



# From the Co-chairs

For the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT), 2021 was a year of adaptation, learning, and change. We continued navigating waves of COVID-19 and its impacts on local communities. We explored how the pandemic is changing the work we do and the way we do it. Sustained public health challenges highlighted social injustice globally and right here at home, showing us how critically we need to build more equitable communities as a post-pandemic world emerges.

At the CBT, we knew it was time to embark on a journey of organizational change to make sure we serve the region in the most equitable way. Through our "equity pathway" (see page 5), we began exploring how our policies, granting programs, and organizational culture can change in the spirit of being a truly equity-driven organization.

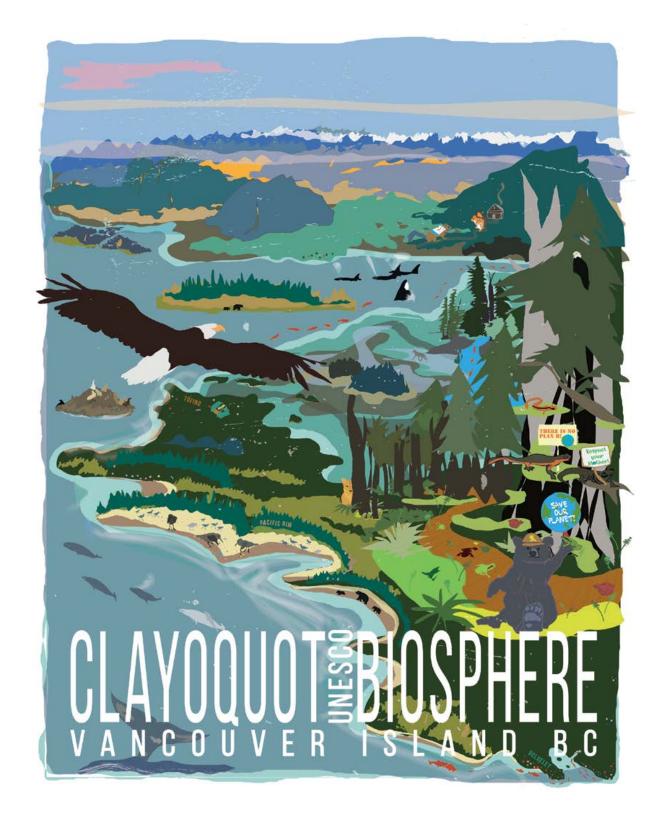
As a community foundation, several new funds were established including the Warrior Program Fund, the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Language Fund, and the Debbie Mundy Memorial Scholarship Fund. Community funds are a great example of how the CBT serves as an administrative bridge between local initiatives and donors who care.

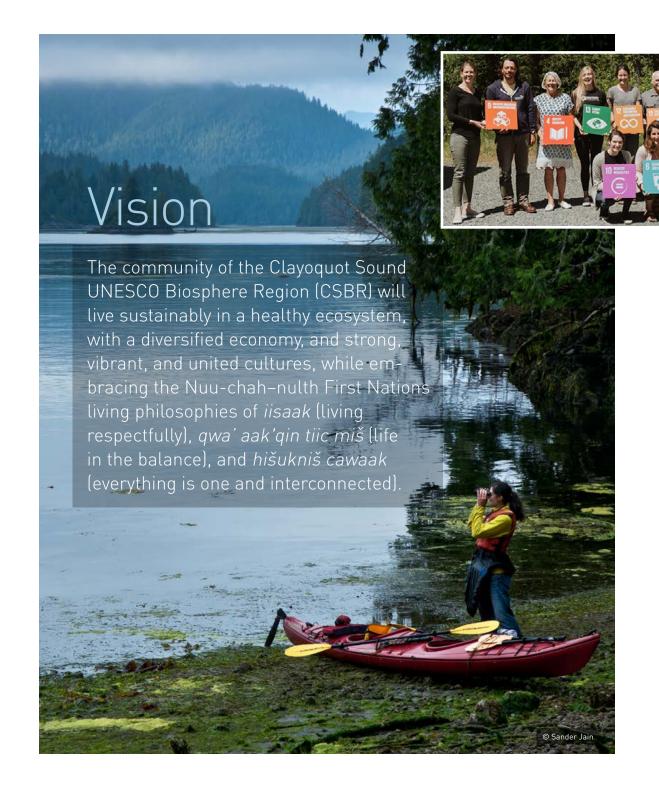
We completed two significant research projects this year, the 2021 Living Wage Calculation and a Vital Snapshot on Tourism, which examine the rising cost of living and the holistic impacts of tourism in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region. We also made significant progress towards building a regional Biosphere Centre, a community hub where innovative programs provide opportunities to learn, connect, and share ideas, and where, ultimately, we craft solutions that benefit all people in our region.

