



**TLC** The Land Conservancy  
of British Columbia



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023/24





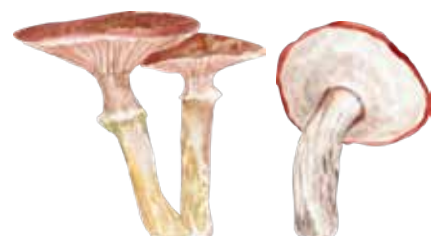
Andy MacKinnon (right), Kem Luther (left), and Southern Vancouver Island Mycological Society members at TLC's Passport to Nature event looking at mushrooms. Photo credit Emily Francis.

Annual Report 2023/2024

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*Passport to Nature Bioblitz participant examining mushroom species. Photo credit Emily Francis.*



TLC's Covenant Coordinator Maya Irwin  
and volunteer Paul at Ayum Creek.  
Photo credit Edward Milne Secondary School.

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



Over the last fiscal year TLC's Board and staff developed a Strategic Plan to guide the organization over the next five years. Building on our history and achievements to date, our plan identifies eight areas with corresponding goals and objectives to refine our operations through the fiscal year ending April 30, 2029. Reconciliation, education, fundraising, technology, partnerships, communication, covenant cultivation and management, and human resources are all areas in which we endeavour to adapt and evolve to further our protection of B.C.'s critical biological diversity. You can view the complete plan on our website or request a hard copy by contacting our office.

As our conservation covenants age and privately held land changes ownership, protection of these areas begins to require greater investment. Staff work to not only enforce covenants, but to educate new landowners on appropriate stewardship for their unique set of ecosystems and habitats. To continue the strengthening of our organizational sustainability, TLC's Board of Directors increased our operating reserve in line with our financial policies and created a covenant protection and management reserve to aid in our ability to fulfill our conservation covenant monitoring and defense responsibilities to prepare for possible changing market conditions or unforeseen legal expenses. Bequest gifts of more than \$1.5 million last year have made developing these protected funds possible.

TLC received a further contribution of

\$500,000 from the Estate of Joan Alston-Stewart last year. You may recall the initial announcement of her bequest in the previous fiscal year which included three properties in the Blenkinsop Valley and funds to support their ongoing care. Restoration programming featuring the 8-acres of wetland, Garry oak, and Douglas fir habitat included 66 volunteers and community partners donating 196 volunteer hours, removing 15 cubic meters of invasives, and restored 1,350 m<sup>2</sup> of land. Restoration projects also continued at our Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area in Trail with 20 volunteers donating a combined 120 hours to plant 1,000 camas bulbs and 350 native plants.

I'm pleased to share that we welcomed new board members Bill Hetherington and Lizzy Mos this year. New faces bring their own unique backgrounds and experiences and provide different lenses through which we can view the projects and issues TLC tackles. If you are interested in putting your talents to use to benefit our cause, I encourage you to reach out and join our team. With a myriad of opportunities for volunteers, we're sure to find a fit perfect for you!

On behalf of TLC's Board of Directors, thank you for making our conservation work possible.





TLC's newest covenant on Sandy Beach Nature Reserve. Photo credits Maya Irwin (above) and Joshua Berson and Wayne Kaulbach (below).



# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2023/24 fiscal year, my first in the role of Executive Director, saw the organization continue to protect and expand the more than 15,000 acres of critical habitat in our portfolio.

We were thrilled to announce the protection of TLC's latest project: the Sandy Beach Nature Reserve. A new conservation area owned by Islands Trust Conservancy on Keats Island, Sandy Beach is now protected by a conservation covenant co-held by TLC and the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association. This 3.55-hectare (8.77-acre) area on the island's northwest coast – the traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation – protects and expands critical habitat for a variety of species-at-risk including great blue heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*) and double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). The protected area includes about 0.4 ha of coastal bluff, 3.1 ha of closed-canopy conifer forest, and has approximately 353m of waterfront.

