



ANNUAL REPORT
2019

Vision

Together, we envision a British Columbia that is comprised of **Healthy landscapes and communities free of invasive species.**

Mission

Through education and responsible practices, the Council, organizations, businesses, and individuals have joined efforts to **take action to build healthy landscapes, including habitats and communities.**

Values

Wherever we work across British Columbia, we share and apply the following values:

SAFE

We are committed to providing our employees and volunteers a safe and inclusive work environment.

RESPECTFUL

We are committed to respecting and protecting the communities in which we work, and the well-being of our staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers.

COLLABORATIVE

We believe in fostering strong relationships and connections to ensure best possible outcomes between individuals and organizations.

INTEGRITY

We meet the highest ethical standards and professionalism in all of our work, ensuring honesty, transparency, accountability and credibility.

STRATEGIC

We strive for new and improved approaches to addressing emerging issues.

INSPIRING

We seek to inspire people, businesses, and communities with experiences, knowledge, and tools that enable them to take action.

INCLUSIVE

We are committed to providing our employees and volunteers a safe and respectful workplace in which to thrive and excel.

Message from Chair & Executive Director



Dave Bennett
Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to recognize ISCBC's inspiring work and those that had the vision to build this cause over fifteen years ago.

The collaborative efforts of industry, Indigenous groups, governments and communities across British Columbia has played a significant role in increasing invasive species awareness, supporting healthy landscapes, and educating people and organizations across BC. This journey was only made possible through the help of directors, staff, partners and funders and advisors, shaping us to where we are today.



Gail Wallin
Executive Director

In looking back at the past 15 years, there have been new programs and projects that not only shaped the Council but inspired us to meet new challenges. There are many critical milestones including moving from invasive plants to invasive species, from education to behaviour change, providing resources for business sectors, all while serving as a virtual team of staff and Directors from all corners of BC. Thanks to everyone who left their footprint in building a strong provincial organization for BC and inspiring others across the country and beyond.

Year in Review 2019

We are excited to celebrate the projects and programs that we, as a Council, facilitated in 2019. The Council is guided by two strategic goals; **Inspiring Citizens to Take Action** and **Leading Through Partnerships**. By being aligned with these goals, we ensure that we are continuing to meet and exceed our objectives of healthier landscapes and communities for all British Columbians.



JCP at Elephant Hill



Youth Weed Pull



Williams Lake Indian Band Weed Pull



Healthy landscapes and communities free of invasive species.

Community Outreach at TRU Kamloops

Inspiring Citizens To Take Action

Over the past 15 years, we are proud to have inspired and motivated British Columbians to take action against invasive species in their everyday lives. We have accomplished this by identifying, planning and executing effective programming and communications that provide the necessary tools to help combat invasive species throughout the province.

The following is a snapshot of our success and impact in the past year, culminating in 15 years of ongoing action and success.



Installation of CDD signs at Timothy Lake

CONSERVATION OF AQUATIC HABITATS

We inspired and supported British Columbians to protect our valued waterbodies against the ongoing threat of aquatic invasive species. Building on over ten years of experience, we developed and broadly extended the Clean Drain Dry message through a national pilot program and developed many new resources including program decals, floating keychain, rack cards, social and traditional media communications, and signage for critical waterbodies. We pursued new partnerships and expanded the reach of Clean Drain Dry messaging to stop the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species like Zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil.



Zebra mussel illustration by youth volunteer, Amanda Ziegler



150 signs produced
+ 28 new partners in 2019
308+ signs and 63 new partners since start of pilot

11 lakes monitored for mussels in the Cariboo region

“This was a fantastic partnership opportunity for all parties involved. The new sign and resources give this [existing] campaign a fresh modern look. The updated resources enhanced the delivery of the CDD program in our area.”

– Laurie Frankcom,
 Education Program Coordinator,
 Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society



Youth Volunteer at a Weed Pull at McArthur Island

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

In 2019, through the development of a new volunteer program, we inspired youth from all backgrounds to prevent new invasive species introductions and spread. Through strong volunteer facilitation we worked with youth to actively engage in and give back to their own communities. Youth in Kamloops, Williams Lake and Vancouver joined and hosted 68 events and projects to support sustainable and healthy habitats in their local communities. We created new resources and training opportunities for youth to broaden their knowledge of invasive species management and prevention.

