



# 2019 Annual Report

Globally-minded.  
Ecosystem-oriented.  
Community-driven.



We acknowledge the territories of the  
**Hesquiaht First Nation,**  
**Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations,**  
**Toquaht Nation, Ahousaht,**  
**and Yuuṭuʔitʔath**  
in the spirit of truth, healing,  
and reconciliation.



# From the Co-chairs

In 2000, the eight communities of the newly designated Clayoquot UNESCO Sound Biosphere Region (CSUBR) committed to finding a sustainable path forward together. Since then, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) has evolved significantly in response to major shifts in how people live, work, and play together in the territories we call home.

But through the changes, our organization's core characteristics remain constant: we are inspired by our region's strong and vibrant Nuu-chah-nulth culture, its close-knit communities, and its lands and waters and the ways of life they support. We're proud to be so deeply rooted in our region as we strive for a better future through biosphere stewardship, philanthropy, and community building.

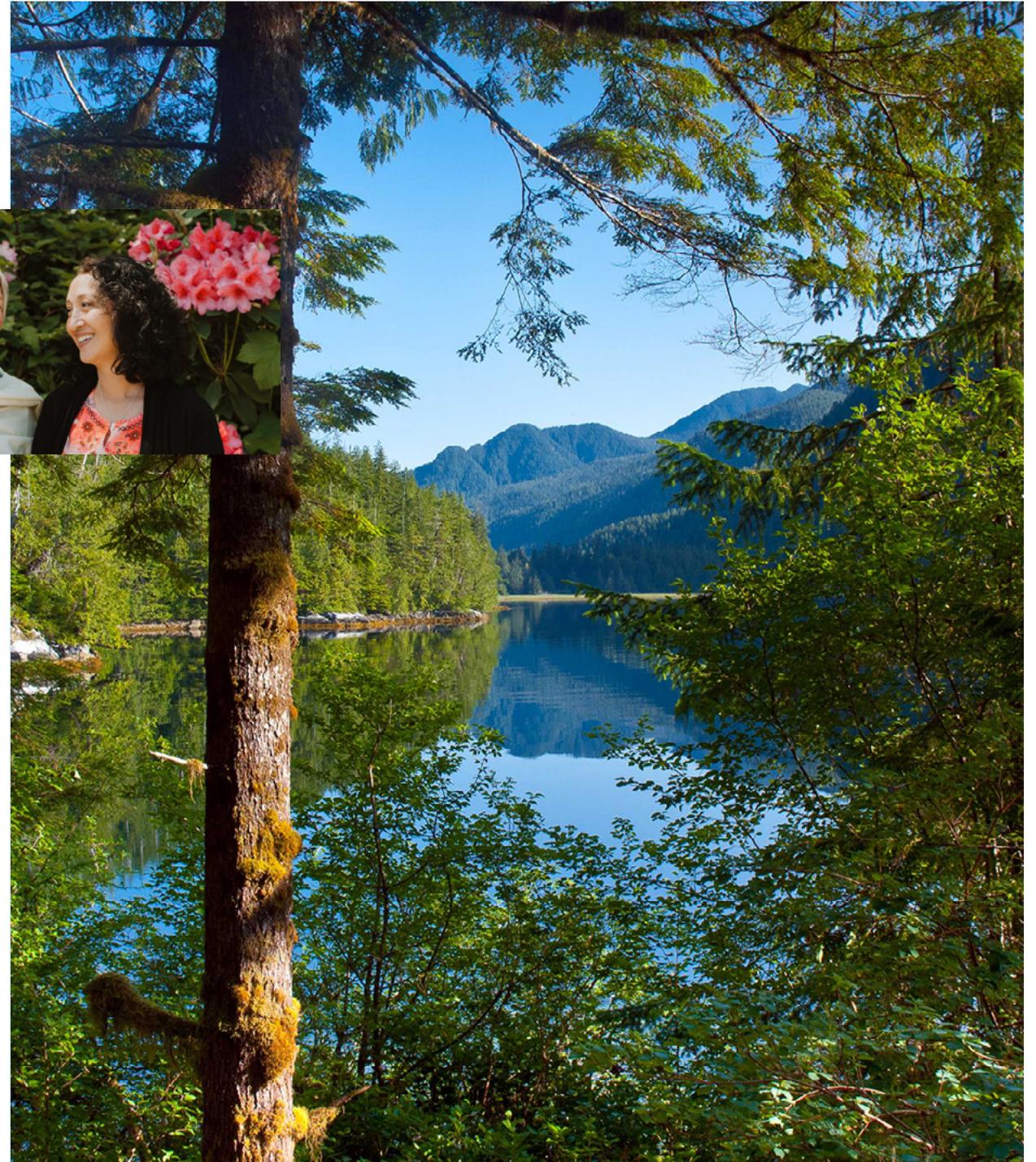
In 2019, the CBT board deepened our regional roots through the purchase of a property in Tla-o-qui-aht territory for the development of a Biosphere Centre, bringing to life a vision many years in the making. Located in Tofino, the Biosphere Centre will be a welcoming place and a community space—where residents, visitors, and researchers feel equally comfortable, and where scientists and storytellers can share their valuable knowledge and teachings. We picture a community “living room” that brings together people, place, and learning.

