

Annual Report.

2022-2023



Letter from the Chair.

The world is run by those who show up, and I'd like to thank you all for taking the time to show up for outdoor recreation. The ORCBC exists to promote collective interests in public outdoor recreation in its many forms and we strive to anticipate needs and act on the feedback that we get.

Most of us initially became involved at the club level with the sentiment that "I only want to go hiking (riding, paddling, climbing, etc.) and stay away from politics". Reality quickly sets in when it becomes apparent that our ability to recreate depends on the availability of facilities and access to trails and bodies of water. These will only exist with the continued efforts of dedicated volunteers such as yourselves.

Volunteer organizations rarely make progress in a linear fashion and, for the ORCBC, 2022/23 has been a spectacular success.

Please continue to stay involved with the ORCBC. We rely on your interest and input to drive our programs and priorities. While our Members' Roundtables are excellent forums for your participation, please also feel free to contact us at any time with your ideas and questions. Sometimes the most innocent comment can trigger an idea that has been percolating in the background and sets us on a new course of innovation.

Enjoy the outdoors,



Wayne Mercer



Letter from the Executive Director.

As ORCBC continues to develop and progress in response to changing needs and opportunities within the organized recreation sector and society as a whole, it is rewarding to look back at the past year and celebrate our successes. I encourage you to read on to learn of some of the important highlights this year.

Our membership number soared to 70 as we welcomed 13 new member organizations on board, including Summit Trail Makers Society in Invermere, Prince George ATV Club and Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan.

We provided our members with opportunities to network and share resources through monthly roundtable discussions. Together, we explored topics such as reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, partnership agreements, fundraising, and we received updates from the provincial leads within government on the trails strategy for BC and the new outdoor recreation strategy.

We released insights from an Ipsos poll on the participation of British Columbians in outdoor recreation and their opinions on the benefits, barriers, and government's role in the development, and funding of recreation amenities.

The celebration of the 2022 BC Trails Day was a huge success, with 54 events in 46 communities and \$7,600 in small grants distributed to 20 event host organizations

Our fall/winter advocacy campaign concluded with 600 emails sent to the Minister of Finance and local MLAs, several meetings with ministers and parliamentary secretaries and a letter to Premier Eby from a coalition of 40 organizations and businesses representing the interests of the recreation and tourism sectors in B.C, calling on the B.C. Government to increase public spending in the 2023 provincial budget to support the outdoor sector and B.C communities. We saw budget uplifts for outdoor recreation and a \$10 million endowment for more support for community-based recreation groups.

Our persistent advocacy efforts are making a difference, and our successes have only increased our appetite for the work that lies ahead to ensure improved recreation opportunities for all British Columbians.

On behalf of the ORCBC staff team, I sincerely thank our members, directors, partners, funders and supporters for all your generous contributions of time, ideas and financial contributions that helped make 2022/23 a successful year. This work would not be possible without your support.

With gratitude,



Louise Pedersen



Our mission.

We advocate for access to and promote the responsible use of BC's outdoors for public recreation while building bridges between our diverse membership.

Our vision.

Recreation and outdoor places are valued as essential to healthy individuals and vibrant communities, and that every British Columbian has access to meaningful outdoor recreation experiences.





Our values.

Indigenous Reconciliation

We acknowledge Indigenous rights and title and support increasing the capacity of Indigenous peoples in BC to steward their lands and waters as key to the future of healthy ecosystems, communities and respectful recreation.

Respect and Diversity

We promote respect and aspire to represent the diversity of the British Columbia population.

Accountability

We are accountable for our actions, and our processes are open and transparent.

Environmental Sustainability

We value BC's outdoor places for their intrinsic ecological, social and cultural values and promote actions to keep them healthy.

Resiliency

We adapt to new realities, pursue new opportunities and explore promising approaches.

Collaboration

We collaborate with our members, partners, various levels of government including Indigenous governments, and outdoor recreation users to support our common mission. We convene, amplify and lead.

The year in numbers.

