





**Dogwood brings together  
everyday **British Columbians**  
to reclaim **decision-making power**  
over our **air, land and water.****





## Chair's message

I'm honoured to have served as Chair of Dogwood's Board of Directors since 2013. We have accomplished so much together since then. We stared down the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline and stopped the expansion of thermal coal exports through the Fraser Surrey Docks. We built a better democracy when we banned big money, persuaded the province to launch a corruption inquiry and launched the Summit program to train young activists. And while the Trans Mountain pipeline fight continues through the COVID-19 pandemic, we can be proud that as of September 2020, not one metre of pipe has been laid across unceded Indigenous territory in B.C.

We have been successful because of our distributed organizing model, which has built real grassroots political power to influence governments and policy. Our strength comes from hundreds of volunteers working in their own communities and the tens of thousands of supporters they have moved to action.

As we continue this work, it has become clear that our organization is not as diverse as the province we want to serve, and so we have embarked on a journey to weave justice, equity, diversity and inclusion into the core of what we do.

In this annual report, you'll read more about the highlights of our campaigns and programs in the words of our dedicated staff. It has been my honour to chair these efforts as both a volunteer and a donor, and I encourage you to step forward and join us with your time or your gifts, if you are able.

This year was my last as Chair, and I'm pleased to introduce you to Dogwood's new Chair, Jess Dempsey. Jess is a Geography Professor at UBC and has participated in more than a decade of major negotiations as co-founder of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). She has worked with many NGOs and social movements to develop analysis and positions on global biodiversity issues. Jess lives in Vancouver and I've gotten to know her well as a

member of the Dogwood board of directors for several years. Please join me in welcoming her to the role!

The year ahead will involve an uphill battle to stop the Trans Mountain pipeline, undermine oil and gas subsidies and accelerate the transition to renewable energy — all in the middle of a pandemic. We must all remember that we are not just fighting bad projects — we are building a movement and looking out for our neighbours.

Dogwood exists to build a better B.C., and we can all serve that mission in the fight against COVID at the same time as we fight against oil tankers and climate change.

**Jennie Milligan,**  
**Board Chair**

***We must all remember that we are not just fighting bad projects — we are building a movement and looking out for our neighbours.***







## Campaigns, Organizing & Communications

This past year Dogwood’s work focused on political organizing for climate action, solidarity with Indigenous peoples and empowering youth. Local teams had a big presence in communities across the Lower Mainland, the South Island, Nanaimo and Courtenay/Comox, talking to their neighbours at farmers’ markets, Car-Free days, PRIDE celebrations and community events, about Dogwood campaigns and the importance of citizen engagement. Team members met with MLAs and MPs across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland throughout the year calling for an end to taxpayer subsidies to TMX and Big Oil, more community-led Local Power and lowering the provincial voting age to 16. Dogwood’s organizing staff took leadership in providing training for our volunteers and allied groups, including a workshop in January with the Sustainabiteens.

volunteers organized a series of speaker events in Nanaimo, Victoria and Vancouver called “Polluted Discourse: Building Grassroots Power Amid Pipeline Propaganda”. Over the course of the year, tens of thousands of Dogwood supporters contacted their MPs and federal ministers demanding an end to taxpayer funding for TMX. And, thanks to Dogwood teams across the province, and talented summer students Haidee Pangilinan and Ishmam Bhuiyan, thousands more signed the “No More Tax \$\$ for Big Oil” petition.

When the Trudeau government again approved the Trans Mountain expansion project in June, our Lower Mainland teams responded with a rally outside Liberal MP Terry Beech’s office in Burnaby, followed by a day of door-knocking in the riding with 40 volunteer canvassers. Building from this, the Dogwood Burnaby team worked over the summer and early fall to talk to people ahead of our focused Get Out the Vote push during the October federal election.

Although climate change had become a top ballot box issue for voters across the country, the federal election offered no clear path to defeating TMX. Dogwood’s work on the ground over the year — in particular in the Burnaby South by-election in early 2019 — had made fossil fuel subsidies into a campaign issue, but many B.C. ridings (representing a small portion of seats in Parliament) were split between support for Green and NDP candidates.

Navigating this no-win election for TMX as a non-partisan organization, Dogwood ran a low-key “Vote Local” campaign focused on voter education, encouraging people to get beyond voting for a party leader and instead focus on who they wanted representing their community in a minority government. Environmental umbrella group Organizing for Change ran a Get Out the Vote hub where Dogwood

### Climate

Dogwood started this year celebrating two major victories for our communities and our coast. With immense gratitude for the local groups and Indigenous Nations who fought for so many years, the North Coast Tanker Ban bill was passed. And thanks to the years of tireless organizing work from local groups and Dogwood supporters, the Fraser Surrey Docks coal port proposal finally died.

Having reached these milestones, and with a significantly changed landscape in the fight against the Trans Mountain expansion proposal, Dogwood transitioned to a broader Climate campaign. Its current focus is on fighting taxpayer subsidies to big fossil fuel interests, and promoting Indigenous and community-controlled renewable energy development.

In spring 2019, after successfully launching the No More Tax \$\$ to Big Oil campaign in important Burnaby and Nanaimo by-elections, Dogwood







**Adapting plans to COVID-19 conditions, organizers are working on bringing the Local Power campaign into communities with creative digital tools.**

volunteers from across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland jumped in to phone more than 12,000 Dogwood supporters, and had 5,600 conversations in key battleground ridings. We offered voters a colourful map of past election results and polling division in B.C., candidate bios for more than 200 individual candidates in every riding and a downloadable “2019 Election Survival Guide”.

