



photo: Simon Ryder-Burbidge



photo: TJ Maguire



photo: Jimmie Pederson



**Ecology Action Centre**

# Annual Report 2019/20

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

The challenges we are faced with at the intersection of climate change, social injustice, colonialism and ecological devastation are not new. They began long ago, propelled by their own momentum to collide in our current modern crises. Likewise, the struggle to build a brighter tomorrow for future generations of humans and non-human creatures alike also has a long fetch. Grassroots resistance and community resilience grow from deep roots. As an organization, Ecology Action Centre strives to build on the good work of those who came before us as we do our part in fighting for a better future.

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a dramatic year. With everything we've experienced in the past several months it can be easy to forget what a pivotal year 2019 was, both for Nova Scotia and the world at large. Youth-led climate strikes and record-breaking wildfires pushed climate change to

the forefront, the United Nations' Biodiversity Report raised the alarm on species depletion, and public support for ongoing Indigenous resistance to the destruction of land and water intensified. We began to see the whole world change.

This report covers EAC's activities in the fiscal year of 2019-2020 – essentially, the 12-months leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic in Nova Scotia. It was an incredible year for environmental action in the province and beyond, and we're excited to share our stories with you. There's lots to celebrate: the most ambitious greenhouse gas reduction commitment in Canada, increased access to active transportation, finally celebrating the closure of Boat Harbour as an effluent dumping ground, a new ban on industrial activities like oil and gas, bottom trawling and seabed mining in Canada's marine protected areas, and so much more!

None of our work would be possible without the help of our community. We are grateful to the many people and groups, locally, nationally and internationally, who are helping to deepen and broaden our work. We also want to offer many thanks to our amazing volunteers and members for their on-going support and always stepping up to help. And finally, we want to thank EAC staff for responding to every challenge in front of them with determination, dedication, and grace.

As we continue to move forward through 2020 and the uncharted waters ahead, we are committed to building on lessons learned and to keep working toward our vision of a just, sustainable future for all – a future that we know is possible.

In gratitude and solidarity,  
**EAC's board and staff directors**

“Every wave has a long fetch.”

- **Dr. George Lipsitz**  
*Professor of Black Studies and Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara*

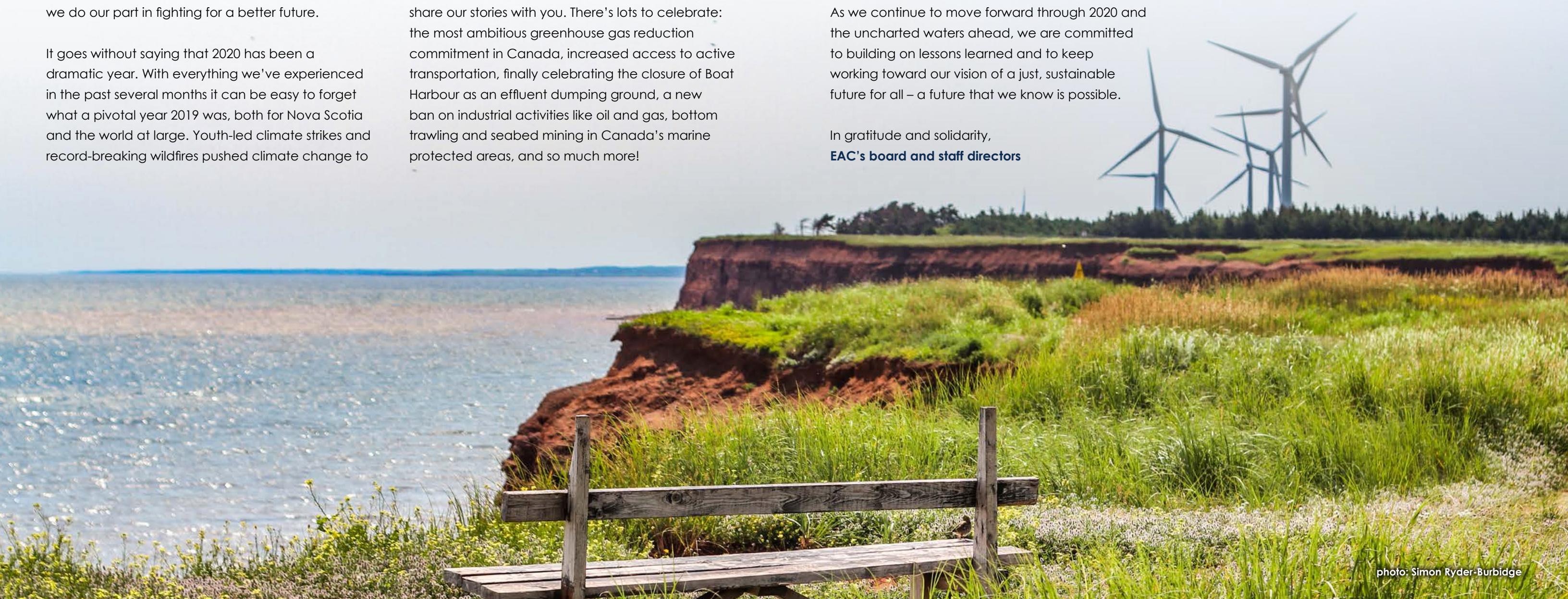
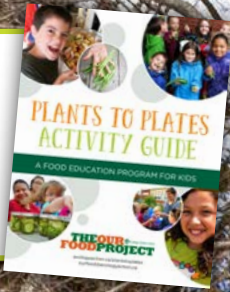


