



YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024

# YCCBC ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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A black and white photograph of a person working in a field, overlaid with a circular logo containing the text 'YCCBC'. The person is on the left, wearing a hat and a dark shirt, and is holding a tool, possibly a shovel or a hoe, and is working in a field. The field is filled with plants, and there are trees in the background. The logo is a circle with a thick black border and a green inner circle. The text 'YCCBC' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with the 'Y' and 'C's in black and the 'B' and 'C' in green. The logo is centered over the image.

**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.***



# GROWTH AND NEW HORIZONS

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*This report summarizes the work completed between **April 2023 and March 2024**. This year was a year of tremendous growth and impact for YCCBC. In the summer of 2023, YCCBC completed the Kamloops YCC program and the Kwakwaka'wakw Revitalization Project, both of which showcased the impact of this program when partnered with a local government and Indigenous community. In the fall of 2023, YCCBC started the YCC Vancouver program which was six months long and involved engagement with a diversity of partners and projects.*

*The year was capped off by excellent news from the Province of BC, who announced in their budget that they are investing \$3 million over three years into YCCBC to expand youth involvement in climate action projects. This investment will allow YCCBC to expand its impact by serving more youth and communities across BC. As we continue to expand our work across BC we look forward to continuing our partnerships with all levels of governments, First Nations, and environmental and youth organizations. As we reflect on the impact of the past year, we are also looking ahead with excitement towards the future.*

**– Ben Simoni**  
**Executive Director**



# CORE OF YCCBC

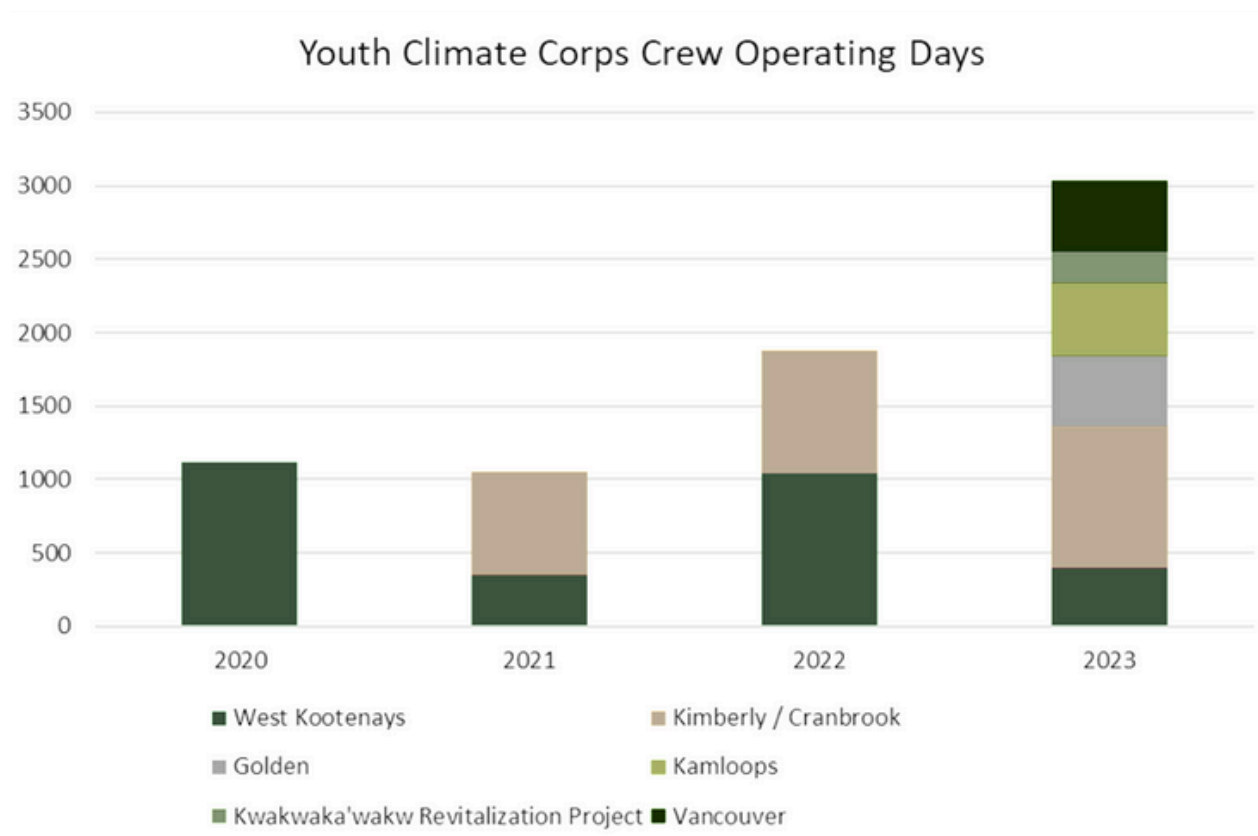
## ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION

*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.*

## FROM INCEPTION TO IMPACT

Youth Climate Corps was started in 2020, as a program of Wildsight, a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting biodiversity and encouraging sustainable communities in Canada's Columbia and Rocky Mountain regions. In 2021, Youth Climate Corps BC was founded, and since then Wildsight and YCCBC have served over **80 youth** totalling **7,000 working days of climate action**.

IN THE PAST FISCAL YEAR, YCCBC SERVED 15 YOUNG PEOPLE.



# YCCBC TEAM & BOARD

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## TEAM



**BEN SIMONI**  
**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**



**EYMIE LABBE**  
**COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR**



**SAM KUTYAURIPO**  
**SOUTH COAST  
PROGRAM MANAGER**



**ABBEY PIAZZA**  
**SENIOR ORGANIZER**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**AVERY  
DEBOER-SMITH**



**JOHN  
CATHRO**



**RICHARD  
KLEIN**



**KATE  
WATT**



**ROBYN  
WEBB**



**MADELYN  
JONES**



**FLEURIE  
HUNTER**





# EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2023-24

## VANCOUVER

Between August 2023 and March 2024, YCCBC ran a pilot program in Vancouver. The program included three young people between the ages of 17 to 30, with the title Climate Action Technicians (CAT), and a coordinator, who completed over **500 working days** of climate action.

The program would not have been possible without our dedicated partners, such as Vancouver Hastings Community Action Team (VHCAT), HUB Vancouver, and Ducks Unlimited. A main project that the team led was the development of the Climate Friendly Homes Program (CFHP), which was adopted from the Kamloops Youth Climate Corps program to serve the communities in the Metro Vancouver region. The CATs attended various networking events, and workshops, conducted presentations and completed courses which enhanced their professional development. The program provided the crew with valuable hands-on experience in various energy-efficient projects but also made a meaningful impact on the environment and the community. Looking ahead, the Youth Climate Corps Vancouver program remains committed to empowering youth whilst promoting sustainability and environmental stewardship through collaborative initiatives and partnerships.

### YCCBC Vancouver Participants quote:

*"This job gave me valuable training, skills, experience, and connections in the environmental sector that have allowed me to grow professionally."*

*"I had such a great time working for YCCBC. I got to learn so much and got to have many great experiences. It allowed me to meet and network with so many different people in all different sectors of the environmental sector. I am very thankful to have been able to work for YCCBC and to have been able to work with my awesome crew."*

*"Getting to do hands-on meaningful work that connected with my community was the most meaningful for me. Getting to work with HUB Cycling to teach kids biking, planting plants and doing restoration work, and giving presentations to high schoolers to inspire action and hope were some of the many different examples."*



# VANCOUVER

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## CLIMATE FRIENDLY HOME PROGRAM (CFHP)



