



OUR IMPACT

2014-2016



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OUR ORGANIZATION

TNC Canada is a Canadian charity affiliated with The Nature Conservancy, which works globally to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

OUR VISION

A Canada where healthy communities and responsible economic development drive locally and globally significant conservation outcomes.

OUR GOAL

We will achieve our vision across 100 million acres of Canada's forests and waters over the next five years through protection and sustainable management.



“TNC Canada has the energy and agility of a start-up, backed by the ambition and resourcing of a global organization that has been operating for 65 years.”

HADLEY ARCHER
Executive Director

On a warm July night, the TNC Canada team was sitting around a roaring campfire at the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. We were guests in Heiltsuk territory, joined by a dozen youth from the community and listening to William Housty tell his Nation’s traditional stories. As William wove tales about bears and salmon, the origin of the Heiltsuk people, and their connection to the forests and rivers that literally surrounded us, the children were transfixed, and so was our team.

The Nature Conservancy has worked with William, his father Larry and his sister Jess, for more than a decade. After the children trudged off to bed, we had an open and frank discussion. At one point—and I will never forget this—Jess said, “I’m telling you these things because I care about TNC Canada. We value this partnership and want to continue working with you.”

The report you hold in your hands is about impact; it is an account of our hard work and progress since TNC Canada became a registered Canadian charity. It counts acres, tallies results and calculates dollars raised. It demonstrates the effectiveness of our approach, which invests in people and sustainable economies to achieve scalable conservation. And it reflects the global innovation and investment we bring as the Canadian affiliate of the world’s largest conservation organization.

But the real power behind our impact is partnership. We learned this 10 years ago when TNC was invited to join the effort to conserve the Great Bear Rainforest. And I am proud that we have been invited by others to join in every one of our projects today—along the Pacific Coast, in the Northwest Territories and eastward through the Boreal Forest.

I hope you will join me, our staff, Board of Directors, partners and visionary supporters in celebrating these successes and looking forward to the work ahead. Our investment in conservation is an investment in a vibrant future for Canada and the world.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?



I'm proud to be joined by Canadian leaders who share our values and ambition, and enhance our capacity to deliver against our powerful mission. Our global organization is committed to the success of TNC Canada.

KAREN BERKY BOARD CHAIR

Western Division Director, North America, The Nature Conservancy



I fully support our approach, but I feel most connected to Great Bear Rainforest, its vibrant people and its precious wildlife. It's a place I want our children and grandchildren to be able to experience.

SHARI AUSTIN

Consultant; former Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, RBC



What attracted me to TNC Canada was its North American presence and focus. We share species, habitats and economies. It's just natural for us to work on a continental scale.

ARLIN HACKMAN

Consultant; former Vice President and Chief Conservation Officer, WWF-Canada



I'm incredibly proud of the SEAS (Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards) program—it is innovative, grounded, embedded in local culture, and the type of program that can really make a difference.

JOHN HONDERICH

Chair, TorStar



TNC Canada is one-of-a-kind in the way it invests in Indigenous leadership. I joined the Board because strengthening people is a powerful way of achieving conservation.

JESS HOUSTY

Councillor, Heiltsuk Tribal Council; Director of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Qqs Projects Society



Integrating economic development into conservation is the only pathway to success at the scale that TNC Canada is working. I'm proud that it is a core value.

PETER KENDALL

Executive Director, Schad Foundation;
Executive Director, Earth Rangers

OUR APPROACH



LANDSCAPE SCALE

From forest to sea, we drive conservation at the greatest possible scale, irrespective of borders and designed to endure, for the future of people and nature.



ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT

We embed sustainable growth into conservation strategies, creating value for industry and local economies.



INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP

We put Indigenous rights at the heart of conservation, creating new pathways for reconciliation and investing in leadership.



COLLABORATION

We bring unique value to conservation partnerships that complements the strengths of our allies and amplifies our collective impact.



GLOBAL ADVANTAGE

As an affiliate of the world's largest conservation organization, we bring unprecedented global resources, innovation and investment to Canada.



This page: Aspen and paper birch of the Boreal Forest, in the Northwest Territories, one of TNC Canada's priority landscapes © Bridget Paule



The impact stories that follow
build on a decade of work in Canada
and also exemplify our five values
as an organization.

Our priorities span Canada's diverse and vibrant landscapes—from the Great Bear Rainforest, where grizzlies roam and salmon abound; to the rugged forests and tundra of the Northwest Territories, refuge for some of the last remaining herds of barren-ground caribou; to our vast Boreal Forest, the spring nursery for more than 3 billion migrating birds.

But these places are not just habitat; they are home to millions of people whose sustenance, cultures and livelihoods are deeply interwoven in their ecological health. And these places matter to many more Canadians and global citizens, who believe that their ecological health is critical to our future.

Our five impact stories are accompanied by the voices of supporters, staff and partners—all of whom are fundamental to achieving our shared mission.

1 OUR IMPACT: GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

Forever conserved through Indigenous authority

Walk beneath the old-growth trees or along the rocky shores of the Great Bear Rainforest and you'll find abounding evidence of ancient Indigenous presence: burial sites, entire beaches of harvested clam shells, cedar trees with bark strips removed for weaving, totems and village remnants returning to the ground, petroglyphs, and fish weirs made of rocks in tidal waters. This presence—carried on by the First Nations that call this place home—is deeply interwoven with the fact that the Great Bear Rainforest remains the largest intact coastal temperate rainforest on Earth.

