

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



ENVIRONMENT
FUNDERS CANADA

FROM THE CHAIR

Social and environmental progress rarely gives you a fixed heading. This community has never had the luxury of easy years, and 2025 was no exception. Once again, we navigated our way through together.

Taking on the Board Chair role in June made for an eventful start. Through 2025, we worked closely with members and staff to build our next Strategic Compass, launched in early 2026. It's not a fixed plan. It's built for a network moving through five landscapes shifting at once: ecological, political, social and cultural, communications, and funding. No static roadmap keeps up with that. Our North Star is a future where environmental funders act as a courageous, connected force working on root causes, grounded in Indigenous sovereignty and in economic models that serve people and nature. What's new is how deliberately we've defined EFC's role in getting there: a safe harbour where members build trust and can disagree honestly across a genuinely broad range of perspectives, and a navigator that helps the field shift systems, not just symptoms.

I've been part of the EFC community for years, but chairing the Board gave me a much closer look at what it takes to run this network. The Friday "What's Going On at EFC" emails are the visible layer. Underneath that is the work of holding the network together, managing collaboratives and pooled funds, and solid nonprofit governance and management. Our team is small. What they get done is not. I'm deeply grateful for them.

I also want to thank Megan Tate for her steady leadership as Chair before handing things to me, and to welcome the new Board members who joined in 2025, alongside those who stepped away after giving generously of their time.

To our members: thank you for helping set this course with us. I'm glad to be figuring out what's next together.



ROD RUFF
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As environmental funders, we spent 2025 in navigation mode — not just as a conference theme, but as a discipline. A change in federal government leadership, geopolitical pressures, increasing anti-environment sentiment, mis- and disinformation and much more, led to a great deal of uncertainty for everyone. We started to get signals in 2025 that much of the environmental progress that many of our members helped secure over the past several years was beginning to unravel, in parallel with a shift in the dominant frameworks, narratives and values that guide decisions at every level of government and within our key institutions. And still, our members kept showing up: convening, collaborating, and looking for the openings within the complexity rather than waiting for it to resolve.

That spirit was on full display in May, when 116 of us gathered in Whitehorse, Yukon for our national conference, working through what it means to navigate complex polarities and build pathways forward together.

None of us can make change in this moment alone. That's why so much of our 2025 work was about strengthening the connective tissue between funders, as it became even clearer that we need to figure out how to make environmental progress without the luxury of working within environment-first frames — not for the faint of heart!

I invite you to keep reading for the highlights of all that we did together in 2025, with the support of our small but mighty team of staff and contractors. I am always appreciative of the members who step up to water the EFC garden in so many different ways — leading and/or contributing to various collaborative discussions and learning sessions, chairing funder interest groups and collaboratives, sharing information and supporting each other, and of course, serving on our amazing Board.

Thank you all for making the EFC community what it is. This is complex, sometimes discouraging work. It's also, I still believe, the best work we could be doing right now.



DEVIKA SHAH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

	2025	2024
Revenue	\$ 3,372,657	\$ 5,037,089
Expenses	\$ 3,289,296	\$ 4,956,976
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 83,361	\$ 80,113
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 608,537	\$ 528,424
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 691,898	\$ 608,537
<u>Breakdown of Net Assets</u>		
Operating Reserve	\$ 365,000	\$ 365,000
Opportunity Reserve	\$ 260,000	\$ 180,000
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 66,898	\$ 63,537
Total Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 691,898	\$ 608,537

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

2025

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Trailblazer Members (\$40,000+)