Looking ahead, we're feeling hopeful and energized to continue serving the region. This annual report is a chance to celebrate our community impact, while expressing gratitude to the partners, donors, and community members who help us achieve the positive outcomes we strive for.

#### Ruth Charelson and Nicky Ling

Co-chairs, Board of Directors, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust





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

### Our **Team**

#### **Board of Directors**

Ariane Batic – At-large – Director

Elyse Goatcher-Bergmann – At-large – Director

Mike Davis – District of Tofino – Treasurer

Moses Martin – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations

– Interim Director

Naomi Mack – Toquaht Nation – Secretary

Nicky Ling - Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District - Co-chair

Hesquiaht First Nation - Co-chair
 Tom Campbell - Ahousaht - Director
 Toni Buston - District of Ucluelet - Director
 Zoltan Schafer

Ruth Charleson

- Yuułu?ił?atḥ Government - Co-chair

#### **Board Advisors**

Kendall Woo – Environment and Climate Change Canada Linda Higgins & Denise Koshowski – Fisheries and Oceans Canada Jazz Amyot & Dave Tovell – Parks Canada Rhonda Morris & Jennifer Sibbald – Province of British Columbia

#### Staff

Brooke Wood – Manager of Community Initiatives

Colin Robinson – Operations and Communications Coordinator

Erika Goldt – Eat West Coast Lead

Faye Missar – Director of Community Health

Haley Stevenson – Communications Coordinator, West Coast NEST

Nicole Gerbrandt – Director of Education. West Coast NEST

Laura Loucks – Director of Research Rebecca Hurwitz – Executive Director Tsimka Martin – Literacy Coordinator Verena Merkel – Finance Coordinator



The CBT is working together with volunteers, First Nations, communities, and other partners toward becoming a more equity-driven organization. This shift is happening at all scales, in the recognition of injustice and research as both the Vital Signs program and the Living Wage calculation have highlighted inequities within the region.

Invited community leadership to provide feedback and support via the UNESCO Periodic Review process, and committed to ongoing relationship building and engagement.

> Adapted our grant program to reduce barriers and began using an equity lens in the grant review process.

Learned from crisis response and isolation during the pandemic.

2021

Learned about the land visions of the First Nations in whose territories the CBT operates.

Participated in Decolonize First, a collective learning experience about the impacts of colonization in our lives, work, and community.

Looking ahead:

Looking back:

2017

Signed the Canadian philanthropic community's Declaration of Action. committing to learning and remembering, understanding, and acknowledging the truth about residential schools, and participating and acting in an atmosphere of understanding, dignity, and respect towards the shared goal of reconciliation. Identified and discussed unconscious biases within the CBT.

Co-hosted the *Hišing*wiił

Regional Gathering to

join in a spirit of truth

Hosted cultural workshops

and healing.

and training.



The CBT granting program is evolving to:

• identify and change granting practices that are barriers to potential applicants,  meet the needs of community project leaders in ways that work for them, and

 test and formalize new approaches as we learn and unlear together.

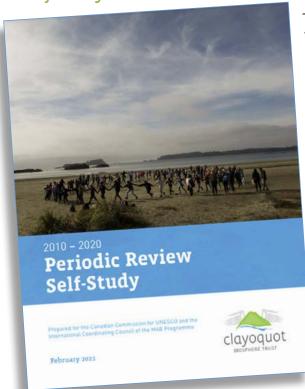
The CBT is supporting further learning about equity and the impacts of colonization for our staff, volunteers, and grantees. Being in this process of learning and unlearning together will help to build a common collaborative language and community of practice in the region.



