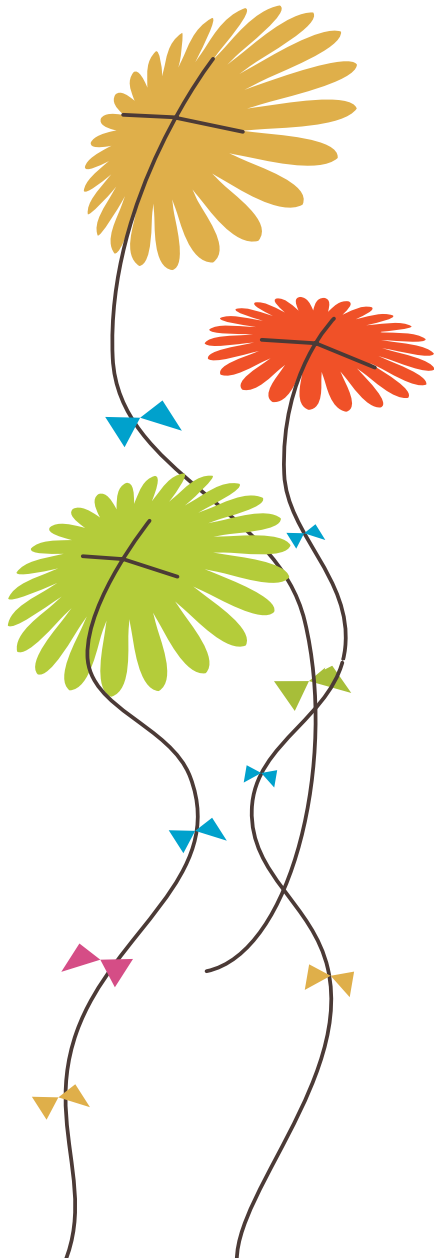


The Results of Your **Generosity**



Environment

A list of Environment projects
funded by Vancouver Foundation
and our donors in 2012

vancouver
foundation

Environment

About Vancouver Foundation's granting programs

In 2012, we re-introduced two granting cycles—Spring and Fall—and distributed over 300 grants totalling more than \$9 million. We received hundreds of proposals for many worthwhile projects. Unfortunately, we cannot fund them all. Overwhelming demand limits our funding to less than 25 per cent of requests.

Over 150 volunteer experts from the community — scientists, academics, youth, researchers and front-line staff — volunteer their time to help us make informed decisions. They share with us their expertise and intimate knowledge of the issues, the needs of the community, and the organizations active in their fields. Thanks to them, our donors can be assured that Vancouver Foundation is supporting the most worthwhile and effective projects in communities throughout the province.

The grants in the following pages have been made possible through the generosity of Vancouver Foundation fundholders and donors – many present-day, and many of whom have long since passed, but who had the foresight to establish an endowment that could address priority needs. Also, during each grant cycle, we provide our active fundholders and donors an opportunity to preview the project proposals we receive from the community. Through our *Book of Opportunities*, many donors have chosen to support projects using their Vancouver Foundation fund or by making an additional donation.

On behalf of the community, and all those whose lives have been improved by the myriad of projects, we thank the generous donors who made this possible.

Environment Advisory Committee

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More information on Vancouver Foundation's projects and initiatives in 2012 can be found in *The Results of Your Generosity*:

www.vancouverfoundation.ca/rog

Environment

Environment grants support the health and resilience of British Columbia's environment in a changing world. We support a range of projects that address environmental issues by advancing policy, increasing public awareness and engagement, and ensuring the development of solutions include communities impacted by environmental challenges.

In 2012, the Advisory Committee continued to focus on two priority areas:

- **Freshwater:** Long-term sustainability, protection and resilience of freshwater quality and flows; and,
- **Habitat Protection and Conservation:** Opportunities for community-led habitat protection and conservation solutions, whether in marine or land-based ecosystems.

In addition to these priority areas, additional grants were made for projects that supported public engagement and education, pollution control and waste reduction. Of the 31 applications for environmental grants received, 23 were funded with over half a million dollars granted for projects throughout British Columbia, including eight on Vancouver Island and six in metro Vancouver.

Total projects
funded: **23**

Submissions
received: **99**

Total dollars granted:
\$530,300

Dollars requested:
\$3,485,441

Project: Native Terrain Digital Collections Management System (DCMS)
Grant Received: \$17,400
Location: British Columbia

Almost all BC First Nations have massive traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) databases in their oral history archives that are difficult to search and access for wildlife/land management purposes. This project will finalize development of a software program called "Native Terrain DCMS" to input an oral history catalogue and show others how it's used. The outcome will be a revolutionary search engine tailored to First Nations' needs around accessing oral history/TEK databases for land management.