Building on the \$39 million we raised a decade ago to endow First Nations-led resource management, TNC has supported local science, Guardian networks that patrol their territories, and the resurgence of traditional laws, language and culture. Our investment helped establish Coast Funds, which has created 42 new First Nations-led businesses. And when we asked our partners how else we could help revive traditional stewardship, their resounding answer was investing in youth. So we worked with local leaders to develop a community-led program called SEAS (Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards), which blends science and traditional knowledge in classrooms; rebuilds intergenerational connections; and brings youth out to explore their territories.

The result has been conservation measures spanning 19 million forest acres, including 5 million acres of protected areas, millions more set aside from logging, and the balance managed under some of the world's most stringent harvest standards.

The true power of our investment has been strengthening communities and supporting the Indigenous leadership that has stewarded this place since time beyond memory.

19

**MILLION
ACRES**

of the world's largest
intact coastal rainforest
conserved

501

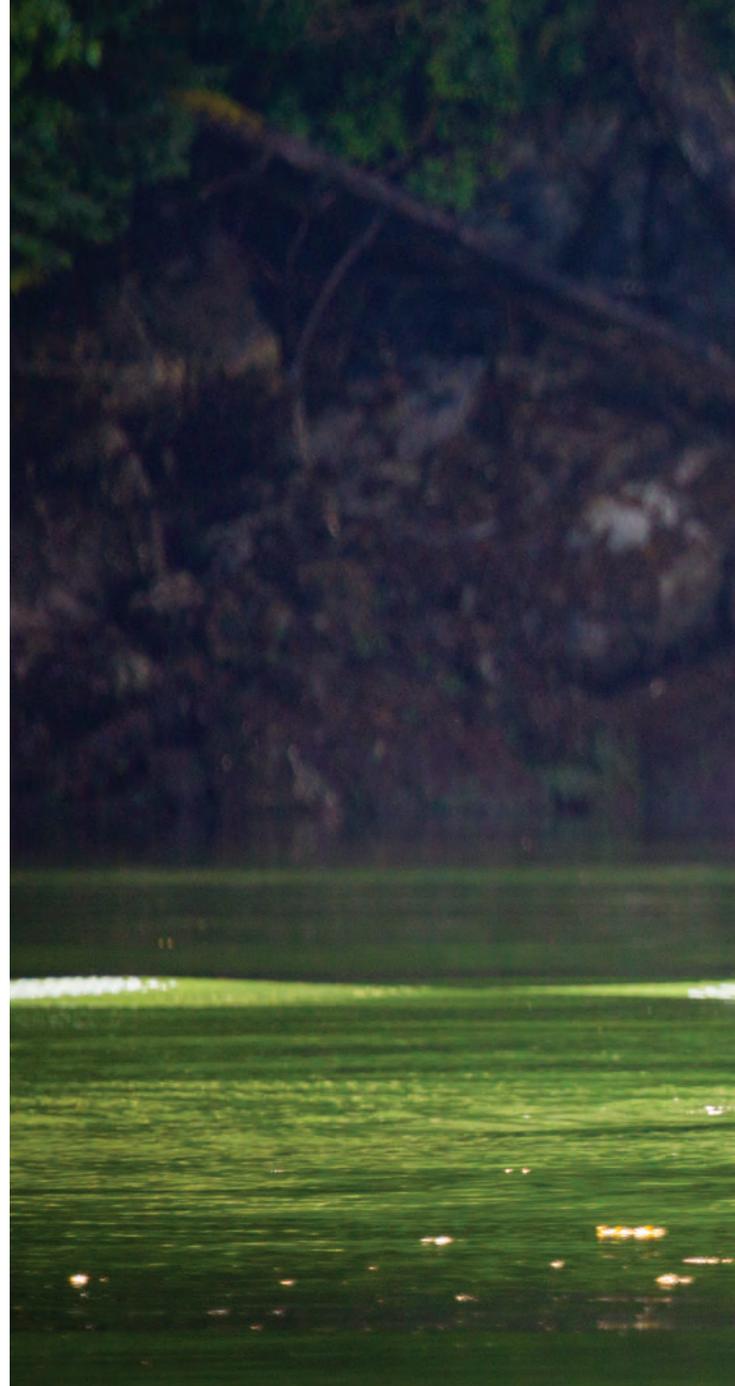
**LOCAL
JOBS**

created since TNC
invested \$39 million in
Coast Funds

25

**MILLION
MARINE ACRES**

represent the next
stage of Great Bear
conservation





JOANNA SMITH
Marine Spatial Planning Science Manager
STAFF

From her home base in the tiny, land-locked town of Smithers, British Columbia, Joanna Smith works globally to conserve oceans from the Northeast Pacific all the way to the western Indian Ocean. One of her current projects is leading a marine spatial plan in the Seychelles, off the coast of Africa, covering 340 million acres and with a 30 percent marine protection goal. “We’re inspiring people to take better care of the ocean and transform economic development,” says Joanna, who works on our global oceans team. In Canada, Joanna works in the Great Bear Sea to implement the Marine Planning Partnership. The historic agreement was finalized in April 2015 between 17 First Nations and the Province of British Columbia—the first-ever co-led partnership between Indigenous peoples and a state government. “Now we’re helping our partners put these plans into action by supporting new protected areas, addressing cumulative effects on critical species and habitats, and advancing oil spill response and ecosystem-based fisheries management,” Joanna says.