## UNESCO Periodic Review

When Clayoquot Sound became a UNESCO Biosphere Region in 2000, local communities committed to finding a sustainable balance between conserving cultural diversity, natural ecosystems, and biodiversity, and fostering sound economic development. Every ten years, we step back and reflect on our shared effort to achieve this balance as our communities and ecosystems change.

#### Self-Study 2010-2020



The periodic review self-study is the result of a decade of continued interaction and learning with residents and communities.

Following the format prescribed by UNESCO, the report brings together volunteer and staff input, researcher survey results, and case studies. The self-study also includes a detailed review of the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere (CSB) zonation, and subsequent revisions to the zonation maps to show how the CSB continues to meet the criteria of Article 4 of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.



### Support for the UNESCO Biosphere designation

As part of the 10-year periodic review, we reached out for support of the continued UNESCO designation from our partners. The CBT received 83 letters of support from governments, organizations, researchers, and champions near and far, and have showcased them in a StoryMap.

We are grateful for the feedback provided by our partners and are committed to taking their words to heart.

#### Virtual Visit of UNESCO Reviewers

In May, the CBT hosted Maureen Reed and Sarah Gamble virtually for a review of the organization after it completed its self-study. In addition to attending board meetings and our AGM, the independent reviewers engaged with more than 30 CBT partners in a series of roundtable meetings focused on:

- CBT governance,
- conservation and relationships with the land,
- tourism, and
- food security.

Learn more in the Report of External Reviewers that summarizes our highlights and achievements over the past 10 years, as well as the opportunities and recommendations for the next 10 years.



# Co-leading Sustainability Research, Education, and Training

#### 2021 Living Wage

Every two years, the CBT collects data to determine the cost of living in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region.

#### The 2021 Living Wage is \$21.15/hour

The living wage is the hourly pay that each parent must earn to cover the basic expenses of an average family of four. It considers the local costs for housing, food, transportation, childcare, healthcare, and recreation, and is the "bare bones" a family needs for an adequate quality of life.

Toki Doki food truck, owned and operated by Tofino residents Madi Greyson and Kei Lowes, became the first Living Wage certified restaurant in the region.

Read the full Living Wage report.



#### **Vital Snapshot on Tourism**

Research plays a vital role in the CBT's advocacy for community and ecosystem health. In 2021, we built on our Vital Signs research program by examining the holistic impacts of tourism in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region. Tourism can be a driver for healthy community development but only when local communities and all rightsholders and stakeholders are involved in its design. We hope this report will influence positive changes in the tourism sector through advocacy and policy change.

Read the Vital Snapshot on Tourism.

#### Westcoast Indigenous-led Stewardship Corridor

The quest for an Indigenous-led Westcoast Stewardship Corridor began in 2020 when members from several First Nations and their partners gathered in Hitacu. There was consensus that we are out of balance, and that the land relationships between people and four-legged beings—and the environment that sustains us all—has changed considerably. These discussions led to the vision of an Indigenous-led stewardship corridor that connects large-scale landscapes along the west coast. This new initiative is led by a steering committee, and coordinated and administered by the Coexisting with Carnivores Alliance and the CBT.

#### Sydney Inlet Soundscape Monitoring Program

2021 was the final year of data collection in our acoustic ecology research project in a remote corner of Clayoquot Sound. With support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and permission from Ahousaht, CBT's research team used underwater microphones to record, analyze, and increase our understanding of natural sounds and human-made noise and their intersection at important feeding habitats for at-risk marine mammals. Through this project, we are continuing to learn about the ecological importance of sound in ecosystems such as Sydney Inlet.

# Facilitating & Coordinating Healthy Community and Ecosystem Initiatives



The CBT's food security initiative, Eat West Coast, continued to help local communities and organizations develop effective, community-based responses to food-access challenges, applying learnings from the initial emergency response phase of the pandemic to build long-term solutions.

#### Significant initiatives in 2021 include:

- co-coordinating the Coastal Agriculture Roundtable.
- a standing committee of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District focused on advancing regional food production,
- achieving funding for rural, remote, and Indigenous food security from the BC Ministry of Health, and
- achieving long-term support from the Public Health Agency of Canada for seniors living in rural coastal areas with minimal programming and infrastructure.



