

**GRANT APPLICATION**

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name of Organization	British Columbia Conservation Foundation - WildSafeBC Cowi
Address of Organization	1B - 1445 McGill Road, Kamloops, BC, V2C 6K7
Full Mailing Address	1B - 1445 McGill Road, Kamloops, BC, V2C 6K7
Telephone Number & Email	250-828-2551 ext 108, tagarwal@bccf.com
Contact Person/Title	Tarun Agarwal / Administrative Coordinator

**Primary purpose of organization:** To provide education and outreach regarding human-wildlife conflict prevention to keep wildlife wild and communities safe.

**Category under which greatest portion of services fall:**

Social Service  Sports  Cultural  Economic Development  Other Environmental

**Services available to all members of community:**  Yes  No

If *no*, please list criteria for receiving your service: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Number of people that used your service within the Municipality last year:** 2,723 contacts made in 2024

**Approximate number of your clients that reside in North Cowichan:** 1200

*(Please note that North Cowichan includes the communities of Chemainus, Crofton, Maple Bay, and the Duncan area north of the Cowichan River, and outside the one square mile Duncan core.)*

**Amount of grant requested:** \$4,000

**Describe how the grant will be used:** *(e.g. special projects, operations, maintenance, etc.)*

The grant will be used to deliver the WildSafeBC Program in the Cowichan Valley through the actions of our Community Coordinator. The WildSafeBC Community Coordinator for the Cowichan Valley educates residents and visitors about wildlife safety and preventing human-wildlife conflict through awareness and attractant management. This education effort is delivered via door to door educational campaigns, garbage tagging, performing community presentations, attending events and markets, leading the WildSafe Ranger Program classroom program, answering public and media inquiries, and continued work with businesses to review their commitment as well as bringing others on board with the WildSafeBC business pledge in an effort to keep the entire community safe. The program utilizes a diverse range of educational activities to keep both residents and visitors engaged and informed. Additional activities conducted include putting up wildlife signage in high conflict areas, collaborations with the BC Conservation Officer Service, and Provincial wildlife biologists, and developing public outreach material specific to the area. Please see attached 2024 report.

In order to be considered for a Municipal grant, please ensure that you enclose the following: **most recent financial statement and the proposed operating budget.**

**Other Information:** Have you obtained a previous grant from the Municipality?  Yes  No

Have you applied to another local government for funding?  Yes  No

If yes, please list: GIA's in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

**Applicant's signature:** FIPPA s. 22(1) **Date:** October 15, 2025

**In order to be eligible for consideration for a 2026 grant-in-aid, this application and all requested supporting materials must be received no later than October 15th, 2025.**

**Please submit in person at 7030 Trans Canada Hwy or email to [finance@northcowichan.ca](mailto:finance@northcowichan.ca)**

**Print Form**

# WildSafeBC Annual Report 2023

## Cowichan Valley

Prepared by: Mariah Fay  
WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley Coordinator



## Executive Summary

In 2023, the WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley program entered its seventh year. This report describes the activities of WildSafeBC in the Cowichan Valley from May 15<sup>th</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley acknowledges that it operates on the unceded traditional territories of the Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, Lake Cowichan First Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Malahat First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, and Stz'uminus First Nation. The program covers the communities of Chemainus, Duncan, Cowichan Lake, Youbou, Cobble Hill, Malahat and Shawnigan Lake.

As a large geographical region (Figure 1), education through door-to-door activities, presentations, and information tables were focused on hotspot areas of bear conflict. Black bears attracted to garbage generated the highest number of calls to the BC Conservation Officer Service (COS) in the Cowichan Valley. The WildSafeBC Community Coordinator (WCC) performed outreach activities with the goal of preventing conflict with wildlife in the community. The 2023 activities included the WildafeBC Ranger Program, Bear Spray workshops, information booths at public events such as Canada Day, Malahat Day, and Youbou Regatta, going door-to-door with volunteers and Wildlife Safety Respond Officers and canvassing areas with wildlife activity with informative signs, posters and brochures. Specific deliverables for the 2023 season include:

- Over 500 elementary students learned about bear and cougar safety through 5 WildSafeBC Rangers Programs.
- 2 community presentations reaching over 120 people.
- 220 households reached through door-to-door activities with over 32 in-person conversations.
- 3 community events engaging 225 residents across the Cowichan Valley
- 18 Facebook posts on the WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley Facebook page, increasing the following by 75 followers to 852.
- 10 wildlife signs in the area and 13 posters placed in wildlife hotspots.
- 6 bins tagged over multiple bin tagging sessions.

WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley would not be possible without the support of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), Municipality of North Cowichan (MNC), Town of Lake Cowichan, Island Return-It, the Province of British Columbia, and British Columbia Conservation Foundation.

Looking towards 2024, the main goal is to educate the general public across the Cowichan Valley about wildlife safety and to change perception of what human-wildlife conflict is and how to minimize conflict. This education can be accomplished by reaching new people through the WildSafe Ranger Program, community events, online presentations, and door-to-door activities. Through education, collaboration and community solutions, we can keep wildlife wild and communities safe.



Figure 1. WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley program coverage area.

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## Highlights from the 2023 Season

### WildSafe Ranger Program

The WildSafe Ranger Program (WRP) introduces students to the concept of human-wildlife conflict and encourages them to take an active role in reducing human-wildlife conflict at home by educating them about identifying backyard wildlife attractants. WildSafeBC offers in-person (Figure 2) and online WRP presentations. There were four schools and the Cowichan Community Center that participated in in-person WRP through indoor and outdoor presentations. Approximately 500 students became WildSafe Rangers (Table 1) and received kits that included a WildSafe Ranger colouring book, pin, sticker, tattoo, and card.



Figure 2. WildSafeBC WildSafe Ranger Program presentation set up for 2023.

Table 1. Schools and community groups that received the WildSafe Ranger Program in 2023.

School/Group	Grade	No. of Classes	Students
Cowichan Community Center	K-3	1	21
St-John Academy at Camp Pringle	9,10	2	115
Evergreen Independent	K-7	4	72
Cowichan Lake Elementary	4-9	10	263
Ladysmith Primary School	K1,1	5	104
<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>575</b>

### Presentations to Community Groups

The WCC provided two presentations to community groups, reaching over 120 people. First, WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley was a guest speaker at the Duncan community center. A Bear Spray workshop and wildlife safety and awareness presentation was also conducted at the Cowichan River Bible Camp with approximately 100 students and 20 adults. Community group presentation should be a focus for future WildSafeBC goals, Community group presentations is a great way to reach out to the members of the community and educate valuable safety tips and

signs to look out for when out in the community for wildlife and ways to help avoid human and wildlife conflict.

## Display Booths

WildSafeBC hosted display booths (Figure) with information tables at 3 community events, reaching 345 people (Table 2). Display booths features educational and interactive learning materials for children and adults to teach the public about human-wildlife conflict prevention (Figure).



Figure 3. WildSafeBC provided public engagement services at several events throughout CVRD in 2023

Table 2. WildSafeBC information booths in the Cowichan Valley in 2022.

