

Ecology Action Centre



# Annual Report 2021/22



photo: Nick Hawkins



photo: Simon Ryder-Burbridge



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

This past year, we celebrated EAC's 50th anniversary as an organization. And it's with a rejuvenated sense of hope, connection and clarity that we now look ahead to the next 50 years.

In our 50th year, we reflected on a half-century of work, the challenges we've faced and the wins we've celebrated. Through our *50 Things* project, we enlisted the help of artists from across Mi'kma'ki to tell the stories of the past 50 years and help spark our vision for where we go from here as an environmental movement. It was a chance to see our history in a new light, broaden our view and infuse our work with more creativity, connection and hope. And it informed our new mission, vision and forward planning.

In our new strategic direction, EAC is choosing a 50-year perspective. We're pushing ourselves to think ahead multiple generations and build towards a time of thriving and flourishing. We're committing ourselves to be on the forefront of equipping human and ecological communities for resilience and building a world where ecosystems and communities are restored, not just sustained.

This report covers EAC's work throughout the 2021-2022 fiscal year. And as always, there is no shortage of wins to celebrate. Our Pop-Up Bike Hub visited 24 communities, helped fix 931 bicycles and collaborated with all 13 Mi'kmaq bands. In the lead-up to the provincial and federal elections, we released platform analyses and resources for voters,



hosted two debates, published op-eds and launched a campaign calling for No More B.S. (bad stuff) from our elected officials. After decades of mobilizing, consultations and analysis, we celebrated as the province released the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act (EGGCRA), which lays out a renewed series of goals to protect our environment and tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies in our province. We fought to get open net-pen aquaculture out of our waters, rallied to promote ecological forestry, mobilized for better food systems in our province and so much more.

In this snapshot of the year, you can see our mission at work as we engage communities to tackle the urgent and complex environmental issues of our time. And you can see us doing what we do best: standing watch, bringing groups together

for a strengthened voice, sparking new ideas and mobilizing action. Even with a renewed vision, “action” is still our middle name!

None of this work would be possible without the support of our members, allies and community partners, or the dedication of our wonderful staff and volunteers. We're humbled and grateful for the countless individuals and groups across Mi'kma'ki, the country and the globe who join us in the fight for a fair and vibrant world of respect and belonging. And in the coming months, that fight will bring with it a host of new challenges. But with your support, EAC is ready to face these challenges head-on.

We hope that you'll join us.

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



photo: Claire Parsons



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Our Community-Based Marine Planning and Protection project in the Gros Morne region of western Newfoundland has allowed us to connect with close to 200 people from the marine biology, tourism and fishery sectors who collectively are working together to build a marine plan to manage our oceans sustainably. Overall, more than 82 per cent support potential marine protection for this area. The work will continue into 2023.



In partnership with Zuppa Theatre Co., we launched *50 Things: A Provincewide Art Adventure* in celebration of our 50th anniversary. 50 artists from across Mi'kma'ki were commissioned to create art pieces inspired by stories of the past 50 years of environmental activism, which were embedded throughout the province for people to enjoy using our free, interactive *50 Things* app. Over 1,000 people downloaded the app to explore on their own, and more than 40 people joined us on guided field trips for a group experience of the artworks.

The EAC's volunteer Urban Development Advocacy Team continues to meet monthly to monitor development and urban issues in HRM, focused on identifying good places to build more gentle density, affordable, accessible and age-friendly housing options.



Our Easyride program helped 28 employees from 10 different organizations experience electric bikes and see how they could fit into their work commute and lifestyle.



Our Energy Team continues to host the Better Building Speaker Series to promote deep energy retrofit techniques and technologies to property owners and building professionals.



Over the past year, the Food Team has been doing community engagement for the JustFOOD Action Plan – a municipal food strategy we are developing in collaboration with Halifax Regional Municipality. Highlights included assembling and distributing 500 Civic Dinner meal kits with discussion guides to prompt conversations about food justice, collaboration with The North Grove, Chebucto Connections, and the Mi'kmaw Child Development Centre to host conversations with people facing food insecurity, and dozens of focus groups and meetings with people working to improve our food system in HRM.



Our Pop-Up Bike Hub had an impressive season with 24 communities visited, 931 bikes worked on, and collaboration with all 13 Mi'kmaw bands.




On February 2, we celebrated World Wetlands Day! In collaboration with 17 wetland groups and organizations across the province, three public events and several educational campaigns were held to honor these incredible natural features, and to reflect on the importance of wetlands in climate change adaptation.