#### **Neighbourhood Small Grants**

Throughout the pandemic, many people felt isolated from their family, friends, and communities. In response, our Neighbourhood Small Grants program provided nearly 60 grants of up to \$500 for individual-led projects that fostered community connectivity.



This year, we piloted a new focus on culture with a special emphasis on Nuu-chah-nulth culture. Our goal was to enable cultural practice at a time when the pandemic created barriers to gathering, and when healing and community identity were so needed.

New this year was a collaboration with the Tofino-Ucluelet Culinary Guild, which supplemented food-related projects with groceries.

Thank you to Westcoast Community Resources Society for continuing to partner with the CBT and to all of the funders and project leaders for making 2021 such a successful year for Neighbourhood Small Grants!



Project spotlight: Ahousaht Pride Cupcakes



Students in the Pride Club at Maaqtusiis Secondary School in Ahousaht say, "we are helping to promote inclusion in Ahousaht through the Pride Club, a safe space in which anyone in the school is welcome."

# Empowering **Youth**

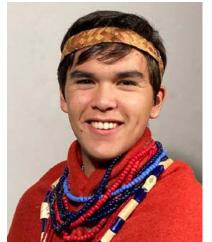
#### **Education Awards**

In partnership with Genus Capital Management, the CBT grants two \$12,608 education awards annually. The awards are based on community involvement, personal reference letters, a proposed education plan, and academic achievement.

The Central Region Nuu-chah-nulth Education Award is shared between Sereana Kaloucokovale and Tim Masso.

Sereana Kaloucokovale from Ahousaht, is studying at Capilano University with the goal of becoming a psychologist supporting Nuu-chah-nulth youth. At Maagtusiis Secondary School, she played basketball while maintaining excellent grades and supporting her teammates on and off the court. She also served on student council and was a member of the Pride Club. Sereana says, "in my own young adult life I have struggled with mental health; I want to be able to be that trusted someone to help people out in such a sensitive time in their lives."



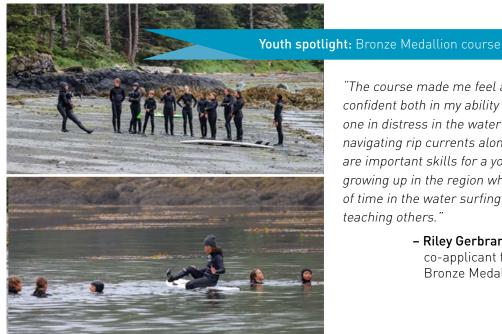


Tim Masso from Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation is studying education and language revitalization at the University of Victoria with the goal of eventually teaching Nuu-chah-nulth/Tla-oqui-aht language in local schools. For over seven years, he has been advocating for Indigenous languages locally, nationally, and internationally. He has organized and contributed to many events focusing on Indigenous language and culture locally and abroad. Tim says, "I saw a divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at school and realized it was caused by lack of respect and knowledge of Indigenous culture and language. I want to make a positive difference for future students."

Maya Hansen from Tofino received the Clayoquot Biosphere Education Award and is studying to be an educational assistant (EA) at Grande Prairie Regional College. She has volunteered in her community for over a decade through her involvement with the Tofino Girl Guides. At Ucluelet Secondary, she served on student council, was in the Queer and Ally Club, combatted plastic pollution with Surfrider Club, and played on the soccer team for several years. Maya says, "I want to help people, especially those like me that have struggled with learning disabilities. With the help of an EA, I learned to love school. My biggest obstacle is now a passion and source of enjoyment and pride.'

#### **Youth Action Grants**

With support from the Districts of Tofino and Ucluelet, the CBT provided five Youth Action Grants (\$300-500) to regional youth leaders aged 10 to 15. The projects varied from a kayaking day exploring Ucluelet harbour and learning about Nuu-chah-nulth history, to a bronze medallion course for local teens, to preparing care packages for local seniors and Elders. All youth project leaders were offered project support by CBT staff. CBT staff and youth leaders met to debrief after the projects wrapped up to maximize youth learning and empowerment.



