

Annual Report

2021 - 2022





TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Update from Heather Swystun, Chair of the Board4
- Update from Chris Rider, Executive Director.....5
- Financial Updates.....6
- Campaign Updates.....7

UPDATE FROM CHAIR OF THE BOARD

What an honour it is to be part of this community! Thank you to all our hard-working board members that do the necessary work to make CPAWS possible. Together we have been working hard to ensure the long-term stability of CPAWS.

This past year CPAWS Yukon has done wonderful things to help ensure the health and protection of wild spaces and ecosystems. If you have not seen these great campaigns, here are a few examples of the amazing and creative work this innovative team does:

[Take a Journey Through the Dawson Region](#)

[Mayo Film Premiere](#)

[The importance of green corridors for people and wildlife in McIntyre Creek](#)

As a board, we continue to ensure the implementation of our [Strategic Plan](#) and our commitment to [reconciliation](#). Our role is not as creative and exciting as that of our amazing and talented staff. We take responsibility for ensuring a financially stable non-profit supported by our wonderful membership and talented staff that are motivated and stick with the organization for years.

We have taken some new steps toward our commitment to reconciliation by including our board and staff in an illuminating cross-cultural experience through [RIVER](#) and their Illuminating World Views training. This has been such a rewarding experience for me personally. One of the wonderful teachings I have gained is the importance of ceremony, why we need it, and how ceremony marks a transition opening to new knowledge. Thank you, RIVER, for helping CPAWS decolonize and learn to work respectfully with Yukon's First Nations.

If you didn't know, we have moved to Hawkins and 3rd! Thanks to the investment in Steele St. and its resale, we've been able to move to a more efficient and sustainable office. Thanks to all the individuals and organizations that helped make this happen. The legacy of Juri will live on in the Juri Peepre Board room. Drop by and come share our new space!

Congratulations and thank you to Chris Rider, our dedicated Executive Director and new dad! It's Chris's leadership and fundraising abilities that make CPAWS what it is today. It goes without saying that CPAWS would not be able to do all that it does without the talents of Operations Manager, Judith van Gulick and our unbelievable [staff](#): Randi, Joti, Adil, Malkolm, Maegan, Paula, Candace, Ainslie, and of course Hutch. Thank you, members, for being part of such an incredible community.



Heather Swystun, Chair (President) of the Board of Directors





UPDATE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's been a busy year for the team at CPAWS Yukon and despite the ongoing pandemic, we enjoyed meaningful progress across many of our campaigns. We were thrilled with the strong public response during consultations on the draft land use plan for the Dawson region. The vast majority of written responses supported the vision of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and called for strong protection of the region's lands and waters. We're also closely following the implementation of the Peel Watershed land use plan - it has been good to see Yukon Government working well with the First Nations to get it right.

Together, we saw great progress in our efforts to preserve McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùa in Whitehorse. Yukon Government and the City of Whitehorse have both committed to long term protection of our well-loved trails and ecosystems in the area, though we do remain concerned about the potential for a busy road.

Last year we bade farewell to our Community Outreach Coordinator Anne Mease, who moved away from the Yukon. Anne was a huge part of our team and we still miss her. We also said goodbye to two board members: Matthias Purdon and Wendy Morrison. We thank them for their dedication to the organization over the years.

There were two new additions to the team, with Candace Dow stepping in as our new Community Outreach Coordinator and Paula Gomez Villalba joining our Communications team. We are so lucky to have them both.

I'll end with a note of thanks to you – our supporters. None of our successes would be possible without you. Whether you donated, wrote a letter, or simply shared our posts on social media; you give us our strength. Thank you so much for being part of something so important!

