



Annual Report 2022

Image: Tatla Lake. Photo by Aleena Oates

Report from the Chair


2022 was another eventful year as we slowly emerged from the COVID pandemic and dipped our feet into the water again! Rivershed reached many important milestones in our pursuit to Connect, Protect and Restore the Watershed, and in particular, I am honoured by all the connections we have fostered over the past year. We now have full Board representation across the entire watershed, working partnerships have expanded, outreach and restoration works are increasing, and on-the-water programming is back. Our work, in collaboration with many other organizations and individuals, ensures people connect and work towards actions that benefit the health of the Fraser River from headwaters to sea.

I am so proud of our board and staff for all they have accomplished in moving the organization along to meet our goals over the past year. I'll just mention a few achievements: Race the River, Watershed CPR Education, development of a mapping visualization tool, and expanded restoration work on the Foodlands Corridor on the s̓c̓e:łxwə́əm (Salmon River)¹.

Thank you to Rivershed's highly engaged and skilled Board of Directors for their support this past year as well as our incredibly hard-working staff. Thank you to our donors, members, volunteers, and supporters. All of you make our achievements possible. Your tireless support and wealth of knowledge has been invaluable as we bravely continue the work started back in 1996.

As I step down from the Chair role, I look forward to seeing the Rivershed Society back in communities and networking across the watershed!



Sincerely,


Kim North
Chair of the Board

1. "s̓c̓e:łxwə́əm" is the hən̓q̓əmiñəñ word for Salmon River. Translation provided by knowledge keepers and speakers from the Kwantlen and Katzie Nations.

Dedications



In memory of Lemya7 / Neawanna

Lemya7's passion for the St'át'imc culture and land, and her dedication to preserving and sharing traditional knowledge was an inspiration to all who knew her. Lemya7 would frequently join Rivershed's Sustainable Living Leadership Program as we rafted from Lillooet through the Fraser Canyon, and generously shared teachings about the deep cultural connection St'át'imc people have with the Fraser River and the salmon that inhabit it.

Lemya7's words, "the salmon was the survival food of our Nation", from [this video](#) posted in 2008, are a testament to the importance of the Fraser River to the St'át'imc people. Her commitment to preserving this connection was unwavering, and her generosity and strength were felt by all who met her.

Lemya7's legacy will live on through the generations of students she has inspired to embrace the St'át'imc language and culture. Thank you, Lemya7, for your incredible dedication to salmon, the Fraser River, and for working so hard to preserve St'át'imc culture and lands for future generations to enjoy.