"The course made me feel a lot more confident both in my ability to aid some-

one in distress in the water as well as navigating rip currents alone. These are important skills for a young person growing up in the region who spends lots of time in the water surfing as well as teaching others."

> - Riley Gerbrandt, 14, co-applicant for the Bronze Medallion course

# Achieving the Biosphere Centre

Following the purchase of a property in Tofino in 2019, the CBT has continued momentum towards the establishment of a Biosphere Centre, a community hub where innovative programs provide opportunities to learn, connect, and share ideas, and where, ultimately, we craft solutions that benefit all people in our region. We envision a welcoming space where residents, visitors, and researchers feel equally comfortable, and where scientists and storytellers can share their valuable teachings.

Our zoning bylaw amendment application unanimously passed its second reading by the District of Tofino and proceeded to a public hearing in December. We're thankful to all of the residents, partners, Indigenous leaders, researchers, and the local non-profits and business community who supported our vision.



I am excited about the possibility of a new, permanent CBT building in Tla-o-qui-aht territory and want to share my support for the work they have done to develop the vision and plans in a good way.

> - Iris Frank. Tla-o-qui-aht Education manager

As a person of color who doesn't feel supported by most of the infrastructures in this town, this Centre will help by providing safe space where cultural diversity is welcomed, encouraged and supported.

- Aline Carrier, Uuathluk Fisheries

I have witnessed much bridge-building and network development between communities, thanks to CBT initiation and support. I see so much more connectivity between the different communities now than I ever experienced in the late '70s and '80's when I first moved here.

- Janis McDougall, Tofino Resident

# 2021 Grants by the numbers

total project funding: \$268,776

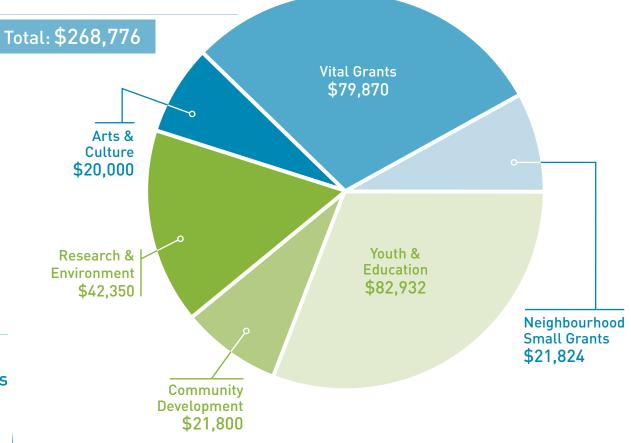




85
local
projects
funded



local





\$412,114 estimated partner contributions

## 2021 Funded Projects

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

#### **Arts and Culture**

Carving on the Edge Festival Society – Carving Club

Coastal Family Resource Coalition – Five Nations Language Stickers

District of Ucluelet – Common Ground Market

Westcoast Community Resources Society – Naasuksap Tlimasti?i Tuuccamiah Women's Circles Wickaninnish Community School – After-school Central Dialect Language Program

#### Research and Environment

Cedar Coast Field Station – Kelp Monitoring in Clayoquot Sound
Central Westcoast Forest Society – Barkley Sound Kelp Bed Restoration Feasibility Study
Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society – Sea Star Stewardship Program
Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds – Testing mitigation to improve habitat connectivity for amphibians and population monitoring
BC Conservation Foundation – WildSafeBC Pacific Rim

#### **Biosphere Research Award**

Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society
- Pelagic Marine Species Survey

Yuulu?il?ath Government - WildSafeBC Hitacu-Macoah







#### **Community Development**

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Growing Resilient Coastal Gardens

District of Ucluelet – Youth Health & Wellness Initiative

Westcoast Community Resources Society – West Coast Free Counselling Clinic

BC Conservation Foundation – Fruit Gleaning Program Pilot

#### Youth and Education

Pacific Rim Hospice Society – Youth Peer Education and Support Program
Surfrider Pacific Rim – Youth Environmental Stewardship Development
Ucluelet Elementary School – The Salmon Story
Wickaninnish Community School – Sowing Seeds Across Generations
Wickaninnish Community School – Tofino Nature Kids After-school Program

