



# VOICES FOR NATURE

## Annual Report 2020-21

“Nature calms us, causes feelings of appreciation & gratitude. How lucky we are to live in Canada.”

*Patricia from ON, Member since 1995*



### What an exciting time for nature conservation in Canada!

This past year we saw a historic investment by the Canadian government

in nature! We are at an important time in nature conservation and I would like to give a huge thanks to you and all of our Nature Canada members for standing up for nature and providing us with your trust and support.

Looking ahead to 2022 we know that there is a lot of work still to be done in so many different areas including working to protect and restore important habitats, defending endangered species, championing Indigenous-stewardship and those are just a few among so many other things that we will be working on.

**Thank you so much for your support.** We truly appreciate all of your help to protect our oceans, rivers, forests, grasslands and more—and all the wildlife that depend on these habitats. Together we’re making a real difference and all of us here at Nature Canada know we couldn’t do it without YOU!

Yours for nature,

Graham Saul  
Executive Director

Waterton Wildflowers

© Lynn Rust



Grey Wolf

© Derek Kyostia

# INVESTING IN NATURE SOLUTIONS

In April of this year, the federal government announced the budget, which included a historic investment in nature. This investment of \$3.2 billion will be helpful to create and expand protected areas in Canada, which is critical for Canada to reach its international promise of protecting 25 percent of land, freshwater, and oceans by 2025. **Our thanks to our members and supporters who sent over 32,000 letters of support to the federal government calling for this historic investment to put nature at the heart of Canada’s recovery efforts.** Thank you! Your actions and your voice made all the difference.

However, more will be needed to reach Canada’s targets and our government will need to work closely with provinces, territories and Indigenous

communities moving forward. We know that as a nature lover and supporter of Nature Canada, you understand just how important nature is! We are still facing huge challenges but with your support, we are able to press decision-makers at all levels to take action for our environment.

**Our government will need to work closely with provinces, territories and Indigenous communities moving forward.**

For example, nature-based climate solutions play a key role when it comes to helping our environment and we must start implementing these solutions now if we want to beat climate change and reverse species loss. By protecting and restoring ecosystems like forests, wetlands, grasslands and oceans, nature-based solutions help sequester a lot of carbon, provide habitat to threatened species, clean our air and water and protect us from climate impacts we’re already feeling like floods and droughts. **Because of your support Nature Canada has prioritized protection campaigns to protect special places like the DeepSea Oasis on the West coast, the Grasslands in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the boreal forests and watershed around James Bay in Ontario.**

In order to help more people learn about nature-based climate solutions, Nature Canada has enlisted



Grizzly Bear Family

© Derek Kyostia

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# ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS UPDATE: DETHRONING COAL IN WESTERN CANADA

Nature Canada continues to work hard to improve policies and environmental laws to better protect nature all across the country and because of your support we had success! There were new coal mines being proposed in Alberta and British Columbia a year ago threatening local wildlife and driving climate change. **However, thanks to you and other supporters, our voices were heard and we were successful in getting the federal government to oppose these coal mines.** This is extremely important as coal is the worst fossil fuel in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, not to mention selenium pollution of waterways. Through stopping these coal mines it also means better protection for Grizzly and Bighorn Sheep habitat, too. Thank you so much for your support!

**“I believe access to nature in any form is very important for our mental and physical health. Keep up the good work you are doing on everyone’s behalf. ”**

*Sue from BC, New Member*

the help our Nature Network, made up of over 1,000 groups in communities across Canada. To support them, we’ve developed an online toolkit that contains important information and resources that help groups and individuals advance nature-based climate solutions all across the country.

The online toolkit is an excellent resource and provides information on both how to apply nature-based climate solutions by landscape type as well as discussing four approaches to nature-based climate solutions which include protection, restoration, land and water management, and adaptation and green infrastructure. It is already being used by nature groups from all across Canada to empower municipalities to combat climate change naturally. **A big thank you to our members and supporters who helped fund this important work.**



Barn Swallow

## DEFENDING BIRDS AT RISK

Did you know that there are three billion fewer birds in North America today than there were fifty years ago? **Thanks to our members, Nature Canada continues our work to Save Birds Lives through a variety of initiatives.** One of these initiatives is our Bird Friendly City campaign, which in May of this year saw great success with the designation of our first four cities being recognized as Bird Friendly. These four cities include: Vancouver, Toronto, London, and Calgary. Bird team volunteers in cities all across Canada will be working together to take conservation actions so that birds can survive and thrive. Some of the great work these communities are doing includes planting trees and promoting native plants and pollinator gardens to provide food and shelter for birds and urban wildlife, and encouraging municipalities to reduce cat predation of birds, make windows safer for birds and eliminate or reduce the use of pesticides harmful to wildlife. These important efforts restore urban nature and increases our resilience to climate change too. **With your support our cities are now more Bird Friendly than ever!**

Nature Canada also completed another season of migratory Swallow monitoring in Ontario’s Dunnville Marsh, an important staging area for many species of Swallows. The Marsh serves as a temporary stopover site for the birds when they migrate in the spring and fall. The goal of this work is to achieve protection status for the Dunnville Marsh from any future threats or development. Protecting this area is critical so that tens of thousands of at-risk Swallows can continue using it season after season.



