



2019 - Year
in Review



Community Impact Report



We are genetically wired to be in nature but this generation of children spends less time outside while at the same time experiencing deteriorating mental and physical health. Luckily, we know that a key solution is to adopt a more active lifestyle as a family which includes heading outside and rediscovering nature in your neighbourhood.

For the past 20 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!

Exploring and Learning about Nature:

- More than 900 young members ages 5-12 years from 24 nature clubs had 3000 individual outdoor adventures.
- They submitted 30 completed Passports to Nature (180 nature outings) and received great prizes in return.
- We currently enjoy supporting 566 family membership (1900+ children and adults).

Community Involvement:

- Enthusiastic volunteers contributed 8,500 hours to connect children and families with nature.
- With an in-kind value of \$115,000, this is equivalent to 4 additional part-time staff members!
- 49 nature club leaders organized 200 monthly Explorer Day adventures in 33 communities across BC.
- 77 nature mentors from the community shared their nature knowledge with children and families.

Stepping up for Nature:

- Our members took part in several citizen science initiatives including the Christmas Bird Count for Kids, the Great Backyard Bird Watch, and our Bat citizen science project.
- More than half of our clubs participated in the Bat citizen science project and so did schools and community groups.
- 20,000m² of land was improved through stewardship activities, 650 native plants, trees or shrubs planted and 31 bird, bee and bat boxes installed or renovated.



Photo Credits | cover: Comox Lazo Marsh Bird Count: Hayley Datto • page 2: wild flowers: David Shakleton
• rain garden ramble: Michael Sirtan • Prince George Sensory Explorations: Natasha Ewing • Kelowna Lost Lake Snake Hunt: Kate Kutzner

President's Report 2019

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the NatureKids BC organization. With the maturation of the organization, the mission continues to be relevant and critical for today's children and their families, both in terms of their present emotional and physical well-being as well as the future of our wild species and spaces. The board and staff continued the important strategic planning process for determining the direction of the organization in the next five years. There were multiple leadership changes at the board level and in the Executive Director position. The advantage of the model implemented by NatureKids BC with our programming offered by volunteer club leaders and nature mentors and our magazine, NatureWILD, written and edited by volunteers, is that both our Explorer Days and publication continued to be offered to our members unimpeded. We thank members, volunteers, donors, and other stakeholders for their patience during this period of transition.

Volunteers, board members and staff alike are drawn to support the organization often due to a personal connection to the mission and their own nature experiences as a child. Thank you to the staff and board members who

supported the organization during a year of flux and were committed to connecting kids and their families to experiences in nature throughout the seasons.

Many thanks to our knowledgeable club leaders and nature mentors who successfully engage both kids and their families in learning about our natural history in BC. As co-leader of the Vancouver club I have witnessed first-hand the intrigue, curiosity, thirst for information and wonder in both children and adults while learning about bats from a partner with BC Community Bat Program in Trout Lake Park and exploring the shoreline in Stanley Park with a volunteer from the Vancouver Aquarium. Learning about British Columbia's biodiversity can occur at any age!

Thank you also to our donors and partners, those individuals, organizations and businesses whose financial and programming support allows us to be able to continue our mission driven work. We are grateful to know that we share common values and appreciate your long standing relationships with NatureKids BC.

Leslie Bol, President



Quinn & Leslie on
Salt Spring Island



2019 Highlights

- 49 nature club volunteers and 78 nature mentors delivered 200 Explorer Day field trips, which included activities as diverse as winter campfires and star gazing, snowshoeing, learning about animal skulls, riparian restoration, cleaning nest boxes, going on fungi forays, geocaching, wildlife tracking, rockhounding, learning about wilderness safety and survival.
- We continued to explore new ways to overcome barriers to participation in nature activities for new Canadians.
- We invited families, clubs and schools to get involved with bat conservation citizen science where youth learned about bats, species identification and data collection methods. They collected data on the abundance and diversity of bats in green spaces in their local area through data collection events and were encouraged to get involved in stewardship activities that increased bat habitat.
- To help teachers across BC with place-based material on the natural heritage of BC, we started to offer all teachers in BC a complimentary digital subscription to NatureWILD magazine, something more than 500 teachers now take advantage of.
- The Christmas Bird Count for Kids (CBC4Kids) initiative engages new generations of young birders and nature enthusiasts and has been a favourite activity for our clubs to get involved with since the event started in Canada.



Photo Credits | Merritt Monck Park Adventure: Roxanne Wallace • Nanaimo Amphibian Road Survey (Lantzville): Linda Brooymans • CBC4Kids Stanley Park: Jen Beechey

Natasha Ewing

NatureKids BC could not operate without the support of a wide range of volunteers, donors and supporters. We look forward to sharing many, many stories of our community members in the seasons ahead.