Trottier Family Foundation

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

Catherine Donnelly Foundation

Donner Canadian Foundation

Echo Foundation

Ivey Foundation

Juniper Foundation

Laidlaw Foundation

Lawson Foundation

McConnell Foundation

Metcalf Foundation

North Family Foundation

Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions

RBC Foundation

Real Estate Foundation of BC

Sitka Foundation

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Toronto Foundation

Wilburforce Foundation

Winnipeg Foundation, The

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

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

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

Arc'teryx Equipment

Calgary Foundation, The

Chisholm Thomson Family Foundation

de Gaspé Beaubien Foundation

Definity Insurance Foundation

Gosling Foundation, The

Greenbelt Foundation

Houssian Foundation, The

MakeWay

Michelle Koerner Family Foundation, The

Vancouver Foundation

2025

GENERAL MEMBERS

444S Foundation	Hennecke Family Foundation
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation	Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation, The
All One Fund	Manitoba Habitat Conservancy
Atkinson Foundation	McLean Foundation, The
The Atmospheric Fund	Meighen Family Foundation
Balsam Foundation/Generation Capital	Metro Vancouver Zero Emissions Innovation Centre
Banff Canmore Foundation	Midloch Foundation, The
Chamandy Foundation	Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the Americas
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	Okanagan Basin Water Board
Chawkers Foundation, The	Ottawa Climate Action Fund
Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation	Peter Gilgan Foundation
Coast Funds	Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation
Consecon Foundation	Schad Foundation, The
Counselling Foundation of Canada, The	Sustainable Capacity Foundation
CS Fund	Trebek Initiative, The
Endswell Foundation	Waltons Trust
Environment and Climate Change Canada	W.C. Kitchen Family Foundation
Fondation Béati	Weston Family Foundation
Fondation du Grand Montréal	Woodcock Foundation
Fonds climat du Grand Montréal	
Glasswaters Foundation	
Gore Mutual Insurance	
Government of New Brunswick	

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.



2025

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

From May 10-12, 116 attendees kicked off an exciting northern adventure in Whitehorse, Yukon at our 2025 annual conference.

Drawing inspiration from the region's natural beauty and the leadership of the Indigenous communities who have stewarded those lands and waters for millennia, we examined how to navigate today's complex polarities and build pathways to a better future.



2025 EFC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

NAVIGATE 2025
AND BEYOND



ENVIRONMENT
FUNDERS CANADA



2025

HIGHLIGHTS



Nurturing relationships and catalyzing collaboration

The **Building Power for Climate and Nature Collaborative** works to strengthen systemic solutions for climate and nature by finding innovative ways to build demand for strong environmental action beyond the traditional constituencies of the environmental movement. Building on our first-year momentum, we focused on 'learning by doing' by supporting convening and coordinating efforts aimed at building the capacity to connect and mobilize traditional and new sources of power in ways that advance intersectional solutions.

– *Laura Haché, Program Manager*

With so many changes happening in the world of federal ocean protection, the **Oceans Collaborative** spent this past year listening and learning from our partners working on the ground. We continued to use the Oceans Fund to support allied and Indigenous-led ocean protection efforts, and we're looking forward to continued collaboration in 2026.

– *Lara Hoshizaki, Oceans Collaborative consultant*

2025 was a year of transition. A change in federal government leadership with new priorities and shifting geopolitical pressures have meant recalibration for the environmental NGOs and funders that comprise the **Low Carbon Funders Group**. While some climate progress remains intact, thanks in part to the work of this group, others have been rolled back, leaving Canada's climate progress in jeopardy. Heading into 2026, the Low Carbon Funders Group will continue to look for opportunities to ensure the federal government makes good on its commitments to tackling climate change.

– *Joshua MacNab, Low Carbon Funders Group consultant*

2025

HIGHLIGHTS



Nurturing relationships and catalyzing collaboration

We continued to facilitate several of our Funder Interest Groups (FIGs) — Conservation Finance, Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, and Let's Talk Climate. Chaired by EFC members, our FIGs met regularly to discuss knowledge sharing, funding opportunities and collaboration, and welcomed a wide range of presentations from external guest speakers, such as a presentation from the Wyss Foundation on the U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of the most successful conservation finance models in the U.S.

We hosted three sessions focused on charity and funder sector defence to support our members in proactive protective measures in anticipation of anti-environmental attacks on the environmental sector. These discussions were an opportunity to consider lessons learned from the American experience, to share information and insight, and to brainstorm on the most effective actions we can be taking collectively and individually.

We continued to hold space for funder sharing sessions on high-interest topics such as Indigenous-led litigation and wildfire resilience.