In memory of Richard Martens

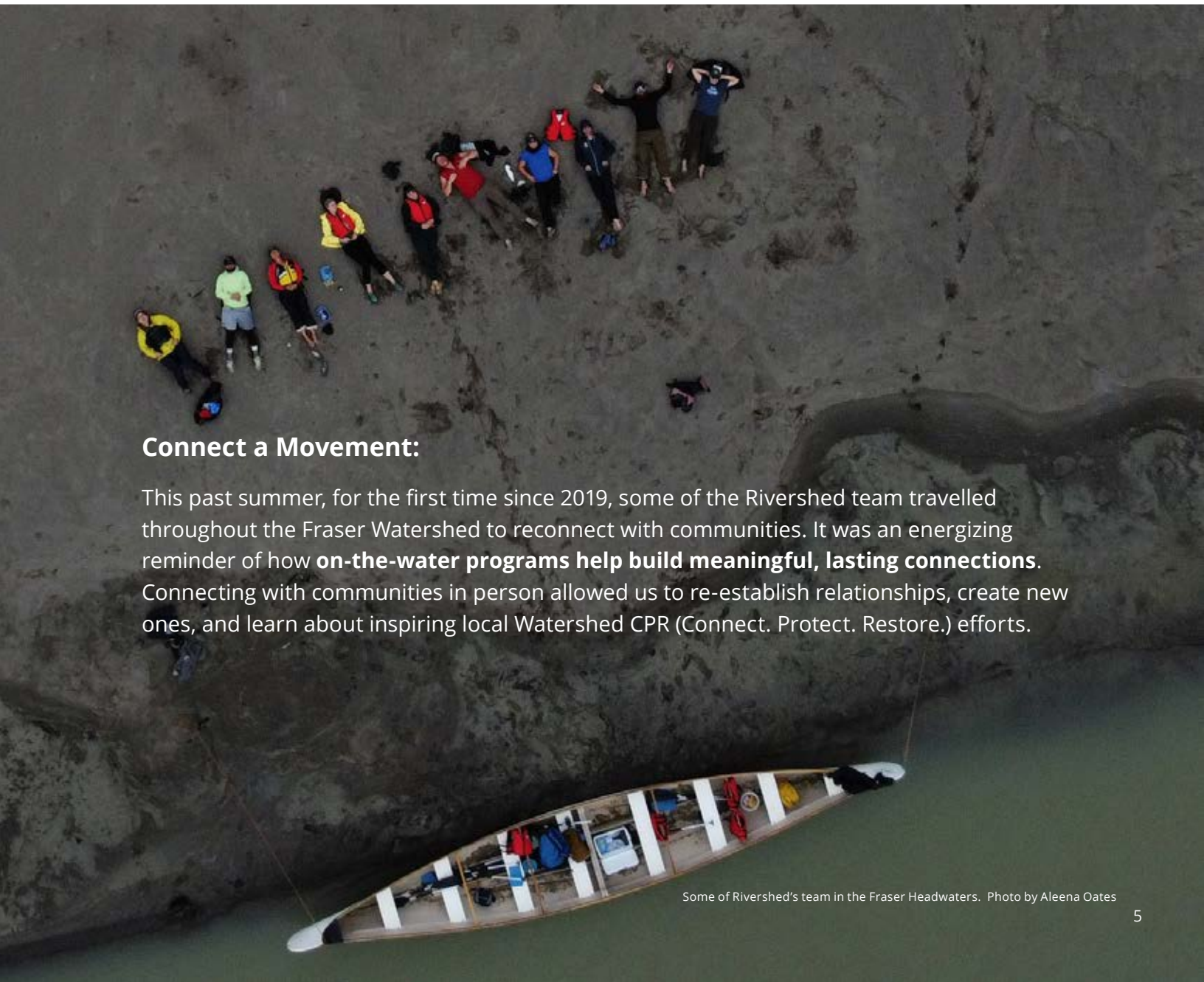
Richard Martens was a devoted rancher who focused on raising beef cattle and enhancing sustainability on his ranch. He firmly believed in regenerative agricultural practices and eagerly shared his ideas and knowledge. He and his wife Nancy were awarded the BC Cattlemen's Association Ranch Sustainability Award in 2014 for their exceptional management of livestock, stewardship of the land, care for animals, positive impact on the environment, and contributions to the industry and community.

Richard was also a valued member of the Nechako Environment Water Stewardship Society (NEWSS), appointed as a board member from the Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association. He enjoyed learning about innovative ways to provide water for livestock, and tested many innovations on his ranch, which assisted NEWSS with their work and contributed to the organization's success. He was thrilled to witness salmon and trout fry returning to streams. A sincere and humble member of the farming and conservation community, Richard's loss is deeply felt. Our condolences go out to his family.

Report from our Executive Director

Since our inception in 1996, Rivershed's programs have been fostering relationships between people, the land, and the water and helping people understand the importance of creating a healthier, more resilient Fraser Watershed. While the organization has gone through many changes in the past few years, these core values are still at the heart of what we do.

2022 was a year of exciting collaborations, in-person events, new programs and growth for Rivershed. A return to in-person and on-the-water programs once again demonstrated that bringing communities together out on the water has a powerful impact and allows us to connect to the watershed and each other. Our team has continued our learnings on decolonization and is working to understand how to appropriately and effectively integrate UNDRIP into everything we do. This is an essential part of our work.

An aerial photograph showing a group of about ten people standing on a wide, sandy beach. They are arranged in a loose line, some looking towards the camera. In the foreground, a long, narrow wooden canoe is partially on the sand and partially in the water. The water is dark and calm. The background shows the vast expanse of the beach and the distant shoreline.