We will continue to inspire youth through our new online Youth Network and Volunteer Hub, providing volunteers with a means of connecting with other like-minded youth and opportunities for increased invasive species education and contribution back to communities.



153 registered youth volunteers



Over 36 local sites improved by volunteers



“The Invasive Species Council of BC Youth Volunteer Team has impacted my life by further expanding my knowledge and awareness of invasive species in the region and the degree of harm they have the potential to cause to the environment if not addressed appropriately by both the government and the public.”

— Lyala Hussein, Kamloops Volunteer



15,000+ resources distributed to British Columbians

ENGAGING RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

We're continuing to inspire and engage British Columbians through the creation of five new resources and publications: *Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Fact Sheet*, *Perennial Pepperweed Fact Sheet*, *High Risk Invasive Species in the Carbo*, *Invasive Species that Impact Indigenous Communities and Cultural Practices and Agriculture*, *Invasive Species and You – Take Action*. We created these resources to address emerging issues relevant to British Columbians while expanding our reach and relevance. Land and resource managers depend on these fact sheets for up-to-date and relevant information about the biology, ecology and management of invasive species.



BEHAVIOR CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATION

We believe that education is a key component in managing and preventing further spread of invasive species. We have delivered programming in over **115 communities** across British Columbia. We continue to inspire and engage British Columbians through our five main behavior change programs: *PlantWise*, *Clean Drain Dry*, *Don't Let it Loose*, *Play Clean Go*, *Buy Local Burn Local*. With provincial, federal and international notoriety, the Clean Drain Dry program is an example of the Council's breadth of reach and commitment to innovative and effective public behaviour change.

Over the past 15 years our behaviour change programs have continually grown and evolved, creating positive impacts in our wild spaces and communities. From the growth of an ambitious and innovative idea to the implementation and full-scale delivery of change-making programs, the ISCBC has influenced programs and projects across Canada and beyond.



5 behaviour change programs designed and delivered to target key invasive species pathways



115 communities reached

15 Years of Invasive Species Prevention!

In 2005, a team of dedicated and forward-thinking individuals united to grow their vision of a British Columbia that was committed to the prevention of the spread and introduction of invasive species that harm our communities and landscapes. Since that time, the Invasive Species Council of BC has become a registered charity that is passionate about inspiring individuals, volunteers, organizations, and businesses to care for their local environment by fostering change in our behaviours and action on the ground and in our waters. We are proud to be celebrating 15 years of action.



Move to Invasive Species

The Council evolved to be inclusive of all invasive species, changed the Board structure and facilitated the release of the first Invasive Species Strategy for along.



(Left to right) Gail Wallin, Minister Thomson, Tom Wells, Dave Borth, Jude Grass

Changing Behaviours

In partnership with governments, regional committees and others, ISCBC shifted from information to **changing behaviours** and the launch of provincial campaigns Clean, Drain, Dry and PlantWise.



PlantWise Industry Certification Program

Complementing the PlantWise consumer program, ISCBC piloted an industry certification component designed to assisted plant growers, retailers, landscapers and specifiers in transitioning to an invasive-free business.

Invader Rangers marks expansion into youth programming

Starting with the Invader Rangers, the program now includes the **Invasive-Wise Youth Challenge**, teaching resources and a youth network.

10 Years Together in Action

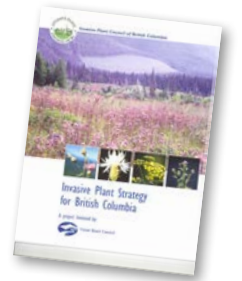
In 2015, The Council celebrates 10 years in Action and launches the Together in Action Innovation and Leadership awards.

Weeds Know No Boundaries workshop

The Council's story starts in 2002 when ranchers in the Cariboo called for a new approach on invasive plants leading to the **Weeds Know No Boundaries** workshop, and an initial working group established.

Invasive Plant Strategy for BC released

After 2 years of input, Invasive Plant Strategy for BC released; they called for a provincial non-government organization.



Invasive Plant Council of BC launched

Invasive Plant Council of BC formed and held their first provincial forum.



Horticulture program launched

A focus on horticulture started with creating **Grow Me Instead** followed by **PlantWise** and **Voluntary codes of conduct**.