We wrapped up our Mobilizing for a Just and Sustainable Future webinar series, hosting four fascinating panel discussions on vital areas of policy change in Mi'kma'ki. The series engaged over 350 attendees around issues of climate justice, food security, sustainable forestry, our electricity system, and beyond.







We distributed 2,500 "I Share the Road" bumper magnets printed in Mi'kmaw, French, Arabic and English to help spread awareness of the one-meter rule and sharing the road with cyclists.




We launched the first year of our Pemi Ekjuotmu'k ta'n Teli Ita'sik / Closing the Gap webinar series with Paqtnekek Mi'kmaw Nation & Pictou Landing First Nation. These workshops explored building science principles and the ways that youth in Mi'kmaw communities can find a future in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.




We continued to work with the Healthy Bays Network, representing communities throughout the province who want an end to open net pen salmon farming in NS waters. We are vocal through our official seat on the NS Aquaculture Regulatory Review Committee and have ensured our community partners are directly consulted as part of the first ever review of the aquaculture legislation regulatory review.




We celebrated Walk to School Month and Winter Walk Day events, with 120 NS schools and 25,500 students participating!




We continued to collaborate with groups like Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes, Sandy Lake – Sackville River Regional Park Coalition and the Backlands Coalition in order to showcase and conserve nature near and within our urban centers. Over the past year our members and the public more broadly showed their support for wilderness protection through rallies, letters to decision-makers and meetings with government.




On our 50th birthday, we hosted Shaping Change: Intergenerational Conversations on Activism, where we brought together hundreds of attendees and a diverse group of brilliant activists from across generations and communities to connect, share stories and lessons, and explore how we can work together to build a more sustainable, equitable world.



We launched the Green Jobs for All Campaign, which engages with immigrant and newcomer youth to equip them with the tools they need to advocate for a just transition, while also identifying opportunities that allow them access to the green economy.




We supported dozens of United Churches across the Maritimes to participate in the Faithful Footprints program and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through retrofits and implementing efficiency measures.




Our Making Tracks program had another successful year with 98 children, youth and adults trained, 77 participants engaged through our Cycling 101 course, 62 new MT Cycling Leaders brought on through the digital adaptation of our training and six Bike Safety videos shared across EAC's social media channels with a collective reach of 4,791.



We completed a three-year project on youth-led active transportation infrastructure with the Glace Bay Changemakers youth, where they implemented a pedestrian pathway and bridge connecting their high school to local amenities and other active transportation networks.




We completed our Active Transportation and Arts initiative, which offered nine workshops to help youth groups develop key active transportation messages through art and zines. We printed over 100 zines and posters, created by youth, for them to distribute.




Worked with a community group to lobby municipal, provincial, and federal government to address the legislative gap surrounding infilling of water lots in the Northwest arm. This included a petition with over 2,000 signatures and some 200 lawn signs distributed.


# POLICY ADVOCACY




EAC took part in stakeholder consultations on Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) commitment to require all new cars sold in Canada be zero emission by 2035. We argued in favor of a federal Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate in order to address critical supply shortages. Our written submissions contributed to the adoption of higher sales targets within the federal ZEV mandate, including requirements that 20 per cent of new light duty sales to be ZEV by 2026, 60 per cent by 2030, all 100 per cent by 2035.




As part of Our HRM Alliance, our Built Environment Team wrote a letter to the Regional Council highlighting the many barriers to protecting our natural assets in municipal policy. This was followed by two public presentations at the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee and the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.




As part of our work towards ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management at NAFO, we successfully advocated for the 15 countries that manage international fisheries off the Grand Banks to protect nine important habitat areas of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), including black corals, sponges, and sea pens.




We provided input to Efficiency One's Demand Side Management Plan (DSM) and coordinated with the Affordable Energy Coalition to advocate for increased investment in low-income programs. We see this as an essential step toward ensuring the transition to a zero-carbon energy system is equitable. Although we would like to see even more investment in efficiency and great ambition in energy savings through efficiency in coming years, we do commend Efficiency One for a more ambitious DSM plan with better funded low-income programs.



We launched Nova Scotia's Active Transportation Future, a series of three interactive maps that allow Nova Scotians to view active transportation projects around the province at the provincial and municipal level.




All our recommendations for a robust seafood traceability and labelling system in Canada were adopted by the Fisheries and Oceans Standing Committee at the House of Commons in their report to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.




