

An underwater photograph showing a dense kelp forest with many small, silvery fish swimming around. The water is clear and blue.

CPAWS IMPACT REPORT

2022-2023



CANADIAN PARKS AND
WILDERNESS SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ POUR LA NATURE
ET LES PARCS DU CANADA



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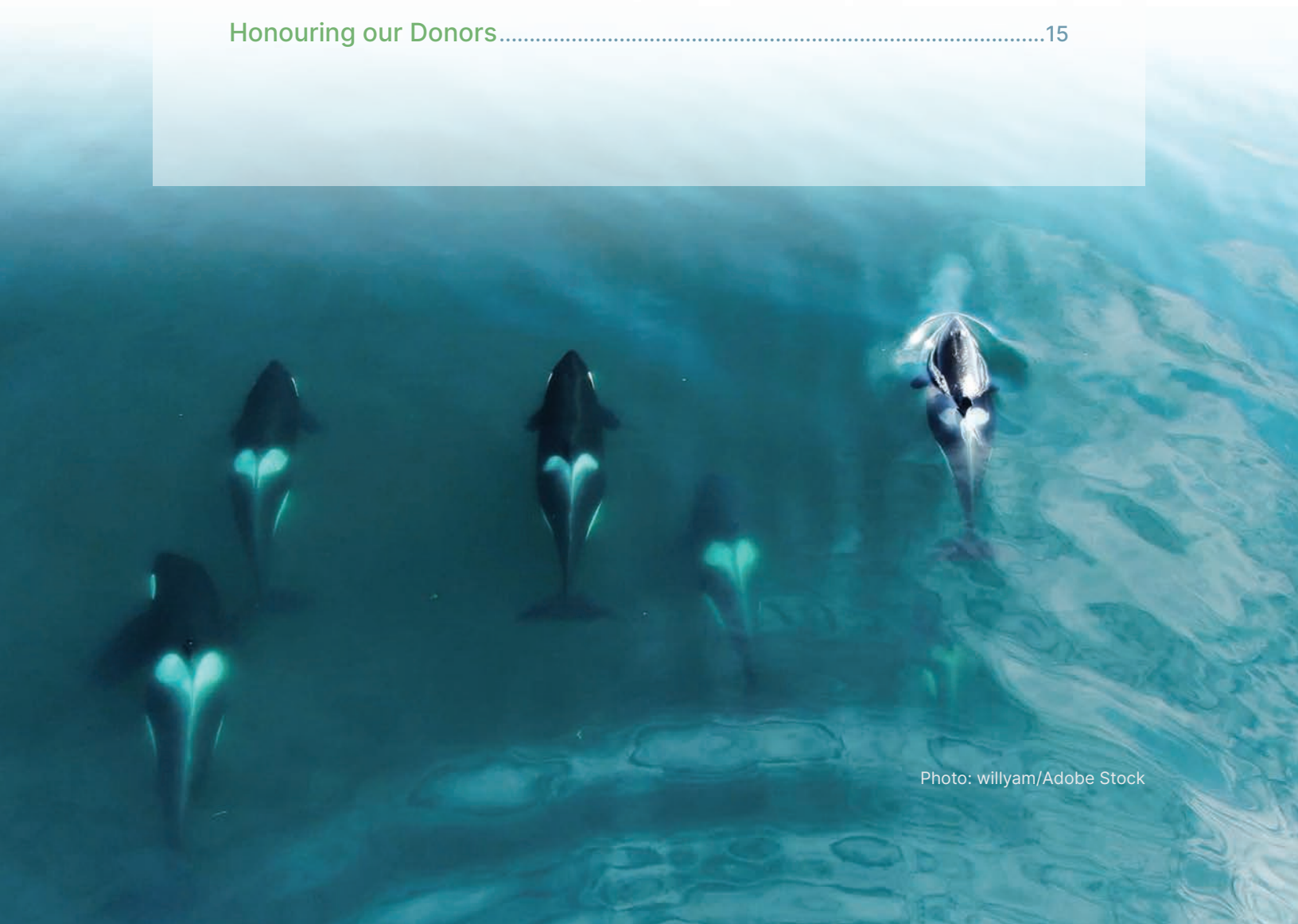


