



**COASTAL
FIRST NATIONS**
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

**ANNUAL
REPORT 2019**

Protecting our Coast. Building our Economy.



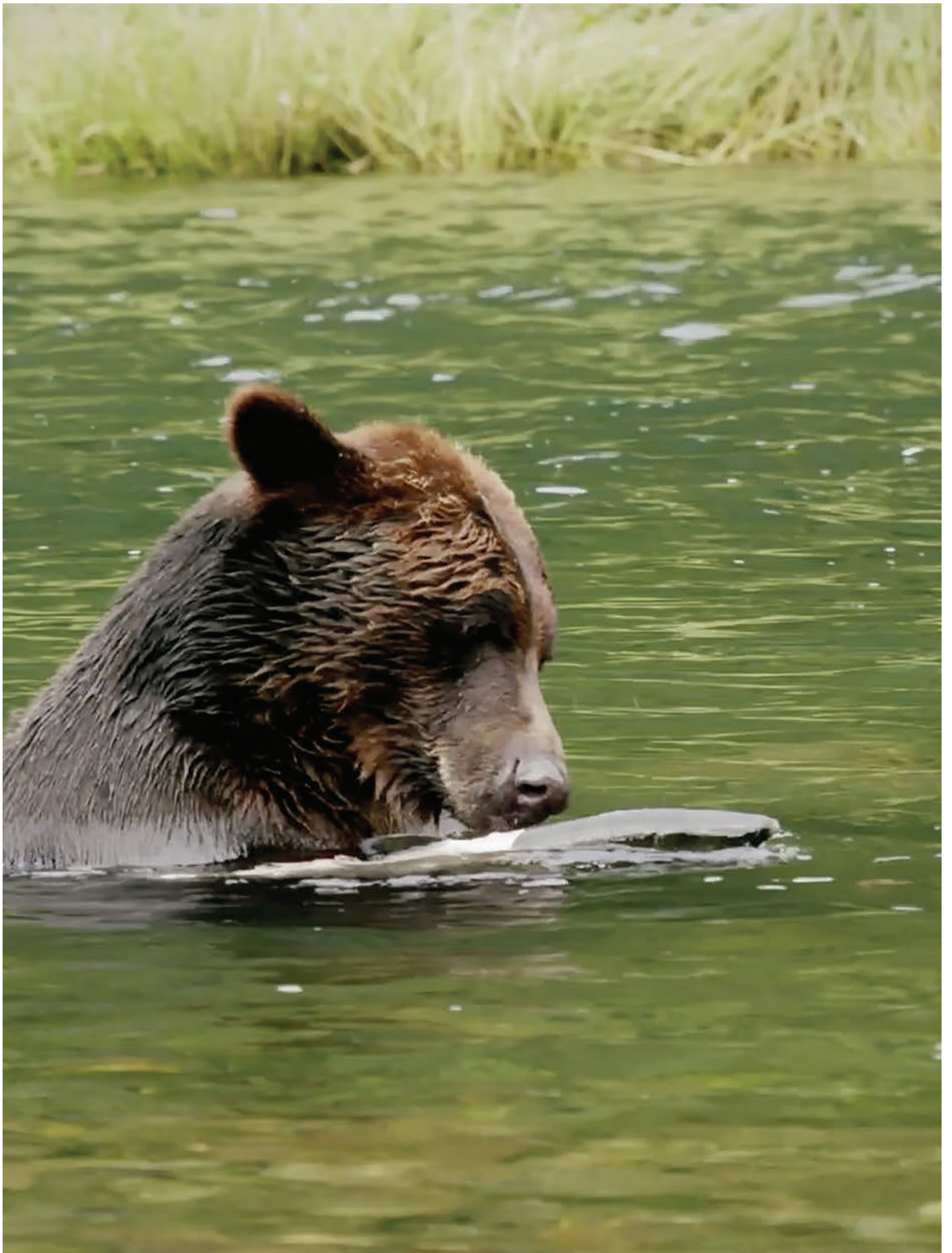


TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	Our Vision
	Governance
	Board of Directors
5	President's Message – Marilyn Slett
	20 Year Anniversary
7	Protecting Our Coast
8	Land Planning
9	<i>Story: Carbon Credits: Helping Coastal Communities Thrive</i>
10	Marine Planning
11	<i>Story: A Regional Response Plan through the Oceans RFA</i>
12	Coastal Stewardship Network
13	<i>Story: Learning Exchange: Nuxalk and Arctic Bay Guardians</i>
14	Stewardship Directors Committee
15	<i>Story: Metlakatla First Nation Releases Cumulative Effects Guide</i>
17	Building Our Economy
18	Great Bear Rainforest® Essential Oils
19	<i>Story: ånd Fragrance: Supporting Local Communities and Ecosystems</i>
20	Climate Action
21	<i>Story: Indigenous-Led Renewable Energy Projects Empower Communities</i>
22	Fisheries Reconciliation
23	<i>Story: Preserving the Mighty Wannock Chinook</i>
24	Financial Summary
26	Acknowledgement

OUR VISION

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

Our communities, traditions, cultures and governance structures are as unique and diverse as the abundant species that share these lands and waters with us. We all share a responsibility to care for this region. Known throughout the world as the **Great Bear Rainforest**, it has been our home for at least 14,000 years.

Collectively, we are committed to work together to build a **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 members of Coastal First Nations (CFN).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jason Alsop – President, Council of the Haida Nation

Arnold Clifton – Chief Councillor, Gitga'at

Marilyn Slett – Chief Councillor, Heiltsuk Tribal Council

Roxanne Robinson – 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

Linda Innes – Chief Councillor, Gitaaxla

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHIEF MARILYN SLETT



Our communities have weathered storms before and have the resilience to do so again.