First BC Invasive Plant Research Forum

The first research conference was held, drawing over 100 participants from Canada, the United States and beyond. The fourth forum is planned for **August 2020**.

Economic impacts of invasive plants researched

With the Provincial Government, the council released its first research report quantifying the economic impacts of invasive plants to BC.

Action Now! Hot Spots evolved the Council

At the request and support of governments, we received over \$4 million to create actions on the ground and partnered with regional committees to do much needed inventory, removal and outreach.



Best Management Practices and training launched

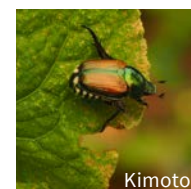
Industry and government identified the need for industry training which has now expanded to retraining unemployed workers and online training tools for **forestry, utilities, parks, oil and gas**.

Invasive Species Strategy for BC

Second Strategy released calling for collective and increased action to protect BC from invasive species.
(Left to right) Brian Heise, Minister Donaldson, Gail Wallin, Minister Heyman, Dave Bennett



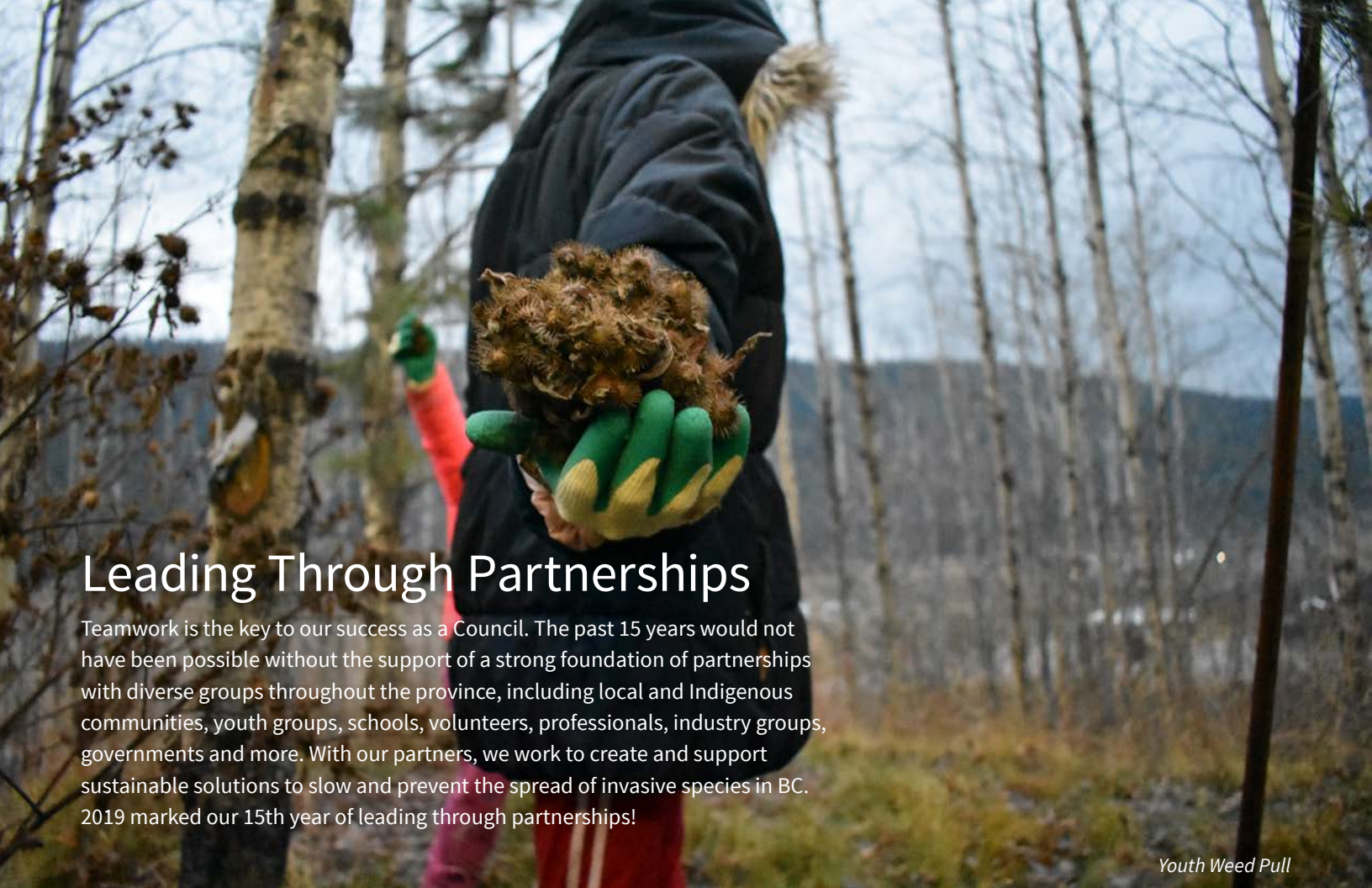
Japanese Beetle Team



ISCBC was invited to facilitate a collaborative party of governments, industry and non-government to initiate a multi-year plan to eradicate this beetle from BC.

Youth Network & Volunteer Hub

Launch of ISCBC's Youth Network & Volunteer Hub to grow and support volunteers around BC to take action in their communities.



Leading Through Partnerships

Teamwork is the key to our success as a Council. The past 15 years would not have been possible without the support of a strong foundation of partnerships with diverse groups throughout the province, including local and Indigenous communities, youth groups, schools, volunteers, professionals, industry groups, governments and more. With our partners, we work to create and support sustainable solutions to slow and prevent the spread of invasive species in BC. 2019 marked our 15th year of leading through partnerships!

Youth Weed Pull



Friendship Walk on National Indigenous Peoples Day



Sugarcane/Williams Lake Indian Band

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS LANDS AND TRADITIONS

The Indigenous Invasive Species Network grew to over 200 members with representatives from Indigenous communities and organizations across the province. The Network meets monthly to address key invasive species issues facing indigenous communities, seek solutions and provide guidance on development of key resources. We directly collaborated Tribal Councils, Bands and Indigenous communities in BC through onsite training, community outreach, and partnering to support active management of invasive species on treaty and traditional lands. We delivered community presentations, including a webinar, on invasive species impacts to Indigenous lands and culture. We collaborated with 6 bands to develop tailored Integrated Pest Management plans for their territories. The new online **Indigenous Web Hub** provides access to three new videos highlighting indigenous-community-specific issues, two new *Youth Activity Sheets* and the new Fact Sheet: *Invasive Species that Impact Indigenous Communities and Cultural Practices*.