Clockwise from top: A humpback whale dives in the waters of the Great Bear Rainforest © Jason Houston. Youth interns from the Kitasoo/Xai'Xais First Nation learn how to fish for sockeye salmon as part of SEAS © Jason Houston. Richard Jones of the Haida Nation, General Manager of Taan Forestry, which is supported through Coast Funds © Taan Forestry

A global model of community strength

“We’re all the same people, sharing culture, water and resources, and dealing with similar challenges. It only makes sense that we work together.” Those words reached across international borders when they were spoken by a woman from the Haida village in Kasaan, Alaska. She was deep into a four-day community exchange with the Heiltsuk First Nation in Bella Bella, an Indigenous community located in British Columbia’s Great Bear Rainforest. She and the other Alaskan delegates witnessed first-hand the science and resource management the Heiltsuk are leading in their traditional territory; the cultural resurgence being lived by the Nation’s youth; and the songs and dances that symbolize a presence as old as time. And in turn, the Haida shared how they are restoring salmon habitat, forging new partnerships with the forestry industry and using business competitions to spur local economic growth.

The Haida-Heiltsuk exchange is a perfect symbol of our Emerald Edge approach, which looks at the Pacific coastal rainforest as a whole system, stretching 100 million acres from Alaska’s Tongass Forest, through the Great Bear Rainforest, to Washington’s Olympic Peninsula. Over the last two years, TNC Canada has worked with our counterparts in Alaska and Washington to make possible 13 community exchanges. In September 2016, we sponsored an eight-person Indigenous delegation to participate in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii (repeating the success of a delegation we sponsored for the 2014 World Parks Congress in Australia). Held every four years, the Conservation Congress brings together several thousand leaders and practitioners to share and harness solutions to global challenges.

TNC Canada has helped build connections between Indigenous leaders living in and stewarding the largest remaining intact coastal temperate rainforest on Earth.



100

**MILLION
ACRES**

bridged across Canada
and the U.S. through
community exchanges

50+

**INDIGENOUS
LEADERS**

have shared
and learned from
each other

160

**COUNTRIES
CONNECTED**

through two global
conferences attended by
Indigenous delegates



DEANNA DUNCAN
Kitasoo/Xai'Xais First Nation
PARTNER

For three years, Deanna Duncan has run the SEAS (Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards) school program in Klemtu, a tiny First Nations community in the Great Bear Rainforest. She works with the culture and language teacher to show students from Kindergarten through grade 12 how to harvest and cook traditional foods, organize field trips to cultural sites, help them learn their traditional language and build connections with elders. "When my father came in to teach the students, he told them that everyone has leadership qualities within them," Deanna recalls. "Through SEAS, I see those qualities coming out like never before." Deanna had her own leadership moment earlier this year when she travelled to Hawaii as part of a TNC Canada-sponsored Indigenous delegation to the World Conservation Congress. "Before I left, my biggest worry was, how do I get over there," says Deanna, who had never travelled outside of B.C. before. She adds, "The gathering opened new avenues; I'm sharing what I learned with our youth, elders and community to be used as a resource for conservation for many years. *Giaxsixa* [thank you]. I am so grateful for this experience."



Clockwise from top: An aerial view of the Ahousaht Nation's village in Clayoquot Sound © Bryan Evans. William Housty of the Heiltsuk Nation collects grizzly-bear DNA off of a barbed-wire snare in the Koeye River, in Great Bear Rainforest © Mark Godfrey. Women from the Haida Nation in Southeast Alaska prepare salmon to be hung in a smokehouse © Erika Nortemann.

3 OUR IMPACT: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Where tundra meets boreal, ancestral lands protected

It is a vision that the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation in the Northwest Territories has been pursuing for more than 50 years: protection for what they call Thaidene Nene, or "Land of the Ancestors." The 6.5-million-acre area sits within the transition zone between Canada's Boreal Forest and Arctic tundra, which makes it an extraordinarily rich habitat for grizzly bears, wolves, birds and fish, and some of the world's last free-ranging herds of barren-ground caribou. The canyons, rivers and waterfalls are also culturally sacred for Lutsel K'e, holding ancient wisdom and providing sustenance in accordance with their traditional practices. In their own words: "It is where the ancestors of the Lutsel K'e Dene laid down the sacred, ethical, and practical foundations of the Denesoline way of life."

Thaidene Nene is also at the core of a region that recently saw the largest mineral staking rush in Canadian history, a threat that led to TNC Canada's partnership with Lutsel K'e to establish a nationally and territorially legislated protected area. TNC Canada developed maps and scientific research of the region's most important and unique natural features, which—merged with data about cultural sites such as graveyards and traditional travel routes—helped determine the park boundaries. We raised \$15 million to establish the Land of the Ancestors Trust, a long-term financing solution that will revitalize traditional stewardship and long-term economic development.