The CBT also grew significantly as a community foundation in 2019 with the establishment of new endowment funds in partnership with the Pacific Rim Foundation, Tofino Resort + Marina, the District of Tofino, and Tourism Tofino. The CBT is Canada's only organization that is both a UNESCO biosphere region and a community foundation. We're grateful for the support of our generous, thoughtful donors who want to make connections and amplify their impact through collaboration.

Our board and staff help our communities and ecosystems thrive, working behind the scenes by granting to other organizations, providing administrative support for regional programs, and cultivating partnerships. This annual report is a chance to celebrate and communicate our community impact, while expressing gratitude to the partners, donors, and community members who help us achieve the positive outcomes we strive for.

## **Catherine Thicke and Tammy Dorward**

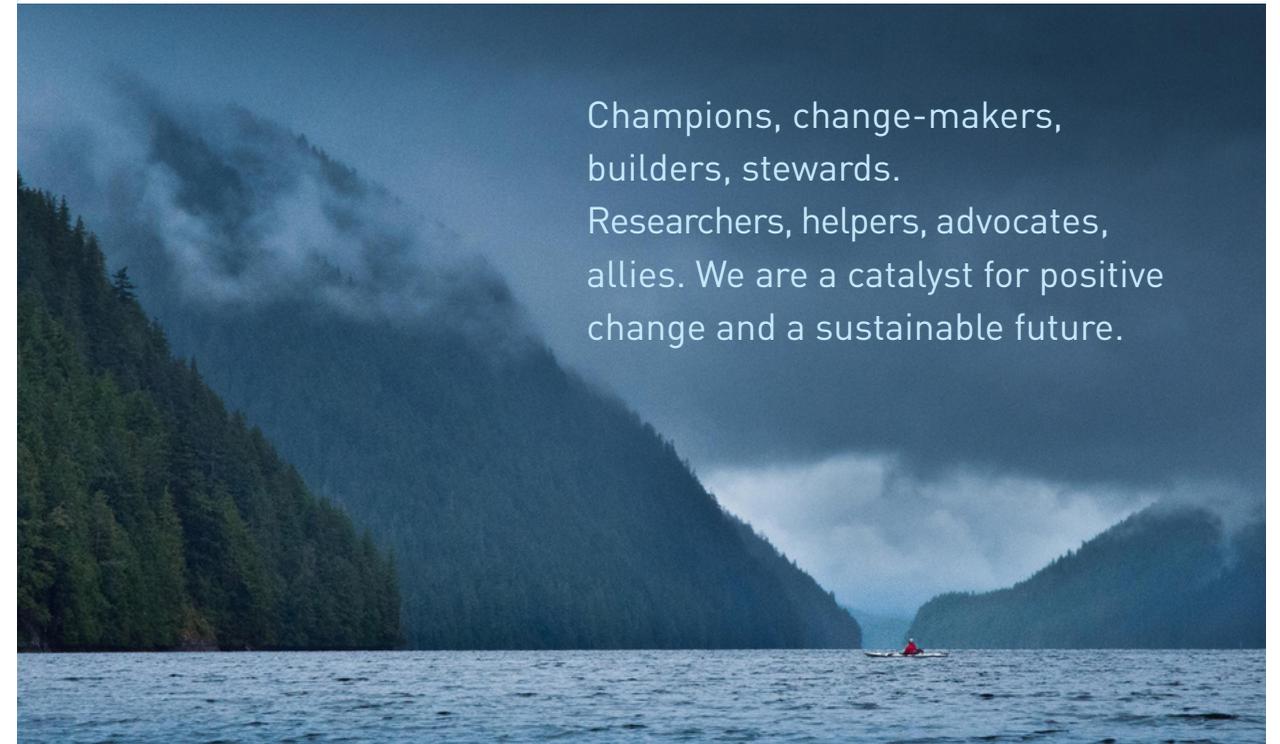
Co-chairs, Board of Directors, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust



# Our Team

## Staff

Rebecca Hurwitz – Executive Director  
Laura Loucks – Research Director  
Brooke Wood – Outreach Coordinator  
Brett Freake – Program Coordinator  
Faye Missar – Program Coordinator  
Nicole Gerbrandt – Education Coordinator  
Colin Robinson – Communications and Office Coordinator  
Verena Merkel – Bookkeeper  
Erika Goldt – Eat West Coast Coordinator  
Robyn Hutchings – NEST Communications Coordinator  
Bri Walker – NEST Communications Assistant



Champions, change-makers,  
builders, stewards.  
Researchers, helpers, advocates,  
allies. We are a catalyst for positive  
change and a sustainable future.

