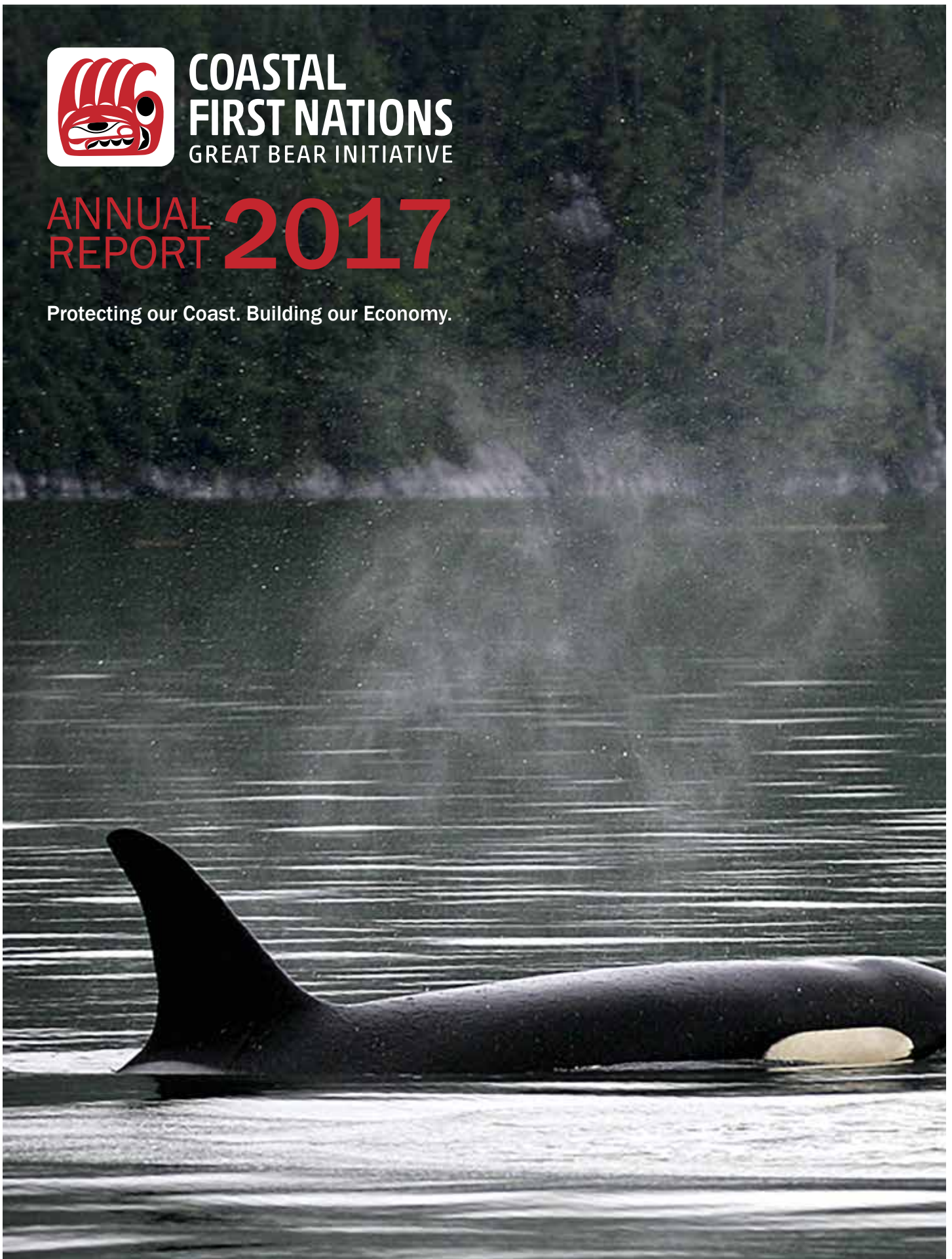




**COASTAL
FIRST NATIONS**
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT **2017**

Protecting our Coast. Building our Economy.



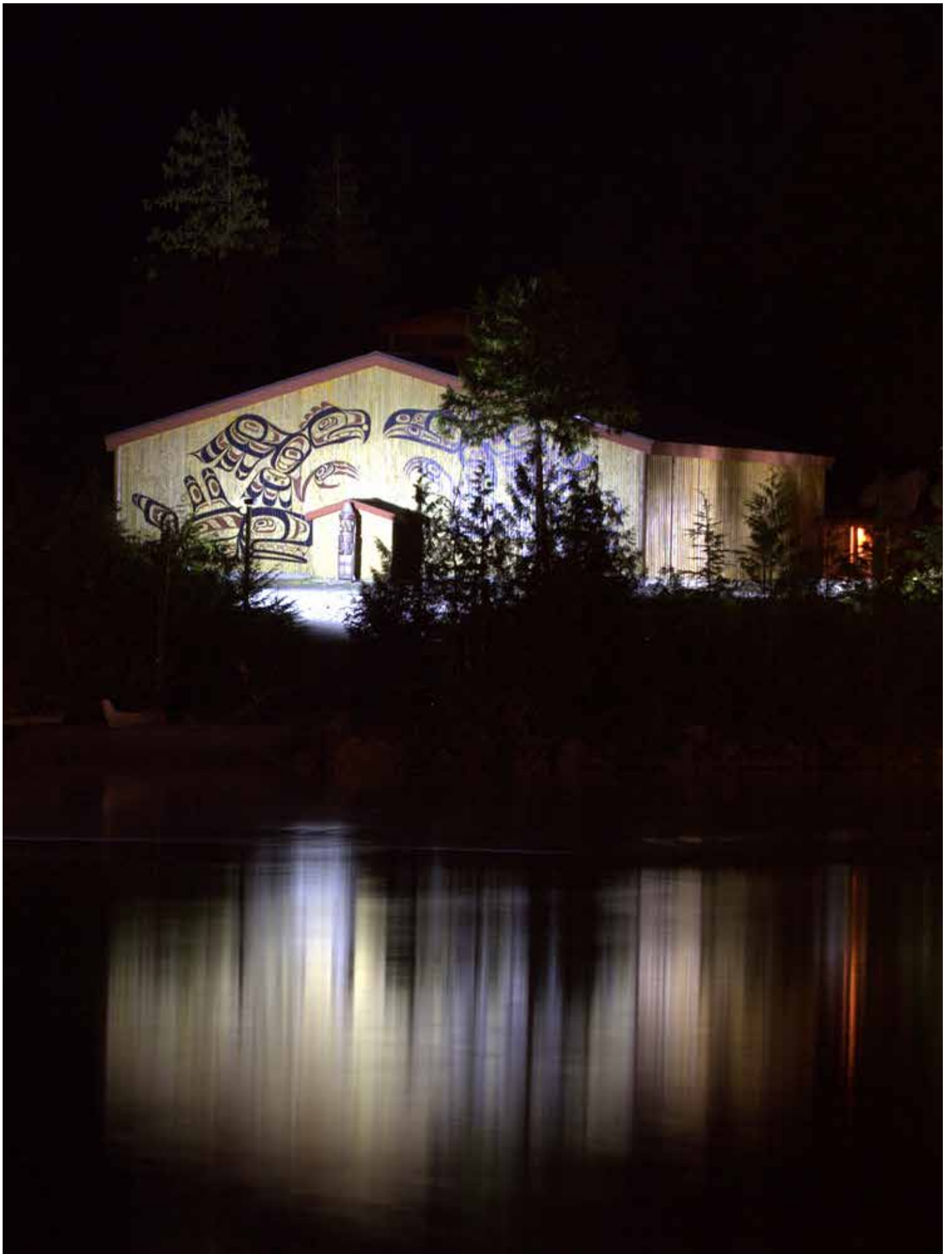


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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CHIEF MARILYN SLETT



For almost two decades, the Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative (CFN-GBI) has provided strong and strategic leadership to protect our lands, waters and resources for current and future generations.

