COAST FUNDS

LINKING ECOLOGY + PROSPERITY
First Nations have cared for and depended on their unceded territories for their well-being since time immemorial.
Coastal Temperate Rainforests

Map from Earthlife Canada Foundation and Ecotrust/Conservation International, 1991
1985
Haida Stand at Athlīi Gwaii
Haida Gwaii
1991
Fight to Protect the Lower Tsitika Valley
North Vancouver Island
1997
Nuxalk Stand at Ista, King Island
Central Coast
Canada claims title to these unceded lands and seas based on finding “nobody’s lands” (terra nullius).

Yet, the Supreme Court of Canada stated, in a unanimous 8-0 decision, in 2014:

“The doctrine of terra nullius never applied in Canada...”

Tsilhqot’in Nation v British Columbia, 2014 SCC 44
Coast Funds: Born from Reconciliation

So, what might be meant by “Reconciliation”?

Acknowledging and respecting Indigenous rights and title

Supporting the reclamation of identity, language, culture, and nationhood

Recognizing the intergenerational impacts of colonization, attempts at assimilation, and cultural genocide by Canada of Indigenous peoples
Project Finance for Permanence

Landscape-level conservation approached holistically

Aim is to foster conditions required to secure sustainability of globally important places

Doing this thoroughly and all at once, not incompletely or incrementally
Global Models of Permanent Finance

ARPA
Program Areas Protected de Amazonia

HECO
Herencia Colombia

COAST FUND

NATIONAL PARKS
Peru’s Natural Legacy

BHUTAN FOR LIFE

ASOCIACIÓN COSTA RICA
Por Siempre
Spatial protection
+2 million hectares in new protected areas

Co-management of new protected areas
by both First Nations and the Crown

Aspatial protection across landscapes
“ecosystem-based management operating areas”

Land Use Agreements
between First Nations governments and the Crown

Conservation Finance: Coast Funds
Great Bear was not a fully-costed PFP

Analysis of the full cost was estimated in the 100s of millions of dollars

Funds are a series of Nation-specific allocations

Allocation of invested funds varies from $11.5 million to $58,375 for each First Nation
$60 million venture capital fund investing as First Nations’ equity into business acquisitions, start-ups, infrastructure, and entrepreneurs

$56 million permanent endowment fund financing First Nations’ public service: stewardship offices, Guardian Watchmen programs, and conservation efforts

*Capitalized by BC and Canada*  
*Capitalized by private donations*
Funds were allocated by funders to each First Nation, principally with land base protected in their territories.

Most First Nations receive less than $30,000 per year.
Working Towards A Sustainable Future
Vision

First Nations exercise their inherent rights to self-determination, ensuring healthy and thriving communities and ecosystems.
Financing an Indigenous public service
Stewardship, Guardian Watchmen, Resource Management

Transitioning to sustainable local economies
Strategic business acquisitions, community-owned enterprises, entrepreneurial ventures
Great Bear Rainforest
and Haida Gwaii
First Nations
COAST FUNDS

Huux Percy Crosby
Chair

Christina Gray
Nominated by North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society

Sage Berryman

Wally Eamer
Nominated by Nanwakolas Council

Darcy Dobell

Kii’iljuus Barbara Wilson
Nominated by Council of the Haida Nation

Ts’xwiixw Megan Moody
Nominated by Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance

Chris Trumpy

Garth Davis
Coast Funds’ Governance

First Nations

Funders

CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Members

Appoint

Board of Directors

Appoint

Executive Director and staff

Nominate

First Nations

4+ of 9 directors

First Nations

Investing in Projects
$100 million approved for 390 projects
COAST FUNDS

$321 million direct investment-to-date in First Nations communities
$117 million in assets under management

Conservation Fund: $86 million

Economic Development Fund: $31 million
Financial Return on Investments

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS-LED SELF-DETERMINED STEWARDSHIP

Return, Net of Fees

Benchmark

$61M
In Earnings


-2% 0% 2% 4% 6% 8% 10% 12% 14% 16% 18% 20%
Divested from Tar Sands Oil
Indigenous-led Investment Strategy:
Supporting First Nations’ stewardship
*while* furthering the Indigenous economy

Cape Scott Wind Farm, co-owned by Quatsino, Tatlatsikwala and Kwakiutl First Nations.
In 2019, the Tahltan First Nation became an equity owner in three hydro-electric facilities collectively valued at over $2.5 billion.

This is believed to be the largest clean energy investment by a First Nation in Canada.
First Nations Finance Authority
Helping First Nations Communities Build their Own Futures on Their Own Terms

Clean Water
Housing
Community Infrastructure
Public-Private Partnerships
Independent Power Projects

NOTICE

BOIL WATER ADVISORY

MIDDLE RIVER COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM, ALL TAP WATER USED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION SHOULD BE BOILED FOR AT LEAST ONE MINUTE. THIS ADVISORY SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL THE SAFETY OF THE WATER SUPPLY CAN BE ASSURED.