70 member organizations



17 provincial members

53 regional members

13 new members this year



10 television and radio interviews



2 best practice guides published



7 meetings with Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries

20 meetings with senior public servants



9 educational webinars.

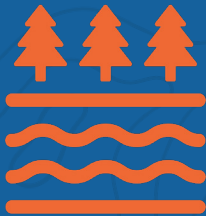
2500+ participants



43 blog posts
and articles
posted. Reaching
an audience of
6000+



Social media reach of
123,000 people



77 events.

54 BC Trails Day Events

23 BC Rivers Day Events

\$7,600 in micro-grants given out to 20
BC Trails Day event hosts



52,545
e-newsletters read
by our subscribers

What you helped us accomplish this year.



Outdoor fund becomes reality

— This year, we continued to advocate for a new outdoor recreation fund that will provide reliable and consistent access to grants for community-based volunteer groups, First Nations and local governments that support recreation-based projects throughout B.C. In September, we made a proposal to the province of B.C. for \$10M in seed funding, which came to fruition in spring 2023 when the Province gave ORCBC \$10M to set up an endowment and a granting program.

Showing the value of recreation

— Research and data on outdoor recreation participation continue to be critical advocacy tools for us. ORCBC previously prepared a proposal to the Province for a comprehensive research study of participation and economic value, and in 2022 the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy announced that it is conducting a study with the results expected in summer 2023. ORCBC is concurrently working on a research report on the impact of outdoor recreation on rural communities, which through stories and quotes, illustrates the value of outdoor recreation.





More resources for outdoor recreation



Through our advocacy efforts over the past two years, nearly 4,000 British Columbians have shown their support for more investments in outdoor recreation. The province responded with increased budgets in Budget 2023 for BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, forest service roads, active transportation and a \$100M Watershed Security Fund in Budget 2023.

New recreation strategy for BC



The Province announced that it's developing a new recreation strategy for BC. ORCBC is facilitating input from ORCBC's membership and helping to ensure that the organized recreation sector has meaningful opportunities to be heard.

Climate change and recreation



We worked with feature writer, Ryan Stuart, on a series of articles exploring the connection between climate change and recreation. Through conversations with scientists, advocates, land managers, recreationalists, and more, we looked at how a warming world and more extreme weather are impacting the activities we love and what practical efforts the recreation community is making to take action.

BC's most endangered river



In October, ORCBC and our Rivers Advisor Mark Angelo released the 30th annual BC Endangered Rivers list. While the 2021 list focused on the threats facing urban streams, this year's list focused on the Heart of the Fraser, one of the most ecologically significant stretches of river on the planet but also a part of the river that faces grave threats.

Working together in a good way

In October, ORCBC's Reconciliation Committee finalized a statement on how the committee and the ORCBC Board of Directors view our role in pursuing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. We recognize this is just the beginning of a long process, and we look forward to continuing this journey with our members. ORCBC also created a hub on our website featuring stories and resources to support relationship-building between Indigenous Peoples and recreation groups in pursuit of outdoor recreation initiatives.



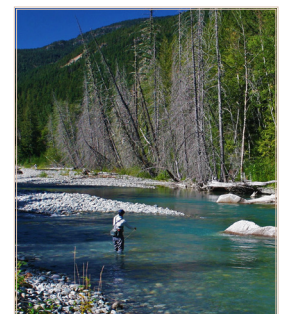
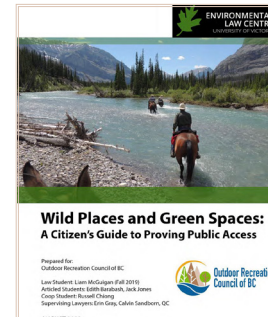
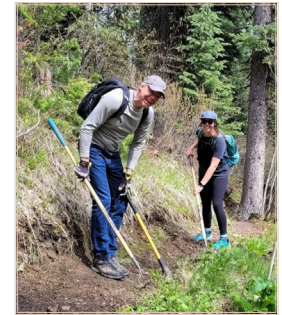
Resources

We released two publications: The Citizen's Guide on Public Access to Crown Lands and Waters (UVIC Environmental Law Centre) and Best Practices for Developing Public Trails on Private Land. We also worked with a lawyer to conduct an analysis of the amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act and how they may impact public outdoor recreation.



