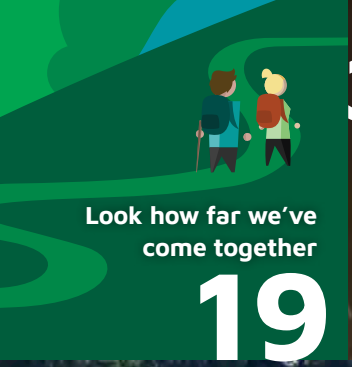

our trust
Stories of people and places in the Columbia Basin
FALL 2020 FREE
25 years



Look how far we've come together

19



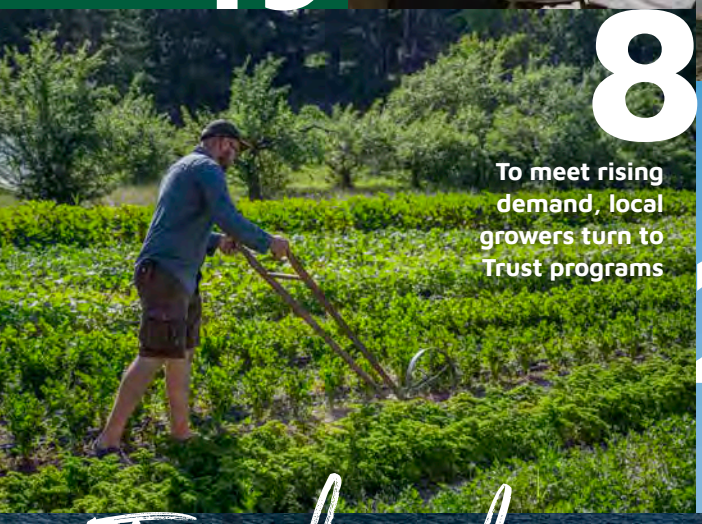
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First Nations communities create affordable, quality housing



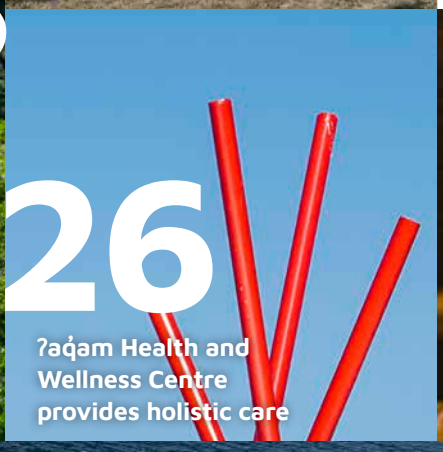
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ʔaq̓am Health and Wellness Centre provides holistic care



A Cranbrook restaurant supports community

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Columbia Basin trust 25 1995–2020

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Our thoughts

Jocelyn Carver and Johnny Strilaeff

This message is very different from what we had envisioned sharing when 2020 began. This past year will live in our memories as one in which the most extreme of events influenced every facet of our communities and society. Nobody foresaw the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing impacts felt by so many.

Like you, the Trust had to adapt to circumstances. Despite these challenges and changes, many important things stayed constant. In particular, we've been reminded how fortunate we are to live where we do, in the remarkable Columbia Basin and in communities filled with people working every day to make life better for us all.

This magazine is filled with stories of collaboration and perseverance. In the past year, the Trust supported this work by delivering nearly $69 million in funding benefits for more than 2,100 projects. This would not have been possible without the people behind these projects, doing their best to foster social, economic and environmental well-being in these challenging times.

We're also grateful to organizations in the Basin that quickly adapted so they could continue to serve communities and people through unprecedented circumstances. The Trust assisted organizations such as small businesses, food producers, internet service providers, community social service agencies, and many others.

The year also marked two milestones: our 25th anniversary and plans to prepare a new long-term strategic plan. While we had hoped to be in communities, celebrating and conversing in person with you and your neighbours, we had to postpone due to the public health risk.

Instead, people gave us their time and feedback—through virtual meetings, phone calls and online questionnaires—so we could develop a shorter-term plan. This plan includes six focus areas: community well-being, ecosystem enhancement, high-speed connectivity, housing, local food production and access, and support for business renewal. It also includes two overarching commitments that we'll embed in all our activities: climate resilience and working with Indigenous peoples.

The time given to share perspectives is a reminder of what has remained constant throughout the Trust's 25 years—that the people of this region care deeply about strengthening where we live, for ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

To help share the story of the Trust's history, this magazine includes a special section (starting on page 18) devoted to that journey. We also invite you to read the newly published book about our creation: *Columbia Basin Trust: A Story of People, Power and a Region United*. Find it at **ourtrust.org/25years**.

Thank you to everyone who helps us deliver on our mandate, including our Board of Directors and staff, our advisory and adjudication committees, our partners, and all who live in the Basin. The accomplishments seen in the region over the past 25 years are because of the dedication of people like you. Thank you for your ongoing and remarkable efforts.



Jocelyn Carver
Chair, Board of Directors



Johnny Strilaeff
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Strategic priorities

Basin residents help map out Trust priorities for the next two years



"We are now putting new resources toward the priorities in our plan. We will also continue to support many of our programs that strengthen social, economic and environmental well-being in the region over the next two years. Circumstances in the Basin will continue to change, and we are committed to engaging with people in the Basin, and to being flexible and responsive to the needs of Basin communities."

JOHNNY STRILAEFF, TRUST PRESIDENT AND CEO

Based on input from people and communities in the region in summer 2020, the Trust developed a new strategic plan that will guide our activities over the next two years.

Some of the priorities in the plan are broad and we will work with Basin residents to develop specific approaches to achieving the priorities. We will also share our progress through updates to residents.

Throughout the term of this plan, we will continue to fulfill our mission to foster the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Basin.

ourtrust.org/strategicpriorities

Resilient in the face of challenge

Local groups get immediate support to adapt and continue to offer vital services

What do you do when your processes can no longer work like they used to? When you can't deliver your services in person? When you have to worry about the safety of your clients and staff? These are some of the questions Basin organizations faced when confronted by the pandemic. Their answer: push ahead, adapt in whatever way they could and make sure they were still able to serve the people who relied on them.

It's organizations like these that help people of the Basin live fulfilling, affordable, comfortable and meaningful lives. On the following pages, read stories of how, despite the pandemic, they've continued to do so with support from the Trust.



Cartwheel Farm, Creston.

Farmers' markets, food recovery groups and the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program could continue to help people in the Basin have access to local, nutritious food.

Businesses could expand or adapt their operations, hire additional staff, receive training or become more tech-savvy.

Hospices; child care providers; food banks; food producers; arts, culture and heritage organizations; and social service agencies could continue and adapt to serve Basin communities.

First Nations communities and Métis associations could continue to meet the needs of their community members.

Internet service providers could connect people with each other and with resources.

Local colleges could assist students who were experiencing financial hardships.

The Trust quickly responded with $11.7 million to aid essential groups in the region; over 400 have been supported.

ourtrust.org/covid19

Hospice services temporarily shift online

The **Hospice Society of the Columbia Valley**, based in **Invermere**, supports individuals and families during the dying and grieving process. Usually, its volunteers reach out through hundreds of in-person visits each year. But the pandemic put a stop to these.

One solution was to connect digitally. Thanks to a grant from the Trust to deal with pandemic-related impacts, which it gave to **all hospices in the Basin**, the Columbia Valley hospice purchased a Zoom membership and a new computer, which it also used to train volunteers. In addition, the funding helped the hospice hold an online fundraising event, since it had to cancel other in-person ones. With this aid, the hospice has continued to serve its community.



Michèle Neider, Executive Director, Hospice Society of the Columbia Valley.

TRACY CONNERY



Golden Bear Children's Centre, Rossland.



Periwinkle Children's Centre, Kaslo.

Win-win: kids stay safe and get outdoors

When licensed child care providers reopened during COVID-19, getting outside to ease physical distancing was one way they redesigned their programming. With support from the Trust, **87 child care providers** in the Basin were able to make changes to their amenities, retain staff, renovate and purchase new equipment necessary to deliver services to families.

After adjustments like these, **Kaslo's Periwinkle Children's Centre** and **Golden Bear Children's Centre in Rossland** gradually reopened their facilities to support their communities' needs. Every day, caregivers are impressed by the children, who come up with creative ways to socialize safely and demonstrate the ability to adapt to new challenges—including the sudden adjustments a pandemic can require.



Laurance Chanut, volunteer, Community Connections Revelstoke Society.
ZOYA LYNCH

Full stories at
Basin Stories
ourtrust.org/basinstories



Major Linda Green, Manager, Salvation Army Food Bank, Fernie.
NICK NAULT

As demand soars, food banks adjust their efforts

In **Revelstoke**, the number of people accessing the **food bank** run by the **Community Connections Revelstoke Society** tripled once the pandemic hit. For **Fernie's Salvation Army Food Bank**, the number suddenly more than doubled. To help food banks in the Basin adapt operations and programming to safely meet increasing demand, the Trust provided **COVID-19 funding** to **32 food banks and two lunch programs**. In Fernie, this meant they could distribute more food to families, seniors and others, plus alter their space to keep it safe. In Revelstoke, this funding helped them buy food and transition to safer processes. They also joined the food bank with the existing food recovery program. Now, every week, hundreds of people in these communities can continue to put food on the table.



Left to right: Hannah Whitney, Community Food & Outreach Coordinator, and Patti Larson, Food Bank Program Director, both with the Communiy Connections Revelstoke Society.
ZOYA LYNCH



Fernie foodbank volunteers Peter and Lori. NICK NAULT



Nigel and Laura Francis with son Callum, Owners, Cartwheel Farm.

A Creston farm supports the food supply

With demand on the rise, local growers turn to Trust programs

When uncertainty and fear gripped the world due to the pandemic, Cartwheel Farm owners Laura and Nigel Francis felt it, too. But those emotions were soon overpowered by the reaction from the community.

"We've never felt as supported by customers as we did this year," says Laura. "We were really in a good position to be of service."

"Suddenly, the farm was more relevant than ever," adds Nigel.

In 2014, the couple started the farm, located east of Creston in Erickson, on a property that was already certified organic. In 2015, they began weekly deliveries to about 30 Creston Valley families, offering items like lettuce mix, beans, peas, tomatoes and peppers. That number has since grown to about 150, plus eight restaurants and four grocery stores, which receive produce in plant-based packaging.

> **"Suddenly, the farm was more relevant than ever."**
>
> NIGEL AND LAURA FRANCIS, CARTWHEEL FARM.

The Francises "grow on a small scale with joy and attention to detail," according to their website. "We farm to cultivate health, justice, freedom, beauty and contentment."

That philosophy may be why so many residents got in touch with them in March and early April 2020, concerned the pandemic would disrupt the food supply.

"They were panicked," says Laura. "People were thinking urgently about how to eat in different ways."

The couple reflected on its ability to support local food production, as well as what the pandemic might mean for their own health and livelihood.

"My big concern was if Nigel got sick or if the staff got sick," says Laura. "The garden doesn't give a half-day of downtime."

Nigel agrees: "Farming is relentless."

With serious interest from new customers, Laura and Nigel felt like it was their duty to expand Cartwheel Farm. They had already ordered 2020's seeds, but it was early enough that they could scale up production.

They needed assistance, however, and were thrilled to get it from the Trust's **Basin Food Producer Loans and Basin Food Producer Wage Subsidy**. Created specifically to help food producers expand operations due to increased pandemic-related demand, the Trust supported 42 food producers with wage subsidies and seven with loans over the spring and summer.

"I hope investments in local farms become part of the new normal," says Laura. "This is what people in the Basin want to see. Local food is not a luxury—it matters to people."

The loan allowed them to lease additional land from a neighbour, giving them a total of just over two acres, about 25 per cent more than last year. They added tunnels to create



DENNIS CHARLES

covered rows and extend the growing season. To help with the extra gardening, the wage subsidy helped them hire additional workers.

"It feels good to give good, safe employment to young people," says Nigel. "I really feel for young people graduating during the pandemic."

In addition to producing about 30 per cent more food this season, Cartwheel Farm is using its delivery network to support other Creston Valley producers, bringing their locally roasted coffee, meat, eggs, sustainably sourced seafood, fruit, juices, spices, and bread and baking to Cartwheel Farm customers.

The couple is also putting more energy into educating consumers about seasonal eating, offering more recipes and advice about preparing and preserving seasonal foods, all the while providing a listening ear during difficult times to help support their customers—another benefit of having local businesses well connected with their communities.

Laura and Nigel are proud of their ability to contribute to the local food supply. They're also gratified by the support of the Creston Valley community, as local eaters tune into what's being grown, raised and processed around them.