Events	Date	Visits
Chemainus Canada Day	July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	150
Youbou Regatta	August 12, 2023	120
Malahat Day	August 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	75
<b>Total</b>		<b>345</b>



Figure 4. Comparing hands to a black bear paw at the WildSafeBC display booth

## Door-to-Door Education and Bin Tagging

Door-to-door education in high-risk neighborhoods where bears are already habituated is an excellent method of reaching affected households and changing resident's behaviors.

When residents were away from home, the WCC, Wildlife Response Safety Officers (WRSO) and a volunteer dropped an information package including brochures (black bears, cougar, deer) and a letter identifying attractants and potential fines. During the fall season, the WCC worked alongside the COS in the Cowichan area to identify and canvass areas. The WCC also worked closely with the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service (COS) and WRSOs to identify high priority areas for canvassing, including areas with significant reports of black bear activity.

Through door-to-door education, the WCC reached over 200 households, including 32 in-person conversations and over 220 information packages delivered to homes (Table 3).

Table 3. Door-to-door education delivered in different high priority areas in the Cowichan Valley in 2023.

Community	Brochures	Door Hanger	In-person Conversations	Households Visited
Lake Cowichan	40	37	5	37
South Shawnigan Lake	56	56	11	56
North Shawnigan Lake	74	74	3	74
Cobble Hill	30	30	10	30
Crofton/Chemainus	20	20	3	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>217</b>

Bin tagging consists of placing a highly visible and removable warning sticker on top of solid waste containers set curbside the day before collection (Figure 5). The WCC combined bin tagging with door-to-door education with assistance from local WRSO. During 6 the door to door outings, a total of 8 bins were tagged throughout the CVRD. Areas that were canvassed more than once found no repeat bins tagged; However, the WCC observed some residents do not properly store

their garbage and compost bins in a secure area between collection days, which remains an ongoing issue.



Figure 5. Bins placed at the curb the night before collection received a tag, Cowichan Valley, 2023.

## Wildlife in Area Signage

Wildlife in Area signs (Figure 6) are placed in areas of reported wildlife activity or in wildlife activity hotspots. This season, 10 signs were placed throughout the Cowichan Valley with most relating to black bear activity. The WCC also strategically placed 13 educational posters to inform people of different local wildlife attractants across the Cowichan Valley.



Figure 6. A WildSafeBC "bear in area" sign in popular hiking trail in Cobble Hill area

## Social Media and Press

The WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley page grew in 2023 from 852 to 873 page followers. A total of 18 educational Facebook posts were shared on the page. Facebook posts educated the public

about a number of topics, including BC Goes Wild, wildlife collision presentations, and wildlife safety tips.

## Special Initiatives

In September, WildSafeBC celebrates its annual BC Goes Wild event throughout the province. The timing coincides with the weeks of highest human-bear conflicts in BC. The WCC planned to celebrate BC Goes Wild with a bear spray demonstration due to high bear activity in the Cowichan Valley community, but had to cancel due to scheduling and lack of interest from the community. The WCC did promote WildSafeBC's annual photo contest as part of BC Goes Wild on social media.

## Collaborations

WildSafeBC is grateful for all the help and support it has received from the funding partners and the organizations that have collaborated to address human-wildlife conflicts this season. This season, the WCC worked closely with WRSOs and the COS. Having communication with WRSOs and the COS has been a great help in identifying specific areas with wildlife and human conflicts and prioritizing areas within the community to canvas for educational efforts. The WCC was also invited to observe the COS and WRSOs transporting two black bears from Duncan to North Island Wildlife Recovery Center in November 2023 (Figure 7).



**Figure 7. The British Columbia Conservation Officer Service (COS) and Wildlife Response Safety Officers (WRSOs) transporting two black bears from Duncan to North Island Wildlife Recovery Center, November 2023**

## Bare Campsite Program

Through the Bare Campsite Program, WildSafeBC provides clear guidelines and resources to assist campgrounds operators in maintaining a safe campsite for both people and wildlife. No

campsites joined the program in 2023, but the WCC provided education about the program to 10 people during the 2023 season.

## Indigenous Engagement

WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley the following activities to increase Indigenous awareness and engagements:

- Malahat Day: WildSafeBC had the privilege of being invited to participate in setting up a display booth for Malahat First Nations Day.
- Boidiverse BC: Natural History: Bridging, Braiding and Weaving; Indigenous Science & Western Approaches lecture hosted by Royal BC Museum with guest speakers including Snuneymuxw Elder Geraldine Manson, Museum Curator of Entomology Joel Gibson and Collection Manager of Invertebrates Hugh MacIntosh.
- Indigenous Awareness Training Completed.

## Challenges and Opportunities

The WildSafeBC program is continually evolving and finding new ways to educate the public. Household waste continues to be the largest source of attractants in the Cowichan Valley reported to the COS. The region covered by the WCC has five systems and schedules of waste removal, with all but one of these regions serviced by municipal collection. Areas that have private waste collection (i.e., Mill Bay, Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill) faced challenges with inconsistent pick-up times, which led to bin tagging efforts being inconsistent. Door-to-door education in combination with bin tagging was used to reach these areas the most effectively. New areas were covered when canvassing in 2023 by leaving information packages and also engaging residents in conversation.

Another challenge to waste collection is early placement of bins and proper storage of the bins between collection days. Areas serviced by the CVRD are under the regional bylaw to store waste in a wild-safe manner and to place on the curb after 5am on collection morning. In past years, bin tagging has been an excellent way to educate residents about early curbside placement, however municipal bylaws with enforcement would also go a long way to address this issue. This season, door-to-door education was performed in high conflict areas identified by the COS and WRSOs. To address the issue of waste storage and removal in the community, the following WildSafeBC initiatives should continue in 2024:

- Continue education campaign focusing on the wildlife conflict prevention and solutions through WildSafe Rangers, social media, news articles, and presentations.
- Increase presence at community events and information tables in popular spots around the valley.
- Increased door-to-door and bin tagging campaigns in hotspots.

The WCC also faced challenged with the Business Pledge Program. Reaching out to local businesses and taking the Business Pledge Program proved to be a challenge via email with

limited responses. The WCC recommends reaching out to local businesses for our Business Pledge Program earlier in the season and in person instead of via email.

Another challenge in the Cowichan Valley is many wildlife conflicts are underreported to the COS in the Cowichan Valley. After monitoring social media, the WCC has determined many people post about wildlife conflict and are reluctant to report. Continued education about when and why to phone the COS, renewed door-to door canvassing and expanding social media presence will change beliefs about reporting wildlife conflict.

## Acknowledgements

On behalf of the WildSafeBC program, the WCC would like to thank the Cowichan Valley Regional District, the Municipality of North Cowichan, the Town of Lake Cowichan, Island Return-It, the Province of BC, and the British Columbia Conservation Foundation for sponsoring WildSafeBC in the Cowichan Valley.