We are on the verge of success, which will result in one of the largest protected areas in Canada and a precedent-setting model for co-management between First Nations, federal and territorial governments.

6.5

**MILLION
ACRES**

will be protected by
federal and territorial
governments

\$15

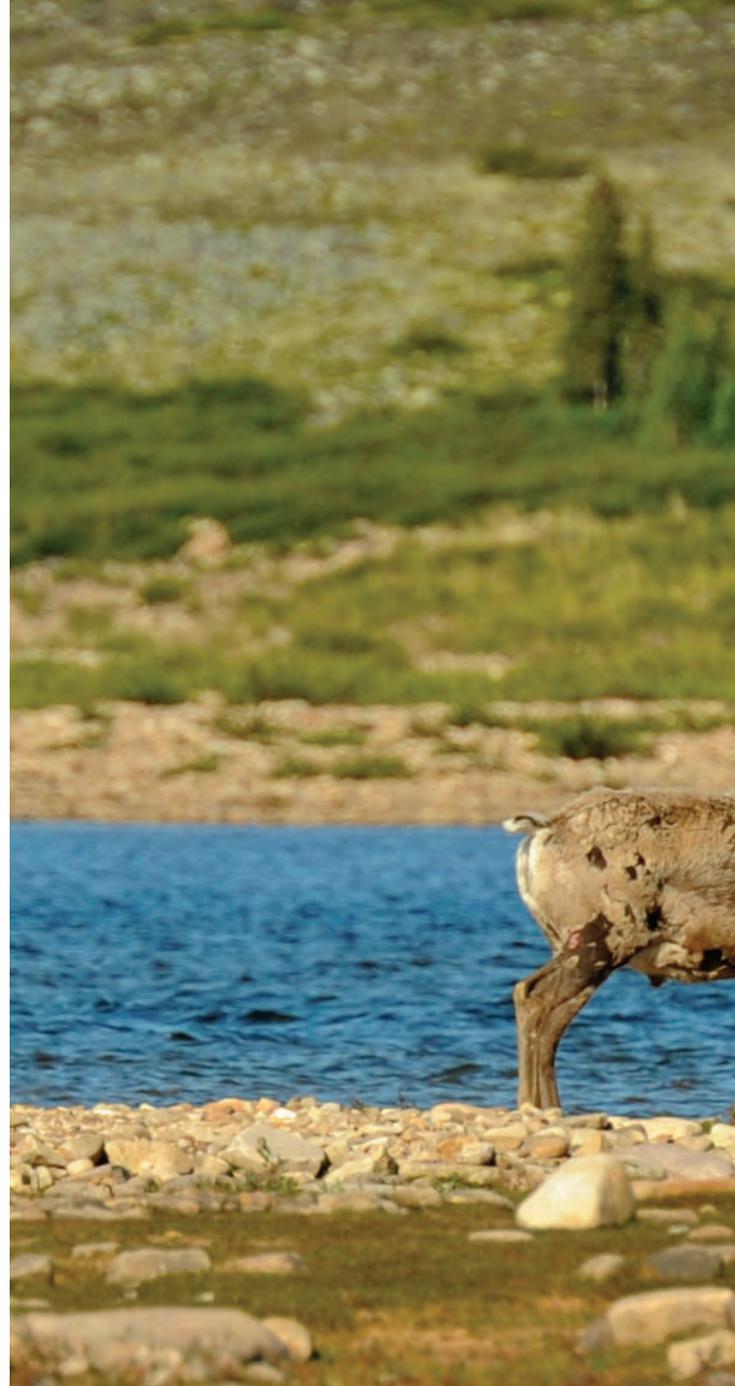
**MILLION
RAISED**

to support
First Nations-led
stewardship

50

**LOCAL
JOBS**

projected to be directly
or indirectly created as a
result of Thaidene Nene





PATRICIA KOVAL
SUPPORTER

Why do you support this work?

