

# 2016 Impact Report



As a biosphere region and community foundation, the **Clayoquot Biosphere Trust** is focused on the vitality of our communities and our ecosystems. The CBT table is one of the few places where our communities come together to “think like a region.” Our grants, programs, and regional initiatives help to achieve our vision, from Hesquiaht to Yuu-cluth-aht.

## Our Vision

The communities of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region will live sustainably in a healthy ecosystem, with a diversified economy, and strong, vibrant, and united cultures while embracing the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations living philosophies of *iisaak* (living respectfully), *qwa' aak qin teech-mis* (life in the balance), and *hishuk ish ts'awalk* (everything is one and interconnected).

On behalf of the CBT Board of Directors, we are pleased to share highlights from the past year.

Cathy Thicke and Tammy Dorward  
CBT Co-chairs

## Our Biosphere Region

### Biosphere Research Award

The CBT is pleased to announce the Association of Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds, as the recipient of the 2016 Biosphere Research Award for its study on the conservation of amphibian migration. Local amphibians migrate great distances from breeding wetlands into forest habitats along a route that requires crossing a busy road. Dr. Barb Beasley, the principal investigator for the project, has been studying ways to reduce amphibian traffic mortalities for over 15 years. With this award, Dr. Beasley has the opportunity to analyse years of data on the impact of roadway fencing and culvert structures designed to allow amphibians to migrate safely.

### Biosphere Centre

The CBT is working to establish a permanent Biosphere Centre. The building will be more than an office location for the CBT — it will be a place of sharing and learning in and for the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region. In 2016, the CBT completed a business case for the future centre and we are now in search of a “forever home” from which we can deliver our programs.

### Sydney Inlet Remote Listening Station

Our soundscape ecology project continues to expand with exciting new discoveries. Thanks to our team of volunteer sound ecology enthusiasts, Dr. Jim Darling, Adrian Dorst, Jessica Edwards, Sander Jain, Victoria Leader, and Benj Youngson, over the last year we've collected more than 2000 sound recordings from the Sydney River estuary using a bioacoustic recorder with a microphone and hydrophone. The purpose of our project is to learn more about the seasonal changes in the sound patterns of a remote watershed ecosystem.

In an effort to collectively identify species using acoustic indicators, we hosted four listening workshops and indexed over 300 hours of sound patterns. While we're still analysing the data, we've made several unexpected discoveries. For example, last May the hydrophone detected a diurnal “hum” that matched the vertical feeding migration of the plainfin midshipman (*Porichthys notatus*). While this fish is common throughout the Northeast Pacific, it can only be heard in extremely quiet marine environments. This discovery has inspired the idea of potentially using sound as a new method for monitoring marine ecosystem health in Clayoquot Sound.



Adrian Dorst and Laura Loucks collecting songmeter data in Sydney Inlet.

### Vital Signs

In 2016, the CBT produced its third Vital Signs® report as part of our research program. Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada. This year, the report drew attention to three critical impact areas: food security, climate change, and transportation. The data presented in the report informs our grant-making and allows us to focus our programs and resources where they will make the biggest impact. By further aligning our Vital Signs data and stories with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, we are connecting the local to the global to measure change and impact at all scales. The CBT will continue to issue Vital Signs every two years.

### 2016 Sydney Cabin Writer-in-Residence:

*“As the days pass, the stillness of Sydney Inlet gives way to a form of listening that extends beyond my ears. It feels all-encompassing, like a sense of contentment. When I nestle into a sunlit patch of moss at the knee of a cedar I do not feel like a woman sitting beneath a tree. For who could even fathom where a single tree starts and ends in this tangled, flourishing explosion of huckleberry and ferns and searching roots and fallen trunks? I am enveloped, entwined, made somehow more whole by the complexity and beauty of these green lives.”*

Excerpt from Elin Kelsey's reflections as CBT 2016 writer-in-residence. See her blog Where trees talk: A writer's journey to Sydney Inlet <http://clayoquotbiosphere.org/uncategorized/biosphere-blog-winter/>

### 4th World Congress for Biosphere Reserves

In March, the CBT Research Coordinator, Dr. Laura Loucks, was one of 1100 delegates from over 600 biosphere reserves around the world who met in Lima, Peru to ratify the 2016-2025 Man and the Biosphere Strategy and Lima Action Plan. Canada had a strong delegation of 14 participants from five of the 18 Canadian biosphere reserves (including the two newest: Beaver Hills in Alberta and Tsá Tué in the Northwest Territories). There was a great sense of momentum after the ratification of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change the following December. The Lima Action Plan emphasizes the vision to support “thriving societies in harmony with the biosphere for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within biosphere reserves and beyond.”