"This feels like the kernel of a local food system that is gearing up to actually meet our food needs," says Laura. "If that happens, we will all be safer, richer, healthier and happier for it."

ourtrust.org/foodproducers

Growing support

A farming family in Rossland scales up to feed as many as possible

When COVID-19 hit, "People stood up and said, 'We want local food,'" says Miche Warwick, who co-owns Happy Hills Farm with partner Dan Hayden. Located just outside **Rossland**, the farm scaled up production with help from the **Trust's Basin Food Producer Loans** and **Basin Food Producer Wage Subsidy**, introduced to help producers meet rising demand during the pandemic. The couple added more beds, hired more workers and built a farm store so more people could access food from their farm and other local producers. Warwick says, "Being involved in community food security is some of the most rewarding work we've been part of."



JESSE WINKIEWICZ

Miche Warwick and Dan Hayden with their children, Owners, Happy Hills Farm.

"These two programs from the Trust have changed the face of our farm. They have been so instrumental to our success this summer and fall."

MICHE WARWICK, CO-OWNER, HAPPY HILLS FARM

Arts and culture bring hope and connection during COVID-19

Golden adapts its offerings, including a rolling curbside concert series

Performer Ricky Diamonds commands centre stage in a smoking jacket and greased-back hair, dressed to impress a Las Vegas crowd. But he's not entertaining in Sin City; he's a roots musician performing weekly, along with other bands, on a flatbed truck rolling through the neighbourhoods of Golden.

Although COVID-19 greatly impacted touring musicians and cancelled community performances, Kicking Horse Culture adapted its summer programming to take music to the streets with its Summer Kicks 2020 curbside concert series. Executive and Artistic Director Bill Usher and his colleagues found a way to keep rocking and rolling because, after all, the show must go on!

"We—not just my staff, but all of my arts and culture colleagues across the Basin—didn't quite know what to do at first when the pandemic hit," says Usher. "The government began recommending closures and social distancing, and we were all just spinning on a dime."

Due to limits on gathering and physical distancing requirements, hosting a crowd of up to 500 people at its regular Spirit Square venue was no longer viable. Instead, the series was put on wheels, equipped with a tracking GPS so people would know where it was, and broadcast on Facebook Live. Residents enjoyed high-energy performances from the comfort of lawn chairs in their own yards or in designated social-distancing bubbles.



Ricky Diamonds.

Kicking Horse Culture is the outward identity of the Golden District Arts Council. Incorporated in 1970, it hosts about 50 activities a year, including concerts, films, a winter festival and more. It also runs the Art Gallery of Golden, which displays work by hundreds of Basin artists and artisans and draws over 12,000 visitors annually.

With its facilities temporarily shut and its spring/summer events cancelled, Kicking Horse Culture immediately felt the effects of the pandemic. But it could breathe easier with financial support from the Trust's COVID-19 funding, which has helped 36 arts, culture and heritage organizations in the region cover operational expenses, adapt their venues and alter their programming.

With this support, the organization turned its attention to reinventing Summer Kicks 2020. Compliant with COVID-19 safety protocols, the program toured for 10 Wednesdays from June 17 onwards. The live music series helped deliver a sense of normalcy during a peculiar time and provided a connection between all residents—even those self-isolating.

"We'd be driving down the street and I'd see a curtain move; there would be a husband and wife in their 80s, standing in their living room looking out the window and waving at us as we drove by," describes Usher. "That touched me. It was no longer about how big the crowd was, but rather who we were able to reach."

Also following safety protocols, Kicking Horse Culture opened its gallery in July, and movable seating in its main indoor venue makes spacing requirements easily achievable. As for a winter/spring music series, it'll be keeping the lineup largely regional, with intimate shows delivered to no more than 50 patrons.

"We have to be responsive, open to change, and adaptive to meet the standards as they roll out," says Usher.

For now, Ricky Diamonds serenades the socially distanced with a repertoire of sounds from the 40s through 60s, allowing listeners to forget for a moment that life has dramatically changed.

"It was no longer about how big the crowd was, but rather who we were able to reach."

BILL USHER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, KICKING HORSE CULTURE



Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures

Valemount's Robson Valley Community Services takes multiple steps to aid the community

Not long ago, the community garden in Valemount was in much need of a makeover and a new purpose. Now, thanks to volunteer support and some Trust funding, it sports tidy, easily accessible raised beds that have enabled Robson Valley Community Services (RVCS) to help increase food availability in the community by distributing free, fresh produce to people in need.

"We rebuilt the community garden," Executive Director Lina Thompson says with pride—an important step in an isolated community where food can be expensive and of limited availability, particularly during COVID-19. Into the future, volunteers will tend the garden or people can ask to reserve a plot of their own.

> "I was happy to be helping the community."
>
> HEATHER FUNK, VOLUNTEER, ROBSON VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES

This is just one of an impressive number of initiatives the organization has undertaken since the pandemic began, all to support a range of people who require varying types and levels of assistance. These were made possible by COVID-19 funding from the Trust—intended to help community social service agencies maintain, enhance and adapt their services during the pandemic—plus the input of many partners and volunteers and the non-profit's 28 staff.

Throughout the crisis, RVCS has been committed to continuing its programs and services, which support everyone from infants to seniors on issues like mental health, anti-violence and literacy. Many of these services went virtual.

For example, RVCS was able to offer preschool online to Valemount children at no charge. To help children who otherwise would not be able to go to school digitally, Thompson says, "We provided a significant number of Chromebooks. We also had some donations of used laptops, tablets and cell phones, which we were able to refurbish." RVCS also started an anonymous, virtual chat for anyone who needed support.

In addition, the organization provided food to seniors and families, and not just from the community garden. It purchased Easter dinner and other meals from local restaurants and distributed them to those in need.

It also helped distribute nearly 1,000 masks, made by volunteers. As someone whose family has benefited from RVCS services, volunteer sewer Heather Funk says, "I was happy to be helping the community."

In total, the number of volunteers rose greatly during this trying time—as did the number of people reaching out for help. Thompson praises her team for being able to provide so much support in such trying circumstances. "They just rose to every challenge."



Staff and volunteers from the Robson Valley Community Services Society, Valemount.

Snapshots

A glimpse of the projects the Trust is supporting in Basin communities



Full stories at
Basin Stories
ourtrust.org/basinstories

Cabin preserves pioneer life

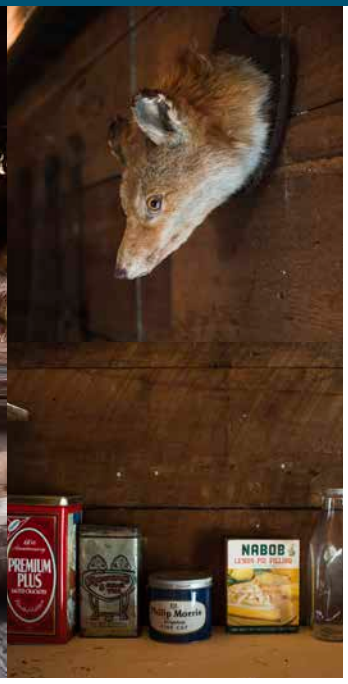
The **Lardeau Valley Historical Society** has **restored a 100-year-old cabin** built and occupied by local pioneer Billy Clark. Clark was a skilled trapper and snowshoe maker whose cabin originally rested along the shores of Duncan Lake. When Duncan Dam was built, the cabin was hauled to higher ground to spare it from the rising waters. The cabin now resides on the grounds of the **Meadow Creek Museum**, where the society has restored and preserved it with help from the Trust's **Built Heritage Grants**, administered by **Heritage BC**. The cabin also exhibits artifacts and information about Clark's pioneer life in the Basin.

ourtrust.org/heritage



Left to right: Lardeau Valley Historical Society Board members Peter Jonker, Sunnie Wichmann, Cathy McIvor and Gary Slabaugh.





LOUIS BOCKNER

Collaborating to restore a watershed

The community of Kenpesq't—also known as the **Shuswap Band**—is working to **restore the watershed of Shuswap Creek**, home to a variety of fish species, including the species-at-risk west slope cutthroat trout and the culturally significant mountain whitefish. With support from the Trust's **Ecosystem Enhancement Program** and collaboration from community members, local landowners and local and provincial organizations, the community has started to restore and enhance over five kilometres of the 18-kilometre creek and its watershed. The aim is to use the latest scientific techniques while working within the parameters of the community's fundamental principles, such as sustainability, responsible stewardship, respect and self-sufficiency. The project will also build knowledge by employing community members.

ourtrust.org/ecosystems





TRACY CONNERY







Barb Kingsland, Coordinator, Harrop Schoolhouse.

URSULA HELLER

Full stories at
Basin Stories
ourtrust.org/basinstories



New access and options

Originally a one-room school, the little red, century-old **Harrop Schoolhouse** is now a gallery and its grounds the site of a popular outdoor market.

But when it came to access, people, vendors and cars had to use the same road to park, drive and walk along. With support from the Trust's **Community Outdoor Revitalization Grants**, the **Harrop and District Community Centre Society** built a new gated lane for vendor vehicles, along with a separate parking area and walkway for patrons. Levelling and landscaping the grounds created a new seating and garden area for more types of activities.

Coordinator Barb Kingsland says, "These changes have made a world of difference to how the community can experience and participate at the schoolhouse."

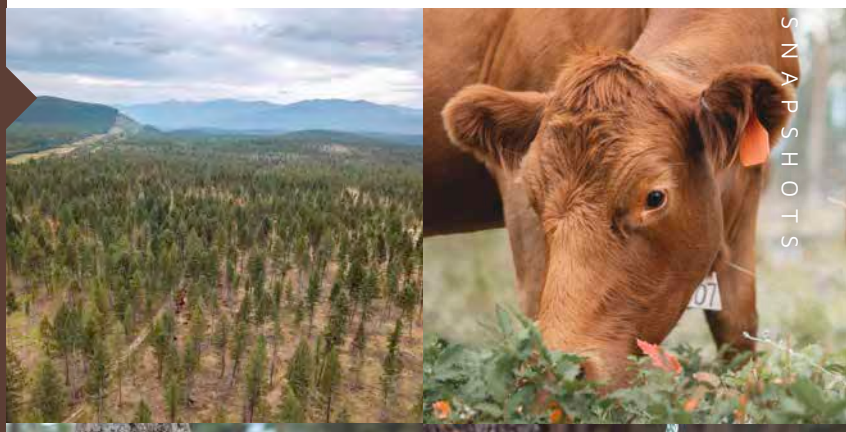
ourtrust.org/corgrants

Cattle put to work to suppress fires

Grass feeds cows and wild ungulates like deer and elk, but it may also feed a wildfire. That's why a project just south of **Cranbrook** is using cattle to mow the grass. The project is supported by the Trust's **Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Program**, delivered by the **Kootenay Livestock Association, and key partners like local ranchers, the BC Cattlemen's Association and government**.