TLC's land-based educational programming – in addition to the stewardship support we offer individual title holders – includes our Passport to Nature Program. In its sixth year, the Passport featured both in-person and

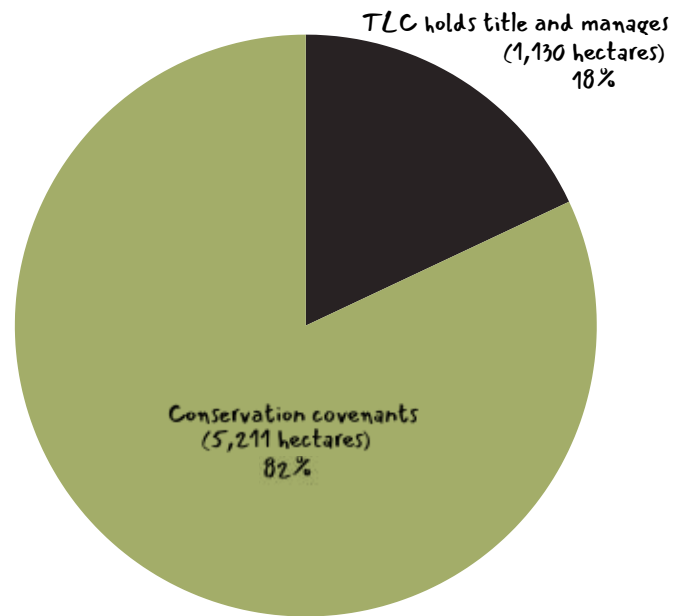
online events. Opportunities for the public to get involved brought more than 2,700 participants out to events including Critter Day in Trail; a Bioblitz in the District of Highlands; a Pollinator Meadow Tour in North Saanich; Exploration of our recently registered covenant in Squamish; Grandparents Day at Abkhazi Garden; an educational webinar about the critical role of seaweed on Pacific Northwest food webs; and a Boundary Layer exploration at Second Lake! These free offerings would not have been possible without the many naturalist volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to the program each year.

Staff are ever mindful when grant funding opportunities become available to support operations. This fiscal year we were grateful to be the recipient of grants worth a combined \$132,862 from the Government of Canada under the Community Services Recovery Fund; the Province of British Columbia under the Community Gaming Grants Program; TD Friends of the Environment Foundation; Heritage B.C.; and Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program.

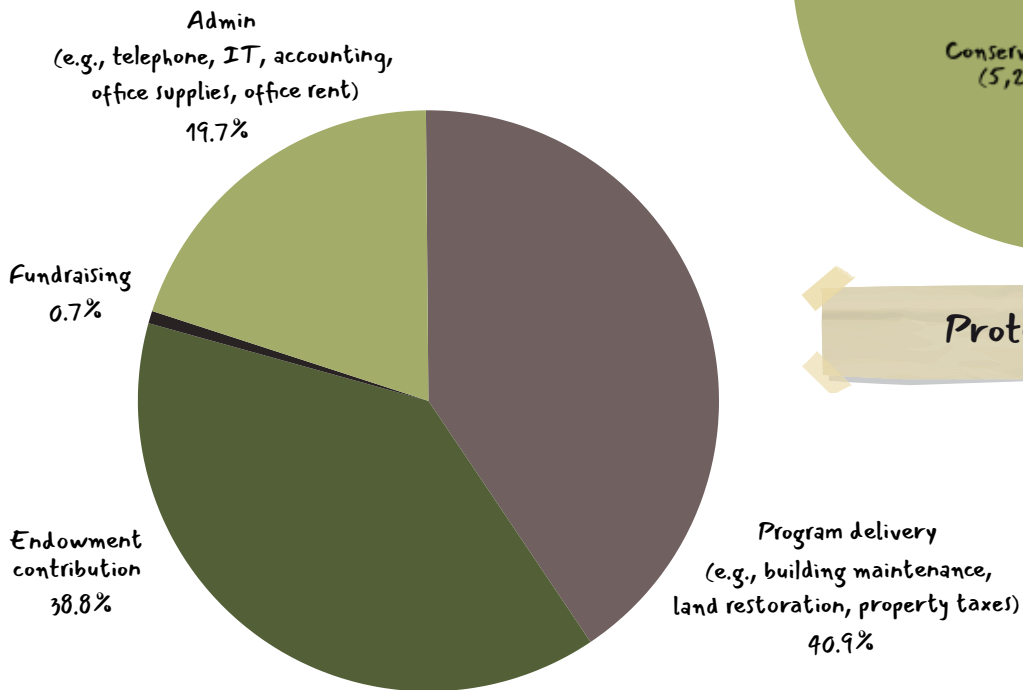
To our incredible members, donors, grantors, volunteers, and partners who support our vital projects and programs, thank you!