The WCC also appreciates the assistance of Sgt. Scott Norris, Sgt. Stuart Bates, Officer Mark Kissinger, and Officer Robin Sano from the BC Conservation Officer Service, Ilse Saraday, from the CVRD, Shawn Chadburn from the MNC. Lastly, thank you to all the residents who made an effort this season to remove wildlife attractants from their properties and learn more about our local wildlife. Let's continue to keep wildlife wild and our communities safe!

# COWICHAN VALLEY ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Prepared By :

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*Keeping Wildlife Wild and  
Communities Safe*



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## Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley program for the 2024 season between April 23rd, 2024 and November 30th, 2024. The main goal of the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator is to assist communities in preventing human-wildlife conflicts through educational programs, collaboration, and community solutions. The following report summarizes key program deliverables over the course of the 2024 season, and will help shape the delivery of the program for the 2025 based on coordinator, community, and sponsor needs.

## Program Coverage Area

The WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley program covers approximately 3473 square kilometers. WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley acknowledges that it operates on the unceded traditional territories of the Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, Lake Cowichan First Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Malahat First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, and Stz'uminus First Nation. The program covers the communities of Chemainus, Duncan, Cowichan Lake, Youbou, Cobble Hill, Malahat and Shawnigan Lake.



## 2024 Highlights

**934**

Students Educated

**1789**

Community Events + Trailhead Booth

**673**

Households through Door-to-Door

**669**

Bins Tagged

**19.4k**

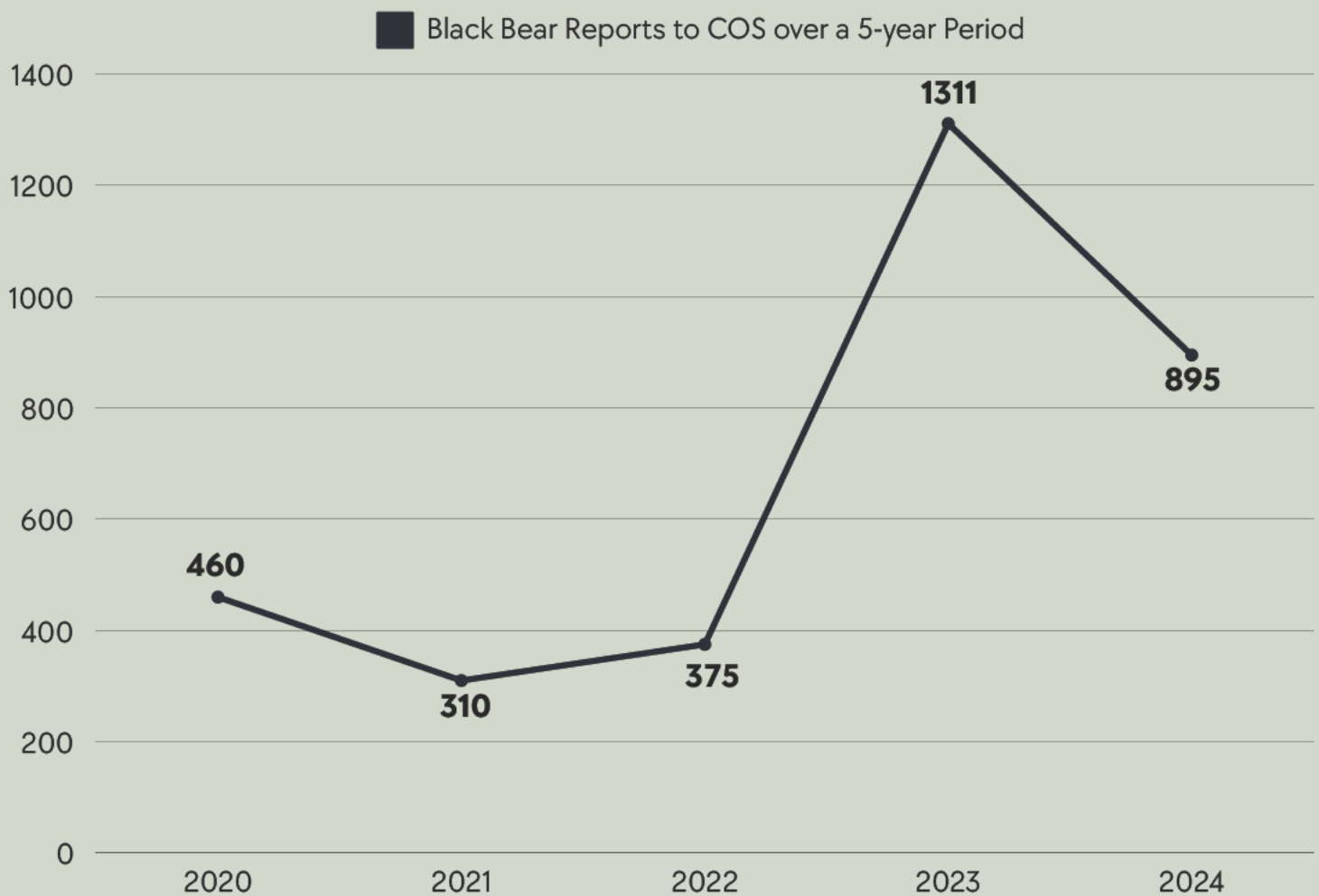
Facebook Users Reached

# Conservation Officer Service Reports

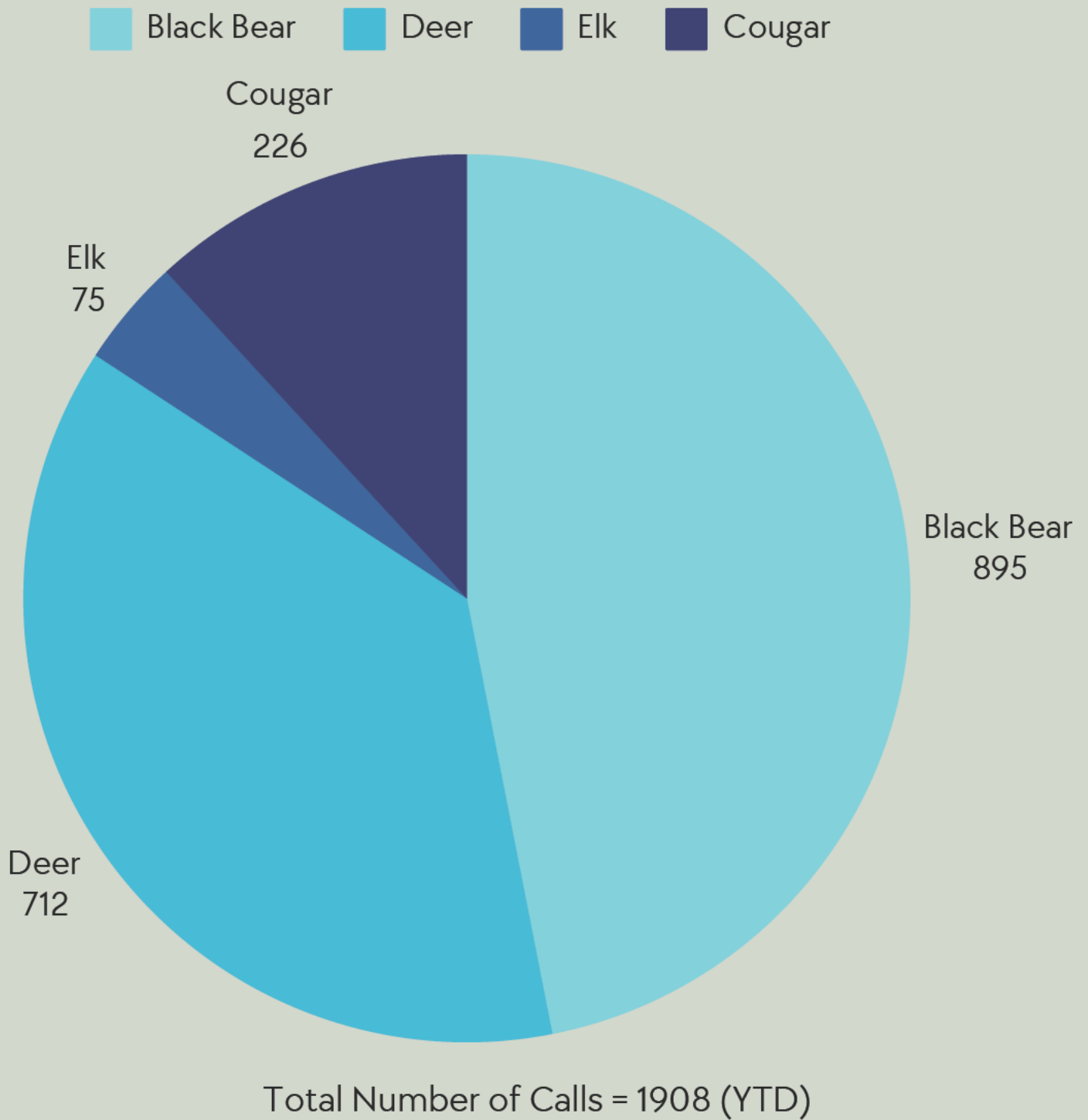
From January 1 to November 30, a total of **1908** wildlife reports have been made to the COS through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line (1-877-952-7277) or online form (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>).

Similar to previous years, black bears were the species most often reported to the COS in 2024, followed by Deer, Cougar and Elk. From January 1st, 2024 to November 30th, 2024, there were **895** black bear reports, which is lower by 416 than the number of reports made in 2023, which was 1311.

This year a lot of impetus was placed early in the season i.e in the months of May, June and July to spread education and awareness in the community through multiple channels of engagement.



# Conservation Officer Service Reports



# WildSafe Ranger Program

The WildSafe Ranger Program introduces students to the concept of human-wildlife conflict and encourages them to take an active role in reducing human-wildlife conflict at home by helping their families identify backyard wildlife attractants. In addition, students learn how to have a safe and respectful relationship with wildlife. The program complements the BC Science K-9 Curriculum. The WildSafe Cowichan Valley coordinator delivered 29 WRP presentations with 6 elementary schools as well as 1 Camp and 1 Open school. A total of **934** children throughout Cowichan Valley became WildSafe Rangers and received a WildSafe Ranger kit to take away with them.