A member-based organization, CFN-GBI is committed to creating a new conservation-based economy in our territories—one that will preserve our coastal lands and waters, and reverse the damage done by decades of industrial logging and over-fishing.

Our work is interconnected, which means collaboration is essential to achieve our ambitious goals—from building a robust clean energy economy to safeguarding coastal ecosystems. No one organization can tackle the complex issues our communities face; they can only be solved when various groups work collaboratively with us and our communities to achieve our goals.

And through all this hard work and perseverance, our efforts are bearing fruit. For example, after almost 40 years fighting to keep oil tankers out of our waters, the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act is one step closer to being realized. We acknowledge the leaders, both past and present, from our communities who have fought so hard to keep our lands, waters and resources safe.

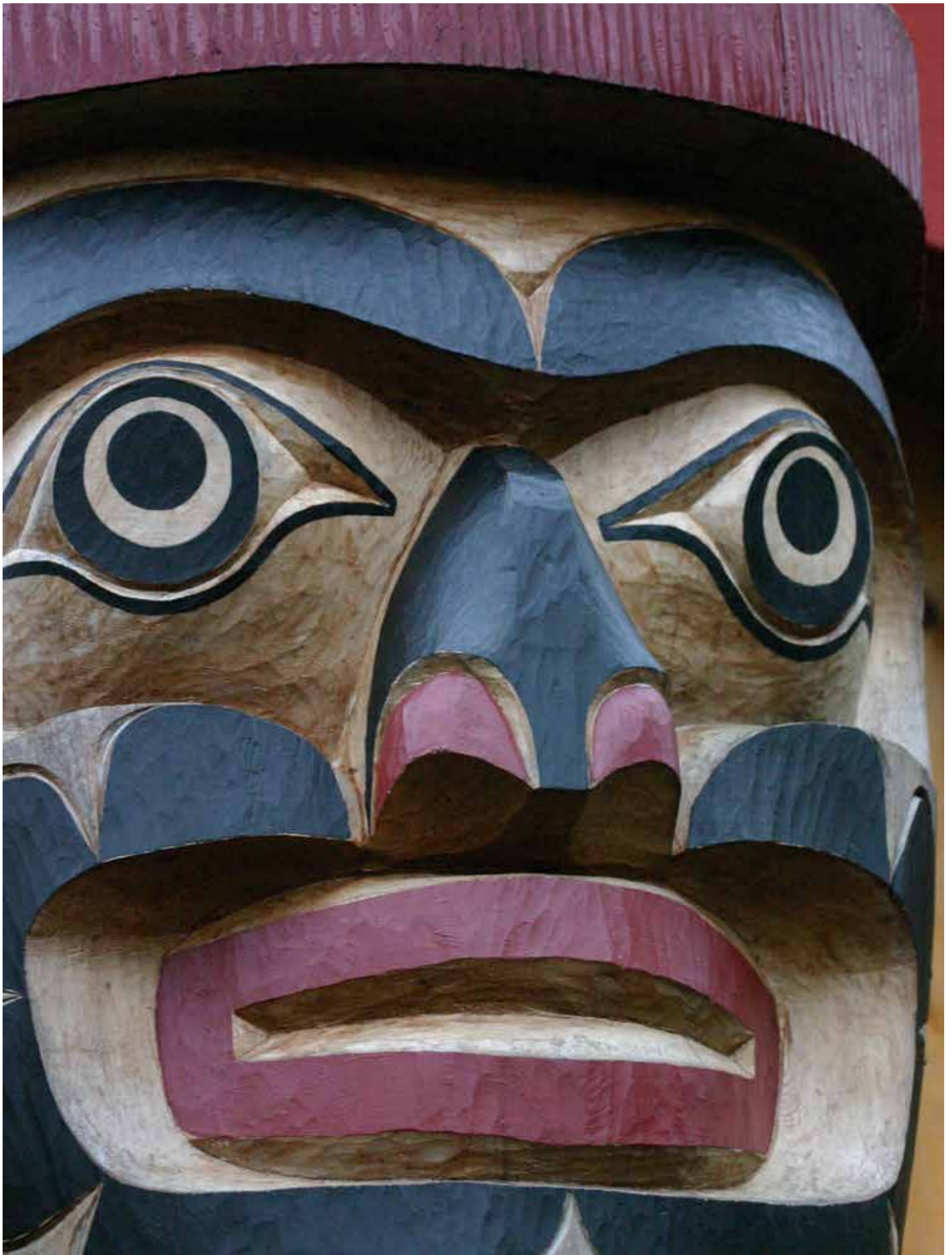
We sincerely thank you, our partners and our supporters, for working together with CFN-GBI and the communities we serve. We are stronger together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marilyn Slett'.

Marilyn Slett

Chief Councillor, Heiltsuk Tribal Council

President, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

PATRICK KELLY



Over the past year, CFN-GBI's talented and dedicated team of Board members, staff and program managers worked tirelessly to bring positive change to our communities.

Our work is guided by four key objectives to strengthen our communities: land and marine use planning, increased decision making in our territories, economic opportunities and capacity building. Working together, we have achieved huge successes in all of these areas.

On the policy front, we've made several positive advancements at the Fisheries Reconciliation Table—efforts that will lead to increased decision-making power for First Nations leaders and fisheries managers who have an intimate knowledge of their coastal territories. We also continue to present major discussion papers and reports to Canada's provincial and federal governments that highlight the economic and cultural wishes of our member Nations.

At the core of our success is a strategic focus on initiatives that bring new opportunities to communities. Our Clean Energy program, for example, continues to support the implementation of community energy plans, the development of homegrown strategies to manage energy resources and the maintenance of local clean energy facilities. We've also helped to mentor local community energy coordinators, while leveraging resources from external partners and providing technical support to move communities closer to their clean energy goals.

The stories you'll read within this report provide just a snapshot of the positive work being done in our communities, but they're each an important part of CFN-GBI's rich history over the past 17 years.

