





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



We acknowledge the territories of
hiškwiiʔath (Hesquiaht First Nation),
ʕaahuusʔath (Ahousaht), ʕaʔuukʷiʔath
(Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations), Yuuʔuʔitʔath
Government (Ucluelet First Nation), and
tukʷaaʔath (Toquaht Nation) in the spirit
of truth, healing, and reconciliation.



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

The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) is a registered charity based on the west coast of British Columbia. Established in 2000, the CBT is the only organization in Canada that is both a community foundation and a UNESCO Biosphere Region. We pair the spirit of community with the power of global networks to bring more people together for a shared understanding. Our team works to strengthen the development of all citizens, communities, and the ecosystems on which we all depend, for a future we can all be proud of.

From the Co-chairs

For the CBT, 2024 was a year of progress, partnerships, and milestone celebrations. This year, we saw significant developments toward our goal of building the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre. We welcomed multi-year donation commitments from local businesses, received encouraging support from local politicians, and secured federal funding through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program. At the end of the year, this brought us to 66% of our total funding goal and has allowed us to start the construction documentation phase, bringing us closer every day to seeing this innovative regional hub come to life.

This year, we celebrated the unveiling of a new sign along Highway 4. This sign welcomes visitors and residents to the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region in both the nuučaanut (Nuu-chah-nulth) and English languages. Prominently placing the nuučaanut text was a priority from the beginning of the design. This layout puts nuučaanut sovereignty first and shows how the biosphere designation supports and uplifts community vitality. Additionally, we completed the 2024 Living Wage calculation, which revealed that our region has the second-highest living wage in the province, slightly lower than Whistler. The results were shared in a report examining the rising cost of living while also shedding light on the pressing local affordability challenges in the region.

Staff and board members had valuable opportunities to learn, exchange knowledge, and build connections within our provincial, national, and international networks. From local gatherings in the Mount Arrowsmith and Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biospheres to national and international events in Alberta and Germany, these experiences deepened our understanding of how our community-based work fits into a broader context. Additionally, some of the CBT staff were able to engage with the islands and BC community foundations. Each of these opportunities provided critical insights into how we can collaborate on shared priorities. They also reinforced the unique advantage of our dual mandates as both a community foundation and a biosphere region, allowing us to be part of multiple inspiring and supportive networks that help guide and energize our work.

As we reflect on this past year, we look forward with anticipation and gratitude to the start of our 25th year as a UNESCO Biosphere Region. This milestone is a testament to the strength and resilience of local communities and the collective dedication to preserving and sustaining this region. Since 2000, the CBT has invested more than \$5.5 million in projects and initiatives that support its vitality. We are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to work toward a brighter, more sustainable future.

Nicky Ling and Naomi Mack

Co-chairs, Board of Directors, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust





Vision

The community of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region (CSBR) will live sustainably in a healthy ecosystem, with a diversified economy, and strong, vibrant, and united cultures, while embracing the nuučaan̓uḥ (Nuu-chah-nulth) First Nations living philosophies of iisaak (living respectfully), qwa' aak qin tiič mis (life in the balance), and hišukniš čawaak (everything is one and interconnected).

Co-leading

Sustainability Knowledge
Development & Education



The 2024
Living Wage is
\$27.40/hour

The living wage is the hourly pay that each parent must earn to cover the basic expenses of an average family of four with parents working 35 hours/week. It considers the local costs for housing, food, transportation, childcare, health care, and recreation and is the “bare bones” a family needs for an adequate quality of life.

2024 Living Wage

Every two years, the CBT publishes a report that shares important data to determine the cost of living in the region. Since the first report in 2015, we now have nine years of data highlighting shifts in local affordability challenges over time, aiming to inspire action from local employers and all levels of government.

Below image: Saltwater Building Co. is a Ucluelet-based contractor and living wage employer.



Read the 2024
Living Wage report
grco.de/2024LW



Vital Conversation

As part of the Vital Signs program, the CBT hosts Vital Conversations to explore priority issues, gather community insights, and connect with specific demographics. These discussions serve as a platform for collaboration and engagement, helping shape strategies that address key challenges. The insights collected inform granting priorities, guide donors in understanding community needs, and raise awareness about important local issues.

Safety, Prevention, and Regional Coordination

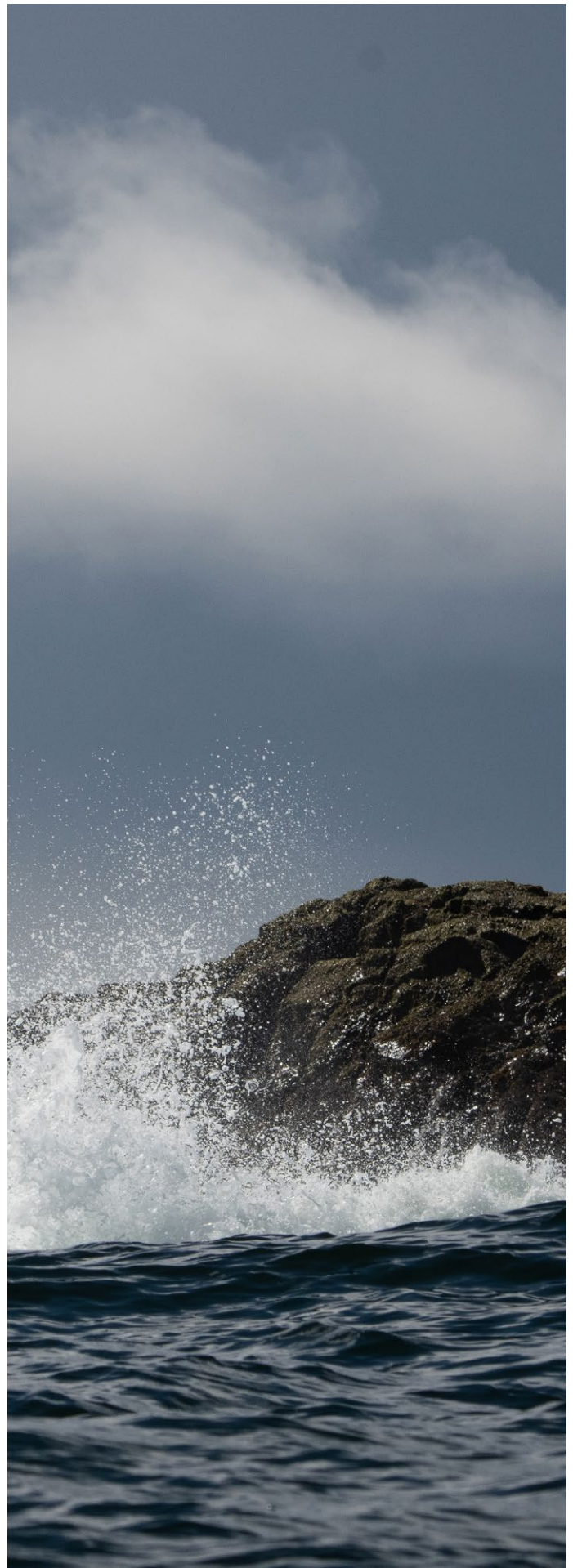
Last spring, in collaboration with Parks Canada, we hosted a Vital Conversation on coastal safety. The event brought together over 35 participants, including representatives from ʔaʔuukʷiʔaḥ (Tla-o-qui-aht) and Yuuʔuʔitʔaḥ (Ucluelet) First Nations, all levels of government, federal agencies, local first responders, and key sectors such as tourism, accommodation, business, and the surf industry.

