



# VOICES FOR NATURE

## Annual Report 2018-19

“We must do all that we can to protect and restore our ecosystems for wildlife, our health and well-being, and to create climate resiliency for the decades ahead.” *Laura from ON, New member*



Wolf kisses

© Lynn Clement



**This was a year of action.** Together we achieved significant accomplishments! Members and supporters across the country raised their voices in defense of nature, and Nature Canada made sure they were heard! I am so proud of our work this past year. There were

several big wins for nature to be proud of, including new Indigenous Protected Areas and new Marine Protected Areas, and mobilizing both individuals and nature groups across the country. Together, we are protecting Canada’s land and waters and saving species from extinction.

This has also been a year of perseverance. It takes time to create national parks. It takes time to change policies and laws and to stand up for nature against the pressures of industry. Every donation given, petition signed and telephone call or visit has pushed for positive change. We must remain ever more vigilant in the coming year for the sake of our environment.

Thanks to all our members for your generous support of Nature Canada’s efforts as we work tirelessly to protect the nature you and I cherish.

Yours for nature,

Graham Saul  
Executive Director



© Bill Maynard

Timber Wolf Pack

# ANOTHER BIG YEAR FOR ESTABLISHING PROTECTED AREAS

Defending wildlife and protecting wilderness is a top priority for Nature Canada’s members like you. This has been an incredible year for protecting marine and terrestrial places in Canada!

In October 2018, the **Edézhíe**, a 14,250-square-kilometre plateau west of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories was declared an Indigenous Protected Area by federal environment minister Catherine McKenna and leaders of the Dehcho First Nations. Covering a territory twice the size of Banff National Park, the **Edézhíe** includes boreal forests and wetlands with caribou, moose, wolves and numerous bird species. It has also been a place of cultural and spiritual significance for Indigenous people for countless generations. The Edézhíe Indigenous Protected Area will be managed through a partnership between the

Dehcho – a coalition of Dene and Métis people – and the federal government. The **Edézhíe** will also be designated as a National Wildlife Area.

Nature Canada’s letter-writing campaign to protect the Laurentian Channel demonstrated widespread support for greater marine protections on the East Coast.

The **Laurentian Channel** extending south of Newfoundland was officially designated as a Marine Protected Area this past spring 2019, another big win for nature. Twenty species of whales and dolphins travel through the 11,619 square kilometres of ocean known as the Laurentian Channel every year. It is also a refuge for other species such as the at-risk Leatherback Sea Turtle.

Nature Canada’s letter-writing campaign to protect the Laurentian Channel demonstrated widespread support for greater marine protections on the East Coast. Over 7,730 Canadians wrote to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to ask for a new Marine Protected Area that prohibited oil, gas and mining in the channel. Canada has now met its commitment to protect 10% of oceans by 2020, but is only at 12% for terrestrial protection, still shy of the 17% target. Nature will need so much more to thrive, and it is possible— if we work together.

We just celebrated that **South Okanagan-Similkameen** took a big step closer to establishment as a National Park Reserve with the announcement of working boundaries and a memorandum of understanding between



“Leave a nature legacy for our children!”

*Christine from ON, Member since 1998*

Leatherback Turtle

© Jason Isley, scuabazoo

*continued on next page*





Big Horn Sheep

© Tim Hopwood

Canada, British Columbia and the Osoyoos and Lower Similkameen First Nations. This area is a unique landscape of dry grasslands and open ponderosa pine forests in southern British Columbia. It is home to more endangered species than anywhere else in the province including the Flammulated Owl, Great Basin Spadefoot Toad and Lyall's Mariposa Lily.

Nature Canada's recent petition to protect the South Okanagan-Similkameen received over 4,500 signatures from Canadians spanning coast to coast (in addition to 19,000 signatures collected over the past decade). Our organization helped mobilize Canadians alongside other conservation groups. Negotiations will now begin to finalize the boundaries and the formal agreements required to create a park reserve.