School/Group (Presentations)	Grade	# Reached	Date
Chemanius Elementary School (6)	1-7	227	June 10
George Bonner Elementary School (5)	K-7	234	June 11 and June 14
Queen Margret School (3)	3-7	75	June 13
VIRL Cowichan	Mixed	31	July 4
Evergreen Independent School (3)	K-7	97	Sept 19
Bench Elementary School (1)	1	23	Oct 30
Girls Guide Group -Camp Creina (3)	Mixed	89	Nov 2
Ladysmith Primary School (4)	K-7	108	Nov 6
Cowichan Valley Open Learning - The Grove (4)	K-7	50	Nov 12 & 13

# Community Groups

The WCC gave 6 in-person presentations to **115** people across various community groups in the region. These presentations were focused on local Wildlife Awareness and Safety combined with Bear Spray use and safety. Two of these presentations were given to the Malahat Nation as well as one presentation was given to 21 summer staff / instructors hired by CVRD Parks and Recreation department who further helped in spreading awareness to many more children and adults in the Cowichan Valley in the season of 2024.

Community Group	Attendees	Date
Kerry Park Recreation Center - Mill Bay	23	June 25
Malahat Nation Presentation	34	July 18 and August 19
VIRL Cowichan and South Cowichan	58	July 4, 27, August 6 & 13



## Display Booths - Event and Trailhead

Display booths allow the public to view and interact with our educational materials, learn about wildlife safety, discuss wildlife attractant management, and network our program offerings to various groups of residents. In 2024, more than **1464** people visited the WildSafeBC display booth at **9** community events across the community.

There were various amazing interactions conducted with the community members where the significance of education in reducing human-wildlife conflicts was at the core. Many kids and adults alike were really appreciative of the set-up including bear skull and hide.

Community Event	Attendees	Date
Duncan Farmer's Market	104	May 25
Honeymoon Bay Farmer's Market	74	June 9
Chemanius Canada Day Event	789	July 1
Weir and river Stewardship - Lake Cowichan	27	July 20
Honeymoon Bay Day	78	July 20
VIRL Chemainus Booth & Raptors Event	35 & 46	July 10 & July 23
Youbou Regatta	176	August 10
Cowichan Tribes (Rivers Day Event)	135	Sept 22

## Display Booths - Event and Trailhead

This year the WCC also put up display booths at various trailheads to connect with the public to spread awareness and education about wildlife safety as well as discuss wildlife attractant management. In 2024, more than **325** people visited the WildSafeBC display booth at **9** trailheads across the community.

Community Event / Trailhead Booth	Attendees	Date
Diana, Princess of Wales, Wilderness Park	15	May 27
Cowichan Valley Trailhead - Chemanius	23	June 11
Cowichan Valley Trailhead - Duncan	25	July 4
Mt. Tzhouhalem (Kaspa Rd)	65	July 6
Transfers Beach Booth	57	July 14
Osborne Bay/ Maple Mountain Trailhead	33	July 27
Holland Creek Trailhead	36	August 3
S'amunu Marsh Conservation Area	28	August 6
Chemanius Lake Park Trailhead	20	August 17
CVT - Trans Canada Trail - Western Terminus	23	Nov 4

## Bin Tagging and Door-to-Door

Garbage bin tagging consists of placing a highly visible and removable warning sticker on top of curbside containers the evening before collection day. During **15** outings, a total of **669** bins were tagged across various garbage collection zones across all major hotspots from Ladysmith to Mill Bay / Shawnigan Lake as well as Maple Bay, Duncan to Lake Cowichan and Youbou. Furthermore, WCC collaborated with Lake Cowichan Bear Aware Group (Volunteer Group) where **100+** bins were tagged and WCC supported the efforts across Lake Cowichan neighbourhoods which had a lot of Wildlife Conflicts.