Discussions focused on strengthening regional coordination and identifying actions to improve recreational coastal safety, prevent incidents, and enhance visitor communication. Coastal safety remains a high priority for many in the region. In response, the newly formed Tofino Lifesaving Society is actively working with regional partners to advance safety initiatives along the coast.

Sexual Assault Response and Consent

In the fall, in partnership with the Westcoast Community Resources Society (WCRS), we hosted a Vital Conversation on sexual assault response in the region. Statistics from Tofino and the nearby communities of Ty-Histanis, Esowista, and Ahousaht indicate sexual assault rates are significantly higher than those in other municipalities across B.C. In response, over 60 community members gathered at the Tofino Community Hall to engage in this vital discussion.

The event featured presentations from the WCRS Sexual Response Program, local school sexual health and consent educators, the Kackaamin Rebuilding the Circle program, and Uut Uuʔtukyuu. Participants from health care, schools, community services, businesses and resorts, and First Nations as well as community advocates collaborated to share experiences and discuss solutions to help us shift from a culture that facilitates sexual violence through shame and secrecy, to a culture of consent that fosters respect and dignity.

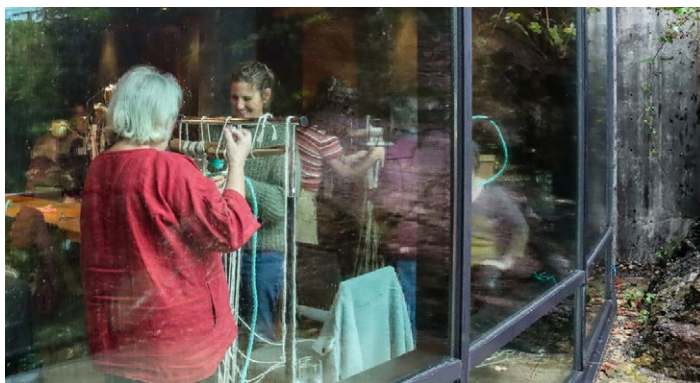




West Coast N.E.S.T.

(Nature.Education.Sustainability.Transformation.)

The CBT's regional education tourism initiative advances education for sustainable development in exciting ways that provide revenue and awareness for local organizations and businesses. The West Coast NEST connects visiting learners with local knowledge holders for place-based learning, while also expanding education and training opportunities for residents.



Very much enjoyed the retreat and plan to attend again.
Great staff, great instructors,
great venue. Thank you!

— Janette, 2024 Fibre Art Retreat participant

Key Highlights in 2024

250+

People participated in West Coast NEST's educational programs

690+

Education programs were promoted on our website at westcoastnest.org

61%+

Of the participants of our 7th annual Fibre Art Retreat were returning from previous years

1,400+

Jobs were supported either directly or indirectly

\$17k

Provided in financial and logistical support for youth land-based learning opportunities, impacting over 70 local youth and their teachers

Youth Land-Based Learning

West Coast NEST partnered with local organizations to offer land-based learning workshops for youth. Each session explored a unique topic, featuring insights from experts, scientists, and Indigenous knowledge holders who shared their insights and perspectives. These programs are part of a three-year project led by West Coast NEST with support from NSERC's PromoScience grant to inspire curiosity in youth.

- **Wild Stories Youth Photography Camp:** This camp offered youth from the Yuuʔuʔitʔaḥ (Ucluelet First Nation) kakaʔinminḥ group a unique opportunity to explore the art of photography. Through hands-on learning, they honed their skills and learned about wildlife photography ethics. Led by photographer Sam Rose Phillips and guest experts, the camp inspired young photographers to see the world through a new lens.
- **Land-Based Learning at Hiṭsyaqʕis, Tranquil Creek Watershed:** Ucluelet Secondary School students joined West Coast NEST and the team at Redd Fish Restoration Society for a transformative land-based field trip. They learned about ecological restoration, cultural history, and the power of interconnectedness, guided by the ʕaʔuukʕiʔaḥ (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations) principle of hiṣukʔiṣ čawaak (everything is one).
- **Seamount Naming Experience:** After the Tang.ḡwan-ḥačxʕiqak-Tsigis Marine Protected Area (MPA) was designated in June 2024, West Coast NEST partnered with Uu-a-thluk to bring together nuučaaḥuṭ (Nuu-chah-nulth) youth from ʕaʔuukʕiʔaḥ and Yuuʔuʔitʔaḥ. Led by Elder Dennis Hetu, Dr. Cherisse Du Preez, and Uu-athluk staff, participants learned about seamounts, the new MPA, and ancestral clam gardens. A highlight was naming some of the 47+ seamounts, reinforcing Indigenous stewardship. Over 40 youth and mentors took part in this meaningful learning experience.



