

# OUR IMPACT 2024





# Our Principles

**Our vision is for a sustainable Canada where nature is the foundation of human well-being, prosperity and opportunity for future generations.**

## **Resilient Lands and Waters**

From forest to sea, we work at an unprecedented scale, irrespective of borders and our projects are designed to endure, for the future of people and nature.

## **Indigenous-led Conservation**

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

## **Climate Change**

We advance Natural Climate Solutions in Canada — science-based approaches to protecting, managing and restoring nature to mitigate climate change.

## **Policy and Practice**

We bring together communities, industries and governments to set a new course that supports nature, bolsters economies and respects culture and values.

## **Global Impact**

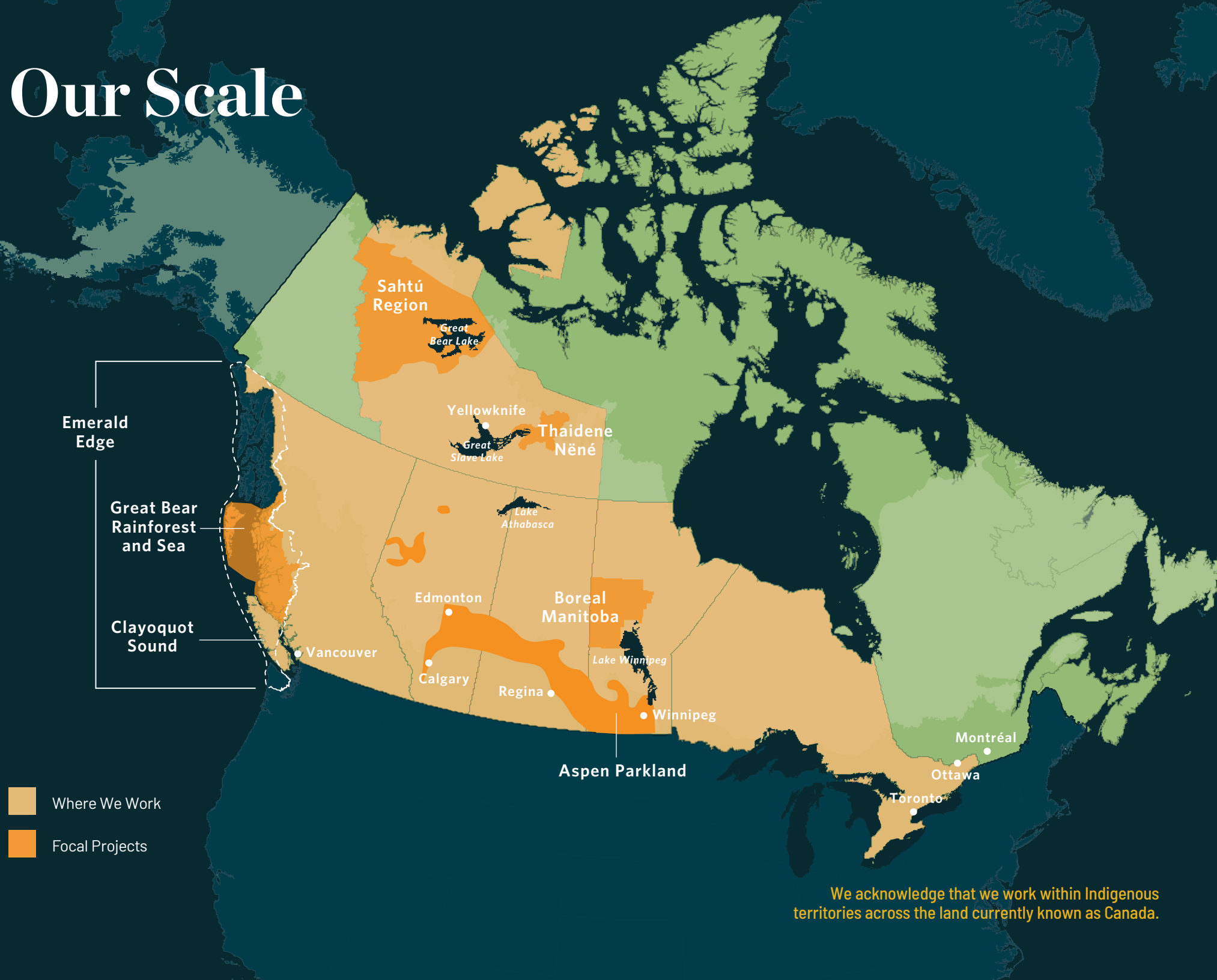
As a program we bring global innovation and investment to Canada and amplify Canadian leadership to tackle world challenges.

On the Cover: Guardians from We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum and K'ómoks Nations conduct surveys on the north end of Vancouver Island as part of their forest management program, which is vital for ensuring the continued health of these coastal ecosystems. © Josh Neufeld

This Page: A Guardian from the K'ómoks First Nation monitors ecological health in the Puntledge River, BC, including important species such as salmon. © Josh Neufeld



# Our Scale



We acknowledge that we work within Indigenous territories across the land currently known as Canada.





# Celebrating Impact

## A DECADE IN THE MAKING

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Sustainable agricultural practices have huge potential to reduce Canada's emissions and benefit rural communities and economies. © Phymart Studios/iStock





# From the Director

This year marks a milestone for Nature United: our 10-year anniversary as a Canadian charity.

While our work in Canada has a much longer history — the first Canadian members joined our global affiliate in 1958, and we were invited to partner with local organizations starting in 2004 — it was 10 years ago that we began to grow roots here. I joined as the first Executive Director in Canada; we opened our first office and welcomed our first Canadian donors, whose vision and trust have nurtured Nature United's past decade of growth.