Japanese Beetle Ambassadors

JAPANESE BEETLE: SUCCESS TOWARDS ERADICATION

We facilitated over 10 agencies in working together to eradicate Japanese beetle from Vancouver through a multi-year response plan. Through strong collaboration and leadership of all partners, we facilitated 5 committees to plan for and implement development of public resources and messaging, treatment plans and delivery, movement and control resources and information, and strategic planning forward.

Over 1200 members of the public reached with Japanese beetle messaging



Collaborated on an **86% reduction in beetles since 2018**—efforts continue!



Over 80 planning & management meetings facilitated

information provided to **100+ landscaping companies, 22 landscaping suppliers & 36 plant retailers**



Provided 35 presentations to stakeholders



Asian Giant Hornet; Province of BC



BUILDING CAPACITY AND CONNECTIVITY

Communication and cooperation are foundational to our province's capacity to effectively prevent the spread of invasive species. We engaged with and facilitated networks and monthly **Calls to Action** with local governments, Indigenous partners and other invasive species partners to identify opportunities for efficiency and collaboration.

We launched a province-wide network of Affiliates, consisting of 8 regional organizations dedicated to prevention and management of invasive species.



DECEMBER 11 WEBINAR
Grasshoppers of Concern to the Cariboo's Agricultural Sector

Webinars in 2019: **11**



Indigenous listserv members: **215**
Local Government listserv members: **135**



71 communities, 24 events, and 30+ media appearances



INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION MONTH



In May, we built and extended Invasive Species Action Month, a collective partnership to promote education, information and action on invasive species in BC with record-breaking participation from communities and organizations around the province.

COLLABORATING WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

We developed a new online course to empower forestry professionals to learn more about preventing the spread of invasive species that impact their work in BC and beyond. To create this new valuable resource, we collaborated with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, forest industry representatives, government invasive species and forest health experts, and Indigenous forestry company professionals.



