



YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# ANNUAL

# REPORT

# 2022





YCCBC

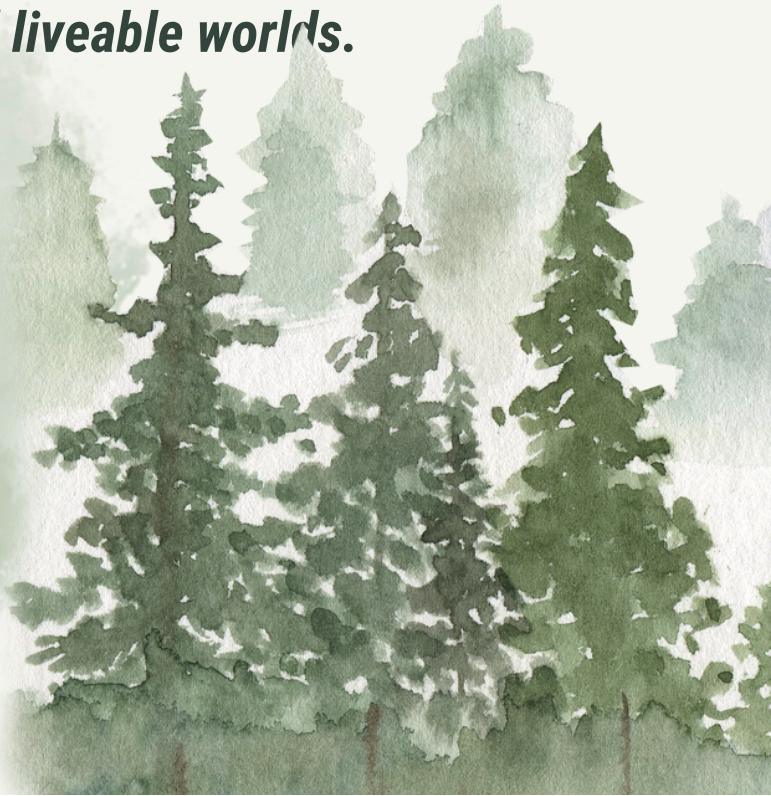


# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

***Youth Climate Corps BC (YCCBC) is grateful to be headquartered on the traditional and unceded lands of the Sinixt, the Syilx, and the Ktunaxa.***

***YCCBC recognizes that colonization has significantly disrupted Indigenous people's relationship with this local land and served to exclude Indigenous people from their traditional territories, communities and practices.***

***We see climate change as one of the results of unethical resource extraction made possible by removing Indigenous People from their ancestral homelands. YCCBC recognizes that Indigenous Sovereignty is central to just futures and liveable worlds.***





# TOWARDS A THRIVING FUTURE

*It is a special privilege to work on a project that has so much potential for creating positive change. When I first heard of Youth Climate Corps in 2020, it was in its first year of being run in Nelson by Wildsight. Since then, I have been lucky to work with some amazingly creative, committed and inspiring people who have given so much to Youth Climate Corps; and we have achieved a great deal in building a program that is impactful and scalable.*

*When I started with Youth Climate Corps, I was excited to expand a program that builds on youth leadership while providing tangible opportunities for climate action in their communities. As I have continued in this role, I see the potential for Youth Climate Corps as a program that not only has impacts on the individual or community level but can change how we think about climate action as a society. **Youth Climate Corps is about putting young workers first and changing the way we think about work that is regenerative and builds up communities.***

*In the past year, we have had countless conversations with community leaders, climate and youth organizations, provincial ministers, and young people about what a Youth Climate Corps could mean to them. What we have heard is that British Columbians are eager for a bold program that demonstrates **tangible wide-scale climate action and empowers young people to move into climate careers.***

*The future can look bleak: Canada continues to miss its climate goals, climate disasters are worsening, and young people are experiencing rising levels of climate anxiety. But with upheaval comes opportunity. **This an opportunity to rethink how we empower those who will be most affected by the climate crisis** throughout their lifetime; and how we can signal that, as a society, we are taking this emergency seriously and scaling up community climate action projects.*