Reflecting on this milestone, I am struck by three lessons:

**First, we must drive impact at multiple scales.** Over the last 10 years, our team has worked with local partners to drive tangible forest outcomes — such as in northern Manitoba, where last year, we kicked off a five-year research partnership to conduct community-driven moose research to inform monitoring, policy and decision-making (page 15). Our place-based work is vital for moving our mission forward, and it has also taught us lessons about confronting systemic barriers to large-scale conservation.

**Two, conserving nature is not just about wildlife and ecosystems; it also drives economic growth and resilience.** Key sectors in Canada rely on nature, from forestry to agriculture. Our growing research shows that Natural Climate Solutions — conserving nature to reduce emissions — can cut costs, reduce risks and boost profits for these sectors and the rural communities that depend on them. Nature United is building the business case for Natural Climate Solutions, and adding policy expertise to our team is just the start (page 22).

**And three, our approach to working in partnership remains essential in a rapidly changing world.** This year's historic outcome for the Great Bear Sea — which at 10 million hectares is nearly twice the size of Nova Scotia — sets a global standard for marine co-governance between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments (page 7). Nature United supported the governance partners, brought science and technical expertise, and helped raise \$335 million for Indigenous stewardship and economic development. This achievement shows the scale of impact that is possible by working in partnership.

These are powerful lessons for our next decade when Canada and the world must be on a new trajectory towards a net-zero, nature-positive world. Our last 10 years have been fruitful, thanks to your support and partnership. Nature United is ready and equipped to make a greater impact in the coming decade.

Thank you for your continued support in building a future where people and nature are united, and ecosystems, communities and economies thrive.

HADLEY ARCHER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Boreal Forest in Manitoba is at the heart of one of the largest intact forest ecosystems on Earth. Conserving this ecosystem plays a crucial role locally and globally. © Andre Brandt



An underwater photograph of several sea lions swimming in the water. The sea lions are dark-colored with lighter patches on their heads and bodies. They are swimming in a group, with one sea lion in the foreground looking towards the camera. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the background shows the surface of the water with ripples and light reflecting off it.

# New Pathways to Finance and Conservation

“Lines on a map don’t protect  
territories; people on the water do.”

DANI SHAW  
Elected Chief Councillor  
Wuikinuxv First Nation

Sea Lions are a critical keystone species in the Great Bear Sea. : By creating and maintaining healthy ecosystems for them to thrive, they can help regulate and balance the biodiversity of the area. This is why creating new pathways to conserve these critical waters is so important. © Jon McCormack



# New Pathways to Conservation

## Scaling Indigenous-led Solutions in British Columbia

“If we take care of the land and the water, it’ll take care of us,” says Dani Shaw, Chief Councillor for Wuikinuxv First Nation, one of many First Nations that depend on the Great Bear Sea. This region encompasses a vast medley of marine habitats such as dense kelp forests, rich estuaries and large sponge and coral gardens stretching from the northern tip of Vancouver Island up the coast of British Columbia and west to the islands of Haida Gwaii.

The Great Bear Sea’s diverse habitats form one of the most productive cold-water ecosystems in the world, home to whales, halibut, abalone and bears. For tens of thousands of years, First Nations have stewarded these species and habitats with care and balance, sustaining themselves on harvests of herring, crab, eulachon, seaweed and more.

But a legacy of colonial policies that led to overharvesting and mismanagement disrupted this balance, reducing stocks of culturally, socially and economically important fish to all-time lows. Habitat loss, increased shipping traffic and climate change have compounded these impacts.

First Nations along the coast did not sit idly by. They needed a healthy and thriving Great Bear Sea, and they knew the world did too.

On June 25, 2024,<sup>17</sup> First Nations and the governments of Canada and B.C. launched a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) to support



A Guardian from the Tlowitsis First Nation takes measurements of a kelp forest, just one example of the critical role of Guardians in managing the first marine-protected-area network in Canada, in the Great Bear Sea. © Josh Neufeld



# New Pathways to Conservation

long-lasting protection for the Great Bear Sea and sustainable economic development across its communities. The historic initiative secures long-term funding to protect three million hectares and improve the management of 10 million hectares (25 million acres) of marine habitats — an area comparable in size to Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario combined.

Globally, PFPs are powerful tools to protect nature at the scale of entire ecosystems. They create the conditions for long-term success by finalizing multiple agreements in a single-close moment. Notably, this PFP:

- Creates a co-governance agreement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments to develop and implement the world's largest Indigenous-led and co-governed Marine Protected Area Network.
- Brings together \$335 million from the federal government, provincial government and private donors that is projected to create 3,000 local jobs and leverage an additional \$750 million to communities across the region.

The Great Bear Sea is among a global network of PFPs that aims to drive large-scale conservation and community well-being across 600 million hectares (1.5 billion acres) worldwide, through a partnership called Enduring Earth. The Great Bear Sea borders the Great Bear Rainforest, where the world's first PFP was created nearly 20 years ago, with support from TNC.

**Building on the relationships we established through the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements, we were able to show up as a responsive, flexible and long-term partner.** With the ability to respond quickly and creatively to evolving needs, we championed this initiative on the global stage; provided extensive policy, technical, and financial support on the ground; and helped raise the \$335 million for co-management between First Nations and Crown governments and coastal economies.

As impressive as the numbers are on paper, what makes the Great Bear Sea PFP such a significant step towards realizing the visions of First Nation communities is its commitment to follow through on the water. Creating a network of marine protected areas is no small feat. Ensuring that there's money to actively carry out this marine protection is an important first step in stewarding the region's ecosystems and abundant marine life for present and future generations.