We celebrated the announcement of public consultations on the Coastal Protection Act regulations, taking us one step closer to protecting our coastal ecosystems and the communities that rely on them. Upon completion of the public consultation period, the "What We Heard" report was released, and we continue to work closely with the province on developing the regulations.




Through media and stakeholder engagement, EAC has encouraged the proliferation of charging infrastructure in order to accelerate electric vehicle adoption. Following the announcement of \$1.7 million in combined federal-province funding for charging stations deployment in January, we have met frequently with the program administrator (the Clean Foundation) in order to understand any future challenges.




We responded to the Province's joint Housing Task Force and their announcement of nine areas to be accelerated for suburban housing through formal written submissions, creation of an interactive map of the sites, and presentations to the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.




We worked with Canadian, UK, and Senegalese governments to secure an international ban on landing shortfin mako sharks. This was agreed on by the 52 countries that share management of North Atlantic fisheries and is a critical step toward reversing the decline of this endangered population.




Through engagement with the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, EAC advocated for the inclusion of an electric school bus procurement target in the Nova Scotia Climate Plan. Our recommendations included a stipulation that the Government of Nova Scotia mandate that all new school bus purchases after 2025 be zero-emissions, that 75 per cent of all school buses on the road be electric by 2030, and that Nova's Scotia's school bus fleet go all-electric by 2035.




Existing and proposed open-pit gold mines continue to pose serious threats to Nova Scotian water, wildlife, and people. We continued to work with partners to resist gold mining advancement, in part through responding to public comment periods for the three gold mines proposed in the last year.




As a member of the Nova Scotia Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food, we celebrated the inclusion of universal school food program development in both Federal mandate letters and the 2022 Budget. Momentum for universal school food was built across Nova Scotia with all 37 Community Health Boards endorsing the Coalition's eight principles, as well as several municipalities including HRM, County of Kings, Berwick, Wolfville, Annapolis Royal and Port Hawkesbury.




In response to the provincial and federal elections we launched a campaign calling for "No More B.S." (Bad Stuff). We hosted two debates, published op-eds and released detailed voter toolkits. Provincially, we also released a highly praised platform analysis. We were pleased to see that all three major parties had strong environmental platforms and the impact of our ongoing policy work was evident.



We released our Atlantic Loop Report that articulates pathways for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to phase-out coal and achieve a net zero grid by 2035.



Along with our partners in the Healthy Forest Coalition, Hike Nova Scotia, Nature Nova Scotia, The Council of Canadians, Extinction Rebellion Mi'kma'ki / Nova Scotia, Friends of Nature and Sierra Club, we called for an immediate moratorium on forest harvesting of Crown lands in Mi'kma'ki until the recommendations from the 2018 Lahey report on forestry are fully implemented.




After years of advocating for strong management action to stop overfishing and rebuild critically depleted Atlantic mackerel and herring populations in the southern Gulf of St Lawrence, we finally saw a closure of the commercial fisheries come into effect. While this was a necessary measure after too many years of risky management, we recognize it comes at a heavy cost for many coastal communities and thousands of fishers across Atlantic Canada and Quebec and we now call on the government to support those affected.




Successfully advocated for the establishment of the Eastern Canyons Marine Refuge, a 44,000 km<sup>2</sup> fishery closure located 230 km offshore of Nova Scotia, east of the Sable Island Gully. This closure protects sensitive cold-water corals, deep-sea canyons and parts of the Scotian Shelf from bottom fishing.



We continue to engage in every opportunity to shape the Regional Plan, advocating for complete communities and protection of the Halifax Green Network. We continue to offer up creative ideas and policy solutions through the Regional Plan review process.




After two years of campaigning the government committed to implementing a Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate in Nova Scotia to increase the supply and accessibility of electric vehicles across the province.



In the lead up to the provincial election, EAC urged all parties to commit to an ambitious (but doable!) protected areas target. We were delighted that all parties included new protected areas targets in their platforms, and that the Progressive Conservatives committed to reach their target of 20 per cent land and water protection by 2030.



We were very pleased when the government brought in the long-awaited new regulations for forest harvesting on the bulk of Crown lands as recommended in the Lahey Report. The new Silvicultural Guide for the Ecological Matrix will result in far less clearcutting on public lands and more multi-species, multi-aged forests over time. This is the first time in over 20 years that any new/improved forestry regulations have been introduced in Nova Scotia.