photo: Simon Ryder-Burbidge

# COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Three Halifax public libraries and two-family centres adopted our **Plants to Plates Program**—an interactive food education program for children and youth that makes connections between how food is grown and how to prepare nutritious, tasty meals.



We partnered with Nourish Nova Scotia to launch **Grow Eat Learn**—a new program that supports school food gardens in Nova Scotia.



We trained 55 youth and adult **Making Tracks** leaders! This will increase the capacity of schools and community groups to provide safe cycling training locally and offer more youth the opportunity to build the confidence and independence that active transportation can provide for riders of all ages.

## Making Tracks



In Cumberland, we provided mentorship to the new **FOUND Forgotten Food Hub** which, like its Halifax partner, harvests unwanted and excess foods from local farms and distributes them at food banks.



**Making Tracks** safe cycling training was delivered to 1,124 children, youth and adults across the province this year - that's more than double our original goal of 500!

## Making Tracks



We worked to support 16 housing co-ops, 55 faith-based organizations, 5 affordable housing groups and over a hundred other property owners make their **buildings more energy-efficient**. The International Energy Association estimates that 49 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions needed to stay below two degrees of global warming will come from energy-efficiency.



In Cape Breton, the 5th Annual **Up!Skilling Food Festival** had over 100 people attend to share local food knowledge and build a community around food.

## Up!Skilling FOOD FESTIVAL



We created easy-to-read and informative **sea-level rise resources**, including a website and infographics (see [sealevelrise.ca](http://sealevelrise.ca)) to help inform coastal citizens and communities about coastal climate change and coastal adaptation options.



Inspired by the Mobile Food Market in Halifax, our Food team collaborated with many local partners to support the development of the **Good Food Bus** to create a healthy food market on wheels in Cape Breton Regional Municipality. We also provided mentorship to the **Digby Fresh Food Box**, which helped bring fresh produce to communities in the area, and hosted a discussion in Southeast New Brunswick about bringing a good food box back to Tantramar.



We trained citizen scientists in five coastal Nova Scotia communities to use underwater cameras attached to their kayaks to **monitor the health of local eelgrass meadows**. These intrepid paddlers have helped us collect new information that will contribute to mapping and research projects around the province.



The **Community Food Leader program** welcomed 13 new participants in Halifax, and continued to offer coaching and support for past participants across Halifax, Cape Breton and Cumberland. A total of 70 organizations have participated in the Community Food Leader program since 2017, building leadership and collaboration in organizations that want to implement or expand food programs in their communities.



We partnered with youth across the province to support **Active Transportation** with exciting safe walking initiatives developed by youth, for youth. We had a fantastic turnout for our annual fall school active transportation event, **International Walk to School Month**, with over 17,000 students participating across Nova Scotia.




photo: TJ Maguire


# POLICY ADVOCACY



Together with our partners at SeaChoice, our years of advocacy calling for **stronger seafood traceability and labelling practices** contributed to the Federal government's commitment to implementing a boat-to-plate traceability program for seafood sold in Canada. Over 7,500 engaged Canadians were mobilized to write letters to government officials in support of stronger seafood traceability and labelling practices.