Ensuring that Guardians have the resources to monitor ecological changes over time is a critical part of the Great Bear Sea PFP. © Josh Neufeld



**READ**

[Announcing the completion of the Great Bear Sea PFP](#)



**LEARN**

[Enduring Earth is advancing PFPs around the world](#)



**WATCH**

[First Nations and partners celebrate the Great Bear Sea PFP](#)



**SEE**

[Conserving the Great Bear Sea was only possible through the power of partnership](#)



# New Pathways to Conservation



Ecotourism is a sustainable revenue stream that First Nations are developing in Clayoquot Sound, BC, to benefit ecosystems and communities. © John Beatty Photography

## Advancing Old-growth Protection and a Conservation Economy in Clayoquot Sound

In some of the last remaining unprotected old-growth rainforests of Clayoquot Sound, the Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations have worked with the Government of British Columbia to establish new protected areas, including on Meares Island, the site of the historic “War in the Woods” protests against logging that galvanized global attention decades ago. This region, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, is a treasure trove of stunning landscapes and ancient forests that First Nations have stewarded for generations.

For over a decade, we have provided strategic, technical and financial support to First Nations in Clayoquot Sound to support the development of their land-use visions, as well as other initiatives identified by the Nations as important to their cultures, livelihoods and sustainable economic development. In June 2024, this long-term partnership led to the conservation of approximately 76,000 hectares (188,000 acres) and laid the foundation for a sustainable economy that will benefit the First Nations and the local communities.

To realize this milestone, we raised \$40 million, which included compensation for the forestry-tenure rights holder as well as two endowment funds that will support the Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht Nations in managing the new conservancies and catalyzing the transition to a conservation economy. This sustainable financing will be used by the Nations to expand Guardian programs, resource-management planning, ecological restoration and more. A portion of the funds will support Indigenous-led sustainable economic development, such as ecotourism. Conservation financing is an important part of this transformation. With access to diversified funding options, First Nations can focus on fulfilling their visions of stewarding their lands and waters and supporting their communities for many generations to come.

## 76,000

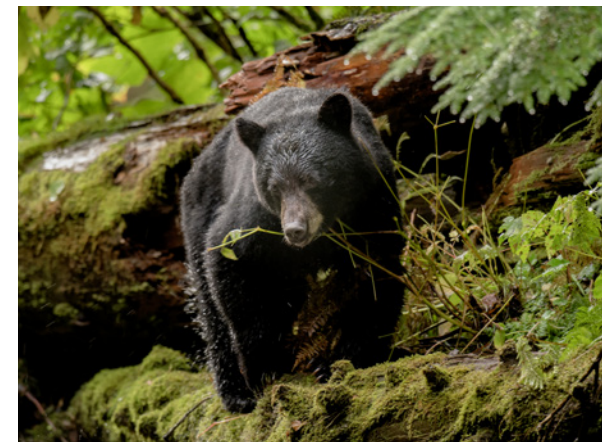
hectares of new protection

## 297

species of flora and fauna

## \$40 million

raised by Canada Program



A new vision for Clayoquot Sound supports the connection between forest and ocean, which is vital for wildlife, such as black bears, and communities. © Jon McCormack



# Uniting Knowledge Systems

“When we talk about Níó Nę P’ęnę, we’re talking about historic, sacred places. Those kinds of areas, according to the Elders, are meant to be, to hold things together for us.”

LEON ANDREW  
RESEARCH DIRECTOR  
SAHTÚ RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

Níó Nę P’ęnę is a vast region in the Northwest Territories that spans more than 7.9 million hectares, where Elders have observed declining wildlife, melting permafrost, and increased human disturbance. © Tracey Williams /Nature United



# Uniting Knowledge Systems


## Breakthrough Science in the Northwest Territories

Leon Andrew is Shúhtaot'Iné, born and raised in Tulí'ta, Northwest Territories (NWT). Shúhtaot'Iné are the people of the mountains and call the ridges and peaks that straddle the colonial border between the NWT and the Yukon 'Nío Nę P'ęné.' Leon knows this landscape intimately. "I haven't walked all of it," he says, "but most of it I did."

Nío Nę P'ęné holds immense importance. It has long been a gathering place for Nations and a source of traditional knowledge and practices. It provides critical habitats for various wildlife species, including mountain caribou, which migrate through the area.

Nío Nę P'ęné, a vast region that spans over 7.9 million hectares (19.5 million acres), is changing. In recent decades, Elders such as Leon have observed declining wildlife, melting permafrost, increased wildfire activity and human disturbance.

Leon is also concerned about the water. "The Elders talk about Nío Nę P'ęné as the place where the water is born," he says. It is the headwaters of many



This region is important for species and people — it contains the headwaters of mountain rivers that flow into the Dehcho (Mackenzie River), the longest river in Canada, and is habitat for mountain caribou.  
© Tracey Williams/Nature United



# Uniting Knowledge Systems



The Níó Nę P'ęńę (NNP) Working Group gathering brought together representatives and Guardians from the larger Níó Nę P'ęńę Hub, along with partners from Tuli'ta, Norman Wells, and Tu Łidlini (Ross River) Dena. © Tracey Williams/Nature United



The NWT is home to almost **30,000** different species, including caribou, arctic foxes, grizzly bears and musk oxen.

mountain rivers that flow into the Dehcho (Mackenzie River) — the longest river in Canada. This means that contamination can have a much wider impact on ecosystems across the region.

