





2021 Community Impact Report

Our goal is to create a generation of knowledgeable, **engaged** and **inspired** children who are **connected** to nature at such a deep level that they will be empowered and motivated to take action for nature now and in the future.

This past year has once again been remarkable in the way we have all adapted and grown together. Struck by the collective goal to keep one another healthy, we delayed our in-person gatherings until June 2021, supported creative online and curbside program delivery, and focussed on remaining tethered to the many volunteer, donors and members to share resources and support through another year of major upheaval. Nature unites us in resilience, delivering positive benefits to our minds, bodies and spirits.

For the past 21 years, NatureKids BC has made it easy for families to reap the many benefits of a healthy nature-oriented lifestyle by making nature accessible and exciting. Thank you to our many volunteers, donors and members for helping us connect families with nature right where they live through educational events, stewardship activities and wildlife observation. We couldn't do this without you!

We invite you to join us in celebrating some of the accomplishments your support helped us achieve this past year. We recognize

that the reduction in formal club gatherings resulted in fewer in-nature coordinated experiences. We believe that small is beautiful, and we KNOW that our community of families and kids were continuously seeking and benefitting from the fresh air to manage their health and wellbeing through the pandemic.

Exploring Nature:

- 600+ youth
- 21 clubs across BC
- 1307 outdoor adventures
- 17 Passports to Nature
- 482+ families supported
- 4,500 NatureWILD issues printed
- 18 virtual Explorer Days
- 650 educators across BC resourced

Involving Community:

- 49 nature club leaders
- 35 nature mentors
- 49 Explorer Day adventures
- 4200 volunteer hours!
- inaugural Green Club Joseph Lin NatureKids Scholarship awarded!

Taking Action for Nature:

- 600+ lbs of knapweed pulled
- 15 sq ft of ivy cleared
- 600 trees & plants planted!
- 1000s of birds counted!

President's Report: Kathy MacKenzie

2021 was an exciting time to be the President of NatureKids BC Board. The pandemic pushed us to grow in ways that we could have never imagined a few short years ago. We began the important conversation about how to remain relevant in a changing landscape. I am so proud of how our leaders were able to continue to get families outside and how quickly our staff team brought families together for virtual Explorer Days. Never has it been more important to teach our children about the importance of conservation and environmental protection. At a time when we have been kept apart and isolated, nature has been a place where we were encouraged to take refuge.

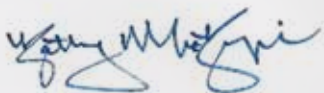
But not every family has access to natural areas or is comfortable venturing out into them. Part of our work this past year has been about building partnerships, exploring our program delivery model, and addressing barriers to participation with the aim of ensuring that the magnificent nature of British Columbia is accessible to all.

I came to this organization through a donor. They were positively raving about an organization that was getting kids outside and helping them explore, play and see the world in a new way. As a parent of three, I knew that this was just what my kids needed. Four years later, I have learned about bird counts, black bears, forest safety, marine animals, and much, much more.

I want to thank the many volunteers who make NatureKids BC possible. From our Club Leaders across the province to the editors and contributors to NatureWild to the board members who share their expertise and time, I am so grateful for your dedication and passion. A special thank you to the staff and, in particular, Rebecca Clapperton Law, who works tirelessly to ensure that we are always aspiring to be better than we were yesterday.

We would be nowhere without the families who continue to read our NatureWild magazines and turn up for the Explorer Days, rain or shine. Thank you for your participation and continued investment. Thanks to our donors, our sponsors and all of the public funders.

It has been an honour and privilege to be part of this charity and I look forward to the year ahead.



2021 Highlights

We celebrated 21 years of impact in 2021! Here's a snapshot of our highlights:



Welcomed 6 new interns and co-op students from diverse communities across BC onto our team



Developed new salmon toolkits for Clubs and Club Leaders



Developed and nurtured new community partnerships



Hosted valuable in-person programming to connect children, youth and families to nature and to each other!

Program Development

Receiving inputs from educational experts, we wrapped the theme of salmon into a multi-day, multi-resource toolkit for use by our clubs across the province. Each club received a network list of the location of a hatchery nearest them, along with an activity guide and new resources (models and posters) to capture the imagination of the children! The SalmonWILD magazine was updated with 4 new pages, much of them featuring Indigenous ways of knowing. As a keystone species, we ignited further club activity in the springtime of 2022 by offering water monitoring field tests and ID cards to clubs, taking the learning deeper into salmon habitat evaluation and restoration.