*2022 signalled tremendous progress in Youth Climate Corps as we set the groundwork for running projects in three new locations across BC, created our 2022 Strategic Plan, and expanded our capacity for collaboration and program development. We see 2022 as the beginning of a program that can change the way we think about what climate action is, and show us what is possible for **moving towards a thriving future for everyone.***

**– Ben Simoni  
Executive Director**





# CORE OF YCCBC

## ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION

We provide young people with opportunities to make a difference in their communities while earning living wages and developing skills that prepare them for meaningful work and engaged citizenship. By taking part in climate action projects that have a real impact on their communities, YCCBC participants improve their own lives while becoming part of something bigger than themselves.

## VALUES

Youth Climate Corps BC decisions are informed by these core values:

### YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Solutions to the climate crisis must be shaped by those who will live the outcomes. We ensure youth perspectives are at the decision-making table.

### COMMUNITY FOCUS

We are a national initiative that operates at the local level through projects identified as community priorities by local residents and leaders.

### INCLUSION AND CONNECTION

Outwardly, we seek out and collaborate with other groups engaged in climate action. Inwardly, we foster an inclusive culture and prioritize diversity and equity.

### INNOVATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

We strive to make unique contributions to the Canadian climate movement and to local communities by tackling work that is important to mitigating climate change.

### GROUNDING IN ECOLOGY AND CLIMATE SCIENCE

Our initiatives are guided by science and strive to enhance the resilience and health of natural ecosystems alongside human needs.





# YCCBC TEAM



**BEN SIMONI**

Executive Director



**EYMIE LABBÉ**

Communications Director



**SAM KUTYAURIPO**

Vancouver Program  
Coordinator



**ATHENA LEBLANC-NAZIEL**

Kamloops Program  
Coordinator



# EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2022

## KWAKWAKA'WAKW REVITALIZATION PROJECT



"YCCBC is partnering with the Kwakwaka'wakw Revitalization Project, an Indigenous-led organization working to further the food security and land rights of Kwakwaka'wakw' People. One of their projects is conducting the rebuilding and reoccupation of a village on Ma'amtagila territories. (Ma'amtagila are a tribe of the Kwakwaka'wakw)

The village is on what's known as Northern Vancouver Island, at the mouth of the Eve river estuary on the Johnstone Strait.

70 years ago, Ma'amtagila People were removed from the village through coercive colonial policies. The site has since been reoccupied, with new infrastructure built. For the last year and a half, the village has been lived in year-round, with large gatherings in the summer, and has become an important place for Indigenous resurgence work, well-being, and education for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people from across BC.

Current projects at the village include:

- increasing infrastructure, including building a big house
- organizing and running several youth camps throughout the summer of 2023 with a focus on food security, infrastructure enhancement, traditional land management practices, and off-grid technologies training
- working towards establishing an eco-tourism/cultural-tourism venture at the village in order to assist in establishing economic self-determination at the village, as well as to further public education about Indigenous Sovereignty

YCCBC is grateful to be involved with this project and is supporting the Kwakwaka'wakw Revitalization Project with admin, fundraising, and logistics coordination, and takes direction from Ma'amtagila Matriarchal leadership."

– Dakota Smith



# VANCOUVER



Led by Sam Kutyauro, the Vancouver YCC project has been focusing on program development. There has been significant consultation with over 50 groups, including municipalities and local organizations involved in climate action and youth leadership in Metro Vancouver, and is collaborating closely with the Vancouver-Hastings Climate Action Team, a group of local leaders led by Minister Niki Sharma. YCCBC has been able to identify a project focus that aligns with the goals of the community.

The project will focus on:

- Community outreach will include community events, workshops, farmers' markets and car-free festivals to inform residents about the climate programs and incentives in Metro Vancouver.
- The Climate Resilient Homes Program will involve the YCCBC crew meeting residents in their homes, and providing specific and tangible advice on how they can reduce emissions, make homes safer and more comfortable in extreme heat and cold, and reduce energy costs.