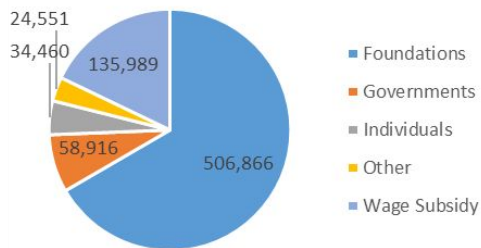
Until next year,

Chris Rider, Executive Director of CPAWS Yukon

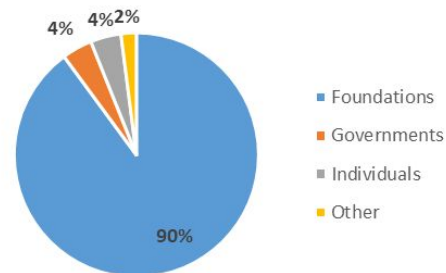


FINANCIAL UPDATES

2020-21 Revenues



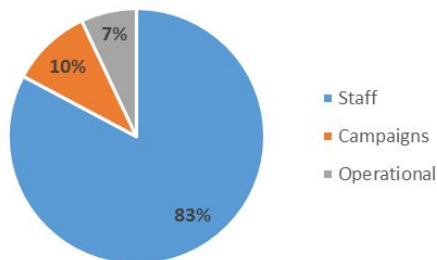
2021-22 Revenues



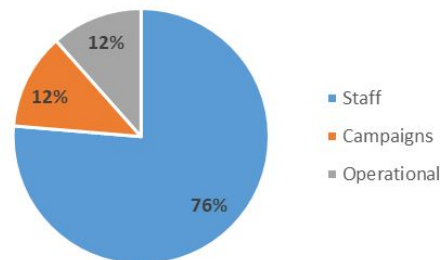
As in past years, the majority of our revenue comes from foundation grants. In 2020-21 we received multiple larger Government grants for some special projects, while we used different funds for projects in 2021-22. The one-time wage subsidy (from the Government of Canada) in 2020-21 was related to the pandemic, which explains why it's not included in the 2021-22 revenues.

Not reflected in this pie is the revenue we generated from the sale of our old office space on Steele Street. The gain from this sale was used to pay off a large part of the mortgage we carry on our new office space.

2020-21 Expenses



2021-22 Expenses



Staff salaries & benefits remains the largest expense, while the share of both Campaign and Operational expenses increased slightly compared to 2020-21. In 2021-22 CPAWS Yukon moved to a new office space which means we paid for moving expenses (including lawyer & realtor fees), and we're paying a mortgage once again.



CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Dawson Regional Land Use Plan

CPAWS Yukon is continuing to advocate for meaningful protection of lands, waters and wildlife in the Dawson Region, the homeland of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in. In June 2021, a draft plan called “On the Land We Walk Together”/ “Nän kāk ndä tr’ädäl” was released. This draft plan divides the region into 23 Landscape Management Units (LMUs). These units were given their own designations based on the level of development, or the level of protection they were slated to receive. To help people connect with the Dawson Region, CPAWS Yukon launched “Stories from the Dawson Region,” a series to amplify and share different perspectives, experiences, and visions for this important landscape. Our goal was to encourage people to comment for stronger protections for key habitats, like wetlands that are crucial for carbon storage, and for wildlife, like the Fortymile caribou herd. While the Planning Commission has yet to release an updated draft plan considering these comments, we know they received just over 200 public submissions and over 100 survey responses. Of these, about 73% came from either CPAWS Yukon’s submission page or from people associated with CPAWS Yukon. This means we are helping provide an avenue for people to share their vision for the future of the Dawson Region.

Beaver River Watershed/Tsé Tagé and Northern Tutchone Land Use Planning

In August of 2021, CPAWS Yukon joined the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate on a wilderness canoe trip through the Beaver River Watershed/Tsé Tagé. Trips like these are integral to fostering the connection between youth and the land and waters in their traditional territory, and for CPAWS staff to better understand community connections to the land.

Due to COVID-19, the premiere of the 2020 Beaver River Trip movie had to be postponed until June 18, 2022, when it was finally shown to the community alongside the 2021 film. We believe the combination of promoting a connection to the land and water, alongside visual storytelling is especially important as the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and Selkirk First Nation push for land use planning in the Northern Tutchone region.



CAMPAIGN UPDATES

McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà

In June 2021, we embarked on a wildlife study of McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà. We set up trail cameras and sound recorders at around 40 sites throughout the creek, from the mouth of the creek all the way to its headwaters on the slopes of Mount McIntyre. In the winter, we conducted a series of transects through waist-deep snow, identifying and tallying all of the wildlife tracks we discovered. The project's goal was to identify wildlife hotspots within McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà, and understand whether developments like roads are impacting wildlife distributions. We haven't finished analyzing the data yet, but preliminary results show that existing roads aren't impacting wildlife distributions in most cases. That's good news, as it means there's a lot of excellent habitat throughout the creek, even in places with dense road networks.

We don't fully know what the impacts on wildlife would be if another major road was built through the creek, but it's not worth risking it. CPAWS Yukon opposes the potential "transportation corridor" connecting Mountainview Drive to the Alaska Highway, which is included within the City of Whitehorse's Draft Official Community Plan (OCP). A busy new road could compromise an important recreational area too—and there are more sustainable solutions to Whitehorse's traffic challenges. Many people joined us in saying no to a busy new road, and we're staying tuned to see if the City listened. The road aside, the Draft Official Community Plan had some great news, including that the City will work with First Nations and the Yukon government to establish a Regional Park in McIntyre Creek/Chasàn Chùà. While the draft OCP and campaign to get public comments was done during the 2022-23 fiscal year, the majority of work to set us up fell within 2021-22.