Connect a Movement:

This past summer, for the first time since 2019, some of the Rivershed team travelled throughout the Fraser Watershed to reconnect with communities. It was an energizing reminder of how **on-the-water programs help build meaningful, lasting connections.** Connecting with communities in person allowed us to re-establish relationships, create new ones, and learn about inspiring local Watershed CPR (Connect. Protect. Restore.) efforts.



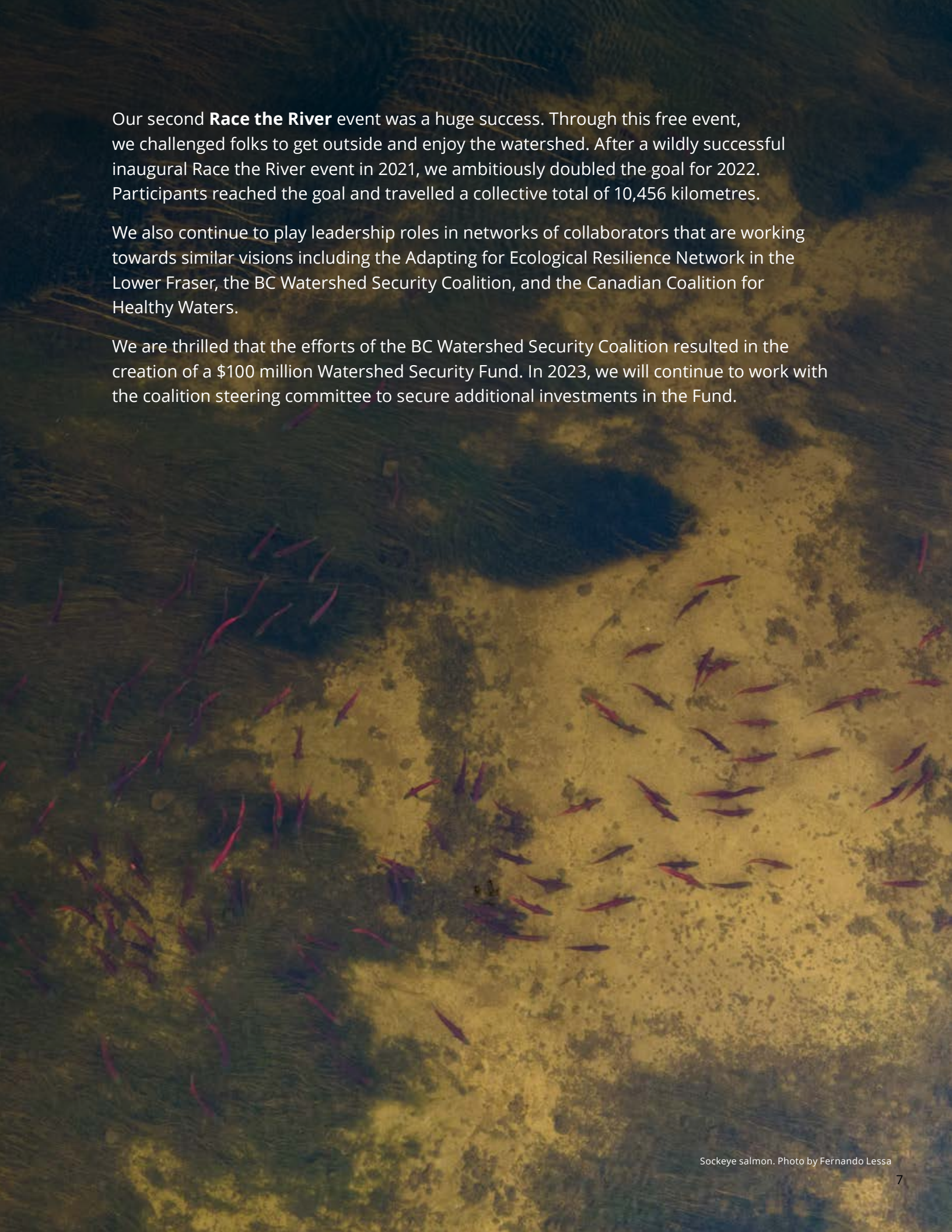
In September 2022, Rivershed tested an early re-design for on-the-water opportunities, inviting collaborators from across the Lower Fraser to join our team for day-long paddles in a Voyageur canoe on the river. This experience reaffirmed that a canoe can be an excellent vehicle to connect people to each other and the watershed, sharing information, stories and ideas. The Voyageur canoe is a potent metaphor for working together to achieve a common goal and is an efficient and rewarding way to convene on the water. They also create an opportunity to learn about the role of canoes in Canada's complex story.