- Setting up community mutual aid networks for seniors and vulnerable residents for extreme heat events.

In January 2023, YCCBC hosted a launching event at the David Suzuki Foundation headquarters, and was met with a lot of excitement from local leaders. YCCBC will continue to work with local leaders to develop and implement a YCCBC program that closely reflects the priorities of the community.





# KAMLOOPS



YCCBC is excited to launch its first program in Kamloops in partnership with the City of Kamloops. YCCBC recruited a crew of local people aged 17-30 to work on the community climate action projects and gain essential workforce and leadership training. The team just started this May 1st; their primary focus for the next months will be The Climate Friendly Homes Program.

The Climate Friendly Homes Program helps households plan and prioritize ways to reduce energy costs and carbon pollution, prepare for extreme weather, and support biodiversity. The program is a collaborative effort of the Youth Climate Corps BC (YCCBC), BC Hydro, and the City of Kamloops. The YCCBC team will deliver public education and outreach activities at various community events, including the Bike Valet service at the Kamloops Farmers Market every Saturday. This pilot is an exciting example of YCCBC working closely with a municipality and will serve as a template for future programs.





# YCCBC BUILDING COMMUNITY

## YCCBC EXPRESSIONS

YCCBC has been able to grow our network and connections significantly in 2022. The YCCBC Expressions newsletter was launched in June 2022, and as of May 2023 has 130 subscribers. Since June 2022, YCCBC has sent out 18 emails, including the monthly newsletter, and the average open rate is 62% (according to Campaign Monitor, a healthy email open rate can be anything from 20% - 40%).

## YCCBC WEBSITE

YCCBC website has been tapping views records since January 2023, right when the campaign “Unlocking Together a Future for Canadian Youth” was launched, and the number of views is still increasing.

## YCCBC SOCIAL MEDIAS

An engaging and strong community is forming on YCCBC social media network. Instagram and LinkedIn are YCCBC's two main platforms utilized, followed by Twitter and Facebook.

**385**



INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

**184**



LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS

**130**

YCCBC EXPRESSIONS  
SUBSCRIBERS

**3,225**

UNIQUE VISITORS  
ON YCCBC WEBSITE  
GROWTH OF 446%

**4,668**

SITE SESSIONS  
ON YCCBC WEBSITE  
GROWTH OF 438%



# YCCBC RELATIONSHIPS

YCCBC has been developing relationships with MLAs and Ministers in BC to advocate for YCCBC to be supported to serve communities and youth across BC. At the Union of BC Municipalities 2022 convention, Ben Simoni presented a clinic to a packed room with Ministers, MLAs and municipal leaders from across BC.

YCCBC continues to develop partnerships with other organizations seeking to support a Provincial and National Youth Climate Corps. YCCBC is proud to work closely with the [Climate Emergency Unit](#) and [Wildsight](#) as we continue to work towards supporting good green jobs for all young Canadians.





# CAPACITY BUILDING

In June 2022, YCCBC completed our first Strategic Plan with the support of the Columbia Basin Trust. This plan outlines the pathway towards sustainably expanding and developing programming across BC. The Strategic Plan has been an invaluable resource for staff and board members for unifying our vision and actions.

To support the continued development of YCCBC and guide program coordinators, YCCBC completed a toolbox with extensive information about project creation, curriculum, YCCBC history, and evaluation. The toolbox will allow YCCBC to collect and perform a detailed evaluation of the programming occurring in 2023 and set a strong foundation for supporting programs for completing curriculums.