Read about the Wild Stories
Photography Camp
qrco.de/WildStories



Read about land-based
learning at Tranquil Creek
qrco.de/TranquilCreek

Biodiversity

Conservation in the
Biosphere Region



The CBT is currently leading a five-year initiative aimed at enhancing biodiversity conservation efforts in the region. The project seeks to identify areas of importance and provide support for stewardship, restoration, and conservation of these vital zones. Areas being recognized for Canada's conservation targets are expanding beyond traditional parks and protected areas to include Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs). These designations are more inclusive of living sustainably with the land while protecting and stewarding its ecological integrity.

In 2024, the CBT provided support for Indigenous-led stewardship and restoration projects including:

- Landslide restoration, juvenile salmon salvage, and salmon escapement surveys (in partnership with Redd Fish Restoration Society) - hiškʷiiʔath̓ (Hesquiaht First Nation)
- Youth mentorship network - ʕaah̓uusʔath̓ (Ahousaht)
- Guardian support for stewardship and conservation for Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks - ʕaʔuukʷiʔath̓ (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations)
- Salmon enhancement project in collaboration with Thornton Creek Enhancement Society and kakawinmin̓h youth conservation film project - Yuutuʔitʔath̓ Government (Ucluelet First Nation)
- Land and marine stewardship/monitoring efforts and kelp restoration research - tukʷaaʔath̓ (Toquaht Nation)





Connecting with other biosphere regions offers invaluable opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective action. By engaging with fellow biosphere regions locally, nationally, and internationally, we strengthen relationships, exchange ideas, and learn from one another's experiences. These gatherings reinforce our shared commitment to conservation, sustainable development, and community well-being while highlighting the unique strengths of each biosphere region.

BC Biosphere Regions Gatherings

In early winter, we gathered with the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound and Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Regions in Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) territory. There, we learned from local knowledge holders about their stewardship of the lands and waters, deepening our understanding of regional conservation efforts.

Our second gathering took place in the spring in the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region, on Snaw-naw-as First Nation territory. This gathering provided an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions on local food security while being inspired by the region's rich cultural history and community-led initiatives.

National and International Biosphere Regions Gatherings

In the summer, the CBT staff traveled to Germany for the 2024 EuroMAB conference in the Elbe River Landscape. This biennial four-day event brings together representatives from more than 300 UNESCO Biosphere Regions across 41 countries, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. With the theme being "Climate for Change", this year's conference aligned closely with the CBT's local priorities, offering fresh insights into climate action and sustainability.

Later in the fall, we joined the Canadian Biosphere Regions Association gathering in Alberta's Waterton Biosphere Region. This event strengthened connections between biosphere regions across the country, allowing us to share strategies, explore common challenges, and collaborate on national conservation and sustainability efforts.

Each of these gatherings reaffirmed the power of working together as part of a broader network dedicated to protecting and enhancing the places we call home, ensuring both people and nature can thrive.

Regional Forum

Biodiversity conservation is most effective when we work in partnership towards common goals. In 2024, the CBT facilitated two regional forums, one in the spring and one in the fall bringing together over 55 individuals representing over 25 groups to share their projects and priorities. This initiative fosters meaningful connections and is an opportunity for everyone to share insights and cultivate strong relationships. Attendees included representatives from First Nations, local governments, and organizations involved in environmental research, stewardship, restoration, and sustainable development. The CBT is incredibly grateful for the interest and enthusiasm that participants bring each time to the forum, and we will continue to host this event semi-annually.

Networks for Biodiversity

This project is stronger thanks to the collaborative nature of organizations and individuals in the region. The CBT is grateful to support and participate in several collaborative networks including the lisaak Sin Hay Tiičmis - Regional Wildlife Coexistence Network, Clayoquot Sound Salmon Roundtable, and the Indigenous-led Westcoast Stewardship Corridor.

Strengthening

Healthy Communities, Ecosystems,
and Diversifying Economies



Eat West Coast

With rising food costs, the need for emergency preparedness, and increasing interest in food system resiliency and sovereignty for the region, the CBT's regional food security initiative, Eat West Coast (EWC) continues to help local communities and organizations develop effective, community-based responses to food-access challenges. It supports partnerships to access resources, funding, and collaboration while also influencing policies related to food, health, and climate change.

In 2024, EWC expanded its support for local food access programs in communities, with a particular focus on seniors, and children and ongoing food preservation education and equipment. It coordinated the Coastal Foods Roundtable in partnership with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and helped to secure funds for local food production as well as processing projects. As a member of the Island Health Food Hubs, EWC participates in networks and advisory groups across Vancouver Island and the Province of BC, advocating for essential food policies for remote coastal communities.



Neighbourhood Small Grants

Neighbourhood Small Grants

Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) provide individuals with \$50 to \$500 grants for grassroots community-building initiatives. NSG supports empowering, accessible opportunities for residents from all demographics to make their communities more inclusive and vibrant places to live. Our local programs awarded 32 grants (\$13,503) within Clayoquot Sound in 2024:

Spring



\$7,128

15 green/youth NSGs

Fall



\$6,375

17 culture grants

Project Spotlight: Kids Halloween Spooky Party Youth Project

For this youth-led NSG project, 10-year-old Hayden Steven, hosted a Kids' Halloween Spooky Party at the local Legion, bringing children and families together to celebrate community spirit and connection. The evening featured lively music performances from local youth DJs, including Hayden's DJ group, the Yin Yang Clan. Participants enjoyed playing "scary-okee" as it was an opportunity for all kids to shine during this fun and interactive activity. They also indulged in delicious French crêpes provided by a local volunteer and shared plenty of festive fun. A total of 150 people attended the event, making it a fantastic first experience for Hayden in organizing a successful community gathering.



Thank you to the **Westcoast Community Resources Society** for continuing to partner with the CBT in support of this program and to all the funders and project leaders for making 2024 such a successful year for Neighbourhood Small Grants!

“A highlight for me was looking around and seeing the Legion full of people. I was surprised by the turnout and would like to host an event like this again!”