It was concerns about changes that brought Shúhtaot'Inę, Métis and Tu Łidlini Dena together at Dechenla/Dech'ıłq more than a decade ago to discuss the future of Níó Nę P'ęńę and mountain caribou. Over the years, Leon, the Research Director for the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) — with strategic support from our team — has led a diverse partnership of Nations, Indigenous Guardians, researchers, outfitters, government agencies, non-profits and community youth, to develop a collaborative plan for caribou and landscape monitoring and protection. The ultimate goal is to improve the co-management of Níó Nę P'ęńę,

strengthen Indigenous stewardship and monitoring of mountain caribou herds, and keep the Dene kədə/ K'e (language), Dene ts'ıł/Dene K'e (ways of life) and Dene Ɂe'a/a' nīzīn (law/respect) strong.

In 2021, the Níó Nę P'ęńę Working Group, with technical support from our Canadian affiliate and Braiding Knowledges Canada, launched the Níó Nę P'ęńę ArcGIS Hub. Guided by Indigenous values and priorities, the Hub was created to help provide Sahtú communities and their partners access to spatial data and important information about lands, waters and caribou across the region.

**This year, we supported the completion of the Hub design and infrastructure on the ArcGIS online platform.** The Hub combines traditional knowledge with today's ArcGIS technology. It allows

communities to share information about things like hunting areas, sacred sites, ice thickness and other important observations. The Hub can also help communities "keep track" of their knowledge, making sure this wisdom is integrated into broader land-use decisions.

Mountain Dene/Dena and Métis communities know that the key to understanding this landscape is understanding the caribou — as one does not exist without the other. Together, the Hub and ongoing caribou research efforts are generating a body of evidence to ensure that Indigenous communities are not just consulted but actively leading the way in how their lands and waters are cared for. Níó Nę P'ęńę is about more than protecting the land — it is about ensuring that Sahtú communities have the tools and authority to lead for generations to come.



# Uniting Knowledge Systems



New tools developed in partnership with communities will make it easier to access information about ecological health in this northern region. © Tracey Williams /Nature United

## Nio Nę P'ęnę ArcGIS Hub

The Hub emerged as a critical tool to support the wildlife management goals of Sahtú communities across Nio Nę P'ęnę. This living resource abides by the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty, as understood in Canada as the fundamental right of Indigenous Peoples to control and interpret data about their communities, lands and cultures.

Co-developed by the Nio Nę P'ęnę Working Group and the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, the Nio Nę P'ęnę ArcGIS Hub makes it easy to access maps, reports and other important information about the land and water. It collects information like map-based visualizations of Nio Nę P'ęnę geographies, photos and audio and video recordings of local knowledge holders. We provided technical and financial support to develop the Hub, which is now being shared with partners and communities to encourage contributions and new data from both sides of the colonial border.

Land and water management works best when everyone has a seat at the table. The Hub provides tools for collaboration, so Sahtú communities can actively participate in planning conversations alongside government agencies, co-management peers from other regions, researchers and non-profits. Through interactive maps, everyone can see how different actions might affect the land and water — helping leaders make decisions in a way that reflects community priorities and minimizes disturbances to caribou, habitat and water.



### READ

[For the full Nio Nę P'ęnę story, click here](#)



### LEARN

[Find out more about the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board](#)



### EXPLORE

[We released new innovative carbon map](#)



### LEARN

[Conservation planning in the Sahtú region is prioritizing Indigenous knowledge](#)





# Collaborating with Indigenous Partners

“The goal of our work in the lands department of Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation is to work towards and secure a better future for our people who will come after we are gone, for many generations.”

MERICK YOUNG  
LANDS MANAGER  
WUSKWI SIPIHK FIRST NATION

Arial view of one of Boreal Manitoba's wetlands, a result of the last ice-age, covering more than 22 million hectares. Wetlands are a vital resource providing many benefits to the region. © Andre Brandt



# Collaborating with Indigenous Partners

## Rooted Relationships at the Heart of the Boreal

In the height of summer, representatives from three Manitoba First Nations boarded a coach bus that drove 14 hours, from Winnipeg to Chapleau, Ontario, where the boreal landscape — forests dotted with black spruce, jack pine, and numerous lakes — was strikingly familiar. The group was joined by Amanda Karst, Manitoba Program Director, to attend an important kick-off event hosted by Wahkohtowin, a social enterprise comprised of community members from three First Nations in the region (Chapleau Cree First Nation, Missanabie Cree First Nation and Brunswick House First Nation).

The intention of the gathering was collaboration on a five-year project focused on conducting community-led moose research in a good way — in person, on the land and grounded in ceremony. It focused on building relationships among project participants, including First Nations, academics and our Manitoba-based team. Working on and being inspired by Wahkotowin's annual construction of a birchbark canoe, the group used the time to share knowledge, explain their unique contexts, and identify common values and priorities. Bringing together First Nations from Manitoba and Ontario, the goal of this collaborative project is to build Indigenous-led moose monitoring and research programs that weave both Indigenous and Western knowledge systems together to better understand moose populations at local and regional scales and inform decision-making related to land-use planning, wildlife monitoring, research priorities, policy and management strategies. This type of on-the-ground networking builds tangible, lasting relationships and denotes our core value of working in right relations.



Working together to build a birchbark canoe is an important part of the Wahkohtowin annual gathering, which inspires collaboration across First Nations and other partners. © Amanda Karst /Nature United



# Collaborating with Indigenous Partners



This year's Wahkohowin gathering launched community-led research on moose, a cultural keystone species in Boreal Manitoba. © Packy Savvenas/TNC Photo Contest 2019

The gathering is connected to the work that First Nations in Boreal Manitoba have been advancing to protect moose, including a first-of-its-kind management agreement signed between the Province of Manitoba and three First Nations (Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation along with Minegoziibe Anishinaabe and Sapotaweyak Cree Nation) in Forest Management License Area #3. This agreement demonstrated a new approach to ensure decisions regarding the future of the forest and forest habitat are reflective of the Treaty relationship, joint decision-making, the protection of the exercise of Treaty rights, stewardship of the lands and a fair sharing of resources.