Natasha Ewing is NatureKids BC's Prince George volunteer Club Leader:

Why NatureKids? What brought you to us over another organization?

After moving to Prince George two years ago, I was looking for a fun and unique way to become involved in the community and volunteer. With a background in Biology and Environmental Education and a deep love and appreciation for Nature, NatureKids BC was the perfect combo. I had heard about the previous club and wondered about how I could get involved... then in a magical moment of coincidence, my friend - and now club co-lead - asked if I would be willing to help her start it up again. I suppose, great minds think alike.

What is the most surprising or unexpected part/thing/event of being part of NatureKids?

There are so many wonderful moments and experiences that come to mind in the last year that we have worked to revitalize the PG club. I am incredibly thrilled how the community has embraced NatureKids BC and are willing to come out and connect with nature. It is wonderful to watch families engage, parents encourage their kids' curiosity for nature, and watch passionate

Nature Mentors share their knowledge. Listening to the kiddos get excited is heartwarming, and equally so, is hearing just as many questions and "oohs and awes" from the parents. Together we are building a beautiful network and inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

What have you learned about your connection to nature as a result of being part of NatureKids?

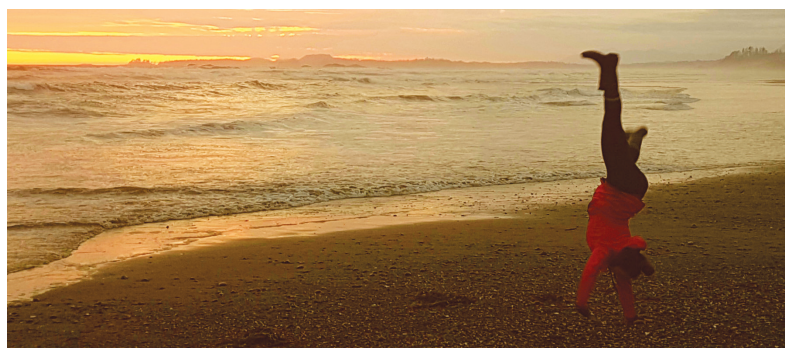
I have realized that I was very privileged to grow up surrounded by nature and encouraged by my parents to explore, get dirty, and investigate all of nature's intricate details. One of my favourite ways to connect with nature is through my camera. Going on a photo walk forces me to slow down and pay attention in order to capture beautiful moments and new perspectives of the world around me.

What is your favourite local nature spot (maybe something that is still accessible to you these days)?

From temperate rainforests and rugged west coast beaches, to magical hot springs and alpine meadows; I have many favourite nature spots! I have lived in nearly every region of the province and have been blessed to explore BC's stunning landscapes and wild spaces. One of my favourite local nature spots is Forest For The World. Whether I feel like a long day-hike or snowshoe, an afternoon of fishing, a muddy adventure on my mountain bike, or a simply a walk with my camera, Forest For The World has it all.