– Hayden Steven, 2024 NSG Project lead



Empowering | Youth



My goal is to build a meaningful career that will allow me to contribute to the conservation and protection of the habitat and wildlife I am passionate about. I understand the importance for protection and wildlife management, and I want to learn as much as possible to make a meaningful impact.

— Ethan Stere, education award recipient

Education Awards

The CBT awards two \$16,800 post-secondary education awards annually to high school students. The scholarships are awarded based on community involvement, personal reference letters, a proposed education plan, and academic achievement.

Ethan Stere received the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region Education Award and is currently studying Wildland Conservation and Recreation at the University of Northern British Columbia. With a strong passion for conservation, he aims to build a career in land management, forest research, and the study of large mammals. While attending Ucluelet Secondary School, he was an active member of the Surfrider Youth Club and dedicated over 750 volunteer hours to the Tofino Salmon Enhancement Society. In 2021, he received a CBT Youth and Education Grant, which enabled him and a friend to conduct wildlife monitoring and raise awareness in their neighbourhood about local wildlife activity, promoting peaceful coexistence with large mammals.

McKayla George of the ʔaʔuukʷiʔaṭh (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations), received the Central Region nuučaanuṭ (Nuu-chah-nulth) Education Award and is studying Sciences at Vancouver Island University, aspiring to build a career in biology. Beyond her academic pursuits, McKayla has been actively involved in Truth & Reconciliation initiatives and cultural work in her community for years. Her powerful poem about the residential school system was selected and published in the local Tofino Times Magazine a few years back. As a talented artist and a member of the USS Art Club, her artwork was showcased at the Black Rock Oceanfront Resort in 2023, with another piece featured at the Orange Door Gallery that same year.



My plans and goals for my education/ career are to further my knowledge in science to go into a science-based job in the future such as biology or marine biology. All the various kinds of science have intrigued me ever since I was a little kid such as Anatomy, Biology, Marine Biology, Psychology, Chemistry, and more.

— McKayla George, education award recipient



Youth Internship

During the 2024 summer, the CBT had the pleasure of welcoming Zahur Ashrafuzzaman as our youth intern. Zahur made a valuable contribution to a range of initiatives across the organization, bringing fresh perspectives and a strong work ethic that left a lasting impact on many projects. We are grateful for the energy and insight they brought to the team.

Youth Advisory Committee

In 2024, the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) granted \$6,000. The YAC stands as the sole youth-led granting stream at the CBT, providing support and grants of up to \$1,000 for local ideas, projects, and activities for the benefit of youth in the community. The program is structured to empower youth by fostering skill development, involvement in our initiatives, and providing mentorship opportunities within the CBT framework.

The YAC supported the following projects:

- Girls Mentorship Workshops through Female Community Role Models - Wickaninnish Community School & Ucluelet Elementary School
- Grade 7 Class Trip to Strathcona Park Lodge - Ucluelet Elementary School
- Inviting the kakawinminh Women's and Girls' Group to Open and Participate in a Gathering in the Region - Pacific Rim Gymnastics
- Learning on the Land Program Drum Making to Increase Participation in Cultural Activities - Ucluelet Secondary School



I deeply admire the CBT team's work across such a wide variety of areas, from food security and nuučaan̓ut (Nuu-chah-nulth) language revitalization to climate stewardship and diverse community projects. While I have long been invested in the countless intersections between these domains, rarely had I come across an organization so clearly recognizing several of these intersections and supporting justice across them. I understand this broad outlook as owing much to the nuučaan̓ut (Nuu-chah-nulth) philosophy of "hišukiš čawaak" translated as "everything is connected" – words I have come to appreciate with each passing day.

— Zahur Ashrafuzzaman, CBT Youth Intern



Youth Leading Education for Reconciliation

For a third year in a row, the CBT coordinated an initiative to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in partnership with the Ucluelet Secondary School (USS), the Legacy of Hope Foundation, Tourism Tofino, and Canadian Heritage. Throughout the month of September 2024, six USS classes explored the history and impacts of the Canadian Indian Residential School System. Students created orange shirts to honour the children who survived and those who did not, researched the legacy and history, read survivors' stories and created poetry based on those, and investigated the 94 Calls to Action.

The artifacts of learning were featured in a powerful youth-led event on September 30th at USS, alongside the Legacy of Hope Foundation's mobile exhibition: "Youth on Reconciliation – Imagine a Canada". Approximately 150 community members and 300 students had the opportunity to view the exhibit.

Following the event, Tourism Tofino and the CBT partnered to extend the exhibit's impact by hosting it at the Tofino Visitor Centre for several weeks, allowing more than 1,250 additional community members and visitors to engage with the Legacy of Hope's displays and the powerful work of local youth.



Watch the National Day for
Truth and Reconciliation video
qrco.de/NDTRvideo

Establishing | The Biosphere Centre



Total Jobs During and Post Construction



77

New and expanded businesses



52-72

Short-term jobs



9

New and expanded long-term jobs

**TOTAL
JOBS**

128-158

Direct and indirect

In 2024, the CBT has made significant progress toward the establishment of the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre, a culturally safe knowledge hub in ʔaʔuukʷiʔaṭh (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations) territory. With \$10.1 million raised, the project is now in the construction documentation phase, with construction anticipated to begin in 2025.

The Centre will strengthen regional food security through the Community Teaching Kitchen, fostering

skills in traditional and sustainable food practices while creating jobs through culinary training and Indigenous food systems. It will also drive economic development through the Visual Art Program, supporting local artists and cultural heritage. By uniting people through place-based experiential learning and art, the Centre will generate lasting benefits such as economic development, job creation, and community resilience.

Community Teaching Kitchen

The Community Teaching Kitchen will enhance food security and sovereignty while fostering economic development. This state-of-the-art facility will provide a dedicated space for culinary training and food industry certifications, empowering individuals with skills that can lead to career opportunities in the food sector. Workshops led by local experts will focus on traditional food preservation techniques, such as canning and fermentation, further supporting food sovereignty and local knowledge. By blending hands-on learning with modern and Indigenous practices, the Teaching Kitchen will create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, strengthen the local food system, and boost the regional economy.