We have experienced many successes in protecting our environment and building a sustainable coastal economy. But there is no doubt the COVID-19 pandemic has tested our resilience.

Over the last months we have all had to work hard to navigate these challenging times. I am proud of the way our leaders have pulled together to help ensure the health and wellbeing of our citizens remain our top priority.

This year, the Coastal First Nations (CFN) celebrates our 20th anniversary. It is not the way we expected to celebrate this milestone. While these are uncertain times and the situation is constantly evolving, it was critical we continue our work.

Both communities and CFN staff have pulled together to continue delivering extraordinary service in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The incredible response from our partners and our community demonstrates we are stronger together.

There has been a lot of change and a lot of progress over the last year.

Our world class Coastal Stewardship Network continued its outstanding work to increase the capacity of Coastal Guardian Watchmen and enhance the regional stewardship efforts of CFN member Nations. Their work included developing and delivering stewardship training programs as well as coordinating data collection and information management. CFN member Nations' stewardship leaders also took the lead in producing a publication that outlines eight Strategic Priorities for further enhancing the work of Coastal Guardian Watchmen programs.

A historic Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement was signed with Canada by Coastal First Nations and the member Nations in mid-2019. The agreement, which will help revitalize fisheries throughout our coastal communities, includes the integration of science and traditional knowledge to sustainably manage fisheries that support community food security and, where required, rebuild fisheries. This initiative supports a significant increase in commercial fishing access and the development of a commercial Fishing Corporation owned and managed by the Nations.

Our goal remains a bold one: to lead in the protection of our environment and to build a sustainable economy. We must continue to challenge ourselves to look for new ways to support our communities, while adapting as needed to address new challenges and opportunities. I remain confident that we have the right plan, the right team and the right mindset to achieve our goals.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we will aim to secure the revenue required to provide organizational stability, while ensuring more funds reach our communities so they can continue to build healthy economies.

We express our gratitude to our communities, leaders and partners for your unwavering support over the past 20 years.

We are stronger together.

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

Chief Marilyn Slett

Chief Councillor, Heiltsuk Tribal Council

President, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative





PROTECTING OUR COAST

LAND PLANNING

Upcoming Priorities

- **Engage with the BC government, the forestry sector and ENGOs to advance and complete the 2021 review of EBM implementation.**
- **Engage with the BC government to advance development of protected area and stewardship legislation and agreements that are more flexible and recognize a stronger governance role for First Nations.**
- **Advance forestry economic policy negotiations and agreements that will ensure sustainable timber harvest levels and practices, and secure more economic benefits from forestry activities for CFN-GBI Nations.**

With an abundance of species and diversity, the coastal ecosystems of the North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii contain vast land-based resources that have supported coastal communities for thousands of years. CFN-GBI's Land Planning program helps to ensure these resources are sustainably managed, and provides support for all CFN-GBI member Nations as they implement effective land-use planning agreements with BC.

With a mandate from the 2006 Land and Resource Protocol, 2009 Reconciliation Protocol and the 2016 EBM Implementation Term Sheet, and a 2020 Reconciliation 2.0 MOU with BC, the Land Planning team supports efforts to implement existing land-use agreements, while negotiating and developing new agreements and commitments that will advance the role of CFN-GBI members Nations in lands and natural resource governance, stewardship and economic development.

This work includes providing support for CFN-GBI member Nations as they engage in various forums and working groups focused on implementation of EBM, and protected area planning and management agreements. It also involves ongoing Reconciliation 2.0 work and discussions with BC, which focus on co-governance of lands and resources; a stronger, more proactive role for Nations in protected area management and monitoring; and negotiating new forestry economic measures that will create new business development opportunities.

Over the past year, the Land Planning team worked with CFN-GBI member Nation Stewardship Directors and Lands Managers to initiate and advance a comprehensive review of EBM implementation in the Great Bear Rainforest, complete a comprehensive review of land-based economic initiatives, finalize a new standards for identification of indigenous heritage sites and features, and advance forest economic policy discussions with BC and key forestry industry companies.



STORY

Carbon Credits: Helping Coastal Communities Thrive

The Great Bear Carbon Credit Corporation is in the process of renewing another five-year agreement with BC's Climate Investment Branch to sell carbon credits from the Great Bear Rainforest. The renewed agreement will protect forests for the future and ensure continued funding for stewardship and community projects in the region.

The Kitasoo/Xai'xais Stewardship Authority is an example of the importance of funding from carbon credit sales. "It's helped a lot in our work," says Stewardship Director Doug Neasloss. "We're able to take that money and reinvest it back into stewardship of our territory."

The Great Bear Carbon Credit Corporation has more than 1-million tonnes of carbon credits to sell every year. That represents more than \$40-million in sales over the past decade, with 65 percent of net revenues going back to communities for conservation and 35 percent for human well-being and other projects.

"It's really important to have a stable source of funds to do this work," says Neasloss. "We're making sure we're driving the science that will inform decision makers in federal, provincial or First Nations governments."

With 85 percent of the Great Bear Rainforest protected, the Great Bear Forest Carbon Project is one of the largest carbon credit programs in Canada. More than 6-million hectares of coastal temperate rainforest act as lungs for the planet – storing vast amounts of carbon that causes climate change.

In Kitasoo/Xai'xais territory, funds support six Coastal Guardian Watchmen positions on the land and water that help implement a management plan co-developed by the Nation and BC Parks.

The Guardians monitor heavy-use inlets, including grizzly bear habitat and crab fishing areas. "We used to have a lot of illegal activities up here and now we have zero," says Neasloss, adding the carbon credit proceeds are reinvested into science and research work to support policy change.