We have supported the leadership of the Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation as they determine how best to protect and manage their lands, through initiatives such as the moose research collaborative, their new forestry management agreement, their forest carbon offsets project and their efforts to protect critical areas in their territory. Built on strong, deeply rooted relationships, we were able to support several community-led projects that intersect with our conservation priorities.

**This year, we supported a range of Indigenous-led initiatives across Boreal Manitoba, including creating land-use visions, establishing stewardship and monitoring programs such as Indigenous Guardians, promoting Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) and conserving habitats for cultural keystone species.** Our approach in the region is rooted in trust, respect, shared values, adaptability and long-term investment, which are crucial for sustainable results for nature and people.

Momentum is building in the heart of the Boreal. We are excited to work locally and regionally with Indigenous Nations leading new initiatives that balance protection and sustainable management. Together, we have an opportunity to build resilience and support transformative change in how lands and waters are managed, benefitting nature and people.



# Collaborating with Indigenous Partners

## Work in Action | Boreal Manitoba

Photo 1: Building relationships and finding solutions across a diversity of interests is essential to advance shared priorities for people and nature. This year, our team engaged with provincial departments and convened conversations with partners to explore sustainable funding solutions for Indigenous-led conservation in Boreal Manitoba.

Photo 2: Thriving habitats and biodiversity depend on knowledgeable and resilient Indigenous Guardians who manage and monitor lands and waters in their territories. This year, our team supported Guardian programs in the region to advance conservation priorities.

Photo 3: Community-led planning is foundational for Indigenous Nations asserting their visions and goals for their territories and creating shared governance structures. This year, our team assisted three Indigenous Nations in advancing community-led planning efforts and hosted an in-person gathering with leads from four IPCAs to connect with each other and support their IPCA establishment efforts.



1 | Merick and Ben Young from WSFN with Marshall Birch from Nature United. © Pamela Vernaus/Nature United



2 | MCN Indigenous Guardians © MCN Lands Department



3 | © Pamela Vernaus/Nature United



An aerial photograph showing a dense forest of evergreen trees on a shoreline. The forest is dark green and occupies the lower-left portion of the frame. To the right of the forest is a rocky shoreline with many small, light-colored stones. Beyond the shore is a body of water with a vibrant turquoise or teal color. The water's surface is slightly rippled, and some rocks are visible beneath the surface near the shore.

# Celebrating a Decade of Impact

Our work over the last 10 years has ranged from place-based — including in Boreal Manitoba — to supporting national and global initiatives that advance outcomes for nature and people. © Andre Brandt



# Celebrating a Decade of Impact

## Reflecting on 10 moments from the last 10 years.

Nature United, our Canadian affiliate, became a Canadian registered charity 10 years ago, building on decades of work in Canada led by TNC. We have a lot to celebrate, with gratitude to partners along the way whose leadership and commitment made these conservation successes possible. We also reflect on this: The map for where we are going is drawn from where we have been. Our last 10 years have offered lessons that we will take forward, adapt and scale. Together, we will continue to grow the depth and breadth of our impact and deliver globally significant conservation wins for people and nature.

2014

### Rooting Our Organization

Building on decades of work in Canada, Nature United became a registered charity in Canada.

2016

### Advancing a Historic Agreement

We celebrated the completion of this historic agreement that protected and sustainably managed 7.5 million hectares of forests and increased First Nation management authority across the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii. This decade-long collaborative effort resulted in the world's first Project for Finance Permanence (PFP), creating the \$120 million Coast Funds (with \$39 million raised by TNC) — divided evenly between an endowment to support conservation activities and a fund to drive sustainable economic development.



© Josh Neufeld



[See How This Work Has Grown](#)



# Celebrating a Decade of Impact

2017

## Connecting Youth to Their Lands and Waters

In July 2017, we reported on the positive impact that Indigenous-led on-the-land/water programs have on Indigenous youth and their communities, building on our support of Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards (SEAS) programs. Key findings from this evaluation were adapted and shared with communities across Canada interested in starting or expanding programs that connect youth with their territories.

 [See How This Work Has Grown](#)

2019

## World-Leading Protection in Canada's North

In August 2019, we played a central role in advancing an agreement for the co-governance of Thaidene Nënë by the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation, Parks Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. To steward the 2.6 million hectare protected area, Łutsël K'é Dene announced the Thaidene Nënë Trust, which was catalyzed by \$15 million raised by TNC and matched by Parks Canada. The \$30 million endowment helped ensure Łutsël K'é always has the financial capacity to manage their vast territory.



© Pat Kane

2020

## The Power of Indigenous Guardians

In May 2020, amid a global pandemic, and at the request of partners, we created the Indigenous Guardians Technical Support Team to provide virtual and strategic support to Nations establishing or strengthening Guardian programs for their territories. This resulted in new on-the-ground stewardship efforts, increased wildlife and water monitoring, and regional collaboration in key geographies like British Columbia, Boreal Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.



© Josh Neufeld

 [See How This Work Has Grown](#)



# Celebrating a Decade of Impact

## 2021

### Nature's Toolbox for Climate Change

In June 2021, new science on the value of Natural Climate Solutions gave decision-makers reliable data and realistic expectations for advancing policy and investments to combat climate change. Published by *Science Advances*, research led by Nature United with 16 other institutions showed that Natural Climate Solutions can reduce Canada's emissions by up to 78 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually in 2030 — equal to emissions from powering every single home in Canada for about three years.



