

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



ENVIRONMENT
FUNDERS CANADA

FROM THE CHAIR

As environmental funders, we're working alongside our partners in a moment of profound complexity—where the climate and biodiversity crises intersect with cultural, economic, and geopolitical shifts that are reshaping the world around us. There's no map for the road ahead, but there is a growing recognition that the path forward will require us to stay grounded in our values, open to learning, and ready to act with intention and care.

As I step into the role of Chair, I feel a deep sense of gratitude to steward the integrity of this network. In my own organization, our work has been strengthened time and again by the relationships, shared wisdom, and collaborative spirit of this community. That's what makes Environment Funders Canada unique—and essential. It's a place where we not only share resources and ideas, but also challenge one another to think more critically and work more boldly. In the words of Megan Tate, our former Chair, this becomes possible when 'we can draw inspiration, ideas and energy from each other.'

Looking ahead, I'm excited to work with the Board, the staff team, and our members to co-create our next Strategic Compass (2026–2030).

We chose a compass—not a traditional plan—because we know that success won't come from sticking to a fixed route. Instead, we need a shared sense of direction that allows us to adapt, to take risks, and to stay aligned as we navigate the unknown—together.

To our members and partners—thank you for all you've contributed over the past 24 years. Your leadership, generosity, and commitment to this work are what make EFC special. Let's keep showing up for each other, and for the future we all believe in.



ROD RUFF
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Each of us has a role to play in birthing a better world, and we humans are happiest when we are able to contribute our unique strengths to collective efforts that are greater than the sum of our parts. I'm inspired by the hundreds of people I have met through my work at EFC who are planting seeds for the emergence of that world in diverse, creative and impactful ways. We need ALL of these seeds!

The urgency of our work must inspire game-changing funding strategies, models and practices. That means staying alert to emerging threats and responding proactively with storytelling and counter-messaging in this time of fragmented communication, misinformation, and polarization. It means recognizing the convergence of struggles, centering affordability and meeting people where they are at with multi-solving solutions. It means upgrading our economic system to one that reverses the trend of widening income distribution and a rapid decline in planetary health. It means elevating and upholding Indigenous leadership and sovereignty. And it means changing the political calculus that incentivizes politicians and governments to unlock the scale of private and public sector capital and behaviour change that is required to change course toward a future that sustains people and planet.

None of us can successfully rise to these challenges alone. This is complex, messy, difficult work, but it is also the best possible work that we can be doing in this moment in time. How lucky are we, that we get to do this work, and do it together?

I am deeply grateful to our wonderful members, Board, strategic partners, staff, and contractors who make it all possible.



DEVIKA SHAH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

	2024	2023
Revenue	\$ 5,037,089	\$ 4,223,080
Expenses	\$ 4,956,976	\$ 4,180,413
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 80,113	\$ 42,667
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 528,424	\$ 485,757
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 608,537	\$ 528,424
<u>Breakdown of Net Assets</u>		
Operating Reserve	\$ 365,000	\$ 365,000
Opportunity Reserve	\$ 180,000	\$ 100,000
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 63,537	\$ 63,424
Total Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 608,537	\$ 528,424

Note: A complete set of the financial statements, audited by Adams + Miles CPAs, is available on request.

2024

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Trailblazer Members (\$40,000+)

Trottier Family Foundation

Builder Members (\$25,000 - \$39,999)

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Suncor Energy Foundation

Champion Members (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Catherine Donnelly Foundation
Donner Canadian Foundation
Echo Foundation
Ivey Foundation
Laidlaw Foundation
The Lawson Foundation
MakeWay
McConnell Foundation
Metcalf Foundation
Real Estate Foundation of BC
The Sitka Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation
The Winnipeg Foundation

Leader Members (\$5,000-\$9,999)

The Borealis Foundation
The Calgary Foundation
Chisholm Thomson Family Foundation
Definity Insurance Foundation
The Gosling Foundation
Greenbelt Foundation
The Houssian Foundation
North Family Foundation
The Northpine Foundation
RBC Foundation
Vancouver Foundation

2024

GENERAL MEMBERS

444S Foundation
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation
All One Fund
Arc'teryx Equipment
Aster Foundation
Atkinson Foundation
The Atmospheric Fund
Balsam Foundation
The Banff Canmore Community Foundation
Canada Nature Fund, ECCC
Chamandy Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
The Chawkers Foundation
Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation
Coast Funds
Consecon Foundation
CS Fund
de Gaspé Beaubien Foundation
Dickhout Family Foundation
Endswell Foundation
Fondation Béati
Fondation du Grand Montréal
Fonds climat du Grand Montréal
Fundy Community Foundation
Glasswaters Foundation
The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation
The Joyce Foundation
Manitoba Habitat Conservancy
The McLean Foundation
Meighen Family Foundation
Metro Vancouver Zero Emissions Innovation Centre
The Midloch Foundation
Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the Americas
Oceankind
Okanagan Basin Water Board
Ottawa Climate Action Fund
Peter Gilgan Foundation
The Schad Foundation
Sustainable Capacity Foundation
Toronto Foundation
The Waltons Trust
W.C. Kitchen Family Foundation
Weston Family Foundation
Woodcock Foundation

We catalyze funders to respond to environmental crises with ambitious and innovative solutions.

By facilitating learning, connection and collaboration, our efforts are bolder, smarter, and stronger.