The project plans to use innovative "virtual" fences, which use GPS and cell-phone technology to link to collars on the cattle. Ranchers are then able manage where their cattle graze without fence posts, barbed wire or cattleguards. This method will help researchers control the amount of grass growing in a specific area—a major type of fuel for fires—and therefore **reduce wildfire risk**.

ourtrust.org/grep

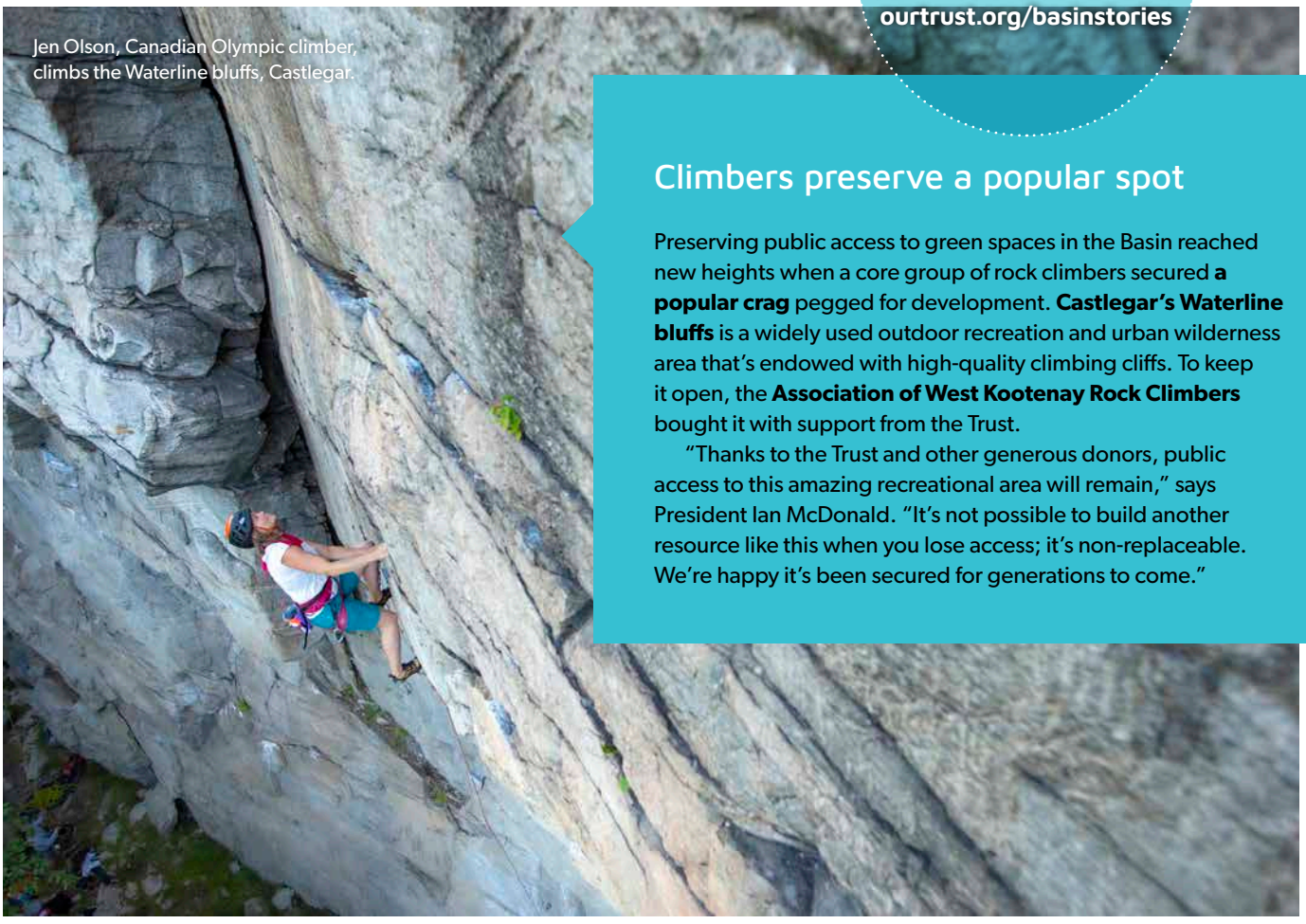




Jordy Thibeault, rancher.

TYLER ZHAO

Full stories at *Basin Stories*
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Jen Olson, Canadian Olympic climber, climbs the Waterline bluffs, Castlegar.

STEVE OGLE

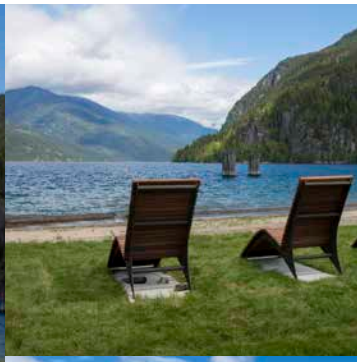
Climbers preserve a popular spot

Preserving public access to green spaces in the Basin reached new heights when a core group of rock climbers secured **a popular crag** pegged for development. **Castlegar's Waterline bluffs** is a widely used outdoor recreation and urban wilderness area that's endowed with high-quality climbing cliffs. To keep it open, the **Association of West Kootenay Rock Climbers** bought it with support from the Trust.

"Thanks to the Trust and other generous donors, public access to this amazing recreational area will remain," says President Ian McDonald. "It's not possible to build another resource like this when you lose access; it's non-replaceable. We're happy it's been secured for generations to come."



Left to right: Jason Jones, Larch Landscape Architecture, followed by representatives from the Village of Slocan: Michelle Gordon, Chief Executive Officer; Jessica Lunn, Mayor; and Ezra Buller, Councillor.





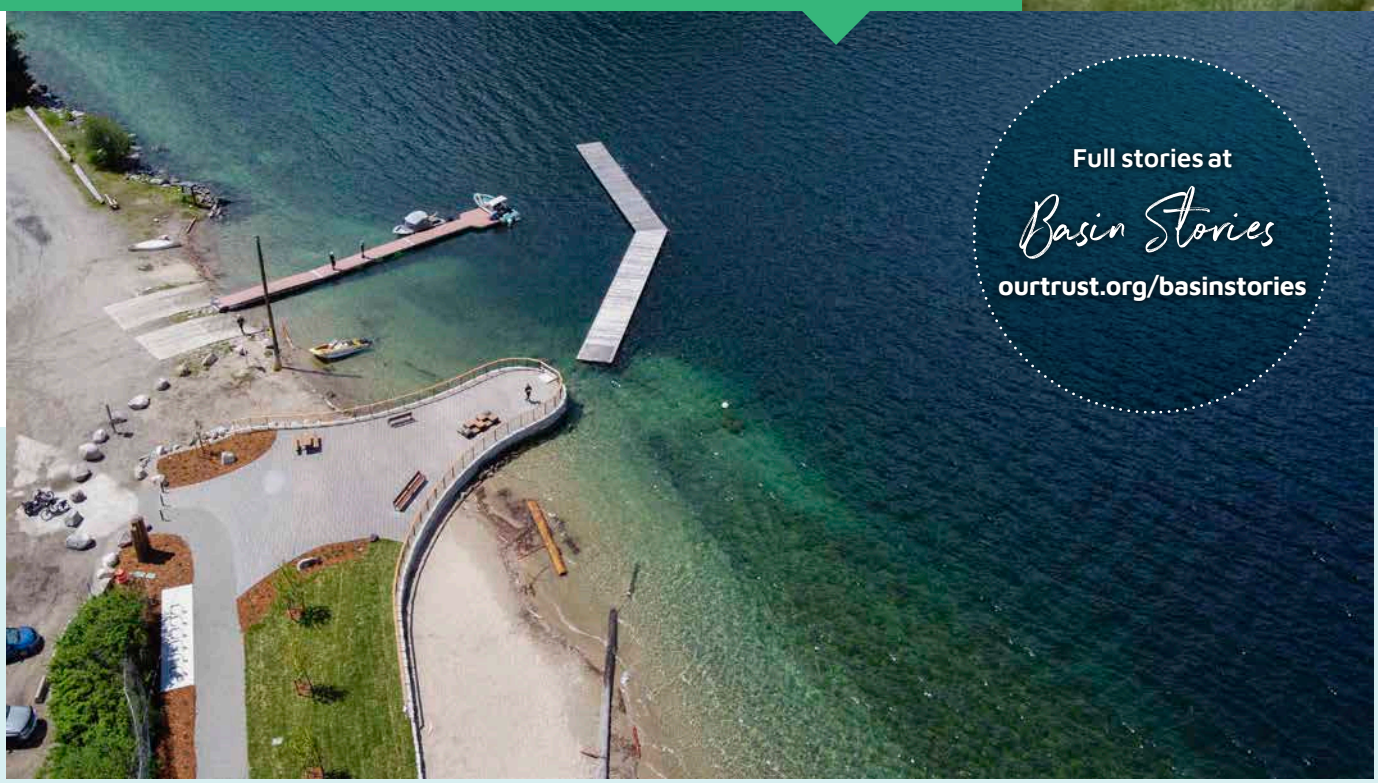




New waterfront captures the spirit of a community

Community members and tourists happily lounge on the new grassy area, watching boaters set sail and swimmers dive into the refreshing water. The **Village of Slocan** is proudly celebrating the community's **newly renovated waterfront**, located on Slocan Lake's southeast shore. The design repurposed an old recreation parking lot area into a functional, user-friendly park that pays tribute to the area's historic rail line and logging heritage. With help from the Trust's **Community Outdoor Revitalization Grants**, the Village beautified and optimized the space, now attractively positioned to contribute to long-term community vitality.

ourtrust.org/corgrants



Full stories at

Basin Stories

ourtrust.org/basinstories

LEE ORR



Young women imagine their future careers

Experts bring the joys of science and technology to an enthusiastic audience

Sixty young women from grades 10 to 12 filled the i4C Innovation Centre in Trail. Here, they waited in anticipation to discover how they could have careers in science and technology.

Quantum Leaps, hosted by the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST), was a free evening conference—held March 5, 2020, just before the pandemic shut down in-person events—that brought together young women from around the Basin. The goal was to inspire them to explore science and technology careers.

"We were able to put together three amazing workshops, as well as a panel of local women," says Kailyn Skuban, KAST Director. Led by female volunteers, the participants took part in hands-on investigations of engineering, geoscience and the trades.

"Having all the women in STEM careers here was inspiring and made it easy to visualize myself in those types of jobs," says one participant, referring to the acronym for 'science, technology, engineering and math.' "It opened my eyes to many opportunities and possibilities that I wasn't aware of previously."

Young women from as far as Cranbrook and Nakusp were able to attend the conference for free, including transportation. This was thanks to support from the Trust, which provides various resources to help youth discover options, develop skills, undertake post-secondary studies and prepare for future careers.

Quantum Leaps is just one of the ways KAST's GLOWS program (Growing & Learning Opportunities With STEAM, which adds 'arts' to the STEM factor) inspires youth about careers in science and technology. The organization now plans to deliver the program virtually while exploring new possibilities.

"We are really starting to think more broadly about diversity in technology, as well as highlighting women in technology," says Skuban. "I am really excited to host the Quantum Leaps event again next year."

ourtrust.org/cdp

"From trades to PhDs, they can find a space that fits them. The panel gave them a perspective that otherwise they would have not seen, thus increasing the possibilities of more girls attending STEM career paths."

PILAR PORTELA, PANELIST
AND PRESIDENT OF
i4C INNOVATIONS

WOMEN MAKE UP ONLY:

23%
of people who work in science and technology

&

34%
of people who have bachelor's degrees in STEM subjects

STATISTICS CANADA, 2016

Focusing on people in the Basin for *25 years*

We're here to support what the people of the Basin want to achieve. It's your input that guides how we work.

For 25 years, we've been working together to strengthen the Basin. We take our lead from people and communities. Whatever the situation calls for, we adapt our role: from providing resources, to bringing people together, to leading an entire initiative. The Trust is here to offer experience and support to all.

While our range of services, programs, initiatives and financial investments is extensive, our purpose is straightforward: we exist and act for the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Basin—now and for generations to come.

To be effective in our work with communities, we remain flexible and use varied approaches—based on the needs of the situation, the participants involved and how we can be most effective—to respond to Basin priorities.

25 years ago no one could have imagined all that might be possible. To mark the Trust's 25th anniversary, we've created a book that celebrates the people and places of the Basin, a story of people, power and a region united.

ourtrust.org/25years



Your Trust

We continually aim to do the following:

- Manage our assets responsibly to ensure that both present and future generations benefit from those assets.
- Grow ideas together with communities—from concept to plan to action.
- Help people make their own choices on issues that affect their futures, and see those choices result in positive outcomes.
- Engage more closely with First Nations communities.
- Support a healthy, renewed natural environment.
- Collaborate with youth in the Basin through events, programs and leadership development.
- Partner with Basin organizations with shared values and objectives—including colleges, local governments, non-profits, co-operatives and businesses.
- Ensure we have a presence around the Basin through our Board and staff.
- Work alongside federal and provincial governments on common goals.
- Bring together partners to tackle regional needs.
- Share information on issues and topics that matter to communities and facilitate access to expertise.
- Engage Basin volunteers on our committees, boards and working groups.
- Celebrate unique and shared cultures.