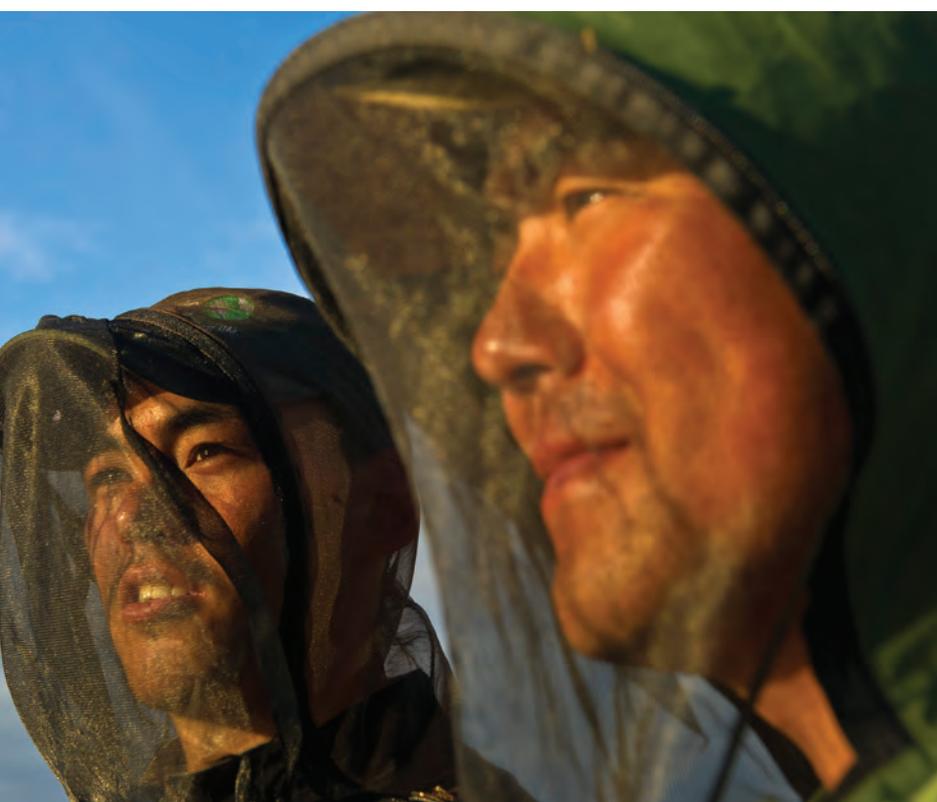
Wildlife and wild places—I've always had those dual passions. But what really attracted me to Thaidene Nene is that I see it as a new model of conservation. TNC Canada is partnering with the Lutsel K'e Dene to protect not only their ecological values but also their cultural values, and TNC has raised millions to endow local co-management. That is powerful. That is new. That is unique among conservation organizations.

What do you like about our approach?

As a business lawyer [partner at Torys LLP], I see tremendous value in TNC Canada's pragmatic and business-like approach. This organization literally invests in conservation. That's why I'm providing pro bono support to help TNC Canada navigate the legalities of permanent protection and the endowment fund.

Why do you think we are effective?

I like TNC Canada's laser focus. You've identified a few critical projects and made a full commitment. Your involvement in the Great Bear Rainforest is a perfect example. TNC brought global science, raised tens of millions for local stewardship, and—this is very important—is still on the ground after 10 years, working with communities so the protection is enduring. And to your credit, you did the work quietly and without fanfare. Very few people know how critical TNC Canada was to success in Great Bear.



Clockwise from top: Thaidene Nene is prime habitat for some of the world's last free-ranging herds of barren-ground caribou. Youth from the Lutsel K'e Dene with TNC staff on an expedition along the Thelon River, ending in North America's largest and most remote wildlife refuge, the Thelon Game Sanctuary, which runs adjacent to Thaidene Nene. All photos © Ami Vitale

4 OUR IMPACT: CLAYOQUOT SOUND

Traditional stewardship revived in a precious place

Emerald valleys, clustered islands and ancient trees—this is Clayoquot Sound, which made international headlines as the site of a historic stand-off against logging called “War in the Woods.” British Columbia’s southern coast is also the traditional territory of three First Nations that see a new future for more than 250,000 acres of old-growth forest still unprotected. Launched with a loan from TNC to Isaak, a First Nation-owned timber company, our partnership will transform timber tenures from industrial relics to valuable assets for a new nature-based economy. At the heart of this effort are the sustainable land-use plans that the Hesquiaht, Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations are developing with support and financing from TNC Canada, which will also create entrepreneurial opportunities for local, conservation-based industries—from protected areas and eco-tourism to potential engagement in the global carbon market.

When complete, this deal will have conserved 250,000 acres—more than double the amount of old growth forests currently protected in Clayoquot Sound. Earlier this year, the Ahousaht First Nation signed a protocol agreement with the provincial government, paving the way for a new relationship that will support their vision for the future. As stewards of this land for generations, the First Nations in Clayoquot Sound are striving to balance economic development with conserving the old growth forests that are an integral part of their cultures. Our work here supports the Nations to do just that: regain control of their natural resource management decisions and turn a sustainable vision for the future into reality.

We made a significant step forward in 2016 when the Ahousaht First Nation ratified a new land-use vision that maps out 150,000 acres of new protected areas.