MARINE PLANNING

Upcoming Priorities

- **Support the RFA amendment process to incorporate British Columbia in the collaborative governance process and structures.**
- **Strengthen response capacity in coastal communities by continuing to support Nations' efforts to develop community-level Geographic Response Strategies and operational plans.**
- **Advance agreed upon co-governance and management approach for the Marine Protected Area network and announcement of the Action Plan by June 2021.**
- **Support and coordinate Nations' engagement on a variety of Oceans Protection Plan initiatives.**

The CFN-GBI Marine Planning team provides coordination, support and strategic advice to regional-level governance processes and projects that will ensure that marine resources are managed sustainably to benefit future generations.

Working with a range of partners, CFN-GBI continues to play an important role in providing technical and coordination support to the First Nations Oceans Governance and Management Forum, a regional body that allows Pacific North Coast Nations to work collectively to address oceans issues and engage with Canada in a coordinated way.

Over the past year, CFN-GBI provided regional support for a range of collaborative marine planning initiatives, including implementation of the Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) and development of a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for the Northern Shelf Bioregion, with planned outcomes to be announced in June 2021. With support from CFN-GBI, Nations also worked collaboratively to develop a co-governance proposal that sets out how sites within the network will be jointly designated, managed and enforced with partners. The goal is to establish these arrangements through MPA co-governance agreements that build on the Reconciliation Framework Agreement (RFA) commitments.

CFN-GBI is also supporting and coordinating member Nations' engagement in several collaborative Oceans Protection Plan initiatives under the RFA around preventative shipping measures and development of a comprehensive marine response planning system. This includes support for Nations in developing Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) within their territories to advance marine spill preparedness and response capabilities. Thirteen Nations participated in training exercises and surveyed around 240 sites—more than three times the target for the first year of the project.

The GRSs are being reviewed and enhanced by a voluntary GRS Tactics Review Committee that brings together a broad range of technical experts to ensure a level of standardization across the region and to harmonize the GRS with other tactical response plans. Progress was also made in securing broad support to develop with federal and provincial partners a collaborative, multi-lateral regional Marine Incident Preparedness and Response Plan for the Northern Shelf Bioregion that is rooted in the RFA.



STORY

A Regional Response Plan through the Oceans RFA

First Nations representatives are continuing to work together with federal officials to protect and manage the North Pacific Coast.

Focusing on a vast region—from the top of Vancouver Island to the Alaska border, including Haida Gwaii—the Reconciliation Framework Agreement for Bioregional Oceans Management and Protection, or Oceans RFA, strives to create an integrated and effective planning regime.

The framework for planning, based on a nation-to-nation governance structure, is designed to improve marine management in tangible ways. Beyond providing a model for collaborative stewardship of marine ecosystems, it also aims to increase safety in coastal communities by improving emergency response capabilities through the Regional Response Planning (RRP) pilot project.

“The goal of the RRP is to create integrated incident response plans that can be applied across the entire region,” says Steve Diggon, who represents CFN-GBI on the project’s regional working group. Through several levels of planning—from high-level discussion groups to technical teams for on-the-ground implementation—the project will determine how Nations and federal and provincial agencies can work together to act quickly and effectively in the event of a marine spill or similar incident.

“The RRP will help clarify roles and responsibilities for any agencies involved in marine spills or accidents,” says Diggon. It includes information on communities, incident management procedures, and training and equipment marine managers need at their disposal, while more detailed work will identify areas of concern for specific contingency planning and where equipment caches should be located. If a spill does occur, he adds, “ideally, those relevant parties will be ready to act swiftly and efficiently.”



COASTAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

Upcoming Priorities

- **Update the RMS web portal and implement more survey-based protocols in the CoastTracker App.**
- **Deliver the Stewardship Technicians Training Program in collaboration with Vancouver Island University.**
- **Produce and release new CSN videos and an informational brochure.**
- **Develop resources to support regional and Nation-led Compliance & Enforcement programs.**



The Coastal Stewardship Network aims to further increase the capacity of Coastal Guardian Watchmen and enhance the regional stewardship efforts of CFN member Nations through a range of efforts, including developing and delivering stewardship training programs; hosting Guardian Watchmen gatherings and learning exchanges; coordinating data collection and information management; and generating cohesive and streamlined communications materials, among other activities.

In 2019, the CSN provided networking and other support for the Coastal Guardian Watchmen, including monthly calls, learning exchanges and the 11th CSN annual gathering in July. The 2019 gathering featured hands-on field training—including kelp-monitoring techniques and Tactical Communications for Compliance & Enforcement training—plus a workshop session on Indigenous Laws, and how they form the foundation of Guardians' stewardship work.

The CSN also helped to coordinate in-depth conversations and workshops between CFN member Nations' stewardship leaders that led to production of the *Coastal First Nations Guardian Program – Strategic Plan*—a publication that outlines eight Strategic Priorities for further enhancing the work of Coastal Guardian Watchmen programs.

The CSN continued coordination work related to the Regional Monitoring System (RMS)—a standardized system for collecting and managing field data used by CFN member Nations. This included technical training for Guardians at the annual gathering, ongoing improvements and field testing for the custom CoastTracker App used to record data, and in-person community visits to gather feedback and discuss further needs related to the RMS.

Throughout the year, CSN developed and delivered custom stewardship training programs to support CFN communities, including a project management workshop in December that was the first of its kind for the Network. CSN also facilitated an intensive Professional Development course in April for previous graduates of the Stewardship Technicians Training Program—facilitated in partnership with Vancouver Island University and taught by Hilistis Pauline Waterfall, a respected Heiltsuk Elder and educator with more than 35 years' experience.