We continued to work with Nova Scotia Environment to advocate for strong regulations for the **Coastal Protection Act**, emphasizing existing inappropriate coastal development issues – such as Halifax's 'undersized lots' - which must be tackled for the legislation to succeed. The regulations are due to be finalized in the spring of 2021.




After years of focused advocacy to push the province to finally fulfil their goal of 13% **protected land in Nova Scotia**, this year we welcomed the announcement of several new potential sites, which will add 11,419 hectares of new and expanded Provincial Parks, Wilderness Areas and Nature Reserves, bringing the total of protected land up to 12.8%.




We released a **groundbreaking Electricity Report**, which charts a compelling, realistic pathway to 90 percent renewable electricity, a complete phase-out of coal power, and significant increases in energy efficiency and electric transportation in Nova Scotia – all by the year 2030.



We welcomed the announcement of a **new Food Policy for Canada**. Our team has been working alongside partners to make this a reality and the policy will help build healthy food systems including a National School Food Program.




Halifax Regional Council approved an electrified transit fleet which will help to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**. If approved by the province, an electrified transit fleet could be implemented in 2028.



We advocated for **strong action on plastic pollution** and welcomed the provincial announcement of a plastic bag ban by October, 30 2020.




We supported **initiatives for micro-mobility** such as e-bike and e-scooter sharing programs in Nova Scotia.



The EAC proposed ambitious climate goals for 2030, broad public consultations and a just transition to the green economy that leaves no one behind in a modelling report called the **Green Jobs Report**. This report explores the jobs and economic costs and benefits of select climate goals for 2030. Major findings from the report included 15,000 jobs per year in the green economy by 2030 if major investments in energy retrofits for social housing, renewable energy in the provincial grid and electrifying personal and public transport were to occur by 2030. This report was based on the expectation that the Nova Scotia Government would adopt a GHG emissions reduction goal of 50% below 1990 levels by 2030.



Our years of campaign work resulted in the **Canadian government finally banning fisheries from landing the endangered shortfin mako shark**. We continue to work closely with the government to champion international protections for this shark that roams the entire Atlantic Ocean.



Hurricane Dorian caused significant damage to several coastal properties and reminded us why Nova Scotia needs an **adaptation plan for coastal climate change**. We continued to work with Nova Scotia Environment to push for strong regulations for the Coastal Protection Act, which is expected to take effect in the spring of 2021. We've highlighted current inappropriate developments—such as Halifax's "undersized lots"—to ensure that the regulations will stop permitting these exemptions.



We continued to push for **true implementation of the Lahey report** on forestry practices on Crown land, including through our participation in a government-hosted forum on the Province's work on improving forestry and biodiversity protection, and through our support of the Healthy Forest Coalition.

# MOBILIZING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

Together with grassroots and youth activist groups, EAC mobilized our members, partners and volunteers to **demand new climate goals for Nova Scotia**. In September 2019, the province committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to 53% below 2005 levels by 2030, which is the most ambitious emissions reduction goal in the country to date.



As post-tropical storm Dorian hit Halifax in 2019, causing significant damage to numerous coastal properties across Nova Scotia, EAC continued to **push for a provincial adaptation plan for coastal climate change**.



We joined with a growing network of groups resisting gold mining and with Mi'kmaq grassroots water protectors to demonstrate outside a government-funded pro-gold-mining conference. Together we sent a resounding message - **Water Not Gold!**



We joined with Pictou Landing First Nation, Friends of the Northumberland Strait, and the Northumberland Strait Fishermen's Association in celebrating the **long-overdue closure of Boat Harbour** as a dumping ground for Northern Pulp's toxic pulp mill effluent. After over half a century of pollution, work can begin to restore A'se'k and the community can begin to heal. We are proud to support the Mi'kmaq, the fishermen and their families, residents and tourism operators, and we thank the thousands of citizens from across the province and beyond who stood up to help put an end to over five decades of pollution and environmental racism.



We co-founded the **Healthy Bays Network**, a community-led alliance of groups from the Digby Neck to Mahone Bay to Cape Canso, now mounting a coordinated and grassroots resistance to the expansion of polluting open net-pen aquaculture in Nova Scotian waters.



EAC supported **Our Time's Green New Deal Town Hall** at the Ummah Mosque in Halifax. One of over 190 Town Halls across Canada, over 250 people attended to talk about their vision for the Green New Deal. Overwhelmingly people want a low carbon society with equality, inclusion, and Indigenous, worker and migrant rights at the forefront.