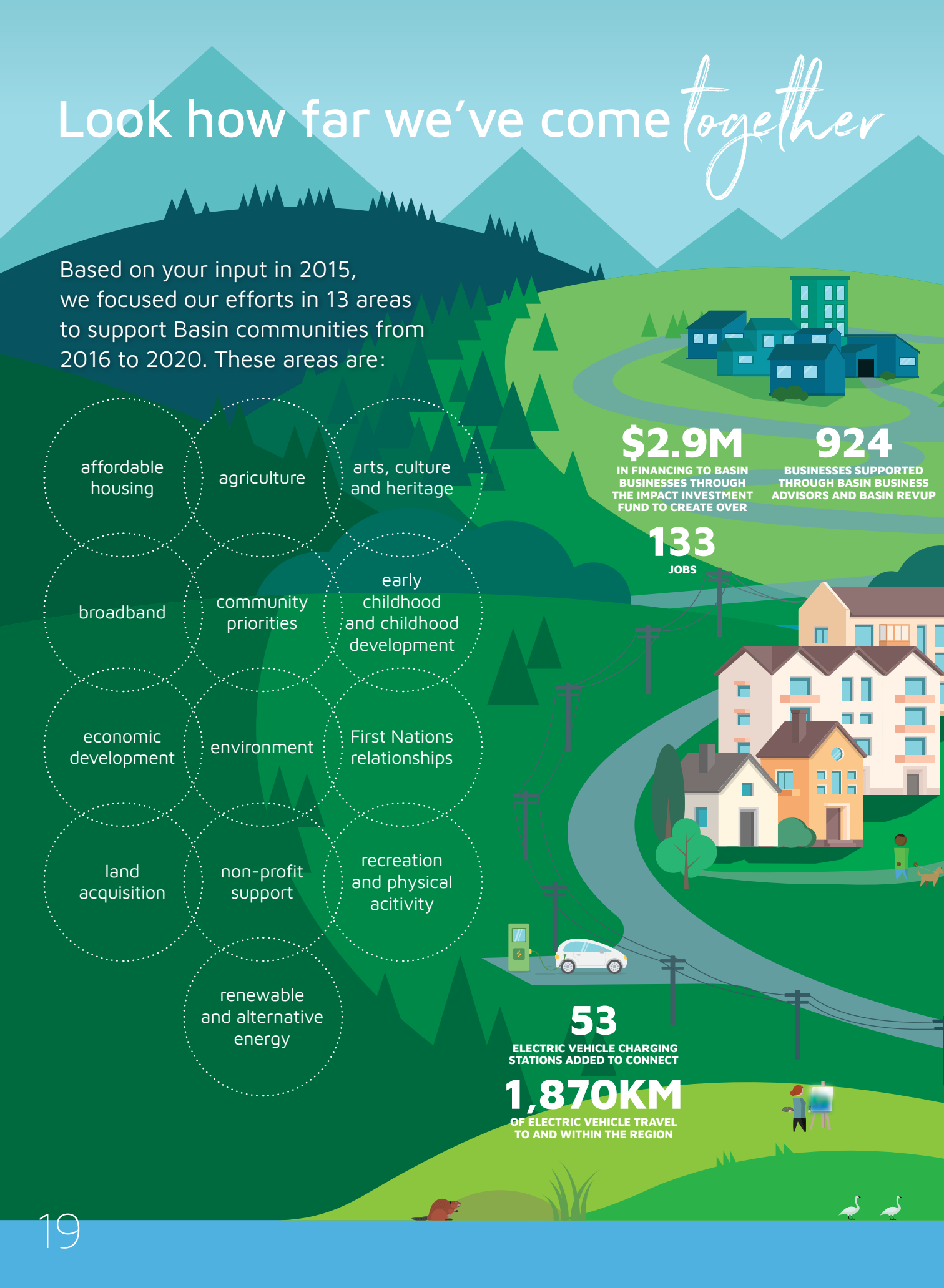




Look how far we've come *together*

Based on your input in 2015, we focused our efforts in 13 areas to support Basin communities from 2016 to 2020. These areas are:

- affordable housing
- agriculture
- arts, culture and heritage
- broadband
- community priorities
- early childhood and childhood development
- economic development
- environment
- First Nations relationships
- land acquisition
- non-profit support
- recreation and physical acitivity
- renewable and alternative energy



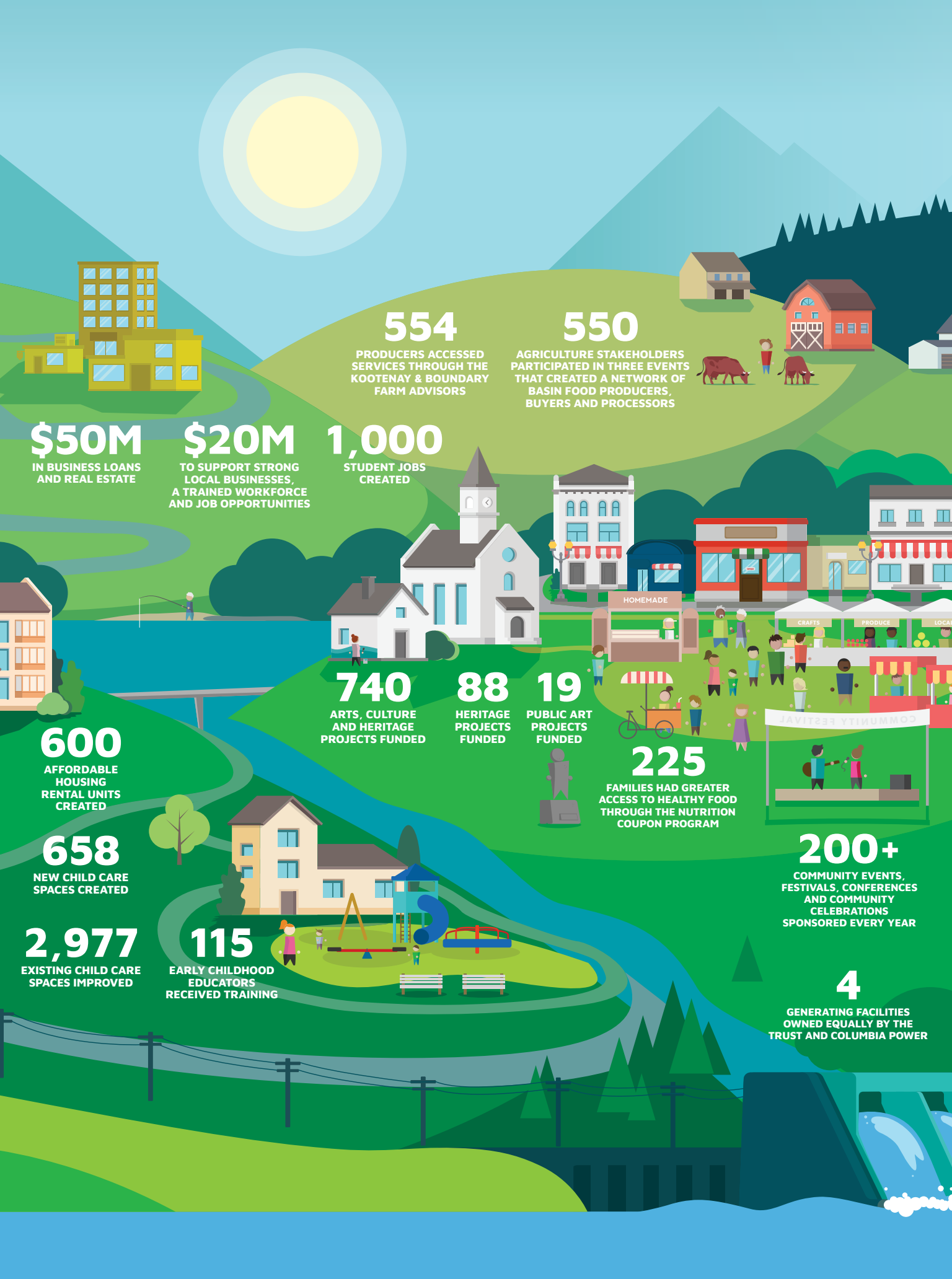
$2.9M
IN FINANCING TO BASIN BUSINESSES THROUGH THE IMPACT INVESTMENT FUND TO CREATE OVER