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Hope With a Dash of Optimism

CPAWS Brings Together Important Stakeholders to Solidify Conservation Efforts on Land and Ocean

2022 WAS A YEAR DRIVEN BY HOPE, WHILE 2023 IS FUELED BY OPTIMISM. Two momentous events for nature took place; the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) in December 2022 and the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) in February 2023. Both events highlighted conservation efforts in Canada on the world stage and brought recognition to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) as a pivotal leader in nature protection. We are encouraged by the unprecedented collaboration and the ensuing outcomes for each event.

For COP 15, a significant significant delegation of CPAWS staff from across the country as well as many Indigenous partners came together in Montreal. The event enabled the coordination of over 30 environmental organizations that in turn support the collective work of more than 130 civil society organizations.

A total of 196 countries adopted the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) during COP 15. Their respective governments committed to conserving at least 30% of land and ocean globally while respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Framework also recognizes the importance of Indigenous-led conservation and how land and ocean stewarded by Indigenous Peoples significantly contributes to protecting biodiversity.

In February, CPAWS was honoured to be the key environmental non-governmental organization (ENGO) partner for IMPAC5. Held in Vancouver, BC, IMPAC5 was hosted by governments and host

First Nations. CPAWS brought together a large and diverse coalition of over 20 ENGOs and CPAWS chapters to support the planning and execution of all elements of IMPAC5.

This landmark event for CPAWS resulted in several Federal Government announcements including significant advancements for marine protected areas (MPAs) in British Columbia. This includes the pathway to 25% by 2025, new minimum protection standards guidance for MPAs, the commitment to apply a strongly precautionary approach to deep sea mining, and a joint ministerial call to action on ocean protection.

CPAWS also led the production of public-facing events to educate, inspire, and connect people across Canada toward marine protection. This mission culminated with the Ocean Festival in Vancouver and is now producing a special edition of the journal Marine Policy to mark the event and capture key lessons for ocean protection.

Encouragingly, the commitments made at these two important milestone events are key steps towards achieving the outcomes in our plan to protect nature.

Encouragingly, the commitments made at these two important milestone events are key steps towards achieving the outcomes in our plan to protect nature. Our **Roadmap to 2030: Delivering on Canada's Land and Ocean Protection Targets** report was released in June 2022 and outlines our optimism in achieving the ambitious 30% protection target by 2030. The roadmap also highlights the need for greater political will, faster action, and increased support of Indigenous-led initiatives.

In the months since COP 15 and IMPAC5, the federal government has trusted CPAWS to continue to play a leading role on nature protection efforts. We will provide our expertise across the country as the Global Biodiversity Framework agreement, promises, and plans are put into action. We will monitor the domestic implementation of commitments made by governments to protect land, freshwater and ocean in Canada, and will hold decision-makers to account. With the launch of our recent public engagement campaign “We Can’t Wait”, and by leveraging the momentum from last year’s collaborations, we believe we have a strategy for a better future. None of this success would have been achieved without the amazingly generous support of so many individuals, foundations, and governments.

Yours in Conservation,



Sandra Schwartz
CPAWS National Executive Director



John Grandy
Chair and President, National Board of Trustees



Supporting Indigenous-Led Conservation

Dusk on the coast of Great Slave Lake in Thaidene Nene. Photo: Tyrone Burke

Acknowledging CPAWS' Responsibility to Reconciliation and Healing

RECONCILIATION IS ABOUT BALANCE AND HEALING between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples to form new relationships based on respect, reciprocity, equality, and trust. As an environmental organization that is settler-founded, our ways of operating have been, and are currently, influenced by the norms and customs that have been forcibly imposed since the European colonization of Canada.

CPAWS humbly acknowledges its responsibility to support First Nations, Metis and Inuit in Canada to safeguard the land, water, and air for future generations. Underlying all our work with governments and the public is a foundation of support for Indigenous leadership in conservation.