We advocated for a zoning-based land protection strategy for land within the **Purcell's Cove Backlands** at risk of development, which saw the first steps of success with a unanimous vote at a Community Council hearing.



We celebrated the adoption of the **Halifax Food Charter** by Halifax Regional Council. The Charter is a community-built vision for a Halifax where no one is hungry, and everyone has access to healthy and sustainable food.



We supported grassroots efforts to **stop the delisting and sale of Owl's Head**, a rare ecosystem home to many endangered species which had been quietly removed from the list of proposed protected areas by the provincial government in early 2019, without public consultation.



Working with **Our HRM Alliance**, a Halifax-based coalition of 65 organizations, we highlighted the importance of protecting our ecologically and socially valuable areas. We created a user's guide to the Green Network Plan and hosted nearly 100 community members to explore key sites in our future greenbelt. We achieved the implementation of three action steps within the Halifax Green Network Plan and compiled an in-depth implementation report for the remaining actions.

We successfully advocated for a **new ban on industrial activities** like oil and gas, bottom trawling and seabed mining in Canada's marine protected areas (MPAs) and, after thousands of Canadians, including EAC members, made their voices heard on this issue, Canada has now committed to protecting 30% of its oceans by 2030.



In response to Halifax's recent developments, the Built Environment team has launched the **Urban Development Advocacy Team**, a volunteer team dedicated to taking action on policy, plan and development reviews.



We successfully supported the **Sustainable Cities Coordinator** in being appointed to the Halifax Regional Municipality Community Design Advisory Committee to provide feedback on the Halifax Centre Plan and community engagement strategies.



# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended March 31

REVENUE	2020	2019
Project revenue	1,974,106	2,436,353
Admin (contribution fr projects)	196,173	220,539
Capital contribution	38,616	40,620
Donations	183,851	157,824
Fundraising events	32,734	36,110
Interest on savings & misc	17,849	18,287
Magazine ( <i>Ecology &amp; Action</i> )	-	-
Memberships	630,329	612,793
Operating expense recoveries	61,166	54,916
Space rental	-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>3,134,824</b>	<b>3,577,442</b>

EXPENSES	2020	2019
Project expenses	1,974,106	2,436,353
Bank, credit card & payroll fees	29,253	23,611
Communications	9,533	5,293
Database and computer support	9,185	8,747
Depreciation	40,837	43,846
Equipment lease	5,050	4,709
Fundraising events	21,487	22,467
Insurance	12,549	11,529
Magazine ( <i>Ecology &amp; Action</i> )	18,951	21,292
Membership materials	2,321	1,231
Miscellaneous	9,724	11,409
Office	22,504	25,707
Power, water, telephone	11,323	12,866
Professional fees & consulting	23,109	54,814
Project contributions	-	125,563
Property financing	16,126	17,882
Property taxes & maintenance	19,570	18,068
Staff wages & benefits	801,896	707,103
Subscriptions & memberships	18,173	8,392
Travel	5,736	4,429
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,051,433</b>	<b>3,565,311</b>

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	2020	2019
	<b>83,391</b>	<b>12,131</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

