

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

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hile the first full year of COVID-19 cast a long shadow, one bright message during this period became abundantly clear: Canadians need CPAWS.

Across the country, countless numbers of us found solace and relief from pandemic stress by visiting Canada's parks and spending time in nature. We discovered - if we didn't know already - that we need these wild places, that protecting them is vital, and that the mission of this organization is critical.

The pandemic reaffirmed that Canadians need nature, but it was also a reminder that nature needs us. That's why CPAWS was a leader among dozens of groups to urge the federal government to put nature first when rebuilding Canada's post-COVID economy. The central message was that investing in natural infrastructure will create green jobs while supporting conservation, protecting wilderness and battling climate change. More than 230 organizations signed the letter.

CPAWS also urged Canada to work toward its latest promises to protect 25% of land, freshwater and ocean by 2025 and 30% by 2030. In Budget 2021, we welcomed the federal government's largest-ever investment in protecting nature: more than \$3 billion to deliver on these commitments.

Establishing more protected areas is important, but ensuring they stay protected is essential, too. That's why CPAWS is working with Indigenous communities, governments and other groups to improve conditions at several of Canada's internationally recognized natural World Heritage Sites. Fewer than half of the 10 sites plus one mixed (cultural and natural) site - across the country were considered to have a "good" conservation outlook in the latest (December 2020) World Heritage Outlook report by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Five were described as "good with some concerns," with invasive species and climate change topping the list of threats. Wood Buffalo National Park - Canada's largest national park - remained a World Heritage Site of "significant concern," thanks mainly to threats from upstream industrial development and global warming. CPAWS is continuing to press the federal government to act on its 2019 Action Plan for Wood Buffalo.

Quebec's Magpie River, meanwhile, gained huge protection from development and other threats when it became the first river in Canada to be granted the rights of legal personhood. The swift, pristine, 300 km river was granted its personhood status by the Innu Council of Ekuanitshit and the Minganie Regional County Municipality after a decade-long campaign spearheaded by CPAWS Quebec and the Muteshekau-shipu Alliance.

More bold action is needed, and protecting nature often starts with getting the word out first. Twice during the past year, CPAWS took to the opinion pages of the acclaimed Ottawa newspaper The Hill Times to make the case for conservation.

An article headlined "A COVID-busting fiscal plan should put nature first" outlined how conservation can help Canada's economy, too. Another article – just ahead of the federal budget – carried the headline "Biden's protected-area push highlights Canada's conservation opportunity" and suggested Canada should match the exciting new U.S. efforts to save nature south of the border.

These highlights of CPAWS successes over the past year are only part of the picture. Thanks to the generous support we get from our thousands of donors, volunteers, and partners, CPAWS has been able to help protect wilderness and wildlife in myriad other ways across this country.

As more Canadians look to nature to help them cope in troubled times, our supporters can take pride: our work together to permanently protect at least half of our land, freshwater and ocean plays a vital role in helping our country stay strong and safe, and ensures next generations will live in a Canada where every corner is home to a healthy ecosystem, teeming with wildlife.

Yours in Conservation,



Sandra Schwartz
CPAWS National
Executive Director



Laura Colella Chair and President, Board of Trustees



Our aspiration for conservation in Canada

CPAWS envisions a Canada that values nature for its intrinsic worth, for the life-sustaining services it provides, and for its essential role in the fight against climate change.

We believe that the right areas need to be protected, defended, and effectively managed to sustain the nature within them for the wellbeing of current and future generations. We recognize that meaningful conservation takes time and is based on trusted relationships.

Working in a way that respects the sovereignty and leadership of Indigenous nations, we achieve our mission through knowledgebased advocacy, and public education and engagement, underpinned by collaboration and partnership.



Conservation highlights from a year unlike any other

(April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021)

y April 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had transformed the world, and CPAWS adapted quickly. We were ready, for instance, when governments began planning Canada's post-COVID recovery, and we stood with over 230 organizations urging leaders to put nature at the heart of these plans.

Our annual parks report, Healthy Nature Healthy People, was released in July 2020 describing how governments can provide health and economic benefits by investing in protected areas.

CPAWS celebrated when Canada joined the Global Ocean Alliance in July 2020 which is working towards protecting 30% of our ocean by 2030, put nature and climate at the heart of COVID-19 recovery in the Speech from the Throne and by signing the Leader's Pledge for Nature, and joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of over 30 countries championing an ambitious nature conservation agenda.



Meanwhile, CPAWS successes continued across the country. In Nova Scotia, for example, Katewe'katik and Pu'tlagne'katik, the traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people, were designated as protected areas by the province following extensive work by CPAWS Nova Scotia and its Indigenous Guardian partners.



After a targeted campaign supported by CPAWS Manitoba, the Government of Canada invested \$3.2 million in the Seal River Watershed Indigenous Protected Area. The area in the Taiga Shield of northern Manitoba is within the traditional territories of the Cree, Dene and Inuit.