# IN THE MEDIA



CANADA'S   
**NATIONAL  
OBSERVER**

 **DELTA  
OPTIMIST**

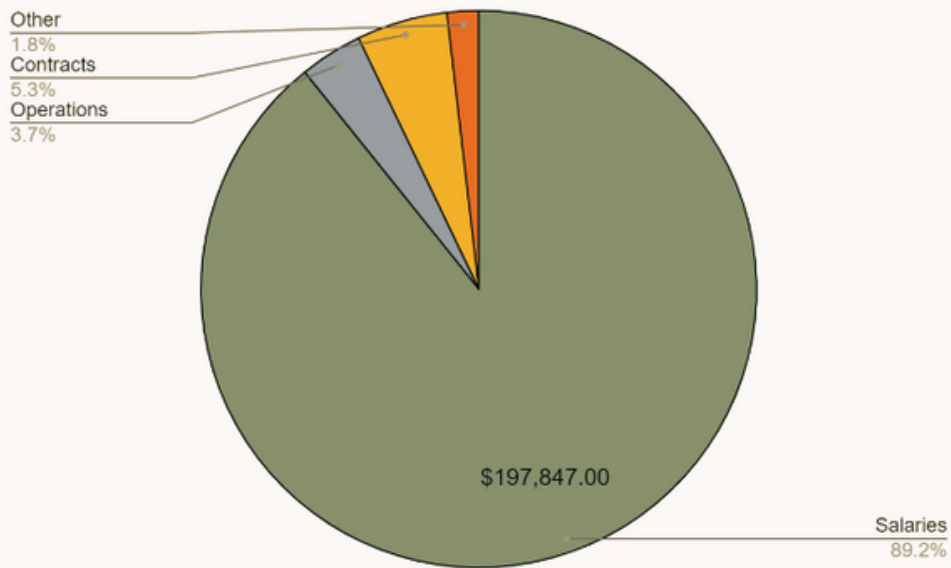


**The Province**

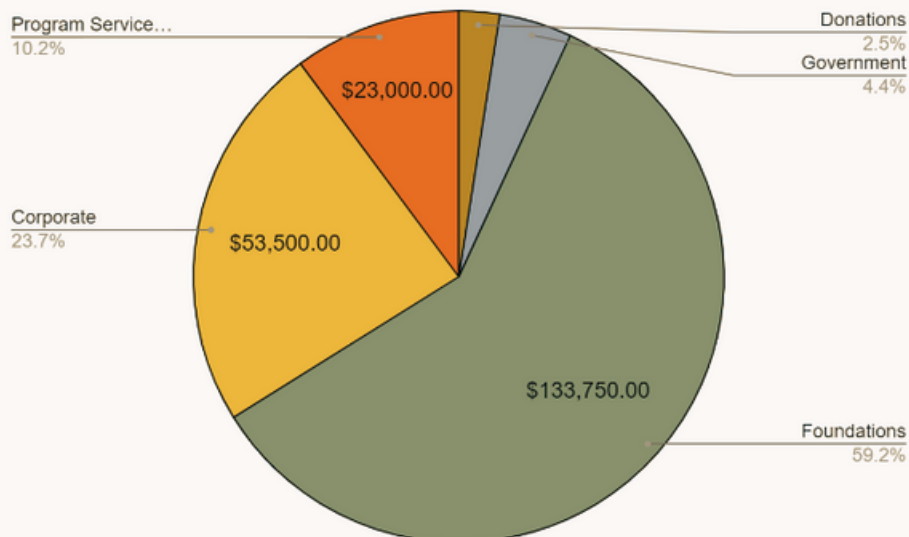


# FINANCIALS

EXPENSES \$221,770



REVENUE \$225,495





# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2022

MakeWay Foundation - \$60,000

Preston-Werner Ventures - \$56,250

VanCity Credit Union - \$50,000

Catherine Donnelly Foundation - \$13,500

EcoCanada - \$10,400

Arjay R. and Frances F. Miller Foundation - \$10,000

Individual Donations - \$5,450

Canada Summer Jobs Grant - \$4,293.00

Nelson and District Credit Union - \$3,500

2022 was a year of huge growth and development for YCCBC. None of it would be possible without the generous support of our funders. Thank you for investing in a thriving future for all of us, and seeing the vision of bringing abundance and equity to climate action.







YCCBC

2022