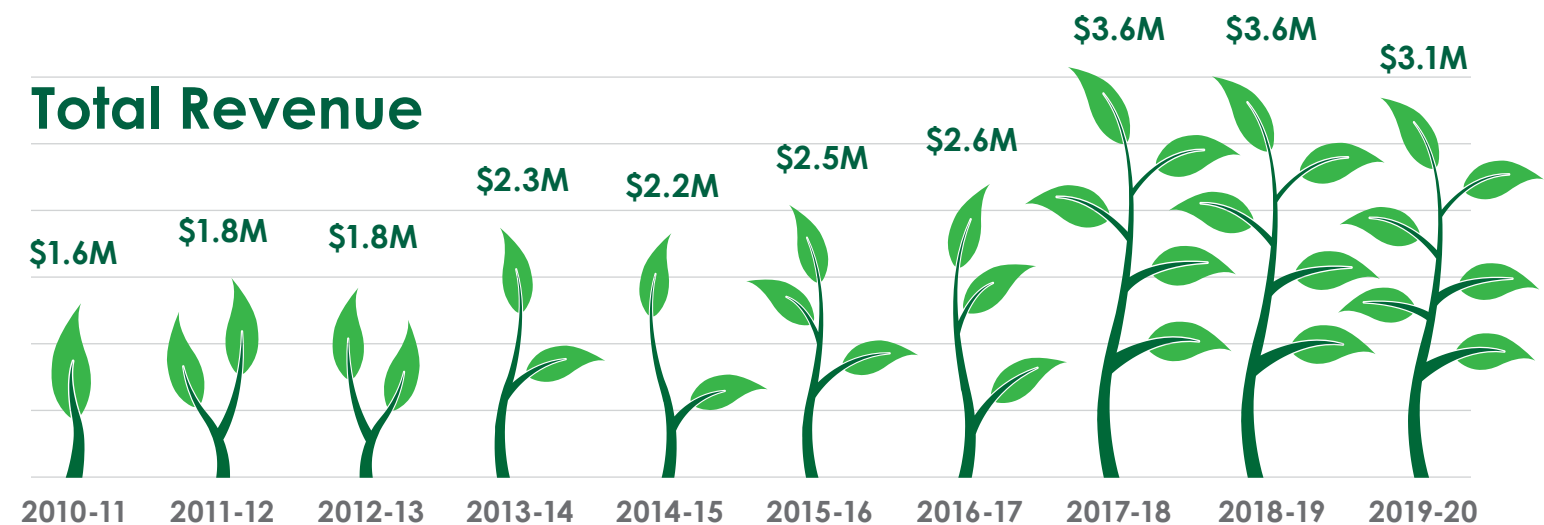
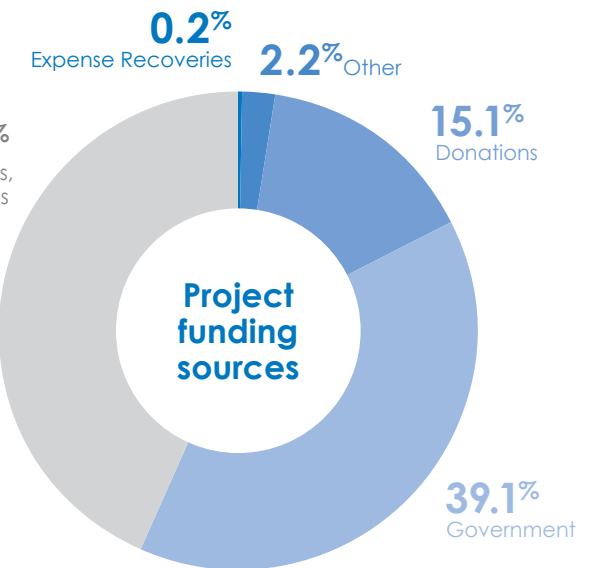
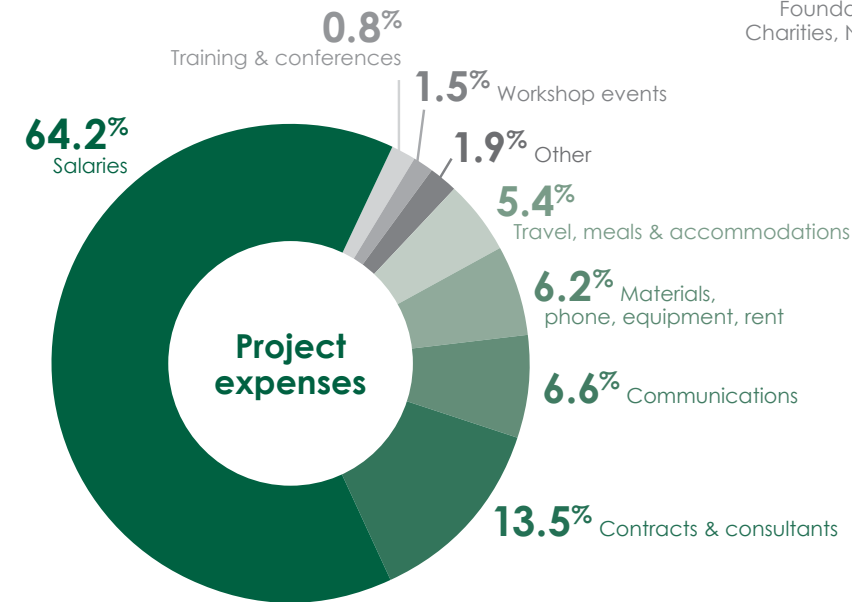
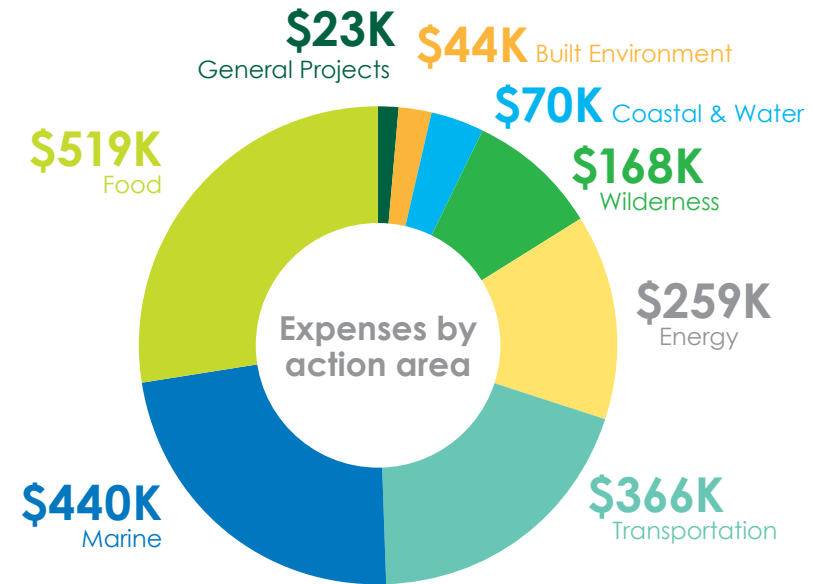
Year Ended March 31

