

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



**TLC** The Land Conservancy  
of British Columbia



A view of Knapp Island, TLC's new conservation covenant, from the Salish Sea. Photo credit Heather Ng-Cornish.

## Annual Report 2024/2025

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Front cover photo of Knapp Island.  
Photo credit Heather Ng-Cornish.

Back cover photo of Knapp Island old growth Douglas-fir.  
Photo credit Islands Trust Conservancy.

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Property and Covenant Manager Michelle Thompson with a large ponderosa pine while covenant monitoring in the Okanagan. Photo credit Emily Francis.



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A belted kingfisher perching on a tree in the new Knapp Island conservation covenant, protecting 5.77 hectares (14.26 acres) of Coastal Douglas-fir habitat. Photo credit Heather Ng-Cornish.



Beach view from Knapp Island. Photo credit Heather Ng-Cornish.

# Report from the Chair

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia respectfully acknowledges that our work takes place on the traditional and unceded territories of Indigenous Peoples across the province. We honour the enduring relationships between these communities and the lands we strive to protect, and we are committed to developing meaningful partnerships that support lasting conservation.

The 2024–2025 fiscal year marked a pivotal period in the implementation of TLC’s current five-year Strategic Plan. Our work has been shaped by shared goals around climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and deeper community collaboration. To enhance organizational effectiveness, TLC formally established five standing committees—Indigenous Engagement, Acquisition & Land Management, Human Resources, Finance, and Fundraising. These committees provide essential leadership and reinforce our commitment to transparency and long-term sustainability.

Major milestones this year included **a partnership with Matsuri Foundation of Canada for a conservation covenant for Knapp Island**, an ecologically significant site; and the creation of a \$50,000 endowment fund to support enduring stewardship and operational resilience.

Land and covenant acquisition continues to anchor our mission, guided by science-based planning and regional partnerships. Our stewardship initiatives have expanded with **strong volunteer engagement and educational programming rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems and ecological literacy**. These efforts support a culture of intergenerational learning and shared responsibility for British Columbia’s natural heritage.

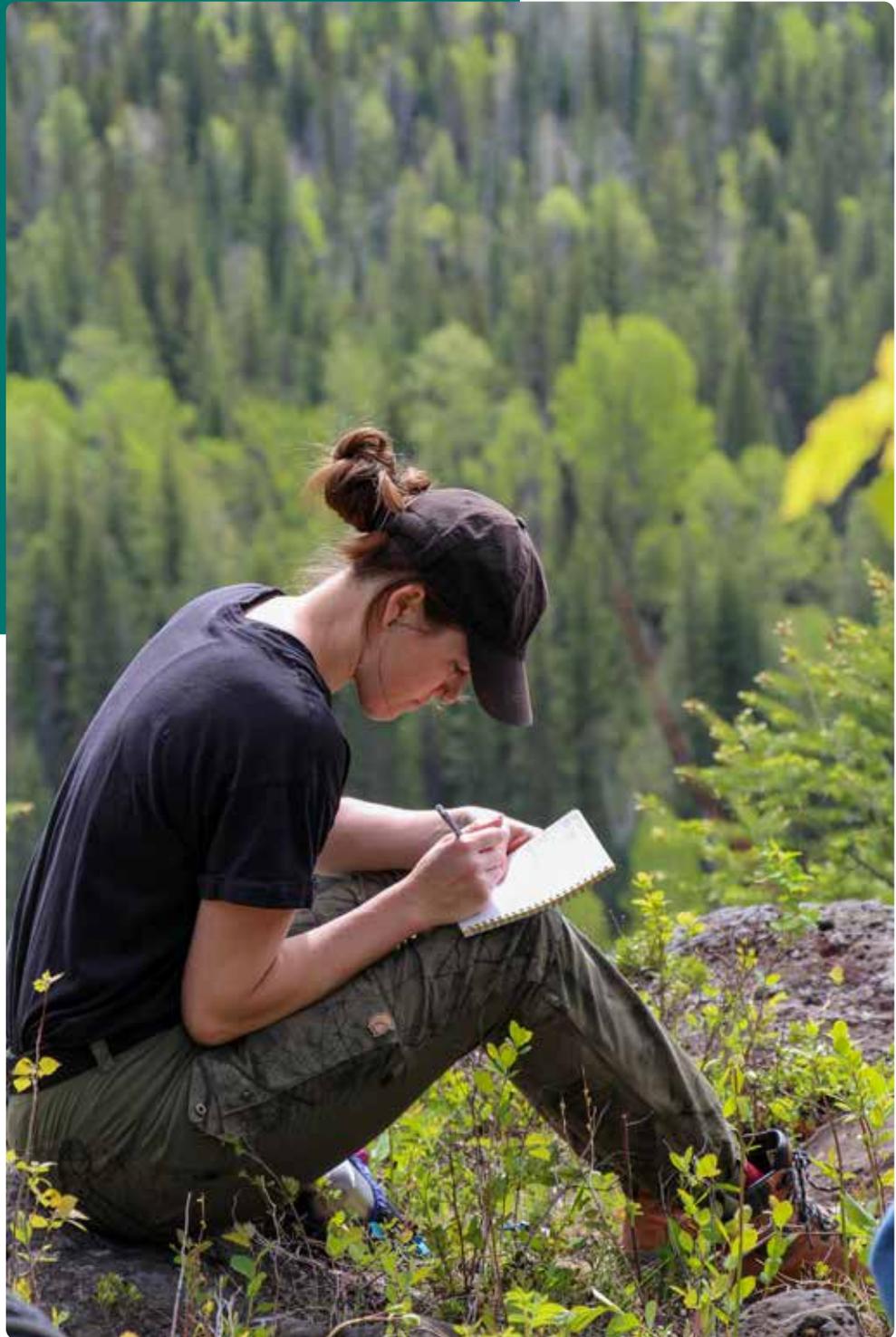
As we reflect on the year’s accomplishments, we extend heartfelt appreciation to our members, donors, volunteers, and staff. Their collective contributions remain central to TLC’s vision and achievements.