Visual Art Program

The Visual Art Program will create economic opportunities for local artists and promote a deeper understanding of Indigenous cultures. Through exhibitions, workshops, and collaborations, the program will provide a platform for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to showcase their work, generating income and increasing visibility for local talent. The program will also serve as a powerful tool for learning and sharing Indigenous knowledge, traditions, and stories through artistic expression. By integrating cultural teachings into the creative process, the Visual Art Program will promote cross-cultural understanding, strengthen community bonds, and contribute to the region's economic development through the creative economy.



Learn more about the
Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre
qrco.de/BiosphereCentre

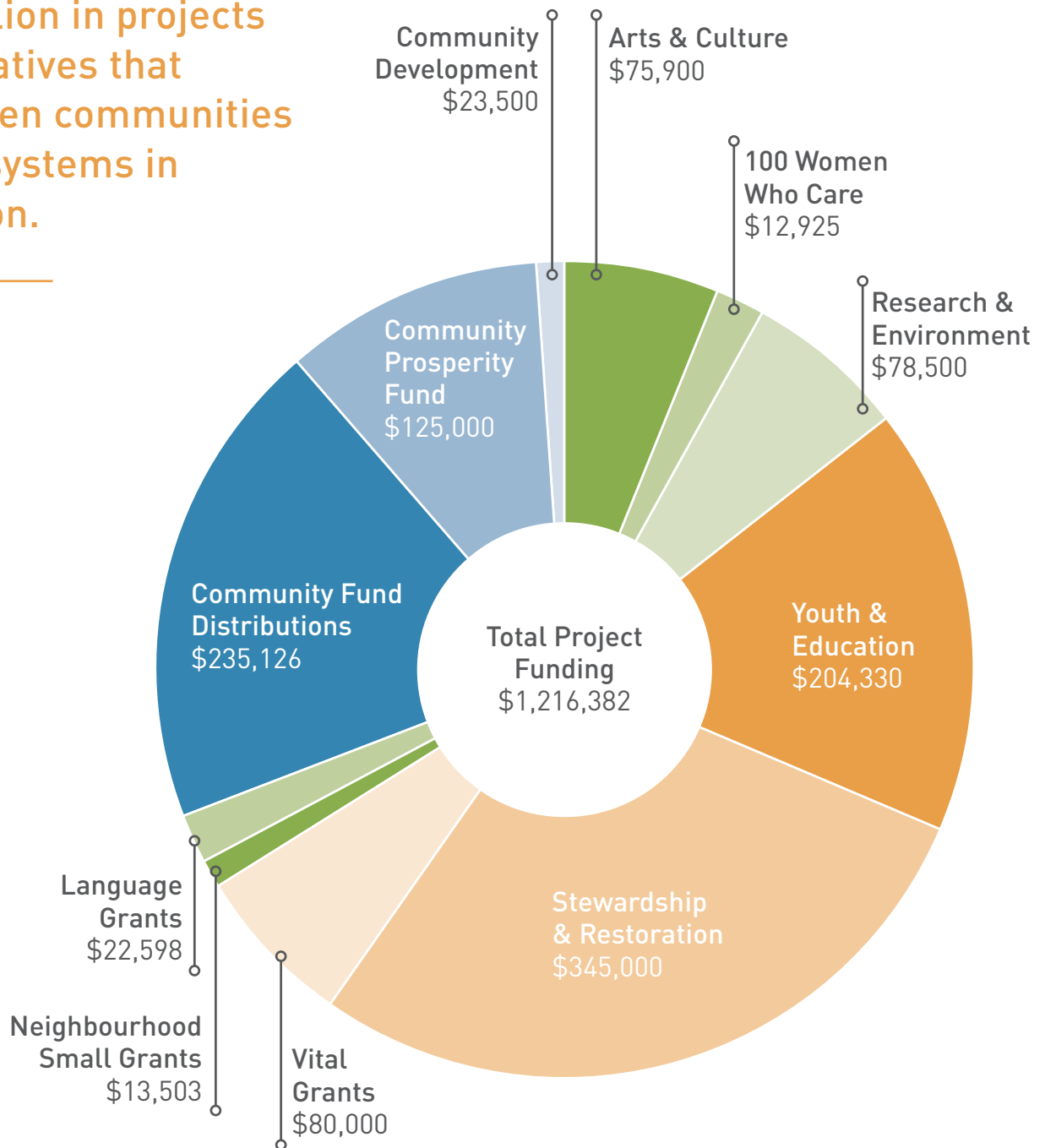
To get involved or contribute to the
centre, contact Michelle Hall at
michelle@clayoquotbiosphere.org



2024

Grants by the Numbers

Since 2000, the CBT has invested more than \$5.5 million in projects and initiatives that strengthen communities and ecosystems in the region.





128

Local projects
funded



8

Students supported
through education
awards



69

Organizations
funded



10

Organizations funded for
the first time



32

Neighbourhood
Small Grants



28

Grants from
community funds



\$1,341,264

Estimated partner contributions



7

nuučaañut
(Nuu-chah-nulth)
Language Grants



\$333,010

Estimated in-kind
leveraged

A group of young people are seated around a table, holding a thick rope. They appear to be participating in a workshop or activity. An instructor, wearing a yellow tank top and a black cap, stands nearby, observing the group. The setting is indoors, with a wooden table and various items on it, including a fire extinguisher and some papers. The background shows a wall with a framed picture and a sign.