## Board of Directors

Kwiishkwiishataaqs (Tammy Dorward) – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations – Co-chair  
Cathy Thicke – District of Tofino – Co-chair  
Alan McCarthy – Yuułu?it?atḥ Government – Secretary  
Geoff Lyons – District of Ucluelet – Treasurer  
Wii-tsuts-koom (Anne Mack) – Toquaht Nation – Director  
Tom Campbell – Ahousaht First Nation – Director  
Ruth Charleson – Hesquiaht First Nation – Director  
Rachael O’Callahan – Alberni Clayoquot Regional District – Director  
Hannah Nicholls – At-large – Director  
Ariane Batic – At-large – Director

## Non-voting Board Advisors

Kendall Woo – Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Denise Koshowski – Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Dave Tovell – Parks Canada  
Rhonda Morris – Province of British Columbia

# Co-leading Sustainability Research, Education, and Training

## Living Wage

In the fall of 2019, we released our third biennial [Living Wage Report](#). The living wage is the hourly amount that each parent in a family of four must earn to meet the family's basic expenses (including rent, child care, food, and transportation) once government taxes, credits, deductions, and subsidies have been taken into account. [Read more about the 2019 Living Wage calculation](#) and check out our [living wage video](#).

The 2019 living wage for the CSUBR is

**\$19.63** per hour

which is the highest in British Columbia.

## Sydney Remote Listening Station

The CBT initiated the Sydney Remote Listening Station project in 2015 with local marine mammal biologist Dr. Jim Darling and renowned birder Adrian Dorst. The goal of the project is to gather baseline data on the sound patterns of wildlife interactions in the Sydney Inlet estuary. Since 2015, over 2,500 hours of audio recordings of the biophony (wildlife), anthrophony (human activity), and geophony (landscape) have been collected from the estuary.

In 2019, thanks to this baseline data, the CBT research team was able to secure funding to support a three-year acoustic ecology research project focusing on several aquatic species-at-risk and the soundscape analysis of their marine habitats.



## Biosphere and Sustainability Field Course

For the fourth consecutive year, Royal Roads University (RRU) and the CBT partnered to deliver the summer residency field course

“The Biosphere and Sustainability” based on the principles of experiential learning, community resilience, and learning from local knowledge holders. The week-long residency has become an integral component of the Master of Arts in Environmental Education and Communication program offered in the RRU School of Environment and Sustainability. In 2019, the course was taught in Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht territories. The course was instructed by Dr. Laura Loucks, CBT research director and associate professor at RRU. Guest lecturers included Chief Moses Martin, Joe Martin, Moy Sutherland Sr., Arlene Paul, Anna Atleo, Mack Bartlett, Claudia Tersigni, and Kim Johnson.

## Tofino’s Vital Conversation on Sustainable Tourism

In April, we teamed up with the District of Tofino to bring together 32 local residents from diverse backgrounds—youth, elders, Indigenous leaders, business owners, non-profit representatives, law enforcement personnel, health service providers, and more—to better understand how Tofino’s tourism economy interrelates with community life. Using CBT Vital Signs data as the framework for our discussion, the event highlighted ways that Tofino, as a community, can continue to show leadership and excellence in the tourism industry by aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the UNESCO vision for biosphere reserves. [Read the report](#) and check out [the video](#).

## Academic Research Partnerships

In 2019, the CBT engaged in several formal academic partnerships:

- UBC School of Forestry - student internship on the Barkley Community Forest
- University of Washington Tacoma - marine water quality monitoring/oceanography
- Royal Roads University - NSERC PromoScience Program
- UBC Office for Regional and International Community Engagement - student project, Sustainable Tourism: a Comparison of Tofino, Whistler, and Canmore

# Empowering Youth

## Education Awards

In partnership with Genus Capital Management, the CBT awards two \$12,000 education awards annually.



**Ottis Crabbe**, a Tla-o-qui-aht student and 2019 Ucluelet Secondary School graduate, received the Central Region Nuuchahnulth Student Award to support his studies in culinary arts and management at Vancouver Island University. His passion for food runs in his family and he has worked at Abbondanza Pizza in Ucluelet since it opened. He volunteers with the Surfrider Foundation and has competed internationally in wrestling through the North American Indigenous Games.

**Riley Banks** of Tofino received the Clayoquot Biosphere Education Award to support his studies in computer engineering at the University of Victoria. Riley is an active community member who helped start an elder technology support group that helps senior residents in Ucluelet and Tofino. He grew up volunteering with the Tofino Salmon Enhancement Society and at St. Columba Church.