In the Yukon, a 65 km exploration road through the Beaver River Watershed proposed by ATAC Resources Ltd. was rejected by the territorial government following years of opposition from CPAWS Yukon, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Yukon residents, and other conservation organizations.



In Quebec, years of work by CPAWS Quebec and others to protect the Magpie River from development resulted in a landmark decision by the regional municipality and the Innu Council of Ekuanitshit to grant the river the legal rights of personhood for the first time in Canada.

In December 2020, CPAWS Quebec also celebrated with the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach, the Makivik Corporation, the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), and the Cree Nation Government after nearly 30,000 km² in Nunavik was declared protected by the

National Park, the largest protected area in eastern North America, and the **George River Protected Area**, an important calving ground for migratory caribou.

Later that month, the government of Quebec announced the addition of 66,000 km² new protected areas in the province, including more than 39,000 km² of protected areas in Eeyou Istchee – a territory of high bio-cultural significance to communities, trappers and hunters of the Cree Nation – and a new protected area in the famous Chic-Choc Mountains.

In Alberta, CPAWS Northern Alberta and CPAWS Southern Alberta cheered after the province backtracked on an earlier decision to delist or close 175 Alberta park sites. The reversal was a direct result of the **Defend Alberta Parks** campaign led by the two CPAWS Alberta chapters and resulting in more than 21,000 letters sent to MLAs.

Similarly, in February 2021, the Alberta government reinstated a 1976 Coal Policy that had been quietly rescinded in May 2020. The reinstatement came after thousands of Albertans voiced their opposition to open-pit mining in the Rocky Mountains.



Conservation highlights 2020/2021

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear a developer's challenge to an emergency order protecting western chorus frogs in La Prairie, Quebec. The decision sends a strong message that the protection of biodiversity is a fundamental societal value.





The social value of nature was reaffirmed when the "Big Five" Canadian banks announced they would not fund drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge following a U.S. decision to sell drilling leases in the area. Dozens of banks from around the world did the same.

Honouring our donors

Thank you to those individuals, foundations, corporate donors, corporate partners, and organizations that demonstrated their leadership in our 2020-2021 fiscal year with gifts and contributions to CPAWS of \$1,000 or more.

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Financial fitness

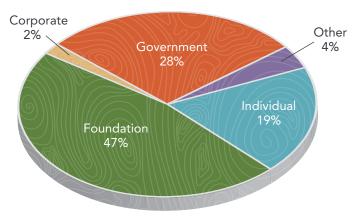
Unrestricted net assets Invested in capital assets Reserve fund Endowment- Now & Forever Wild Fund Subtotal	356,500 634,080 3,479,848 7,131,635	372,962 498,706 3,479,848 5,360,751
Invested in capital assets Reserve fund Endowment-	634,080	498,706
Invested in capital assets Reserve fund		
Invested in capital assets		
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NET ASSETS	0 //4 007	4 000 005
DEFERRED LEASE INCENTIV	ES -	-
Subtotal	6,446,380	5,551,900
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSET		
Subtotal	6,446,380	5,551,900
Deferred contributions	4,447,090	3,670,084
Amounts due to the Foundati		-
Transfers payable to regional chapters	1,248,960	1,514,951
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	750,330	366,865
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSET	rs .	
Subtotal	13,578,015	10,912,651
CAPITAL ASSETS	356,500	372,962
Note receivable	1,914,995	1,914,995
Investment in subsidiary	1,221,548	1,456,204
LONG-TERM ASSETS	10,084,972	7,168,490
Prepaid supplies, expenses and deposits	151,061	52,411
Investments	756,652	502,304
Accounts receivable from the controlled foundation	89,367	26,036
Accounts receivable	1,068,911	547,513
Guaranteed investment certificates	187,342	106,564
Cash and cash equivalents	7,831,639	5,933,662
ASSETS CURRENT		

e began the year adapting to a new work-from-home reality and to pandemic-related financial uncertainty, but we had faith that our supporters would continue to believe in our important work. Our donors came through, supporting our conservation efforts with \$13,317,562 in funding and allowing us to focus 79% of our spending exclusively on conservation. Our stakeholders can be confident CPAWS remains financially stable and focused on our conservation mission.

- Laura Cui, Director of Finance

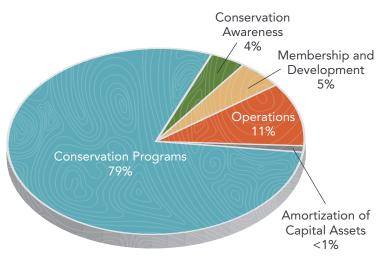
How CPAWS is funded

INCOME: 13,317,562 (FY 2020/2021)



How your donation is used

EXPENDITURES: 11,546,678 (FY 2020/2021)



To view the full financial statements, please visit cpaws.org/about/about-cpaws/financials/.



Honouring our donors

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