Please join us in looking back at the impact and progress we have made together. We hope you will support our efforts as we build on our legacy in the coming years. Together, we are building thriving communities and a healthy coastal economy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Patrick Kelly
Board Chair, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative

A COASTAL ALLIANCE

The Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative is an alliance of nine First Nations along BC's North and Central Coasts and Haida Gwaii. They include the Council of the Haida Nation, Skidegate, Old Massett, Metlakatla, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Kitasoo/Xai'xais, and Wuikinuxv First Nations.

Each Nation has its own distinct territory, governance and culture, but we all share a commitment to preserve our coastal lands and waters. After decades of industrial logging and over-fishing, we collectively vowed to create a new conservation-based economy in our territories.

GOVERNANCE

The Great Bear Initiative Society (GBI) operates under the direction of a Board of Directors that approves an annual strategic plan for the organization. It has one representative from each of the nine members of Coastal First Nations (CFN-GBI).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Lantin – President, Council of the Haida Nation
Arnold Clifton – Chief Councillor, Gitga'at Nation
Marilyn Slett – Chief Councillor, Heiltsuk Tribal Council
Doug Neasloss – Chief Councillor, Kitasoo Band Council
Harold Leighton – Chief Councillor, Metlakatla Governing Council
Wally Webber – Chief Councillor, Nuxalk Nation
Donald (Duffy) Edgars – Chief Councillor, Old Massett Village Council
Billy Yovanovich – Chief Councillor, Skidegate Band Council
Frank Johnson – Chief Councillor, Wuikinuxv Nation



COMMUNITY PROGRESS: A SNAPSHOT

Since 2007, member Nations have been investing their Coast Funds allocations to develop conservation and economic development projects in CFN-GBI communities that strengthen community well-being. Below are just a few of the many tangible community outcomes* from these projects.

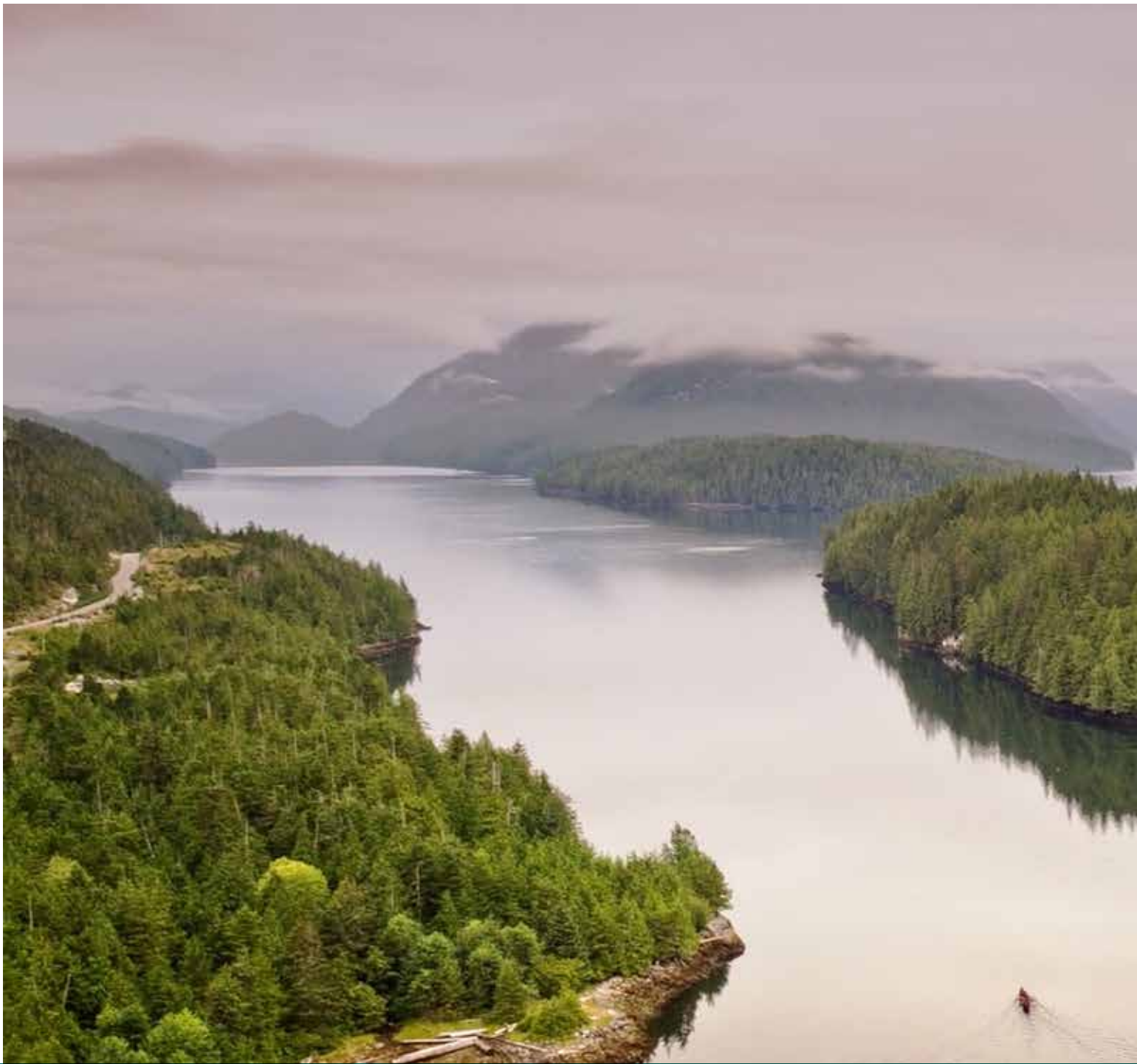
LANDS AND WATERS

- Supported **7** Guardian Watchmen programs that cover **1.3 million** hectares annually.
- Published **17** protected area management plans.
- Led **31** projects for protecting and conserving ecosystems in the Great Bear Rainforest.
- Led **26** projects that helped Elders share their knowledge and wisdom with youth.