#### Youth-led Action Grants

Jensen Bay Wildlife Monitoring – Ethan Stere

Music Video for Seniors – Lothar Myck

Learning Nuu-chah-nulth History of Ucluelet Harbour by Kayak – Felix Fergusson

Bronze Star/Medallion Course for Ucluelet Youth – Riley Gerbrandt and Eli Morgan

Care Packages for Older Adults – Lily Loiselle and Frida Towgood

#### **Vital Grants**

Ahousaht – Bedwell River Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Cedar Coast Field Station – Assessing Juvenile Chinook Salmon Survival

Language Keepers Society – Xaluuk ilath Family Learning Curriculum

Development

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations – Tla-o-qui-aht Nation Community Safety Initiative

#### West Coast NEST

WEST COAST

CBT's education tourism initiative, the West Coast NEST, advanced education for sustainable development in exciting new ways that provided revenue and awareness for local

organizations and businesses. West Coast NEST continued developing its funding partnerships with Royal Roads University and the Government of Canada's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Unit.

#### 2021 highlights include:

- the SDGs, Systems Thinking, and Circular Economy workshop at Ucluelet Secondary School (USS),
- a youth video contest,
- youth-led interviews with regional scientists,
- · a west coast knitting and weaving retreat,
- the Science and Conservation in the Clayoquot Biosphere Region StoryMap Collection, and
- a field equipment lending library for outdoor education students at USS.

Tofino high school student Toby Theriault interviews biologist Kayley Hollyer as part of the NEST youth-led interview series.





#### Coastal Family Resource Coalition (CFRC)

The CFRC is an interdisciplinary network of west coast 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. With the goal to improve the overall health in our communities, the missions of the CBT and the CFRC align—facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experience to achieve social and cultural sustainable development.

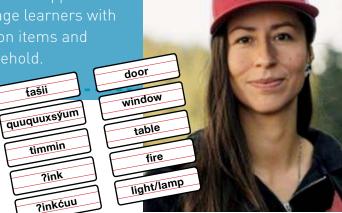
Through 2021, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to highlight the region's most critical public health needs and resulted in numerous collaborations among west coast service providers including:

- monthly meetings (continued online format with high levels of participation),
- three working groups (Child and Youth, Harm Reduction, Early Years),
- seniors/Elders advocacy and program development, and
- West Coast Children's Resilience Initiative to advance trauma-informed practice in local schools.

#### Nuu-chah-nulth language stickers

CFRC Literacy Coordinator, Tsimka Martin, organized project to support Nuu-chah-nulth language learners with stickers to label common items and places around the household.

This CFRC is administered by the CBT and guided by the CFRC Executive Committee.



### Thank you for Giving

Our 2021 donors join a group of committed funders who invest in our region through their donations, grants to our program, or in-kind contributions. We thank each of our donors for placing your trust in us to steward these funds and maximize their impact.

Aaron Lomax

Adrienne Mason

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Alex Kee

Anne Martin

**Backyard Creative** 

Barb Gudbranson

Barbara Beasley

Beverly Hopper

Bill & Risa Levine

Bob Macdonald

Buchanan Programme

& Matthew Wall

Buchanan Programme

& Paul McLoughlin

Canada Council for the Arts

Children's Health Foundation

of Vancouver Island

Christine Skucas

Creative Salmon Co. Ltd.

Dave Myers

Decoda Literacy Solutions Society

Denise Koshowski

District of Tofino

District of Ucluelet

Elisabeth Smith

Eliza Erskine

Elizabeth Liu

Genus Capital Management

Green Buoy Consulting

Gregor Robertson

Jane McGregor

Jason Li

Jennifer Yakimishyn

Joey Halka

John Armstrong

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John O'Brien

John-Paul Harrison

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held at the Vancouver Foundation

Julia Simmerling

Keith Devonshire

Kimberly Pearson

Kristen Collishaw

Leah Austin

Lia Chalifour

Long Beach Lodge Resort

Louis Rouleau

Marc Aguanno

Meredith Sargent

Mitchel Martin Downie

Naomi Dove

Nelly Heyduck

Pam Frazee

Patricia Sieber

Rebecca Hurwitz

Remembering Otto & Marie Pick

Charitable Foundation

Rotary Club of Victoria-Harbourside

Foundation

Rowen Monks

Sabrina Donovan

Salesforce

Sandy Corlazzoli

Sarita Mielke

Taylor McCarthy

The Factory Tofino

The J.W. McConnell Family

Foundation

Tofino Consumers Co-operative

Association

Ucluelet Brewing Co

Ucluelet Co-op

United Way Central

& Northern Vancouver Island

Vancouver Island Health Authority

Veronic Clair

Victoria Foundation

Wendy Palen

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.

