

# Annual Report 2023-2024





## Our Goals

At the Yukon Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (**CPAWS Yukon**), we aim to conserve the Yukon's ecologically and culturally important lands and waters for all. We believe that public awareness, engagement, grassroots community organizing, education, and empowerment are key to achieving land and water protection.

Relationships based on respect and our Commitment to Reconciliation are foundational to our work as an environmental organization.



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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Welcome back!

I can't believe it's already been a year since our last AGM, it feels like only yesterday that we gathered here together. Over the past year the team here at CPAWS Yukon has been hard at work supporting Indigenous-led stewardship efforts, and conservation efforts across the territory.

We have continued to strengthen partnerships with First Nation allies, supporting initiatives that blend Traditional Knowledge with modern strategies, and fostering collaborative stewardship of the land. This year our collaborations with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun saw us honored to co-host a canoe trip on the Wind River in the Peel Watershed, and be invited to show the Wind River film at the Northern Tutchone May Gathering. We've also been inspired to support the efforts of the Ross River Dena Council and their Land Guardians as the nation works to establish an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) on their traditional territory.

Closer to Whitehorse, we've published our report "Coexistence and Caution: tradeoffs faced by wildlife in Chasàn Chùà (McIntyre Creek)" It's intended to provide key recommendations that we hope supports planners and policy makers to make informed decisions about the area. This is especially true in the face of proposed exploration work by Gladiator Metals in the Cowley/MCIntyre Creek area.

This year we saw some new additions to the team. We welcomed Laurence Fox as a new Campaign Coordinator, and we celebrated as Malkolm added little Pirin to his own family - congratulations! We also say farewell to our board members Sidey Deska-Gauthier, and Wendy Morrison who are both moving on. We are thankful for their support, and we wish them both the very best going forward. I'd also like to send some gratitude towards Erik Val. Erik previously served on the CPAWS Yukon board. For the past few years he's been on our National Board of Trustees. Having reached the end of his term he's now moving on. I want to say a big thank you for your years of supporting CPAWS on so many levels.

Despite our successes, challenges remain. The ongoing threat of climate change, habitat fragmentation, and industrial development still pose significant risks to the Yukon's natural environment. We also see that First Nations remain embroiled in court battles to protect their traditional lands. Looking forward, we aim to strengthen our advocacy work and deepen our commitment to reconciliation and support for Indigenous-led stewardship.

The past year has been one of progress and promise. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together and deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our members, partners, and staff. As we move forward, let us continue to work collaboratively and passionately to protect the Yukon's wilderness for future generations.

Thank you for your dedication to our mission.

Until next time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Pinkerton". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Chris Pinkerton  
Executive Director, CPAWS Yukon

# CHAIR UPDATE

Dear Members,

As we come to the close of another year, I am pleased to share with you an overview of the significant accomplishments and ongoing commitments of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Yukon (CPAWS-Yukon) board. Your support and dedication have been instrumental in making this year a success, and we are excited to update you on the progress and developments within our organization.

Firstly, we are delighted to share that our new Executive Director, Chris Pinkerton is fitting in perfectly. He's had a steep learning curve but with the support of the amazing team working with him, CPAWS is still a thriving and effective organization.

Our Board of Directors remains steadfast in its role as a policy board, with a strong focus on financial oversight and policy governance. This year, we have successfully paid off our mortgage, a significant milestone that strengthens our financial stability. Our funders continue to demonstrate their commitment to CPAWS, with many returning grants and several new ones introduced this year, ensuring the continued support of our conservation initiatives.

Board members have shown unwavering dedication, not only in their governance roles but also through active participation in various committees when needed. Their commitment is a testament to their belief in our mission and their desire to see CPAWS thrive.

Among our key achievements this year, we have completed a comprehensive review of our compensation philosophy and policies. I believe the culture at CPAWS is a positive one with employees reaching 7 years with the organization and former employees returning. We value gender equity and cultural diversity and I believe you can see that within our organization. CPAWS has a reserve fund to ensure we can manage the ups with the downs of financing. Our dedicated finance committee ensures these funds are well managed positioning us for future financial health and sustainability. Thank you, Board.

Reconciliation with First Nations continues to be a priority for CPAWS. It is always on our agenda as we seek to develop and sustain positive and meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities. CPAWS staff have spent considerable time in communities this year, developing relationships. We all seek training opportunities to learn and understand how to preserve the health of our wilderness while respecting Indigenous rights and culture.

