

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

JUNE 2025



NATURE  
KIDS<sup>BC</sup>

WWW.NATUREKIDSBBC.CA

# CELEBRATING 2024



Our goal is to create a generation of curious, engaged and inspired children and families 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.

For 24 years, NatureKids BC has made it easy for families to enjoy 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 to connect families with their nearby nature. We couldn't do this without you!

This past year, our community of member families has grown across BC by 25%, creating positive ripple effects of better children and family health and weaving local communities together through nature-based experiences.



## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US ACHIEVE IN 2024.

Dedicating their time, energy and passion, our 48 enthusiastic club leader volunteers contributed 6,250 hours to connect children and families with nature and organized 193 monthly Explorer Day adventures in 30 communities across BC!

193

EXPLORER DAYS

4 Virtual learning sessions for 68 households through 2024 shared through YouTube.

4

VIRTUAL EXPLORER DAYS

7500

COPIES

7500 printed copies of NatureWILD magazine were distributed across BC helping teachers and parents.



Young members aged 5-12 from 27 nature clubs across BC enjoyed 1857 young individual outdoor adventures.

1250+ Families explored and learned together about nature on their doorstep through our province-wide network of nature clubs, involvement in environmental stewardship and through reading NatureWILD magazine.



27

NATURE CLUBS ACROSS BC

3192

ADVENTURES

6250

VOLUNTEER HOURS

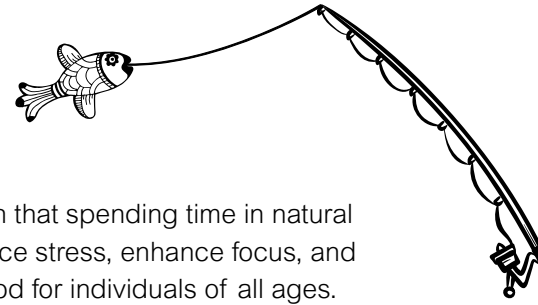
1250+

FAMILIES

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 **səlilwəta+** (Tsleil-Waututh), **Skwxwú7mesh** (Squamish), and **S'ólh Téméxw** (Stó:lo) nations. As a provincial network, we acknowledge with deep respect and gratitude that our learning and growing takes place on the unceded and ancestral territories of Indigenous Peoples across what is now known as British Columbia.



# REFLECTING ON THE YEAR



2024 was a year of deepening roots and growing momentum. Across British Columbia, families continued to show us just how powerful time in nature can be—for learning, for connection, and for joy. At NatureKids BC, we were proud to walk alongside over a thousand families as they explored creeks, skies, forests, and fields through our Explorer Days and club programming.

This year, we grew our program delivery of vibrant, in-person nature experiences across the province. Our 27 clubs continued to thrive thanks to the dedication of our 48 volunteer Club Leaders and 80+ Nature Mentors, whose creativity and leadership brought to life activities like pond dipping, bee house building, shelter-making, and stargazing. In every region, we witnessed children lighting up with curiosity, wonder, and confidence as they deepened their relationship with the natural world.

We were especially proud to continue delivering on our commitment to equity and access. Partnerships with organizations like MOSAIC and Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver helped us welcome newcomer families into our community, while our stewardship events—from beach cleanups to invasive species removal—offered meaningful ways for families to give back.

Moreover, the profound connection between nature and mental wellbeing cannot be overstated.

Studies have shown that spending time in natural settings helps reduce stress, enhance focus, and improve overall mood for individuals of all ages. For children especially, regular immersion in nature fosters resilience and emotional growth, providing them with a calming space to explore, reflect, and thrive. By offering opportunities to engage with the outdoors, NatureKids BC plays a crucial role in nurturing the mental health of families while instilling in them a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

Behind the scenes, our team continued building capacity through digital systems upgrades, impact measurement, and refreshed storytelling tools. NatureWILD magazine continued to flourish, with a talented editorial team bringing science, art, and family-friendly fun into thousands of homes.

As President, I've been inspired every step of the way by the passionate people who make this work possible. Thank you to our Club Leaders, volunteers, staff, donors, and funders. You are the heart of this movement. Together, we are raising a generation that not only loves nature but stands ready to protect it.

Let's keep going—curious, committed, and connected.

With gratitude,  
Alex Grant  
President, NatureKids BC



“ We got to go on a wildlife tour that we would never have been able to afford normally.”



## LIVING OUR VALUES TOGETHER

### INTEGRITY

We are committed to being honest and showing a consistent and uncompromising adherence to ethical practices and behaviour towards each other and the environment.

