



# VOICES FOR NATURE

## Annual Report 2017-18



**"Protecting habitat is a key opportunity to preserve our species and leave the gift of nature to future generations."**

*Corine from AB  
Member since the 1990s*

Marten



### **What an incredibly successful year for Nature Canada,** and

because of your support and that of thousands of Canadians, it was a historic one. Budget 2018 was by far the biggest win for nature

conservation in a generation. The \$1.3 Billion dollar investment is the essential first piece to secure more protected areas in Canada. Together we will protect Canada's land and waters and save species from extinction.

Throughout my inaugural year, I was continually humbled by the dedication and devotion of our members, volunteers, partners, board and staff – what an amazing movement of nature lovers taking action to protect what we love! In this update, we've highlighted some key wins and results of the past year, only made possible because of your generous support. Thank you!

Together we share this great home with the bears, the birds, butterflies and so much more biodiversity. Thanks again to all of our members and partners for taking action to defend it!

Yours for nature,

Graham Saul  
Executive Director

© Jeff Manser



Bull Moose

© Mark Eyer

**“Caring for our natural environment is at the heart of the health and well-being of all Canadians. We need strong laws in place that put nature first!”**

*Dorothy from BC  
Member since 1999*

# CELEBRATING OUR VICTORIES FOR NATURE

## A BILLION DOLLAR WIN FOR NATURE!

Thanks for raising your voice to protect wildlife and wilderness in Canada! The recent 2018 federal budget was a huge victory for nature in Canada this past year. Budget 2018 commits Canada to investing \$1.3 billion over five years to establish new protected areas and to recover endangered and threatened species. Budget 2018 includes a \$500 million contribution to a \$1 billion Nature Fund to secure private land, support provincial species protection efforts and help build Indigenous capacity to conserve land and species. The Green Budget Coalition, co-chaired by Nature Canada, was instrumental in convincing the government to make this investment. And thanks to thousands of our members who signed our petition calling for this historic investment in nature!

Meeting Canada’s international commitment to protect 17% of our lands and waters by 2020 will be a challenge. We need this money to make it happen. Nature Canada and provincial and local nature groups are eager to work with governments, local and Indigenous communities, and industry to take full advantage of the opportunities to protect ecologically important places across the country, whether it’s grasslands in Saskatchewan, Carolinian forests in Ontario, Acadian forests in the Maritimes, or wetlands in British Columbia and Quebec.

## NEW PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHED

Defending wildlife and protecting wilderness is a top priority for Nature Canada’s members like you. Let’s celebrate new protected areas that have been established this year! Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area (NWA) was just established by the federal government in June 2018, literally decades after being first proposed. Adjacent to the northwestern tip of Vancouver Island, this NWA protects 11,546 square kilometers of marine environment surrounding the five Scott Islands. The Islands, also an Important Bird Area (IBA), and the surrounding marine waters, are one of the most

**Home to 90% of Canada's Tufted Puffin;  
95% of Pacific Canada's Common Murre;  
50% of the world's Cassin's Auklet; and 7%  
of the world's Rhinoceros Auklet.**

diverse marine ecosystems, which supports the highest concentration of breeding seabirds on Canada’s Pacific coast. The region provides key breeding and nesting habitat and attracts 5 to 10 million migratory birds each year. Many travel vast distances across the Pacific to feed in the area including species at risk like Short-tailed Albatross, Pink-footed Shearwater, Marbled Murrelet and Ancient Murrelet.

*continued on next page*



Around 75% of the world's Narwhals summer in Lancaster Sound and 20% of the world's Belugas migrate through the Sound as well.

Last August 2017, Canada's largest marine conservation area Tallurutiup Imanga, or Lancaster Sound was announced by the federal and Nunavut governments and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Tallurutiup Imanga protects 110,000 square kilometres of ocean — an area double the size of Nova Scotia — and represents almost 2% of Canada's coastal marine waters. 12 IBAS are found within the new protected boundaries. It is an area rich in biodiversity, encompassing the migratory routes of several species of sea birds and whales, and home to polar bears, seals and walrus. IBAs represent critical areas for bird species including Little Auk, Black-legged Kittiwake and Ivory Gull.

**This is just the start of one the most exciting times for the expansion of protected areas in Canada, which is near and dear to our members' hearts and souls.**

## STRENGTHENED LAWS

This past year, we have worked diligently to strengthen our federal environmental laws. Thanks to our members support, we're pleased to report that late spring 2018, the House of Commons passed two laws — Bills C-68 and C-69 — which overall are victories for nature.

Bill C-68 restores protections to fish habitat. Bill C-69 includes a new law — the *Impact Assessment Act* — that should improve environmental reviews of development projects. This new law represents critical reforms by emphasizing sustainability and a single-agency approach to assessing resource projects, and eliminating rules restricting public participation in hearings.

## DEFEND WILDLIFE

Jointly led by Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada and funded by the Gosling Foundation, The Important Bird Area (IBA) Local Action Fund advanced 13 bird conservation projects in 7 provinces last year. Here are some success stories:

- Atlantic Puffin in Witless Bay IBA in Newfoundland and Labrador were protected from harmful lights from local communities;
- Safe roosting sites were provided for thousands of shorebirds such as Semipalmated Sandpiper in the food-rich mudflats of the Minas Basin IBA in Nova Scotia; and
- First Nations Guardian Watchmen helped protect Harlequin Duck, Great Blue Heron, and Peregrine Falcon from various threats in the K'omoks IBA on Vancouver Island.