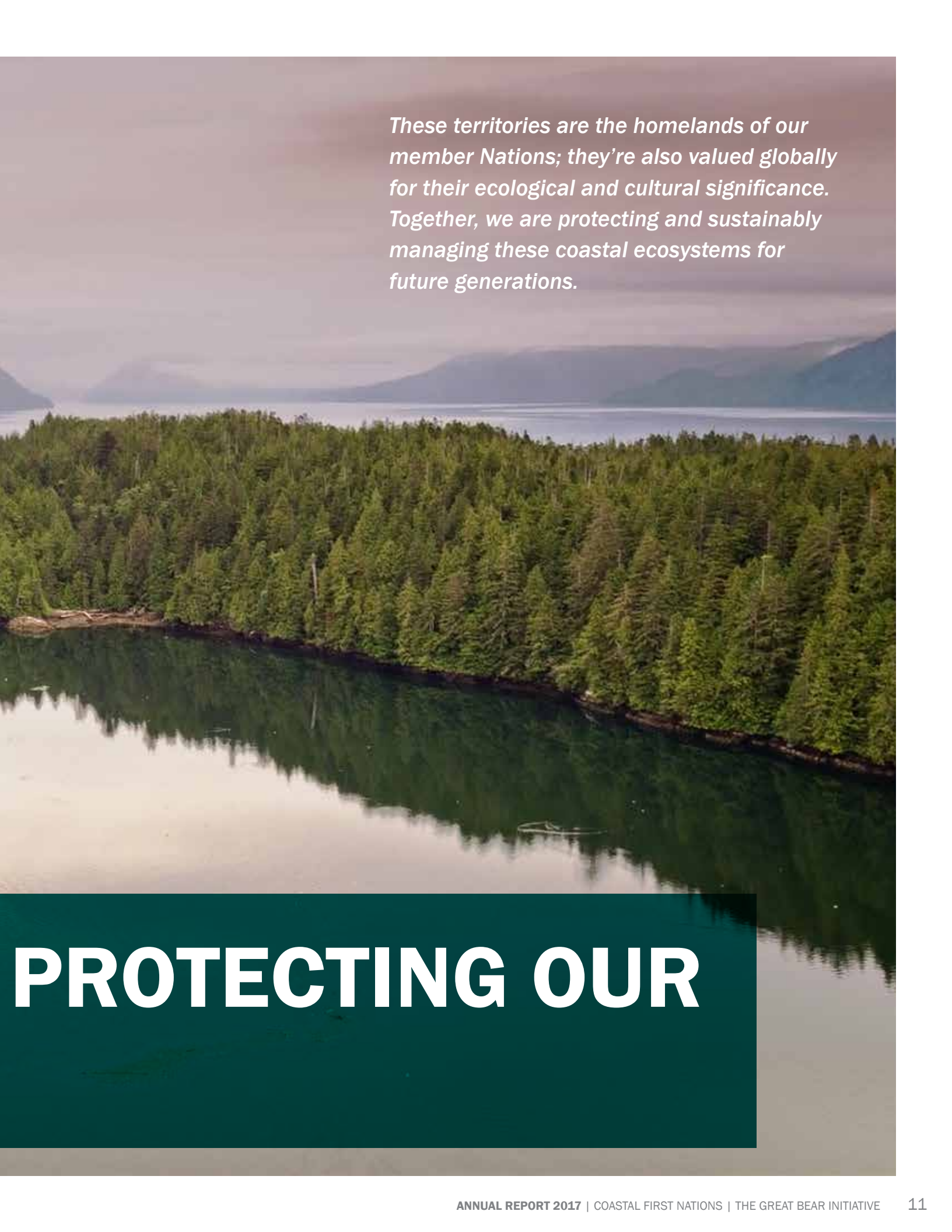
PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

- Partnered with **185** organizations, including **8** new joint venture agreements.
- Leveraged Coast Funds support to attract more than **\$142 million** in new investments.
- Created **403** permanent new jobs, with **289** held by First Nation community members.
- Conducted **180** initiatives that helped to train **555** people in CFN-GBI communities.

*All numbers are based on reporting provided by Coast Funds as of December 31, 2017.



LANDS AND WATERS: TERRITORIES



These territories are the homelands of our member Nations; they're also valued globally for their ecological and cultural significance. Together, we are protecting and sustainably managing these coastal ecosystems for future generations.

PROTECTING OUR

LANDS

Upcoming Priorities

- **Help to implement a forestry strategy that would ensure commitments to sustainable harvest rates and community-owned cooperative business ventures.**
- **Establish shared governance arrangements for protected areas that recognize Indigenous Rights and Title and ensure a lead role for First Nations in planning.**
- **Engage with provincial agencies to improve wildlife management laws, policies and programs in CFN-GBI member Nations.**

Our vibrant coastal communities are inextricably tied to healthy ecosystems.

CFN-GBI works with multiple stakeholders to develop and implement land use agreements for member Nations that provide a comprehensive approach to managing lands and resources. We are committed to the principles of ecosystem-based management, which recognizes that people, communities and the land are inseparable.

One of CFN-GBI's objectives is to ensure member Nations have the lead role in all decision making related to land management in their territories, and that protected area designations are aligned with their cultural values. We also strive to increase local access to economic opportunities that arise from these planning efforts, such as new projects in clean energy, forestry and carbon credits.

In 2017, CFN-GBI worked with the British Columbia government to revitalize collaborative relationships between all planning agencies, including the creation of a working table with the Province to develop a new legal designation and governance arrangement for Indigenous protected and cultural areas.

Discussions at this table, for example, will help the Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Nuxalk and Heiltsuk Nations advance new protections and management strategies for the Kimsquit, Fog Creek, Green River and Gil Island areas, and recognize Indigenous rights and governance, while prioritizing sustainable and community-led economic activities. It's a model that could be applied more broadly in other Nations.

CFN-GBI also created a memorandum of understanding between community-led forestry companies, BC Timber Sales and external forestry companies, which establishes commitments that will enable member Nations to harvest sustainably and explore and develop new cooperative forestry business ventures.

Finally, working with Central Coast First Nations Bear Working Group, we helped secure the end of commercial and resident grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest (see page 11), and helped to secure additional protections and research efforts to increase knowledge of this extremely important apex predator.



FEATURED STORY

Ending the Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt in BC

For close to a decade, CFN-GBI worked with the Central Coast Bear Working Group and others to stop trophy hunting of grizzly bears—a practice that was long ago banned in the territories of member Nations.

Last year, we celebrated as the BC Government finally announced an end to all grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest and across the province—a development that would not have been possible without the support of multiple individuals and groups, including the vast majority of BC residents.

"[Opinion] polls showed that at least 74 percent of British Columbians were in favour of a total grizzly hunting ban in the province," noted CFN-GBI Board Chair Patrick Kelly, in a press release announcing the good news. "A sustainable economy based on respect for an ecosystem that includes bears is not only possible but is necessary. For the coastal economy to continue to grow, the key is recognizing the link between economic and ecological sustainability. It is not possible to achieve one without the other."

Chiefs, councillors and stewardship directors from First Nations across the North and Central Coast were thrilled that all of their hard work and campaigning was finally rewarded.

"It's wonderful to see that BC is taking a stand against grizzly trophy hunting: no meat hunting, no loopholes," said Chief Douglas Neasloss of the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation, also a member of the CFN-GBI Board and the Central Coast Bear Working Group. Neasloss said he looks forward to more positive developments in wildlife management discussions with the Province in the coming months and years.

MARINE

Upcoming Priorities

- **Support discussions between First Nations and federal agencies to set priorities and action items related to the Reconciliation Framework Agreement.**
- **Strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity in coastal communities.**
- **Develop a regional shipping management plan aligned with First Nations' marine use plans.**

Covering more than 100,000 square kilometres, the traditional waters that surround CFN-GBI member Nations are among the most biologically diverse on Earth.