Organization:

Taku River Tlingit First Nation empowers families and community to live in wellness by working with them to provide programs and services that promote healing and strengthen culture.

Project: Strengthening Leadership for Freshwater Protection
Grant Received: \$20,000
Location: British Columbia

BC's lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater face major and growing threats. By strengthening the capacity of BC water stewardship community in the area of public engagement and communications, this project will raise awareness, spark engagement and build a population base of those committed to protecting BC's waters. The outcome will be more effective engagement of BC residents in efforts to protect and restore freshwater in the province.

Organization:

Tides Canada Initiatives Society - Canadian Freshwater Alliance Project aims to unite, train and engage a diverse community to ensure Canada's waters are both clean and accessible.

Project: Feed the Bees Planting Program
Grant Received: \$20,000
Location: Delta

Bee populations are at risk from habitat destruction and fragmentation, especially in urban areas. Bees are essential to ecosystem health and help us by pollinating about 30 per cent of our local crops. Individuals can help by planting gardens that "feed bees" and encourage biodiversity. These plantings form "bee pathways" so bees can navigate built-up areas. This project will raise awareness and engage at least 100 people to introduce bee habitat into their gardens.

Organization:

Earthwise Society educates individuals about how to make choices that support the creation of a sustainable community.

Project: Community Engagement in Species at Risk Recovery

Grant Received: \$15,000

Location: British Columbia

Community volunteers will help prevent native species extinction on ecologically significant lands by bringing together members of local communities to share in the experience of helping to restore some of the islands most iconic landscapes by planting our native species and building nest boxes for Western Blue birds. It will result in a broader base of support for habitat protection and stewardship within local communities where species-at-risk occur.

Organization:

Nature Conservancy of Canada works for the direct protection of natural habitats and wild spaces across this country.

Project: Southern Vancouver Island Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project

Grant Received: \$15,000

Location: Greater Victoria

Derelict fishing gear has an unseen and devastating impact on the marine environment. This grant will be used to develop an on-going program to remove derelict fishing gear in southern BC waters. Since 2002 the Northwest Straits Initiative’s Derelict Fishing Gear Program, in Washington State, has removed over 4,000 ghost nets and 2,500 derelict crab pots from Puget Sound. In 2011 the Province of BC removed/disabled derelict crab pots and a seine net from North Pender Island, with a reported 1,799 dead and alive animals recovered.

Organization:

Cetus Research and Conservation Society facilitates the conservation of the marine environment by promoting community stewardship, raising public awareness, conducting research, and fostering activities that directly preserve marine habitats and biological diversity.

Project: Building a Freshwater Constituency in BC

Grant Received: \$20,000

Location: British Columbia

Dogwood is concerned that if oil tankers are allowed to ply our waters it is only a matter of when, and not if, there will be a spill that will devastate the coast and our communities. Opposition to tankers on the BC coast is tied closely to concern for aquatic habitat and species such as salmon. Forging strong links between tankers, salmon and freshwater will develop a powerful public constituency to champion freshwater and fisheries issues.

Organization:

Dogwood Initiative in partnership with Salal Foundation. Dogwood Initiative brings together everyday British Columbians to reclaim decision-making power over their air, land and water. It empowers ordinary people to safeguard their communities for their children and grandchildren. The Salal Foundation protects the environment by encouraging best practices for the use of Canada's water, land and marine resources.

Project: Shared Learning in Support of an Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Future

Grant Received: \$33,000

Location: British Columbia

Efforts to protect our environment are challenging and require the environmental community to be more effective in how it communicates externally and collaborates internally. This project will use shared learning to help funders and non-profit organizations in the environmental community measure their ability to work together and deliver shared approaches to communicating environmental values.

Organization:

Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network increases networking and collaboration among environmental grantmakers and between grantmakers and grantseekers.

Project: Aquatic Habitat Index (AHI) and Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA)

Grant Received: \$23,000

Location: Kootenay

Kootenay Lake has high ecological, cultural and recreational values, but population growth has increased development pressure and cumulative impacts to the lake. This project will examine the ecological and cultural values of the lake with emphasis on sensitive habitats and archaeological sites. A better understanding of these features will guide decision-making by government, planners and developers. Guidance documents will outline allowable uses for the lake, mitigating harmful activities, creating a stewardship environment and allowing high ecological and cultural values to persist.