© Andre Brandt



[See How This Work Has Grown](#)

## 2022

### Growing Sustainable Agriculture

In May 2022, we launched an integrated agriculture strategy that leveraged science, relationships and policy expertise to advance the widespread adoption of Natural Climate Solutions by strengthening nature-positive commitments for industry and governments, advancing a pipeline of sustainable agriculture pilots, and expanding the science, data and tools available to farmers, Indigenous governments and other land managers.



© Nature United



[See How This Work Has Grown](#)

## 2022

### Our Global Impact

In December 2022, at the UN Biodiversity Conference in Montréal, we broadened awareness and influenced policy at the national and global levels. These efforts supported the announcement of an \$800 million federal investment in large-scale, Indigenous-led conservation projects and bolstered Canada's commitments to the Global Biodiversity Framework.



# Celebrating a Decade of Impact

2023

## Marine Vision Co-Developed by Indigenous Peoples

In February 2023, leaders unveiled a blueprint for a network of marine protected areas to safeguard the Great Bear Sea's abundant marine life and globally significant ecosystems. We supported this First Nation-led effort by providing on-the-ground expertise, publishing research on marine monitoring best practices and working regionally to catalyze sustainable funding and a strong foundation for co-governance.

2023

## Our Commitment to Indigenous Right Relations

In June 2023, we charted a pathway to better work in right relations with Indigenous Peoples and institutionalize our commitment to being a respectful partner.

Reflecting on over a decade of work in Canada, the Indigenous Right Relations Strategy and Action Plan outlined key learnings, areas for growth and priorities to elevate in our next strategic plan.

## A Critical Window of Opportunity to Advance Policy Solutions

Policy is a powerful lever for change. Over the last decade, we have formed, influenced and advocated for sustainable policies and practices with government and corporate leaders. Our solutions-focused approach is grounded in science, collaboration and respect for culture and values. We also seek to support the priorities of Indigenous partners and amplify the work of Indigenous Nations and organizations as they influence policy spaces.

As the opportunity for impact has grown, so has our team. This past year, we have added new provincial roles in British Columbia and Manitoba that will advance our top policy priorities, focused on supporting Indigenous leadership and accelerating the uptake of Natural Climate Solutions.

Building on 10 years as a Canadian charity and a long track record of conservation and climate wins, we are finding new opportunities to leverage our experience and expertise to advance impact at the local, regional and national levels.

**"I'm proud to be part of a team deeply rooted in support for Indigenous leadership and am excited to be engaging in meaningful policy work that enables creative climate solutions and community-driven conservation outcomes."**

JESSIE COREY, POLICY ADVISOR, BC





# Enduring Support for Conservation

Our growth as an organization over the last 10 years and beyond could not have happened without the unwavering support of donors like you. We are profoundly grateful to our supporters, whose inspiring leadership and dedication have reimagined conservation across the country.

As we look to the future, we are inspired by the possibilities that lie ahead. Because of people like you, we can build on our successes and tackle new challenges, ensuring that Canada's natural landscapes remain vibrant and resilient for generations to come.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the extraordinary donors who have made transformative gifts to our mission in the last decade, including the [Bezos Earth Fund](#), the [BHP Foundation](#), the [McCall MacBain Foundation](#) and the [Wyss Foundation](#). We also appreciate Procter & Gamble's recent commitment to the Canada Program's efforts to improve forestry practices in British Columbia in partnership with First Nations.

Thank you to the many partners and supporters who contributed to the recent milestones in the Great Bear Sea and Clayoquot Sound. Please join us in celebrating the philanthropic partners of the [Great Bear Sea Project for Finance Permanence](#) and the many donors whose [critical support helped advance the vision for Clayoquot Sound](#).





# Your Generosity Means the World to Us

Thank you for your support of conservation as we strive for a better, more sustainable world. This has been a milestone year for our organization as we have taken great strides toward our mission, growing in numbers, partnerships, revenue and impact. Today, we look back in gratitude towards all we have accomplished together and forward in optimism towards all that we could yet achieve.

Thank you for being a part of this moment and creating a future where people and nature thrive.

## Our special thanks go to the supporters listed below who made outright gifts or pledges to support our work in fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024).

### **\$5,000,000+**

Procter & Gamble\*

### **\$1,000,000+**

Anonymous  
Anonymous\*  
BC Parks Foundation  
Echo Foundation / Fondation Écho  
McCall MacBain Foundation  
Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation  
Walmart Foundation\*

### **\$500,000 - \$999,999**

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation\*  
Peter Gilgan Foundation  
The Rose Family Foundation\*

### **\$100,000 - \$499,999**

Anonymous  
Anonymous\*  
Barbara P. Barna\*  
Debra Ann Cervenka\*  
Enterprise Mobility Foundation\*  
MakeWay Foundation - BC  
Community-Based Marine Conservation Fund  
Marc and Sally Onetto\*