During the Door-to-door education outreach efforts **673** door hangers were placed throughout the community. Moreover, the WildSafeBC Coordinator also engaged with **77** residents in conversations about wildlife awareness and safety in those neighbourhoods and discussed attractant management strategies to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

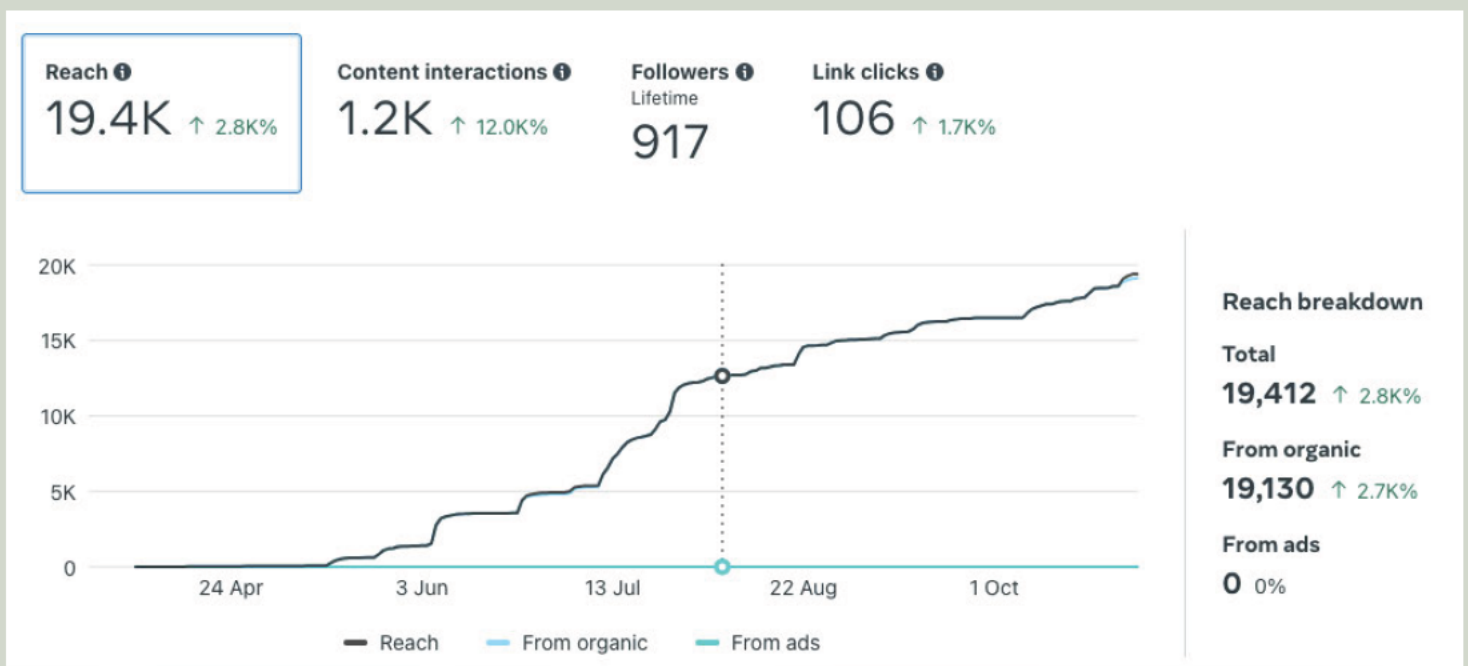


## Social Media and Press

The WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley's Facebook page came out of hibernation on April 24, 2024 with an introductory post. Over the season, the page has had **65** new Facebook followers, from 852 followers in November 2023 to **917** followers in November 2024. As well, the page has received **804** Facebook Page likes during this same time period.

Throughout the season, the WildSafeBC coordinator engaged with posts relating to wildlife activity and provided education and information to residents in community Facebook Page groups. This approach was an effective method to bring people in to explore our page and our content while continuing to provide engaging education. Many Facebook posts created were also shared by Facebook users into other groups or on their own personal timeline, which helped promote the WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley's Facebook page.

In total, **69** Facebook posts were created that reached **19.4K** people from April 24, 2024 to November 30th. Many posts reached over **1.2K** Facebook users, with the most impactful post created was Oct 20, 2024 reaching approximately **4,597** people and was shared **32** times.



## Business Pledge

The WildSafe Business Pledge Program has been developed to encourage businesses to set good examples in their community on how to safely co-exist with wildlife. To take the pledge, a business is required to follow best practices in solid waste management, provide adequate training to staff and support WildSafeBC's safety and conflict reduction information. In return, WildSafeBC will provide ongoing support to the business in the form of staff training, WildSafeBC materials (subject to budget constraints) and a WildSafeBC Business Pledge poster.

This year the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator tried to promote the WildSafeBC Business Pledge to many business(s) in the region as per the table. However, despite the initial interest shown by various organizations they didn't sign the pledge.

Business Name	Locality
Farmship Co-op Growers	Ladysmith
Thai Pinto Restaurant	Chemainus
Duncan Farmer's Market	Duncan
Van Isle Cowichan RV Park & Camping	Duncan
reFresh Cowichan	Duncan
Country Grocer	Lake Cowichan
Invitation Indian Restaurant	Chemainus

# Bare Campsite Program

Through the WildSafeBC Bare Campsite Program, WildSafeBC is able to provide clear guidelines and resources to assist campground operators in maintaining a safe campsite for both people and wildlife.

The WildSafeBC Coordinator visited **4 camping spots** and connected with their employees and representatives to have discussion and plan for Wildlife - Human Conflicts and Attractant Management strategies. During the visit **63** campsites were visited and some discussions took place with the campers about campsite management. A lot of Bare Camping materials was shared with those campsites as an education tool for future campers at these locations.

Further efforts were made to jointly work with BC Parks at Cowichan River and Bamberton Provincial Park to have an educational booth of WildSafeBC. However, nothing has percolated as of now and would now be something to work in future.

Campsites Approached / Visited	Locality
Chemainus River Campground	Chemainus
Country Maple RV Resort	Chemainus
Van Isle Cowichan RV Park & Camping	Duncan
Cowichan River Campground	Duncan

## Indigenous Awareness and Engagement

During the 2024 season, the WCC tried to collaborate with various First Nations such as Cowichan Tribes, Malahat First Nation and Stz'umius First Nation regarding spreading awareness and education about human-wildlife conflict and WildSafe BC messaging. This resulted in 2 community presentations at Malahat First Nation followed by discussions with elders and community members on attractant management. Furthermore, a lot of resources were shared with all the members and attendees. Similarly, with Cowichan Tribes, the WCC had a joint meeting with COS and Cowichan Tribes members and they were also given a lot of materials and resources to be shared among the community. On September 22, 2024, Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable hosted a celebration in honour of Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul (Cowichan River Day) and WildSafeBC was invited to attend the event and set up an information booth for the community members. The event had a diverse range of community members who attended and many connections were fostered. Also, the WCC did complete the Indigenous corporate training as a part of learning and development. This training provided a lot of important learnings and understanding to support the Truth and Reconciliation efforts and working with First Nations.



