

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



CONNECT. TEACH. SUSTAIN.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2023, CTS Youth Society hosted over 500 camping experiences in twenty summer camp programs. Within these camps, transformative experiences fostered youth development, community engagement, and connection between kids and nature.

As we reflect on another wonderful year, we acknowledge the overwhelming demand for our programs, with every session waitlisted and sold out in just eleven hours. This success is a clear indication of the camps' necessity in our community.

Our commitment to community outreach resulted in 3,895 volunteer hours in regional parks. This dedication allowed us to connect local youth to nature, their community, and each other, creating a lasting impact that extends far beyond the confines of our programs.

This commitment to innovation was further demonstrated through our second annual "Mishkoopitum" Indigenous-led summer camps, ensuring that our programs remain diverse, inclusive, and representative of the rich tapestry of our community.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our partners including Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, BC Gaming, Canada Summer Jobs, Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, Costco, REEL Earth Day donors, Stormtech, Arcteryx and Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation. These generous contributions fuel the core of our programs, enabling us to make a meaningful impact on youth and the environment.

Equally vital are our dedicated partners, Nature Kids, Métis Association North Fraser Chapter, Stream of Dreams Mural Society, Spanish Banks Stream Keepers, Burnaby Lake Park Association, Pacific Spirit Park Society, and countless others whose collaborative efforts bring our initiatives to life, fostering community engagement and environmental stewardship. Together, their support and commitment are instrumental in creating a sustainable and inspiring future for the next generation.

Thank you to our dedicated board members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners for contributing to the success of the CTS Youth Society. Together, we will continue inspiring, educating, and empowering youth for a brighter future.

Sincerely,
Adam Heffey, President
Janet Antonio, Executive Director



"I could talk about this forever, but to cut it short [CTS Youth Society] made me appreciate nature so much more, and discover how amazing a simple walk in the park can feel. Now, visiting Regional Parks has become my go-to method of removing stress."

-Anonymous Peer Leader & CTS Participant

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

CTS Youth Society is here today because of the longterm support from Metro Vancouver Regional Parks (MVRP). For over 20 years, they have hosted our programs in the regional parks and covered a significant portion of our operating costs on an annual basis.



METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION

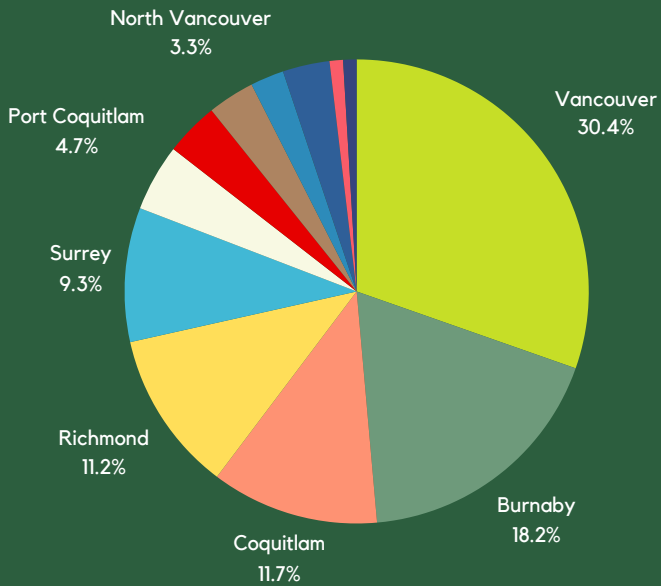
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation is also a notable supporter. Nurturing nature, protecting parklands, and connecting people with their natural environment, the Foundation supports CTS Youth programs by raising funds in support of outdoor education and stewardship projects in the regional parks.

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

For many Metro Vancouver youth, CTS Youth Society is the only option they have to experience nature and gain lifelong skills, memories and friendships at summer camp. Our donors and supporters change young people's lives by removing financial barriers and giving the gift of summer camp, year after year.