Throughout 2019, CSN completed 14 trips to CFN communities to meet with staff and managers at stewardship offices and with Coastal Guardian Watchmen in the field. During these visits, CSN staff provided a range of support, including work planning help; development of policies and procedures; safety program support; in-person training; RMS data reviews; and assessment of future needs and resource gaps.



STORY

Learning Exchange: Nuxalk and Arctic Bay Guardians

In one of the world's largest temperate rainforests, Nuxalk territory features lush coastal forests, towering peaks, and rushing rivers, inlets and bays that are home to an abundance of life. Far to the northeast, deep within the Arctic Circle, sits Arctic Bay, Nunavut, a treeless landscape of wind-carved snow and ice—home to roaming polar bears and caribou, plus narwhal and Arctic char.

Although these regions are vastly different, and separated by a vast distance, the communities they support both have teams of Indigenous Guardians who monitor, protect and restore the cultural and natural resources of their territories.

So, when the opportunity arose for a learning exchange between their respective stewardship programs, both the Nuxalk Guardian Watchmen and Arctic Bay Guardians jumped at the chance to visit each other's communities, share stories and learn from their unique circumstances. Funded by Tides Canada, the learning exchange was an excellent way to make new connections while building on the successes of each Guardian program in the process.

"Our programs are very unique, but there are many similarities as well," says Nuxalk Guardian Watchmen manager Ernie Tallio. "Both teams work out on the land and water, and deal with search and rescue, as well as monitoring and maintaining cultural sites." Along with Elodie Button, training coordinator for CFN's Coastal Stewardship Network (CSN), Tallio travelled to Arctic Bay last May. Although it was an exhausting trip, Tallio said it was worth every moment. And several months later, he and the Nuxalk community got a chance to return the favour by hosting the Arctic Bay Guardians.

"We thought they'd be tired after their trip, but they were ready to go as soon as they got here," says Tallio. The Nuxalk team gave the visiting Guardians an overview of monitoring work along coastal waterways and inland river systems, then took them to see local hotspots, a massive cedar tree and other sacred cultural sites. "

Each trip featured packed agendas and a full slate of activities, and the Guardians gained knowledge about each other's territories, and the cultural and ecological uniqueness that underlie their stewardship efforts.

Tallio says the Guardians learned about important strategies that could help them do their jobs more effectively, which could easily be replicated across different landscapes and programs. And he believes the cultural sharing and learning was invaluable. "There's no doubt we'll stay in touch," he says. "We hope to get other Nuxalk Guardians up to Arctic Bay one day as well. These exchanges make a huge positive difference."



STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORS COMMITTEE

Upcoming Priorities

- **Continue to coordinate and facilitate quarterly SDC meetings, workshops and policy conference calls, and monthly SDC conference calls.**
- **Continue to integrate all CFN stewardship programs into the work planning of the SDC to create more efficiencies at both the regional and community levels.**

The Stewardship Directors Committee (SDC) was established to create a venue where Stewardship Directors and other senior lands and marine managers from each Nation can work together to advance implementation of strategic land and marine use agreements.

Through quarterly meetings, workshops and monthly conference calls, the SDC provides direction and support for regional initiatives that involve each of the Nations' stewardship/integrated resource offices. The SDC Project Manager works closely with other CFN-GBI Program Managers to carry out these projects so they are aligned with mandates of the CFN-GBI Board.

The ultimate goal of regional initiatives is to strengthen the capacity of CFN-GBI member Nations to effectively implement land and marine use plans, and other regional agreements while increasing the capacity and authority of Nation-level stewardship staff, including Guardian Watchmen, to effectively manage and protect the lands and waters of the territories.

Throughout 2019, the SDC hosted regular monthly conference calls, in-person meetings and workshops to help guide regional stewardship initiatives, including a Land Reserve Design workshop in April with senior managers from CFN-GBI Nations, and a strategic planning session to guide CFN-GBI Coastal Guardian Watchmen programs.





STORY

Metlakatla First Nation Releases Cumulative Effects Guide

A new outreach booklet by the Metlakatla Nation offers a step-by-step guide for First Nations that want to measure the full impact of development on their communities through Cumulative Effects Management (CEM).

Metlakatla Cumulative Effects Management: Methods, Results and Future Direction of a First Nation-led CEM Program was launched at the Indigenous Forum on Cumulative Effects in Calgary, February 2019.

In 2014, northwest British Columbia was awash in LNG referrals and proposals. The Metlakatla First Nation responded through its Governing Council by establishing a cumulative effects management program. The Council directed the Metlakatla Stewardship Society (MSS) to undertake an Indigenous-informed approach to the work.