2024

HIGHLIGHTS

2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Nurturing relationships and catalyzing collaboration among our members

Our first regional gathering of the year brought together young leaders and funders for Youth and Funders Powering Environmental Action in Vancouver for the chance to discuss the strategic value of engaging youth to advance environmental wins, wise practices for funding and engaging youth, and to build connections with other BC-based funders and youth leaders. We paired this event with a blog featuring an interview with the Lawson Foundation about their perspectives on empowering young environmental leaders through their Youth Action and the Environment program.

We convened in Ottawa for an in-person federal government and philanthropic funding collaboration brainstorming session involving EFC members and senior leaders in the federal public service who oversee large, related funding envelopes to proactively identify broad areas for potential coordination of philanthropic and government granting activities over the long term.

We continued our partnership with The Circle on Philanthropy for a two-day event in Vancouver with a learning agenda co-developed by thirteen Indigenous leaders from all three coasts — Upwelling & Truth Telling. This in-person and virtual event brought together senior leadership from all of the major conservation organizations to learn from a two-year research effort between The Circle and EFC to share honest and frank Indigenous experiences working with conservation ENGOs.

Our funder collaboratives – the Oceans Collaborative and Low Carbon Funders Group – each increased investments in 2024 to support Indigenous-led oceans conservation and strong federal climate policy respectively. Our newest addition, Building Power for Climate and Nature, burst onto the scene with the development of a directory of over 700 organizations working in this space, guest presentations from organizations like Supermajority, Climate Emergency Unit and Mosaic Momentum, and numerous strategy sessions with 34 respected advisors from across the country to help us shape this funder collaborative and pooled fund.

We continued to facilitate our Funder Interest Groups (FIGs) — Conservation Finance, Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, Trust-based Philanthropy, and Let's Talk Climate. Chaired by EFC members, our FIGs met regularly to discuss knowledge sharing, funding opportunities and collaboration, and welcomed guest speakers, including The Transition Accelerator, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Ivey Business School, Dark Matter Labs, Carolinian Canada Coalition, and RAD Network.

Earlier in the year, EFC began hosting a series of funder-sharing sessions on Indigenous-led legal strategies, with a recognition of how powerful and high-impact this work can be, including in our shifting environmental and political landscape.



2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Mobilizing knowledge, building skills and advancing thought leadership on environmental funding opportunities to support our members

We did a happy dance with the launch of our [new website](#), with a bold new design, improved user navigation experience, greater inclusion of French translation, and an expanded resource library!

Project Finance for Permanence was the topic of our blog post and a collaboration with The Sitka Foundation and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, discussing their experiences and perspectives on the exciting Project Finance for Permanence initiatives underway across Canada.

We commissioned a report and hosted a webinar that shared the results of an examination of the state of funder opportunities to advance environmental action in Atlantic Canada, outlining current gaps and opportunities in the philanthropic landscape for environmental action and key opportunities and success stories that will provide funders with clear pathways for giving in the region.

Regenerative agriculture is increasingly recognized as a priority for environmental funders and our Speaker Series webinar, Transforming Agriculture from a Climate and Biodiversity Problem to a Solution in Canada, brought together distinguished leaders in this field to guide us in exploring these critical questions and inspire collective action.

A timely topic with the recent changes in CRA guidance opening a new pathway for funders to support 'non-qualified donees' (NQDs) through direct grants, our What It's Like on the Frontline Supporting NQDs Speaker Series webinar welcomed Toronto Foundation and Laidlaw Foundation to share their firsthand experiences funding NDQs.

We expanded our reach with the participation of our Executive Director in several speaking engagements with the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP), Philanthropic Foundations of Canada (PFC), a gathering of community foundations exploring climate action in Waterloo and New Power Labs.

2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Promoting transparency through open data to build greater accountability to all stakeholders in the environmental funding ecosystem

Our highly anticipated Charitable & Grants Data for the Environment reports were unveiled and provide an environmental funding snapshot of EFC members. Estimating Funding to Canadian Environmental Operating Charities 2000 to 2021 is an analysis of CRA data to understand how large a slice of the charitable pie goes to the environmental sector. The second report, 2022 Environmental Grants Data Landscape Snapshot, offers a snapshot of 2022 grants data and the environmental work being funded by our members.



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Megan Tate (Chair)
Vice-President, Community Impact
The Winnipeg Foundation

Kristina Inrig (Vice-Chair)
President and CEO
Sustainable Capacity Foundation

Amy Buskirk (Secretary)
Executive Director
The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation

Scott Lloy (Treasurer)
Director, Strategic Infrastructure and Agreements
Government of New Brunswick, Environment and
Local Government

Kris Archie *
CEO
The Circle on Philanthropy

Namendra Anand **
Consultant

Laurel Atkinson **
Program Director, Environment
Waltons Trust

Phylicia Davis-Wesseling
Community Relations Officer
Toronto Foundation

Aurore Fauret
Climate Program Director
Trottier Family Foundation

Jeremy Guth *
Trustee
The Woodcock Foundation

Floriane Lemoine
Program Director, Climate and Health
Definity Foundation

Liz Liske
Former Director
Arctic Funders Collaborative

Elizabeth McCallion
Executive Director
Peter Gilgan Foundation

Caroline North
Executive Director
North Family Foundation

Rod Ruff
CEO and President
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation

Malcolm Shield
Vice-President, Sustainability
Wesgroup Properties

Luc Tittley
Director, Public Affairs
Environment and Climate Change Canada

* Departed Board in June 2024

** Joined Board in June 2024

2024 STAFF

Devika Shah, Executive Director
Nancy Moniz, Operations Manager

Thea Silver, Managing Director *
Tesicca Truong, Program Manager *

Josh Snider, Program Director **
Laura Klein, Program Manager **

* Departed EFC in 2024

** Joined EFC in 2024



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