ASSETS	2020	2019
<b>Current</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents	1,153,974	1,051,126
Receivables	196,408	142,087
Prepays	10,852	9,460
	<b>1,361,234</b>	<b>1,202,673</b>
<b>Long-term</b>		
Property & equipment	<b>892,731</b>	<b>926,867</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,253,965</b>	<b>2,129,540</b>

LIABILITIES	2020	2019
<b>Current</b>		
Payables & accruals	34,051	41,877
Deferred project revenue	1,197,821	1,088,596
Deferred operations revenue	-	8,207
Current portion of mortgage payable	17,888	17,127
	<b>1,249,760</b>	<b>1,155,807</b>
<b>Long-term</b>		
Deferred capital contributions	377,350	415,966
Mortgage payable	348,336	362,639
	<b>725,686</b>	<b>778,605</b>
<b>Surplus</b>		
Operating deficit	(69,646)	(51,624)
Investment in capital assets	149,157	131,135
Reserve fund	133,008	115,617
Strategic fund	66,000	-
	<b>278,519</b>	<b>195,128</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,253,965</b>	<b>2,129,540</b>

This summary of financial information has been extracted from the Ecology Action Centre's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2020. These statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). The audit was completed by Grant Thornton LLP. Audited financial statements are available to view online at [ecologyaction.ca/annual-report](http://ecologyaction.ca/annual-report).



# OUR FUNDERS

Generous monetary and in-kind contributions from foundations, organizations, business and individuals have helped the Ecology Action Centre immensely over the past year.

You enable us to do the valuable work that we do. Thank you!

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Downtown Halifax Business Commission  
The Echo Foundation  
Patagonia Canada  
The McLean Foundation  
Individual Donors

## FOOD

Cape Breton University  
Dalhousie University  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
United Way Cape Breton  
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## WILDERNESS

Allen T. Lambert Fund  
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Saint Mary's University  
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Amsterdam Brewing Co.  
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Canadian Coastal Research Society  
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## ENERGY

Dale Godsoe Family Charitable Foundation  
Efficiency Nova Scotia/Efficiency One  
European Regions Network for the Application of Communications Technology (ERNACT)  
Faith and the Common Good  
George F. Wade Foundation  
Halifax Regional Municipality Councilors  
Ivey Foundation  
McConnell Family Foundation  
Province of Nova Scotia  
Relay Education  
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## TRANSPORTATION

Black Market Boutique  
Clean Foundation Nova Scotia  
Credit Union Atlantic  
Dunsky Energy Consulting  
EcoCanada  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
Mountain Equipment Co-op  
Province of Nova Scotia  
Trottier Family Foundation  
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**SUSTAINABILITY ALLIES**