*Thanks to SOI, I can see the world through multiple lenses. I can see how everyone needs to adapt to our ever-changing world differently. I can see hope for the future reflected in the eyes of everyone on that ship. SOI made me believe that a positive outcome for our struggling earth is possible, difficult but possible, and that is why SOI is here: to inspire.*

– Toby Theriault



## Students on Ice

In partnership with Jamie's Whaling Station and Adventure Centres, the CBT supported **Toby Theriault**, a student at Ucluelet Secondary School, to participate in the 2019 Students on Ice (SOI) Arctic Expedition. Toby joined 130 other students aboard the ship *MS Ocean Endeavour* along with elders, scientists, musicians, educators, artists, business leaders, dignitaries, and writers.

## Tofino Swimming and Water Safety Fund

In 2019, earnings from the Tofino Children's Swimming and Water Safety Fund supported swimming lessons for nearly 250 local students. This fund was established in 2016 with the goal to create a sustainable source of funding to support swimming lessons for all students at Wickaninnish Community School.



**Want to support the swimming fund?** Learn more about donating to CBT's endowment funds on page 13.

## Future Launch Grants

The CBT joined the RBC Future Launch Community Challenge in 2019, through which we disbursed a total of \$30,000 to youth-driven projects in our region. These grants are now supporting bold, youth-led initiatives that address urgent community priorities. By demonstrating their leadership, participating youth are gaining experience, skills, relationships, and learning opportunities to help them prepare for the future.

# Facilitating & Coordinating Healthy Community and Ecosystem Initiatives

## Eat West Coast

In 2019, Eat West Coast, our food security action project, co-hosted the Coastal Agricultural Roundtable (CAR), a working group to implement the Coastal Addendum to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Agriculture Plan. The CAR is a dynamic group of west coast residents who are active and passionate about local food production in the CSUBR.

Eat West Coast also continued delivering highly popular food preservation workshops with funding from the Feed Opportunity Fund, responding to increasing interest in local and Indigenous food knowledge, and activities such as storing, canning, smoking, pickling, and drying. The program takes a train the trainer approach, giving champions the tools to deliver workshops and provide education in their communities.



Workshop partner spotlight: Heather Shobe

*Through their coastal network and connections, the CBT fostered valuable community participation in the Coastal Agriculture Round Table, helping us welcome the people who we might not have been able to reach. Their administrative support and guidance in the development of the CAR's strategic plan and terms of reference have also been so helpful!*

– Heather Shobe,  
ACRD agricultural support worker

## Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG)

2019 marked the fifth year of our successful NSG program in partnership with the Vancouver Foundation and the Westcoast Community Resources Society. With a budget of just under \$16,000 and a total of 54 funded projects, it was our biggest NSG year to date. We offered three rounds of NSG funding: environmental, aligning with Earth Day in the spring; cultural, aligning with National Indigenous Peoples Day in the summer; and a community round in the fall. Over the past five years, we have supported 139 NSG projects totalling \$45,430.

We're grateful for the passionate community members who make this program such a success. For the CBT, fostering a sense of belonging is vital to how we connect people and place.

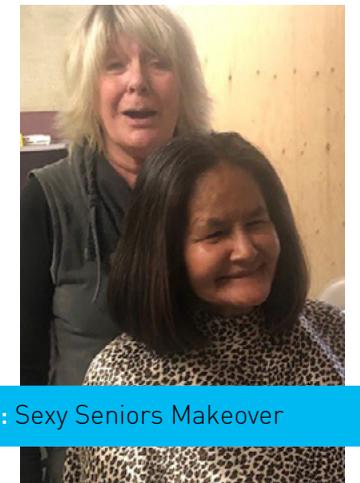
**Did you know** that the CBT is also helping to build capacity among other small community foundations on Vancouver Island? With support from the Vancouver Foundation and in partnership with the Victoria Foundation, the CBT is training and supporting numerous other communities, from Port Hardy to Parksville, to launch their own NSG programs. It is exciting to be a part of this new Vancouver Island NSG network.

*We hosted a "Sexy Senior's Makeover" in November at our community of Macoah. Many elders in our community are on a fixed income and don't have transportation but have asked where they can get a haircut. With NSG funding to support an honorarium for a hairdresser, plus snacks and refreshments, we provided a day that really enhanced and boosted our elders' self-esteem. It was a big hit!*

– Lisa Morgan, Toquaht Nation



**Neighbourhood Small Grants Clayoquot Sound**



NSG Program spotlight: Sexy Seniors Makeover

# Achieving the Biosphere Centre

The CBT has begun the process to establish a Biosphere Centre. Within the UNESCO themes of education, science, and culture, the centre will be a place of sharing and learning from which we can engage people in our programs. We envision a welcoming space, where residents, visitors, and researchers feel equally comfortable, and where scientists and storytellers can share their valuable data and teachings.

In 2014, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations extended an invitation to locate a future Biosphere Centre in Tla-o-qui-aht territory. The CBT's Board of Directors gratefully received the invitation and has continued to recognize this protocol in their planning and actions since. In 2019, the CBT purchased a modest property which will be our future, permanent home at the gateway to Tofino.

If you support this goal and would like to contribute your skills or resources to help us achieve it, please contact **CBT Executive Director Rebecca Hurwitz.**



## West Coast NEST

Nature. Education. Sustainability. Transformation.