150

**THOUSAND
ACRES**

of new protected areas
identified in traditional
Ahousaht territory

\$15

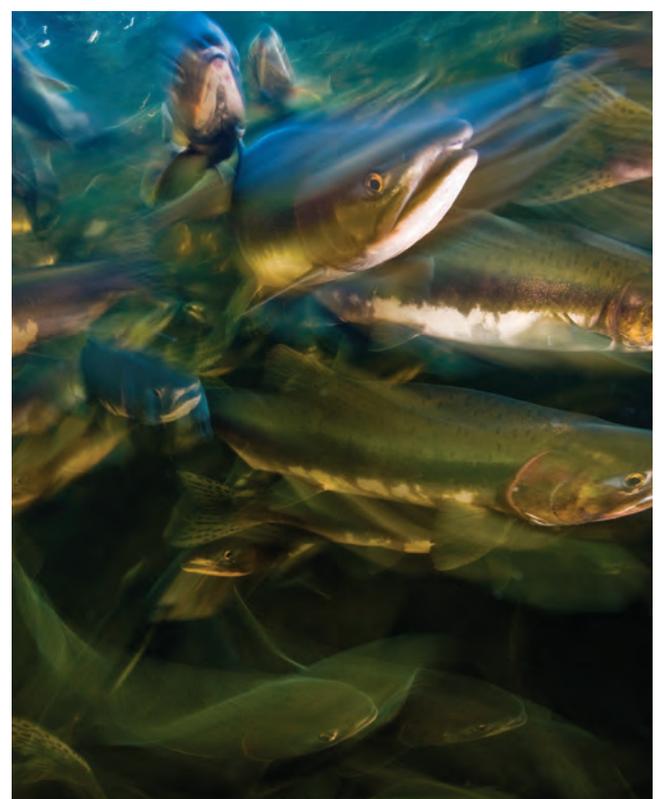
**MILLION
RAISED**

by TNC Canada to endow
First Nations-led steward-
ship and enterprise

2.5

**MILLION
TONNES**

of CO₂ equivalent
will be sequestered as
part of this deal





KEITH ATLEO
Ahousaht Resource Stewardship Guardians
PARTNER

"We started up in May—this is our first year," says Keith Atleo, the manager of the Ahousaht First Nation's Resource Stewardship Guardians. "But the Guardian is a traditional role. We've been taking care of our land and waters for centuries. Now we're starting to revive that." Indigenous Guardians are the "eyes and ears" of their territories, patrolling for illegal activity, gathering scientific data, and enforcing their ecological and cultural values. TNC Canada has supported Guardian programs for five years, which our partners tell us bring health, economic and leadership benefits into communities. The foundation of the Ahousaht's new program is the land-use vision that the Nation ratified this year. "With TNC Canada's support, we have revived the place names in our language, which is important for us," Keith says, "but it is also important for the whales in our ocean, the bears in our forests, and the salmon in our rivers." He adds, "As Coastal Guardians, we monitor our beaches and forests; we do marine patrols; we educate tourists and other visitors to our *Hahoulthee* [traditional Ahousaht territory]. We also work with the federal Department of Fisheries, RCMP, Coast Guard, Parks Canada and Provincial Parks. We clear trees and maintain the trails; we respond when people are in distress. We ensure the safety of our visitors."



Clockwise from top: The Ahousaht Resource Stewardship Guardians leave the dock in Tofino, on Vancouver Island, for their daily patrols © TNC Canada. Dolores Bayne from the Hesquiaht First Nation in Clayoquot Sound holds a rose she made from a cedar she traditionally harvested in her territory © David duChemin. Salmon are a critical part of this ecosystem and a cultural value for First Nations in Clayoquot Sound © Paul Nicklen / National Geographic Creative.

Laying the groundwork for a conservation vision

Canada's Boreal Forest is a place of superlatives—largest intact forest left on Earth, largest terrestrial carbon store, life-giving to all manner of creatures. Unlike most of the world, it still pulses with ecological rhythms that have occurred since glaciers covered the poles more than 10,000 years ago. It still has wild rivers and the continental-scale migration of large animals and fish that have defined this landscape for ages. It is the spring nursery for more than 3 billion migrating birds. And it provides homes and livelihoods for millions of people, including hundreds of Indigenous communities.

Our work here started with a five-year partnership with Tolko Industries, a company that was responsible for a 22 million-acre forest tenure in northwestern Manitoba, the largest in North America. In collaboration with three Canadian environmental groups, TNC Canada embarked on technical research with Tolko to lay the groundwork for conservation, and for stewardship of woodland caribou, an indicator of healthy boreal forests. This work showed that it is possible to conserve millions of acres of wildlife habitat while supporting a sustainable forestry sector.

We intend the technical work to be a first step—meant to support the success of planning processes, including forest management planning, Indigenous-led land-use planning and Manitoba's efforts to develop caribou action plans to meet federal Species at Risk requirements. This year, in Winnipeg, we also convened a workshop of leaders from First Nations, government and industry to look at long-term strategies for rebuilding a sustainable forestry sector that integrates conservation at the right scale.

Conservation of this magnitude in Canada's Boreal Forest would protect a globally important carbon sink, while also supporting prosperity for local communities.