Community Partnerships & Engagement

We understand that we have opportunities to remove barriers in programming and create even greater access to nature-based connections for children and families, reaching out directly to nature-deprived communities in urban areas and vulnerable families. We have embarked on a listening journey with the support of a community facilitator to learn more about the experiences and needs of families that haven't been engaged in our programs historically. Focus groups, community surveys, and community leader interviews were all

undertaken and culminated in our Nature Access for All report. Thank you to the Vancouver Foundation and Nature Canada for supporting this important learning and action journey.

Resilience & Adaptation, Innovation & Teamwork

BC was impacted not only by the pandemic in our communities (no in-person programming from January through June!), but also by two extreme weather events: summer wildfires and November flash floods. Particularly hard hit, the town of Merritt, BC, was under deep air quality advisories in summer and ultimately

evacuated due to the flooding. NatureKids Merritt is a very active and engaged club. Big hearts and extended hands prevailed as neighbour Kamloops and Salmon Arm clubs opened up shared event opportunities. Merritt Club leader's story is featured in our volunteer profiles - her observation in our Club Leader Community conference was, "This time together, gathering in nature, was a chance for the families to forget about the hardships for an hour or two."

Honouring our Founder

This year, we sadly experienced the challenge of losing our beloved NatureKids BC Founder, Daphne Solecki in her 92nd year. She was an active mentor to so many of us, truly our Mother Tree. We celebrate her life and her legacy through our deepened commitment to the organization's impact and growth across BC.



Club Leader Volunteer Profiles:

Deborah Simpson: *I started volunteering with NatureKids BC as I liked the idea of getting families with children out in nature together. I was surprised to see the enthusiasm of the parents - they learned as much as the kids! I love this aspect of NatureKids as I know these families will continue to explore nature together. I learn so much from the Explorer Days, and love that I'm getting introduced to a wide range of topics, some a little out of my comfort zone, like bats. I personally love walking along the seashore and looking at the marine life, both flora and fauna.*



Sarah Desrosiers: *I wanted to meet like-minded families interested in being out in nature together. I have a background in environmental education and am passionate about getting youth outdoors - I love leading Explorer Days for the community! One of the greatest parts is making connections with all the great mentors in the Nicola Valley. There is a wealth of knowledge about the natural world here, and mentors are so keen to participate. I love watching adults bring out their inner child when working with our club. Last January, we held a Christmas Bird Count. It was a thrill to see 27 different species and over 2,000 individual birds. Both Children and adults*

used spotting scopes to view tundra swans on the river and golden eagles high up on a ridge top. It was a lovely day. Connecting with nature is so important. The Nicola Valley has endured a very difficult two years with Covid, wildfires, floods, and the remains of 215 children found buried at the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Offering the opportunity for families to gather outside, be present and heal from the hardships is a wonderful feeling.

Supporter Profile:

Toor Family: *As an active family of 5, the days can often be a juggle of commitments and calendars. We know when we get into nature together, life slows down. We pause. We connect. We learn. We grow. NatureKids BC provides opportunities for meaningful moments in nature and enriches these experiences with engaging resources and valuable teachings. The Explorer Day leaders, volunteers and mentors are also incredible role models for our budding nature lovers. We are grateful for NatureKids BC!*



Thank You to our Supporters

Thank you to our donors, funders and partners who have made financial or in-kind contributions in the 2021 fiscal year*. Your support is what makes it possible for NatureKids BC to have a real impact when it comes to connecting children and their families with nature through our programming.

Funders:

