

A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking In Canada 2001 Regional Overview: BRITISH COLUMBIA



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The Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) has launched a major research initiative to develop a profile of environmental grantmaking in Canada. Included in this document is an overview of key findings for British Columbia – including total environmental grants in the province and breakdowns by environmental issue, sub-issue, and activity supported. These initial findings are based on the environmental grants made in 2001 by 51 grantmakers – predominantly foundations – mostly CEGN members. This is just a start! Next year's data will include a broader range of grants and grantmakers.

CEGN initiated this research to address the absence of Canadian data on the issues, needs and priorities for environmental funding. The resulting Canadian Environmental Grants Database provides an aggregate profile on the size and characteristics of the environmental grantmaking sector in Canada. This research is important because without any sense of the big picture, we can have no understanding of the cumulative impact of environmental grantmaking in Canada, no sense of the context in which we each work – nor can we fully develop sector-level collaboration to address shared concerns. Ultimately, CEGN's goal in undertaking this research is to encourage discussion, debate and action on the needs and gaps in funding in the Canadian environmental sector.

The Big Picture

Grants to BC Recipients

A total of \$19.2 million was given to recipients located in BC through 532 environmental grants made in 2001 by the grantmakers included in the database. This represents 27 percent of the total grant dollars and 36 percent of the total number of environmental grants given across Canada in that year. Overall 243 different BC recipients received grants (30% of the total number of recipients Canada-wide). Thirty-six of the 51 grantmakers in the database (71%) gave grants to BC recipients in 2001.

Individual grant amounts to BC recipients vary greatly, ranging from \$100 to over \$1.5 million. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$10,250. (In comparison, the median grant for recipients across Canada was \$15,000.)

Grants to BC Activities

The location of the activity that a grant supports is sometimes different from the location of the recipient. For example, many national organizations are based in Ontario, but their work takes place across Canada. For this reason, it is also important to take into account the location of the activity supported by the grant.

A total of \$15.6 million in grants went to environmental activities taking place in BC in 2001 through 455 grants. This represents 23 percent of the total grant dollars and 34 percent of the total number of grants

Provincial Overview: BC 2001

By recipient location:

- | 532 grants to BC recipients (36%)
- | \$19.2 million (27%)
- | 243 recipients (30%)
- | 36 grantmakers (71%)

By activity location:

- | 455 grants to BC activities (34%)
- | \$15.6 million (23%)
- | 226 recipients (28%)
- | 30 grantmakers (59%)

given in support of the environment across Canada in that year. In all, 226 different recipients received grants for BC activities (28% of total recipients). Thirty grantmakers (59%) gave grants to BC activities.

Individual grant amounts to BC activities range from \$100 to \$1.5 million. In general, the sector is characterized by a few large grants and many smaller grants – with a median grant amount of \$12,500.

Grants by City

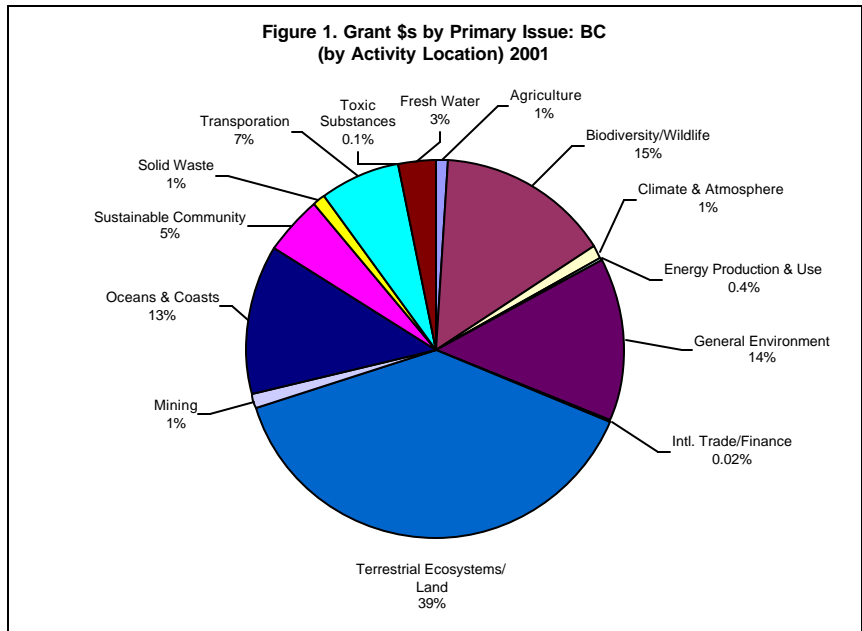
Three BC cities were among the top ten cities across Canada by amount of grant dollars granted to recipients. Recipients located in Vancouver received \$12.2 million in environmental grants (or 17% of total grant dollars across Canada) – the second largest amount of any city after Toronto. Victoria was seventh with \$1.3 million in environmental grants or 2 percent of the total grant dollars across Canada. Nanaimo was ninth with \$885,000 in environmental grants (about 1% of total grant dollars).