50

**MILLION
ACRES**

of Boreal Forest could be sustainably managed to support local economies

49

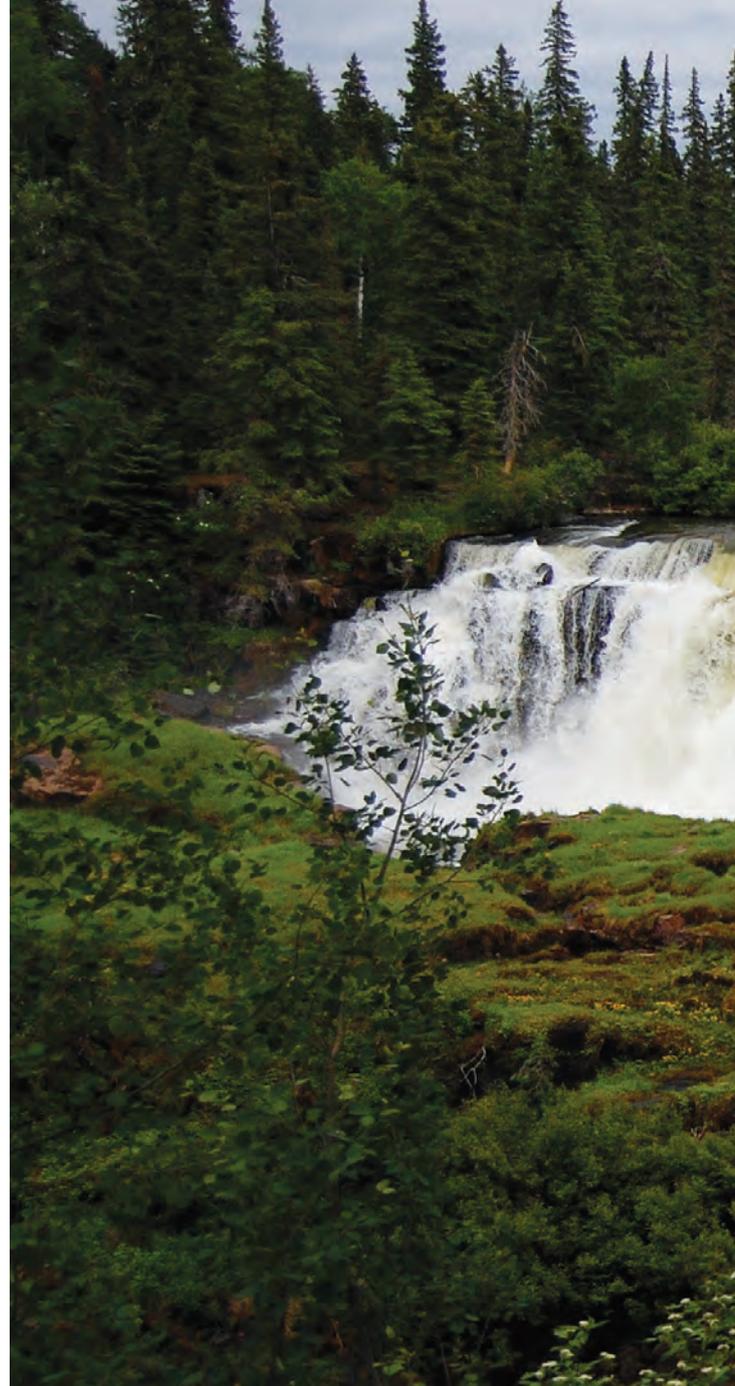
**FIRST
NATIONS**

live in the Boreal region of Manitoba

208

**BILLION
TONNES**

of carbon stored in Canada's Boreal region, in forest and peatlands





AMANDA KARST
Community Outreach Coordinator
STAFF

As Amanda Karst embarked on graduate research in ethnobotany (the study of the relationship between people and plants), she found the perfect intersection: linking her studies back to the valuable plant knowledge of her Métis culture. “I interviewed my Granny and we did a field trip in Lebret, the small community in Saskatchewan where she’s from,” Amanda recalls. “She showed me plants like cattails, the lower shoots of which are edible and the fluff can be used to help heal wounds; and hawthorn, which is a heart medicine. The experience made me really passionate about working with knowledge-holders.” Now at TNC Canada, Amanda is working with First Nations in Manitoba to advance their priorities around sustainable forestry, land-use planning and moose management based on Indigenous teachings. “There are solutions out there that provide economic opportunities, provide more decision-making power to Indigenous people, and align with Indigenous values—and also protect the lands and waters that this all depends on,” she says. “It’s exciting to bring people together to find these solutions.”



Clockwise from top: Manitoba’s Boreal region is a mix of forest, rivers and wetlands © Ronnie Drever. Moose are an ecologically and culturally important species to the Boreal ecosystem and the people who depend on it © Mundy Hackett. Sustainable forestry in Manitoba could protect conservation values while supporting local economies © Dennis Fast

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN CONSERVATION

A very special thank you to our supporters, who help ensure that people and nature continue to thrive across Canada's incredible landscapes.

The following donors made gifts or pledges of \$2,500 or more to support our work from TNC Canada's inception in February 2014 through July 31, 2016.

\$1M +

Anonymous Foundation*
Knobloch Family Foundation*
Jennifer Speers*

Mr. Mike B. Pedersen and
Ms. Martha Pedersen
Estate of Fred Sack*

\$500,000 - \$999,999

3M Foundation*
Anonymous*
Gordon and Betty Moore
Foundation*

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP +
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Gowlings Lafleur Henderson LLP +
John Honderich
Linda Leckman*
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\$250,000 - \$499,999

The Schad Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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The Scott W. & Betsy D. Thornton
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\$50,000 - \$99,999

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Ivey Foundation
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PLANNED GIFTS