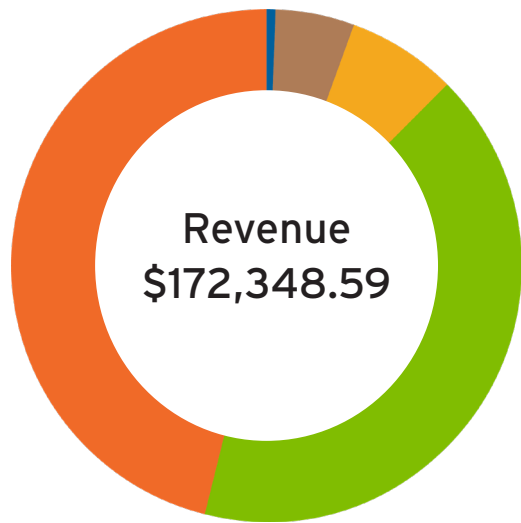
Events

ORCBC coordinated and promoted the second annual BC Trails Day celebration in June 2022. Forty-six communities from every region of the province hosted 54 local events, including clean-ups, recreational activities, trail stewardship projects and more. Thanks to donations and sponsorships, we were able to support 20 event host organizations with \$7,600 in micro-grants. In September, it was time to celebrate BC Rivers Day and World Rivers Day with 23 events registered on our website. Here in BC we had clean ups, paddles, festivals, planting events and more planned to celebrate rivers.



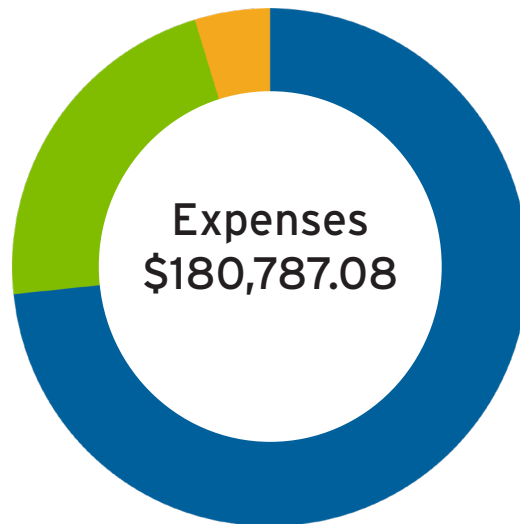
Financial statements.

April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023



- Government Revenue 46%
- Donations & Sponsorships 41%
- Grants 7%
- Membership 5%
- Other 1%

- Programs & Communication 73%
- Administration 22%
- Fundraising 5%



Thank you.

Funders and sponsors.

We appreciate the generous support from charitable foundations, partners, members, donors and volunteers who play an important role in our continued success.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Fortis BC, TD Friends of the Environment, Vancity, BMO, RC Strategies, McElhanney and the Real Estate Foundation.

Our members.

Provincial Member Organizations.

Back Country Horsemen of BC
BC Federation of Drift Fishers
BC Federation of Fly Fishers
BC Lapidary Society
BC Marine Trails Network Association
BC Nature
BC Snowmobile Federation
BC Off-Road Motorcycle Association
BC Wildlife Federation
Council of BC Yacht Clubs
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Four Wheel Drive Association of BC
Hike BC
Horse Council BC
Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
Recreational Canoeing Association of BC
Trails Society of BC



Our members.

Regional Member Organizations.