# Your Community Foundation

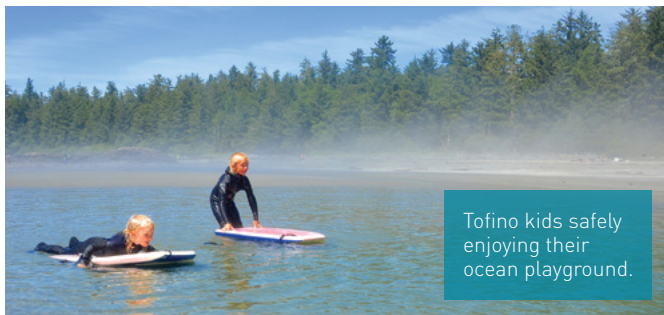
## Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

The CBT has joined a group of Canada's philanthropic organizations by signing a Declaration of Action in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action. The CBT has committed to "moving forward in an atmosphere of understanding, dignity, and respect towards the shared goal of reconciliation." As a funder, the CBT can help to advance the calls to action in areas of vital importance such as education, language and culture, and health. Our vision reminds us of the importance of reconciliation within communities, between communities, and with the environment.

## Tofino Children's Swimming @ Water Safety Fund

From surfing to canoe journeys, growing up near the ocean presents many opportunities for the children in our communities. It is our wish that all children have an opportunity to learn how to swim so they can build confidence, enjoy a healthy and fun activity, and participate safely in the water-based activities our spectacular backyard has to offer. In 2016, a new endowment fund was created under the community foundation umbrella to support this long-term goal. Each year, the interest from the fund will support the costs associated with swimming lessons for all students at Wickaninnish Community School.

This fund was established with an anonymous \$10,000 donation in memory of the six people aboard the *Leviathan II* whose lives were lost at sea on October 25, 2015.



## Clayoquot Sound Wild Salmon Fund

The health of wild salmon is inextricably linked to the health of our ecosystems and communities. In partnership with the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable, the CBT launched the new Wild Salmon Fund to support salmon enhancement and habitat recovery initiatives as prioritized by the Clayoquot Sound Salmon Recovery Plan. Each year, the income will support adaptation and mitigation initiatives to stabilize salmon populations and critical salmon habitat areas within the region. In perpetuity, funds will be directed towards local salmon enhancement and recovery initiatives led by local organizations and researchers.

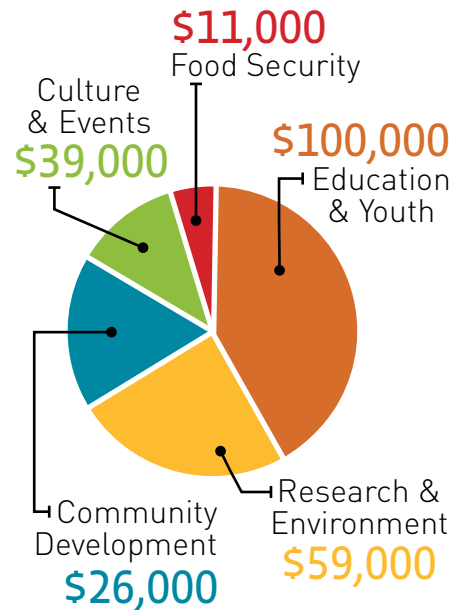
Donations to these funds, and all funds under the CBT's community foundation umbrella, can be made to the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Society at P.O. Box 67, Tofino B.C., V0R 2Z0 or online at clayoquotbiosphere.org.

## Thanks to our Supporters

Our 2016 donors join a group of committed funders who invest in our region through their donations, grants for our programs, or in-kind contributions. Sincere thanks to all our supporters, past and present.

- Adrienne Mason
- Anonymous
- Cermaq Canada
- Community Funds for Canada's 150th
- Dan Law
- Decoda Literacy Foundation
- District of Tofino
- District of Ucluelet
- Genus Capital Management
- Innoweave
- Island Coastal Economic Trust
- Jamie's Whaling Station
- JP Harrison
- Learning Initiatives for Rural & Northern BC
- Leif Timmermans
- Ted Hirst
- Tofino Consumers Coop
- Nu-u-chah-nulth Education & Training Program
- Port Alberni & Long Beach Local Action Team

## 2016 Grants by the Numbers



**5 FUNDS**  
under the community foundations umbrella



**8**  
projects in recognition of  
Canada's 150th anniversary



**21**  
neighbourhood small grants

## Create Your Own Legacy

With the CBT, it's possible to give back to your community now and leave a legacy for the future. We can work with you to set up a personalized endowment fund under our community foundation umbrella dedicated to your goals and passions. Donors choose the CBT as an alternative to setting up a private foundation because of our connections to the community, and because it's easier administratively. **You can then focus on the most fulfilling part — giving.**

For more information please contact our executive director, Rebecca Hurwitz at 250.725.2219.

A founding contribution from the Government of Canada has offered support to the CBT since our beginning in 2000. We are grateful for their investment in our communities through the gift of a \$12-million endowment fund.

CBT's fully audited financial statements are available on our website at: <http://www.clayoquotbiosphere.org/web/who-we-are/documents/>

Registered Charity Registration #870641727 RR0001

## Interested in knowing more?

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