Featuring an abundant array of marine life—from productive kelp forests to salmon, herring and eulachon—these ocean ecosystems are the bread basket for coastal communities, and the key to preserving local culture and economies. CFN-GBI and members Nations are working to ensure these resources are sustainably managed and available for all future generations.

Over the last year, CFN-GBI played an important role in coordinating discussions among member Nations and Canada's federal government, in efforts to create a Reconciliation Framework Agreement for collaboratively managing these marine waterways and their resources.

The agreement provides a new collaborative governance framework to guide marine planning and conservation, including the creation of a Marine Protected Area Network (see page 13), while ensuring safe shipping and emergency response capabilities on the coast. New investments in marine response capacity will lead to a range of employment, training and infrastructure opportunities for Nations.

CFN-GBI also led efforts to develop a First Nations Ocean Management Framework, designed to help member Nations work collaboratively with partners and other First Nations along the North and Central Coast to advance shared priorities related to the Reconciliation Framework Agreement.

To complement these marine planning efforts, CFN-GBI helped develop a Reconciliation Agreement for Fisheries, which will ensure a more collaborative, coordinated and efficient approach to governance and management of fisheries and all associated economic opportunities.

Since all marine planning depends critically on up-to-date knowledge to support evidence-based decision making, CFN-GBI assisted member Nations in developing long-term monitoring projects to assess cumulative impacts on marine ecosystems and determine potential areas for future fisheries. Data gleaned from this monitoring will help Nations prepare for impacts related to climate change and also identify important regions in need of protection or habitat restoration.



FEATURED STORY

Creating a Marine Protected Areas Network

Mike Reid remembers when fishing in Heiltsuk territory was easier and far more productive. At age 12, he started commercial fishing with his grandfather, and recalls catching halibut, crabs, clams and other local marine staples without much trouble—all fairly close to home.

"Now you have to go further, spend more time and burn more fuel," says Reid, who draws on that lifetime of local fishing experience as the Aquatics Manager for the Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department. This new normal, he adds, is a major issue for Heiltsuk and other CFN-GBI member Nations that depend on the ocean for their livelihood and sustenance. "I have heard a lot of our people say the ocean is our breadbasket," he says. "When you rob from the breadbasket, it affects our whole community because we have less and less food to feed ourselves with."

After decades of unsustainable resource extraction by outside interests, First Nations have been pushing to protect key habitats for all species, including those that are crucial for local economies and for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes. That's why marine planners from CFN-GBI and member Nations are cautiously optimistic about the Canada-British Columbia Marine Protected Area Network Strategy—an effort to create marine protected areas (MPAs) within 13 marine bioregions in Canada, including the Northern Shelf Bioregion that extends from the top of Vancouver Island to Alaska.

Co-led by 17 First Nations, along with federal and provincial agencies, planning for the MPA network promises to reflect advice and feedback received over an extensive consultation period with stakeholders throughout coastal communities, and to build upon legal obligations and commitments to First Nations with respect to decision making. The primary goal of the MPAs is to preserve marine biodiversity and ensure ecosystems remain healthy and resilient, but they should also maintain local fisheries and economies, and protect archaeological sites and important areas for traditional fishing.

In addition to the 17 First Nations, multiple federal and provincial departments are involved as well, including DFO, Transport Canada, Parks Canada and the BC Ministry of Environment. Although the overarching vision, goals and objectives have been sketched out, planners are still developing conservation priorities, and specifying key features to be protected.

For experienced fisheries managers like Mike Reid, protecting culturally and ecologically important marine areas is surely a positive development. But only if they are ultimately managed by First Nations—those with local knowledge of the region and the most to lose if things go wrong. "We've harvested from the ocean for millennia and done it sustainably," he says. "Any protected area network will need to incorporate our common-sense approach to conservation."

COASTAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

Upcoming Priorities

- **Continue to support stewardship staff in building relationships, sharing information and collaborating on priority issues.**
- **Finalize the CoastTracker App based on user input and enhance the web portal for the Regional Monitoring System.**
- **Develop new training initiatives focused on leadership and project management, compliance and enforcement, emergency response, and forestry and cultural heritage.**

For countless generations, First Nations of the North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii have sustainably managed the natural and cultural resources of their territories. Today, that critical role is carried out by trained stewardship managers and staff within each CFN-GBI member Nation.

Through the Coastal Stewardship Network, CFN-GBI supports these efforts, including the work of the Coastal Guardian Watchmen—field staff who monitor and patrol their territories to ensure rules and regulations are followed and that land and marine use agreements are implemented effectively.

Throughout the year, CFN-GBI facilitated meetings for stewardship leaders and staff, both in-person and by conference call, which gave them a chance to collaborate and discuss priorities from a regional perspective. Further support for the Coastal Guardian Watchmen included community visits to provide on-site training, program planning, and help with outreach needs, such as new uniforms and brochures.

In April 2017, CFN-GBI held the Coastal Stewardship Network Annual Gathering, which brought together stewardship staff and Elders from each member Nation to share knowledge and perspectives, providing a range of important training initiatives for future work priorities (see pages 16-17).

CFN-GBI continued to coordinate the Regional Monitoring System (RMS)—a standardized system for collecting data used by stewardship staff along BC's North and Central Coast. A new CoastTracker app for the RMS was developed, allowing for more effective monitoring. Data collected throughout the year were reported regularly to local stewardship offices and shared, whenever appropriate, between participating Nations to provide a regional context for resource planning and decision-making.

To build stewardship capacity in coastal communities, CFN-GBI also delivers training programs and facilitates interactions between staff, youth, Elders and other knowledge keepers. For example, the Stewardship Technicians Training Program (STTP), a partnership between CFN-GBI and Vancouver Island University, provides important training for Coastal Guardian Watchmen and future stewardship leaders on the coast. Last year, 14 students graduated with STTP certificates at a ceremony in Prince Rupert.

The ceremony celebrated the students' achievements and gave them a chance to express how this training will help them steward their territories (see pages 18-19). Evaluations of the training programs consistently show they're working—participants routinely describe the positive impact these programs have on their personal and professional development, and ability to steward their territories.

To build upon these efforts, CFN-GBI shares positive stories that highlight the important stewardship work being done throughout coastal communities. Over the past year, we engaged many people in coastal communities and beyond, increasing awareness and recognition of the importance of First Nations' leadership in environmental protection.





FEATURED STORY



An Annual Gathering for Stewardship Leaders

In late April, Coastal Guardian Watchmen, along with stewardship leaders from CFN-GBI member Nations, climbed aboard a boat in Prince Rupert and headed down to the Hakai Institute on Calvert Island, where they joined their friends and colleagues at the 2017 Coastal Stewardship Network Annual Gathering.

The three-day event featured plenty of discussion and camaraderie, but there was also a notable positive change for this year's annual gathering, its 10th year running. In addition to Coastal Guardian Watchmen and other stewardship staff, community Elders were invited to share their knowledge and wisdom, which brought a new dynamic that will be replicated in future events.