Organization:

Canadian Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission, along with Wildsight, works to ensure the Aboriginal rights of First Nations to fisheries resources and to protect and sustain native fish stocks and their habitat in the Columbia Basin.

Project: Protecting and Restoring the Courtenay River Estuary

Grant Received: \$30,000

Location: Comox Valley

Local government leaders need to work together in forming policies and legislation that protects and restores the Courtenay River Estuary. This project will create an interactive 3D map that captures the imagination and involvement of officials and the public, leading to policy and law reform that will protect the estuary. The process for creating the map will be as critical as the final map. The result will be a state-of-the-art restoration plan and an educational tool, as well as greater collaboration between all local governments in protecting and restoring the estuary.

Organization:

Comox Valley Project Watershed Society promotes community stewardship of Comox Valley watersheds through education, information and action.

Project: Protecting the Peace: Enhancing Local Voices in the Greater Peace Break Region

Grant Received: \$80,000

Location: Peace River

Over the past 40 years, the Peace Region has been severely degraded by industrial development that has threatened critical ecosystem services that sustain local people and wildlife. This project, in partnership with West Moberly Foundation, will provide technical analyses, tools, and capacity-building to enable local stakeholders to assess and promote the natural wealth of the region, through an ecosystem services valuation and public engagement program. Local capacity to assess future development or protection options will be increased, and local community voices will be enhanced to advocate strongly for locally-determined visions.

Organization:

David Suzuki Foundation works to conserve the environment by providing science-based education and policy work, and by acting as a catalyst for social change.

Project: The LSIB Riparian Stewardship Workshops

Grant Received: \$15,000

Location: Okanagan

The Lower Similkameen reserve is in one of the top three endangered ecosystems in Canada and contains the largest matrix of riparian wetlands left in the South Okanagan. However, erosion is undermining this important habitat. This project brings ecologists and community members together for on-the-land workshops to undertake restoration activities including removing invasive species and planting 6,000+ indigenous plants. Workshop participants will become life-long stewards of the lands while helping to restore increasingly rare and endangered habitat that supports many species at risk.

Organization:

Lower Similkameen Indian Band is responsible for stewarding the largest matrix of intact riparian habitat left in the South Okanagan, one of the top three endangered ecosystems in Canada.

Project: Amplifying Community Voices - Stop Expansion of Tanker Traffic in Georgia Strait

Grant Received: \$20,000

Location: British Columbia

The proposal to build a second pipeline carrying diluted bitumen from Alberta tar sands along the TransMountain route and into tankers out through Georgia Strait poses a serious threat from oil spills. Georgia Strait Alliance and our partners will mobilize communities through increased awareness of the costs and risks of the project and ensuring citizens' voices are heard through the consultation processes. The goal of the project is to stop the expansion of the pipeline and protect the environment, economy and quality of life for coastal communities.

Organization:

Georgia Strait Alliance protects and restores the marine environment and promotes the sustainability of Georgia Strait, its adjoining waters, and communities.

Project: Implementation of Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy

Grant Received: \$25,000

Location: Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast is known for its spectacular natural assets. Yet the diverse species and ecosystems are threatened by rapid development. This project will continue to spearhead efforts to develop and implement a community-led and community-enacted Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. It will ensure that native species survive and thrive on the Sunshine Coast and that our region maintains a connected, diverse network of habitats, healthy ecosystems and ecological services.

Organization:

Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society promotes respect for nature, encourages sustainability, facilitates community participation in environmental stewardship activities; and assists in monitoring and improving the ecological health of BC's Sunshine Coast.

Project: Visualizing Urban Futures with Community Energy

Grant Received: \$30,000

Location: Lower Mainland

This project aims to enhance public awareness of low-carbon energy strategies through visualization processes that show future scenarios with alternative green energy and retrofit solutions. Working with community groups, and the cities of Richmond and Surrey, the project will identify community energy priorities, develop realistic and interactive visualizations, obtain local feedback and disseminate results. BC communities will gain access to an information toolkit explaining energy options, fostering engagement & improved capacity to find solutions to local energy issues.

Organization:

University of British Columbia - Collaborative for Landscape Planning explores sustainability solutions for community and landscape planning.

Project: Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities

Grant Received: \$20,000

Location: British Columbia

This project is a non-partisan volunteer led and delivered initiative designed to catalyze discussion, dialogue and debate regarding BC forest lands management. Input will be acquired from communities and concerned citizens through workshops and dialogues. Results will be summarized and provided to decision-makers, decision-maker influencers, communities and concerned citizens.

Organization:

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC promotes the benefits of public outdoor recreation.