Photo by Barry Hetschko

*Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul (Cowichan River Day)*

## BC Goes Wild

Throughout September when human-bear conflicts are at their highest in BC, WildSafeBC celebrates its annual BC Goes Wild campaign to acknowledge the spectacular diversity of wildlife in the Province. This year WildSafe celebrated it's **9th Annual BC Goes Wild Event**.

For BC Goes Wild, many "BC is Wildlife Country" posters and many wildlife signs were placed strategically all around key hotspots such as Transfers Beach, Holland Creek Trailhead, Information Center - Duncan, Ladysmith, Chemainus, Mill Bay and Lake Cowichan, Lady Diana Wilderness Park, Downtown Chemainus, VIRL - Cowichan, Maple Mountain Trailhead, Maple Bay Intersection, Duncan Downtown, Mill Bay Intersection, Cowichan Valley Trail, Camp Creina, Thrifty Foods, Country Grocer and many other key significant areas so that people can be aware of the wildlife in the area.

Also, on social media, many posts and content was posted around the BC Goes Wild Event during the entire month of September 2024 to spread awareness and education across the community members.



## Challenges and Future Goals

Waste continues to be the largest source of attractants in the Cowichan Valley. The region covered by the WCC is quite a large geographical area and has five waste removal systems, each with separate schedules of removal. Another challenge to waste collection is early placement of bins. An effective solution to this has been Bin-Tagging and educating residents through door-to-door engagement in 2024. Furthermore, fruit trees, bird feeders, and urban livestock continue to be a source of human-wildlife conflict in Cowichan Valley. While some residents are familiar with conflict and how to prevent it, others are less aware of the risks of human-wildlife conflict. Continued outreach is needed to provide people with knowledge and skills on how to manage wildlife attractants and how to stay safe when in wildlife country.

Another issue relevant in Cowichan Valley is Elk populations in Lake Cowichan, Youbou and neighbouring areas. Currently, WildSafeBC has no pamphlets and information on Elk Safety, which would be an excellent addition to the information booklets in these areas.

Therefore, on the basis of above, the WildSafe Cowichan Valley Coordinator recommends the following activities for 2025:

- Develop shared strategies and outcomes through the regional Bear Working Group
- Engaging more volunteering opportunities with high school students to spread the awareness and education throughout the community
- Deliver more workshops on bear spray, electric fencing, and tracking wildlife
- Education campaign focusing on the hazards of not managing attractants and solutions for residents through WildSafe Ranger programming, social media, news articles, and presentations
- Increase presence at community events and information tables in popular spots around the valley
- Increase door-to-door canvassing and garbage tagging campaigns in hotspots
- Continue to promote Bare Camping and Business Pledges to build the community awareness around WildSafeBC messaging
- Develop materials relevant to the community and share the same with members

## Acknowledgements

The WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley Community Coordinator would like to thank the Cowichan Valley Regional District, Municipality of North Cowichan, Town of Lake Cowichan and Town of Ladysmith, the Province of British Columbia, and the BC Conservation Foundation for funding the WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley project.

Furthermore, Thank you to the Conservation Officer Service for their direction and support of the program, including Sgt. Scott Norris, Mark Kissinger and Archer Peters (WSRO). Lastly, the WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley Coordinator would like to send an enormous thank you to all the British Columbia Conservation Foundation staff and fellow provincial WildSafeBC Community Coordinators for their encouragement and support. This program would not be able to succeed without the collaboration of all those mentioned.

*Thank You!*



***Keeping Wildlife Wild and  
Communities Safe***

## Projected Budget 2026

April 2026 - November 2026

### WildSafeBC Cowichan Valley

#### BC Conservation Foundation WildSafeBC Program

#### REVENUES

Cowichan Valley Regional District	\$4,000.00 unconfirmed
Municipality of North Cowichan	\$4,000.00 unconfirmed
City of Duncan	\$6,000.00 unconfirmed
BC Conservation Foundation (in-kind support)	\$1,000.00 confirmed
Province of BC Grant Agreement	\$5,500.00 confirmed
TOTAL	<u>\$20,500.00</u>

#### EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 14,487.50
Electronic Allowance	\$ 100.00
Home office allowance	\$ 150.00
Shipping/ materials	\$ 195.00
WildSafe Ranger Items	\$ 400.00
Computer Costs	\$ 200.00
Specialized project costs	\$ 143.59
Communications	\$ 150.00
Mileage and travel costs	\$ 2,000.00
BC Conservation Foundation Admin Fees (15%)	\$ 2,673.91
TOTAL	<u>\$ 20,500.00</u>

**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Members of British Columbia Conservation Foundation

*Report on the Financial Statements*

*Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of British Columbia Conservation Foundation (the "organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

*Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

*Other Matter*

The financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2024 are unaudited.

*Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

(continues)

**Vancouver**

1500 - 1140 West Pender St.  
Vancouver, BC V6E 4G1  
604.687.4747

**Surrey**

200 - 1688 152 St.  
Surrey, BC V4A 4N2  
604.531.1154

**Tri-Cities**

700 - 2755 Lougheed Hwy  
Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 5Y9  
604.941.8266

**Victoria**

320 - 730 View St.  
Victoria, BC V8W 3Y7  
250.800.4694

*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements*

As required by the Societies Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting the financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit Organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DMCL', is positioned above the firm's name.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**March 31, 2025**

	2025	2024 <i>(Unaudited)</i>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents <i>(Note 4)</i>	\$ 622,348	\$ 16,100
Restricted cash and cash equivalents <i>(Note 4)</i>	608,623	465,870
Short term investments <i>(Note 5)</i>	208,399	-
Accounts receivable	3,099,644	3,193,032
Prepaid expenses	28,550	24,434
	<u>4,567,564</u>	3,699,436
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS <i>(Note 5)</i>	67,233	-
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT <i>(Note 6)</i>	<u>354,061</u>	413,269
	<u>\$ 4,988,858</u>	<u>\$ 4,112,705</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,532,044	\$ 1,764,394
Employee deductions payable	77,887	72,854
Deferred contributions <i>(Note 7)</i>	<u>2,230,273</u>	<u>1,091,155</u>
	<u>3,840,204</u>	2,928,403
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted reserves	185,971	305,163
Internally restricted reserves <i>(Note 11)</i>	608,624	465,870
Investment in capital assets	<u>354,059</u>	<u>413,269</u>
	<u>1,148,654</u>	1,184,302
	<u>\$ 4,988,858</u>	<u>\$ 4,112,705</u>
LEASE COMMITMENTS <i>(Note 9)</i>		

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

FIPPA s. 22(1)

Director

FIPPA s. 22(1)