Rivershed team members and collaborators. Photo by Chad Krueger

Our popular newsletter, ***Rivershed Stories***, continued to make connections in 2022, as did our engaging social media presence.

This past year, we increased the number of people using the **Virtual Watershed CPR Education Program** by an astonishing 675%. This interactive program is a fun way for people of all ages to learn about the Fraser Watershed.





Our second **Race the River** event was a huge success. Through this free event, we challenged folks to get outside and enjoy the watershed. After a wildly successful inaugural Race the River event in 2021, we ambitiously doubled the goal for 2022. Participants reached the goal and travelled a collective total of 10,456 kilometres.

We also continue to play leadership roles in networks of collaborators that are working towards similar visions including the Adapting for Ecological Resilience Network in the Lower Fraser, the BC Watershed Security Coalition, and the Canadian Coalition for Healthy Waters.

We are thrilled that the efforts of the BC Watershed Security Coalition resulted in the creation of a \$100 million Watershed Security Fund. In 2023, we will continue to work with the coalition steering committee to secure additional investments in the Fund.

Protect 30% and Restore 2.4% of the watershed:

We are developing a Watershed CPR visualization tool that brings regions together and elevates existing and proposed protected areas and restoration projects throughout the watershed. What we've learned is that the isolated decision-making approach to watershed health and restoration isn't working. To bridge that gap, link regional partners and facilitate connections, Rivershed is building a Watershed CPR visualization tool that demonstrates a coordinated vision of a protected and restored Fraser Watershed. Work on this began in 2022 with outreach to collaborators and a landscape assessment of existing projects and protected areas. The tool will be launched in 2024.

Using a decolonized approach to habitat restoration, we expanded the Foodlands corridor along the s̓c̓e:łxʷəy̓əm (Salmon River) to encompass four new land parcels, **increasing the total of natural areas restored through our Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program so far to 10,752.5 m²**. We were delighted to find eight coho using the newly created habitat in Fall 2022, as well as other species of significance. This work was done in collaboration with s̓əy̓eɾn̓ Qwantlen (the business subsidiary of Kwantlen First Nation), Langley Environmental Partners Society, Kerr Wood Leidal, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, and multiple agricultural landholders along the river.



Planting at the s̓c̓e:łxʷəy̓əm corridor. Photo by Kendra Nelson



The Heart of the Fraser. Photo by Aleena Oates

We continued working to defend the Heart of the Fraser (the stretch of the Fraser River between Mission and Hope). In January, we co-hosted the **Heart of the Fraser Strategy Session** to explore the values, threats, and opportunities for a conservation plan in the area. Over one hundred people participated, including First Nations, federal, provincial, municipal, academic, and non-governmental groups. We also developed a series of videos for the **Defend the Heart of the Fraser campaign**.

We published a **Salmon Aquaculture Compendium** of alternatives to open-net pen (ONP) aquaculture on our website. The compendium addresses the issues with ONP and the feasibility of alternative methods.

Thank you

None of this would be possible without the dedication of Riversheds Board of Directors, staff and supporters. Our **Board of Directors** play an integral role in guiding Rivershed and ensuring we are keeping our strategic goals at the center of what we do. Our team has been steadily expanding but what truly sets us apart is the unwavering dedication of our team who consistently bring their best to their work. And of course, all our funders, donors, supporters, and volunteers – our accomplishments are made possible because of your unwavering commitment to our success.