Perhaps more than any other year, the 2017 gathering was about making connections across generations, as much as collaborating between coastal communities. "Every generation has a responsibility to build a bridge to the past and the teachings of their ancestors," said Haida Elder Captain Gold during his presentation on the history of the Guardian Watchmen movement. "As we work together, we learn from each other, and that common understanding helps us make our way in life."

Two other Elders in attendance—Elizabeth Brown (Heiltsuk) and Clarence Nelson Sr. (Metlakatla)—offered heartfelt words to open and close the gathering and shared their perspectives throughout.

As for the Guardians, they shared community updates that highlighted their accomplishments and challenges over the past year. They also engaged in a full day of risk management and safety training and received an update and refresher on the Regional Monitoring System. To complement talks from the Elders, Heiltsuk Stewardship Director Kelly Brown provided some key lessons learned from the tragic Nathan E. Stewart tugboat diesel spill in 2016.

The gathering was a chance to catch up and learn from each other; a golden opportunity to make new plans for collaboration and to continue to nurture long-held relationships. It involved a rare combination of practical training and the kind of intangible learning that can only come from spending time with those who have a lifetime of knowledge to impart.

The three Elders who made the trip offered each participant something invaluable. "I don't have all the technology, but I have years of knowledge and wisdom, and I have learned so much from my Elders," said Clarence Nelson Sr., after participating in training for the Regional Monitoring System. "We need to do things from one heart, and that's what we have done here."

That sentiment was echoed by everyone, young and old. In closing the gathering, Elizabeth Brown summed it up nicely: "I've seen a lot of working together here and it warms my heart. I encourage all of you to stay united, because that is the only way you will succeed. One mind, one heart."



FEATURED STORY

Bringing Knowledge Back to Coastal Communities

A couple of years ago, they were a collection of 14 strangers from separate First Nations throughout the North and Central Coast. But now they're family, and they will always share the huge accomplishment of being deserving grads of the two-year Stewardship Technicians Training Program.

The unique training program, a partnership between CFN-GBI and Vancouver Island University, offers students practical skills and hands-on training for work in resource management and stewardship.

At a ceremony in Prince Rupert, proud students gathered with family, friends and community members to receive their certificates, and they had a chance to describe what the program meant to them, and how it will help them fulfill their responsibilities to care for the lands and waters of their territories.

"I have witnessed a profound transformation of identity, pride, image and confidence among these students," said Hilistis Pauline Waterfall, a Heiltsuk Elder, knowledge keeper and Cultural Advisor to the program, who spoke at the ceremony and handed each student their hard-earned certificates.

A recipient of the Order of British Columbia for her work in First Nations education, Waterfall said the program's importance extends beyond stewardship to provide critical lessons in cultural awareness, leadership, respect and self-governance. "Through reinforced Indigenous cultural awareness paired with technical training, the graduates contribute to the sustainable management and protection of natural resources within their homelands," she said. "I believe this collaborative way of learning and growing is a best practice to model in the spirit of reconciliation today."

The evening included a delicious feast of local food and flavour, plus heartfelt songs and speeches. Elder Clarence Nelson Sr. welcomed the group, on behalf of Metlakatla First Nation, and spoke to the importance of education and stewardship for all coastal Nations.

The event came on the heels of a busy week of classes, aptly focused on leadership, and concluded two years of similarly intensive classes, both in the field and in the classroom, in locations throughout BC's North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.





PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES: BUILDING A CONSERVATION- BASED ECONOMY



Our communities have thrived here for thousands of years; our culture and livelihoods are deeply intertwined with these forests, rivers and sea. Together, we are ending the over-exploitation of our resources and cultivating a sustainable way forward.

GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST ESSENTIAL OILS

Upcoming Priorities

- **Generate revenue and employ local people in a conservation economy on the coast.**
- **Implement an international marketing strategy for bulk sales of conifer essential oils and other products and develop shelf-ready retail products to launch Canada-wide.**
- **Support the retail product launch by developing display and marketing materials to enable exhibiting at trade shows beginning in Winter 2019.**

One of CFN-GBI's main goals is to help communities generate income from their abundant forests without cutting trees down—a push that ultimately led to the new social enterprise venture, Great Bear Rainforest Essential Oils Limited Partnership.

Striking a balance between economic prosperity and environmental sustainability, these oils are carefully steam-distilled from fresh conifer needles, which are sustainably harvested from the Great Bear Rainforest.

The oils are purchased from the Metlakatla and Nuxalk Nations, and both communities play a lead role in activities related to the Partnership throughout the year, guiding and planning for business success. After launching a new website in May 2017 (greatbearessentialoils.ca), the next step is to build the business and create sustainable, long-term employment within these communities.

In September 2017, a facilitated strategic planning session with CFN-GBI leaders, along with the Metlakatla Stewardship Society and Nuxalk Development Corporation, determined key priorities for the upcoming year—the overarching goal to prove the market for these oils and initiate sales.

The first phase of international marketing work was completed during the year, which involved sending samples to potential buyers, along with background information about the First Nations involved, our commitment to conservation and price lists for our bulk essential oils. Packaging, labelling and order fulfillment strategies have also been under development.



FEATURED STORY

Zero Carbon Baseline: CFN-GBI Leads by Example

One of CFN-GBI's key roles is to support Nations on conservation-based approaches to developing economies and sustaining the water and land. At some point, our leadership had to ask the question many of us have a hard time asking: What about us?

It was time to look within and examine CFN-GBI's own carbon footprint—the beginning of the First Carbon Baseline project, a partnership with Pinna Sustainability to turn our values into practice.

"We started measuring our footprint, looking at how staff move around the city," said CFN-GBI General Manager Gary Wilson. "Do they use public transit? Cars? Cycle?" He said they also looked at the CFN-GBI Board and how they traveled to and from their communities. They also looked at in-house materials, including office supplies like styrofoam and plastic, which also contribute to overall footprint.

After producing a baseline assessment that suggested CFN-GBI was using 29 carbon tonnes a year, the next question was: How can we reduce that footprint? "We stopped using plastic bottled water altogether and started talking about limiting our number of in-person meetings, to reduce travel," said Wilson.

Although purchasing offsets is a way to reduce overall carbon footprint, Wilson said that tactic should not excuse CFN-GBI from finding ways to reduce actual carbon consumption. "Every year, we are going to measure our progress and determine ways to improve," he said. "We can encourage Nations to start monitoring and managing their own footprints too, if we practice what we preach and lead by example."

As the climate continues to change in ways that could negatively impact those with intimate connections to the land, reducing environmental footprint is one way to hold oneself accountable. "Growing up in Bella Bella, I used to fish all the time," said Wilson. "When I go home, I see the impacts climate change has on our resources, our salmon, herring, and clams. In my lifetime alone, I've seen so many changes."

Wilson says the only way to overcome those issues is to work together. That has indeed been CFN-GBI's mandate from the beginning—to join Nations with a shared vision and commitment to protecting our lands and waters, for the well-being of all future generations.