## VANCOUVER- HASTINGS CLIMATE ACTION TEAM (VHCAT)



## HUB CYCLING VANCOUVER



## DUCKS UNLIMITED

## EON ELECTRIC





**YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS**  
VANCOUVER BRITISH COLUMBIA



# KAMLOOPS

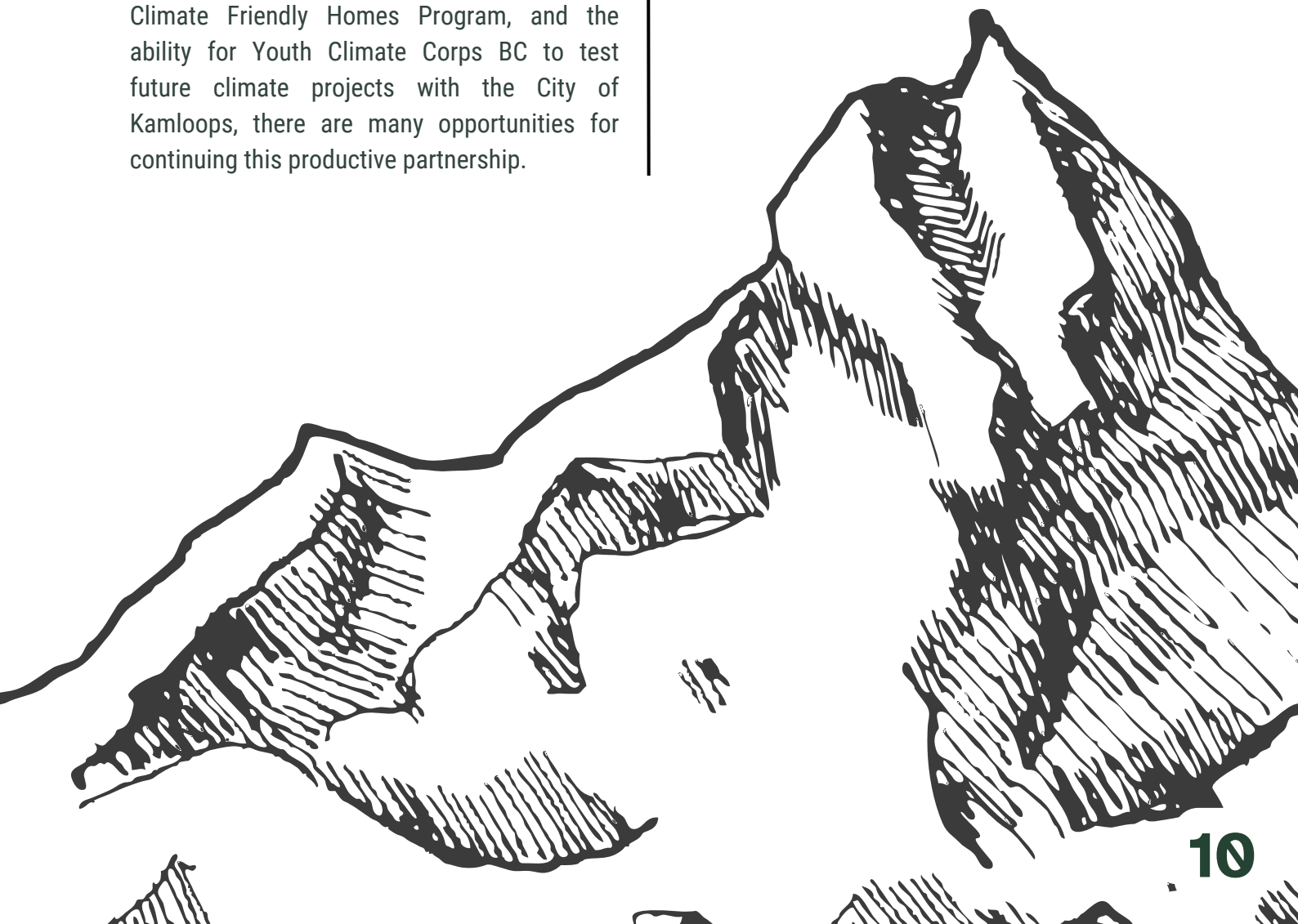
In the spring of 2023, YCCBC partnered with the City of Kamloops and BC Hydro to create a pilot program that focused on building up the youth workforce, reducing emissions and tackling climate change. The main project developed was the Climate Friendly Homes Program, which was developed and implemented through the five-month program. Between May and October 2023, a group of 4 local young people between the ages of 17 and 30 worked on climate action projects, built their workforce readiness skills and learned about civic engagement and reconciliation. The outcomes of the program include a proof of concept for the city bike valet and Climate Friendly Homes Program, engaged local youth, and implementation of the Kamloops Community Climate Action Plan. With the development and promising results from the Climate Friendly Homes Program, and the ability for Youth Climate Corps BC to test future climate projects with the City of Kamloops, there are many opportunities for continuing this productive partnership.