As a member of Farmer's for Climate Solutions, we celebrated this year's federal budget, which promises \$200 million in new funding to support farmers to reduce emissions, \$60 million to protect existing trees and wetlands on farms, and \$10 million to power farms with clean energy. This funding responds directly to the Farmers for Climate Solutions' Budget 2021 Recommendation Report.



# MOBILIZING FOR CHANGE

We celebrated the announcement of a new \$130 million federal program to help create a network of national urban parks across Canada, including the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes, which EAC has been advocating to protect for over a decade.



We collaborated with Climate Hub Halifax and the Climate Emergency Unit on a successful letter writing campaign to help Haligonians show their support for the full funding of HalifACT, the HRM's ambitious climate action plan. The campaign included two letter writing workshops with over 35 participants.



We worked with the Offshore Alliance – a coalition of grassroots, fisheries and environmental organizations – to help secure a 10-year extension of the moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank, one of Atlantic Canada's most important fishing grounds.



With partners across Canada, we are participating in a national effort to increase the adoption of electric school buses. As a steering committee member, we participated in the foundation of the Canadian Electric School Bus Alliance and hosted a series of roundtables with partners throughout the province, including bus drivers, teachers, parents, healthcare experts and procurement and operations officials.

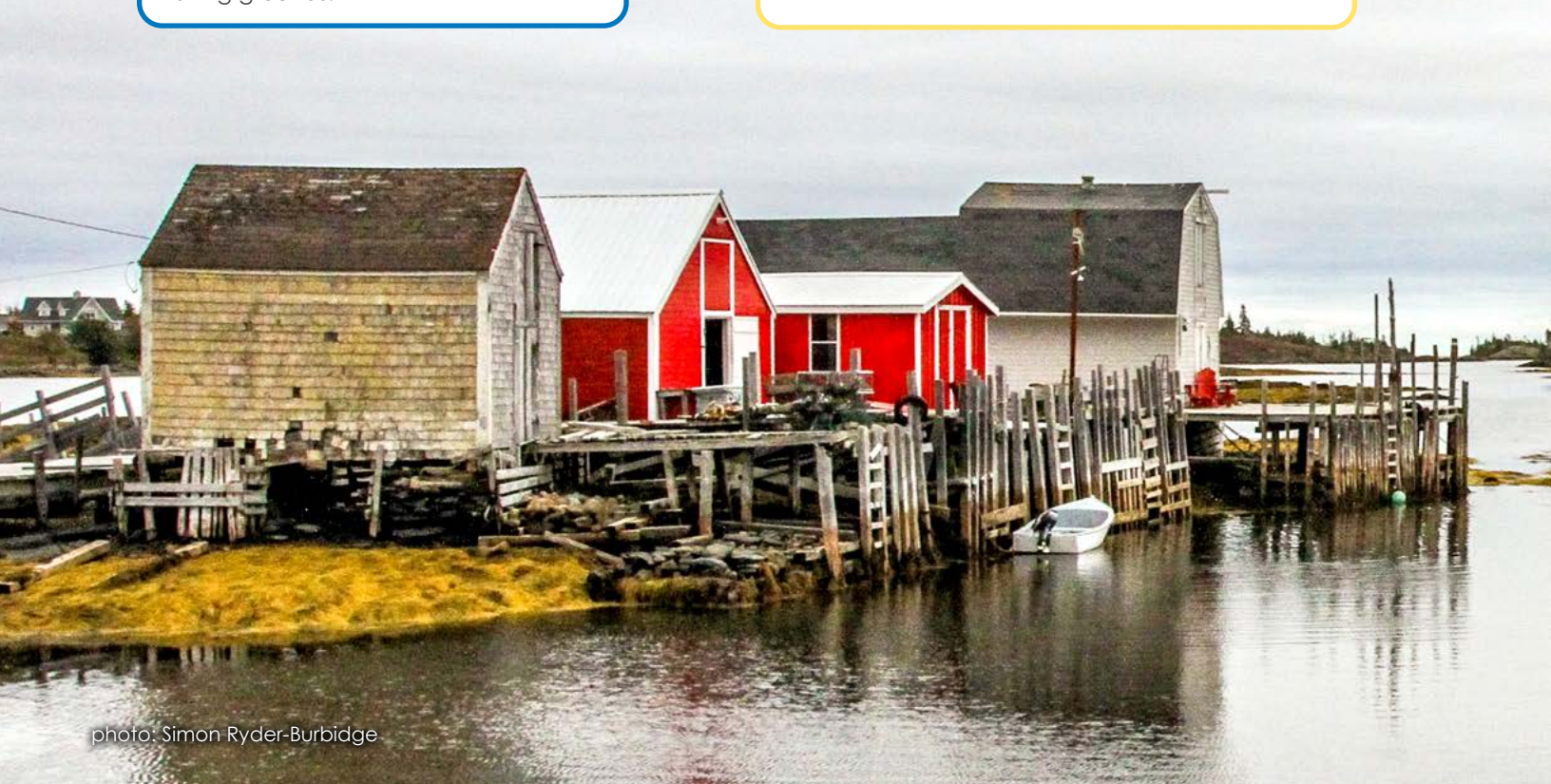




photo: Simon Ryder-Burbidge







In collaboration with Nature NS and the Healthy Forests Coalition, we created and distributed over 500 Stop Clear-Cutting Public Lands lawn signs for Nova Scotians to show their support for ecological forestry.



We submitted formal recommendations and presented to the HRM Budget Committee to advocate for more resources allocated to acquiring parkland, taking action on climate and incentivizing transit-oriented complete communities in the 2022/23 budget cycle.




