

Annual Report 2018



Photo credits: left, Philip Jessup; right, youth and Elders share knowledge on protecting Lake Winnipeg's waters and the valuable food sources within Misipawistik Cree Nation, Tides Canada

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 major activities during 2018.

But first, we want to salute the work of our 70 member organizations and the intrepid manner by which they and their grantees are navigating and tackling the complex environmental challenges confronting Canada. These funders do so across a host of environmental issues and a range of strategies from ecological restoration to the crafting and implementation of policy solutions. In addition to their granting dollars, funders are often using their convening capacity and organizational voice to address issues of concern. They are also increasingly aligning their endowment investments with their mission – activating their capital for the outcomes they seek.

Within this vibrant context, our Board and staff team seek to advance the network's goal of securing "a vibrant network of funders advancing a sustainable Canada" with the long term impact being "a sustainable Canada, valuing people, planet and place".

Effective funder collaboration has emerged as a 'north star' goal for the network. And while we have much to learn, we are making headway.

- In 2018, the Low Carbon Funders' Group played a strong role in implementing collaborative approaches to climate policy; climate communications; transition strategies; and the emergence of an

CATALYZE COLLABORATION

BUILD & SHARE SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

GROW INVESTMENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE CANADA



innovative fund “Healing Through Land-based Solutions”. Funder leadership, effective consulting help and an investment in development evaluation are key factors contributing to the health of this collaborative.

- The Oceans Collaborative is newly underway with a focus on advancing the implementation of federal marine protected area commitments. The engagement of Canadians is viewed as a core strategy for this work. Learnings from our Low Carbon Funders’ Group are helping to inform best practices within this newest collaborative.
- A more informal collaboration to advance sustainable communities is benefiting from our partnership with Community Foundations of Canada and support from the Greenbelt Foundation. The role for philanthropy in nurturing green infrastructure initiatives was the focus of a fall webinar and helped to focus funder interest in this area.
- CEGN continues to profile other relevant collaboratives and in 2018 we played a modest role in shining a light on the wonderful work of the Target 1 Protected Areas funders; the Great Lakes Binational Funders’ Collaborative; the Coalition for Action on Toxics; the B.C. Water Funders’ Collaborative and the multiple collaborative initiatives led by Tides Canada.

The convening role of the network is also growing. Our 2018 conference “Transformative Strategies for Disruptive Times”, held at the Banff Centre in mid-May, welcomed 175 participants – our largest number yet. Looking forward, we see regional briefings and member-to-member conversations playing an important role, in addition to our annual conference convening.

Building and sharing skills and knowledge remains a core strategic goal for the network. Key learning opportunities in 2018 included an October webinar designed to build a better understanding within the environmental community of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Members also had the opportunity to access tools and resources from our monthly newsletters and the latest update to CEGN’s online grants database to advance their work.

Our work to ‘grow investments for a sustainable Canada’ gained traction in 2018 with the release of our report “The State of Responsible Investing in Canadian Foundations: Opportunities Abound”, authored by Sandra Odendahl.

This report has provided the impetus for a funder learning program on responsible and impact investing that will launch in 2019 in partnership with other funder affinity groups. The CEGN Board and staff also invested time and energy in 2018 to strengthen the internal capacity of the network. Governance, brand identity and the value we provide to our members were the key areas of focus, with additional work still to be completed across these areas and others in the coming year.

It has been a good and productive year for the network and certainly for our member organizations, as well. However, we are very conscious that the environmental funding community remains a slim segment of the overall philanthropic sector in Canada (some 4 – 6% depending on the source). Given the mounting complexity of current environmental challenges, a much stronger contingent of funders and allies is needed for the task ahead. These complexities and the changing social, economic and political contexts we operate in, challenge us to work differently, seek new partnerships and collaborations, and explore solutions through a systems lens.

CEGN offers members a welcoming place to convene, collaborate and learn from each other. We look forward to continuing conversations and engaging in new ones as we strive to advance a future that is good for people, planet and place.

Sincerely,

Karen Wilkie
Chair, CEGN

Pegi Dover
Executive Director, CEGN



Financial Snapshot for 2018

Revenue: \$1,450,908

Expenses: \$1,387,433

Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditures:
\$63,475

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

Net Assets at End of Year: \$80,847

Photo credits: opposite page, WCS Canada; this page, second from top, Gitga'at Guardian Watchmen conduct monitoring, survey, and research work with support of Coast Funds, Laura Hope; caribou, Justina Ray/WCS Canada

CEGN Members in 2018

Champion Members (\$10,000 and above)

Echo Foundation
Ivey Foundation
Laidlaw Foundation
McConnell Foundation
Metcalf Foundation
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Trottier Family Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation

Leadership Members (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

All One Fund
Max Bell Foundation
The Calgary Foundation
Carthy Foundation
The Catherine Donnelly Foundation
Donner Canadian Foundation
The Walter & Duncan Gordon
Foundation
Gosling Foundation
The Hewlett Foundation
The Lawson Foundation
Mountain Equipment Co-op
North Growth Foundation
Oak Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Real Estate Foundation of B.C.

Royal Bank of Canada
The Salamander Foundation
The Schad Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment
Foundation
Tides Canada
Vancouver Foundation
Winnipeg Foundation

General Members

444S Foundation
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
Alberta Real Estate Foundation
Atkinson Foundation
The Bullitt Foundation
Canada Nature Fund, Environment
and Climate Change Canada
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
The Chawkers Foundation
Chisholm Thomson Family Foundation
Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family
Foundation
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Coast Funds
The Consecon Foundation
CS Fund
De Gaspé Beaubien Foundation
EcoAction Community Funding
Program, Environment and Climate
Change Canada

Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
Fundy Community Foundation
Glasswaters Foundation
Government of New Brunswick,
Department of Environment and
Local Government
The Joyce Foundation
The Manitoba Habitat Heritage
Corporation
The John and Pat McCutcheon
Charitable Foundation
The McLean Foundation
The Midloch Foundation
Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for
the Americas
Neptis Foundation
New Venture Fund
Okanagan Basin Water Board
Palmer Family Foundation
Peter Gilgan Foundation
The Sitka Foundation
Small Change Fund
Suncor Energy Foundation
Temagami Community Foundation
The Atmospheric Fund
Toronto Foundation
Vancity
The W. Garfield Weston Foundation
Woodcock Foundation

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