COMMUNITY CLEAN ENERGY

Upcoming Priorities

- **Secure funding for new community energy initiatives, which will involve hiring and training new staff in each community.**
- **Facilitate up to 300 new energy efficiency upgrades for homes in coastal communities.**
- **Secure more resources and training for community coordinators.**

Through a range of grassroots initiatives, CFN-GBI is working to improve energy efficiency and encourage the use of clean, renewable energy throughout coastal communities.

In all of these efforts, our focus is two-fold. We hope to reduce community dependency on fossil fuels, which both increase greenhouse gas emissions and the likelihood of fuel spills, and we also aim to enhance local economies through a long-term investment in clean energy production.

CFN-GBI participates in several community based clean energy projects, including the Ultra-Energy Efficient, Culturally Appropriate New Homes program, which involves developing resources, case studies and an industry map to support communities in building or upgrading their homes for energy efficiency. As part of those resources, CFN-GBI developed a New Housing Guide—a primer for building culturally appropriate, high-performance homes in the Great Bear Region.

Renewable energy initiatives are underway within CFN-GBI member Nations, and already helping these communities protect their territories, while saving money and enhancing local economies.

Since last year, we have trained local workers in Klemtu, Old Massett, Skidegate and Bella Coola to conduct energy upgrades in more than 200 community homes, with plans for hundreds more this year, based on community-led efforts to measure air leakage in new and existing homes—all skills that help to retain economic opportunities within each community.

We've also supported inter-community learning exchanges that help to share these skills and technical know-how with people in other coastal communities—Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Gitga'at, Nuxalk, Haida and Wuikinuxv Nations all participated last year, and we hope for more in future.



FEATURED STORY

Harnessing the Power of Clean Energy

Several years ago, CFN-GBI Nations got together to write a community action plan focused on improving energy efficiency and transitioning to clean energy. BC Hydro and both provincial and federal governments participated.

"There was a push to get remote communities onto the BC Hydro system," said project manager Gillian Aubie Vines. "My job involves running around to governments and to BC Hydro, to try and get them to meet Indigenous communities' energy goals. In other words, I'm shaking trees to make things happen."

Vines says there has been a shift in BC in the last decade and that more people believe in the power of clean energy. Plus, she says, partnering with First Nations saves BC Hydro money, because the more electricity they save, the more money they save. "We started saying, we don't want your contractors to come, sign a form, do an upgrade that might not work and leave," said Vines, adding that CFN-GBI community leaders wanted local people trained.

To that end, energy upgrades have been undertaken in hundreds of homes in Masset and Skidegate in Haida Gwaii, and work is underway with the Nuxalk, who in many ways have been leading the transformation of on-reserve housing. Around 50 homes have also been upgraded in Klemtu, while more trainers and resources are in place to continue the work.

Communities are learning how to run the upgrade projects themselves, while increasing capacity and offering new staff positions for qualified local workers. And that's ensuring a growing group within each community of project champions, who are sure to share their stories of energy savings far and wide.





FEATURED STORY

Heat Pumps and Solar Panels in HIGaagilda (Skidegate)

Every year, Haida Gwaii uses 10 million litres of diesel to help power its communities—a fact that prompted Skidegate Band Councillors to consider alternatives.

There is a huge push, especially in Haida communities, to reduce diesel use and eventually reach 100 percent energy independence. Many grassroots groups, including home-grown non-profit Swiilawiid Sustainability Society, promote clean energy and help local residents move toward energy efficiency.

A key offshoot of energy efficiency is direct savings on electrical bills—an important factor for people throughout these communities. Many Elders, for example, have trouble paying heating costs, and are no longer able to chop wood to fuel their wood stoves. “I went from wood to oil, but I couldn’t afford to get the wood all the time. I’m too old to go out and get the wood,” said Elder Thelma Shannon, during an interview for a video created by Haida storyteller Nang K’uulas (Patrick Shannon).

As one possible solution, Skidegate councillor David Crosby asked the question: “What about heat pumps?” The other councillors decided to give it a shot, installing them in almost all of the 350 homes on reserve and all other buildings in the community. Barbara (Babs) Stevens, Skidegate Band Council’s Chief Administrative Officer, likes to say that the money saved is “both a big and small part of it.” Saving over \$400,000 a year makes a difference, for all surrounding communities, she says, but it’s not about the money, it’s about protecting Mother Earth.

After the success of the heat pumps, council turned to solar energy, adding solar panels to the George Brown recreation centre with a 50kW capacity. Through funding from Canada150 and from Gwaii Trust and other smaller revenue sources, they next brought solar energy to the Haida Heritage Centre. Later, through collaboration between Swiilawiid and Skidegate and Old Masset youth centres, they installed panels on facilities used for youth camps and the Rediscovery Camps Program.

Energy efficiency is nothing new for the Haida, who have lived in good relations with their lands and waters since time immemorial. This is just another positive step forward in preserving that which makes them Haida, in honour of ancestors and for the well-being of future generations.



FEATURED STORY

A Nuxalk Housing Apprenticeship Program

Like other First Nations across the country, Nuxalk's housing situation was profoundly impacted by government-imposed housing standards that community members said were unfit for wet weather conditions and their social and cultural realities.

To deal with the need for renovations and new housing, especially for single occupants, the Nation started a community-based housing apprenticeship program, led by Richard Hall and in partnership with Camosun College.

Hall is a red seal carpenter and a certified building inspector, who worked for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, inspecting First Nations' housing across the province, on and off reserve, for more than a decade. The conditions Hall witnessed appalled him and he decided it was time to move back home to Bella Coola and put his expertise and experience back into the community. He hooked up with Camosun College, which helped with funding for students to enroll, and the apprenticeship program was born.

The program connects apprentices with skilled community workers, trained and equipped to build sustainable housing for the Nuxalk community. It has cut the need for outside contractors and consultants, and brings skilled workers and young people back home, providing more jobs and a brighter future for the whole community.

As a part of the program, the Nation has built six homes for single occupancy, complete with solar panels, new triplexes for families, a new restaurant and has plans to build a new big house. They've managed to minimize costs and maximize the value of these homes, using as many of their own local resources and materials as possible, transforming the community in more ways than one.