Following over a decade of advocacy, consultations and mobilizing our community, we celebrated as the Nova Scotia government passed the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act (EGCCRA). This landmark act lays out a renewed series of goals to protect our environment and tackle the climate emergency in our province.



After the dedicated work of individuals and groups across Mi'kma'ki, we celebrated when the company attempting to build a golf course inside Owls Head Provincial Park withdrew its letter of offer - an example of the effectiveness of grassroots action!



We developed a new partnership with Dalhousie University's Future of Marine Ecosystems lab to study the role that Nova Scotia's eelgrass meadows play in sequestering carbon and the potential for restoring damaged meadows, in partnership with communities across the province.



In concert with individuals, other NGOs and solar workers across the province, we successfully called on the Nova Scotia government to halt Nova Scotia Power's proposed new solar charge.

# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended March 31

REVENUE	2022	2021
Donations, foundations and other	1,777,506	1,134,457
Government funding	575,292	763,775
Memberships	554,955	578,080
Fundraising events	26,160	21,194
Admin (contribution fr projects)	258,910	173,587
Interest and other	89,243	19,740
Amortization of deferred capital contribution	31,264	36,632
Operating expense recoveries	7,192	42,399
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>3,320,522</b>	<b>2,769,864</b>

EXPENSES	2022	2021
Bad debt	0	130
Bank, credit card & payroll fees	24,818	24,799
Communications	49,730	70,266
Contracts	98,220	229,698
Database and computer support	12,161	17,367
Depreciation	31,663	37,522
Equipment lease	0	0
Fundraising events	22,333	9,853
Insurance	17,093	12,267
Magazine ( <i>Ecology &amp; Action</i> )	21,286	7,851
Memberships	15,521	14,796
Miscellaneous	14,948	27,548
Office	96,337	54,067
Utilities	26,668	24,672
Professional fees	193,226	65,904
Interest on LTD	13,406	10,574
Property taxes	20,452	15,999
Rental	23,353	17,515
Staff wages & benefits	2,164,267	1,720,784
Training	7,598	9,152
Travel	53,327	16,293
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,906,407</b>	<b>2,387,057</b>

<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>414,115</b>	<b>382,807</b>
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## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