Director

See notes to financial statements

**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**

	2025	2024 <i>(Unaudited)</i>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Ministry of Environment Recoverable Programs	\$ 5,680,434	\$ 6,496,006
Federal	1,903,324	1,249,891
Grants/Donations	897,088	210,408
Provincial Ministries	580,355	669,102
Municipalities	539,907	414,858
Provincial Other	444,014	529,031
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	407,076	335,564
Other	380,976	253,358
Miscellaneous projects	174,630	170,040
Gaming	59,331	55,000
Living Rivers	39,477	17,115
WildSafe BC	38,830	31,022
Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership	-	131,827
	<u>11,145,442</u>	<u>10,563,222</u>
<b>COST OF SALES</b>		
Projects <i>(Schedule 1)</i>	9,439,257	9,068,026
Administration <i>(Schedule 1)</i>	1,628,328	1,426,220
Amortization	91,259	84,415
	<u>11,158,844</u>	<u>10,578,661</u>
<b>DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ (13,402)</u>	<u>\$ (15,439)</u>

See notes to financial statements

**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
**Year ended March 31, 2025**

	INTERNALLY RESTRICTED RESERVES										Total 2024 (Unaudited)
	Unrestricted	Land for Wildlife Fund	Working Capital	John B Holdstock Scholarship Award	Conservation Community Grants Fund	General Operations Reserve	Computer Contingency Reserve	Invested in Capital Assets	Total 2025		
<b>BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 305,163	\$ 27,193	\$ 300,000	\$ 81,724	\$ 386	\$ 967	\$ 55,600	\$ 413,269	\$ 1,184,302	\$ 1,242,287	
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	77,857	-	-	-	-	-	-	(91,259)	(13,402)	(15,439)	
Appropriation to internally restricted reserves (Note 11)	(165,000)	50,000	-	-	55,000	40,000	20,000	-	-	(6,348)	
Donations received from external donors (Note 11)	-	1,052	-	2,702	-	-	-	-	3,754	1,370	
Contributions to various organizations (Note 11)	-	-	-	(1,000)	(25,000)	-	-	-	(26,000)	(37,568)	
Investment in capital assets	(32,049)	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,049	-	-	
<b>BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 185,971	\$ 78,245	\$ 300,000	\$ 83,426	\$ 30,386	\$ 40,967	\$ 75,600	\$ 354,059	\$ 1,148,654	\$ 1,184,302	

See notes to financial statements

**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**

	2025	2024 <i>(Unaudited)</i>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Deficiency of revenues over administrative expenses	\$ (13,402)	\$ (15,439)
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of property and equipment	91,259	84,415
	<b>77,857</b>	68,976
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	93,388	(214,350)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(232,352)	127,591
Deferred contributions	1,139,118	(188,158)
Prepaid expenses	(4,116)	10,773
Employee deductions payable	5,033	9,208
	<b>1,001,071</b>	(254,936)
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	<b>1,078,928</b>	(185,960)
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(32,049)	(108,502)
Purchase of term deposits	(275,632)	-
Contributions by restricted funds	(26,000)	(53,840)
Donations from external donors	3,754	(1,370)
Cash flow used by investing activities	<b>(329,927)</b>	(163,712)
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>749,001</b>	(349,672)
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	<b>481,970</b>	831,642
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,230,971</b>	\$ 481,970
<b>CASH CONSISTS OF:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 622,348	\$ 16,100
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	<b>608,623</b>	465,870
	<b>\$ 1,230,971</b>	\$ 481,970

See notes to financial statements

**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**

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1. INCORPORATION, PURPOSE AND NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Incorporation

The British Columbia Conservation Foundation (the "Foundation") was incorporated May 6th, 1969 under the Societies Act (British Columbia). The Foundation is a non-profit registered charity as defined in Section 149 of the Income Tax Act.

Purpose

The Foundation's purpose is to promote and assist in the conservation of the fish and wildlife resource of the Province of British Columbia through the protection, acquisition or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and to provide for such other charitable purposes as may in the discretion of the directors appear to contribute to the betterment of the fish and wildlife resources of the Province of British Columbia.

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2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

(b) Revenue recognition

The Foundation follows the deferral method of accounting for contracts from government and other funding organizations. Funds for projects and programs received in advance are deferred and recognized as revenue as the related expenditures are incurred. Other contributions are recorded when receivable and collection is reasonably certain. Where contributions are received in excess of actual expenditures incurred, these excess funds are repaid upon completion of the contract.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received.

(c) Reserves

The Unrestricted Reserve accounts for contributions received and expenses incurred to carry out the general objectives of the Foundation. The Capital Asset Reserve accounts for the Foundation's property and equipment, the amortization thereon, and any related liabilities. The Internally Restricted Reserves are maintained for various purposes (Note 11).

(d) Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

*(continues)*

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**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**

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2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

(e) Property and equipment

The Foundation capitalizes the costs of property and equipment purchased for its use. The Foundation also capitalizes the fair value of donated property where reasonably determinable; otherwise, donated property is recorded at nominal amounts. Such donations have been immaterial to date. Substantially all property and equipment of the Foundation have been purchased with the Foundation's general funds.

Amortization of property and equipment is provided on a straight-line basis over the assets' estimated useful lives, which range from three to seven years.

The Foundation also acquires property and equipment on behalf of funding organizations in connection with the management and administration of certain projects. All such costs are charged as direct project expenses as title to the assets remains with the project funding organization at all times. If, at the conclusion of a project or projects, the funding organization elects to donate the asset to the Foundation, it is recorded as a capital asset of the Foundation in accordance with the above-noted policy for donated property.

The carrying value of all categories of property and equipment is reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate the recoverable value may be less than the carrying amount. Recoverable value is based on estimates of undiscounted future net cash flows expected to be recovered from specific assets or groups of assets through use or future disposition.

Impairment charges are recorded in the reporting period in which determination of impairment is made by management.

(f) Contributed services

Directors and other volunteers contribute substantial amounts of time to assist the Foundation in the pursuit of its purpose. Due to the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in these financial statements.

(g) Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

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**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**

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3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Foundation's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, guaranteed investment certificates, accounts payable, accrued liabilities and deferred contributions. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Foundation is not exposed to significant interest, currency, liquidity or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The organization's main credit risks relate to its cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivables. The organization provides credit to its clients in the normal course of its operations. The Foundation mitigates its risk in relation to cash and cash equivalents by placing it with major Canadian financial institutions.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. To manage liquidity risk, the foundation keeps sufficient cash resource readily available to meet its obligations. The foundation has investments in guaranteed investment certificates that are easily sold and converted to cash.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The organization is exposed to interest rate risk on its fixed rate financial instruments. The fixed rate instruments subject the organization to a fair value risk.

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4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, balances with banks and investments in guaranteed investment certificates with maturities of less than 90 days from the date of the statement of financial position, less cheques issued and outstanding. Cash and cash equivalents included in the statement of cash flows comprise the following statement of financial position amounts:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Cash on hand and balances with the bank	\$ 891,390	\$ 256,443
Cheques issued and outstanding	(56,919)	(146,605)
Guaranteed investment certificates	<u>396,500</u>	<u>372,132</u>
	<u>\$ 1,230,971</u>	<u>\$ 481,970</u>

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**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**

5. INVESTMENTS

Investments consist of Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GIC). GICs with a maturity within a year from the date of the statement of financial position are presented as current assets. GICs with a maturity in excess of one year from the date of the statement of financial position have been classified as long term assets. The GICs are valued at cost plus accrued interest.