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia



The Gosling Foundation



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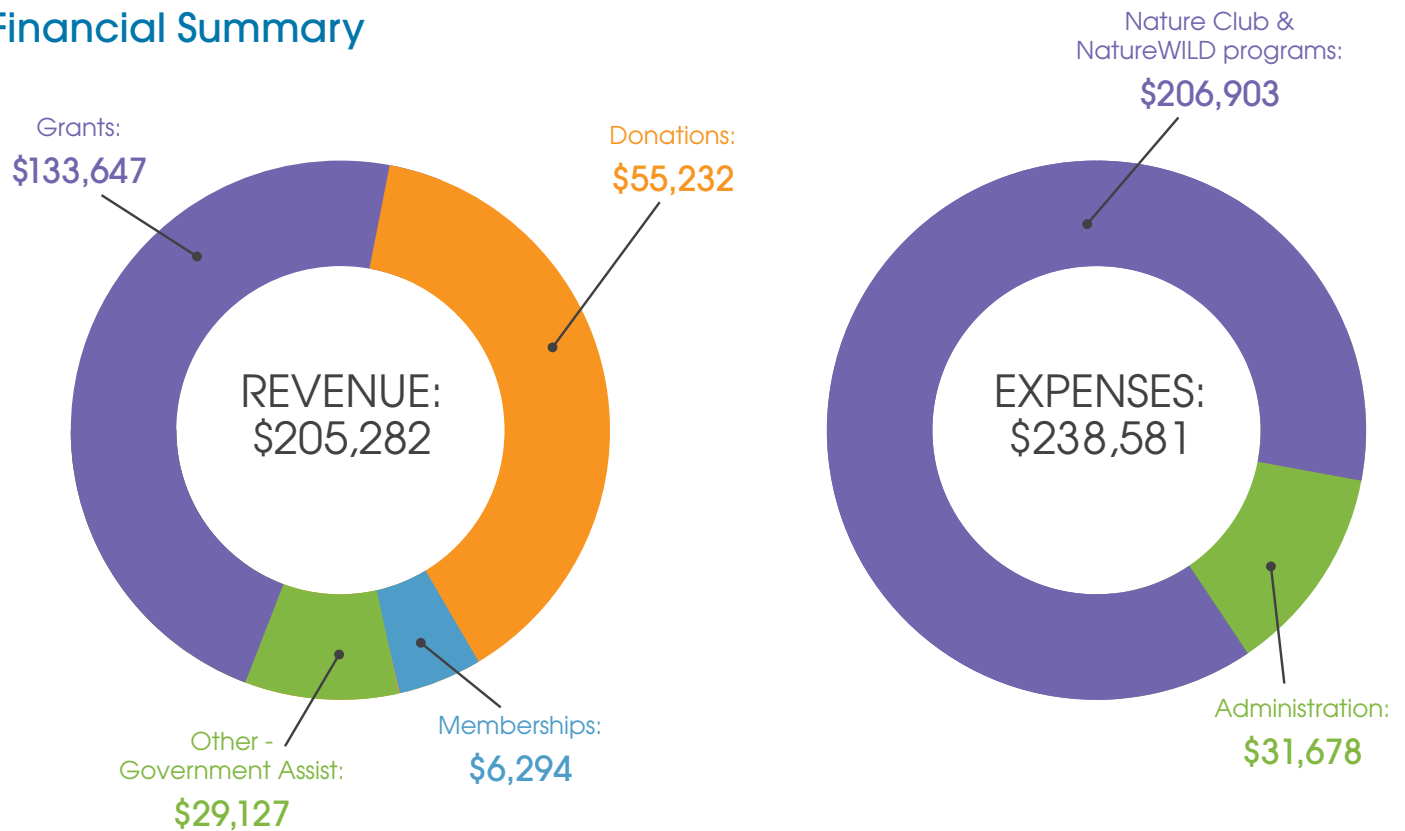
Volunteer Club Leaders and Nature Mentors 2021 • Cindy Verbeek, Tanya Margerm, Stephanie Yeker, Lyndsay Fraser, Jenny White, Olena Russell, Maria Stavoravdis, Patty Kolesnichenko, Marla Pitcher, Ashley Tyler, Nick Tyler, Joanna Ogujiuba, Mandy Ross, Kara Lemire, Kate Kutzner, Katie Porter, Nehal Saleh, Kim North, Marni Brown, Rachel Whitehouse, Sarah Desrosiers, Sheri Plummer, Dianne Anderson, Jenni Stol, Chantelle DesLauriers, Anthea Farr, Jennifer Pollard, Angie Grant, Mr. Lynn Pollard, Vanessa Elton, Natasha Ewing, Jackie McQuillan, Courtney Kennedy, Rob Pritchard, Rachel Stevens, Molly Cooperman, Pattie Perkins, Carmen Kocsis, Kethumali Mendis, Geoffrey Carter, Deborah Simpson, Devon Sullivan, Daniel Weir, Britta Bentz, Sue Hemphill, Bill Gilroy, Martin Kruus, Michelle Polley, Daniel Gowryluk, Andrea Gielens, Dana Eye, Tricia Edgar, Bobs n' Lolo, Hana Hermanek, Jo-Annie Gagnon, Plant a Seed and See What Grows, Stephanie Chong, Forest Moon Fungi, Mike Simpson, Laura Cottle, Freshwater Fisheries Society, Grassland Conservation Council, Nicola Watershed Roundtable, Tara Moreau and UBC Botanical Garden team, Royal BC Museum, John & Christina Saremba, Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, BC Parks, BC Parks Foundation, City of Surrey, North Shore Black Bear Society, Joanne Siderius, Bernice Jensen, Fraser River Discovery Centre, Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Paul Mozin, Dana Scanlan, Lindsay Coulter, Brenda Melnychuk, Ted Danyluk, Adams River Salmon Society, Shuswap 4H Club, Melissa Harborne, Ashley Dahl, Interfor, Lazy L Ranch, Kate O'Connor, Sofia Slater, Tessica Tuong, Maja Lampa, Ludovic Le Renard, Peachland Bat Education and Ecological Preservation Society, Still Moon Arts Society, Varsha Gill, Stephen Hui, BC Wildlife Park, Rob Macrae, Willoughby Arevalo, Terezinha Cabral, Elders Council for Parks in BC, George and Luka Kovacic, Stoney Creek Environmental Committee, Goldstream Nature House, Critter Care Wildlife, Chris Colton, Jamie Clarke, Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Paul Prappas, Kris Cu, Birds Canada, Stanley Park Ecological Society (SPES), Kamloops Naturalist Society, Bill Gilroy, Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre.