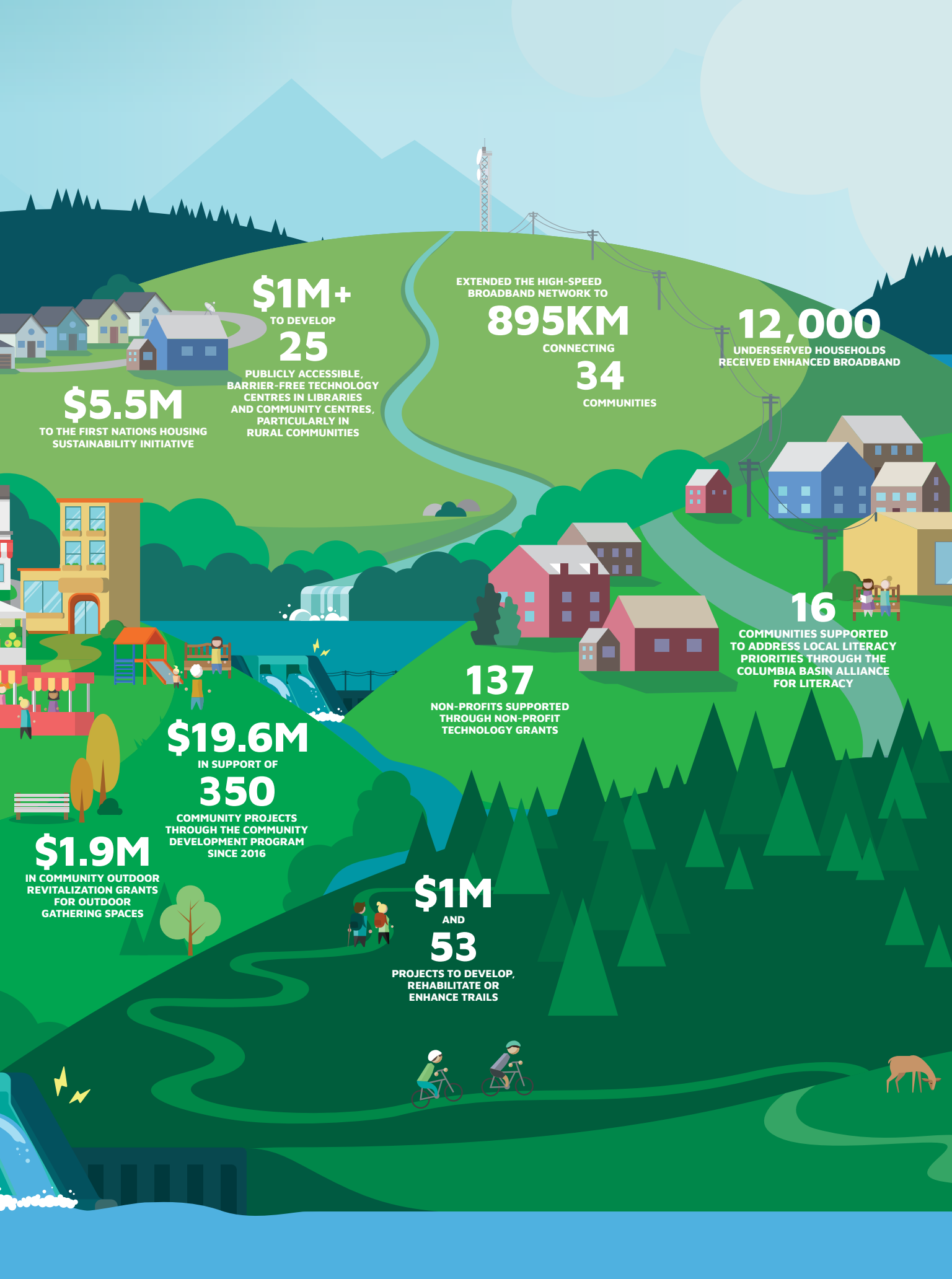
924
BUSINESSES SUPPORTED THROUGH BASIN BUSINESS ADVISORS AND BASIN REVUP

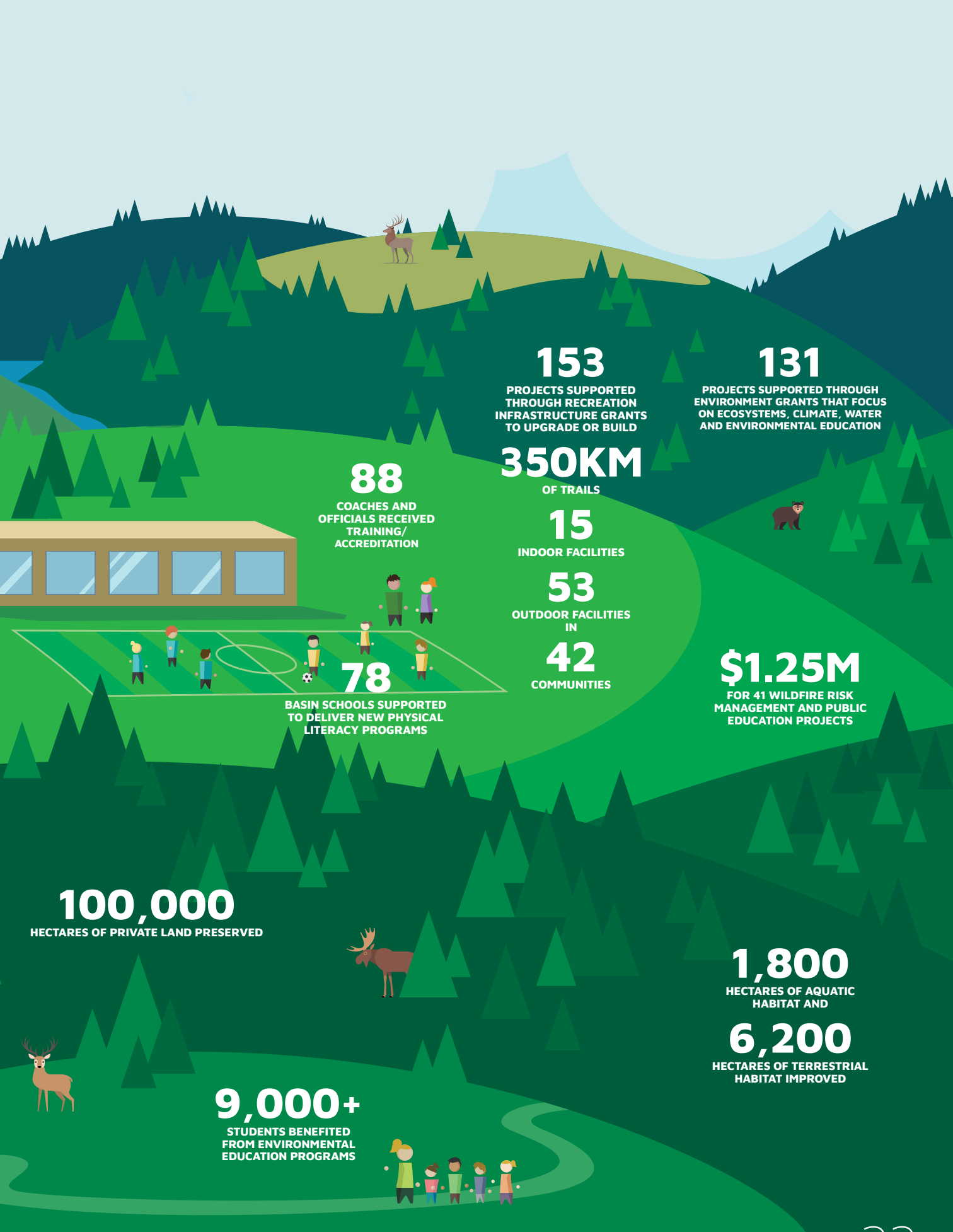
133
JOBS

53
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS ADDED TO CONNECT

1,870KM
OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE TRAVEL TO AND WITHIN THE REGION


554
PRODUCERS ACCESSED SERVICES THROUGH THE KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY FARM ADVISORS
550
AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATED IN THREE EVENTS THAT CREATED A NETWORK OF BASIN FOOD PRODUCERS, BUYERS AND PROCESSORS
$50M
IN BUSINESS LOANS AND REAL ESTATE
$20M
TO SUPPORT STRONG LOCAL BUSINESSES, A TRAINED WORKFORCE AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES
1,000
STUDENT JOBS CREATED
HOMEMADE
CRAFTS
PRODUCE
740
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE PROJECTS FUNDED
88
HERITAGE PROJECTS FUNDED
19
PUBLIC ART PROJECTS FUNDED
600
AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENTAL UNITS CREATED
225
FAMILIES HAD GREATER ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD THROUGH THE NUTRITION COUPON PROGRAM
658
NEW CHILD CARE SPACES CREATED
200+
COMMUNITY EVENTS, FESTIVALS, CONFERENCES AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS SPONSORED EVERY YEAR
2,977
EXISTING CHILD CARE SPACES IMPROVED
115
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS RECEIVED TRAINING
4
GENERATING FACILITIES OWNED EQUALLY BY THE TRUST AND COLUMBIA POWER


$1M+
TO DEVELOP
25
PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE, BARRIER-FREE TECHNOLOGY CENTRES IN LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
$5.5M
TO THE FIRST NATIONS HOUSING SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE
EXTENDED THE HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND NETWORK TO
895KM
CONNECTING
34
COMMUNITIES
12,000
UNDERSERVED HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED ENHANCED BROADBAND
16
COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED TO ADDRESS LOCAL LITERACY PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COLUMBIA BASIN ALLIANCE FOR LITERACY
137
NON-PROFITS SUPPORTED THROUGH NON-PROFIT TECHNOLOGY GRANTS
$19.6M
IN SUPPORT OF
350
COMMUNITY PROJECTS THROUGH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SINCE 2016
$1.9M
IN COMMUNITY OUTDOOR REVITALIZATION GRANTS FOR OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACES
$1M
AND
53
PROJECTS TO DEVELOP, REHABILITATE OR ENHANCE TRAILS


153
PROJECTS SUPPORTED THROUGH RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS TO UPGRADE OR BUILD
131
PROJECTS SUPPORTED THROUGH ENVIRONMENT GRANTS THAT FOCUS ON ECOSYSTEMS, CLIMATE, WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
350KM
OF TRAILS
88
COACHES AND OFFICIALS RECEIVED TRAINING/ ACCREDITATION
15
INDOOR FACILITIES
53
OUTDOOR FACILITIES IN
42
COMMUNITIES
$1.25M
FOR 41 WILDFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROJECTS
78
BASIN SCHOOLS SUPPORTED TO DELIVER NEW PHYSICAL LITERACY PROGRAMS
100,000
HECTARES OF PRIVATE LAND PRESERVED
1,800
HECTARES OF AQUATIC HABITAT AND
6,200
HECTARES OF TERRESTRIAL HABITAT IMPROVED
9,000+
STUDENTS BENEFITED FROM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Columbia Basin Trust Region

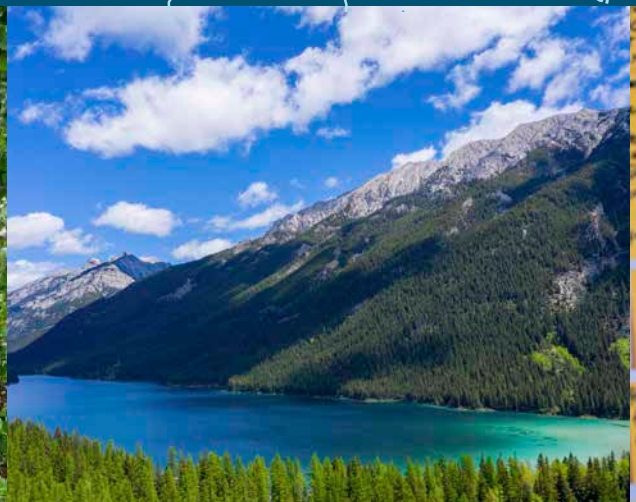
The Trust serves the region consisting of all the watersheds that flow into the Columbia River in Canada and operates in the traditional territories of the Ktunaxa, Lheidli T'enneh, Secwepemc, Sinixt and Syilx Nations.



The area encompasses nearly 80,000 square kilometres in southeastern British Columbia and has a population of 164,647 people (2018 Census).

CONTACT US
1.800.505.8998
info@ourtrust.org







Strengthening the Columbia Basin *now* and into the *future*

The Trust supports your ideas and efforts to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the region

Our formation

When the Columbia River Treaty was created (read about the treaty on the next page), Basin residents weren't adequately consulted for their views, concerns or solutions. In the early 1990s, residents, local officials and representatives from regional districts and tribal councils joined together to coordinate efforts, forming the Columbia River Treaty Committee.

Their goal was to secure a share of the revenues of the treaty and benefits for the people of the Basin. In particular, they negotiated that:

- funds be allocated to the region, representing a fair share of the ongoing benefits being realized outside of the Basin as a result of the treaty
- a regional organization, governed by a board of Basin residents, be created to manage those funds.

They were successful. In July 1995, the *Columbia Basin Trust Act* passed into provincial legislation, creating Columbia Basin Trust. The province also agreed to provide:

- $276 million to finance power project construction
- $45 million, which the Trust used as an endowment
- $2 million per year from 1995 to 2010 for operations.

The Trust's work is also guided by the Columbia Basin Management Plan, which was developed in 1997 in consultation with Basin residents.

DID YOU KNOW?

Columbia Basin Trust's mandate does not relieve any level of government of its obligations in the Basin.

Our Directors

The Trust is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors who live in the Basin. Learn more about our Board, read highlights and meeting minutes at:

ourtrust.org/board

Our vision

Since 1995, we've supported the efforts of the people in the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being in the area most affected by the treaty.

We work toward a long-term vison for the future where:

- the Basin is a place where social, economic and environmental well-being is fostered
- collaborative relationships and partnerships are established across the Basin
- a healthy environment is the basis for social and economic activities
- the economy of the Basin is diverse, resilient and energized.

Since the Trust's creation in 1995:

$649M IN REVENUE

$2.1B BOOK VALUE OF ASSETS

$370M IN GRANTS

$30M IN CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

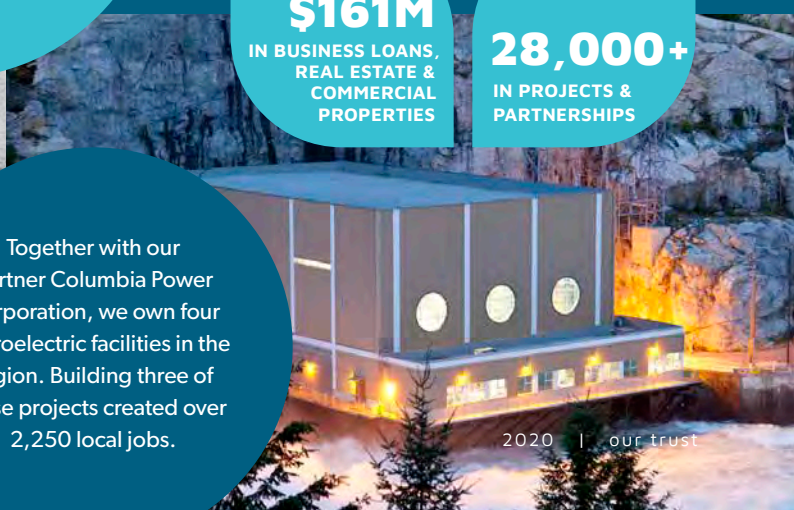
$161M IN BUSINESS LOANS, REAL ESTATE & COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

28,000+ IN PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS



Founding board members on the steps of the BC Legislature. July 1995.

Together with our partner Columbia Power Corporation, we own four hydroelectric facilities in the region. Building three of these projects created over 2,250 local jobs.



Our thanks

We honour those who saw an opportunity to create this unique, regional organization. No one could have imagined all that was possible. Thank you to those who persevered toward the idea and participated in meetings, conversations and symposia, and to those who represented and honoured the desires of all Basin residents to create a new future through Columbia Basin Trust.

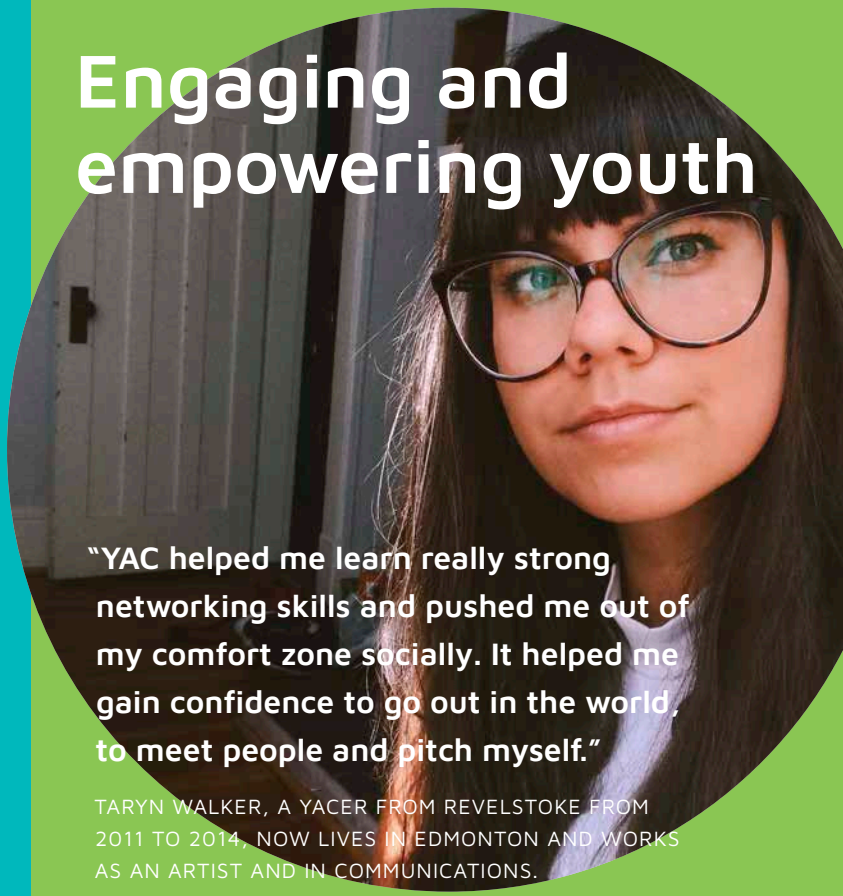
IMPACTS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

The Canadian Columbia River Basin has experienced, and continues to experience, the impacts of the Columbia River Treaty. The treaty was negotiated in the early 1960s to manage flood control and enhance power generation in the region. However, people in the Basin and First Nations communities were not adequately consulted. The treaty dams—Duncan, Arrow, Mica and Libby—filled four reservoirs and flooded lands and communities.