#### **New Community Funds**

In 2021, three new funds were established by donors and community partners:

#### **Debbie Mundy Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Supports a scholarship for an Indigenous student to participate in Leadership Vancouver Island, a community-focused, values-based leadership development program.

#### **Warrior Program Fund**

Supports the Nuu-chah-nulth Warrior program to provide resources and training opportunities that support healthy youth development and empowerment and to enable youth to travel for nation-to-nation training opportunities.

#### Nuu-chah-nulth Language Fund

Supports *nuučaańuł* (Nuuchahnulth) language revitalization within the Clayoguot Sound Biosphere Region.



# Ways to give

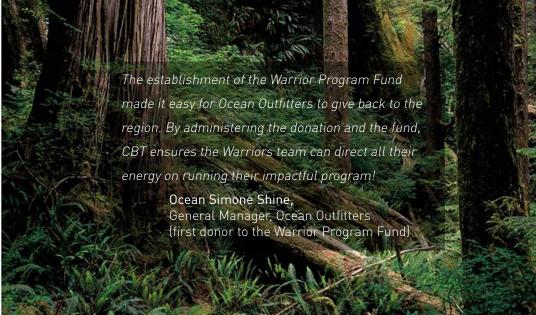
A donation to the CBT makes meaningful and lasting impacts in areas that are important to you. From arts and culture to research, from education to the environment, donors and funders come to us to simplify and enhance their charitable giving in the region.

#### The CBT's 12 community funds include:

- Biosphere Centre Fund
- Biosphere Research Fund
- CBT Operating Endowment Fund
- Clayoquot Sound Wild Salmon Fund
- Debbie Mundy Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Fish for the Future Fund
- Nuu-chah-nulth Language Fund
- Pacific Rim Foundation Fund
- Tofino Children's Swimming and Water Safety Fund
- Tofino Community Fund
- Warrior Program Fund
- West Coast N.E.S.T. Fund

# Today for tomorrow







#### Fossil Fuel Free Investing

The pooled 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. Genus includes an SDG lens in their investment criteria, working to ensure the investments that drive the local impact of our foundation also advance SDGs in the wider world.

### 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.



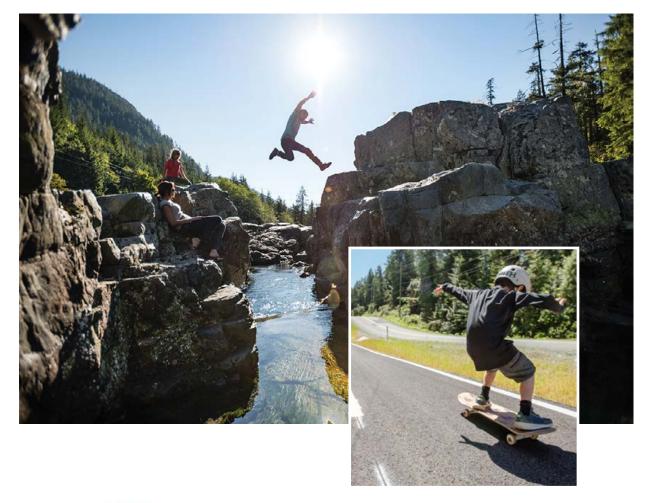
The SDGs provide a useful framework that allow us to draw connections between the health of ecosystems and communities in the CSUBR. At the CBT, we have known since our inception that thriving communities and thriving ecosystems go hand in hand, guided by the Nuu-chah-nulth philosophy of hišukniš ćawaak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



The CBT is an active member of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association as one of 19 UNESCO biosphere reserves in Canada.



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





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

#### Photo credits:

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