The most powerful example of reconciliation I have experienced with CPAWS was the Land and Water Relationship Planning Gathering in Carcross. It began with a prayer in front of the majestic scenery surrounding Carcross with a harrier hawk soaring overhead. As I drove into the parking lot and saw how many people were there, it brought tears to my eyes. One never knows who will show up to the events we organize. Presentations about land and water relationships were shared and through the years the number of young first nations I'm seeing at these events inspires me. Thank you to the Carcross/Tagish First Nation for supporting this event in their traditional territory and to all who attended. Every little step matters towards reconciliation.

I can't say enough good things about the staff at CPAWS. Without our staff, we would be nothing. It's our people that make things happen, from the amazing and beautiful communication online to the on-the-land trips and community meetings, this team is amaaazing! Thank you, staff.

We look forward to another year of building relationships and supporting the health of our wilderness for the future of all living beings. Most of all we thank you for your continued support and commitment to CPAWS.

Warmest regards,  
Heather Swystun



Heather Swystun  
Chair, Canadian Parks and Wilderness  
Society - Yukon (CPAWS Yukon)

## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

Your support helped us co-host the Land and Water Relationship Planning Gathering in April 2023.



**70** groups, organizations, and governments represented at the gathering.

**24** speakers covering the topics of climate adaptation, conservation, Indigenous-led efforts, and more.



**13** organizers, sponsors, and funders, helped put together this important event.

Watch a full recording of the event at [cpawsyukon.org/2023gathering](https://cpawsyukon.org/2023gathering)





## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



Hosted two site tours of Gladiator Metals' claims with local historian Tim Green to see these claims with our own eyes.

Read the blog at [cpawsyukon.org/seeing-with-our-own-eyes](https://cpawsyukon.org/seeing-with-our-own-eyes)



Released Caution and Coexistence - a report about the wildlife that utilize the Chasàn Chùà (McIntyre Creek) wildlife corridor.

Read the report at [cpawsyukon.org/publications](https://cpawsyukon.org/publications)



Created "Redefining Mining" a storymap to help you understand the context around mining in the Yukon, and how to take action and advocate for a better future.

View the storymap at <https://cpawsyukon.org/redefining-mining>

## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

Co-organized a canoe trip with First Nations youth along the Wind River and created two films that were premiered at the Northern Tutchone May Gathering. Stay tuned for our Whitehorse premiere!



Seven remaining leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge were cancelled! We hosted a watch party of the virtual hearings of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement at our office as well as helped you all submit comments. In total we had over 1500 submissions using our submission portal



Read more about what's next for the Arctic Refuge at [cpawsyukon.org/where-we-stand-on-the-arctic-refuge](https://cpawsyukon.org/where-we-stand-on-the-arctic-refuge)

## PUBLIC EVENTS

Outreach Coordinator, Anne Mease, hosted two beading workshops this year where participants learned to bead, and had honest conversations about reconciliation and conservation.



Conservation Intern, Aiden Duncan, hosted a pine basket weaving workshop where participants learned to identify good needles to harvest, and how to use them to create baskets.



We hosted Plants of the Boreal walks in Chasàn Chùà (McIntyre Creek) throughout the summer, including special guests and very special dogs.