BC Mountaineering Club
Beaver Canoe Club
Bridge River Valley Community Association
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, BC Chapter
Capital Regional District
Columbia Valley Cycling Society
Community Recreational Initiatives Society
Cowichan Valley ATV Club
Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association
Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society
Friends of the South Slopes Society
Gabriola Land and Trails Trust
Golden Cycling Club
Golden Snowmobile Club
Grand Forks ATV Club
Grand Forks Community Trails Society
Haney Horsemen Association
Hope Mountain Centre
International Mountain Bicycling Association of Canada
Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association
Metro Vancouver Regional District
New Pathways to Gold Society
Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
Okanagan Trail Riders Association



Destination BC | Reuben Krabbe

Penticton & Area Cycling Association
qathet Parks & Wilderness Society
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Sea Kayak Association of BC
The Shuswap Trail Alliance
Similkameen Valley Riders ATV Club
Squamish Off-Road Cycling Association
Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society
Strathcona Wilderness Institute
Sunshine Coast Trails Society
United Riders of Cumberland
Valemount Area Recreation Development Association
Vancouver Island Trail Association
Vancouver Island Whitewater Paddling Society
Village of Cumberland
Western Canada Mountain Bike Tourism Association
Whistler Off Road Cycling Association

Our team.

Board of Directors.

Chair | Wayne Mercer, Quad Riders ATV Association of BC

Vice Chair | Eric Vanderkruk, International Mountain Biking Association of Canada

Secretary | Phil Rankin, Recreational Canoeing Association of BC

Treasurer | Barry Huber, Back Country Horsemen of BC

Director | Mike Riediger, Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association

Director | Kim Reeves, Four Wheel Drive Association of BC

Director | Dave Wharton, Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Director | David Oliver, BC Wildlife Federation

Director | Ken McClelland, BC Off-Road Motorcycle Association

Director | Rod Clapton, BC Federation of Drift Fishers

Past Chair | Ciel Sander, Trails Society of BC

Advisors.

Rivers & Salmon | Mark Angelo

Parks & Protected Areas | Mel Turner

Staff.

Executive Director | Louise Pedersen

Project Officer | Ximena Diaz Lopez

Freelance Writer | Ryan Stuart

Bookkeeper | Natalie Marshik (CPB)

Photo Credits.

Thanks to everyone who has shared their photos of events and adventures happening around the province with us. **No one tells the story of BC outdoor recreation better than you.**

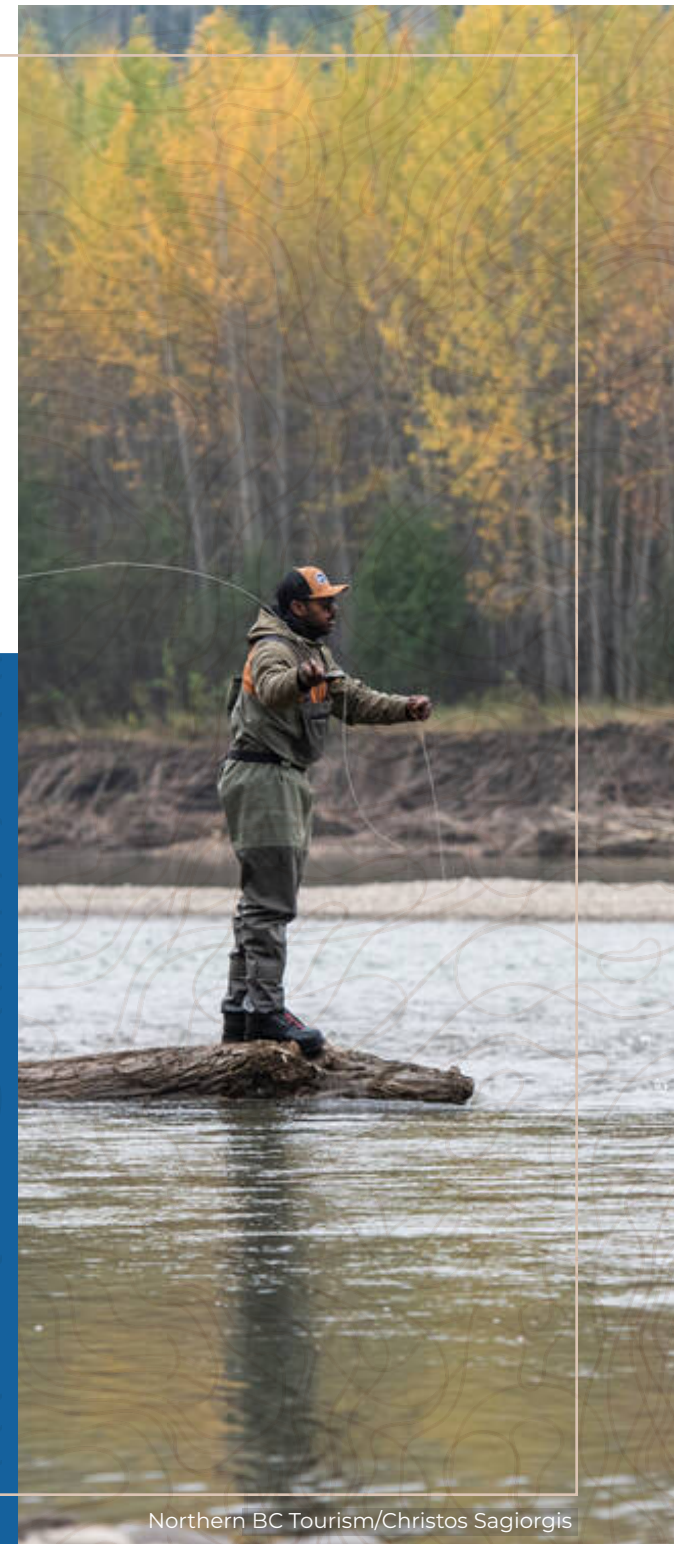
The photo gallery on page 11 features images of our publications and photos shared with us from 2022 BC Trails Day and BC Rivers Day events.