**South Okanagan-Similkameen is home to more endangered species than anywhere else in the province.**

This has been an incredibly important time to make significant gains in protecting Canada's wilderness and oceans, which is at the core of our members' hearts and souls. With your support, we look forward to making further progress on new protected areas in the year ahead.

## DEFEND BIRDS AT RISK

In late May, Nature Canada, as a partner in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, released the State of Canada's Birds 2019 report. The report shows Canadian bird populations are in trouble, particularly aerial insectivores, grassland birds and shorebirds.

Nature Canada has been leading efforts to recover these types of birds. Our campaign to support Purple Martins is replacing housing, promoting good stewardship and solving mysteries about their migration movements. We also engaged naturalists to steward key roosts and promoted bird-friendly practices in rural south Ontario.

Nature Canada also worked with First Nations partners in Northern Ontario and Quebec. We worked alongside the Cree Nation of Wemindji, Moose Cree First Nation and the Lac Seul First Nation to track shorebirds and identify key bird habitat in their homelands. This work will help species at risk, including the Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Common Nighthawk and Rusty Blackbird.



**"Species are going extinct at an alarming rate. Isn't it time to act on plans to help protect and conserve what we have left?"** Sharon from BC, New supporter

Purple Martin

© Brendan Toews

In an effort to increase awareness and stewardship efforts in important bird habitat across Canada, we launched a program that uses the engagement organizing method to help organizations connect with new volunteers and supporters.

**Thanks to our members' generosity to help protect species at risk across Canada!**



Moraine Lake, AB

© Daniela Mitroache

## STRENGTHENED LAWS

Many environmental laws changed this year. Here's our report card:

**A+** *Oceans Act, Canada Petroleum Resources Act* amendments (Bill C-55) **This is a win** as it allows the federal government to temporarily protect important natural areas for up to five years and allows negotiations towards permanent Marine Protected Areas.

**B+** *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* (Bill C-48) protects the northern British Columbia coast from catastrophic spills by prohibiting tankers carrying more than 12,500 tonnes of oil along this pristine coast, home to many Important Bird Areas.

**B+** *Fisheries Act* amendments (Bill C-68) restore protections, once again prohibiting harmful destruction of fish habitat and requirements to rebuild depleted fish populations.

**B** *Canadian Energy Regulator Act* (Bill C-69) provides more predictable timelines for energy projects and restores public participation in regulatory reviews.

**C+** *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (Bill C-69) extends protections for major projects on navigable waters. Federal approval is required for all major projects on any waterway meeting the new definition.

**C** *Impact Assessment Act* (Bill C-69) establishes a single agency responsible for federal impact assessments. Disappointingly, the proposed regulations identifying projects subject to the law were significantly weakened.

**This means we have more WORK to do when Parliament resumes in a few months and look to our members standing with us for better laws!**

**"We are only CARETAKERS, we do not own this land. We must walk in balance with nature or risk losing it!"** *Karen from ON, New supporter*

## ENGAGE WITH NEARBY NATURE

Nature Canada and our 13 partners provided nature-based learning activities for over 16,000 youth and families. Huge thanks to members and funders for their continued investment in connecting school-aged kids with the wonders of nature. We also published *Screen Time vs Green Time*, a report covered in the Globe and Mail that summarized recent research on the negative health impacts of screen time and provided tangible tips and strategies for families to get outside.

In May, we helped support 56 local events across Canada to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. These educational events increase awareness of bird migration and inspire action for conservation.