Natasha Ewing on a West Coast boat adventure



cartwheels in Tofino



Natasha in the Arctic

Thank You to our Supporters

Thank you to our donors, funders and partners who have made financial or in-kind contributions in the 2019 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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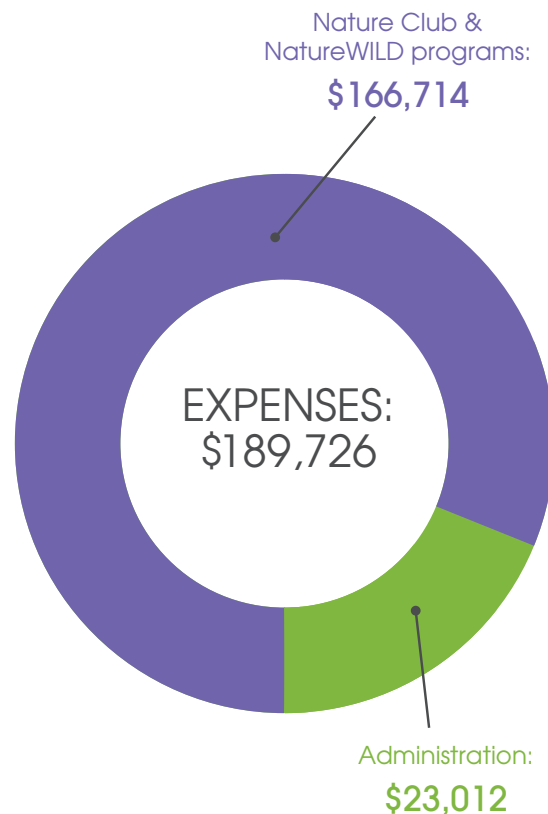
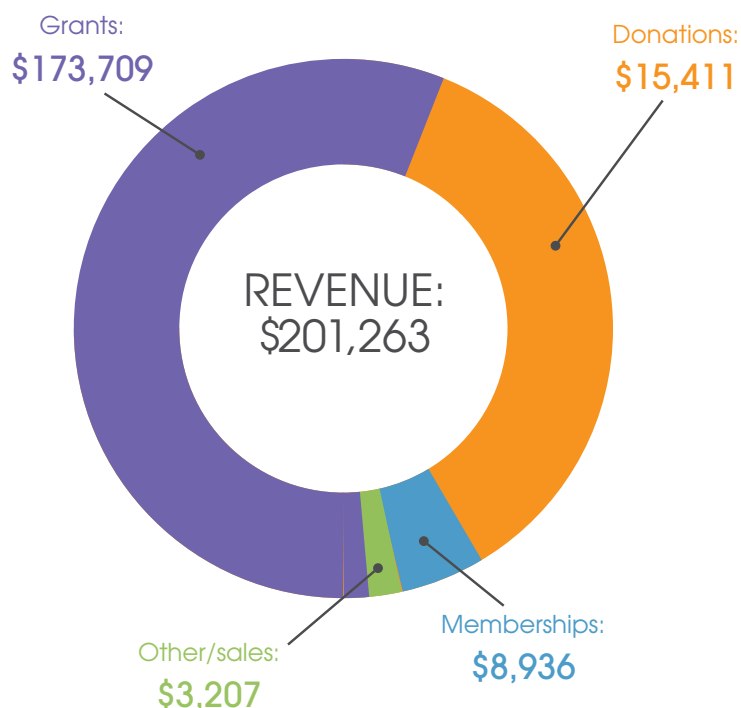
Donors 2019 • Kariann Aarup, Daniela Al-Kuwatli, Shantelle Allard, Alison Bakker, Cynthia Berg, Leslie Bol, Chantal Buse, Cynthia Crampton, Olympia Dowd, Tricia Edgar, Susan Ewing, Susan Fisher, Samantha Fortier, George & Winifred Black Legacy Fund, Kate Heslop, IBM Employee Fund, Esther Kafer, Tammy Keetch, Leona Keltie, Cheryl Kincaid, Agnieszka Klakowich, Martin Kruus, Brenda Lannard, Leaside Day Women, Vanessa Lee, Jamie Lepard, Sarah Lockman, Katherine MacKenzie, Thomas Marshall, Kenneth McCaig, Ian McKeachie, Fred McMechan, John Morton, Jana Naastad, Clementine Oliveras, James Palmer, Parkin Family, Bob Pearl, D. Phelps, A. Piatkowska, Laura Pollock, Lara Pow, Provincial Employees Community Services, Bev Ramey, Peter Robinson, Christine Rock, Airiane Rogers, Alice Roos, Daphne Solecki, SPUD, Rachel Stevens, Telus, Robyn Walters, Kristine Webber, James Wisnia, Linda Wong, Michael Wortman, Kim Zalay.

Volunteers • Club Leaders: Alethia Perry, Sarah Wright, Hayley Dato, Katrina Dilley, Olena Russell, Jenny White, Maritza Matheson, Maria Stavoravdis, Michal Sirton, Shannon Turner, Marla Pitcher, Angie Coolin, Mandy Ross, Kara Lemire, Kate Kutzner, Nehal Saleh, Rachel Whitehouse, Sarah Desrosiers, Roxanne Wallace, Crystal Wallace, Linda Brooymans, Sarah Dafeo, Des Belton, Dawn Germyn, Jenni Stol, Jen von Gradulewski, Carly Ristow, Mr. Lynn Pollard, Anthea Farr, Sarah Brookes, Megan McMillan, Marnie Williamson, Doris Alcantara, Tricia Edgar, Jackie McQuillan, Courtney Kennedy, Adrienne Miller, Vanessa Elton, Dawn Bast, Natasha Ewing, Rob Pritchard, Rachel Stevens, Kim Blais, Molly Cooperman, Christy Wright, Paula Rodriguez de la Vega, Chandra Wong, Janelle Parchomcuk, Deborah Simpson, Leslie Bol, Britta Bentz, Sue Hemphill, Bill Gilroy, Kim Zalay.