Arlin Hackman and Judith Wright

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Impakt

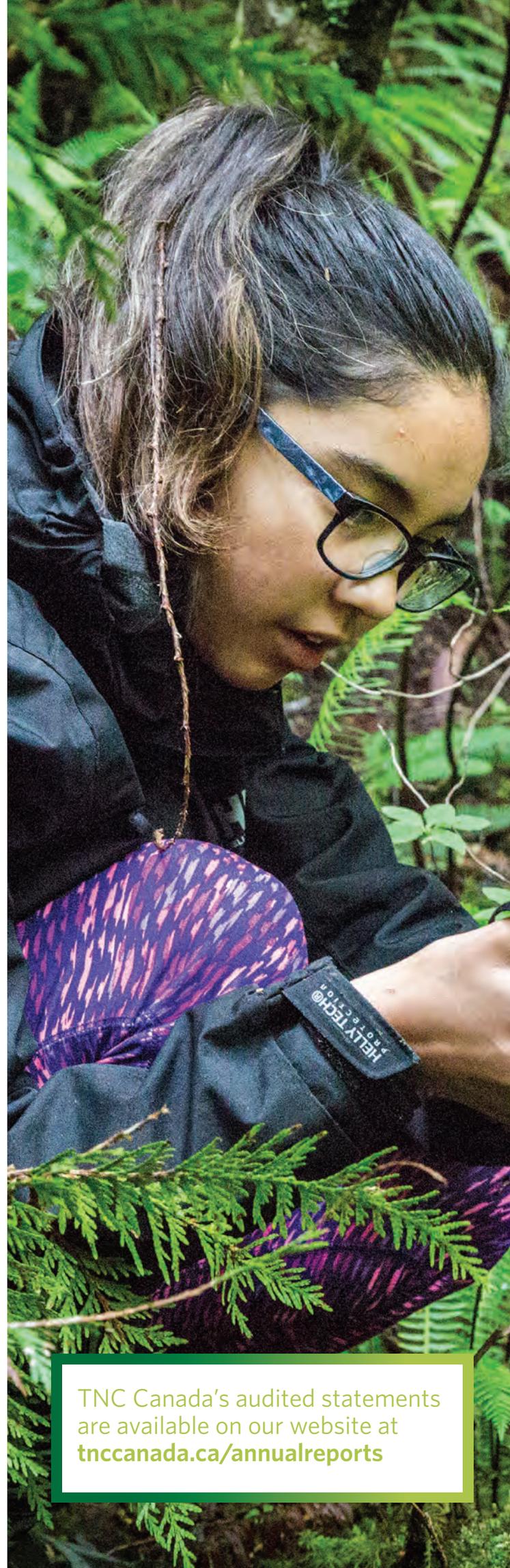
\$25,000 - \$49,999 +

Anonymous*
Mr. Hadley Archer and
Ms. Fiona Stevenson
The McLean Foundation

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
Tides Canada

* Gifts made to The Nature Conservancy in US dollars to support work in Canada
+ In-kind services



TNC Canada's audited statements are available on our website at tnccanada.ca/annualreports



TNC Canada approaches its work with humility and authenticity. I was invited to a TNC Canada workshop in which partners, participants and staff talked through the challenges and potential successes of a project. Having that open and transparent conversation—as a funder, I saw that as a pivotal moment in our relationship and it helped cement our decision to fund.

CAROLYNN BEATY

Granting Director, Sitka Foundation



We're proud to be members of TNC Canada's Founder's Club. As the organization grows, we've decided our support is most valuable without any strings attached. We invite others who care about the things we care about—Canada's forests, working respectfully with First Nations, and being affiliated with an impactful global organization—to join us.

MIKE AND MARTHA PEDERSEN



I live in Utah but I believe we should work across borders to protect nature. Canada is our neighbour and there's a great opportunity to maximize our conservation impact. I've been supporting TNC [the global organization] for almost 40 years. What I've seen is that this organization knows how to talk to people, backs up their work with science, and stays the course.

JENNIFER SPEERS

WE ARE REIMAGINING CONSERVATION

Building on three decades of conservation in Canada, TNC Canada became a registered charity in 2014. We are reimagining conservation by aligning with our nation's values of environment and sustainable development, reconciliation and global cooperation; using innovative approaches; and fostering partnerships to create enduring solutions for nature and people. We are headquartered in Toronto with field staff located across the country. tnccanada.ca



AFFILIATE OF THE

WORLD'S LARGEST CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

69 COUNTRIES
3,700 STAFF
600 SCIENTISTS
1M MEMBERS
1,350 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



Cover photo © Jon McCormack



Earth Rangers is Canada's only environmental group focused on educating children and their families about conservation issues. Our 145,000 members fundraise for endangered species through bake sales, lemonade stands and doing chores—and it is critical that these efforts lead to real change. By partnering with TNC Canada, we are delivering on our promise to Canadian children that they are supporting cost-effective, lasting results for grizzly bears, pine martens and other species.

TOVAH BOROCAS

Director of Development and Communications, Earth Rangers

ON OUR COVER

GRIZZLY BEARS IN THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

For more than a decade, we have supported First Nations-led science and monitoring of grizzly bears, including DNA analysis, population surveys, remote monitoring, salmon tagging, and community exchanges to share best practices and build cross-cultural connections. Grizzly bears are not only vital to the Great Bear Rainforest ecosystem; they are also culturally valuable and are the foundation of a local eco-tourism industry that brings in millions of dollars per year for bear-viewing. **A defining feature of TNC Canada's approach is supporting First Nations leadership and building capacity to strengthen conservation.**