### Board of Directors

**Chairman:** Bob Peart, **Vice Chair:** Sheefra Brisbin, **Directors:** Réal Bisson, Will David, Sabine Dietz, Susan Eaton, Khalil Guliwala, Brenda Kenny, Dr. Riad Mansour, Logan McIntosh, Bill Ross, Charlie Sark, and Cliff Wallis



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

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

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

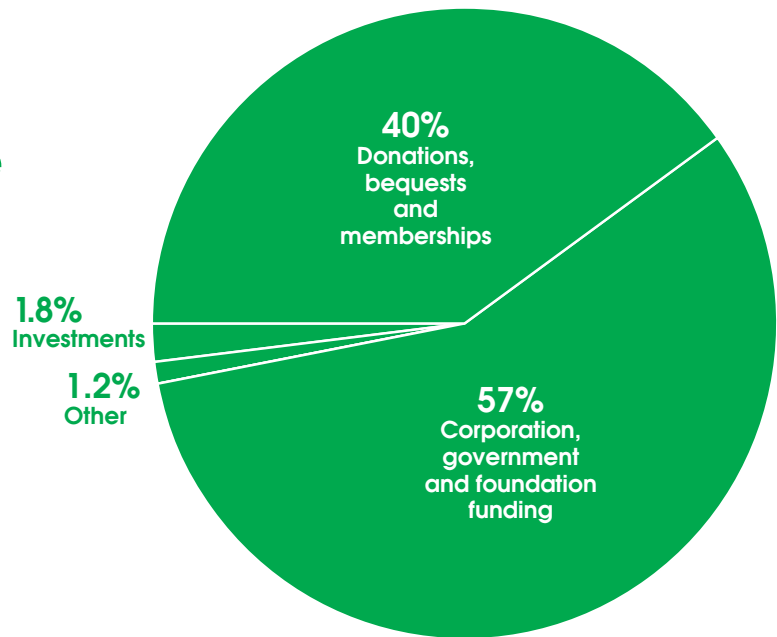
 [@NatureCanada](https://twitter.com/NatureCanada)

Charitable registration # 11883-4704-RR0001

## 2018–2019 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:

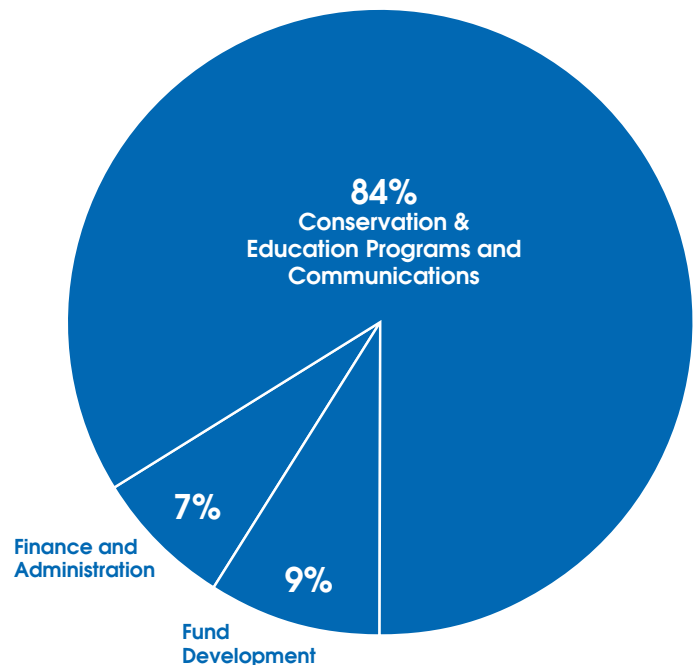
Nature Canada revenue for year ending in March 31, 2019



|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Donations, bequests and memberships            | \$1,296,136        |
| Corporation, government and foundation funding | \$1,861,432        |
| Other  | \$38,014           |
| Investments                                    | \$53,618           |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>\$3,249,200</b> |

## 2018–2019 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 | \$2,288,020        |
| Fund Development                                     | \$243,617          |
| Finance and Administration                           | \$204,608          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$2,736,245</b> |

Auditors: bakertilly Chartered Accountants, Ottawa, Ontario

Financial statements are available online at [naturecanada.ca/annualreport](http://naturecanada.ca/annualreport)