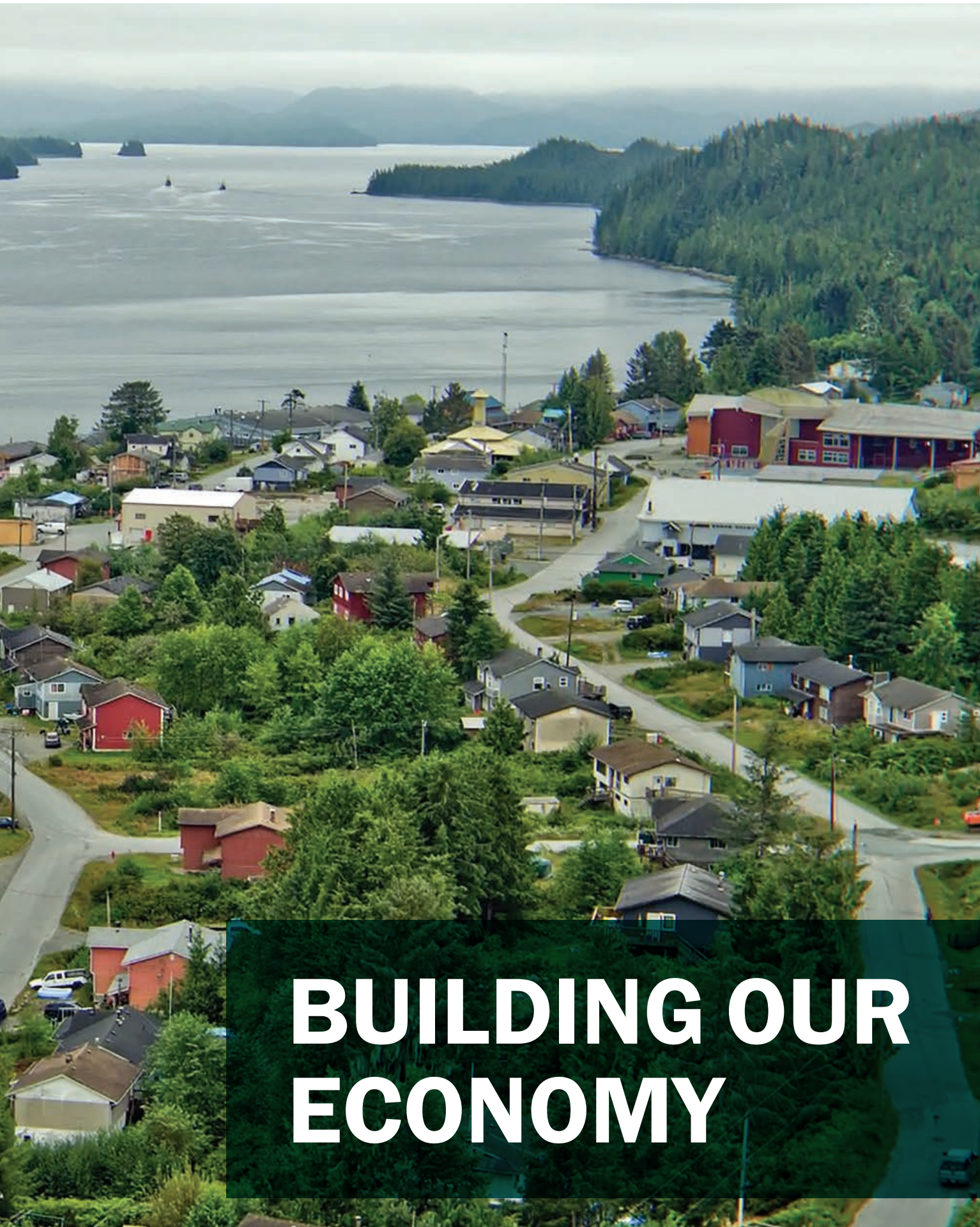
MSS Executive Director Ross Wilson says leadership wanted to understand the full extent of oil and gas industry benefits and impacts to the community, rather than examining them one by one. "We weren't talking about one pipeline and one facility, there were numerous pipelines and facility referrals submitted," explains Wilson. "It was leadership's directive that established the CEM initiative."

There was limited cumulative effects work being done on the North Coast at the time and few examples of implementing CEM in an Indigenous context. "As a department, we wanted to know what the community values were, and how those values might be impacted by industrial activities," says Wilson. "And also, how could we monitor those impacts and provide management approaches."

In a first step, a series of community workshops narrowed down a list of priority values to 10, with an intent to focus on three pilot values: Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) activities; Butter Clams; and Housing. The stewardship office soon realized it lacked up-to-date community data about all three pilot values. The Metlakatla Community Census was launched as a next step to gather information from all members over the age of 15 who lived in the territory.

Finding ways to link CEM to decision-making can be a challenge. The Metlakatla CEM program, Wilson says, "helped the Nation gain valuable insight into our planning strategy as we engage with industry and government."





BUILDING OUR ECONOMY

GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST® ESSENTIAL OILS

Upcoming Priorities

- **Successfully launch three new products to increase sales and strengthen the GBREO brand.**
- **Leverage findings from the marketing report to support our high-margin sales channels: website, direct retail and corporate sales.**
- **Ramp up essential oils production at operating facilities to meet sales demand.**
- **Transition the organization from CFN-GBI to Limited Partnership structure.**

The Great Bear Rainforest® Essential Oils (GBREO) project is an initiative to support the communities of CFN-GBI member First Nations in developing an essential oil business, using sustainably harvested conifers, and to market the oils and related products nationally and internationally.

The 2019 calendar year involved a number of successful achievements and huge growth for GBREO.

A significant milestone was successfully fulfilling a large order with a national brand, Saje, who amplified the GBREO story. They reported strong sales, with many locations selling out the Deep Forest blend that featured our Hemlock and Douglas Fir oils, and are reordering GBREO oils for the 2020 Christmas season.

Another important focus was developing three new products that address market need and provide a higher-margin opportunity for the organization.

To help us define our brand and support future growth, GBREO engaged a professional marketing agency to write a marketing plan that provided support with logo and label revisions, market definition and key messages.

Other highlights include: ramping up our marketing and social media presence and hiring a Sales & Marketing team member to focus on direct retail sales and strategic partnerships.





STORY

ånd Fragrance: Supporting Local Communities and Ecosystems

For Great Bear Rainforest® Essential Oils, priority number one has always been sustainable products that support local culture and ecosystems, and the people and communities at the heart of them.

The social enterprise, supported by Coastal First Nations, sources its essential oils from sustainably harvested conifer needles gathered from lush coastal forests within the world-renowned Great Bear Rainforest, and its business strategy is guided by the nunumus management ltd, the economic arm of the Nuxalk First Nation, along with and the Great Bear Initiative and other partners.