### **\$10,000 - \$99,999**

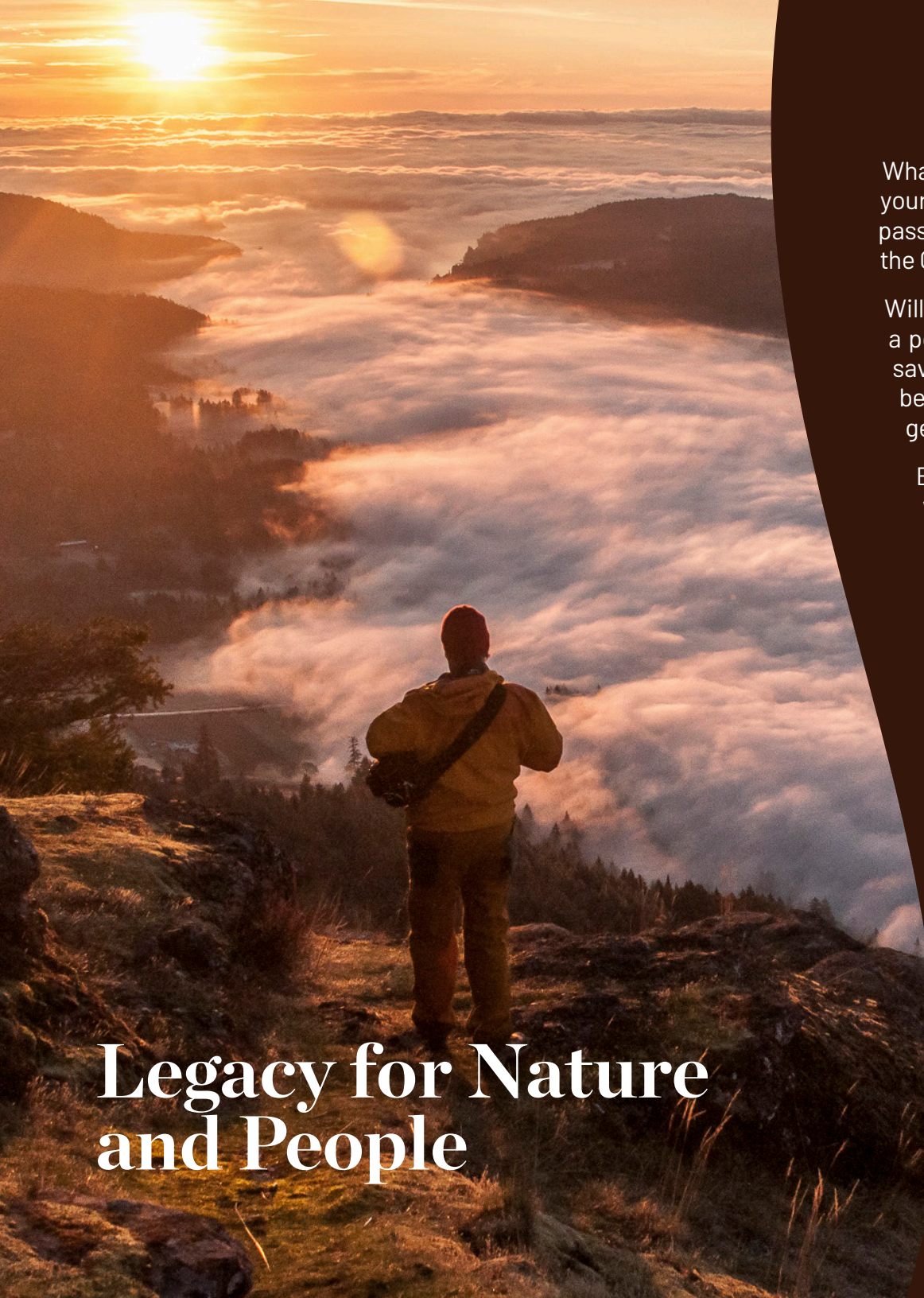
Adelberger Family Fund\*  
Anonymous\* (2)  
Teresa Beck and Greg Reiche\*  
Lisa and Trey Calfee\*  
Donner Canadian Foundation  
James A. and Anne M. Dulfer\*  
Mr. Robert A. Kreiss and  
Mrs. Linda M. Kreiss  
Linda J. Leckman, MD\*  
Jeff C. Meredith\*  
Mitsubishi Corporation\*  
Nixon Charitable Foundation  
Sitka Foundation  
Small Change Fund  
Marta K. Stone\*  
Sun Life of Canada  
The Printing House (TPH)  
Carol and Steven Teutsch\*

### **\$1,000 - \$9,999**

Alan and Patricia Koval Foundation  
Anonymous  
Dr. Pamela Baker\*  
George and Linda Bauer\*  
CJ Foundation  
Alexandra Conliffe  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Curry\*  
The Dickhout Family Foundation  
Dream Office Management Corp  
Arlin Hackman and Judith Wright  
iA Financial Group  
Katherine MacMillan  
Dr. Robert M. Naum and  
Mrs. Carla J. Naum\*  
Kenan Ogelman\*  
Our Lady's Missionaries  
Joseph E. Patchett  
RBC Employee Giving  
Richard Ruman  
Sagard Holdings  
L. C. Schreiner  
Ms. Sue A. Stack\*  
Tom and Priscilla Terry\*  
Treeworld  
Alison Urquhart  
Michael and Diane Van Aanhout  
Wendy Waterman

\* Gifts made to The Nature Conservancy to support work in Canada





Whatever your stage in life, planned giving can benefit you and your loved ones while making a big difference for nature. Turn your passion for the natural world into an enduring legacy by including the Canada Program in your will or estate plan.

Wills aren't just a legal way to distribute your assets; they can be a powerful tool for change in the world. You may also be able to save on taxes, receive income for life or enjoy other financial benefits – all while protecting the lands and waters you love for generations to come.

By joining our Legacy Club, you can support a future for Canada where people and nature thrive.

### **Tell us about your legacy**

#### **Legacy Club**

The Legacy Club is our way of recognizing those supporters who have chosen to make a gift in their will or estate plan. We are so grateful for your commitment to supporting nature for generations to come.