### EMPOWERMENT

We endeavour to support families, staff, and volunteers in making a difference in their nature neighbourhoods by collectively learning about and caring for the wild species and spaces of BC. Opportunities will be offered for learning, fun, skill building, increased capacity, broadened knowledge and ways of understanding through the sharing of information and perspectives.

### COMMUNITY

We are stronger together. Through our networks and ecosystems, we share knowledge, collaborate on programming and initiatives and make new friends with people, flora, and fauna, along the way.

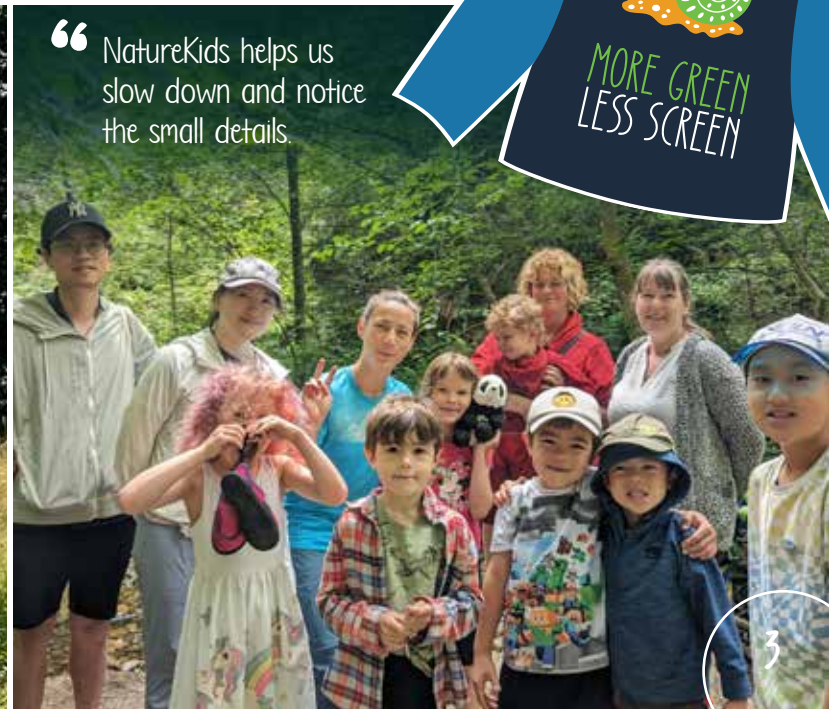
### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We envision a future at NatureKids BC where everyone feels welcomed, a sense of belonging, and where participants, staff, and volunteers reflect the diversity of families in our province.

“ We feel more confident taking the kids on hikes now.”



“ NatureKids helps us slow down and notice the small details.”



# BUILDING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



Developing a love of nature isn't automatic—it's cultivated through experience, emotion, and connection. At NatureKids BC, our programs are intentionally designed to guide children through each step of this journey, so that nature becomes not just something they visit, but something they care deeply about.



## OUR KEY IMPACT GOALS BLOOMING IN THE WILD



### EXPOSURE: MAKING NATURE ACCESSIBLE

“We help children notice nature by showing them where it is, and giving them a reason to go outside.”

Explorer Days bring kids to forests, beaches, and parks they might not otherwise visit.

Seasonal activities introduce diverse ways to engage with nature: pond-dipping, birding, mushroom hunting.

Local clubs across BC ensure families in urban, rural, and newcomer communities can access nearby wild spaces.



### EMOTION: SPARKING JOY & AWE

“When children laugh in the woods or touch a salamander for the first time, they start to love where they are.”

Activities are playful, sensory-rich, and designed to evoke delight and curiosity.

Family-centred events create safe, emotionally supportive experiences.

Moments of wonder—holding a beetle, seeing an eagle, building a shelter—create lasting memories.



### MEANING: BUILDING PERSONAL CONNECTION

“Children protect what they feel a part of. We help them find their place in nature's story.”

Stories of ecosystems, species, and Indigenous knowledge connect nature to personal and cultural identity.

Kids discover they have a role in nature through stewardship activities like planting or cleanups.

NatureWILD magazine and Explorer Day themes link nature to climate, culture, and community.



### BELONGING: CREATING A NATURE-LOVING COMMUNITY

“Kids fall in love with nature—and stay in love—when they feel like they belong in it, and with others who care.”