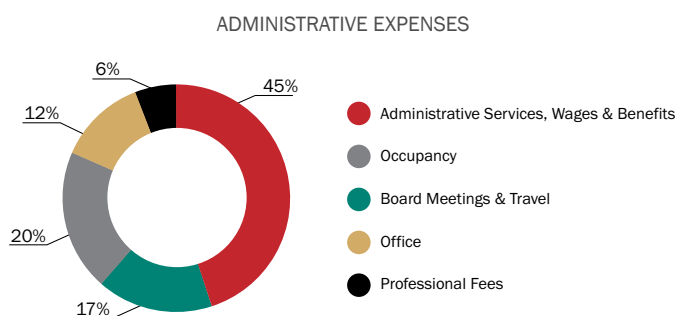
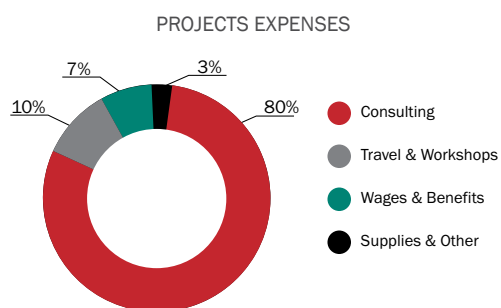




FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

	2018	2017	2016
Grants & Contributions	\$ 5,600,600	5,867,593	5,778,115
Projects Expenses			
Communications	105,446	169,051	53,652
Consulting	3,936,278	4,463,458	4,339,230
Supplies	39,499	40,620	77,276
Travel & Workshops	491,466	361,988	374,484
Wages & Benefits	365,891	208,525	277,545
	4,938,580	5,243,642	5,122,187
Administrative Expenses			
Administrative Services,wages & benefits	304,203	386,208.00	324,663
Board Meetings & Travel	112,354	157,399.00	184,110
Occupancy	135,920	120,377.00	146,795
Office	85,065	42,789.00	37,229
Professional fees	39,945	26,167.00	20,695
Amortization of equipment	29,277	22,739.00	3,929
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(29,277)	(22,739.00)	(3,929)
Reimbursement of administrative cost	-	(100,000.00)	(50,000)
	677,487	632,940.00	663,492
Deficiency of revenue over expenditure before Interest Income	(15,467)	(8,989.00)	(7,564)
Interest Income	15,467	8,989	7,564
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ -	-	-



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT MARCH 31, 2018

	2018	2017	2016
Assets			
Current			
Cash	\$ 4,912,240	7,082,445	4,696,009
Grants & other receivables	1,495,247	120,300	268,762
Prepays	30,908	22,219	13,875
	6,438,395	7,224,964	4,978,646
Equipment	10,147	33,988	1,876
	\$ 6,448,542	7,258,952	4,980,522
Liabilities & Deferred Contribution			
Current			
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$ 260,141	292,409	597,443
Deferred Contributions			
Expenses of future periods	6,178,254	6,932,555	4,381,203
Unamortized Equipment	10,147	33,988	1,876
	6,188,401	6,966,543	4,383,079
	\$ 6,448,542	7,258,952	4,980,522





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO CFN-GBI COMMUNITIES

We acknowledge and honour our hereditary leaders, political leaders, elders and community members who guide our work. They have single-mindedly fought to protect our Aboriginal Rights and Title for many decades. Our chiefs and elders have taught us that our collective responsibility is to restore and implement responsible land, water and resource management approaches that are ecologically, socially and economically sustainable.

By staying true to our values and turning challenges into opportunities we are confident that together we can make positive changes in our communities and once again build a healthy coastal economy. It is a privilege to work for our communities and we look forward to embracing the coming year with energy and commitment.

CFN-GBI would like to thank our partners:

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

The Nature Conservancy

Tides Canada

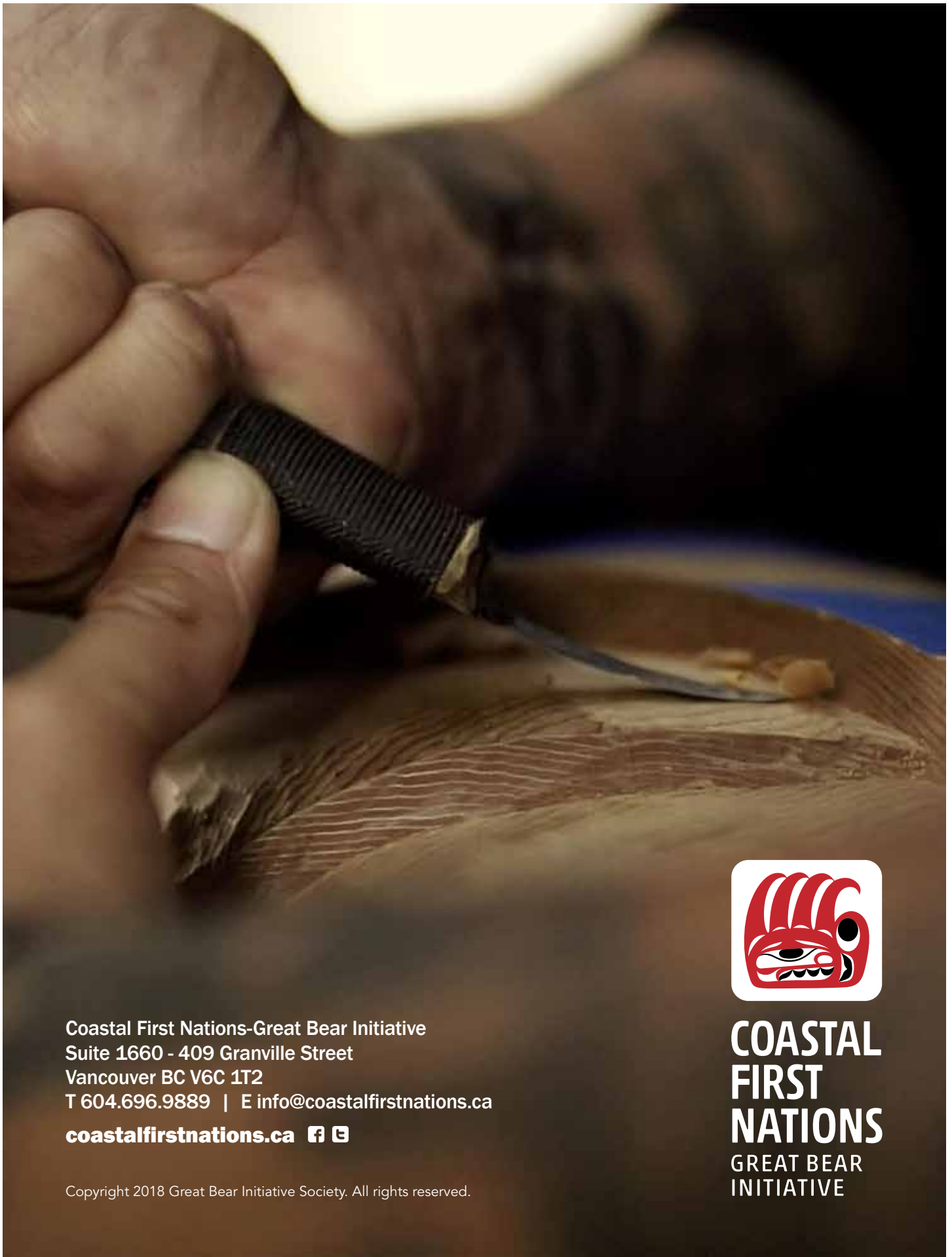
Wilburforce Foundation

Coast Funds

Government of British Columbia

Government of Canada

BC Hydro



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