CAMPER ATTENDANCE



ATTENDANCE BY LOCATION

14 Metro Vancouver municipalities represented

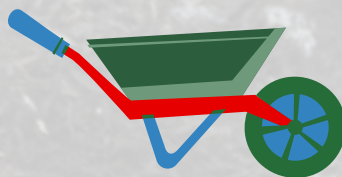


PARK PROJECTS



23

Projects & Learning Sessions



4

Park Partnerships



94%

Campers Recommend CTS



3895

Volunteer Hours

PEER LEADER PROGRAM

A Peer Leader (PL) is a CTS youth member (age 15-18) that plans and leads the camp excursions in Metro Vancouver regional parks with other members of the Peer Leader team. Peer Leaders are trained for 5 weeks in leadership, environmental awareness and stewardship, outdoor recreation and outdoor safety. They work throughout the summer alongside Camp Supervisors, making our "for youth, by youth" programs the best they can be!



- 23 Peer Leaders aged 15-18
- 4 Stellar Award Winners
- 7 Graduating
- PLs report 83.3% 5/5 Overall Experience, 16.7% 4/5
- PLs report 100% interest in returning in the future & report 100% would recommend to others

PL VOLUNTEER HOUR BREAKDOWN

This year, we had a total of 23 Peer Leaders (majority of whom were previous CTS participants or returning PLs). They completed 5 training sessions (41.5 hours), 3,313 cumulative on-site volunteer hours, and ran 20 camps.

Thanks to the great work of our Peer Leader team, we were able to run our camp programs at full capacity!

"I feel that I was able to grow as an individual by putting myself in an unfamiliar situation, allowing me to build my leadership skills while also getting to connect with great people."

-Anonymous Peer Leader & CTS Participant



CAMP SUPERVISORS

Of the nine summer 2023 supervising staff that were hired, 5 were previous Peer Leaders and CTS participants. These roles were generously funded by Canada Summer Jobs and CPRA.



YOUTH COUNCIL

The CTS Youth Council consists of a group of youth, (age 15-18), who dedicate time beyond leading camps in the summer to keep CTS thriving throughout the school year! These passionate youth help plan events, fundraisers, and outreach to keep the CTS community connected in the off-season. This is a space where young people develop their interpersonal skills, hang out with awesome people, and make a positive impact on their community.

MISHKOOPITUM "DISCOVER" CAMPS

This year, CTS Youth Society, Stream of Dreams and the North Fraser Métis Association partnered up to bring "Mishkoopitum" (meaning "discover") Camps to life in regional parks. Presented by Indigenous community representatives and free and open to all youth, participants were invited to acquire knowledge from Métis and First Nations world-views and culture through games, art, food and storytelling in nature. This summer's two Mishkoopitum Camps were at full capacity (plus a waitlist), showing great interest from youth.



THE FIGURES

REVENUE

● Government Grants	\$78,178
● Metro Vancouver Contribution	\$78,500
● Donations & Program Funding	\$84,171
● Total:	\$240,849

EXPENSES

● Salaries & Benefits	\$231,110
● Office & Misc.	\$38,738
● Other Program Costs*	\$4,950
● Advertising	\$1,771
● Total:	\$276,569

*Includes repairs and maintenance.

"The really great personal development and volunteering experiences that I [received] with CTS enhanced my university and scholarship applications. It actually earned me a full ride scholarship. Thank you CTS!"

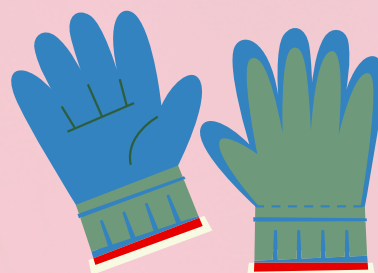
-Bethanea Chou, Camp Supervisor & Past CTS Participant



STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

CTS Youth Society actively engages in volunteer stewardship activities in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, fostering a commitment to environmental conservation and community service. Our participation in stewardship projects not only contributes to the well-being of regional parks but also instills a sense of environmental awareness and civic duty among its members, creating a positive impact on both the community and the ecosystems they serve. In 2023, our stewardship activities included:

- Bug counts
- Wildfire safety education and prevention
- Community garden
- Gravel laying for path maintenance
- Watershed research and protection



Board of Directors



Adam Heffey
Chair



Charlotte Avery
Vice President &
Treasurer



Kevin O'Callaghan
Director at Large



Susan Chung
Director



Nancy Sinclair
Director



Metro Vancouver Representative: David Leavers



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2023

THAT'S A WRAP!



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6825 Cariboo Rd, Burnaby, BC V3N 4A3