When Simon Constantine, former lead perfumer with Lush, decided to start a new fragrance line aimed at supporting communities and ecosystems, he traveled all the way from his home in the UK to visit Bella Coola, just to see how the essential oils were produced.

"I was welcomed to Bella Coola and Nuxalk Territory," recalls Constantine. "I was touched both by the incredible landscapes and wealth of culture in the area and wanted to find a way to collaborate."

Constantine says the resulting new product, ånd fragrance, took longer than initially planned to develop, but it ultimately lived up to all expectations—both in terms of its fine quality and as a springboard for him to further build on plans for ethical purchasing and production.

In an industry that often puts profit ahead of everything else, Constantine says he was drawn to Great Bear Rainforest® Essential Oils because of its commitment to not only produce high-quality products, but to also develop sustainable jobs and protect wildlife and ecosystems along the Pacific North Coast. "It has been well documented that land under Indigenous ownership and management fares better in terms of harbouring biodiversity and sequestering carbon," he says. "I believe we need to listen to those who know how to re-establish our connection to the natural world as a matter of urgency."

CLIMATE ACTION

Upcoming Priorities

- **Develop and facilitate a culturally relevant online project management workshop for the Climate Action Coordinators.**
- **Connect with other climate action leaders across the CFN-GBI member Nations to develop plans for successful project implementation.**
- **Draft and promote a Clean Energy and Climate Adaptation Declaration for CFN-GBI member First Nations.**

The Climate Action Program aims to support CFN-GBI member First Nations in achieving their energy and climate related goals. We work closely with coastal communities to increase clean energy production, which enhances local economies, while also reducing dependency on fossil fuels, and decreasing overall carbon emissions.

A current focus of the Climate Action Program is the Climate Action Peer Network, a group of seven Climate Action Coordinators from local communities who support energy and climate-related goals. The Climate Action Peer Network was launched in September 2019 at a gathering in Skidegate—co-hosted by the Skidegate Band Council—that served to launch the Network, build and strengthen bonds, share stories and provide training.

Climate Action Coordinators meet regularly, working together to create work plans for their communities, achieve energy and climate-related goals and support each other as challenges arise. They also attend conferences and participate in training opportunities to continue to build their individual skills and capacity.

Kitasoo/Xai'xais has been a successful recipient of the Renewable Energy for Remote Communities program to complete Baron Lake hydroelectric power facility upgrades, which will help to meet energy demand and reduce carbon emissions 11,000 tonnes over the hydropower facility's operating life.

The Gitga'at Nation continues to host monthly meetings for the Clean Energy for Hartley Bay Working Group, comprised of technical staff, government, BC Hydro, Coast Funds and NGO representatives, which advises leadership on ways to reduce energy demand and displace diesel consumption.

Heiltsuk, Old Masset and Nuxalk are all participating in Impact Canada's Indigenous Off Diesel Initiative, a program aimed to support communities in implementing their community energy plans, while Metlakatla is in the development phase of a feasibility study to acquire a zero-emission ferry to service their community and others through funding from BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative.

Skidegate is utilizing the NRCAN First Nations Adapt program to develop models that will help predict estimated sea-level rise and storm surge increase from climate change, while Nuxalk is also utilizing the program to conduct a comprehensive integrated flood risk assessment and increase community awareness of flood risks.

Over the last year, 35 skilled labourers were hired across communities to support related projects such as home energy audits and retrofits.



STORY

Indigenous-Led Renewable Energy Projects Empower Communities

A new 1.7-megawatt upgrade to the Kitasoo/Xai'xais hydropower facility will increase power security for the Nation and support the creation of new homes and much-needed infrastructure, such as a wastewater treatment plant, a larger water treatment facility and a new community hall.

"It's like a breath of fresh air for us to have a project that will have so many positive impacts for our community while a pandemic is happening," says Chief Councillor Roxanne Robinson. "It's been very hard to move forward when we're at full capacity with our hydro." The new upgrade will support the buildings Klemtu has dreamt of, she says, providing gathering places such as a new community hall. "Our people have always been social people and with older buildings torn down, we didn't have a place to be social anymore. Now we have hope that we can build these spaces and have celebrations and a place to gather and be united again."

A \$4.6 million contribution from BC's Renewable Energy for Remote Communities program is funding the upgrade that will reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 11,160 tonnes over the facility's operating life.

The Kitasoo hydroelectric facility – 100 per cent owned by the Nation – has supplied clean power to Klemtu for 40 years, helping it transition from a dependency on dirty diesel fuel. The planned upgrade is the latest step in the Kitasoo/Xai'xais efforts over the past four decades to build energy sovereignty and support community growth.

"We have roughly 320 members in Klemtu and about 200 others spread across Prince Rupert and the Vancouver region," says Barry Edgar, Band Councillor and Climate Action Coordinator for the Kitasoo/Xai'xais. "The hydro expansion will provide us with the chance to add new homes and more buildings to house all the new community programs coming in every year."

Klemtu's hydroelectric facility is a gravity-fed system that funnels water from nearby Baron Lake down the mountain where it gathers speed as it falls, eventually entering and spinning a turbine to generate power. It's a low maintenance system that pays for itself in the long run and allows the Nation to keep rates manageable. "It's so beautiful living on this part of the coast but it's costly," Edgar explains. "We want to keep the cost of living at a reasonable rate so people can afford it."