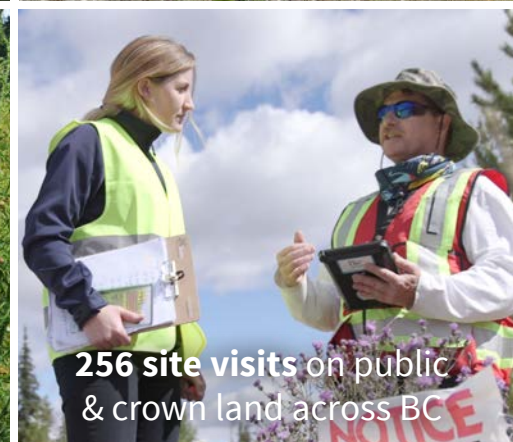
49 forest professionals involved in piloting the program and online course



128 priority gravel pits treated and/or surveyed in BC's southern interior



35 priority species surveyed and/or managed



256 site visits on public & crown land across BC

Making a Difference on the Ground!



7000 people+ engaged at events, presentations and workshops



9 tons of invasive plants were removed from BC landscapes



2,484 youth participated in educational events and programming, with many more indirectly involved



90% JCP employment rate



Followers: **40% ↑** in Facebook, **25% ↑** in Twitter

Celebrating Excellence

We are proud to celebrate the many individuals, organizations, businesses and governments that work hard to educate others, research new and innovative techniques and methods, and volunteer their time to further the efforts of stopping invasive species spread and establishment in our beautiful province.

to take the opportunity to recognize and thank those that have contributed significant time and leadership to manage and prevent invasive species in BC. These exceptional leaders are ensuring that future generations will experience healthy habitats and communities throughout BC.

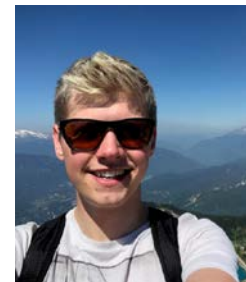


In 2019, we were proud to present the **Together in Action Leadership Award** to **Tom Nicols**. As a passionate environmental steward, Tom started the Ivy League where he inspired countless volunteers to help tackle the spread of English ivy in the Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Tom's dedication to environmental stewardship has improved the ecological health of this sensitive area and he's inspired future environmental leaders to care for this important remnant forest.

TOGETHER IN ACTION AWARDS

The Together in Action Innovation and Leadership awards (TIA) were established by the ISCBC in honour of our Executive Director Gail Wallin's innovative leadership, provincially and nationally, in the area of invasive species. Through these awards, we are honoured

Matthew Strelau was the deserving recipient of the **Together in Action Student Leadership Award**. Matthew is a biology student at Trinity Western University, where he has extensively researched Knotweed, Spurge laurel and English ivy. Matthew has prevented and reduced the spread of invasive species in BC by volunteering his time removing invasive species, increasing publicity through articles and videos, and educating fellow students.



Congratulations Tom and Matthew for your leadership, energy and passion!

CELEBRATING OUR TEAM



Dave Ralph received a national award for Excellence in Extension from the Canadian Weed Sciences Society. Throughout Dave's 42 dedicated years and counting, he has received a wide range of accolades from people across Canada for his knowledge, passion and dedication to the 'weed world and extension' – Congratulations Dave!



OUR STAFF



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our work as a Council wouldn't be possible without a dedicated team of directors. The knowledge and wealth of experience that our directors possess contributes to the many partnerships and sustainable programs that we offer. Thank you to each and every one of these dedicated volunteers for their service and commitment to invasive species management and prevention in BC.

GOVERNMENT CHAMBER

- Harold Aljam**, *Indigenous (Coldwater Indian Band)*
- Nadia Chan**, *Secretary, Local (City of Surrey)*
- Lesley Douglas**, *Vice Chair, Local (Port Moody)*
- Fernie May Garbitt**, *Indigenous (Saulteau First Nations)*
- Dave Holden**, *Federal (Canadian Food Inspection Agency)*
- Val Miller**, *Provincial (Ministry of Forest Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development)*
- Ursula Viney**, *Provincial (Ministry of Agriculture)*

COMMUNITY CHAMBER

- Kari Bondaroff**, *Community Partner (Peace River Regional District)*
- Laurie Carr**, *Community Partner (Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society)*
- Brian Heise**, *Past Chair, Research and Education (Thompson Rivers University)*
- Ralph Nevill**, *Community Partner (ISC of Metro Vancouver)*