Each issue of NatureWILD represents the work of many volunteers. All the articles and most of the photos come from a group of loyal contributors who, issue after issue, supply us with wonderful material. We are so grateful to the scientists, educators, authors, and photographers who share their work with NatureWILD. Without them, we would not have a magazine.

Editorial Board: Daphne Solecki, Susan Fisher, Kristine Webber, Brian Herrin, Christine Dalton. Contributor: Al Grass

Photographers /writers: Rosemary Taylor, Rob Alexander, Clive Bryson, David Shackleton, Ian Routley, Bob Thacker, Gordon Gore, Susanna Solecki, Mike Simpson, Joanne and Bruce Clayton, Clayton Lamb, Harper Johnson, Kristiina Ovaska, Marika van Reeuwijk, Rachel Whitehouse, The Blais family, Andrea Gielens, June Ryder, Andy Murch, David Moskowitz, Neil Dawe, Coralee Coe, Mike Pearson, Linda Clarke Harter, Evan Larson, Penny Street, Andrea Paetow, Jane Goodall Institute, Gavin Thurston, Julius Csotonyi, Christina Carrieres, Kethumali Mendis, Molly Cooperman, Devon Sullivan, Sarah Desrosiers, Britta Bentz, Sara Polson, Geoffrey Tam, Tobin Kruus, Ruth Foster.

Financial Summary



The society received two grants in late 2021 that have been deferred to future years. Visit naturekidsbc.ca/publications to review or download our 2021 financial statements.

Staff and Board of Directors

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Program Director:	Christina Chowaniec
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Communications & Outreach Coordinators:	Geoffrey Tam, Angelina Chin, Meaghan Trescher, Harper Johnson, Andres Mancera Barreto
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Honorary Directors:

Daphne Solecki (Honorary President, in memoriam) and Dr. Robert Butler (Honorary Director). Both were co-founders of NatureKids BC (then Young Naturalists' Club of BC Society).



Photo Credits: Bog walk: Deborah Simpson, B.C. • fishing: Jenni Stol, B.C.



Our vision is to build a healthy and sustainable future for our world by engaging every child and their family in the diversity, complexity and wonder of nature. NatureKids BC helps children aged 5-12 and their families get outdoors to explore, play, learn about and take action for nature through a network of family nature clubs and through opportunities to engage in citizen science initiatives and environmental stewardship activities. You can support our work by making a donation, becoming a member or signing up as a volunteer.

NatureKids BC (Young Naturalists' Club of BC Society) is a registered charity. Charitable #: 84961 1926 RR0001.
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Photo Credits: Victoria Ivy pull at Haro Woods: Britta Bentz, B.C. • Releasing fish: KK Law, B.C.

Through our work we continue to reflect on our positionality on this land and how we can centre this understanding when connecting children and families with these lands. We gratefully acknowledge NatureKids BC offices being located in the Elders Council for Parks in BC Heritage Centre, on the traditional and unceded territory of the Selilweta? (Tsleil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō) nations.

Similarly, we acknowledge that as a provincial network within many communities throughout British Columbia, our network learns and plays upon many different territories of the Indigenous Peoples of BC; we invite our local leaders to acknowledge the connection to local Indigenous communities of the ecosystem and place where we are honoured to learn and grow.