FISHERIES RECONCILIATION

Upcoming Priorities

- **In 2020, four schedules are being developed as part of the 2019 agreement that will provide the details for all the key elements. Development of the schedules is supported by a technical team from CFN and monthly meetings with the community reference team with up to two representatives from each community.**
- **Final signing of the schedules between Canada and the Nations is anticipated mid-2020 with implementation beginning in the late summer.**

In 2019, Coastal First Nations and each member Nation signed a historic Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement (FRRA) with Canada. The agreement brings Canada and the CFN Nations together on several key aspects that will help revitalize fisheries throughout our coastal communities.

There are three primary objectives supported within this agreement including:

- 1. Collaborative Governance of Fisheries** - This includes the integration of science and traditional knowledge to more sustainably manage fisheries that support community food security and, where required, rebuild fisheries. Joint science and data collection, species management planning, joint decision-making, monitoring and enforcement of all fisheries are key elements in this new collaborative approach with Canada. New jobs will be created for each Nation and their affiliated aggregate fisheries to support this new approach.
- 2. Economic Opportunities** - This initiative supports a significant increase in commercial fishing access for CFN member Nations, including the development of a commercial Fishing Corporation owned and managed by the Nations.
- 3. Community Based Commercial Fishery** - This initiative supports an increase in community based commercial fishing opportunities using preferred means and areas. This fishery supports smaller vessels under 40 feet and provides funds to assist new fishers in purchasing or improving vessels and gear, and attaining low-cost access to fishing opportunities. Vessel ownership supports cultural well-being and a primary objective is to support a greater number of fishing vessels in each community.





STORY

Preserving the Mighty Wannock Chinook

The biggest fish that hereditary chief and fish guide Ted Walkus ever landed on his boat was a 72.5-pound Chinook salmon caught and released by a guest on August 24, 2012. But Walkus wasn't able to lay claim to the biggest catch that day. Three hours earlier a woman from Ontario, who had never fished a day in her life, landed an 83-pound Chinook.

Fish stories of this magnitude are not unusual for the Wannock River that runs through the heart of the traditional territory of the Wuikinuxv Nation. Legendary in size, the Chinook that swim these waters are some of the biggest salmon in the world. In fact, if you catch a Chinook over 40 pounds anywhere on the coast from Alaska to California, there's a 90 per cent chance it's from the Wannock or the Kitsumkalum River in Tsimshian territory near Terrace, BC.

Concerned about the future of these big fish, the Wuikinuxv Nation joined with partners in 2016 to build the Percy Walkus Hatchery in River's Inlet to preserve the species for generations to come. When asked what the biggest threat to salmon is, Walkus responds, "Humanity." He points to past logging, commercial fishing and sport fishing practices, and cautions: "We have to look at the whole picture rather than just a portion of it."

Born and raised in Wuikinuxv territory, Walkus has spent a lifetime fishing in River's Inlet. His late Uncle Percy Walkus started the Oweekeno Hatchery north of Wuikinuxv Village that closed in 1995. In what Walkus describes as a "true partnership," the Nation built the Percy Walkus Hatchery with support from the Rick Hansen Foundation, Good Hope Cannery fishing resort, Duncanby Lodge and Pacific Salmon Foundation. It was named to honour his uncle's dedication to salmon conservation.

The first eggs were extracted from the Kilbella and Chuckwalla Rivers in 2016 where the fish numbers were so low. "It took us two weeks to catch 60,000 eggs out of the two systems," says Walkus. Fast forward four years and 120,000 eggs were harvested in only four days. "It just goes to show you if you give these fish a little bit of help, they're going to rebound."

The local fishing lodges have also adopted a 100 per cent catch-and-release policy. "We used to celebrate who killed the biggest Chinook, now we celebrate who released the biggest fish."

Is Walkus optimistic about the recovery of the king of salmon? "It's really interesting to see that if you give salmon a chance, if you have a river you can put a hatchery in, it's possible," he says. "We did it here in our little community of River's Inlet. I encourage other Nations to do the same."

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

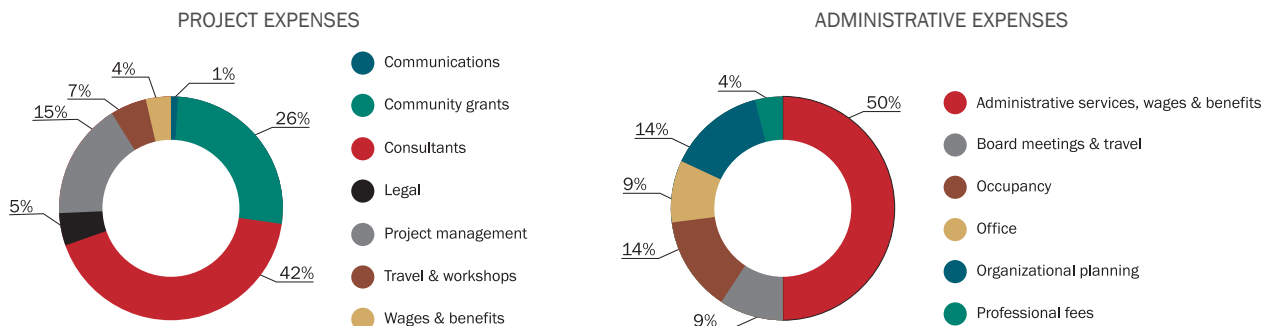
Great Bear Initiative Society Statement of Financial Position

March 31	2020	2019
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 1,969,614	\$ 2,697,512
Term deposits	4,144,355	4,819,809
Grants and other receivables	4,075,706	424,957
Prepays	32,683	53,581
	10,222,358	7,995,859
Property and equipment	83,407	17,810
	\$ 10,305,765	\$ 8,013,669
Liabilities and Deferred Contributions		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,754,233	\$ 441,710
Deferred lease inducements	39,428	-
	1,793,661	441,710
Deferred contributions		
Expenses of future periods	8,428,697	7,554,149
Unamortized property and equipment	83,407	17,810
	8,512,104	7,571,959
	\$ 10,305,765	\$ 8,013,669
Commitments		
Contingencies		