Clayoquot Biosphere Trust | 2024 Annual Report

Harbour Health & Environmental Education

Ucluelet Aquarium

Shellfish Toxicity Monitoring in ʔaḥuʔath (Ahousaht) Hahoulthee

Maaqtusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society

Ten Years of Sea Star Wasting Surveys in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region

Redd Fish Restoration Society

Whales of Clayoquot and Barkley

Marine Education and Research Society

Youth & Education

Celebrating Learning, Language, and Reconciliation

Ucluelet Secondary School

Earth Keepers Rhythms & Rhymes Workshops

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

Girl Guides of Canada supporting Accessibility

Girl Guides of Canada

Language on the Water

Muḥaa Rising Tide Surf Society

Maaqtusiis Girls Group

Maaqtusiis Secondary School

nuučaaṇuṭ (Nuu-chah-nulth)

Youth Harvesting Workshop

Uu-a-thluk

On the Road Tofino/Ucluelet/ʔaḥuʔath (Ahousaht)

ASTC Science World Society

Queer Youth Connections

Coastal Queer Alliance

Snorkel Harvesting Course

Ucluelet Secondary School Outdoor Education

Youth Environmental Stewardship Program

Surfrider Pacific Rim

Youth Friday Night Live

District of Ucluelet

Youth Kayak Training: Paddle Canada Level 1 Course

Hello Nature Adventure Tours

Youth Mentorship Program

Ha'oom Fisheries Society

Biosphere Research Award

Coho Vitality Project

Ha'oom Fisheries Society

Vital Grants

Child Youth Grief Counselling and Education

Pacific Rim Hospice Society

Kakawinminḥ Group

Yuuluʔilʔath Government

West Coast Youth Facilitator Role

Alberni Drug & Alcohol Prevention Services

Stewardship and Restoration Support (2023-2024)

Indigenous-led stewardship and restoration projects

More information on page 10

Wetland Stewardship and Restoration to Support Conservation

Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds

WildSafeBC Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

BC Conservation Foundation

nuučaaṇuṭ (Nuu-chah-nulth) Language Grants

ʔaḥuʔath Language Gathering

Crystal Frank

Ahousaht Language Website

Evangeline Prevost

Family Research

Betty and Aaron Keitlah

Language Learning and Transcription with Youth

Iris Frank

Little Book Project

Trinity Babichuk

Magic ʔuḥwapi (paddle)

Ivy and Tsimka Martin

Second Stage Learners Project

Arlene Paul

Community Prosperity Fund

Regional Youth Capacity Building

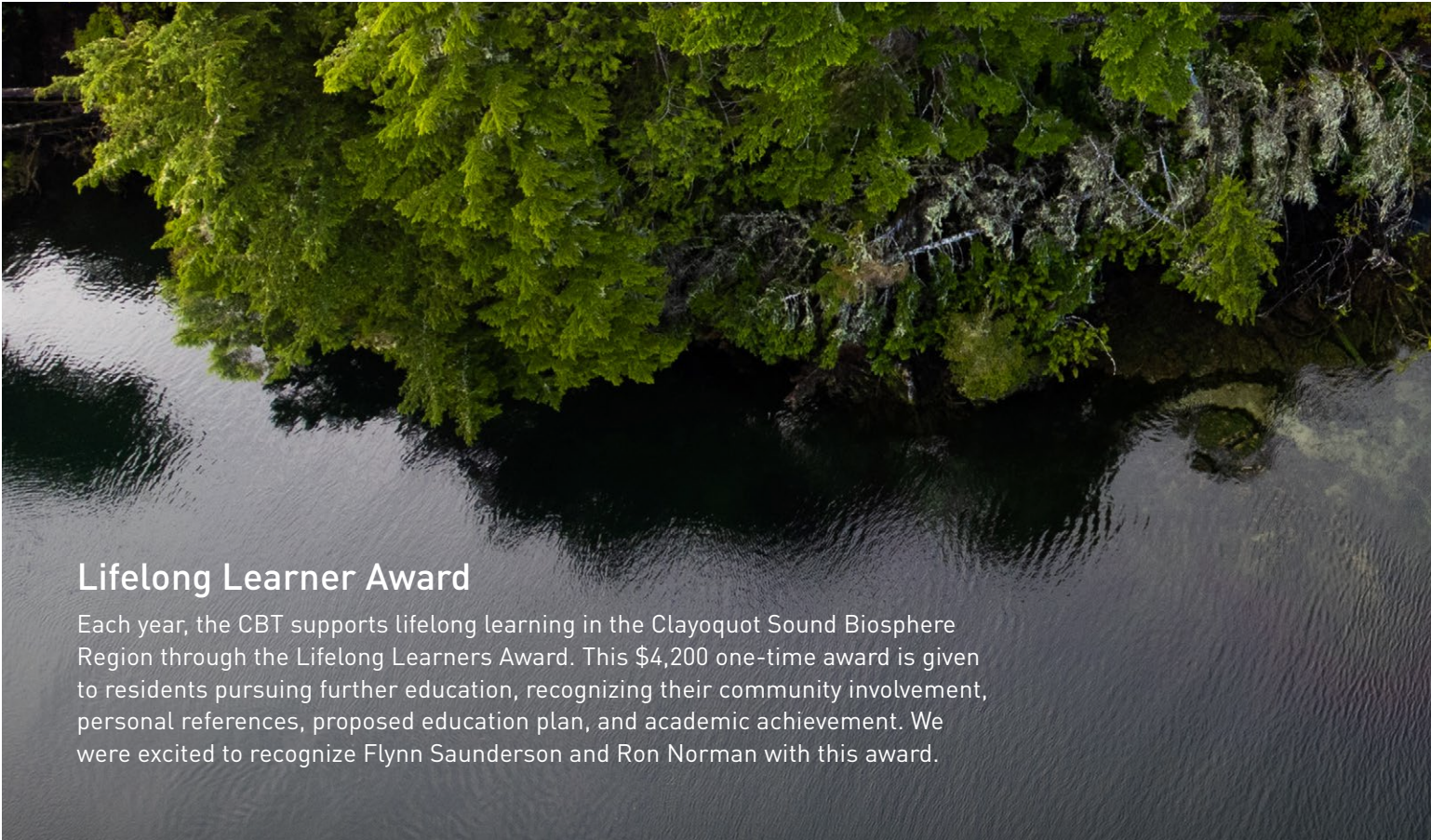
Alberni Drug and Alcohol Prevention Services

SMILE Program

Pacific Rim Hospice Society

Substance Use Outreach Program

West Coast Community Resource Society



Lifelong Learner Award

Each year, the CBT supports lifelong learning in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region through the Lifelong Learners Award. This \$4,200 one-time award is given to residents pursuing further education, recognizing their community involvement, personal references, proposed education plan, and academic achievement. We were excited to recognize Flynn Saunderson and Ron Norman with this award.