**“All my family were taught that nature is a gift and must be protected and respected.”**

*Phyllis from SK, New Member*

## ENGAGE WITH NEARBY NATURE

Together with your generosity and other funders, our Naturehood program connects young people with nearby nature to inspire and empower the next generation of environmental leaders. Working with 15 nature partners all across Canada, **over 27,000 young people participated in a variety of nature activities in school yards and urban green spaces this past year.** A special milestone this year was the publication and community outreach around the *Race and Nature in the City* report, which provides recommendations on how to better engage youth of colour in nature-based activities.

This past spring, we also expanded our efforts and launched *Work to Grow*, a program designed to connect racialized youth (15–30 years) to jobs within nature organizations. **Thanks to Parks Canada, this program will allow for over 275 youth to gain valuable work experience within the environmental sector.**



### Board of Directors

**Chairman:** Bill Ross, **Vice Chair:** Logan McIntosh, **Directors:** Real Bisson, Sabine Dietz, Will David, Susan Eaton, Brenda Kenny, Kapil Khatter, Riad Mansour, and Charlie Sark



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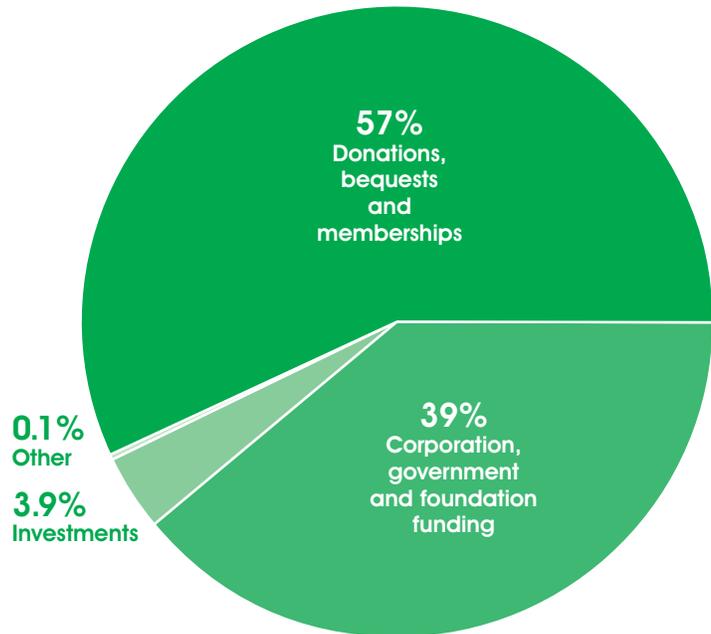
[@NatureCanada](https://twitter.com/NatureCanada)

Charitable registration # 11883-4704-RR0001

## 2020–2021 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:

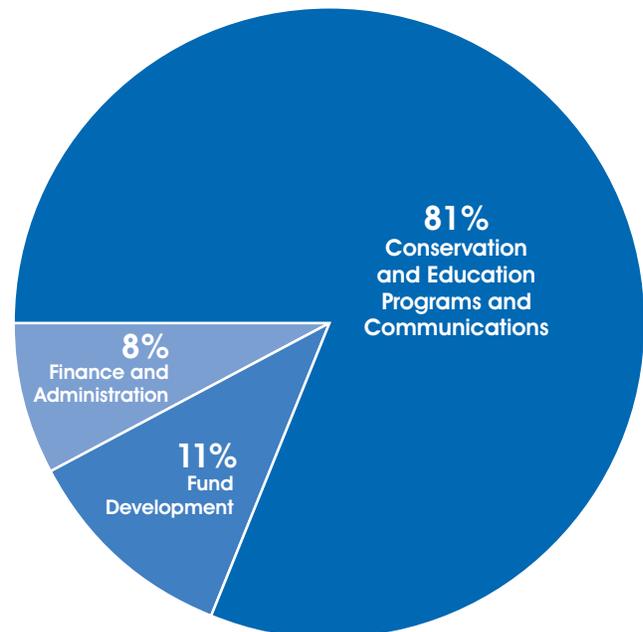
Nature Canada financials for year ending in March 31, 2021



Donations, bequests and memberships	\$3,148,702
Corporation, government and foundation funding	\$2,153,621
Investments	\$218,881
Other	\$5,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,526,329</b>

## 2020–2021 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	\$3,134,700
Fund Development	\$429,348
Finance and Administration	\$297,618
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,861,666</b>

Auditors: Baker Tilly, Ottawa LLP  
Chartered Professional Accountants

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