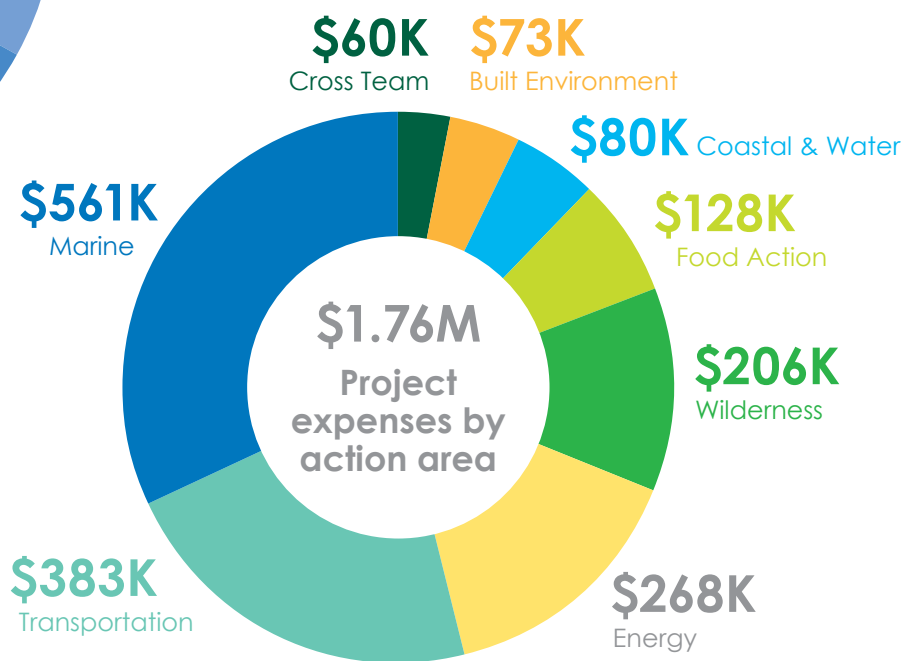
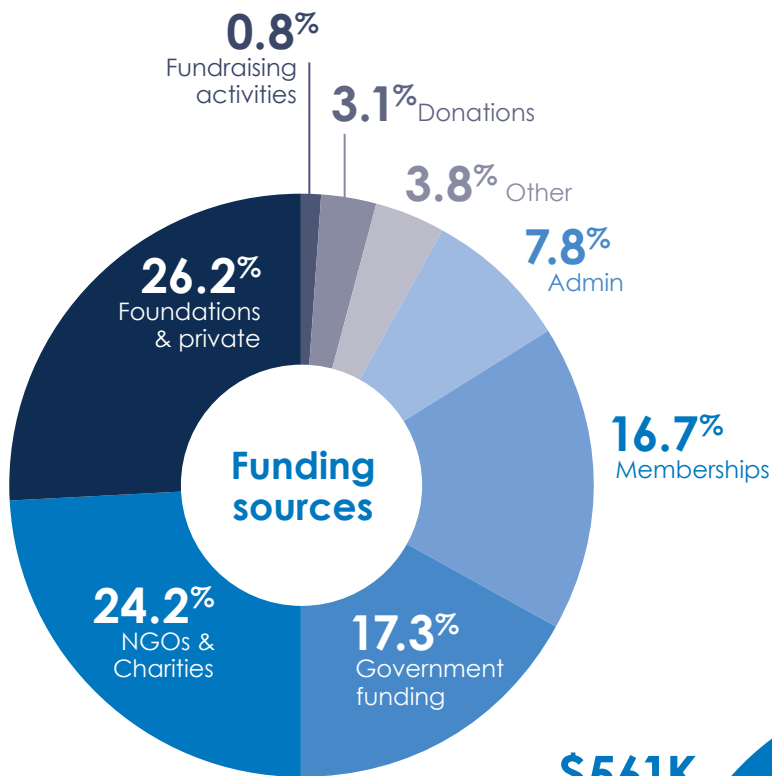
Year Ended March 31

ASSETS	2022	2021
<b>Current</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents	2,562,176	1,973,259
Receivables	250,341	338,877
Prepays	28,330	17,571
	<b>2,840,847</b>	<b>2,329,707</b>
<b>Long-term</b>		
Property & equipment	<b>826,669</b>	<b>857,332</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,667,516</b>	<b>3,187,039</b>