Flynn grew up on the West Coast, where he developed a deep appreciation for the impact of passionate volunteers, inspiring his ongoing commitment to community service. Flynn has been a dedicated volunteer with CBT's Youth and Education and Community Development Committees. He has also demonstrated leadership as a student member of academic governance, vice-chair of the Recreation and Tourism Association, and president of the Master of Community Planning Students Association at Vancouver Island University (VIU).

I am currently pursuing a Master of Community Planning at VIU, channeling my passion for community development into my thesis, which seeks to understand the impacts of tourism on BC Resort Municipalities and how they may be addressing those impacts.

— Flynn Saunderson, Lifelong Learner Award recipient



Ron has been helping people in his profession as a chiropractor for 22 years (13 years on the West Coast), as well as, through his community involvement. Ron's contributions include delivering health lectures and clinical services in First Nations communities, serving as Team Surf Canada chiropractor for national and international competitions, and leading medical teams for local premier surf events. He's supported youth education through lectures, coaching, and scholarships, and provided healthcare training for firefighters, paramedics, and hospitality workers. Ron's intention is to further his education toward a Doctor of Science in Rehabilitation and Health Leadership at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

My work aims to address healthcare inequalities, particularly in West Coast Vancouver Island First Nations communities, and to support underserved populations globally through a precedent of initiatives like World Spine Care and the Global Spine Care Initiative.

— Ron Norman, Lifelong Learner Award recipient

Regional | Programs

Giving back
in accordance w/ values.

Approachable

The CBT is home to several regional programs including Leadership Vancouver Island and the Coastal Family Resource Coalition. 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.

Throughout the year, the coalition met monthly and supported several community health initiatives, including:

- Strategic planning for the Child and Youth working Group
- Harm reduction working group
- Collaboration with the Alberni Drug and Alcohol Prevention Services to develop a satellite Foundry in the region



coastal family
RESOURCE COALITION

Coastal Family Resource Coalition

The Coastal Family Resource Coalition (CFRC) is a network of West Coast health service providers that develops capacity to improve overall health in local communities. Administered by the CBT, the CFRC facilitates collaboration to achieve social and cultural sustainable development.

Child and Youth Working Group

In 2024, the Child and Youth working Group began to implement increased coordination and enhanced services for children and youth in the region. Informed by child and youth service providers as well as local youth.

The Child and Youth Working Group strategy identifies the following key priorities:



Engaging youth programming



Strong youth voices



Safe and secure housing



Robust systems of collaboration



Wellness and belonging

Leadership Vancouver Island

Guided by the steering committee and in partnership with Vancouver Island University, the CBT delivers Leadership Vancouver Island (LVI), a community-focused, value-based leadership development program that inspires and builds capacity for outstanding leadership, learning, and service.

The 2024-2025 cohort is now underway. The CBT was thrilled to receive 19 applications for this unique program, which brings together emerging leaders to foster meaningful connections and a bright future for the region.

Students kicked off the program in September with a two-day opening retreat in Ty-Histanis, where they were inspired by local facilitator, Ricardo Manmohan. In October, the group gathered in Macoah to explore ideas for their community projects. The November session took place in Ucluelet and focused on honing their public speaking and teamwork skills.

In the months ahead, students will continue meeting monthly in different communities across the biosphere region, deepening their leadership skills while working on impactful community projects. Their journey will culminate in a summer 2025 graduation, celebrating their growth and contributions to the region.





Champions,
change-makers,
builders, stewards.
Researchers,
helpers, advocates,
allies.

Province of British Columbia



We are a
catalyst
for positive
change and a
sustainable
future.

Staff

Brooke Wood

Manager of Community Initiatives

Chris Weller

Executive and Finance Assistant

Colin Robinson

Program Coordinator

Erika Goldt

Eat West Coast Lead

Janessa Dornstauder

Conservation Partnerships Coordinator

Jason Sam

Program Coordinator

Justice Manson

Literacy Coordinator

Marianne Paquette

Communications Coordinator

Michelle Hall

Campaign and Donor Relations Lead

Nicole Gerbrandt

Director of Education, West Coast NEST

Rebecca Hurwitz

Executive Director

Toni Buston

Community Developer, Coastal Family
Resource Coalition

Verena Merkel

Finance Coordinator

Photo credits

Ben Grayzel

Brooke Wood

Geoff Johnson

Jen McLeod

Marianne Paquette

Marcie Callewaert

Motiv Architects

Nicole Gerbrandt

Ross Reid

Saltwater Building Co.

Sam Rose Phillips

Thomas Porter

Thornton Creek

Enhancement Society

Vancouver Island University

West Barkley Media

GIVING

Lasting
Impacts



Inspired by the 100 Who Care Alliance, this event aimed to elevate women's voices in the community and highlight the power of collective giving, as women are still underrepresented in philanthropy.

100 Women Who Care

In February 2024, the CBT hosted *100 Women Who Care*, bringing together 129 women who each contributed \$100 to support local initiatives. After hearing from three organizations doing incredible work in the region, the group chose to donate \$12,900 to the Pacific Rim Hospice Society.



Spotlight:
Holiday Giving
Catalogue



4th

Giving Campaign



23

local charities
participated



\$37,476

raised



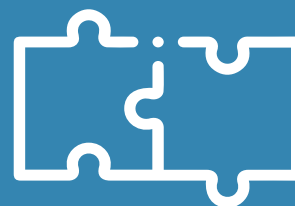
56

donors



94

donations



\$10,000

donations matched by
Pacific Sands Beach Resort

319

TipTap donations at Tofitian Cafe supported
the Holiday Giving Catalogue





Learn more about giving
qrco.de/lastingimpact



New Community Fund

In 2024, one new fund was established:

Pacific Rim Arts Society Fund

Pacific Rim Arts Society (PRAS) is a volunteer-based, non-profit society serving the districts of Tofino and Ucluelet, and First Nations communities in the region. PRAS envisions a lively, diverse, and self-sustaining arts and culture sector that is an integral part of healthy and viable communities.