Great Bear Initiative Society Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31	2020	2019
Grants and contributions	\$ 10,598,498	\$ 8,619,036
Projects		
Communications	93,045	43,246
Community sub-grants and distributions	2,489,840	2,788,314
Consultants	4,013,831	2,940,670
Legal	435,703	75,351
Project management	1,432,448	811,733
Research and development	26,738	40,052
Supplies	19,954	70,047
Travel and workshops	631,704	436,335
Wages and benefits	349,773	424,980
	9,493,036	7,630,728
General and administrative		
Administrative services, wages, and benefits	611,471	439,369
Board meetings and travel	111,039	202,085
Insurance	7,215	6,629
Occupancy	167,466	153,131
Office	105,536	117,959
Organizational planning	173,116	84,856
Professional fees	35,169	72,455
Amortization of property and equipment	14,068	10,318
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(14,068)	(10,318)
	1,211,012	1,076,484
Deficiency of revenue over expenditures before interest income	(105,550)	(88,176)
Interest income	105,550	88,176
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ -	\$ -

Remunerations



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge and honour our hereditary leaders, political leaders, Elders and community members who guide our work. They remind us that our collective responsibility is to ensure our lands and waters are managed sustainably, with future generations in mind.

CFN-GBI would also like to thank our partners who support our work:

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

The Nature Conservancy

Nature United

Tides Canada

Wilburforce Foundation

Coast Funds

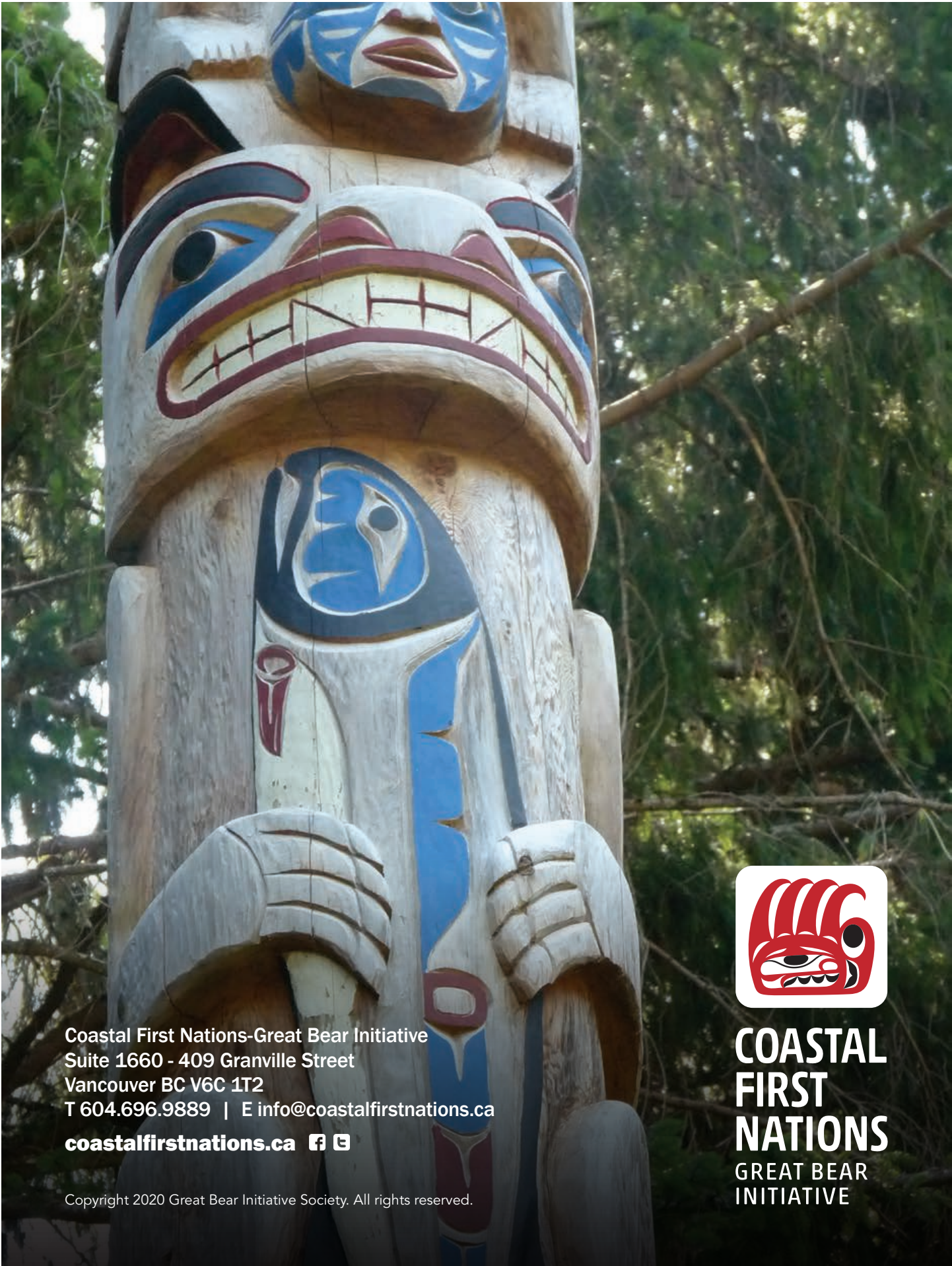
Government of British Columbia

Government of Canada

BC Hydro







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