**Thanks to our members' generosity to protect key habitats for birds across Canada!**



© Alysha Biljan

Nature Canada is satisfied that an appropriate balance has been struck in these bills to help regain public trust in reviews of natural resource development projects. We must remain vigilant in the coming months to ensure the Senate completes its deliberations and enact these important laws to conserve and protect nature before the October 2019 election.

**Thanks again to YOU — our members and donors — for raising your voice again and again to defend nature!**



Kids in Nature – QC

Mtn Rundle



## ENGAGE WITH NEARBY NATURE

With your support, the NatureHood program connected over 21,000 Canadians to nearby nature, in collaboration with 13 regional partners across the country. Kids and families participated in 158 nature events including BioBlitz150, Christmas Bird Counts for Kids and Backyard Bird Counts. Over 100 school classes were also engaged in NatureHood activities. A big thanks to Environment and Climate Change Canada for their continued investment.

As well, this past May, we helped to promote 48 local Bird Day events across Canada to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. These fun, educational events increase awareness and help inspire personal actions for bird conservation.



© Chad McMahon

**“Canada’s natural landscapes are awe inspiring, but they are also some of the fastest changing. Nature Canada is an important voice for protecting our wildlife, helping to ensure that future generations may also be awed and sustained by our natural heritage.”**

*Dr. Sarah Otto – University of British Columbia*

### Board of Directors

**Chair:** Bob Peart **Vice Chair:** Sheefra Brisbin **Directors:** Réal Bisson, Sabine Dietz, Susan Eaton, Khalil Guliwala, Dr. Riad Mansour, Bill Ross, Cliff Wallis, and Tuma Young



75 Albert Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7

Telephone: 1-800-267-4088 | [info@naturecanada.ca](mailto:info@naturecanada.ca) | [naturecanada.ca](http://naturecanada.ca)

[Facebook/NatureCanada](https://www.facebook.com/NatureCanada)

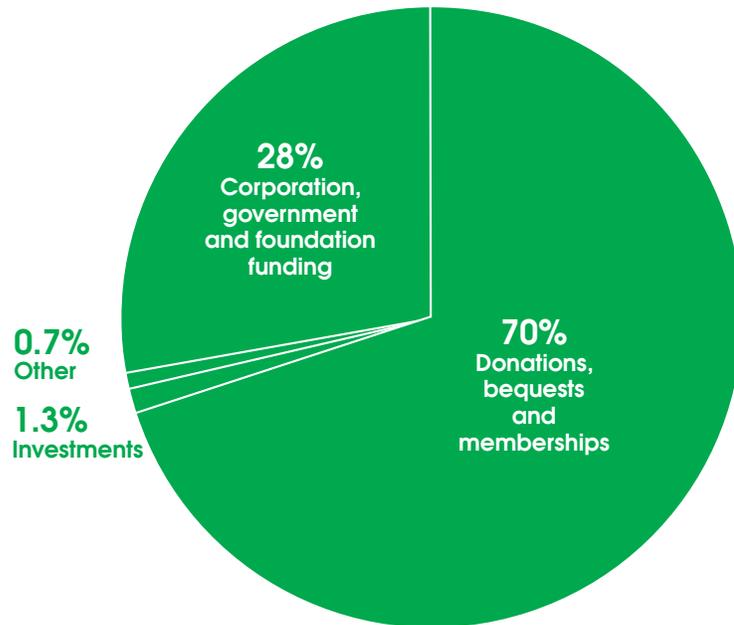
[@NatureCanada](https://twitter.com/NatureCanada)

Charitable registration # 11883-4704-RR0001

## 2017–2018 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 revenue for year ending March 31, 2018



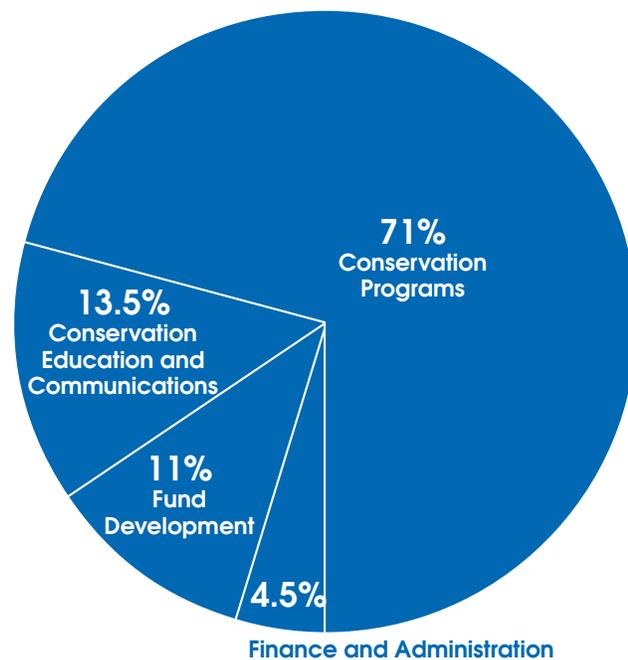
Donations, bequests and memberships	\$1,774,817
Corporation, government and foundation funding	\$713,960
Other	\$16,472
Investments	\$28,512
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,533,761</b>

## 2017–2018 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:

Auditors: Collins Barrow, Chartered Accountants, Ottawa, Ontario

Financial statements are available online at [naturecanada.ca/about\\_annual\\_report.asp](http://naturecanada.ca/about_annual_report.asp)



Conservation Programs	\$1,393,623
Conservation Education and Communications	\$259,970
Fund Development	\$214,621
Finance and Administration	\$86,380
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,954,594</b>