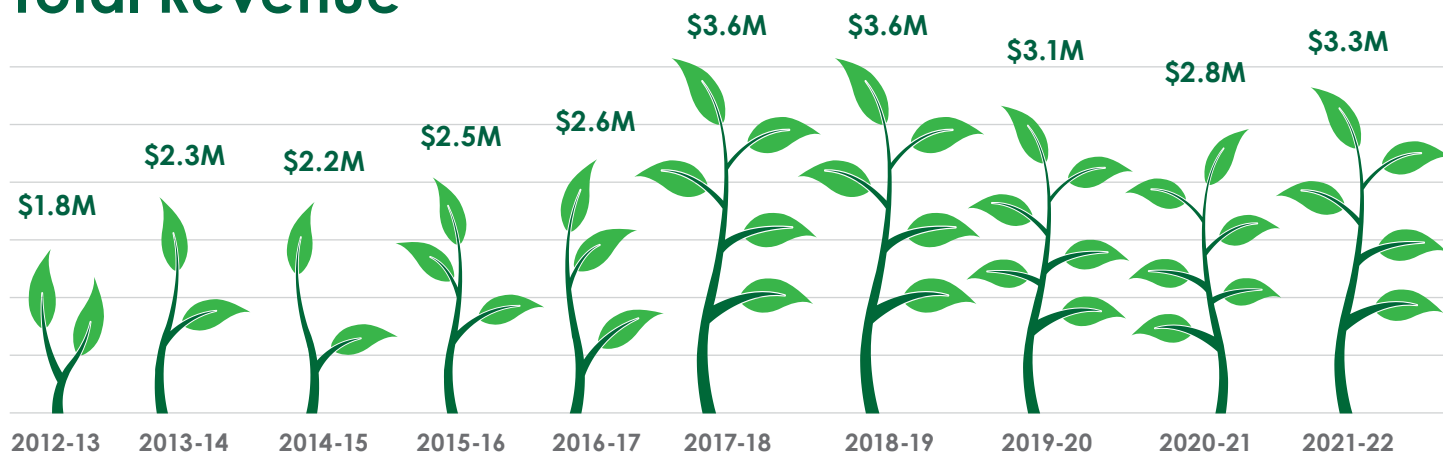
LIABILITIES	2022	2021
<b>Current</b>		
Payables & accruals	115,472	164,985
Deferred project revenue	1,834,543	1,667,985
Current portion of mortgage payable	19,994	18,684
	<b>1,970,009</b>	<b>1,851,654</b>
<b>Long-term</b>		
Deferred capital contributions	309,454	340,718
Mortgage payable	312,612	333,341
	<b>622,066</b>	<b>674,059</b>
<b>Surplus</b>		
Operating surplus (deficit)	-	(85,078)
Investment in capital assets	184,609	164,589
Emergency Fund	133,008	133,008
Strategic Fund	661,824	382,807
Fern Lane Fund	96,000	66,000
	<b>1,075,441</b>	<b>661,326</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,667,516</b>	<b>3,187,039</b>

This summary of financial information has been extracted from the Ecology Action Centre's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2022. These statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). The audit was completed by BDO Canada LLP. Audited financial statements are available to view online at [ecologyaction.ca/annual-report](https://ecologyaction.ca/annual-report).