Assante Wealth Management  
Authentic Seacoast  
CoPower Green Bonds  
Down East Cleaning Products  
Garrison Brewing Company  
Helping Nature Heal  
Innovative Real Estate  
Just Us! Coffee Roasters  
Laughing Whale Coffee  
Mountain Equipment Co-op

photo: Simon Ryder-Burbidge

# OUR BOARD

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**Sheila Stevenson** – Food Representative

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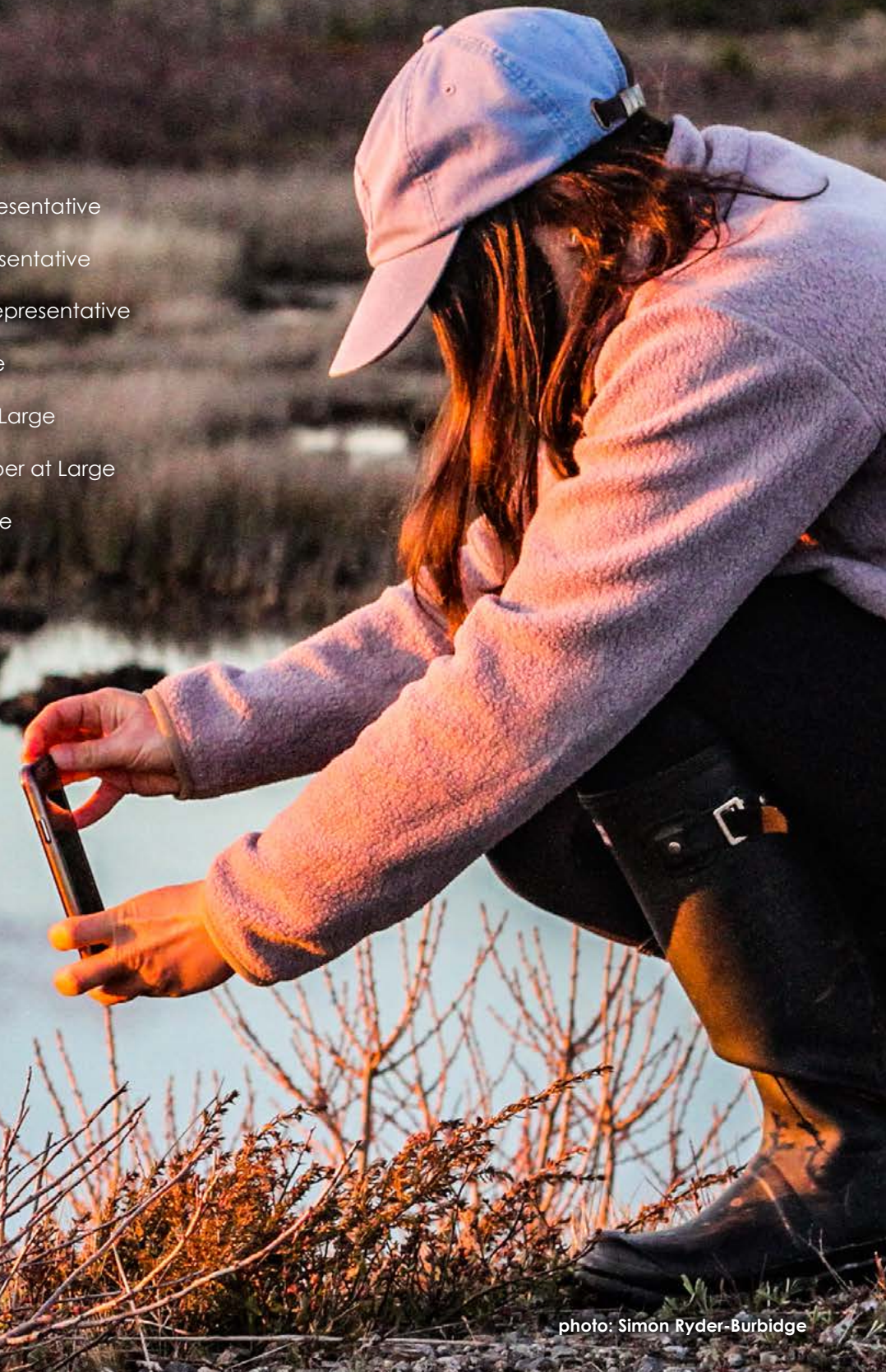


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photo: Jimmie Pederson



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