## Participants of the Climate Friendly Homes Program quote:

*"I was extremely pleased to have two young adults explain certain ways to improve my home. They were both kind, intelligent and extremely helpful. Apart from the information I gathered, they left me feeling hopeful about young people taking action in such a caring manner. They were incredible."*

*"There were some recommendations made that will help both myself and my home happy."*

*"This is a great program. You are certainly on the right track in providing people with information we can all use to be more climate-friendly. Thank you."*



# KAMLOOPS

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## KAMLOOPS FARMERS' MARKET

## CBC RADIO CANADA & CFJC MIDDAY



## BIKE VALET

## CLIMATE FRIENDLY HOME PROGRAM (CFHP)







**YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS**  
KAMLOOPS BRITISH COLUMBIA



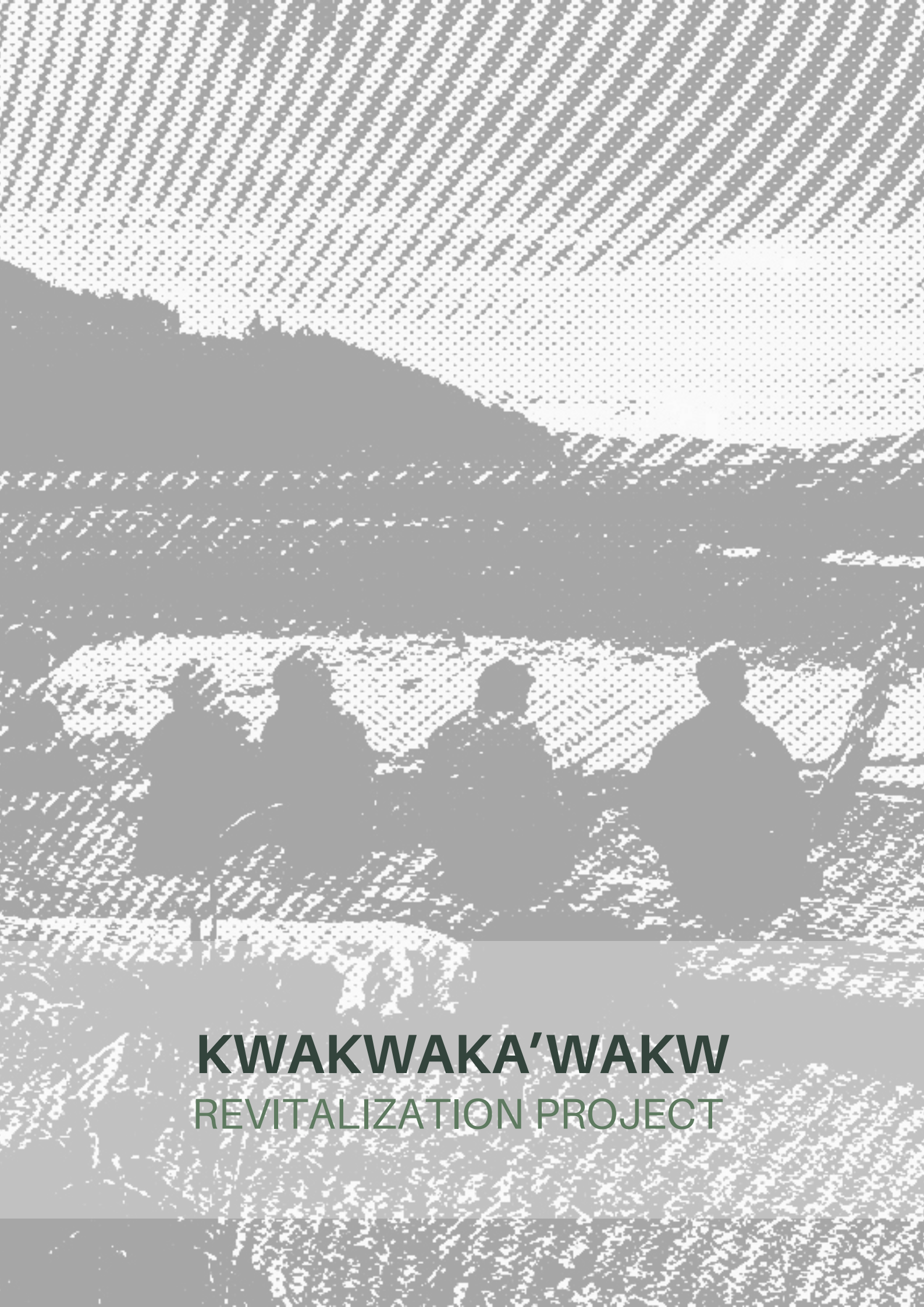
# NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND

YCCBC collaborated with the Kwakwaka'wakw Revitalization Project (KRP) to implement a youth cultural and work camp aimed at supporting Ma'amtagila sovereignty, cultural resurgence, and skill-building for Kwakwaka'wakw youth. The initiative employed six Kwakwaka'wakw youth for six weeks, during which they conducted research on traditional practices and knowledge within their communities. The project featured a week-long cultural workshop and a work camp focused on constructing a tool shed at Hiladi, a previously abandoned village site now being revitalized by Ma'amtagila elders and youth. Hiladi serves as a place of healing, offering Kwakwaka'wakw youth the chance to connect with their traditional lands, engage with their peers and elders, and strengthen their cultural ties.

## Community and Youth-Identified Successes:

- Engaging people with the land and fostering self-autonomy and stewardship.
- Revitalizing traditions and ceremonies, bringing life back to the land that had been dormant since the abandonment of Hiladi.
- Creating a communal atmosphere where Kwakwaka'wakw people, including youth, elders, parents, and children, came together as a supportive and welcoming village. New connections were made, and everyone felt included.
- Constructing a new toolshed and outhouse, enhancing the program's infrastructure.
- Providing reimbursement for youth, and enabling those unable to access the land previously to do so through funding for supplies and time. This support has allowed participants to connect with the land more deeply, reinforcing its cultural significance.





# **KWAKWAKA'WAKW**

## REVITALIZATION PROJECT

# YCCBC BUILDING COMMUNITY

## YOUTH COMMITTEE

In early 2024, YCCBC launched its inaugural Youth Committee, comprising 11 individuals aged 17-30 from across BC. The committee's role is to support the strategic direction and growth of YCCBC. Members engage monthly on topics such as Indigenous Sovereignty and climate science, helping to foster a more dynamic and inclusive organization.



## MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Alumni are important to the mission and goals of YCC. Continuing to offer support and opportunities to the alumni will support our mission of helping "YCC participants to improve their lives while becoming a part of something bigger than themselves." The purpose of the membership program is to allow YCC Alumni to have the opportunity to vote for board members, a chance to have a say in the future of the organization and a direct opportunity to contribute and continue to engage with YCC. This program will increase engagement, reinforce the YCC alumni community, and empower climate leaders developed through the program.

## YCCBC EXPRESSIONS NEWSLETTER

YCCBC has been able to grow our network and connections significantly in 2023 and 2024. The YCCBC newsletter's number of subscribers has growth by 230% in the last year. The average open rate is 59% (according to Campaign Monitor, a healthy email open rate can be anything from 20% - 40%). A number of 24 newsletters have been sent during the past year including the monthly newsletter.

## YCCBC WEBSITE

10,572

SITE SESSIONS

Increase of 226%

7,889

UNIQUE VISITORS

Increase of 245%



# YCCBC SOCIAL MEDIAS

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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.

## INSTAGRAM

3,3K

REACH

627

FOLLOWERS

163%

FOLLOWERS  
GROWTH

92

POSTS

445

STORIES

Launch of the **Takeover Project** on the Instagram platform to raise the voice of the crew members in YCCBC programs. The audience can see behind the scenes of each project from a participant's perspective.