1. McKay Creek Conservationists
2. Sun Peaks Resort
3. The Citizen's Guide on Public Access to Crown Lands and Waters
4. Pat Morrow, Wildsight Invermere
5. Best Practices for Developing Public Trails on Private Land
6. Watershed Watch Salmon Society
7. Elk Valley Adventure & Dirt Riders Society
8. Vancouver Island Dirt Riders Association

What's up ahead.

We are looking forward to bringing the momentum we've gained in 2022-2023 into the year ahead. We will continue to build connections throughout our membership and support BC's public outdoor recreation community. As leaders in the organized recreation sector we strive to build capacity and create impact through education efforts, outreach, advocacy and government relations. Here is what we are prioritizing:

1. Coordinate recreation priorities for the organized recreation sector for the annual budget consultation and engage in advocacy efforts to push for more funding, support and better policies for public outdoor recreation.
2. Develop resources to assist the organized recreation sector in helping to protect recreation values at the landscape level through the modernized land use and forest landscape planning processes.
3. Provide guidance and resources on working cooperatively with Indigenous governments and communities in pursuit of outdoor recreation projects.
4. Set up the Outdoor Recreation Fund for BC with a \$10M endowment from the Province and create a granting program to support community-based volunteer groups, First Nations and local governments with improving access to outdoor recreation.



Get involved.

Three ways you can support our vision of making British Columbia a global leader in inclusive, responsible, and sustainable outdoor recreation.

Become a member.

Join us as an organizational member to help ensure that B.C. has a strong voice for outdoor recreation.

Sign up at orc.bc.ca/members

Join a local group.

Support important work in your community for the outdoor activities that matter to you.

Find our member list at orc.bc.ca/directory

Make a gift.

Your donation helps to advance the interests of public outdoor recreation in BC.

Donate today at orc.bc.ca/support-us





Outdoor Recreation
Council of BC

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC is a charitable society with more than 70 organizational members spanning the entire spectrum of outdoor recreation user groups, including paddlers, hikers, mountain bikers, off-road motorcyclists, equestrians, snow-mobilers, quad riders, and anglers. We voice the interests and concerns of the organized recreation sector to government, advocate for access and funding, and build capacity within the sector. We indirectly represent more than 100,000 British Columbians.

Join us by [becoming a member](#) or [making a gift today](#).



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www.instagram.com/orcbc.ca



www.facebook.com/orcbc.ca

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