Over the last year, CPAWS has prioritized bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders to explore the many ways we can work together on delivering nature-positive outcomes across the country.

In Fall 2022, we hosted a Parliamentary reception for decision-makers and key influencers with attendance and opening remarks from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada. We were honoured to be joined by Indigenous leaders from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland and Labrador, who brought their conservation visions to life through an evening of networking, videos, and storytelling.

In Winter 2022, the CPAWS team co-organized three successful COP 15 events focused on Indigenous-led conservation, including a side event on advancing IPCAs (Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas) on land and ocean.

Across the country, CPAWS chapters continue to work closely with Indigenous partners to drive regional conservation efforts and targeted campaigns. Continued learning by non-Indigenous staff about the

history and current lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples in Canada is foundational work that supports CPAWS' mission to protect nature. It is a small but crucial step in support of reconciliation.

The national board and office have committed to ongoing training as well as regular evaluations. Regularly evaluating our operational areas and programs allows us to assess where we can do more to strengthen how we work alongside our Indigenous staff and partners. This includes, among other approaches, using our resources as an ENGO to support the stewardship efforts of Indigenous partners, communities, and organizations.

CPAWS recognizes that we will not reach our conservation targets without acknowledging the critical value of Indigenous Knowledge systems. We are committed to respecting this Knowledge alongside the concepts of Western Science and Western Knowledge. Only by working together and centering Indigenous-led conservation will Canada achieve its nature protection targets.



Top: In partnership with the Assembly of First Nations, CPAWS opened the global Nature Positive Pavilion. Moderated by Gwen Bridge, speakers included Patti Saulis – Executive Director of the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council, Matthew Munson – Director of Lands for Dene Tha' First Nation, Stephanie Thorassie – Executive Director of the Seal River Watershed Alliance, and Wanli Ou – Senior Policy Advisor, Assembly of First Nations.



Photo: CPAWS; **Middle:** Sandra Schwartz, CPAWS' National Executive Director, moderated a panel discussion in the Canada Pavilion entitled Knowledge-Sharing on Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas with guest presenters Lauren Terbasket, Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Matthew Munson, Dene Tha' First Nation, Tina Giroux, Ya'thi Nene Lands and Resources/Athabasca Denesųliné First Nation, and Dolorès André, Uapashkuss. Photo: Anika Hazra/CPAWS; **Bottom:** Ocean-inspired mural by artist Ocean Hyland/shkweł/ts:simtelot, in collaboration with CPAWS British Columbia and Vancouver Mural Festival. Photo: Mavreen David





Inspiring Progress Through Collaboration and Leadership

Photo: Mircea Costina/Adobe Stock

Conservation Highlights (April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023)

“Measuring progress is often like watching grass grow. While it’s difficult to detect movement on a daily basis, it’s simple to see growth over time.”

— Frank Sonnenberg

THE WORK OF CONSERVATION IS BOTH ESSENTIAL, COLLABORATIVE, AND ONGOING. Highlighting our wins allows us to celebrate the protection of nature together. After all, CPAWS can’t do it alone, and collaboration is the true engine that powers our campaigns and initiatives. COP 15 and IMPAC5 were two momentous events that took place in Canada in 2022-2023. Both benefited from a consistent and concerted effort at both the regional and national level that is CPAWS’ unique strength.

This collaboration set the foundation for accelerated impact in the form of agreements and announcements. It took unprecedented efforts and leadership by many partners to convene global, national, and provincial governments as well as Indigenous and civil society leaders to work together to commit to protecting 30 percent of land and ocean by 2030, and the resulting wins are worth celebrating.

Many of the announcements made by federal and provincial/territorial governments and Indigenous nations at (or in parallel with) COP 15 were pushed for, led, contributed to, or supported by CPAWS throughout the year. They include funding for Indigenous community planning, over \$1B in investments, which includes \$800M in federal funding to be rolled out in support of four Indigenous-led conservation initiatives, over a dozen new protected areas, as well as a biodiversity action plan.