Estate of Robert Townsend\*  
Estate of Fred Sack\*  
Estate of M.J. Rutherford\*  
Anonymous (7)\*  
Anonymous  
Marlow Brooks\*  
L. Robin Cardozo  
Sue Currie and Ted Miller \*  
Elizabeth Ebbinghouse \*  
Laurie E. Eytel\*  
Alana Ferraro and  
Michael Jones

Richard Gordon\*  
Arlin Hackman and Judith  
Wright  
Gisela R. Hobman\*  
Sydney and Shirley Jones  
Karla Massey\*  
Wendy Miller\*  
Christina Urban Ramsey\*  
Mary Ann Redeker \*  
Susan A. Smith\*  
Jamie L. Stanley\*

*\*Gifts made to The Nature Conservancy to support work in Canada*

# Legacy for Nature and People





## From the Chair

At the heart of conservation is the connection between nature and people. I was profoundly moved by that connection during a trip to the Great Bear Rainforest this past fall. We witnessed a grizzly mother nurturing her cubs, salmon swarming in estuaries at high tide and humpback whales breaching alongside our boat. We stood in the Big House of the Kitasoo Xa'ixais First Nation, learned about natural and cultural history from local guides, and deeply conversed with First Nations leaders about marine protection and economic development.

Our organizational investments reflect that connection, and this year, we were proud to share in the celebration of the Great Bear Sea Project Finance for Permanence, which establishes co-governance and \$335 million in financing for Indigenous-led conservation across nearly two-thirds of the British Columbia coast. (Read more on page 6.) The opportunity to celebrate and experience this place and its people made my first year as Board Chair memorable and fulfilling.

Celebrating Nature United's 10th anniversary as a Canadian charity, a time of growth and momentum, was also memorable. Our Board joined in honouring Hadley Archer, whose steady leadership over the last decade has shaped our conservation success and ambition for the future.

Our Board also thanked Debbie Cervenka and Florence Eastwood for bringing their leadership, wisdom and passion to our mission. Looking forward, we welcome Hari Balasubramanian and David Rawlings, who bring new insights — Hari from his background in sustainability and due diligence and David from his background in finance and corporate philanthropy.

Over the next decade, we will be more ambitious in countering climate change and biodiversity loss. As we seek to influence systems-level change, we will continue to hold the connection between nature and people at the heart of conservation.

CAROLINE CATHCART  
BOARD CHAIR  
NATURE UNITED  
RP INVESTMENT ADVISORS LP

Maintaining the health of the Great Bear Rainforest is essential for the survival of the spirit bears (Kermode bears) and the broader ecosystem and habitat © Caroline Cathcart

"As our team has expanded to meet our ambition, our results have demonstrated scalable impact, global resonance and deepening trust from new and loyal donors alike."





# Board of Directors



**Caroline Cathcart**  
**CHAIR**  
Consultant,  
Independent Director



**Michael van Aanhout**  
**VICE-CHAIR**  
Chairman at Stratos Inc.



**Alexandra Conliffe**  
President & CEO,  
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**Aliya Jasmine Sovani**  
Reporter &  
Television Producer



**Brittane Laverdure**  
RBC Origins Director of the  
Truth and Reconciliation Office



**Catherine MacQuarrie**  
Manager, Rebuilding First  
Nations Governance at  
Carleton University



**Cathy Rustermier**  
Human Relations Manager,  
J.A. Woollam Company and  
Board Member,  
J.A. Woollam Foundation



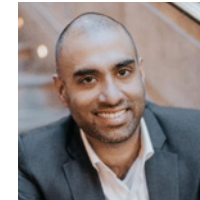
**David Rawlings**  
CEO, Canada -  
JPMorgan Chase



**Debra A. Cervenka**  
Retired, former Executive  
Vice President, Phillips Plastics  
Corporation



**Florence Eastwood**  
Former Vice Chair  
Board Member, Lake Winnipeg  
Foundation and former  
educator



**Hari Balasubramanian**  
Managing Partner,  
EcoAdvisors



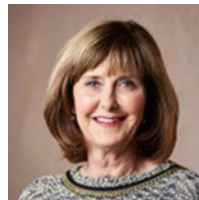
**Katherine MacMillan**  
President and CEO,  
Fundserv



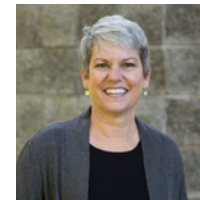
**Qáńístisla  
(Michael Vegh)**  
Hailcistut Implementation Manager,  
Haítzavq (Heiltsuk) Nation



**Sasha Jacob**  
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Jacob Capital  
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**Susan Millican**  
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**Toni Hardesty**  
Western & Canada Division Director,  
The Nature Conservancy (Global)



**LEARN**

[Meet Nature United's  
Board of Directors](#)



# The Nature Conservancy brings Canadian leadership and opportunities to our global mission.

Building on six decades of conservation in Canada, we are working towards a Canada where people and nature are united, and ecosystems, communities and economies are thriving.

Our organization builds partnerships with Indigenous and local communities, governments, industries and other groups to define new pathways towards a sustainable future; to advance reconciliation; and to conserve nature, the foundation of all life on Earth. As one of the most effective and wide-reaching environmental organizations in the world, we bring the best global science, innovation and resources to Canada.

**3,000**  
STAFF

**400+**  
SCIENTISTS

**80+**  
COUNTRIES

**125M+**  
ACRES OF LAND  
PROTECTED



[Nature.org/canada](https://www.nature.org/canada)

The Aspen Parkland is an important agricultural region that spans Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. © Andre Brandt