The regional education tourism initiative, the West Coast NEST continued to gain momentum in 2019. The NEST is a regional collaboration between communities, organizations, and businesses from Hesquiaht to Ucluelet. Together, we are testing ways to connect visitors and residents alike with place-based learning opportunities, sharing knowledge, helping diversify the economy, and creating employment opportunities.

Key achievements of the year include:

**48% growth** in westcoastnest.org website traffic

**1,100+ jobs** supported either directly or indirectly

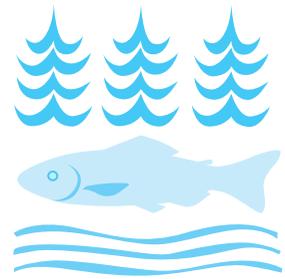
**10** new local businesses and organizations became regional partners

**2** new education tourism programs developed and piloted

In 2019, the NEST was supported financially through the BC Rural Dividend Program in partnership with Ucluelet Aquarium Society, Ucluelet Secondary School, Royal Roads University, and Aauknuk Lodge, with Tourism Ucluelet and Tourism Tofino providing both financial and in-kind contributions.

# 2019 Grants by numbers

**\$212,637** in project funding 



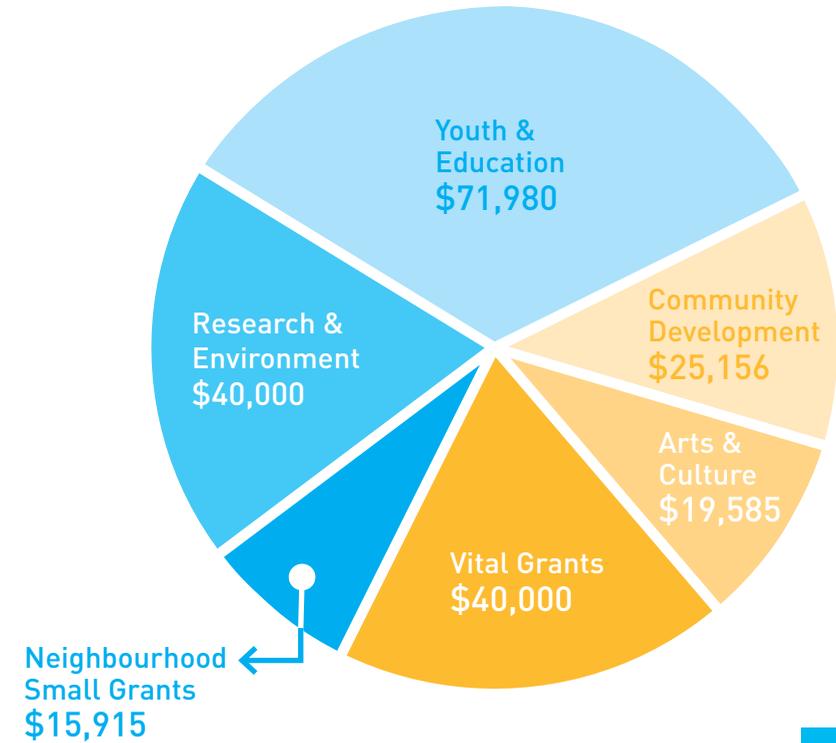
**96**  
local  
projects  
funded

**26** local  
organizations  
funded



**5,278**

community member  
engagements through  
CBT-funded projects



**\$214,482** of in-kind contributions leveraged 

 **\$545,576** of partner contributions leveraged

# 2019 Funded Projects

We recognize the contributions that all CBT grant recipients make to the CSUBR. Supporting projects like these is one way that we can work together to meet our shared mandates.

## Arts and Culture Grants

cawaak, ʔaʔa, qacća nučaañuł ... 1,2,3 Nuu-chah-nulth – Toquaht Nation  
Hahah inuu Ahousaht (We are calling you home Ahousaht relatives) – Ahousaht First Nation  
Warrior Games – Ahousaht First Nation  
Gust of Wind Youth Arts Immersion Program and Festival – District of Tofino  
Cultural Heritage Festival – Pacific Rim Arts Society

## Community Development Grants

West Coast Food Literacy Day – Coastal Family Resource Coalition  
Bridging the Gap Transportation Project – District of Tofino

## Research and Environment Grants

Grey whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) identification in Clayoquot Sound 2019  
– Cedar Coast Field Station Society  
Intertidal Guardian Project – Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society  
Tracking amphibian populations and the effects of climate on hatching success  
– Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds  
Ah'ta'apq Creek Side Channel Restoration Project – Central Westcoast Forest Society

## Youth and Education Grants

Youth Leaders of Tomorrow – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations  
Language Nest Lessons in Two Dialects – Toquaht Nation  
Wild Coast Youth Program – District of Ucluelet  
Youth Art Lab and Art Show – Pacific Rim Arts Society  
Bamfield Marine Science Centre Youth Field Trip  
– Yuutuʔitʔath Government