A potential Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) is now under study in Manitoba. The Seal River Watershed Alliance, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Manitoba committed to working

together to conduct a feasibility study towards establishing an Indigenous Protected Area in the Seal River Watershed. Sayisi Dene First Nation is leading the initiative to protect the entire watershed from industrial activity in partnership with Northlands Denesuline First Nation, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation, Barren Lands First Nation and their Inuit neighbours, as well as with support from the Manitoba chapter of CPAWS.

In British Columbia, two important IPAs were declared by their respective nations. Sm̓əłq̓m̓íx, the syilx people of the Similkameen Valley announced the designation of a new Indigenous Protected Area in their territory: Ashnola sm̓əłq̓m̓íx Protected Area in the threatened grasslands of BC. Wilps Gwininitxw, a Gitxsan Nation house group announced the Gwininitxw Indigenous Protected Area in the Upper Skeena watershed.



Left: COP 15 art installation outside the official venue, the Palais des Congrès de Montréal. Photo: CPAWS



Right: Danielle and Anika (CPAWS New Brunswick) lead outreach programming at the IMPAC5 Ocean Festival. Photo: CPAWS

At IMPAC5 in February, the **Great Bear Sea MPA Network Action Plan** was approved by 15 First Nations, British Columbia, and Canada. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans and First Nations announced the proposed **Tang.gwan – ɥačx̣ẉiqak – Tsigis MPA** (formerly referred to as the deep sea oasis) would be going to public consultation with final designation expected in the fall. Additionally, the province unveiled a discussion paper for consultation on the development of a **BC Coastal Strategy**. Spearheaded by CPAWS and West Coast Environmental Law, the strategy will hopefully support Indigenous leadership and governance and strengthen provincially designated coastal and marine protected areas.

The Yukon Government and the Federal Government have signed a Nature Agreement that includes a commitment to protecting 25% of land and ocean by 2025 while working towards 30 by 30. The agreement commits to funding for Indigenous community planning. Also in Yukon, CPAWS was involved in a **campaign to protect Chasàn Chùà (also known as McIntyre Creek) in Whitehorse**. The City of Whitehorse is working with the Government of the Yukon to protect the area, having recently removed a proposed roads and housing development from their Official Community Plan. The es-



West Mabou Beach Provincial Park. Photo: CPAWS Nova Scotia

establishment of this protection also increased the existing boundary of the prohibited area for quartz mining and staking around the city and the **Chasàn Chùà** protected area.

The province of Quebec is investing \$650M to ensure the protection of 30% of land and ocean by 2030. CPAWS Quebec/SNAP Québec signed several agreements under **l'Initiative Plein Aire** and obtained the protection of **Mount Kaaikop** in the Laurentian region. The work done by CPAWS Quebec has also allowed for the expansion of the **Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park**. CPAWS Ottawa Valley also made additional progress toward the permanent protection of at least 1115 km² of the **Noire River** and the **Coulonge River** watersheds thanks to funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Quebec Government. We also partnered with the community of Kitigan Zibi to help conduct field work and are in discussions with the community about potential IPCA designation for all or part of the territory. Another project aims to connect **Ottawa Valley's two largest protected areas**: Algonquin Park in Ontario and the Dumoine River Aquatic Reserve in Quebec, which straddle two provinces but are separated by only 18 km.

Meanwhile in Nova Scotia, an additional \$20M in funding from the Federal Government will be disbursed to advance towards 20% land and ocean protection targets. The Nova Scotia chapter of CPAWS successfully defended **West Mabou Beach Provincial Park** from a proposed golf course development in Cape Breton. CPAWS NS accomplished this through targeted scientific fieldwork which led to the discovery of a new species. Additionally, the identification of numerous rare and endangered species at **Archibald Lake** in Guysborough County will help create the conditions for legal protection to stop a proposed open pit gold mine.

In the Northwest Territories, Deninu Kų́ First Nation and Fort Resolution Métis Government have reached a \$3.1M federal investment to support the **Slave River Delta/Talston Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area** (IPCA). This work was supported by the CPAWS NWT chapter.

