

2017 Impact Report



It has been an exciting year for the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) as both a UNESCO Biosphere Region and a Community Foundation. With Canada150 events taking place across the country, we brought together partners and community members to reflect on CBT's role in regards to healing and reconciliation. We asked ourselves, "how can we move forward in a positive direction as a region?" Striving to foster belonging and healthy communities, we co-hosted and supported events and programs that sought to acknowledge our strengths, history and diversity. As a board, staff and communities, we continue to walk together down the road of reconciliation and to achieve our vision.

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 the following highlights from the past year.

Cathy Thicke and Tammy Dorward
CBT Co-chairs

Our Biosphere Region

Biosphere Research Award

The CBT was pleased to award the 2017 Biosphere Research Award to chuutsqa Layla Rorick, an advanced adult learner of the Hesquiaht language who grew up in Hot Springs Cove and has dedicated much of her life to increasing the number of Nuu-chah-nulth (NCN) speakers. Chuutsqa is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Victoria, focusing on Nuu-chah-nulth Worldview and Place-based Language Revitalization. She is collaborating with fluent elders to identify compatible approaches for training NCN educators and creating a land-based NCN language revitalization program in Clayoquot Sound.

"[the] Nuu-chah-nulth language and worldview has grown out of a coastal location and contains environmental markers that tie our language and our daily actions to the land and seascape."

- chuutsqa Layla Rorick,
2017 Biosphere
Research Award
recipient

Biodiversity Conservation and University Partnerships

In 2017, CBT collaborated with University of Washington-Tacoma to research, analyze and build awareness on marine hypoxia and algal blooms in estuarine based salmon habitat, while also participating in the Pacific salmon community-based monitoring research team at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara. At a local level, CBT contributes the findings of this research as a member of the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable. This year, CBT also supported the Wetland Stewards Association for Clayoquot & Barkley Sounds to increase amphibian monitoring for Red Legged Frog egg masses and for its invasive predator, the American Bullfrog. Two new wildlife habitat areas were established from this work!



Adrian Dorst and Laura Loucks installing wildlife monitoring equipment in Sydney Inlet.

Sydney Remote Listening Station

Our soundscape ecology project continues to expand with exciting new discoveries and possibilities for the future. In 2017, we grew our library to over 1000 hours of recorded sounds, resulting in 32 identified bird species, 10 documented midnight porpoise and whale spouts, several seasonal shifts in the dawn songbird chorus, and numerous exciting mystery sounds.

Soundscape recordings from July-August captured the post-dusk and pre-dawn flight patterns of Marbled Murrelets returning to their nesting sites in the upper Sydney river watershed. We recently used this information to support the need for spatially designated Marbled Murrelet reserves in the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources threatened species recovery plan.

Engaging Nationally and Internationally

In April, executive director Rebecca Hurwitz travelled to the Dordogne River Biosphere Reserve in France for the 15th EuroMAB conference. EuroMAB is a network of nearly 300 European and North American biosphere reserves that are part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme. The biennial conference provided an opportunity for CBT to fulfill its mandate to share and collaborate at the national and international scale. CBT contributed by co-hosting a workshop on Indigenous leadership and participation in Biosphere Reserves.

In June, Nuu-chah-nulth Summer Student, Rochelle Tom, travelled with Rebecca to the Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserve in Quebec, to the Co-Building Sustainability and Reconciliation conference, along with Indigenous leaders, academics, and representatives Canada's BRs. Rochelle says, "Being so young and getting involved in the work of biosphere reserves, and meeting wonderful people doing this work across Canada, it was an amazing experience!"

West Coast N.E.S.T.

The CBT continued to develop and coordinate the West Coast N.E.S.T. (Nature. Education. Sustainability. Transformation.) in 2017. Building on the launch of the westcoastnest.org site, CBT hired an Education Coordinator to lead the new initiative. Nicole Gerbrandt attended a number of education fairs outside the region, as well as worked with local education providers to develop new education programs for university students and adult learners. Our long-term goal is to diversify the region's tourism economy and increase education and training opportunities for residents.