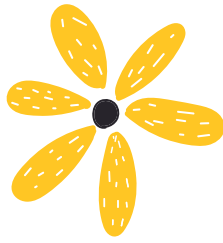
Clubs create a supportive peer network of nature-curious families and volunteer mentors.

Children interact with role models who demonstrate lifelong nature connection.





# CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS



At NatureKids BC, our mission to connect children and families with the natural world thrives because of the unwavering dedication of our volunteers. From the vibrant rainforests of Vancouver Island to the majestic peaks of the Kootenays, these passionate individuals are the lifeblood of our organization, fostering a love for nature across British Columbia.

Our volunteer leaders wear many hats: they are educators, mentors, community builders, and environmental stewards. They organize and lead Explorer Days, guiding families through hands-on experiences that inspire curiosity and respect for the environment. Their efforts ensure that each child feels a sense of wonder and belonging in the natural spaces we cherish.

We are proud to recognize the diverse group of volunteers who make our work possible. From Alwyn Rutherford in Vancouver to Angela Meilleur in Nelson, and from Andrew Campbell in Cowichan Valley to Anna Drabosenig in Kitimat, each leader brings unique energy and commitment to their community. Their collective efforts have enabled us to host over 200 Explorer Days annually, reaching thousands of families and nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards.

Beyond leading events, our volunteers contribute to the growth and inclusivity of NatureKids BC. They engage in community outreach, collaborate with

local organizations, and participate in initiatives that make nature accessible to all families, regardless of background or experience. Their dedication embodies our vision of a province where every child can explore, learn about, and take action for nature.

As we reflect on the incredible impact of our volunteers, we extend our deepest gratitude. Their passion and generosity are the foundation upon which NatureKids BC stands. Together, we celebrate their contributions and look forward to continuing this journey of discovery and stewardship.

Thank you to all our volunteers—you are truly the heart of NatureKids BC.



“ I love the empowering support that we get to explore with and learn from our communities while accessing remarkable resources.”



# INCLUSION, EQUITY AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

At NatureKids BC, we practice cultural awareness and proactively create opportunities for newcomers and equity deserving communities to build healthy, respectful relationships with nature.

Each partner agency (currently four) co-creates a series of seasonal community nature experiences with NatureKids BC staff. Together, we attune to the additional needs of their direct client families to create a psychologically and physically safe space for the children and families to increase their comfort in nature and have fun!



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



WE ARRIVE TO OUR PURPOSE AND TO OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE VALUES OF CURIOUSITY, RESPECT, HONOUR, AND HUMILITY.

We recognize our interconnected relationship to Lands and Waters and our role as an organization to nurture these connections with children and families across BC. We also recognize our significant role in nurturing connections between children and families building mutual respect and empathy among communities supporting the 94 calls to Truth and Reconciliation.



20% (600+) in-nature adventures were experienced by newcomers and families served through our community agency partnerships.

600+ ADVENTURES



WELCOME FAMILIES!

Thank you so very much to **Telus Friendly Future Foundation**, **BC Parks Foundation** and **Nature Canada NatureHOOD** who all enable us to create needed, vital nature experiences with underserved communities.





# Nature WILD



In 2024, we made incredible strides with our magazine, NatureWILD! We released a special issue, FreshwaterWILD, highlighting the importance of freshwater in the province and including a photography contest for kids. We are proud to have highlighted more BIPOC and youth voices in our pages, and have created a new Youth Advisory Circle to get young people involved with the editorial direction of the magazine. We have also streamlined the production process for the magazine, revitalized the graphic design, and added exciting new sections like the Wild Jobs spotlight. We are excited to continue this momentum into 2025!

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Christine Dalton, Dr. Michael Simpson, Ronda Schuller, Pamela Swanigan, Eryne Donahue, Kristine Webber

## WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Maryam Aboukhatwa, Rob Alexander, Kephra Beckett, Clive Bryson, Shae Buchan, Terry Carr, Vicky Earle, Gemma Gale, Al Grass, Patrick Harrison, Brian Herrin, Alida Janmaat, Michelle Jean, Yuseon Park, Michelle Parry, Liam Ragan, Devvriti Sethi, David Shackleton, Katilyn Sparrow, Terry Taylor, Ken Thompson, Tracy Wang, Stephanie Weinstein, Debbie Wheeler

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Thank you to our supporters who have made financial or in-kind contributions in the 2024 fiscal year.



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A NATURE CANADA INITIATIVE



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sitka foundation



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Government of Canada's  
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We acknowledge  
the financial  
assistance of the  
Province of British  
Columbia.



## OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Agnieszka Klakowich  
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## THANK YOU TO OUR SUSTAINING DONORS:

Alex Grant • Bob Peart • Ian McKeachie • Kathy MacKenzie  
 Kenneth MacLeod • Kristine Webber • Leslie Bol • Mary Gilzean  
 Anonymous • Tammy Keetch • Tracy Adole • Tricia Edgar • Vanessa Lee

## OUR GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS

### CLUB LEADERS

Prakrati Agrawal	Anshdeep Gill	Michal Sirton
Ruchika Bhatia	Claire Hahnhaussen	Jenni Stol
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Morgan Boghean	Anna Kirkpatrick	Lina Tang
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Sarah Desrosiers	Sonya Rokosh	Rachel Whitehouse
Anna Drabosenig	Erin Ronsse	Jean Wilkinson
Tricia Edgar	Kim Rose	Ray Woroniak
Joel Etkin	Mandy Ross	Jiajing Zhang
Anthea Farr	Deborah Simpson	
Kusumitha Gallage		

### CLUB AMBASSADORS

Amanda Aust	Conor McNiffe
Shannon Banger	Haruka Ogawa
Pam Cook	Alwyn Rutherford
Kasia Kotowski	Sohail Vasan

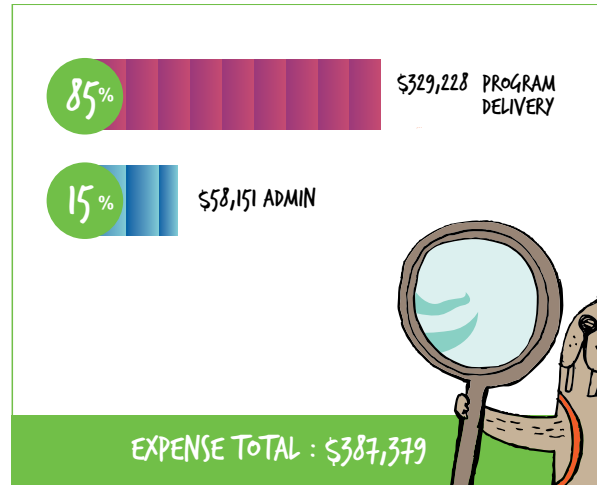
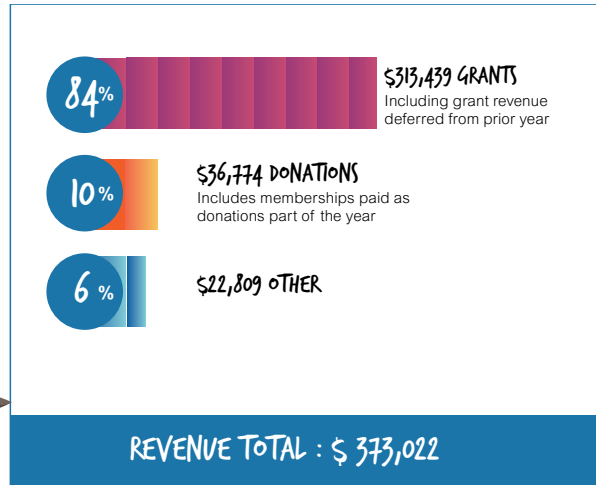
### NATURE MENTORS