In Alberta, we are encouraged by the work led by the Mikisew Cree First Nation with support from CPAWS Northern Alberta. Their project brought an official designation of the expansion to the **Ki-taskino Nuwenene Wildland Provincial Park**. Meanwhile, we helped facilitate a dialogue with the UN Reactive Monitoring Mission (RMM) about the **Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site**. Although the RMM's report does not currently recommend that the Park be added to the list for **World Heritage in Danger**, it does encouragingly request another investigation in 2026. We also helped inform the updated list of recommendations prepared by the RMM to improve the state of the park. Another important Albertan park deserves to be mentioned as a win for conservation. As of 2023, Banff National Park made the courageous decision to close the **Moraine Lake Road** to private vehicles to help protect wildlife.

Finally, the Newfoundland and Labrador chapter of CPAWS welcomed an agreement between Canada and the province to accelerate the creation of new protected areas, including the South Coast Fjords national marine conservation area (NMCA) and potential adjacent national park. CPAWS NL also launched the Marine Data Hub. The hub is a resource now utilized by the public, academia, and various government agencies to identify areas for conservation potential and opportunities. The local chapter of CPAWS also took the lead on **two potential national marine wildlife areas** within the province (one in **Witless Bay** and one in **Cape St. Mary's**), bolstering our relationships with community stakeholders, other environmental non-governmental organizations, and various governmental agencies.

It is with enthusiasm that CPAWS approaches the upcoming year. Though 2023 was marked by a changing climate and the impacts of wildfires, we are encouraged by the collaborative momentum toward applying our recommendations for nature protection. As released in our **Roadmap to 2030: Delivering on Canada's Land and Ocean Protection Targets** report, the recommendations outline a concrete path forward for Canada to reach its conservation targets to protect 30% of land and ocean by 2030. This roadmap identifies dozens of high-impact opportunities for protection across Canada, both on land and in the ocean, and we know there are more opportunities emerging across the country.

These opportunities include ongoing or already committed-to land use and/or conservation planning processes, as well as many Indigenous-led conservation initiatives. If all the prospective sites are approved and designated by 2030, the country would more than double currently protected land from 13.5% to 29.3%—just shy of the 30% target – and marine protected areas would increase from 13.9% to 30.4%—surpassing the 30% target. CPAWS is committed to the path forward, and we thank our supporters and partners without whom this work would not be possible.

We have witnessed concrete steps from all levels of governments, community leaders, corporations and ENGOs to follow these recommendations and we are confident we will see additional progress in the new year.

CPAWS identifies dozens of high-impact opportunities for protection across Canada, both on land and in the ocean, and we know there are more opportunities emerging across the country.

Financial Fitness

As the world continued to face economic uncertainty, CPAWS donors continued to demonstrate their trust in our efforts and in fact increased their support for our conservation work. With a significant increase in support from institutional donors, CPAWS received \$15,779,931 in funding, allowing us to focus 79% of our spending exclusively on conservation. Our partners and stakeholders can be confident CPAWS remains financially stable and focused on our mission.

It is also worth noting that total revenue included a gain of \$1,266,222 from CPAWS' investment in our wholly owned subsidiary, which reported an extraordinary income in 2022 as a result of the sale of the office building CPAWS currently occupies. This onetime income is not expected to repeat in the foreseeable future.