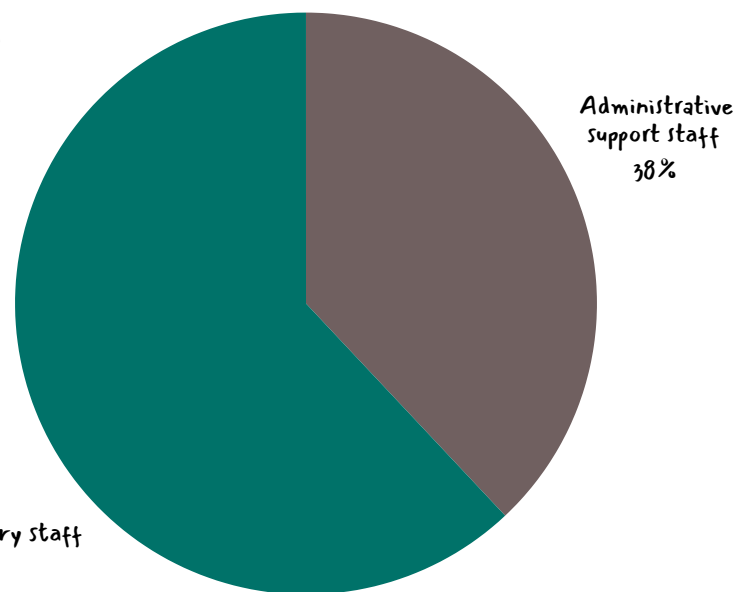
# CONSERVATION BY THE NUMBERS



Protected Areas



Expenses



Salaries & Wages





# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



For the fiscal year ending  
April 30, 2024

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2023/24	2022/23
<b>Assets</b>		
Current		
Cash & equivalents	\$2,788,188	\$1,730,694
Cash held in trust	\$9,466	\$9,466
Receivables	\$8,766	\$11,010
Prepays	<u>\$35,629</u>	<u>\$25,588</u>
	\$2,842,049	\$1,776,758
Investments	\$129,000	\$129,000
Covenants	\$16,344,631	\$16,369,904
Capital assets	\$17,396,717	\$17,264,712
	<u>\$36,712,398</u>	<u>\$35,540,374</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current		
Payables & accruals	\$125,902	\$65,109
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
Covenants	\$16,344,631	\$16,369,904
Capital assets	\$17,396,717	\$17,264,712
Internally restricted	\$1,324,331	\$279,331
Externally restricted	\$934,358	\$946,811
Unrestricted	<u>\$586,457</u>	<u>\$614,507</u>
	\$36,586,495	\$35,475,265
	<u>\$36,712,398</u>	<u>\$35,540,374</u>

	2023/24	2022/23
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	\$2,444,682	\$6,881,216
Grants	\$132,862	\$88,677
Memberships	\$125,537	\$125,085
Other income	\$298,890	\$66,158
Donations in-kind	\$77,155	\$169,189
Rental income	<u>\$122,523</u>	<u>\$89,018</u>
	\$3,201,649	\$7,419,343
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising	\$13,686	\$13,942
Amortization	\$47,091	\$29,156
Bank charges	\$5,846	\$5,983
Consulting	\$13,545	\$52,291
Donations	\$810,170	\$342,812
Event Expenses	\$6,059	\$4,628
Insurance	\$34,288	\$29,642
Licenses, dues, & fees	\$4,185	\$10,724
Office supplies	\$27,341	\$33,771
Other expenses	\$64,519	\$81,541
Professional fees	\$274,255	\$190,206
Property taxes	\$51,000	\$40,406
Rent & utilities	\$72,185	\$61,040
Repairs & maintenance	\$60,882	\$46,060
Salaries & benefits	\$577,579	\$577,947
Telephone	\$8,287	\$8,464
Travel	<u>\$19,501</u>	<u>\$24,279</u>
	\$2,090,419	\$1,552,892
Excess of revenue over expenses	<u>\$1,111,230</u>	<u>\$5,866,451</u>

# RESTORATION EVENTS AT FORT SHEPHERD



Above: Hello Camas event planting bulbs.  
Below: Welcome Back Monarchs event.



# PASSPORT TO NATURE EVENTS



Communities engage in conservation in TLC's Passport to Nature events. Top to bottom: TLC staff preparing for Ayum Creek Restoration; The Boundary Layer at Second Lake; and Greater Victoria Green Team at the Alston-Stewart Estate.



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Charitable Registration Number  
88902 8338 RR0001

TLC's Passport to Nature at the Garibaldi Springs  
Covenant in Squamish. Photo credit Andrew Hughes.



TLC's Pollinator Meadow Passport to  
Nature event. Photo credit Emily Francis.