Project: Building capacity for salmon stewardship - traditional fish weir in the Koeye

Grant Received: \$30,000

Location: Northwest

This project seeks to engage young people in Bella Bella in traditional cultural practices and build capacity for the stewardship of wild salmon. It will build a traditional fish weir at the Koeye Conservancy in the Great Bear Rainforest. The project will provide employment and training for young Heiltsuk people, while providing an exciting opportunity to learn more about populations of salmon while providing invaluable information about the diversity of salmon populations.

Organization:

Qqs (EYES) Projects Society is an indigenous-driven society, focused on cultural and environmental stewardship with a strong focus on mentoring our future leaders of the next generation.

Project: Restoration of Guichon Creek - Bioswale Building & Bank Restoration

Grant Received: \$2,500

Location: Burnaby

This project will help restore and enhance Guichon Creek on the BC Institute of Technology campus while teaching more than 100 youth the leadership and restoration techniques that are important in the stewardship of fish and wildlife habitat. Youth will construct a bioswale, a vegetated drainage system that removes sediment and pollutants from urban runoff. They will also expand, enhance and delineated the adjacent riparain area as an environmentally sensitive area.

Organization:

Catching the Spirit Youth Society, in partnership with the Pacific Parklands Foundation, is committed to connecting youth with nature and each other through environmental stewardship and leadership programs.

Project: Oil Free Coast - Protecting The Salish Sea

Grant Received: \$20,000

Location: British Columbia

This project will inform residents of their economic, social and ecological reliance on the natural features and habitats of the Salish Sea, and explain how these would be irreparably damaged from chronic and catastrophic spills from oil tankers. It is hoped this will inspire residents to look towards a national energy strategy that promotes domestic energy security, green energy and human and environmental health, and stop Kinder Morgan's pipeline plans and the conversion of the Salish Sea to an energy corridor for the shipment of tar sands oil.

Organization:

Raincoast Conservation Foundation uses the best science to investigate and understand coastal species and ecology.

Project: Bring Back the Bluebird Reintroduction Project:
a symbol of environmental hope

Grant Received: \$25,000

Location: Georgia Basin

This project will reintroduce the Western Bluebird to BC's Garry Oak ecosystems, while engaging the community in conservation. It will bring Western Bluebirds from Washington State to create a self-sustaining population in Canada. It will provide habitat for the birds, monitor their success, and share information. The return of the Western Bluebird to our ecosystems will result in increased biodiversity, more intact ecosystems, and community awareness and engagement in conservation.

Organization:

Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team Society is dedicated to the recovery of Garry Oak and associated ecosystems in Canada and the species at risk that inhabit them.

Project: Best Practices for Sustainable Water
Conservation Landscaping in the Okanagan

Grant Received: \$10,000

Location: Okanagan

Twenty-five per cent of the limited water resources in the Okanagan are used outdoors. The most effective action to conserve water is to reduce its use in landscaping. This project will develop a model landscape by employing best practices in water conservation landscaping to galvanize the community to adopt these practices through educational programs and events. The outcome will be improved public engagement and landscaping practices leading to increased water conservation, water awareness and water stewardship with enhanced habitat and biodiversity.

Organization:

Friends of the Summerland Research Station Gardens was formed to conserve, enhance and maintain the landscape features of the Summerland Ornamental Gardens.

Project: Working Together to Clean up the Estuaries of
Northern Vancouver Island

Grant Received: \$14,400

Location: North Vancouver Island

Underwater debris from boating and fishing and other items litter marinas and popular anchorages, presenting significant habitat pollution, reduced biodiversity and risk to divers and boaters. This project will coordinate the efforts of organizations and local authorities to remove and safely dispose of debris from intertidal areas of northern Vancouver Island and educate people on "best practices" when dealing with gear. This project is intended as a catalyst to inspire community action and set systems in place to ensure that marine habitats in the region are better protected in the future.

Organization:

Living Oceans Society, in partnership with T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, works to ensure that fish-bearing waterways are protected.

Project: Litigation and Law Reform Response to the Budget Implementation Act (Bill C-38)

Grant Received: \$40,000

Location: British Columbia

With passage of Bill C-38, key environmental laws are being dismantled. Ecojustice will challenge the changes in the courts to mitigate the impacts of Bill C-38 and lay the groundwork for a long-term plan to restore federal environmental laws. The result will be environmental laws restored and enhanced to provide consistent and enforceable protections for air, water, and biodiversity in BC.

Organization:

Ecojustice Canada Society uses public interest law to protect and restore the environment in Canada.

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Vancouver Foundation is a member of:



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