Included in short term investments is a redeemable GIC cashable in full on each anniversary date of the issue date that bears interest at 2.85% per annum, maturing on February 10, 2027.

Included in long term investments are non-redeemable GICs that bear interest from 2.56% to 2.95% per annum, maturing in 2030.

6. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	<b>2025 Net book value</b>	2024 Net book value
Land	\$ 140,220	\$ -	\$ 140,220	\$ 140,220
Buildings	266,086	129,720	<b>136,366</b>	149,399
Equipment	41,998	37,289	<b>4,709</b>	8,566
Equipment recoverable	164,089	121,019	<b>43,070</b>	61,056
Computer equipment	155,920	129,444	<b>26,476</b>	50,027
Furniture and fixtures	23,990	21,797	<b>2,193</b>	2,806
Leasehold improvements	5,527	4,500	<b>1,027</b>	1,195
	<b>\$ 797,830</b>	<b>\$ 443,769</b>	<b>\$ 354,061</b>	<b>\$ 413,269</b>

7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

	<b>2025</b>	2024
Columbia River Integrated Environment Management Program	<b>\$ 98,579</b>	\$ 95,988
Gaming	<b>42,669</b>	55,000
Ministry of Transportation	<b>40,000</b>	193,948
Various projects	<b>1,707,992</b>	471,419
WildSafeBC Communities	<b>341,033</b>	274,800
	<b>\$ 2,230,273</b>	<b>\$ 1,091,155</b>

Deferred contributions represents the unspent portion of funding programs. The deferred amounts will be held by the Foundation for future initiatives and will be recognized in revenue in the year which the expenditures are incurred. Upon completion of individual programs the Foundation is required to prepare a report for the grantor showing how the funds were actually spent.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**

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8. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No remuneration was paid to the voting members of the Foundation's Board of Directors during the year ended March 31, 2025.

During the year, the Foundation remunerated five employees (2024 - two) for the management of the Foundation in excess of \$75,000. The total amount paid to these employees for the year was \$463,047 (2024 - \$201,386).

During the year, the Foundation remunerated four (2024 - three) contractors for conservation and restoration projects in excess of \$75,000. The total paid to these contractors for the year was \$495,596 (2024 - \$313,541).

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9. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Foundation has entered into two operating leases for the head office and a regional office premises. The future minimum lease payments are as follows:

2026	\$	77,357
2027		50,958
		<u>128,315</u>
	\$	<u>128,315</u>

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10. MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

The organization has generated approximately 51% (2024 - 61%) of its funding from one contributor, and 17% (2024 - 12%) of its funding from another contributor. Should these funders substantially change their dealings with the Foundation, management is of the opinion that other funding could be obtained.

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**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**

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11. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED RESERVES

From time to time, the Directors of the Foundation appropriate funds from the Unrestricted Reserve to Internally Restricted Reserves as described below:

Land For Wildlife Fund Reserve

During 1997, the Directors of the Foundation established a Land for Wildlife Fund Reserve, with the purpose of purchasing land for conservation or to make contributions to other conservation organizations for the purchase of land. During the year, \$1,052 (2024 - \$1,370) of donations from external donors were received. During the year, the board of directors approved contributions for property purchase for a total of \$nil (2024 - \$nil) and the appropriation of \$50,000 (2024 - \$nil) into the funds. At year end, the balance of the Land for Wildlife Fund Reserve is \$78,245 (2024 - \$27,193).

Working Capital Deficiencies Reserve

The Foundation experiences working capital deficiencies from time to time due to certain project expenditures that are incurred before the related funding is received. In order to ensure that funds are available when these deficiencies occur, the Directors of the Foundation periodically make appropriations from the Unrestricted Reserve to the Working Capital Deficiencies Reserve. At year end, the balance of the Working Capital Deficiencies Reserve is \$300,000 (2024 - \$300,000).

John B Holdstock Scholarship Reserve

On April 13th 2011 the Directors of the Foundation established the John B Scholarship Reserve, and approved \$20,000 to be allocated to the reserve. During the year, \$2,702 (2024 - \$1,411) of interest earned was received in this reserve. During the year, the Directors approved scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 (2024 - \$1,000). At year end, the balance of the John B Holdstock Scholarship Reserve is \$83,426 (2024 - \$81,724).

Conservation Community Grants Fund Reserve

On April 28, 2009, the Directors of the Foundation established an Internally Restricted Reserve called the Conservation Community Grants Fund Reserve by way of an appropriation from the Unrestricted Reserve. During the year, the Directors approved appropriation of funds of \$55,000 (2024 - \$37,979) to the reserve and approved contributions to various organizations of \$25,000 (2024 - \$nil). At year end, the balance of the Conservation Community Grants Fund Reserve is \$30,386 (2024 - \$386).

General Operations Reserve

On March 31, 2014, the Directors of the Foundation established the General Operations Reserve by way of an appropriation of \$500,000 from the Unrestricted Reserve with the purpose of acquiring office space. Subsequent to the office acquisition, the remainder of the reserve is dedicated to future repairs and maintenance and upgrades of the acquired office space, including equipment and furniture. During the year, the directors approved an appropriation of \$40,000 (2024 - \$nil) in the fund. At year end, the balance in the General Operations Reserve is \$40,967 (2024 - \$967).

Computer Contingency Reserve

The Computer Contingency Reserve was funded by way of an appropriation from the General Operations Reserve for the Foundation's future computer upgrades. During the year, the directors approved appropriation of funds of \$20,000 (2024 - \$nil) to the reserve. At year end, the balance allocated to Computer Contingency Reserves is \$75,600 (2024 - \$55,600) .

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**BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION****Project and Administration Expenses****(Schedule 1)****Year Ended March 31, 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	2024
		<i>Unaudited</i>
<b>PROJECTS</b>		
Subcontractors	<b>\$ 4,115,794</b>	\$ 3,872,029
Wages and benefits	<b>3,971,840</b>	3,780,882
Equipment materials, supplies, and communications	<b>662,299</b>	719,479
Travel and accomodation	<b>579,944</b>	611,048
Miscellaneous	<b>57,368</b>	32,540
Goods and services tax	<b>34,312</b>	27,905
Training and safety	<b>17,700</b>	24,143
	<b>9,439,257</b>	9,068,026
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Wages and benefits	<b>1,236,438</b>	1,068,961
Office and rent	<b>148,127</b>	143,010
Computer maintenance and support	<b>62,573</b>	58,670
Sundry, insurance	<b>31,600</b>	38,830
Director's expense	<b>29,117</b>	14,766
Bad debts	<b>27,552</b>	-
Communications	<b>25,423</b>	24,217
Training	<b>20,663</b>	27,215
Advertising and promotion	<b>18,476</b>	20,699
Travel and accommodation	<b>16,448</b>	9,028
Professional fees	<b>6,584</b>	15,739
Interest and bank charges	<b>5,328</b>	5,085
	<b>1,628,329</b>	1,426,220
	<b>\$ (11,067,586)</b>	\$ (10,494,246)

See notes to financial statements