## Biosphere Research Award

Residency and Habitat Use of Migrating Shorebirds in Tofino, BC – Raincoast Education Society

## Vital Grants

Child and Youth Grief Support – Pacific Rim Hospice Society  
Connecting Through Cabins – Yuutuʔitʔath Government

## Field Trip Funding

Hesquiaht Place of Learning	Heartwood Learning Community, Tofino
Maaqtusiis Elementary School	Heartwood Learning Community, Ucluelet
Maaqtusiis Secondary School	Ucluelet Elementary School
Wickaninnish Community School	Ucluelet Secondary School

## Future Launch Grants

A Heroic Journey: Outward Bound for Grieving Youth – Westcoast Community Resources Society  
Tla-o-qui-aht Youth Conference – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations  
West Coast Youth Food Project – District of Ucluelet  
Silk Screening for Youth – Yuutuʔitʔath Government

54



Neighbourhood Small Grants

21  
community

20  
environment

13  
culture



6  
Education Awards

# Regional Programs

The CBT is home to a number of regional programs including Leadership Vancouver Island, the Coastal Family Resource Coalition, and West Coast NEST. By taking on the critical, but time-consuming administrative tasks, we help partner networks and initiatives focus on their missions in areas where there is strong alignment with the CBT's mandate.

## Leadership Vancouver Island

Under the direction of the steering committee and in partnership with Vancouver Island University, the CBT began delivering the 2019-2020 cohort of Leadership Vancouver Island (LVI), a community-focused, grassroots leadership development program that inspires and builds capacity among our residents for leadership, learning, and service. Students kicked off the program in September with a two-day retreat at the Aauuknuk Lodge in Ahousaht and have been participating in monthly learning days in each community in the biosphere region.



### Participant Spotlight: Jody Kirk

Jody Kirk is a Tofino community member and visitor services manager with Tourism Tofino.

*"For me, LVI has been about connection: connection to the communities on the west coast, fellow participants, my project team, and myself. The opportunity to visit and experience the hospitality and teachings of each community in the region has been an incredible experience. The learnings have been rich, challenging, and joyful in ways that were unexpected when I started the course. It has been an incredible start to my personal leadership journey."*

## Coastal Family Resource Coalition (CFRC)

The CFRC is an interdisciplinary network of service providers that develops capacity to address the needs of children, youth, families, and communities, and to improve communications between service providers, agencies, communities, and funders. The coalition serves all west coast communities and contributes to building strong and united cultures. With the goal to improve the overall health in our communities, the missions of the CBT and the CFRC align to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience to achieve social and cultural sustainable development.



## Youth Vital Conversation

In December 2019, the CBT co-hosted a Youth Vital Conversation at Best Western Plus Tin Wis Resort. Using data from our Vital Signs report as a starting point, approximately 50 teens from Maaqtusiis and Ucluelet Secondary Schools came together to discuss how to make our region a better place to grow up. They shared thoughts on quality education, personal and professional development, mental health, substance use, transportation, recreational programming, and many other topics. The day featured drumming and singing, a Nuuchahnulth prayer at lunch, and a screening of the film *Finding Solitude*, all led by youth attendees.



## Language Committee

In 2019, the CFRC Language Committee, composed of elders and knowledge-holders from multiple Nuuchahnulth (NCN) nations, partnered with CBT's Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) committee to develop, launch, and evaluate a round of NSG related



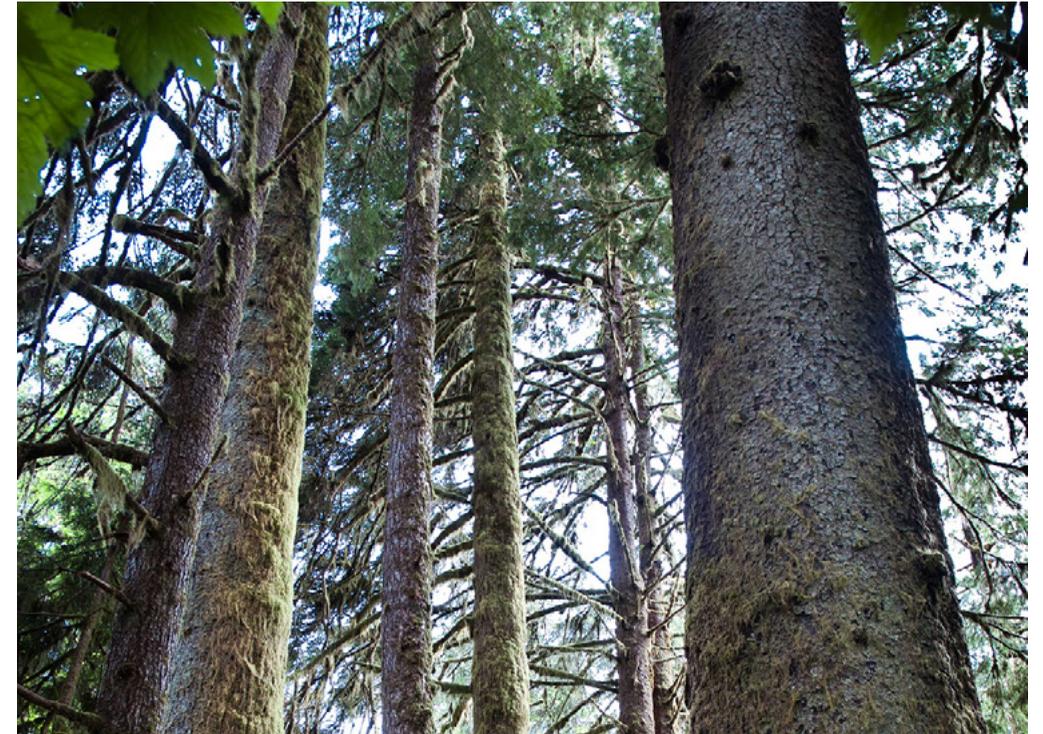
to NCN culture. The joint committee supported 13 exciting projects, many of which were centred around National Indigenous Peoples Day in June. The CFRC Language Committee also helped launch a successful Tla-o-qui-aht language initiative as part of the after-school program at Wickaninnish Community School.