Other highlights of the last year included publishing a booklet titled "A Walk Through McIntyre Creek," created by our 2021 Conservation Intern Preet Dhillon, and YCS Intern Toshibaa Govindaraj. It takes you on a journey through the main trail in the creek, highlighting flora and fauna along the way and some of the area's history. This booklet (available for purchase at our office!) is a handy tool to help appreciate this important wildlife corridor for both newcomers and long-time enthusiasts.

In the summer of 2021 we also hosted Backyard Biodiversity at Chasàn Chùà, complete with bird, plant and natural history walks, and information booths from local organizations such as Friends of McIntyre Creek, WildWise Yukon, Yukon Conservation Society, and the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee.



CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Porcupine Caribou & Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

In the spring of 2021, the U.S. Secretary of Interior suspended the oil leasing program of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and ordered the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to redo its environmental review. We'd also hoped that U.S. lawmakers could repeal the law that originally opened the Arctic Refuge to drilling. But unfortunately, the Build Back Better Act—the legislative framework that could have won back protection for the Arctic Refuge—all but died in December. There's new optimism that protections for the Arctic Refuge could be included alongside potential climate legislation, but this remains to be seen.

In June 2022, we learned some very encouraging news: 88 Energy, the only oil company that showed up to the Arctic Refuge, had relinquished its lease. This announcement came during the 2022-23 fiscal year, but much of the work to pressure companies about drilling in the Arctic Refuge had been ongoing in 2021-22. 88 Energy's lease termination followed on the heels of news that Chevron and Hilcorp had paid millions to exit older leases in the Arctic Refuge. These moves reinforce the strong message that there's no economic case for drilling in the birthplace of the Porcupine caribou herd.

Vote Wild! Whitehorse Municipal Election and Canadian Federal Election

The federal government held an election in September of 2021, and CPAWS Yukon once again joined forces with the Yukon Conservation Society to host an all-candidate forum. The forum was hosted virtually, with participants tuning in from across the territory to hear from prospective candidates on issues around climate change, biodiversity loss, and reconciliation. Most of the party candidates attended the forum, and the recording is available on our YouTube channel.

The City of Whitehorse also held municipal elections in late 2021, and we once again encouraged residents to Vote Wild. With an unprecedented number of candidates for city council, we decided to send each one a survey of questions from various environmental non-profits including CPAWS Yukon, Yukon Conservation Society, WildWise Yukon, Raven Recycling and the Whitehorse Urban Cycling Coalition. Their responses were presented online ahead of the election, so voters could have some insight on where each candidate stood. This campaign helped us not only poll each candidate, but will allow us to hold each one accountable to their responses throughout their term.



CAMPAIGN UPDATES

The Kluane Wildlife Sanctuary

Over the past decade, the Yukon Environment and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) has approved 34 mining projects in the Kluane Wildlife Sanctuary. For years CPAWS Yukon has been commenting on these projects, and pushing for bigger-picture thinking about the future of development in the Sanctuary. Last summer we made a short trip into the Sanctuary, to film and photograph some of the damage that has been caused by mining: scarred mountainsides, abandoned machinery, heaps of trash. We've been talking with the three First Nations whose territories comprise Kluane about ways for us to be more involved. A lot of Yukoners still don't know the wildlife sanctuary exists. Others confuse it with Kluane National Park, or assume that the wildlife sanctuary is a protected area. By getting the story out there, we hope we can build support behind better planning in the Kluane Wildlife Sanctuary.

CPAWS Yukon's new home

After many years of planning for a more sustainable office space, we finally found a great space which just happens to be across the street from our friends at YCS. We moved to our new location on Hawkins and 3rd in February 2022. We worked hard to make this more modern space—much better suited to our needs—as colourful and welcoming as our old Steele St. office. We are very grateful to the foresight of CPAWS Yukon's founder Juri Peepre and other staff who purchased the old office so many years ago. Their foresight made it possible for us to purchase a new space at this time, to help secure our asset and to offer our employees and volunteers a comfortable place to work from.

STAFF



Chris Rider, Executive Director



Judith van Gulick, Operations Manager



Joti Overduin, Outreach Manager



Randi Newton, Conservation Manager



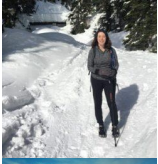
Adil Darvesh, Communications Manager



Malkolm Boothroyd, Campaigns Coordinator



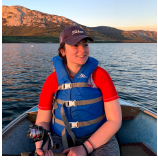
Maegan Elliott, Conservation Coordinator



Paula Gomez Villalba, Communications Coordinator



Candace Dow, Community Outreach Coordinator



Ainslie Spence, Conservation Intern



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR!