## LINKEDIN

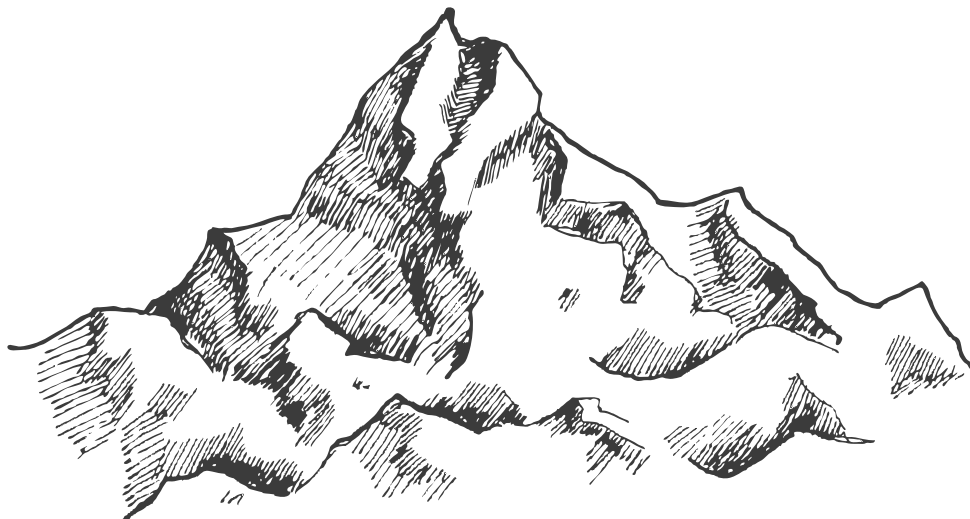
509

FOLLOWERS

227%

FOLLOWERS  
GROWTH

Our LinkedIn presence saw a significant boost during the hiring process. In April 2024, when we posted 5 job openings for the Squamish crew and 4 positions for the core team, we experienced a noticeable peak in new followers.



# YCCBC PRESS

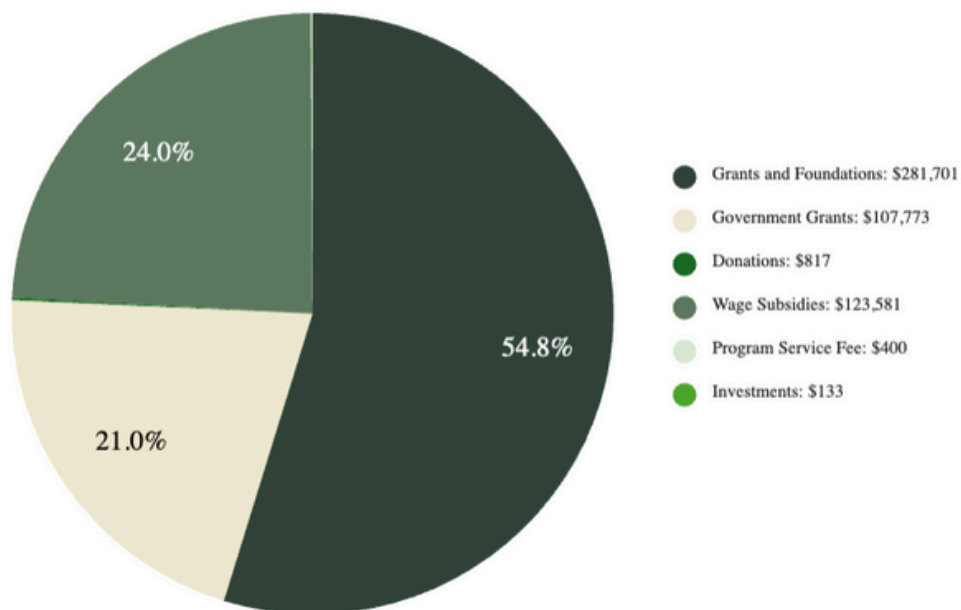
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- June 1, 2023, By Brittny Anderson, Nelson Daily - [\*\*Op/Ed: Youth Climate Corps\*\*](#)
- June 1, 2023, CBC - [\*\*These Young Canadians Are Banging Down The Government's Door Asking for Climate Jobs\*\*](#)
- September 12, 2023, BC Greens - [\*\*B.C. Greens call for government to invest in Youth Climate Corps\*\*](#)
- September 24, 2023, By Silvio Marcacci, Forbes - [\*\*The American Climate Corps Will Put Thousands To Work Building A Stronger Country\*\*](#)
- November 20, 2023, By Stefan Labbé, Times Colonist - [\*\*B.C. Group Offers A Model for A National Climate Corps\*\*](#)
- November 24, 2023, by Erin Blondeau, Rabble - [\*\*We Need A Climate Corps, Not More Military Missions\*\*](#)
- November 24, 2023, by Mitchell Beer, The Energy Mix - [\*\*Youth Fill Out Mock Application Letters for Youth Climate Corps\*\*](#)
- November 30, 2023, by Tiffany Crawford, Vancouver Sun - [\*\*Meet Some of The B.C. Youth Trying to Nudge Ottawa to Create A Youth Climate Corps\*\*](#)
- Dec. 1, 2023, By Beth Macdonell, CTV News - [\*\*Activists Deliver 630 Letters to Minister Demanding Canada Create 'Youth Climate Corps'\*\*](#)
- December 1, 2023, By Abdul Matin Sarfraz, National Observer - [\*\*With Mock Applications in Hand, Young Activists Seek Youth Climate Corps Jobs\*\*](#)
- December 5, 2023, By Curtis Blandy, Victoria Buzz - [\*\*'A Way Forward': Victoria MP Brings Motion for Youth Climate Corps Before Parliament\*\*](#)
- Dec 8, 2023, By Jake Romphf, Penticton Western News - [\*\*B.C., Feds Pushed to Rally Corps of Youth Workers in Climate Change Fight\*\*](#)
- April 22, 2024, By Jake Romphf, Vernon Morning Star - [\*\*Support for Climate Corps Mobilizes B.C. Youth in Fight for The Environment\*\*](#)
- April 22, 2024, By Stephen Quinn, CBC Listen - [\*\*Three Million in Provincial Funding to Train Youth in Climate Action\*\*](#)
- May 16, 2024, Radio-Canada - [\*\*Café Climatique Avec Eymie Labbé : l'Action Climatique de Youth Climate Corps\*\*](#)