Based on the total grant dollars within BC alone, the top five cities in terms of environmental grant dollars (by recipient location) were: Vancouver (\$12.2 million or 64% of BC grant dollars); Victoria (\$1.3 million or 7%); Nanaimo (\$885,000 or 5%); Delta (\$302,000 or 2%); and Cranbrook (\$290,000 or 2%).

When considering grants supporting activities taking place in BC (rather than BC recipients), the same cities comprise the top five with mostly similar levels. Vancouver activities receive 57 percent of the total environmental grant dollars supporting activities located in BC. The other cities are as follows: Victoria (7%); Nanaimo (5%); Delta (2%); and Cranbrook (2%).

Grants by Issue

The grants were analyzed in terms of 14 broad environmental issue categories. Terrestrial ecosystem and land issues received the greatest level of support with 39 percent of the dollars going to grants in this category. Closely linked in theme were grants relating primarily to biodiversity and wildlife, which received 15 percent of the grant dollars. Grants in the general environment category received the next highest level of support in BC with 14 percent of the dollars. (This category includes grants dealing with multiple issues or with general areas like environmental law or environmental health.) The category of oceans and coasts received 13 percent of the grant dollars in BC.



In comparison to the distribution of grant dollars by environmental issue across Canada, BC was higher than the national average for oceans and coasts, biodiversity/wildlife, and transportation. Grants in BC were lower than average to the issues of: land; fresh water; climate and atmosphere; energy production and use; international trade/finance; solid waste; and toxic substances.

Grants by Keyword

Grants within the database are also described in terms of keywords to provide additional detail on the specific aspects of the issues being funded.

Most of the keywords are sub-issues of the 14 environmental issue categories identified above. For example, almost 28 percent the dollars went to grants addressing “forests” issues. Grants that addressed issues relating to “salmon” received 16 percent of the grants dollars. Seven percent of total grant dollars supported grants relating to alternative transportation. Just over one percent of the dollars went to grants addressing boating impacts. Figure 2 shows a selection of other keyword examples.

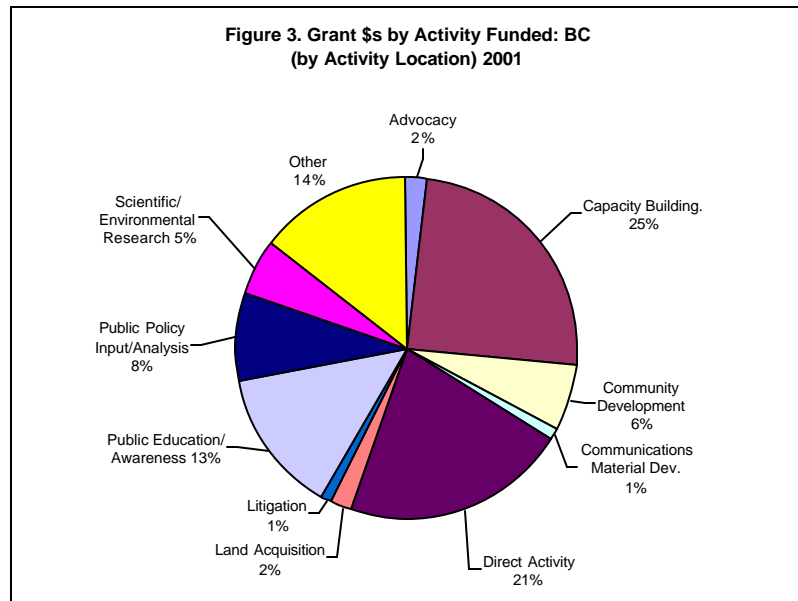
In addition, some of the keywords are general codes that cut across all environmental issues. For example, grants that involved or related to “First Nations” issues accounted for 8 percent of the total grant dollars. (This compares to 7% of total grant dollars across Canada relating to First Nations.) Three percent of the grant dollars went to grants involving or relating to “children & youth”. (This compares to 7% of total grant dollars across Canada to “children & youth”.)