# OUR 2023-2024 TEAM

## Staff

Chris Pinkerton, Executive Director

Judith van Gulick, Operations Manager

Joti Overduin, Outreach Manager

Anne Mease, Outreach Coordinator

Adil Darvesh, Communications Manager

Paula Gomez Villalba, Communications Coordinator

Randi Newton, Conservation Manager

Stephanie Woods, Conservation Coordinator

Malkolm Boothroyd, Campaign Coordinator

Laurence Fox, Campaign Coordinator

Aiden Duncan, Conservation Intern

## Board of Directors

Heather Swystun, Chair

Joel Luet, Vice Chair

Barb Buyck, Treasurer

Sandy Johnston, Secretary

Sidey-Deska Gauthier, Director

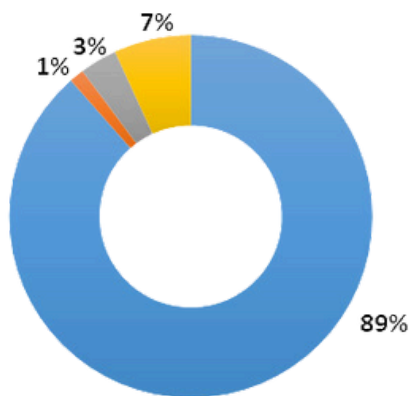
Wendy Morrison, Director

Jill Pangman, Director



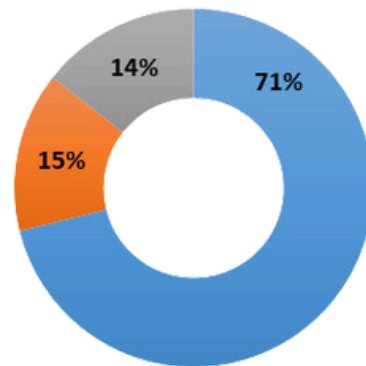
# FINANCIAL UPDATES

## 2023-24 Revenues



■ Foundations ■ Governments ■ Individuals ■ Other

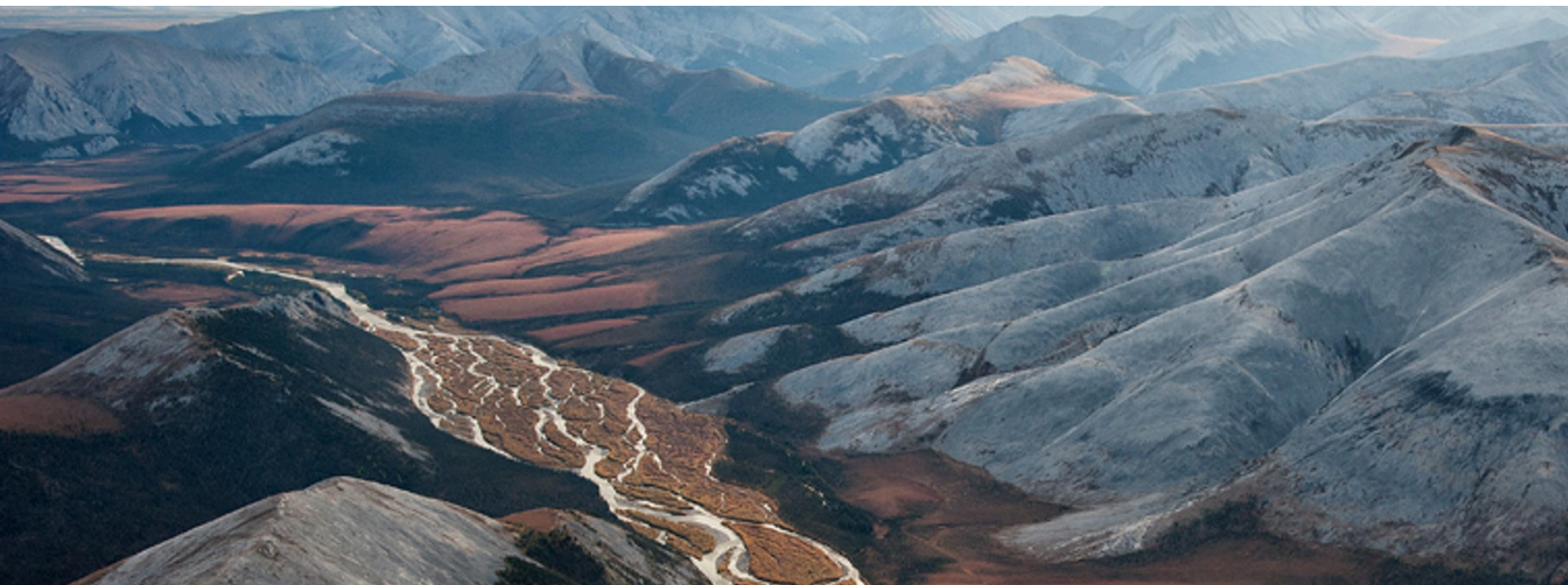
## 2023-24 Expenses



■ Staff ■ Campaigns ■ Operational

## A heartfelt thanks to our funders and donors

444S Foundation – Allan and Gill Gray Philanthropy – Anonymous Trust – CJ Foundation – Consecon Foundation – Friends of Canadian Wilderness – Government of Canada, Canada Summer Jobs – Government of Yukon, Summer Career Placement program – MakeWay Foundation – MakeWay Foundation, Patagonia.org Impact Fund – National Audubon Society – The Conservation Alliance – The Echo Foundation – Wilburforce Foundation – Wyss Foundation – and many anonymous donors!



# Balance Sheet - March 31, 2024

ASSETS	
Cash	\$244,493
Term Deposits	\$383,921
Accounts, Receivable & Prepaid Expenses	\$252,815
Property, Plant and Equipment	\$679,809
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,561,038</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$66,854
Deferred Revenue	\$260,188
Internally Restricted - Operational Reserve	\$383,753
Other Net Assets	\$850,243
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,561,038</b>



## GET TO KNOW MORE



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