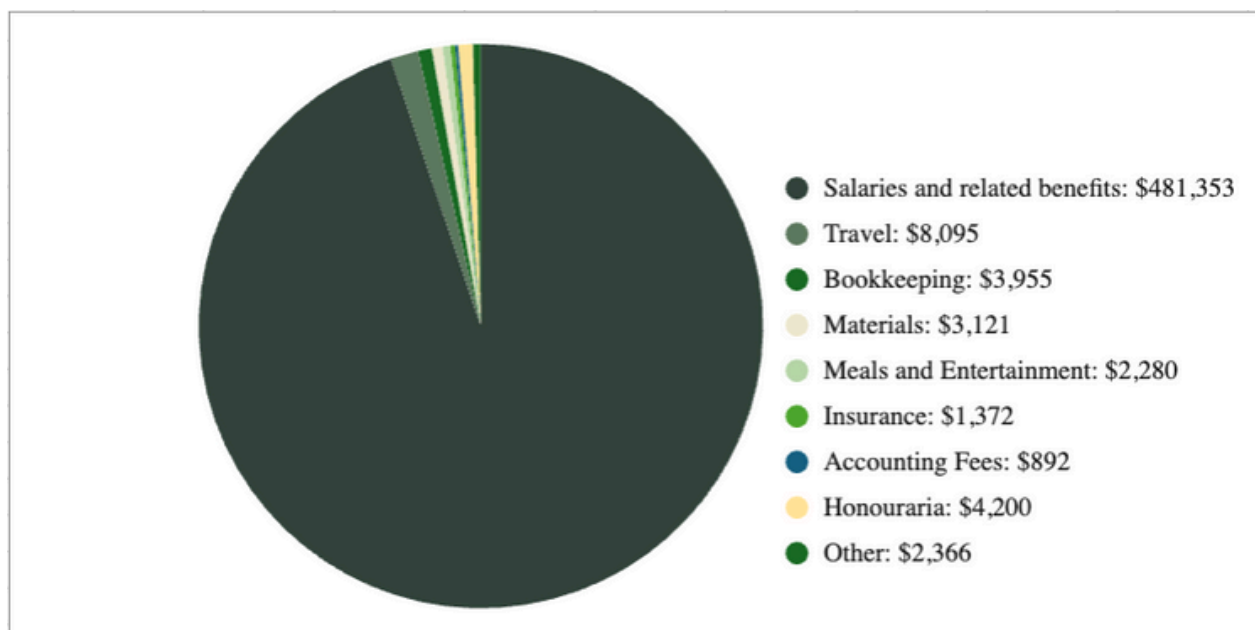
# FINANCIALS

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REVENUE \$514,405



EXPENSES \$512,879



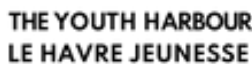




**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR OUR FUTURE**

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

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2023-24 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.





**2023-24**