Andrea Gielens	Station Earthwise	Lafarge	Sandy McCormick
April Lavine	Elemental Journeys	Ludovic Le Renard	Sea to Sky Gondola
Arrow Lakes Caribou Society	Environmental Youth Alliance	MARS Wildlife Rescue	Program: Mountain Sustainability
BC Parks	Erica Mulder <i>Capitol Hill Tree Keepers</i>	Maya Kinsley Brown	Sharon Adelman
BC Parks Foundation	Fairy Shrimp Monitoring Team	Megan Olson	Sheila Byers
Birds Canada	FireSmart BC	Merritt Forest Week Committee	Shuswap Naturalists Club
British Columbia Conservation Officer Service	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Metro Vancouver Regional Parks	Sierra Club BC
Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC	Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC	Mike Howard	Simon Fraser University
Carla Parr-Pearson	Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society	Nelson Search and Rescue	SkeenaWild Conservation Trust and BC Parks
Carolyn Varah	Friends of Uplands Park	Nicola Valley Arts Council	Somenos Marsh Society
Catching the Spirit (CTS)	Gary R. Allan	Noons Creek Hatchery	Stanley Park Ecology Society
Catherine Tarasoff	Jennifer Ingram	Okanagan Heritage Museum	Stephanie Chong
Chris Boar	Jim Atkinson	OWL Rehabilitation Society	Stephanie Weinstein
Chris Ling <i>Victoria Orienteering</i>	Judy Taylor-Atkinson	Parks Canada	The Adams River Salmon Society, Interfor, SASCU
City Farmer	Julia Alards-Tomalin	Pat Miller	Vail Paterson
City of Surrey	Justin Lee	PreparedBC	Vancouver Avian Research Centre
Comox Valley Regional Fire Resiliency Committee	Kanaka Education & Environmental Partnership Society	Rachel Schoeler <i>Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness</i>	Victoria Paleontology Society
Compost Education Centre	Kat McNamara	Raeanna Layfield, <i>Owner of Foraging in the Forest</i>	West Kootenay Naturalists Association
Courtenay Fire Department	Katelyn Kutzner	Reifel Bird Sanctuary	WildSafe BC
Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre	Keith Shelefontiuk	Ruth Foster	ZoAnn Morten <i>Pacific Streamkeepers Federation</i>
David Denning	Kem Luther	Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society	
Deborah Jones <i>Cougar Creek Streamkeepers</i>	Kitimat Search and Rescue	Sam Cousins	
Deep Bay Marine	Kitimat Understanding the Environment	Sam MacTavish <i>Wild Bird Trust</i>	





# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



VISIT [NATUREKIDSB.CA/PUBLICATIONS](https://naturekidsbc.ca/publications) TO REVIEW OR DOWNLOAD OUR 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

## STAFF

Executive Director:  
Rebecca Clapperton Law

Provincial Network  
Manager:  
Katelyn Bissat

Program Manager:  
Michelle Parry

Communications &  
Outreach Coordinators:  
Maryam Aboukhatwa  
& Jenna Northmore

Membership Coordinator:  
Kathryn Sharp &  
Marina Stamboulieh

Outreach & Adventure  
Facilitator:  
Matina Ressler

Digital Media:  
Srija Chakraborty

NatureWILD Coordinator:  
Sofia Osborne

NatureWILD Designer:  
Alison Garrad

NatureWILD Intern:  
Nina Mosallaei

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice-President:  
Erica Ellis

Secretary:  
Eva Gribbon

Past President:  
Kathy MacKenzie

Directors  
Tracy Adole  
Sabrina Spencer  
Tony Pesklevits  
Lorraine Pond  
Eryne Donahue  
Daljit Sanders

NatureKids BC Founders:  
Daphne Solecki &  
Dr. Robert Butler  
*Co-founders of Young  
Naturalists' Club of BC  
Society*

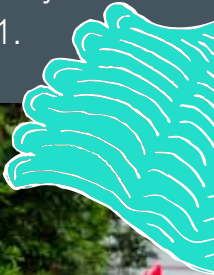




YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK  
BY MAKING A DONATION,  
BECOMING A MEMBER OR  
SIGNING UP AS A VOLUNTEER.  
[NATUREKIDSBBC.CA/JOIN-US](http://NATUREKIDSBBC.CA/JOIN-US)



NatureKids BC (Young Naturalists' Club of BC Society) is a registered charity.  
Charitable #: 84961 1926 RR0001.



2025 IS OUR  
25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

Stay tuned for more  
incredible NatureKids  
adventures and  
milestones!



1620 Mt. Seymour Road  
North Vancouver, BC V7G 2R7

604-985-3059  
[info@naturekidsbc.ca](mailto:info@naturekidsbc.ca)



## UP & COMING STORIES

NatureKids BC engaged over 20 youth during the spring of 2024, thanks to funding provided by BC Hydro. Youth ages 18-25, gathered with NatureKids staff and environmental professionals from varying organizations at two workshops in Kamloops and Vancouver called Learning to Lead in the Environmental Sector.

“It was an inspiring experience for me, gave me hope to see that other people are actively working to combat climate change and made me realize my career goals are achievable.”



# NATURE KIDS BC CLUBS



(CREATING FAMILY MEMORIES SINCE 2000.)



KIDS NEED NATURE.  
NATURE NEEDS KIDS.

CONNECT YOUR FAMILY  
TO NEARBY NATURE.  
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

**Thomson-Okanagan**  
Kamloops  
Kelowna  
Merritt  
Salmon Arm  
South Okanagan  
Penticton & area

**Northern BC**  
Prince George  
Vanderhoof  
Houston  
Kitimat  
Smithers

**Greater Vancouver**  
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