- 2,300 people displaced.
- A dozen communities lost and many more relocated.
- First Nations archaeological heritage lost.
- 60,000 hectares of valley bottom land flooded.
- Ecosystems altered.

ourtrust.org/ourstory

Engaging and empowering youth



"YAC helped me learn really strong networking skills and pushed me out of my comfort zone socially. It helped me gain confidence to go out in the world, to meet people and pitch myself."

TARYN WALKER, A YACER FROM REVELSTOKE FROM 2011 TO 2014, NOW LIVES IN EDMONTON AND WORKS AS AN ARTIST AND IN COMMUNICATIONS.

From its beginnings, the Trust has recognized that youth are essential to the future of the Basin and are eager to make their voices heard. They also have specific challenges, from education and employment to transportation and discrimination.

The Trust started its first program for youth in 1999 and has been evolving its relationships and supports for youth ever since. This has included Basin-wide forums, a youth-run magazine, grants for youth-led projects, funds that communities and the youth themselves could use according to their priorities, and oversight of a network that helps communities increase activities and opportunities for youth.

From early in this millennium until 2016, the Trust also formally took advice from youth. Dozens of youth aged 15 to 29 lent their voices and perspectives through its Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), plus reviewed youth grant applications, developed leadership and other skills, and met a range of Basin youth.

ourtrust.org/youth



"Participating in YAC was an empowering experience that grew my confidence; this has been especially important in everything I've taken on since. I really believe in the power of youth sharing their voices, opinions and perspectives."

EMMA BORHI, A YACER FROM NELSON FROM 2014 TO 2016, IS NOW A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.



The new ʔaq̓am Health and Wellness Centre provides holistic care

Blending the traditional and modern

The delegates cut the ribbon as the spirited beat of a youth drum circle hung in the air. On July 14, 2020, under a blue, cloudless sky, the community of ʔaq̓am celebrated the opening of its new Health and Wellness Centre. Chief Joe Pierre Jr., who presided, said, "This exciting new project is about preventative health: a holistic and collaborative approach."

The building project is part of ʔaq̓am's strategic plan, Ka Kniɬwitiyaɬa—Our Thinking. To convey this, the bold red foundational poles of a giant Ktunaxa tipi are dramatically positioned at the entrance of the new centre. The poles serve to illustrate the four foundations of the strategic plan: health, language and culture, spirit of community, and lands and resources.

"It's a great way to integrate Ka Kniɬwitiyaɬa into the design of the new building," says Michelle Shortridge, ʔaq̓am Director of Operations and Community Services. "Our focus has been one of creating an aesthetic of welcome and calm.

"The centre helps us in our commitment to develop partnerships directly with service providers in the community and offer different approaches to health and wellness," she says. "Our language and culture team, for instance, will offer culturally based programming, which includes the harvesting and preparing of traditional plants."

The centre will also provide a wide range of practitioners and team members: a registered nurse, a family support worker, care aids, a social development program coordinator, a counsellor and a recreation coordinator. Other visiting professionals will be available on rotation: nurse practitioners, a social worker, a dietician and a nurse specializing in foot care.

While open by appointment-only during COVID-19, the centre can accommodate all manner of preventative therapies: physiotherapy, acupuncture, massage, traditional







medicine, yoga and more. It has various private offices as well as a flex space.

"We plan to host a wide range of programming and services that focuses on individual health and wellness, with individual holistic care plans for all community members," Shortridge says.

The community built the centre with support from the Trust's Community Development Program. Additional funding from the Trust's Energy Sustainability Grants helped it install solar infrastructure, which will help power the building with renewable energy and reduce the amount of purchased electricity it needs to use. This array of 108 solar panels demonstrates the community's commitment to lands and resources.

As the first trial of solar in the community, says Shortridge, "This project was the perfect opportunity to implement our vision of sustainability and energy efficiency."

The community also made a conscious choice to support the local economy during construction, partnering with nearby contractors to forge long-lasting relationships. The centre is also looking locally as it hires long-term employees.

For example, community member Cordell Birdstone mentored under the various expert building contractors throughout the project. Now employed as the centre's Lead of Operations and Maintenance, he says the mentorship "gave me the ability to learn new skills that I will use while operating and maintaining the health and wellness centre, and on other projects as well."

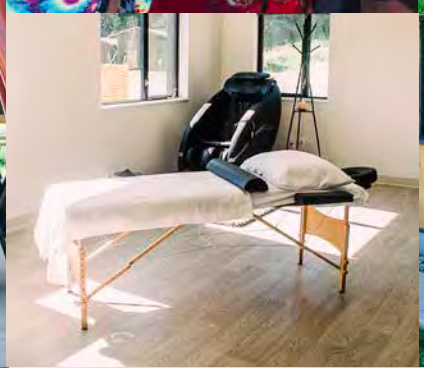
Says Shortridge, "We are stronger when we work together. I am proud of all those who came together to create a wonderful and beautiful facility for the ʔaq̓am community."

ourtrust.org/community
ourtrust.org/energygrants





















TRACY CONNERY

Transforming lives and boosting purpose

Spectrum Farms has grown into a key Creston community asset

With large gardens and open spaces, historical and modern buildings, and trees towering over them all, Creston's Spectrum Farms does much more than simply produce food. It's a place that allows people with disabilities to thrive, where they enjoy a safe home and meaningful employment.

"Our tenants and staff inspire us in a really significant way," says Operations Manager Serena Naeve. "They make the most of every day, every moment."

The 26-acre farm also provides affordable housing to 17 people with disabilities. Some live in Archibald House, a heritage home, and some in Cedar Linden, a residence with nine units that opened in January 2020, built with Trust assistance.

Operated by the Kootenay Region Association for Community Living (KRACL), Spectrum Farms is located on land purchased in 1962 by the Kootenay Society for Handicapped Children. The society was started in 1951 by Dr. William Endicott and eventually became KRACL in 2005.

The farm employs tenants who are able to work and other people with disabilities from the community. Since it added a market garden in 2014, employment has expanded from five seasonal staff to 11. From April to October, they work in the bakery, hen house or food processing plant, or keep busy harvesting produce they grow from seed and place directly in the hands of eager consumers.



From left: Darryl Johnson, Bakery and Dehydration Supervisor, and Frances Collison, Bakery Assistant, Spectrum Farms, Creston.

RESPONDING TO NEEDS

When COVID-19 struck, the organization needed help to make the transition to pandemic life as smooth as possible for tenants. Some of them were still exhausted by their move to the housing two months earlier, so KRACL wanted to ensure they were minimally disturbed by the crisis.

With COVID-19 funding from the Trust—intended to help community social service agencies maintain, enhance and adapt their services during the pandemic—the organization hired someone to intensively clean shared spaces, as well as provide regular cleaning for a visually impaired tenant. It hired another tenant, with a background in technology, to provide tech services for the other residents so they can better engage in the increasingly virtual world.

"I see the Trust as the most available resource in the region," says Naeve. "They're always on the cutting edge of providing service. They respond to community need in a way that's quite unique and timely."





Back row left to right: Garden workers James Warman, Dryden Sobkiw and Brandon Hume and Garden Supervisor Anna Schneiders. *Front row:* Serena Naeve, Operations Manager, Spectrum Farms.

"My outlook on life has improved greatly in the short time I have been here and thus my mental health has improved as well. Not enough can be said for having a safe, self-contained, warm and healthy space to live in."

MAYA MOORE, TENANT, SPECTRUM FARMS









Since 2014, Trust support has made it possible to revamp irrigation, construct hen houses, increase the garden to 1.5 acres, and renovate and reroof Rosewood, the building that houses the Going Green Market, bakery and food processing facilities. It enabled the farm to build a commercial kitchen and purchase a dehydrator, allowing it to preserve its produce and rent the equipment and space to community producers.

The farm is also working to develop space for a fibre mill, purchased with Trust support, which would operate for a fee on behalf of farmers and artisans who want to mill their own wool, giving employees another way of developing unique skills.

EXPANDING THEIR HORIZONS

By gaining experience in areas like these, some employees have been able to find work with other Creston employers.

"This is a stepping stone to further education and employment opportunities," says Naeve. "They gain enough skills and confidence to create more opportunities for themselves."

To further encourage self-esteem and interpersonal skills development, in 2017 and 2018 a small Trust grant allowed a dozen participants with mixed abilities to work with a professional theatre director to create their own theatre pieces.

"For us, it was a really shining light," said Naeve. "The stories surprised us, and so did the confidence they had going through the process."

INSPIRING COMMUNITY

As with many organizations, volunteers are the farm's lifeblood. Nearly 20 volunteers give their time in all aspects of the operation, from the store to recycling to maintenance.

Their willingness to contribute demonstrates how important the farm is to Creston Valley residents, who are touched in many ways. Schoolchildren visit, as do participants in Creston and District Community Complex programs and members of the Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors, run by Valley Community Services. The farm is also home to the Therapeutic Riding Program, run by the Creston and District Society for Community Living.

"I see this property as sacred and healing," Naeve says, for the community, its volunteers and, most importantly, its tenants and staff. "I see this as a property that promotes growth for individuals."

ourtrust.org/social
ourtrust.org/housing
ourtrust.org/community





James Warman and Brandon Hume, garden staff.

DENNIS CHARLES



Angela Pisicoli, volunteer.





Connecting LGBTQ2+ in the Elk Valley

Outreach increases visibility, dialogue and acceptance



GABRIELE ESCOBAR





VINCE MO

Reading with Royalty and Cooking with Queens are two of Fernie Pride's outreach activities.

Andrea Brennan, Director, Fernie Pride Society.

Andrea Brennan is honoured to offer a blessing at the start of the Elk Valley Pride Festival each fall, kicking off the Fernie event with a welcome that encourages recognition, acceptance and inclusivity.

"Some LGBTQ2+ youth and adults were raised in environments that taught them they were 'less than' because of their sexuality," she explains. "The Fernie Pride Society hosts events where anyone can come and feel safe. I want every LGBTQ2+ person to know that they are loved."

The passionate Board member and Coordinator of the Fernie Pride Society was amazed by the positive response to the organization's recent year-long project, supported by the Trust's Social Grants, which focused on boosting its presence in the community by amping up its communications and outreach.

"Fernie is a small town, and some residents have no idea or experience with what it is to be gay. The Fernie Pride Society creates a place for dialogue, for conversation and for people to learn about one another."

Its goal is to help diverse people who live in the Elk Valley and surrounding area feel supported, by providing information, resources and referrals for individuals and families struggling with gender and sexual identity issues. By organizing programming, Brennan aims to create connections between LGBTQ2+ individuals and develop a sense of community.

"Individuals who feel isolated because of their gender or sexual identity reach out for support," explains Kevin Allen, society Board member. "Just recently, a young trans man contacted us; he was feeling alone, and asked if there were other trans people in Fernie. We were able to connect him to other locals and regional trans support services, and we also invited him to take part in our next Fernie Pride activity."

The society has partnered with local schools to provide educational resources, which have responded further with their own pride initiatives, such as painting pride sidewalks and selling rainbow tuques and caps. The society has also joined forces with local RCMP to bring the Safe Place Program to the Elk Valley. By placing a decal in its window, a participating business or organization clearly identifies itself as an ally and its premises as a safe haven for members of the LGBTQ2+ community.

> "I'm so excited to find a community within Fernie that's full of such compassion. Every person has a unique story, but I think the resounding message within this group is complete acceptance. To me, that's very powerful and uplifting."
>
> AIMÉE DECORBY, MEMBER, FERNIE PRIDE SOCIETY

Aimée DeCorby, who is relatively new to the area and recently joined the society, is overwhelmed by the support the organization has seen while increasing visibility and encouraging dialogue.

"Community engagement is so important because it can challenge people to consider and see things from new and different perspectives," she says. "It's been significant for the younger generation to see these examples of acceptance and know they are welcomed and celebrated for their unique identities."

ourtrust.org/social

Building homes

First Nations communities create affordable, quality housing



Kenpesq't. TRACY CONNERY

Leading-edge efforts mean that members of five First Nations communities in the Basin will benefit from over 50 new affordable housing units and improvements on over 150 existing ones. The communities have completed or initiated these projects with funding and other support from the **Trust's First Nations Housing Sustainability Initiative**.