Looking forward, we remain inspired by the belief that nature and communities can thrive together. With resolve and collaboration, TLC is poised to protect what matters most—for today and for generations to come.



Jeff Sheldrake  
Chair

Shannon, a  
2024 Deetrails  
Naturalist  
Program  
participant, on  
the Flat Iron Trail  
in Wells Gray  
Provincial Park.  
Photo credit  
Frankie Iwachow.





Michelle Thompson inspecting a toothed jelly fungus at the Millstream Creek Watershed Property Passport to Nature Program Fungi Event in November 2024. Photo credit Helena Jacobsen.

Learning to identify a western painted Suillus at the Millstream Creek Watershed Property Fungi Event as part of TLC's Passport to Nature Program in November 2024. Photo credit Helena Jacobsen.



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# Report from the Executive Director

As we reflect on the past fiscal year, I am proud to share the remarkable progress our land trust has made in advancing our mission to protect and steward the biological diversity of our province.

One of our most significant accomplishments this year was achieving **100% monitoring of our conservation covenant portfolio**—a milestone that underscores our commitment to upholding and defending the covenants entrusted to us. With 251 covenants under our care, this achievement was made possible through a strategic blend of field visits and remote monitoring technologies. Tools such as satellite imagery, aerial photography, and geospatial data have allowed us to efficiently assess changes across protected areas, enabling our small team to focus in-person efforts where they are most needed. This approach not only aligns with best practices in the land trust community but also strengthens our long-term stewardship capacity.

We also celebrated the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the protection of Abkhazi Garden**, a cherished legacy of conservation and community spirit. This year, we advanced accessibility at the Garden with the financial support from the Province of British Columbia and secured successful



Covenant and Property Manager Michelle Thompson monitoring on Salt Spring Island. Photo credit Maya Irwin.

rezoning through the City of Victoria to further safeguard the property for future generations.

Our educational programming continues to inspire and engage. Highlights include the **Deertrails Naturalist Program in May 2024** in the Clearwater River Valley and our vibrant Passport to Nature series. Passport events featured **intertidal explorations, scavenger hunts, plant sales, a rainwater management webinar, and species identification walks**. Restoration efforts at the Ayum Creek Regional Park Reserve (supported by a grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation) and at the Alston-Stewart Estate in the Blenkinsop Valley in partnership with the Greater Victoria Green Team, reflect our dedication to ecological resilience. Looking ahead, **we are developing a comprehensive Education Strategy**, with a targeted adoption in 2026. This will guide our efforts to deepen public understanding and connection to the lands we protect.

Thank you to our members, volunteers, partners, donors, and community supporters. Your dedication, time, and generosity are the foundation of everything we accomplish. Whether you joined us in the field, attended an educational event, contributed financially, or shared our mission with others, your support has made a tangible difference in the landscapes and communities we serve.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are building a legacy of stewardship, education, and conservation that will endure for generations.

With gratitude,



Dianna Stenberg  
Executive Director



Participants exploring Devil's club on the forest floor with Deertrails Naturalist Program instructor Lyn Baldwin in the Clearwater River Valley. Photo credit Frankie Iwachow.



Abkhazi Garden's dedicated group of volunteers at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BBQ. Over 70 volunteers were celebrated for their commitment to the garden. Photo credit Emily Francis.

