

Annual Report 2017

CEGN

Canadian Environmental
Grantmakers' Network



Photo credits: centre, Shayla Walker for Tides Canada; Jennifer Friesen for The Calgary Foundation

Message from Chair and Executive Director

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN), we are pleased to share with you this report on the organization's key activities during 2017.

A hallmark of the year was the launch of CEGN's Strategic Plan 2017 – 2019 with our intended impact articulated as “A Vibrant Network of Funders Advancing a Sustainable Canada” and with our ultimate impact being “A Sustainable Canada, Valuing People, Planet and Place”. Presented to members at the 2017 AGM, the strategic plan is rooted in the understanding that a healthy environment is the foundation for a sustainable future and that integrative approaches, taking into account a range of societal concerns, are increasingly needed to secure the long-term solutions sought by our members and the network as a whole.

CEGN's work, at both the staff and the Board level, is now fully aligned with the three core goals of the strategic plan. These goals and a sample of key activities for each during 2017 are outlined below:

Catalyze Collaboration

- The Low Carbon Funders' Group, comprised of a subset of CEGN members, has increased NGO capacity for the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change and is exploring opportunities for supporting work in the areas of Indigenous Climate Resilience and Just Transitions.
- The Sustainable Cities Funders' Group delivered a webinar series for funders focusing on the role for philanthropy in advancing sustainability at the local, regional and national levels.

**CATALYZE
COLLABORATION**

**BUILD & SHARE
SKILLS &
KNOWLEDGE**

**GROW
INVESTMENTS
FOR A
SUSTAINABLE
CANADA**



- Regional briefings were held for members in Toronto and Calgary, with a view to sharing learnings and strengthening connections with and among members.
- Our 2017 conference was held in Fredericton with the location decision guided by the network's concern over low levels of environmental philanthropy in Atlantic Canada. Presentations by local Indigenous and NGO leaders on a range of issues, complemented a number of national offerings, as well as a discussion of the implications of changing U.S. environmental policies.

Build and Share Skills and Knowledge

- The Modernization of Charities legislation was a major focus for CEGN in 2017. The network welcomed the Report of the Consultation Panel on the Political Activities of Charities which called for an end to the Political Activities audits by the Canada Revenue Agency and more broadly for the modernization of outdated charities legislation. CEGN joined a number of nonprofit leaders in meetings with politicians in Ottawa in October, urging the government to act on the report's recommendations. The federal government has yet to move on this issue. CEGN will continue to work with other sector colleagues, including Philanthropic Foundations of Canada and Imagine Canada, to press for the implementation of the Panel's recommendations.
- Continued work to track environmental funding in Canada through the gathering and analysis of grants data from more than 100 funders. Our most recent report, based on 2016 grants data, will be issued at the 2018 AGM.
- Other work towards this goal in 2017, included a Partnership Brokering workshop and a number of webinars covering a range of topics, including systems grantmaking; the Sustainable Development Goals; and reports of the federal Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Julie Gelfand.

Grow Investments for a Sustainable Future

Aimed at boosting the current low levels of environmental philanthropy in Canada, as well as encouraging a shift in endowment investments to help advance a sustainable future, this goal is a new one for the network. Activities in 2017 included:

- The drafting of a research report for the network on the state of sustainable investing in Canada. The research highlights major trends, as it speaks to the obstacles and opportunities for foundations in aligning their investing with their mission. Prepared by Sandra Odendahl, the final report will be issued in the spring of 2018.
- A regional briefing in Toronto in May of 2017 focused on this strategic goal and included remarks by some of the network's members who are early adopters in embracing sustainable investing.

A critical activity imbedded within each of our strategic goals is an effort to help bridge the world of environmental philanthropy with that of

Indigenous communities and organizations. This work is still in its early stages, but our annual conferences are emerging as key forums for shared learning and connection with Indigenous leaders. As more and more funders engage directly with Indigenous partners to tackle shared concerns, CEGN needs to grapple with how best the organization can contribute to reconciliation and how we can support our members in doing so, as well.

Our work continues to draw on the inspiration of our 60 plus members which are located across the country, as well as in the U.S. The membership is a diverse one across a number of parameters. Private and community foundations, as well as corporate and government foundations and environmental funding programs, all find a home within the network. The philanthropic work of these members spans many issues and granting strategies and ranges from a few thousand dollars for a project to multi-million dollar initiatives. Although still nascent, the growing focus on sustainable investing by our members is also marked by diverse strategies. CEGN's 'big tent' approach to including a broad spectrum of environmental funders within the network remains a key tenet of how we approach our work. We remain committed to providing a welcoming place for funders who share the goal of advancing a sustainable future for Canada but who may approach the work in very different ways.

We thank members for their support of the network in 2017 and look forward to working together in the year ahead to realize our vision of a vibrant network of funders advancing a sustainable Canada. As always, we welcome your thoughts and comments on how to improve the work of the network.

Sincerely,



Burkhard Mausberg
Chair, CEGN



Pegi Dover
Executive Director



Photo credits: opposite page, Brad Cundiff; this page, top, Julie Price for Tides Canada; middle, Brodie Guy, Coast Funds

Financial Snapshot for 2017

Revenue: \$435,012

Expenses: \$470,367

Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures: (\$35,355)

Net Assets at Beginning of Year: \$52,727

Net Assets at End of Year: \$17,372

CEGN Members in 2017

Sustaining Members

These Members of CEGN contributed additional membership support to CEGN in 2017.

Max Bell Foundation
The Calgary Foundation
The Carthy Foundation
The Catherine Donnelly Foundation
Donner Canadian Foundation
Echo Foundation
Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation
Gosling Foundation
Ivey Foundation
Laidlaw Foundation
The Lawson Foundation
McConnell Foundation
Metcalf Foundation
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Mountain Equipment Co-op
North Growth Foundation
Oak Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Real Estate Foundation of B.C.

The Salamander Foundation
The Schad Foundation
The Sitka Foundation
Suncor Energy Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Tides Canada
Trottier Family Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation
The Winnipeg Foundation

General Members of CEGN

Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
Alberta Real Estate Foundation
Banff Canmore Community Foundation
The Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation
The Bullitt Foundation
Chisholm Thomson Family Foundation
Coast Opportunity Funds
CS Fund
de Gaspé Beaubien Foundation

EcoAction Community Funding Program, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Federation of Canadian Municipalities- Green Municipal Fund
Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
Fundy Community Foundation
Glasswaters Foundation
John and Pat McCutcheon Charitable Foundation
The Joyce Foundation
The McLean Foundation
The Midloch Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Neptis Foundation
New Venture Fund
Okanagan Basin Water Board
Palmer Family Foundation
RBC Foundation
Small Change Fund
Temagami Community Foundation
The Atmospheric Fund
Toronto Foundation
Vancity
The W. Garfield Weston Foundation
Woodcock Foundation
444S Foundation

2017 Board of Directors

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Real Estate Foundation of B.C.

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