The $5.5-million initiative helps First Nations communities build new affordable housing units, from planning to construction. It funds energy retrofits and health and safety repairs on existing units. It also helps the communities manage their affordable housing assets, particularly through the First Nations Asset Management Initiative. This is a partnership between several of the communities, supported by the Trust, BC Housing and Indigenous Services Canada—the first of its kind in the country.

Here's a glimpse at some recent projects.

ourtrust.org/firstnationshousing

"People in the community really appreciate and take care of all the new and improved homes."

DOLORES NICHOLAS, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT/HOUSING MANAGER, KENPESQ'T.



Yaq̓it ʔa·knuqƛ̓i'it. NICK NAULT



Yaq̓it ʔa·knuqƛ̓i'it. NICK NAULT



Yaq̓it ʔa·knuqƛ̓i'it. NICK NAULT



Kenpesq't. TRACY CONNERY

"Older housing is an issue for many First Nations across Canada. So this is huge."

HEIDI GRAVELLE, CHIEF, YAQ̓IT ʔA·KNUQŁI'IT

KENPESQ'T. (NEAR INVERMERE)

Kenpesq't—also known as the Shuswap Band—is building duplexes that will provide eight one-bedroom, 700-square-foot homes for up to 12 people. These add to the four homes the community constructed in 2018, along with the five it renovated with new kitchens, new bathroom flooring and fresh paint.

YAQ̓IT ʔA·KNUQŁI'IT (NEAR GRASMERE)

The community of Yaq̓it ʔa·knuqƛ̓i'it built 11 units of various sizes. These are located in its main village area, close to health care and social services—especially important for the tenants of the two accessible units. The units are also energy-efficient, meeting the requirements of BC Energy Step Code 4.



"We want to really empower community members to have nice, healthy housing, and also to continue to maintain that healthy housing going forward from generation to generation."

MICHELLE SHORTRIDGE, DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, ʔAQAM

Mitchell Tom, Operations Coordinator, ʔaq̓am. NICOLE LECLAIR

"We need more affordable, quality housing that is focused on a higher standard of energy efficiency so homes are nice and warm and there is something left over after the power bills have been paid."

DEBBIE EDGE-PARTINGTON, HOUSING COORDINATOR, YAQAN NU?KIY



Yaqan Nuʔkiy.



Jordan Janowicz, ʔaq̓am. NICOLE LECLAIR

YAQAN NU?KIY (NEAR CRESTON)

The community of Yaqan Nuʔkiy assessed its 45 units and is renovating them to meet health and safety requirements and improve energy efficiency. It also plans to build six new homes. The first two are 600-square-foot homes that will fit a maximum of two people each and can accommodate various mobility levels.

ʔAQ̓AM (NEAR CRANBROOK)

The community of ʔaq̓am assessed and did energy audits on its 61 existing units. It then demolished two unsafe homes and replaced them with new ones. It has since completed upgrades on one unit, with many more improvements on others to come, from siding and roofing, to insulation, heating, ventilation and plumbing.

A solid *focus* on businesses and jobs

The Trust's multi-pronged approach helps bolster the region's economic future

Strong local businesses that make a difference in their communities. A well-trained workforce that meets the demands of the region. Local jobs for people of all ages, including youth. Around the Basin, people, businesses and other organizations are doing their parts in strengthening the region's economy, and the Trust is here to support them.

In 2020, businesses were also faced with the COVID-19 crisis. To help them address it, the Trust increased its support to existing programs or added new ones. (See pages 5 to 12 for examples.) Plus, other economic opportunities arose over the year, supported by ongoing Trust programs. Here are some of those stories.

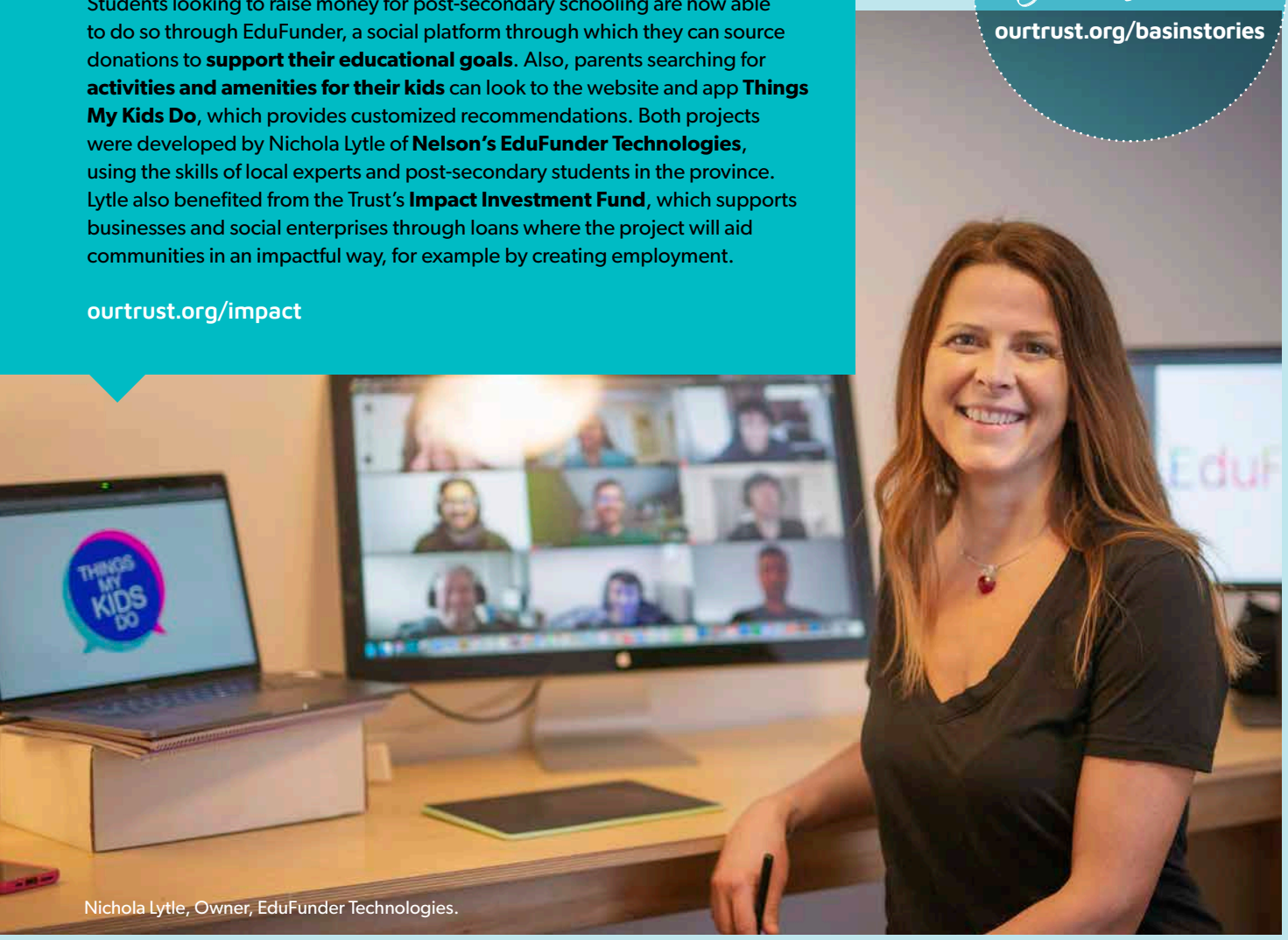
ourtrust.org/economic

Full stories at *Basin Stories*
ourtrust.org/basinstories

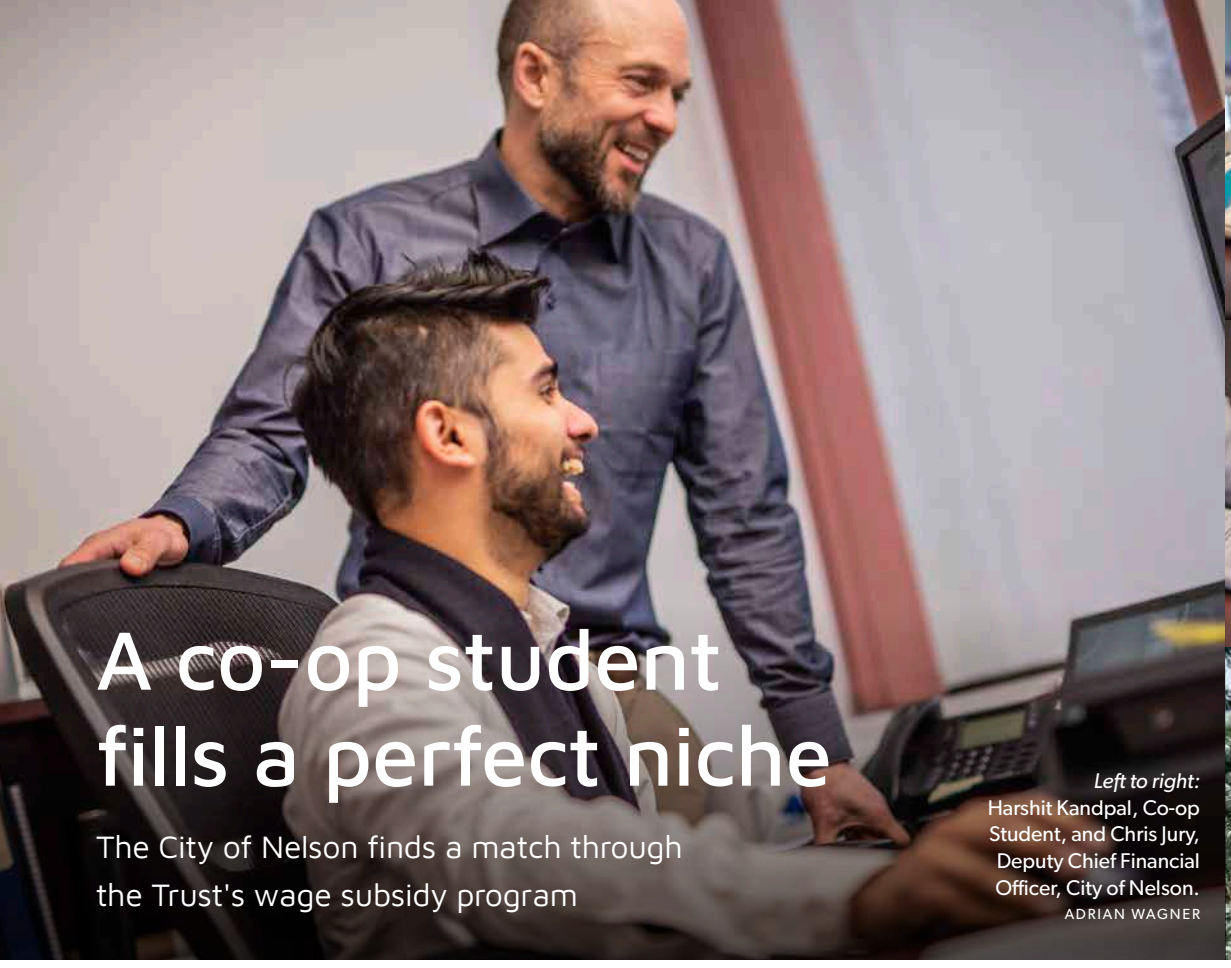
Bringing local ideas to life

Students looking to raise money for post-secondary schooling are now able to do so through EduFunder, a social platform through which they can source donations to **support their educational goals**. Also, parents searching for **activities and amenities for their kids** can look to the website and app **Things My Kids Do**, which provides customized recommendations. Both projects were developed by Nichola Lytle of **Nelson's EduFunder Technologies**, using the skills of local experts and post-secondary students in the province. Lytle also benefited from the Trust's **Impact Investment Fund**, which supports businesses and social enterprises through loans where the project will aid communities in an impactful way, for example by creating employment.

ourtrust.org/impact



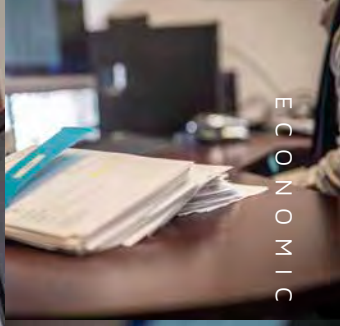
Nichola Lytle, Owner, EduFunder Technologies.