The Pacific Rim Arts Society has been promoting arts and culture on the West Coast for 55 years, bringing in world-class acts and fostering local talent growth. Art and Culture is what makes a community what it is and encourages people to live, work, play, and stay here. The Pacific Rim Arts Society Fund makes it possible to extend these efforts without 100% reliance on external granting fluctuations. By contributing to this new CBT Community Fund, donors can help further the good work for another 55+ years.

— Myles Morrison, Pacific Rim Arts Society President

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, education, and the environment, donors and funders come to us to simplify and enhance their charitable giving in the region.

CBT's 15 community funds:

- Biosphere Centre Fund
- Biosphere Research Fund
- CBT Operating Endowment Fund
- Clayoquot Sound Wild Salmon Fund
- Clayoquot Sustainability Fund
- Debbie Mundy Memorial Scholarship Fund
- nuučaanut (Nuu-chah-nulth) Language Fund
- Pacific Rim Arts Society Fund
- Pacific Rim Foundation Fund
- Tofino Children's Swimming and Water Safety Fund
- Tofino Community Fund
- Tofino Saltwater Classic Fund
- Warrior Program Fund
- West Coast Multiplex Fund
- West Coast N.E.S.T. Fund



Today for Tomorrow

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.

The CBT's fully audited financial statements are available on our website.

Registered charity number:
#870641727RR0001



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



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA**
all for community

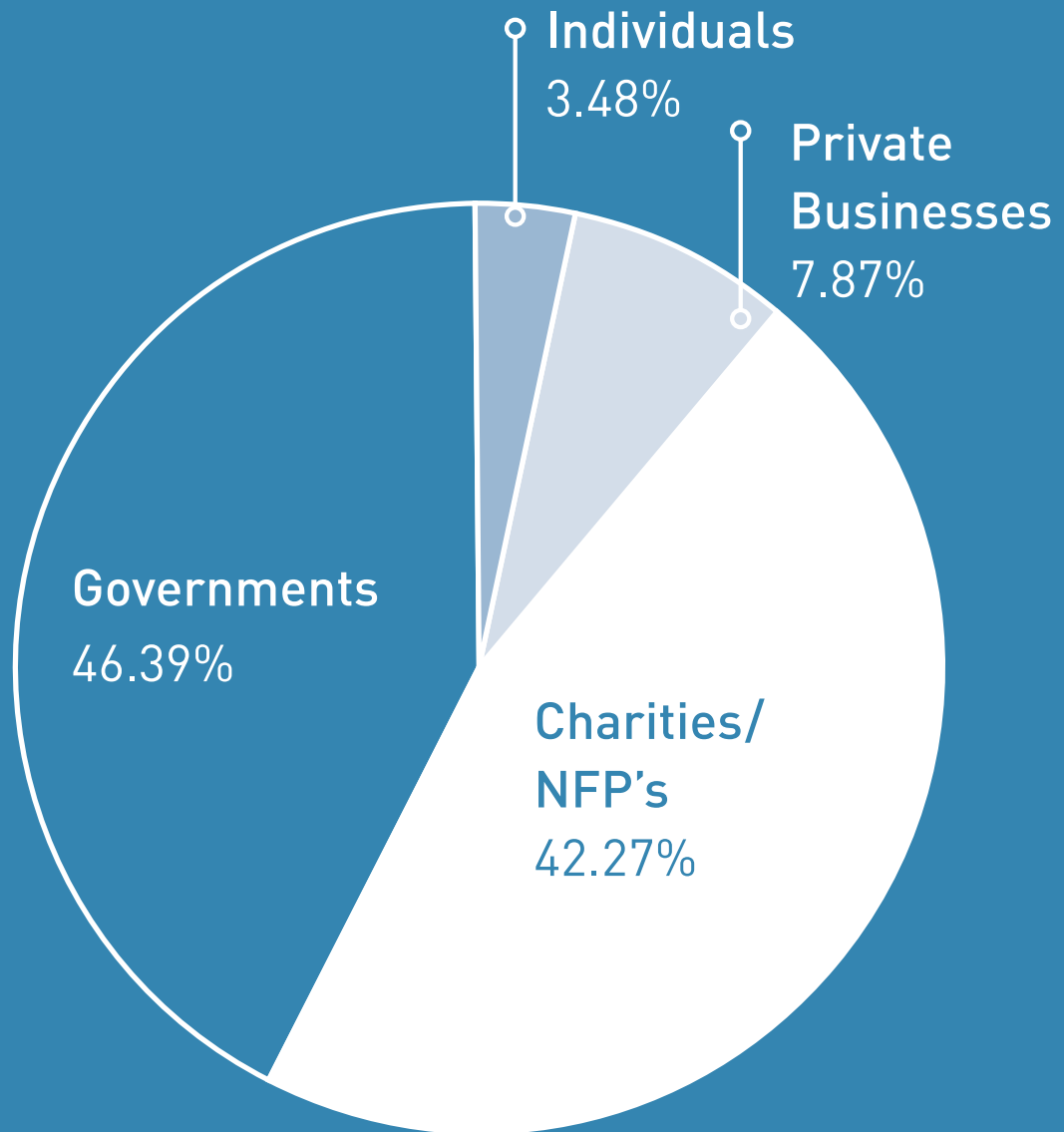
The CBT is one of Canada's 191 community foundations.



Proud member of the
Canadian Biosphere
Regions Association

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

Donation Streams



209 New donors



100 Recurring donors

TOTAL

309







Thank you for Giving

Our 2024 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.

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.

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

clayoquotbiosphere.org
info@clayoquotbiosphere.org

 [clayoquotbiosphere](https://www.facebook.com/clayoquotbiosphere)
 [clayoquotbiosphere](https://www.instagram.com/clayoquotbiosphere)
 [Clayoquot Biosphere Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/clayoquot-biosphere-trust)
 [clayoquotbiospheretrust9324](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



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