TLC's Board Chair, Jeff Sheldrake, and Abkhazi Garden Site Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, Cherie Miltimore, speaking at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BBQ. Photo credit Emily Francis.





Deetrails  
Naturalist  
Program 2024  
participants at  
Placid Lake  
in Wells Gray  
Provincial  
Park. Photo  
credit Frankie  
Iwachow.



Deetrails  
Naturalist  
Program 2024  
participants  
learning with  
instructors Nancy  
Flood and Lyn  
Baldwin. Photo  
credit Frankie  
Iwachow.

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# Report from the Treasurer

For the fiscal year ending April 30, 2025 (FY25), The Land Conservancy of British Columbia achieved another year of financial stability and growth, supported by the commitment of our members, donors, and partners.

**TLC recorded an operating surplus of \$761,805**, following last year's \$1,111,229 surplus. Total revenues were \$2.70 million in FY25 versus \$3.20 million in FY24, reflecting normal year-over-year variability in major gifts; membership and grant revenues also decreased slightly. TLC benefited from several significant bequests and major gifts in FY25.

Expenses declined from \$2.09 million in FY24 to \$1.93 million in FY25, reflecting disciplined cost management by our Executive Director and staff. As a result, TLC's fund balances increased to



Volunteers pulling English ivy at the Blenkinsop Valley Restoration Day in October 2024 as part of TLC's Passport to Nature Program. Photo credit Greater Victoria Green Team.

\$37.35 million, compared to \$36.59 million a year earlier.

Liquidity remained strong, with overall cash and equivalents rising to \$3.37 million from \$2.79 million in FY24, providing both a safety net and flexibility for operations and conservation initiatives.

**A milestone achievement in FY25 was the establishment of a \$600,000 endowment fund with the Vancouver Foundation,** ensuring continued support for property maintenance and management. **Planned giving also grew meaningfully, with bequests totaling approximately \$1.59 million:** \$509,702 from the estate of Kenneth Milnes (internally restricted by TLC's Board to reflect the donor's wishes), \$891,829 from the estate of Helen Hays (general), and \$190,000 from the estate of Muriel Park (general). These gifts underscore the impact of TLC's legacy program and the broader WillPower campaign.

Overall, TLC's strengthened financial foundation in FY25 will directly support its mission to safeguard the lands, waters, and natural heritage of British Columbia. By ensuring long-term financial sustainability, we are positioning the organization to protect cherished places and expand conservation efforts for generations to come.



Tomas Cimolai  
Treasurer



Students from Edward Milne Community School removing English ivy in Ayum Creek Regional Park Reserve in April 2025. Photo credit Greater Victoria Green Team.



TLC and Greater Victoria Green Team Volunteers at the Ayum Creek Regional Park Reserve Restoration event in April 2025 as part of the Passport to Nature Program. Photo credit Greater Victoria Green Team.

Volunteers clearing out invasive plants at the Ayum Creek Park Restoration event in April 2025. Photo credit Greater Victoria Green Team.