ISSUED BY: TL’AZT’EN NATION
Resiliency in the face of COVID-19

Efforts to diversify assets and focus on responsible investments are paying off

Continue to outperform the market—less downside risk in the portfolio

$4 million reserve + $5.7 million unrealized gains

Reliable source of self-determined sustainable finance during economic downturns
Strategic Goal

Healthy and Resilient Lands and Waters

To support the revitalization of First Nations’ stewardship of ecology, culture, and protected areas.
Purposes of the Endowment

Conservation, protected area and cultural zone resource planning

Guardian watchman and stewardship programs

Research into best practices for conservation management and monitoring

Habitat restoration projects

and to receive donations, gifts, and funds to further the Foundation’s mandate in perpetuity
Self-determined, Accountable Process

Conceiving
- Objectives
- Budget
- Baseline
- Outcomes

Applying
- Financing
- Results
- Finances
- Actual
- Outcomes

Reporting
- Learning
Stewardship Finance: Revenue Sources

Generalized example from real data

- Endowment Earnings: $1 Million
- Operating Budget
  - Forestry Revenue Sharing
  - Carbon Credits
  - Marine Planning
  - Fisheries Monitoring
  - Grant Writing
  - Fees
  - COAST FUNDS

Stewardship Finance: Revenue Sources
Access to Sustainable Finance ➞ self-determined, sustainable, diversified

Requisite Stewardship Capacity ➞ capability to fulfill inherent rights and responsibilities across unceded lands and waters

Restoring Authority, Building Government
Strategic Goal

Healthy and Resilient Coastal Economies

To support First Nations’ efforts to build healthy and resilient economies.
A Private Equity Fund Model

Yet what is different with Coast Funds is, we:

Take no ownership: 100% profits to First Nations. Funds are First Nations’ equity, no loan repayment

Provide no-cost management consulting

Leverage investment: facilitate dialogue between First Nations and potential partners
Shellfish aquaculture
Fisheries
Technology and communications
Wildlife viewing
Nutraceuticals
Mushroom harvesting
Non-timber forest products
Tourism infrastructure

Ecosystem-based management compliant forestry operations
Renewable energy
Small scale, non-toxic, subsurface rock, mineral or gem extraction projects
Economic development capital corporations
Transportation infrastructure
Small business infrastructure
A Sinking Fund

Every project draws the fund towards its close

The fund’s mandate is larger than its capitalization; massive gaps in First Nations’ well-being persist

The conservation endowment operates in symbiosis with this fund; it will diminish after this fund closes

$22.4 million left to deploy, then wind-up = ~4 years
Building a Conservation Economy

Return on Investment: Well-Being
Attracting New Investment

$321M INVESTED
Diversifying Coastal Economies

- Development Corporations
- Stewardship
- Public Service
- and Conservation

$321M Invested
Indigenous Self-Government: Fulfilling Inherent Stewardship Authority
Creating New Employment

- Manufacturing & Processing
- Conservation Economy
- Tourism
- Development Corporations
- Forestry & Small Business
- Aquaculture

1101 jobs

13% of First Nations' workforce

*There are 847 jobs held by First Nations community members, equivalent to 13% of the working age population of First Nations communities in the region based on 2016 census data.*
Family-Supporting Incomes

Data from Statistics Canada.
Species Research & Habitat Restoration

- Amphibians & Insects
- Whales
- Other Mammals
- Birds
- Eelgrass & Kelp
- Eulachon, Smelt & Herring
- Bears
- Salmon
- Other Fish

263 Initiatives
What Are We Learning?
What Are We Learning?

Focusing on future generations builds resiliency

Operating capital: key for start-ups in isolated communities

Working in service: responsive, adaptable

Quantifying: social return on investment is key
What Are We Confirming?

We are on a multi-generational journey of reclamation and revitalization.

Indigenous resiliency is essential to achieve ecological resiliency.

Reciprocity: knowing, learning, and sharing.
Strategic Plan

OUR FOUNDATIONAL GOAL

INTERGENERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY OF COAST FUNDS

As requested by First Nations, sustain and evolve Coast Funds to a new operating model that allows the organization to continue to offer valued services to First Nations beyond the dissolution date of the economic fund.
“How might we?”

Accelerate First Nations’ self-determination, authority, and capacity to steward their territories as they envision?

Continue contributing to rising human well-being?

Sustain First Nations’ stewardship finance in perpetuity?
Inspiring stories are unfolding in the Great Bear Rainforest