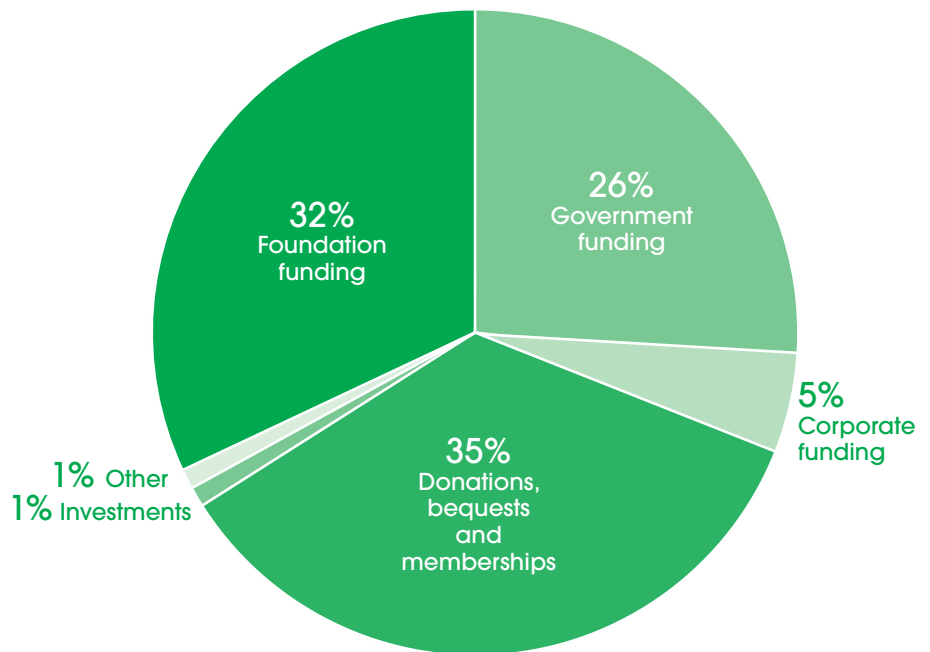


Charitable registration # 11883-4704-RR0001

2022-2023 Revenue

Together, we are Canada’s voice for nature. Your membership is a gift of action protecting wildlife and wilderness, and preserving nature for our children and grandchildren. In addition to our strong grassroots membership, we are honoured to partner with corporations, foundations and other groups who care about nature in Canada. Nature Canada cherishes each and every gift we receive. Here’s how we raise our funds:

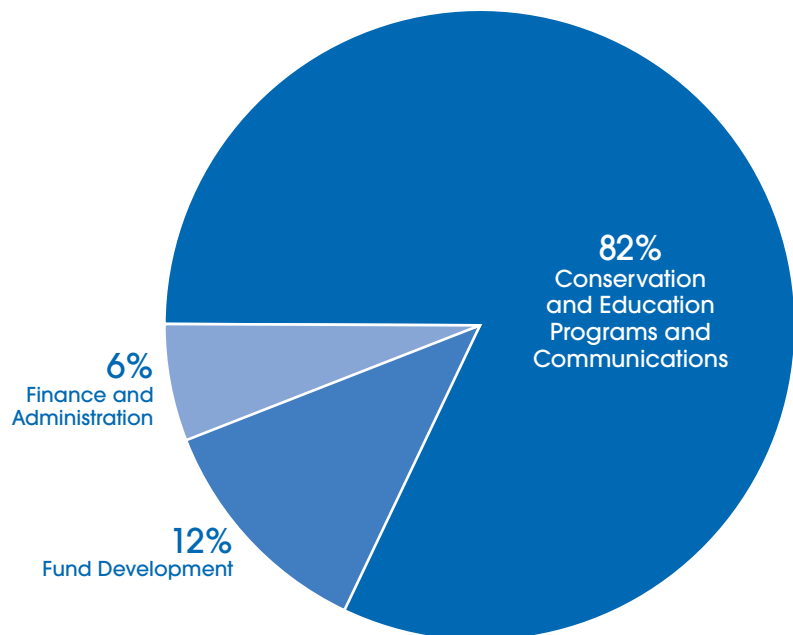
Nature Canada financials for year ending in March 31, 2023



Donations, bequests and memberships	\$1,725,083
Corporation and foundation funding	\$1,819,245
Government funding	\$1,284,970
Investments	\$56,993
Other	\$73,867
Total	\$4,960,158

2022-2023 Expenses

Thank you for adding your voice and for helping us save wildlife and protect our majestic natural heritage. And thank you for entrusting us with your gift. We are accountable to you. We take care each and every day to ensure that we spend your gift in ways that achieve crucial and inspiring victories for wildlife and wild spaces in your province and across Canada. Here’s how we spend our funds:



Conservation & Education Programs and Communications	\$4,361,787
Fund Development	\$630,243
Finance and Administration	\$324,753
Total	\$5,316,783

Auditors: Baker Tilly, Ottawa LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants

Financial statements are available online at
naturecanada.ca/annualreport