# Thank you for Giving

Our 2019 donors join a group of committed funders who invest in our region through their donations, grants to our programs, or in-kind contributions.

Alberni Clayoquot Regional District	Mieke Dusseldorp Personal Real Estate Corporation
Allen Chase	Mustang Survival
Andre Hachey	Nancy Bradshaw and Ian Robert Brown
Bruce Baugh	Norman and Aliesje Carruthers
Carol Baert	Nuu-chah-nulth Employment and Training Program
Carol Murdoch	Ocean Outfitters
Caroline Woodward	Pacific Rim Foundation
Cathy Nelson	Randy Goddare
Central Westcoast Forest Society	Rebecca and Dave Hurwitz
Cermaq Canada	Richard Wukasch
Charlie Cornish	Rob Frawley
Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island	Rob Renna
Chris Grice	Rob Wilson
Community Foundations of Canada	Robert Hansen and Adrienne Mason
Conor and Christie Mackenzie	Royal Roads University
Decoda Literacy Solutions	Satori Sciences
District of Tofino	Scott Kenneth Fraser
District of Ucluelet	Sea Wench Naturals
ECO Canada	Shaun Ingalls
Genus Capital Management	Sophia Keller
Gordon Nelson	Stephen Nikiforuk
James Miller	Tiffany Fung
Jamie's Whaling Station and Adventure Centres	Todd Mitchell
John-Paul Harrison	Tofino Consumers Co-operative Association
Judy Gray	Tofino Fish Guides
Kathleen and Gary Shaw	Tofino Resort + Marina
Keith Orchiston	Tofino Volunteer Fire Department
Kellsie Forbes	Tourism Tofino
Kim Hoag	Ucluelet Consumers Co-operative Association
Laura Childerson	Ukee Rent-it Centre
Lecky Foundation	Vancouver Foundation
Lester Reid Mitchell	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Lochie Mackenzie	Victoria Foundation
Maple Leaf Centre for Action on Food Security	William Baker
Mark McKeough	William R. Mitchell
Maureen Fraser	YETI Canada

A founding contribution from the Government of Canada has supported the CBT programs and grants since our beginning in 2000. We are grateful for their investment in our region through the gift of the Canada Fund, a \$12-million endowment.



# Today for Tomorrow

A donation to the CBT makes meaningful and lasting impacts in areas that are important to you. From arts and culture to research, from education to the environment, donors and funders come to us to help simplify and enhance their charitable giving in the region.

In 2019, the Community Foundation Endowment grew to include three new funds. The Pacific Rim Foundation established a scholarship fund to support higher education for local graduating students. Tofino Resort + Marina established the Fish for the Future Fund, our first donor-advised fund. The Tofino Community Fund was established in memory of district councillor Dorothy Baert. We're honoured to support these local initiatives and to enable locally-driven philanthropy in the CSUBR.

The interest earned from each of these funds supports specific causes.

The CBT's nine endowment funds include:

- Biosphere Centre Fund
- Biosphere Research Fund
- CBT Operating Fund
- Clayoquot Wild Salmon Fund
- Fish for the Future Fund
- West Coast NEST Fund
- Pacific Rim Foundation Endowment Fund
- Tofino Children's Swimming and Water Safety Fund
- Tofino Community Fund



## Fish for the Future Fund

*"We are blessed to live in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region and enjoy the beauty which those before us worked so hard to protect. At Tofino Resort + Marina, we felt inspired to do our part and to pay it forward, so we started a donor-advised fund to protect wild salmon in Clayoquot Sound. The CBT and partners have been instrumental in getting the fund off the ground, with nearly \$60,000 raised in our inaugural year. CBT helped set up Fish for the Future for success and, most importantly, to protect Clayoquot Sound's wild salmon and everything else that depends on this keystone species."*

– Willie Mitchell, owner, Tofino Resort + Marina



## Fossil Fuel Free Investing

The pooled endowment funds of the CBT are invested in partnership with Genus Capital Management, a pioneer in Canada's divest-invest movement. Genus ensures our funds are not invested in the fossil fuel industry or other socially and environmentally harmful industries, aligning our investments with our long-standing commitment to living sustainably.

