

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



CONNECT. TEACH. SUSTAIN.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

In 2025, CTS Youth Society hosted over 675 camping experiences in 22 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 less than a week of registration opening. This success is a clear indication of the camps' necessity in our community.

Our commitment to community outreach resulted in 5,074 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 fourth 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 funders including Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, BC Gaming, Canada Summer Jobs, Eco Canada, REEL Earth Day donors, Parks Canada Vancouver Learn to Camp program, Stormtech, Pivot Green 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, 2MétisWomen, Metro Vancouver Housing, Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services 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 and Miku Yamada, CTS President and Vice President

"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). Since 2001, they have hosted our programs in 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 Society programs by raising funds in support of outdoor education and restoration projects in Regional Parks.

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

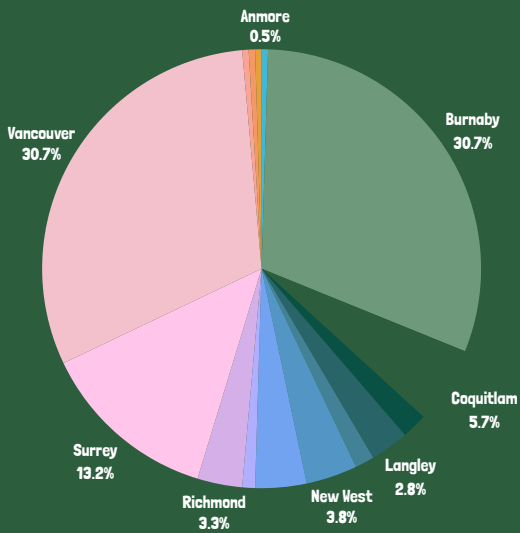
For many Metro Vancouver youth, CTS Youth Society is a no-barrier option for them to experience nature and gain lifelong skills, memories and friendships at summer camp. Our donors and supporters change young people's lives by removing financial barriers and giving the gift of summer camp, year after year.



CAMPER ATTENDANCE



YOUTH ACROSS THE REGION



ATTENDANCE BY LOCATION

15 Metro Vancouver municipalities represented

1. Anmore
2. Burnaby
3. Coquitlam
4. Delta
5. Langley
6. Maple Ridge
7. New Westminster
8. North Vancouver
9. Port Coquitlam
10. Richmond
11. Surrey
12. Vancouver
13. Victoria
14. West Vancouver
15. White Rock



PARK PROJECTS



23

Projects & Learning Sessions



6

Park Partnerships



100%

of campers said they are more likely to visit a regional park



5,074

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!



- 26 Peer Leaders aged 15-18
- 5 Stellar Award Winners
- 6 Graduating
- 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 26 Peer Leaders (majority of whom were previous CTS participants or returning PLs). They completed 5 training sessions, 5073 cumulative on-site volunteer hours, and ran 22 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 2025 supervising staff that were hired, 6 were previous Peer Leaders and CTS participants. 2 of the summer staff were returning staff. These roles were generously funded by Canada Summer Jobs and Student Works Placement Programs through Eco Canada and Magnet.



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, create lasting friendships, and make a positive impact on their community.

MISHKOOPITUM "DISCOVER" CAMPS

This year, CTS Youth Society worked with 2MetisWomen to bring "Mishkoopitum" (meaning "discover") Camps to life in Regional Parks. This is our fourth summer running Mishkoopitum programs, and we have expanded each year to have an additional program; with 2025 being the first year we were able to fund Mishkoopitum camps at each of our four locations. Presented by Indigenous knowledge keepers, Lorelei & Gena, and free and open to all youth, participants were invited to learn Métis and Indigenous world-views and culture through games, art, food and storytelling in nature. This summer's four Mishkoopitum Camps were at full capacity (plus a waitlist), showing great interest from youth.



THE FIGURES

REVENUE

● Government Grants	\$84,558
● Metro Vancouver Contribution	\$90,000
● Donations & Program Funding	\$120,581
● Total:	\$295,139

EXPENSES

● Salaries & Benefits	\$221,373
● Office & Misc.	\$56,238
● Other Program Costs*	\$7,676
● Advertising	\$3,770
● Total:	\$291,890

*Includes repairs and maintenance.

"CTS is a community that has always been a welcoming place to all. Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses, and at CTS you gain a sense of empowerment unlike any other summer program out there. The community is always there to lift you up. All it takes is one weekend, and what you think is just a weekend camp quickly becomes a second home. CTS is a community that I am so thankful to be apart of."

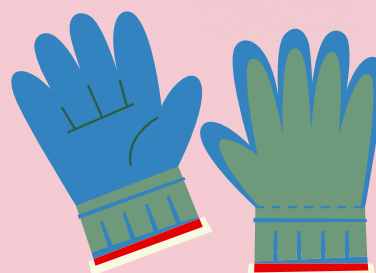
-2025 Summer Staff Member



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

2025 Board Members

Charlotte Avery, Treasurer

Noor Bhandal, Secretary

Sean Chung, Director

Julia Du, Director

Adam Heffey, Chair

Micheal Jerowsky, Funder Director

Smiely Khurana, Director

Tyrus Nguyen, Director

Nancy Sinclair, Director

Miku Yamada, Vice Chair

Kevin Zia, Director

Paul Brar, MVRP Representative





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2025

THAT'S A WRAP!



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