Figure 2. Examples of Keywords by Environment Issue

	<i>Estimated % of grant \$s</i>
Forests	27.5%
- Rainforest	21.3%
Salmon	16.2%
Coastal lands	9.4%
Recreation/nature trails	8.5%
Fish (in general)	8.4%
Endangered species/species survival	8.3%
Alternative transportation	7.0%
Community greening	6.7%
Aquaculture	6.3%
Protected areas	6.1%
Sustainable economic development (general)	4.0%
Marine protected areas	3.6%
Parks	3.6%
Grasslands/prairies	1.8%
Watershed	1.8%
Rivers/streams	1.7%
Boating impacts	1.4%
Private landowners	1.4%
Mountain systems/Y2Y	1.3%
Climate change	0.9%
Smart growth/urban sprawl	0.7%

Grants by Activity

The type of activity directly supported by grants was also analysed. In BC the largest segment of grant dollars (25%) was in support of activities to help build the recipient organization’s capacity. This includes activities such as strategic planning, fundraising development, staff development and equipment, as well as general or operating support. Direct “hands-on” activities such as community clean-ups received 21 percent of total grant dollars. Other activities receiving higher levels of support were public education/awareness (13%), public policy input/analysis (8%) and other (14%).



Compared to the distribution of grant dollars for the funded activities across Canada, BC was somewhat higher than average in capacity building, direct activity, and other activities. BC was significantly lower than the national average in terms of the percent of grant dollars supporting the activities of land acquisition, scientific/environmental research, and communications material development.

¹In most cases, grants were coded by one or more keywords in an attempt to provide some additional detail of the grant's issue focus. Identification of keywords was based on the description of the grant as provided by the grantmaker. Where the described focus of the grant was general in nature (e.g. "conservation" or "general support"), it was not feasible to identify or note all of the potential keywords or sub-issues that may be addressed by the grant. A wide range of individual words and phrases were used as keywords. For example, there are over 200 standard keywords or phrases included in the database. These keyword categories are not mutually exclusive – there is often overlap among them in recognition of the interconnections among so many environmental issues. As a result each grant is usually associated with several keywords. For these reasons, the figures for keywords are estimates and should be considered as approximate indications of relative levels only.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Please Note! Profile of Grantmakers

It's important to keep in mind the composition of the 51 grantmakers included in this release of the database when interpreting the findings.

Grantmakers by Region

Over one third (35%) of the grantmakers currently in the database are located in Ontario. Twenty-two percent (22%) are located in the U.S.A. British Columbia has the second largest number of grantmakers among the provinces at 16 percent (16%). Percentages of grantmakers located in the other provinces are as follows: Quebec (14%); Alberta (8%); and Manitoba (6%).

Grantmakers by Type

The majority (57%) of the grantmakers currently included in the database are family foundations. Others include: community foundations (12%); corporate foundations or grant programs (12%); government foundations or grant programs (6%); other types of foundations (4%); and other types of grantmaking organizations (10%).

As mentioned, the 2001 data set is heavily weighted toward foundations, with some other types of grantmakers – government in particular – being underrepresented. The next release of the database will include a greater number and range of grantmakers.

Further detail on CEGN's Canadian Environmental Grants Database, including an explanation of terms used in the database, information on how the data were compiled, and additional data profiles, is available on CEGN's website at www.cegn.org under "About Environmental Grantmaking".

Also available on CEGN's website is an interactive feature of the grants database that allows specific searches (e.g. by environmental issue and province).

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