If you have questions about leaving a lasting legacy,

whether through contributing to a fund or starting your own, our executive director, Rebecca Hurwitz, would be pleased to meet with you. As a donor, you can work with the CBT to identify your philanthropic goals, matching your interests with community data and needs.

[Learn more about giving.](#)



CBT's fully audited financial statements are available on our website.  
Registered Charity Registration #870641727RR0001

The CBT is the only organization in Canada that is both a community foundation and a UNESCO biosphere.

Both of these networks have embraced the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide efforts and monitor progress.



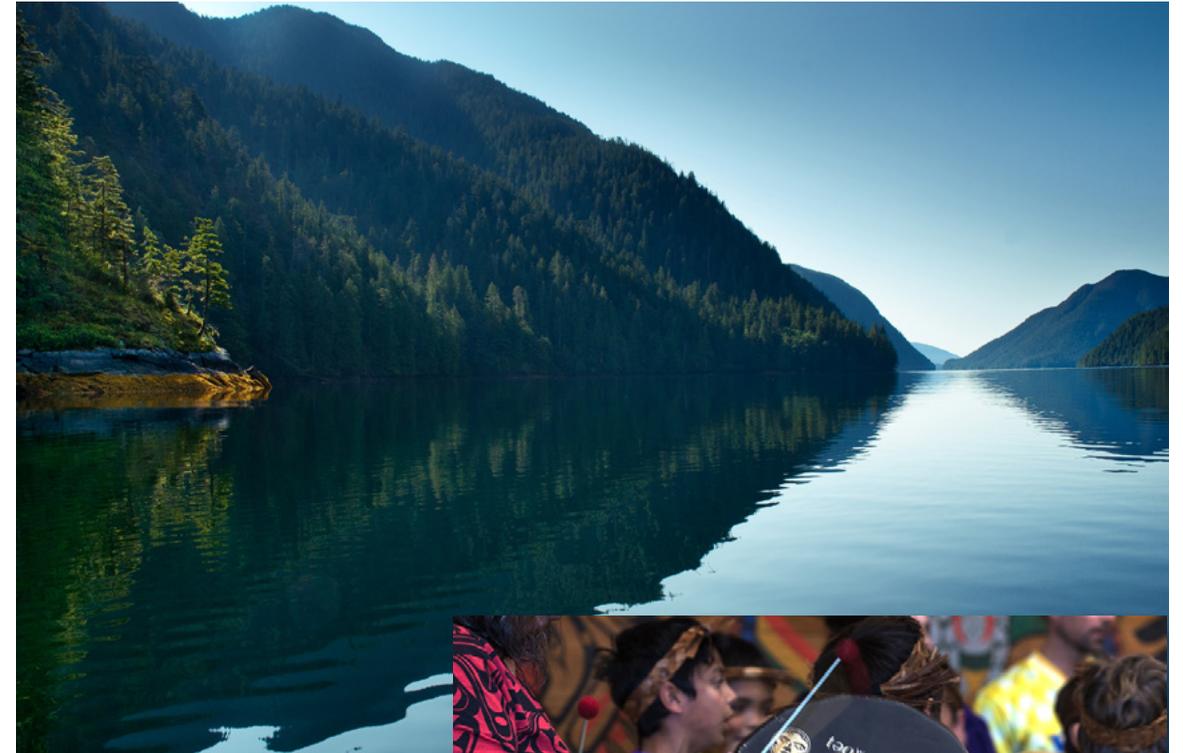
The SDGs provide a useful framework that allow us to draw connections between the health of ecosystems and communities in the CSUBR. At the CBT, we have known since our inception that thriving communities and thriving ecosystems come hand in hand, guided by the Nuu-chah-nulth philosophy of *hišukniš čawaak* everything is one and interconnected.



The CBT is an active member of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association as one of 18 UNESCO biosphere reserves in Canada.



The CBT is one of Canada's 191 community foundations.



316 Main Street | PO Box 67  
Tofino, BC V0R 2Z0

-  clayoquotbiosphere
-  @clayoquotbiosphere
-  @claybiotrust

Creating a better future through biosphere stewardship, philanthropy, and community building.

Photo credits:

- Sander Jain
- Melody Charlie - First Nation Photographer
- Nora Morrison
- Kim Aubut Demers/SOI Foundation
- Mirae Campbell