Your Community Foundation

Tofino Children's Swimming @ Water Safety Fund

In November, the CBT Tofino Children's Swimming and Water Safety Fund made its first disbursement to support swimming lessons and water safety for students of Wickaninnish Community School. The Fund was established by an anonymous donor in 2016 with an initial contribution for \$10,000. Since then, four additional donors have contributed to the fund to ensure local kids have the opportunity to learn how to swim. The CBT welcomes donations to the fund with the goal to fully support the annual cost of their swim program. Contact Rebecca if you would like to contribute to an endowment fund at the CBT!

hišinq'wiił - Regional Gathering

In September, the CBT convened a gathering of over 700 community members and visitors in Yuułuŋit'at̓ territory. Co-hosted with Yuułuŋit'at̓ Government and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, the event included a community feast, storytelling, workshops, and fun activities for all ages. The aim was to recognize our unique strengths, shared history, and cultural diversity. The event was an opportunity to fulfil the UNESCO mandate of peace-building at a local level, and marked the first known coming together of all regional communities in the spirit of healing and reconciliation.



Participants in an "Art of Hosting" facilitation and community development workshop.

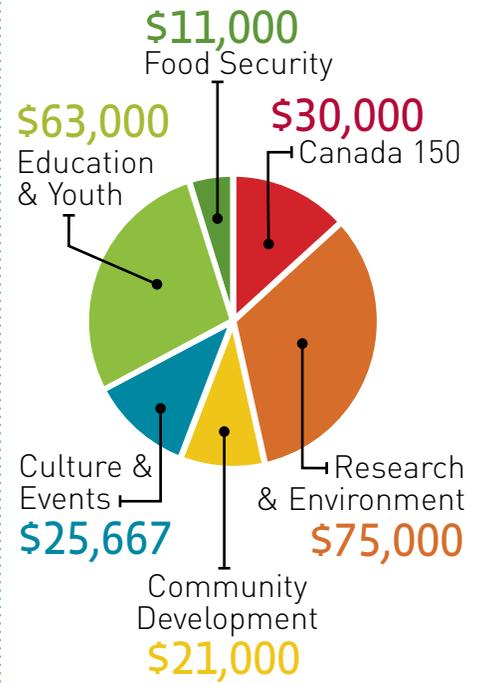
Students on Ice

In August, with the help of a CBT scholarship, Tofino student Seth Stere travelled to the Arctic alongside other students, Indigenous elders, artists, musicians, historians and scientists, to participate in an expedition organized by the Students on Ice Foundation. The journey was centred around four key themes: environment, youth engagement, diversity, and reconciliation. Seth reflected on his motivation to apply for this unique opportunity, "I have a big interest in climate change because I surf a lot and the ocean is changing. When you're in it everyday, it's something that you want to protect."

Thanks to our Supporters

- Alberni Clayoquot Health Network
- Anonymous
- Anthony Edwards
- Cermaq Canada
- Community Foundations of Canada
- Decoda Literacy Foundation
- District of Tofino
- Genus Capital Management
- Gordon Nelson
- In Honour of Scott Adair
- In Memory of David and Stephen Thomas
- Island Coastal Economic Trust
- JP Harrison
- Kellsie Forbes
- Learning Initiatives for Rural & Northern BC
- Nuu-chah-nulth Education & Training Program
- Pina Styles
- Province of British Columbia
- Rebecca & Dave Hurwitz
- St. George's School
- The Winnipeg Foundation - Alana Squire Charitable Contribution Fund
- Tofino Consumers Coop
- Tourism Ucluelet
- Tourism Tofino
- Vancouver Foundation
- West Coast Aquatic
- West Coast Aquatic Stewardship Association
- West Coast Fishing Guides Association

2017 Grants by the Numbers



29 organizations funded



29 donors to community projects & events

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. Donations may also be contributed as part of an estate plan. You can take comfort in knowing that your charitable wishes will be fulfilled by including a gift to the CBT in your will. 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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