Nature Mentors: David Smith, Trevor Christie, Rob Garbutt, Wayne Holmes, Alison Maingon, Ashleigh Ballevena, Katie Turner, Lydia Koot, Christy Wilson, Janne Perrin, Geoff Styles, Nicholas Wong, Gerry Sanford, Danielle Dagnenais, Christain Ladders, Dawsynn Remillard, Dave White, Leo Ching, Meaghan Cursons, Brenda Melnychuk, Coleen Doucette, Graham Sorenson, Paige Erickson-McGee, Al Grass, Shanoon Bennett, Ella Haus, John Morton, Sara Theuerkauf, Russ Pym, Cara Goggs, Derek Wilmott, Judith Robertson, Cathy Koot, Laura O'Brian, Doug Janz, Emily Wallener, Scott Wallace, John Franken, Carly Stromsten, Vanessa Robinson, Liis Jefferies, Tanya Seebacher, Lisa Dreves, Elke Wind, Kem Luther, Andy MacKinnon, Di Wittner, Jennifer Miles, Sally Hocking, Margaret Lidkea, Margaret Corsan, Matt Goodyear, Sari Saunders, Deborah Jones, Joanne Siderius, Tim Ennis, Jim Palmer, Jan Gremmell, Carmen Massey, Elaine Sedgeman, Dyck Clegg, Jacquelyn Cantwell, Christina Becker, Caila Holbrook, Valerie Huff, Elana Brief, Poppy Subar. **NatureWILD Editorial Board:** Daphne Solecki, Brian Herrin, Susan Fisher, Tricia Edgar, Simon Briault, Kristine Webber. **NatureWILD Photographers:** Clive Bryson, Rosemary Taylor, David Shackleton, Robert Alexander, Larry Taylor, Todd Carnahan, Nick Baccante, J.G. Polman; **NatureWILD Artist:** Sara Theuerkauf.

Explorer Days - Organizations that partnered with NatureKids in 2019 • BC Community Bat Program, Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, Cumberland Community Forest Society, Invasive Species Council of BC, Walley Creek Streamkeepers, 1st Ottergrove Guides, Adventure Smart, Alouette River Management Society, ALLCO Fish Hatcheries, BCIT, Earthwise Farm, Bird Stuides Canada, Bulkley Valley Search & Rescue, Burns Bog Convseraion Society, Chilliwack Field Naturalists, Chinook Yoga, City of Nanaimo, Comox Valley Nature, Comox Valley Regional District, Cougar Canyon Streamkeepers, Cumberland Bat Collective, North Island Community Bat Program, Morrison Streamkeepers, David Suzuki Foundation, Delta Naturalists, District of North Vancouver, Evelyn 4H Club, Fraser Valley Search & Rescue, Freshwater Fisheries Society, Friends of Uplands Park, Greater Vancouver Zoo, Habitat Acquisition Trust, Metchosin Biodiversity, Hoodoo Adventures, Invasive Species Council of B.C., Kamloops Naturalist Club, Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society, Kootenay Native Plant Society, Langley Environmental Partners Society, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Marine Mammal Rescue, Metro Vancouver Parks (Aldergrove), Nature Vancouver, North Okanagan Naturalists' Club, OWL Rehabilitation Society, Prince George Nature, Project Watershed, Quick College, Round Lake Community Association, Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Rithet's Bog Conservation Society, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Scout Island Nature Centre, Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club, Shuswap Search and Rescue, Shuswap 4H club and Boy Scouts, Skeena BC Bats, Stanley Park Ecological Society, Surfrider Foundation, Surrey Parks, Tsolum River Reservation Society, Tyhee Lake Provincial Park, UBC-Alex Fraser Research Forest, Unplug and Play, Vancouver Aquarium / Oceanwise, Vancouver Avian Research Centre, Victoria CRD, Victoria Natural History Society, Wild Research, Wildlife Preservation Canada, WildSafe BC, World Fisheries Trust.

Financial Summary and 2019 Staff and Board of Directors



Annual Surplus \$11,537

Visit naturekidsbc.ca/publications to review or download our 2019 financial statements.

Staff and Board of Directors

Staff:

Executive Director:	Louise Pedersen, Cynthia Berg, Sarah Lockman, Rebecca Clapperton Law
Program Coordinator:	Christina Chowaniec
Membership & Office Coordinator:	Niki Dun
NatureWILD Designer:	Alison Garrad

Board of Directors:

President:	Leslie Bol
President 2018/19:	Cynthia Berg
Treasurer:	Alexander Grant
Secretary:	Kathy MacKenzie
Director:	Danielle Durant
Director:	Stephane Bowen
Director:	Jenni Stol
Director:	Lindsay Blair
Director:	Noemi Bach

Honourary Directors:

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



Photo Credit | DeltaHL: Michal Siron



NatureKids BC helps children ages 5-12 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 | North Okanagan Naturalist's Club Adopt-a-Stream program: Megan McMillan
• Bulkley Valley Earth Day Celebration: Sarah Wright • Vancouver Bat CSP: Deborah Simpson
• Nelson Canoeing at Kokanee Lake: Carly Ristow