Looking to the Future

Moving forward into 2023 and beyond, Rivershed will remain steadfast in our mission to connect a movement to protect and restore the Fraser Watershed. We will continue to revitalize our on-the-water programs, focusing on Watershed CPR and building connections to place and each other. We will continue to listen and learn from collaborators about potential efforts in the watershed to further inform the visualization tool and strengthen relationships. **The Foodland corridor on the s̓c̓e:łx̓w̓əy̓əm (Salmon River) has plans for further growth and we are exploring options for a new corridor in the Nechako region, and we will be publishing our Foodlands Toolkit in 2023.** Outreach to collaborators on restoration and protection efforts in the watershed will continue as we get closer to launching the Visualization Tool.

And as always, we will continue to collaborate with others across the Fraser Watershed to work towards a future where salmon, people, and economies are flourishing in rivershed communities. We will take incremental, intentional steps to advance the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in a meaningful way. We will create safe, inclusive space for relationship-building and open dialogue. We know mistakes may be made along the way, but we are committed to taking accountability for them, learning from them, and using them to continually advance our efforts to uphold the principles of UNDRIP throughout our organization.

Sincerely,



Justine Nelson
Justine Nelson
Executive Director



Roberta Webster
Roberta Webster
Director of
Strategic Initiatives and
Government Relations

Thank You to Our 2022 Donors:

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Homewise Plumbing
Rivertec

The Fraser River in the Headwaters Region. Photo by Aleena Oates

Thank You to Our 2022 Funders

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada agissant par l'entremise du ministère fédéral de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique.



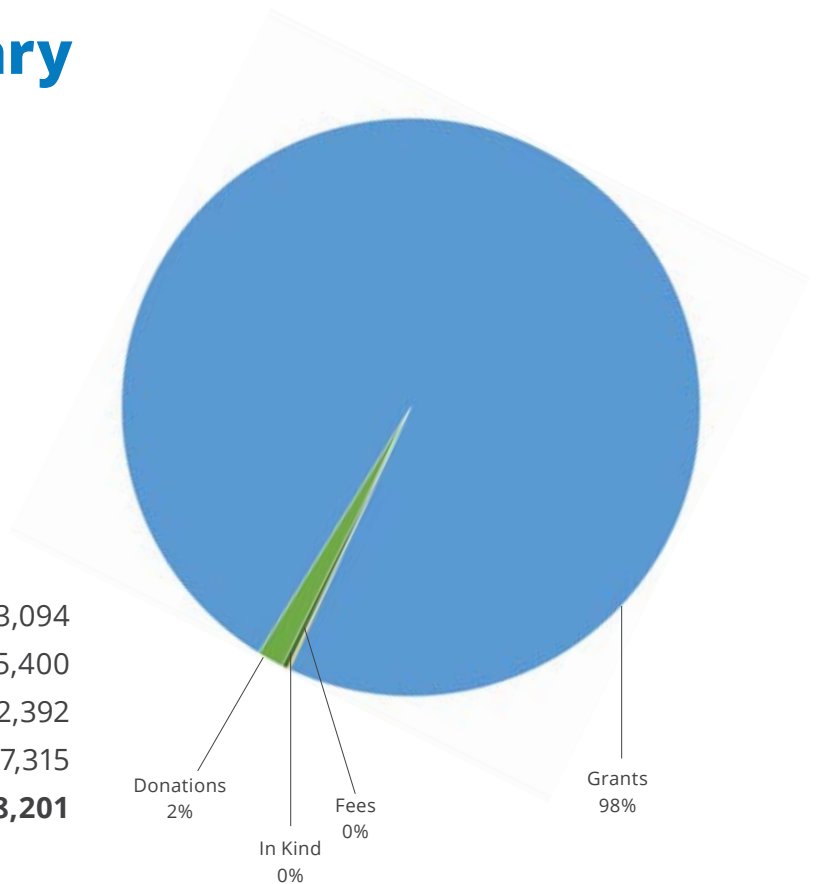
Canada Summer Jobs



Financial Summary

2022 Revenue

Donations.....	\$33,094
Grants.....	\$2,215,400
Fees.....	\$2,392
In Kind.....	\$7,315
Total Revenue	\$2,258,201



2022 Expenditures

Watershed Movement	\$189,791
Headwaters to Sea	\$110,618
Watershed CPR Education	\$56,410
Foodlands.....	\$588,941
Race the River	\$47,296
Visualization Tool.....	\$89,078
Total Revenue	\$1,082,134