2025

HIGHLIGHTS



Shared learning and knowledge mobilization

Outside of our staple initiatives, EFC hosted several other presentations with timely topics in response to the shifting political landscape. A few examples:

- The Resurging Anti-Climate Movement — and How to Counter It presentation by Geoff Dembicki from DeSmog provided insights about how pro-climate organizations can counter the resurgence of online climate obstruction.
- We joined the Biodiversity Funders Group to co-host a session called Shared Ground: A Cross-Border Conversation for Environmental Funders, with a special focus on cross-border collaboration and discussions on how Canadian funders can assist their American colleagues and the lessons learned from the American experience.
- Pathways to Net Zero: Navigating Canada's Post-Election Landscape, a virtual session featuring Moe Kabbara, Executive Director of The Transition Accelerator, on insights on how the post-election policy landscape is shaping climate action in Canada, and where the key opportunities and challenges lie in this period of transition.

2025

HIGHLIGHTS



Shared learning and knowledge mobilization

We collected and made sense of some important environmental philanthropy data:

- Following on the heels of our Charitable & Grants Data for the Environment reports, EFC commissioned Environics Analytics to help us better understand why more Canadians aren't giving to environmental causes. Steve Joneslee (né Lee) shared the findings in Growing the Size of the Environmental Philanthropy Pie (Part 1) presentation and how the finding will inform our next steps.
- We reached out again to gather environmental grants data and funders really showed up! We saw a 58% jump in response rates, with 68 members and funders contributing to our 2023 Data Landscape Snapshot Report. Altogether, the data covers 2,779 environmental grants totaling \$291.8 million, giving us a much clearer picture of environmental grantmaking across Canada.
- Turning Grants into Change: Lessons Learned from our UK Colleagues was the topic of our latest blog post and a collaboration with report co-author Jon Cracknell from UK-based Environmental Funders Network (EFN), Where the Green Grants Went – 9th edition, that looked at lessons that provided valuable takeaways to inspire our EFC members.

We continue to work strategically with our partner organizations:

We collaborated with Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), to launch Communities for Climate Resilience, a cohort of approximately 30 community foundations interested in providing climate leadership within their communities and leveraging their unique roles to take climate action at the local level. Our Executive Director serves as a key member of the small Steering Committee that is shaping this initiative which is being expertly hosted by CFC. We are also in regular communication with our colleagues at the Clean Economy Fund to coordinate our programming in complementary ways.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rod Ruff (Chair)
CEO and President
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation

Elizabeth McCallion (Vice-Chair)
Executive Director
The Peter Gilgan Foundation

Malcolm Shield (Treasurer)
Vice-President, Sustainability
Wesgroup Properties

Kristina Inrig (Secretary)
President and CEO
Sustainable Capacity Foundation

Amy Buskirk *
Executive Director
The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation

Kelsey Envik **
Grants Director
Ivey Foundation

Namendra Anand
Senior Manager, EcoFund and Decarbonization
GreenStep

Laurel Atkinson
Program Director, Environment
Waltons Trust

Phylicia Davis-Wesseling
Community Relations Officer
Toronto Foundation

Aurore Fauret
Climate Program Director
Trottier Family Foundation

Floriane Lemoine
Program Director, Climate and Health
Definity Foundation

Liz Liske
Former Director
Arctic Funders Collaborative

Scott Lloy *
Director, Strategic Infrastructure and Agreements
Government of New Brunswick, Environment and
Local Government

Edward McDonnell **
CEO
Greenbelt Foundation

Caroline North
Executive Director
North Family Foundation

Julia Perri **
Senior Manager, Sustainability and Impact
RBC Foundation

Megan Tate *
Vice-President, Community Impact
The Winnipeg Foundation

Luc Tittley
Director, Public Affairs
Environment and Climate Change Canada

* Departed Board in June 2025

** Joined Board in June 2025

2025 STAFF

Devika Shah, Executive Director
Nancy Moniz, Operations Manager
Laura Klein, Program Manager
Laura Haché, Program Manager *
Kimberly Fu Skubic, Administrative & Events Assistant *
Josh Snider, Program Director **

* Joined EFC in 2025

** Departed EFC in 2025



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