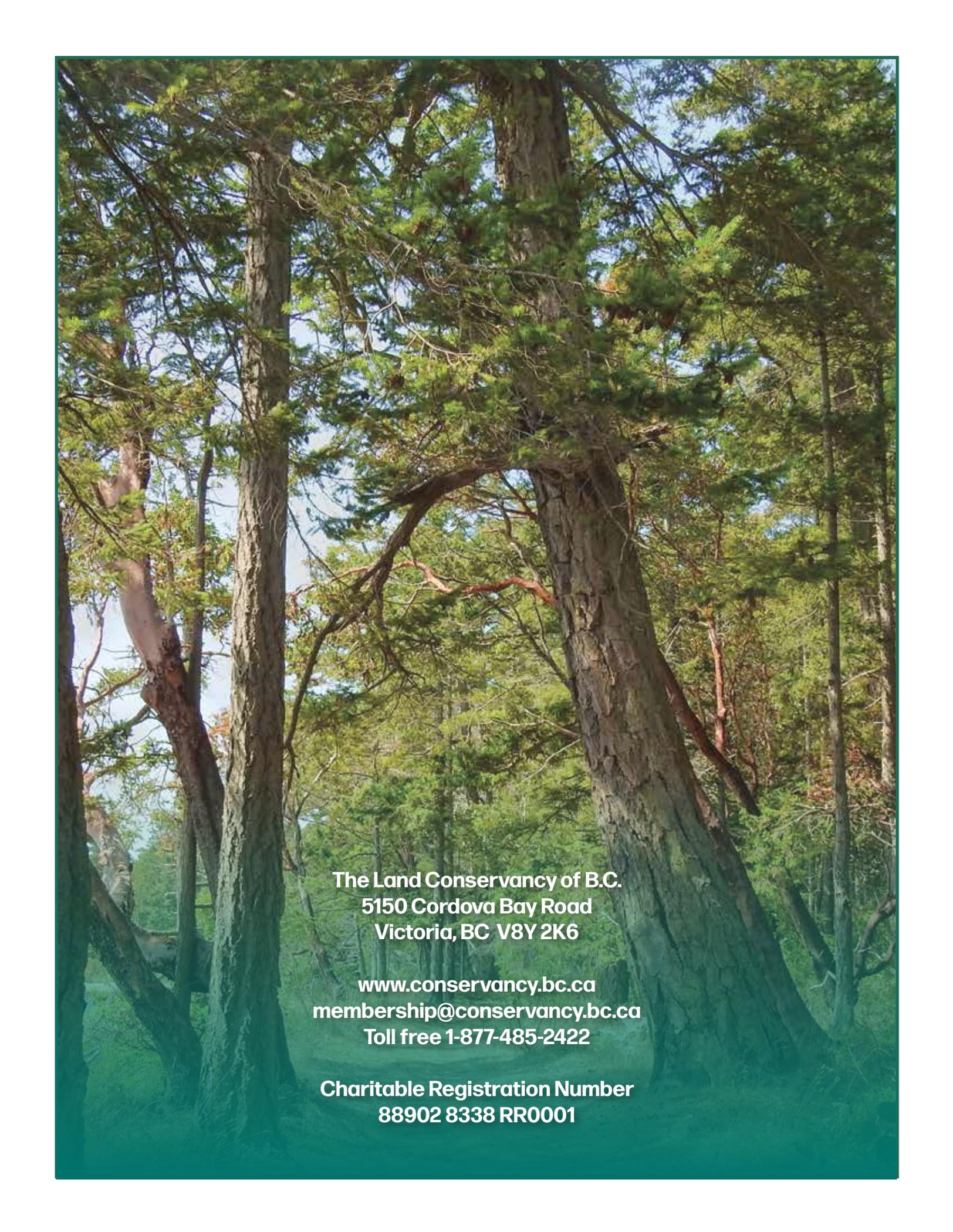
# Financial Statements

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2024/25	2023/24
Assets		
Current		
Cash & equivalents	\$3,372,887	\$2,788,188
Cash held in trust	\$7,050	\$9,466
Receivables	\$45,890	\$8,766
Prepays	\$35,945	\$35,629
	<u>\$3,461,772</u>	<u>\$2,842,049</u>
Investments	\$129,000	\$129,000
Covenants	\$16,347,625	\$16,344,631
Capital assets	\$17,529,003	\$17,396,715
	<u>\$37,467,400</u>	<u>\$36,712,395</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Payables & accruals	\$119,099	\$125,900
Fund Balances		
Covenants	\$16,347,625	\$16,344,631
Capital assets	\$17,529,003	\$17,396,715
Internally restricted	\$1,818,367	\$1,324,331
Externally restricted	\$890,993	\$934,359
Unrestricted	\$762,312	\$586,457
	<u>\$37,348,300</u>	<u>\$36,586,495</u>
	<u>\$37,467,400</u>	<u>\$36,712,395</u>

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2024/25	2023/24
Revenue		
Donations	\$1,796,060	\$2,444,682
Grants	\$116,230	\$132,862
Memberships	\$113,880	\$125,537
Other income	\$414,618	\$298,890
Donations in-kind	\$128,995	\$77,155
Rental income	\$126,348	\$122,523
	<u>\$2,696,131</u>	<u>\$3,201,649</u>
Expenses		
Advertising	\$7,976	\$6,006
Amortization	\$53,150	\$47,091
Bank charges	\$7,194	\$5,846
Consulting	\$10,432	\$13,545
Donations	\$659,070	\$810,170
Event Expenses	\$5,883	\$13,740
Insurance	\$34,848	\$34,288
Licenses, dues, & fees	\$5,171	\$4,185
Office supplies	\$29,448	\$27,341
Other expenses	\$65,616	\$64,519
Professional fees	\$255,512	\$274,255
Property taxes	\$52,080	\$51,000
Rent & utilities	\$66,720	\$72,185
Repairs & maintenance	\$34,669	\$60,882
Salaries & benefits	\$625,139	\$577,579
Telephone	\$8,434	\$8,287
Travel	\$12,984	\$19,501
	<u>\$1,934,326</u>	<u>\$2,090,420</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	<u>\$761,805</u>	<u>\$1,111,229</u>



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**Charitable Registration Number  
88902 8338 RR0001**