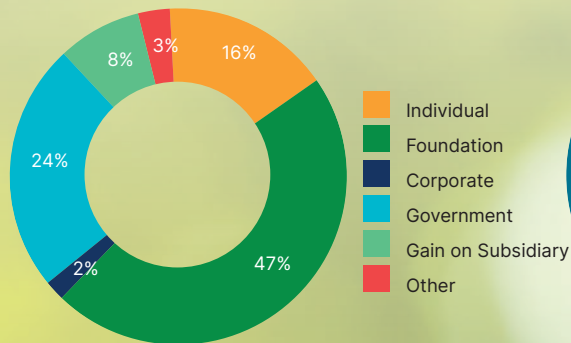
— Laura Cui, National Director, Finance

Financial Fitness

HOW CPAWS IS FUNDED

FY 2022/2023

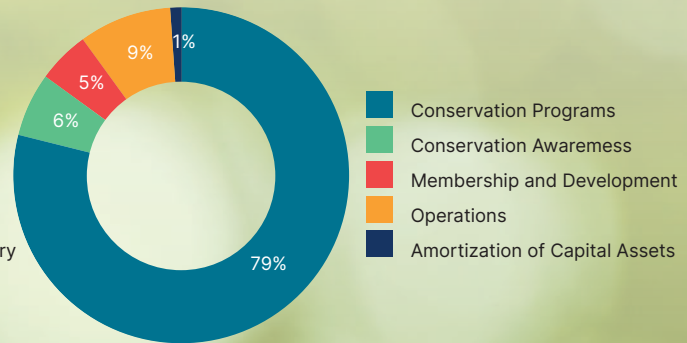
Income: \$15,779,931



HOW YOUR DONATION IS USED

FY 2022/2023

Expenditures: \$14,739,819



COMPOSITION OF CPAWS FUNDING

REVENUE	2023		2022	
Individual	2,549,719	16%	2,621,152	22%
Foundation	7,436,347	47%	5,986,985	51%
Corporate	257,160	2%	432,052	4%
Government	3,824,808	24%	2,116,627	18%
Gain on Subsidiary	1,266,222	8%	-	0%
Other	445,675	3%	561,146	5%
	15,779,931	100%	11,717,962	100%

EXPENDITURES	2023		2022	
Conservation Programs	11,697,590	79%	7,811,067	73%
Conservation Awareness	948,655	6%	872,444	8%
Membership and Development	679,984	5%	617,520	6%
Operations	1,368,965	9%	1,358,462	13%
Amortization of Capital Assets	62,625	1%	57,056	1%
	14,739,819	100%	10,716,549	100%
Surplus	1,040,112		1,001,413	

Financial Fitness continued on page 14

Financial Fitness

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS		
Current	2023	2022
Cash and Cash Equivalents	12,262,179	13,836,557
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	690,829	186,727
Accounts Receivable	1,115,580	554,545
Accounts Receivable from the Controlled Subsidiary	159,645	-
Accounts Receivable from the Controlled Foundation	61,259	20,268
Investments	2,067,886	910,337
Prepaid Suppliers, Expenses and Deposits	111,861	119,073
	16,469,239	15,627,507
Long-term Assets		
Investment in Subsidiary	2,033,799	932,599
Capital Assets	311,761	325,632
TOTAL	18,814,799	16,855,738
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	931,769	556,926
Transfers Payable to Regional Chapters	1,009,270	1,124,997
Amounts Due to the Foundation	-	-
Deferred Contributions	7,700,600	7,070,767
	9,641,639	8,752,690
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	4,559,911	3,623,594
Invested in Capital Assets	311,761	325,632
Reserve Fund	801,488	703,974
Endowment—Now & Forever Fund	3,500,000	3,479,848
	9,173,160	8,133,048
TOTAL	18,814,799	16,855,738



Honouring our Donors

Thank you to those individuals, foundations, corporate donors, and organizations that demonstrated their leadership in our 2022-2023 fiscal year with gifts and contributions to CPAWS of \$1,000 or more.

Photo (pages 15-18): Shawn.Ccf/Adobe Stock

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Eco Canada
Friends of Canadian Wilderness
Nature Canada
Oceans North
The Lake Family's All One Fund
United Way East Ontario

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is Canada's only charity dedicated to the protection of public land, freshwater and ocean with a strong national and regional presence across the country. We are Canada's leader in conservation with 60 years of success based on our expertise, public education and advocacy, relationships and local knowledge. We are a credible, trusted, knowledge-based, nationally coordinated, collaborative organization, focused on conserving nature to respond to the dual crises of accelerated biodiversity loss and climate change. Our vision is that at least half of land, freshwater and ocean in Canada is permanently protected to sustain nature and people for current and future generations.

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