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY CHAMBER

- Dave Bennett**, *Chair, Transportation and Utilities (Fortis BC)*

- Crystal Chadburn**, *Transportation and Utilities (Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure)*
- Douglas Fossen**, *Agriculture (Rancher)*
- Bill Grutzmacher**, *Treasurer Natural Resources (Mosiac Forest Management)*

- Eric Nijboer**, *Natural Resources (Spectrum Resource Group Inc.)*
- Ken Schwaerzle**, *Agriculture (Dairy)*
- Heike Stippler**, *Trade and Retail (Heike Designs Inc.)*
- Dan Tisseur**, *Transportation and Utilities (Enbridge Inc.)*

HONOURARY MEMBERS

We are pleased to continue to recognize outstanding directors in our Honourary Members program. These individuals have contributed significant value, extensive volunteer time and expertise towards the Council's development and evolution. A special thanks to our Honourary Members:

- Duncan Barnett**
- David Borth**
- Barry Gibbs**
- Brian Heise**
- Kristy Palmantier**
- Tom Wells**

As a provincial organization, we are committed to staffing our Council with individuals that come together from different backgrounds and locations, bringing new information, skills and diverse perspectives. As such, our team is located throughout BC and delivers on Council goals from all corners of the province.

ASHCROFT

- Matt Burgess**, *Jobs Creation Partnership*

COURTENAY

- Sue Staniforth**, *Outreach & Education Manager*

KAMLOOPS

- Katelyn Bissat**, *Youth Facilitator*
- Dave Ralph**, *Operations Manager*

PORT COQUITLAM

- Caitlyn Therrien-Iannone**, *Indigenous Coordinator*

REVELSTOKE

- Brittany Lowden**, *Communications Coordinator*

SORRENTO

- Jodi Romyn**, *Director, Operations & Finance*

VANCOUVER

- Nicholas Wong**, *Research & Projects Coordinator*
- Corbin Manson**, *Youth Facilitator*
- Jennie McCaffrey**, *Training Coordinator*

VERNON

- Danielle Toperczer**, *Director, Programs & Communications*

WILLIAMS LAKE

- Dixie Ballantyne**, *Manager, Finance & Administration*
- Tina Benard**, *Office Coordinator*
- Gail Wallin**, *Executive Director*
- Torin Kelly**, *Youth Facilitator*
- Marie Sparvier**, *Contract Coordinator*
- Ksenia Kolodka**, *Outreach Coordinator*
- Lynn Sales**, *Finance & Administration Support*

WYCLIFFE

- Allyson Blake**, *Events & Communications Coordinator*

Special thoughts of Rick Mahoney who we lost from our team in November—he left his footprint and his energy and great sense of humour will be greatly missed.

Thank You to Our Funders

Our 15 years of success as a non-profit society wouldn't have been possible without the commitment, support and trust of a wide range of funders. We are incredibly grateful for the support that individuals and organizations have provided, enabling our Council to reach our goals and share our vision of healthy landscapes and communities free of invasive species.

Thank you to our 2019 funders:

- » BC Parks
- » BC Real Estate Foundation

- » BC Society of Landscape Architects
 - » Canadian Council on Invasive Species
 - » Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee
 - » Cariboo Regional District
 - » Climate Action Initiative
 - » EcoCanada
 - » Employment and Social Development Canada
 - » Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 - » Fortis
 - » Gaming & Policy Enforcement Branch
 - » Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
 - » Investment Agriculture Foundation
 - » Ministry of Agriculture
 - » Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
 - » Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
 - » Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
 - » Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
 - » Naut'sa Mawt Tribal Council
 - » Pacific Coastal Airlines
 - » Pacific Gateway Hotel
 - » Pacific Salmon Foundation
 - » Project Learning Tree Canada
 - » Sustainable Forestry Initiative
 - » TimberWest Forest Corp
 - » TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
 - » Williams Lake Community Forest
- and many individual donors including Council staff and board members.

A Future Free Of Invasive Species

Thank you for joining us over the past 15 years. By working together towards our common goal, we will continue to combat the spread of invasive species in our beautiful province and enable all British Columbians to take action to help ensure that we have access to healthy habitats and communities for generations to come.



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