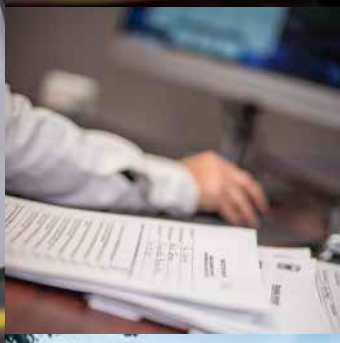


A co-op student fills a perfect niche

The City of Nelson finds a match through the Trust's wage subsidy program

Left to right: Harshit Kandpal, Co-op Student, and Chris Jury, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, City of Nelson.
ADRIAN WAGNER







"We didn't realize how much we needed this person until we met them." This is Joanna Markin, Director of Human Resources, Corporate Safety & Technology, for the City of Nelson. She is speaking about how a project for the City remained on the sidelines until the right person came along to tackle it. In the case of the City of Nelson, it was a need to audit the payroll against its collective agreement.

"I had this project sitting on my desk and knew I needed to find the time and resources to deal with it, but sometimes that's hard to do," says Markin. "I knew it was something that needed to be addressed and taken on."

Enter Harshit Kandpal, a Thompson Rivers University student completing his post-baccalaureate diploma program in human resource management, who had applied for another co-op position with the City. For Markin and Chris Jury, Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the City and Kandpal's future day-to-day supervisor, it was a bit of a eureka moment.

"We recognized that he had an incredible skill set for auditing," says Jury."We realized we had met the right person with the right experience and that we could create a special project for him to take on that would also fill a need we had. We turned to the Trust and applied to its School Works program to support us in creating an opportunity to hire him."

The School Works Co-op Wage Subsidy helps employers in the Basin hire post-secondary students who are enrolled in full-time education and participating in a recognized university or college co-op education program. The City of Nelson worked with College of the Rockies, which administers the program on the Trust's behalf, to hire Kandpal.

For Kandpal, the co-op position at the City has been a game-changer on several levels. As a new resident to Canada, he gained an opportunity to work in a job relevant to his field of study. He also became a member of a community, not just as a student on campus, but as a resident, employee and volunteer.

"It has been an awesome experience," says Kandpal. "The co-op position has allowed me to gain real-world experience in Canada in what I want to do professionally. I had never really thought about working for a municipal government before and with this opportunity, I have been able to use my education and previous work experience to do just that. It has given me the break I was really hoping for, and it has allowed me to discover a different part of BC and be part of a new community, like volunteering with Nelson and District Recreation and the Nelson Leafs team."

The co-op term has also been beneficial for the City, not just because it could undertake this special project, but because it could reflect on internal processes and see a new way of looking at how work gets done.

"Having Harshit in the co-op position allowed us to have a bit of a critical eye on how we did things as an employer," says Jury. "By mentoring Harshit in his new job, by explaining to him how processes worked at the City, it allowed us to do some analysis on why we were doing things a certain way and ask ourselves, 'Why are we still doing it this way?' It has helped us make some changes for the better."

ourtrust.org/wagesubsidy



Danielle Eaton, Owner, and Aaron Day, Executive Chef, Soulfood.

Farm to table to enjoyment

A Trust loan helps a Cranbrook restaurateur fulfill vision to support local suppliers

The Mushroom Pappardelle entrée boasts locally grown and foraged mushrooms. The salads feature crisp greens grown nearby. Located in Cranbrook's historic Mount Baker Hotel, the restaurant Soulfood lives the vision of "farm to table" eating—a vision new owner Danielle Eaton continues to uphold with pride.

"It feels really good knowing we are supporting local suppliers," she says, noting over 40 food producers provide items like eggs, milk, bread, beef, beer, wine and cherries. "It's really cool how many things we can source locally."

The restaurant first opened in 2016, and Eaton has always admired its efforts to source locally. As the owner of Brook Public Relations, she'd worked with the former owners on marketing and business development. Later, they decided to sell, and in March 2020 Eaton became the owner herself.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

To realize the purchase, Eaton's first hurdle was to find financing. She discovered the Trust's Impact Investment Fund, which supports businesses and social enterprises through loans where the projects will benefit communities in an impactful way. In Soulfood's case, some of these impacts were increasing business with local food producers and creating employment

Then came the pandemic. With the deal set to close March 31, 2020, Eaton had to decide if purchasing the restaurant was worth the risk—there was no way of knowing when it could open. But Eaton thought: "There must be a model that will work."

Indeed, she soon found that model and went ahead with the purchase. Suddenly, many people—from those in self-isolation to health care workers—needed convenient meals delivered to their doors. Alongside staff members Teresa Day and Jenny Crown, Eaton started making and delivering up to 1,000 frozen meals per week.











Teresa Day, Barista, Soulfood.

NICOLE LECLAIR





Fortunately, the restaurant was able to open again for dining in June 2020, and Eaton says the support from the community "has just been amazing."

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Previously a part-time barista, and then a full-time prep cook earlier in the pandemic, Teresa Day is now managing the barista station five days a week. She says, "It's so easy to wear a smile on your face when you are surrounded by solid people, serving the freshest farm-to-table dishes and having daily interactions with customers whose names and stories you get to know and love."

Another major change was the introduction of Aaron Day—a chef with over 20 years' fine dining and resort experience—as Soulfood's Executive Chef. He's also devoted to the restaurant's farm-to-table concept. "It's great to actually see and talk to purveyors in person on a weekly basis," he says.

These are just two of the people the restaurant employs. In fact, Eaton says, "We've grown. When I approached the Trust with my business plan, we wanted to employ 14 people. We're now employing 25."

Things look different from the outside, too. Newly painted, royal blue doors open onto Baker Street. A white, Soulfood logo rises on the east-facing, red brick wall. The look and the restaurant's draw add to downtown Cranbrook's growing vibrancy.

Eaton and Chef Day are also evolving the menu. "He has the freedom to cook whatever he wants," she says, "as long as it's local, delicious and beautiful."

"We're calling this Soulfood 2.0," she says. "Aaron and I are already discussing 3.0. We live in an area of incredible opportunity and have dreams to expand this presentation of local food into something much bigger."

ourtrust.org/impact

Generating returns

The Trust invests in the region's future

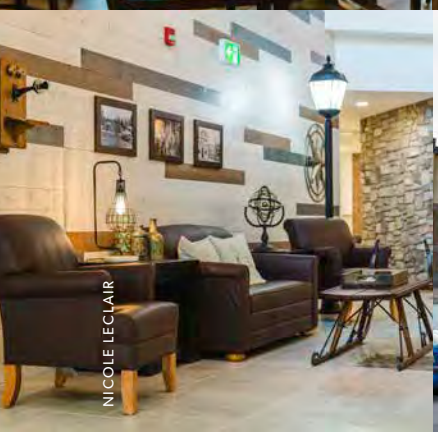
To generate the revenues it needs to fund its programs and services, which support the efforts of Basin residents, the Trust invests in three overarching categories: power projects; private placements, which include real estate investments and loans to Basin businesses; and market securities. Its goal is to generate a predictable, sustainable and growing income stream, always keeping in mind the principles of a prudent investor and the balance between risk and returns. One example of the Trust's investments in real estate is Kootenay Street Village.

ourtrust.org/investments











Patty DeBuyssher, Kootenay Street Village.

Comfortable community living

Investment in Kootenay Street Village creates more housing options for seniors

Patty DeBuyssher is busy doing a jigsaw puzzle in a large, airy room filled with arts and crafts supplies and shelves of books. It's one of the many spaces where residents can take time out to enjoy hobbies, join in a board game, visit their neighbours and friends or grab a coffee and relax at Kootenay Street Village, a seniors living community in Cranbrook.

Kootenay Street Village is one of nine seniors living communities in the Basin co-owned by the Trust and operated by Golden Life Management. The Trust has also invested in Cranbrook's Joseph Creek Village and seniors living communities in Castlegar, Creston, Fernie, Fruitvale, Invermere, Kimberley and Nelson. In total, these offer more than 955 living suites and a range of support services.

Through a grant of $3.2 million, the Trust has also helped ensure that up to 25 of the 61 newly opened independent-living units at Kootenay Street Village are accessible to residents on a limited income.

Investments in housing—like the Trust's other investments in Basin-based businesses, non-profits and social enterprises—help the Trust earn income that it uses to deliver programs and initiatives in the region to support social, economic and environmental well-being.

Positioned to create *impact*

Stong financial performance benefits communities and people

The Trust provided $97.3 million for programs, initiatives and capital investments in 2019/20 to support the efforts of Basin communities and residents. This includes $68.6 million in grants and $12.2 million in capital projects to support economic development and broadband infrastructure, $9.2 million in business loans and $7.3 million in real estate and commercial investments.

Altogether, we provided financial support for 2,157 projects through over 70 active programs and initiatives.

Our revenues were $85.4 million. Much of this is thanks to the efficient and reliable operations of the hydroelectric facilities we jointly own with Columbia Power Corporation, followed by our investments in real estate and business loans.

Watch the Annual General Meeting presentation and view the 2019/20 financial statements online
ourtrust.org/agm

ourtrust.org/annualreport

$68.6M
IN GRANTS

$12.2M
IN CAPITAL PROJECTS

$9.2M
IN NEW BUSINESS LOANS

$7.3M
IN REAL ESTATE AND COMMERCIAL INVESTMENTS

RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

12.3%
POWER PROJECTS

4.3%
PRIVATE PLACEMENTS

(3.6)%
MARKET SECURITIES

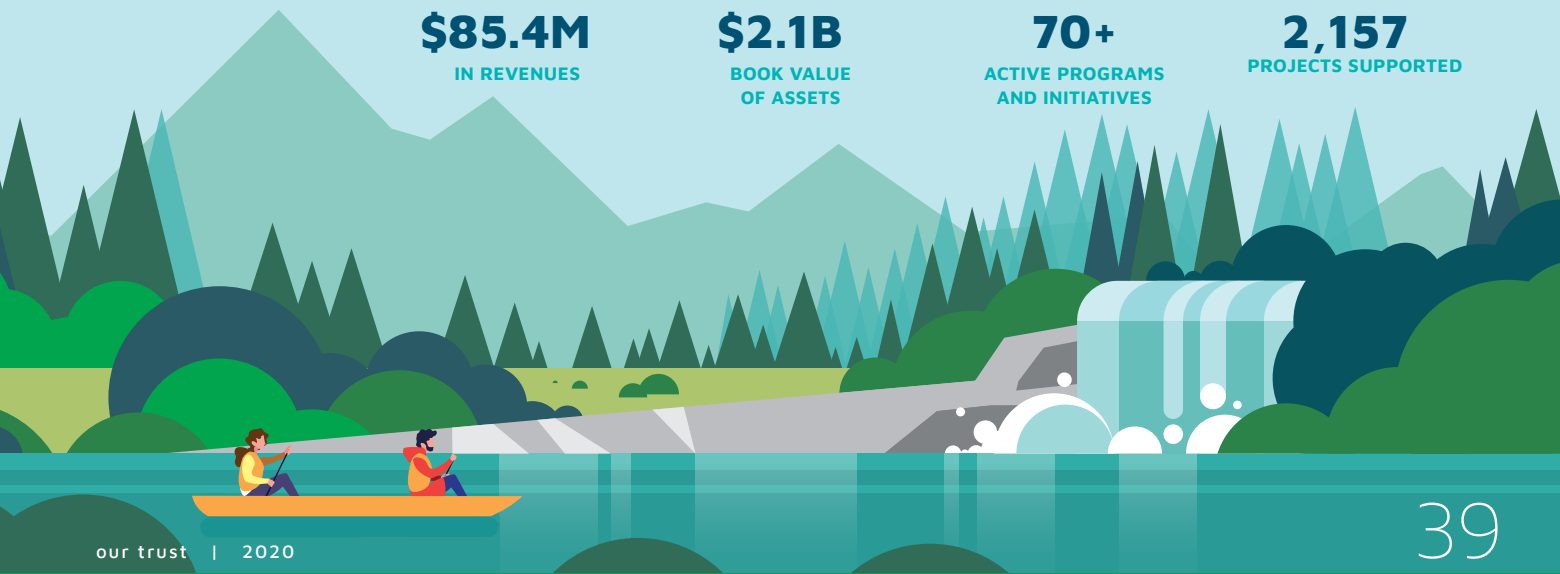
$97.3M
IN TOTAL BENEFITS

$85.4M
IN REVENUES

$2.1B
BOOK VALUE OF ASSETS

70+
ACTIVE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

2,157
PROJECTS SUPPORTED




Together, we are
strengthening
the places we love.
Thank you to the people
of the Basin for your
remarkable efforts
over the past 25 years.
ourtrust.org
Columbia Basin trust 25
1995-2020
Columbia Basin Trust staff, St Eugene Resort, October 2019.