## Total Revenue





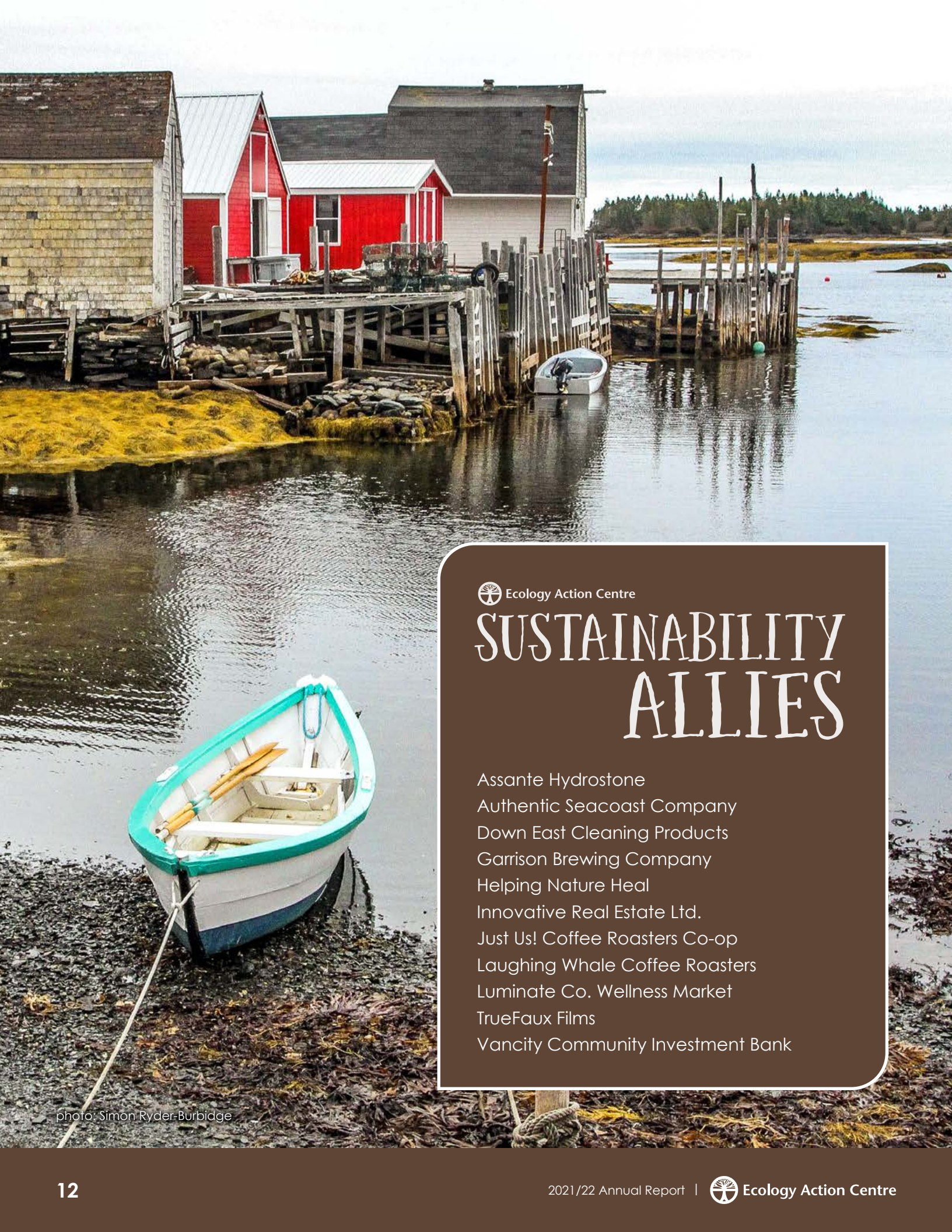


photo: Simon Ryder-Burbidge

 Ecology Action Centre

# SUSTAINABILITY ALLIES

- Assante Hydrostone
- Authentic Seacoast Company
- Down East Cleaning Products
- Garrison Brewing Company
- Helping Nature Heal
- Innovative Real Estate Ltd.
- Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-op
- Laughing Whale Coffee Roasters
- Luminate Co. Wellness Market
- TrueFaux Films
- Vancity Community Investment Bank



# OUR FUNDERS

Generous monetary and in-kind contributions from foundations, organizations, businesses 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

ECHO Foundation  
The McLean Foundation  
Province of Nova Scotia - Labour, Skills and Immigration  
Individual donors

## COASTAL & WATER

ECHO Foundation  
Individual donors

## ENERGY & CLIMATE

Catherine Donnelly Foundation  
ECHO Foundation  
Efficiency One  
Environmental Funders Canada  
European Climate Foundation  
Faith & the Common Good  
Province of Nova Scotia - Labour, Skills and Immigration  
Rosewater Charitable Foundation  
RSI Projects  
St. Francis Xavier University  
Trottier Family Foundation  
Individual donors

## FOOD

Danielle Moore Legacy Fund  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
Individual donors

## MARINE

Ambassade De France  
Anonymous donor  
Blue Nature Alliance  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
Danielle Moore Legacy Fund  
Donner Canadian Foundation  
ECO Canada  
Make Stewardship Count  
Nature Canada  
Oceans 5  
Packard Foundation  
Shark Conservation Fund  
Wyss Foundation  
Individual donors

## TRANSPORTATION

Clean Foundation  
Danielle Moore Legacy Fund  
Green Communities Canada  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
Province of Nova Scotia - Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage  
Province of Nova Scotia - Labour, Skills and Immigration  
Province of Nova Scotia - Public Works  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
Individual donors

## WILDERNESS

ECHO Foundation  
Nature Canada  
Schad Foundation  
Individual donors

## WHOLE OF EAC

Canada Revenue Agency  
Danielle Moore Legacy Fund  
ECHO Foundation  
The Madeleine Fund  
Individual donors and members

# OUR BOARD

**John Crace** – Co-Chair

**Christina Macdonald** – Co-Chair

**Ayo Daniel Makanjuola** – Treasurer

**Virginia Olsen** – Secretary

**Anne Marie Dalton** – Member at Large

**Anne Winters** – Member at Large

**Alyda Faber** – Member at Large

**Dawn Burstall** – Member at Large

**Grant MacDonald** – Member at Large

**Michael Sime** – Member at Large

**Rhiannon Davies** – Member at Large







photo: Maddi Tang



photo: Simon Ryder-Burbidge





# Ecology Action Centre

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photo: Anika Riopel



photo: Adam Travis