With the NDP, Bloc Quebecois and Green parties united by their opposition to the public funding of TMX, Dogwood staff coordinated a week-long advocacy trip to Ottawa with allies from Greenpeace Quebec, Stand.earth and West Coast Environmental Law. Armed with results from a national poll by Nanos Research that found a precipitous drop in public support for the project as costs climbed higher and higher, we pressed the federal government to “come clean” about the true cost of Trans Mountain. In February, Ottawa finally admitted that construction costs had soared from \$7.4 billion to \$12.6 billion — on top of the \$4.5 billion spent by Canada to acquire the existing pipe from Texas-based Kinder Morgan.

Jumping forward to March and April of this year, as the nation grappled with the COVID-19 public health and economic emergency, the Sustainabilliteens, Leadnow, Stand.earth, Dogwood and other allies collaborated to send more than 20,000 letters to the

Finance Minister, and mounted a 920-person “digital rally” that included three MPs from different parties calling to “Save Lives, not Pipelines”.

Meanwhile, starting with a team of solar energy advocates in the Cowichan Valley, Dogwood incubated a ground-up campaign to remove barriers to distributed, community-controlled renewable power generation in B.C. We mobilized Dogwood supporters to participate in a public consultation in support of Net Metering — a policy that allows solar panel owners to feed surplus power back into the grid, offsetting their energy costs. We also started building relationships with new allies to support climate action financing (PACE) for local renewable projects.

In 2020 — with some detours along the way as we adapted to a global pandemic — this has become Dogwood’s Local Power campaign, which will focus on leveraging B.C.’s recovery efforts to get local renewable projects built. Heading into the spring and summer, Dogwood’s organizing program planned to build support for Local Power in their communities. Organizers spent March adapting these plans to COVID-19 conditions, working on bringing this campaign into communities with creative digital tools and webinars rather than traditional public events and canvassing.







**Young organizers teamed up with allies to champion a resolution in favour of youth voting at the Union of BC Municipalities convention. It passed resoundingly.**

## Youth

With a provincial inquiry into corruption and money laundering finally underway, Dogwood's Democracy campaign moved to focus entirely on youth empowerment this year. In July and August 23 more young leaders completed the second round of Dogwood's Summit training program in Vancouver and Victoria. Dogwood's summer students, and talented educator and former staffer Mary Leighton, delivered this year's program.

Summit alumni have helped lead the historic youth climate strikes. Dogwood mobilized supporters to join the largest-ever climate marches and demonstrations that these young leaders organized in September. Dogwood continued throughout the year to amplify the efforts of youth climate strikers, including many Summit alumni, and provide ongoing support, training and resources. The Sustainabilliteens was one of several groups to join a core organizing training Dogwood sponsored with Organizing For Change in January. This intergenerational event included

Dogwood volunteers, Salmon Beyond Borders, West Kootenay Eco-Society and David Suzuki Foundation.

Dogwood continues to support the youth-led #Vote16BC campaign, which includes leadership from Summit alumni. The campaign saw major gains thanks to dedicated organizing. In June 2019, leaders Nahira Gerster-Sim and Samantha Lin spoke at the BC Green Party convention, building support among delegates. That September, young organizers teamed up with allies from local governments to champion a resolution in favour of youth voting at the Union of BC Municipalities convention. It passed resoundingly. In November, the #Vote16BC team brought another successful resolution to the floor of the BCNDP convention with the help of the Young New Democrats caucus. Now both party platforms support lowering the provincial voting age.

Heading into 2020 with these impressive wins, then hit with the pandemic shutdown, the #Vote16BC team regrouped to define their next steps. Ahead of the 2020 B.C. election the team will work to convince all three major B.C. political parties to include lowering the voting age in their platforms, grow the list of campaign supporters and endorsements, and build an organizing team that can go the distance by recruiting younger team members who can take over for veterans as they graduate.

## Indigenous Solidarity

Across all our campaigns, we have endeavored to live up to the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion commitments Dogwood adopted in 2018. This year, we increased our efforts to amplify, support and stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities and organizations.

This became a primary focus for Dogwood's work on mining reform in particular. Dogwood helped keep pressure on the provincial government to hold Imperial Metals accountable for the largest mining disaster in history at Mount Polley and to deny the company a permit for a new mine in the Skagit Valley. Dogwood delivered 2,000 letters and petition signatures from supporters, and hired a summer organizer, Nikita McDaniel, to build local support in the Minister of Energy and Mines' home riding. Working in partnership with West Kootenay Eco-Society, Nikita tapped into a regional desire for responsible mining and renewable energy.

Over the course of the year, Dogwood helped support the efforts of T̓silhqot'in land defenders and legal teams to block Taseko Mines from entering their territory, and advance court challenges to Taseko's proposed copper mine that would have destroyed a sacred lake called Te̓̓tan Biny. We were also excited to support the T̓silhqot'in Nation in producing and sharing a video about their new solar farm near Williams Lake — the largest in B.C., and the first Indigenous-owned and operated solar facility of its scale in Western Canada.

Dogwood volunteer teams on Vancouver Island also worked to forge relationships with the K'ómoks First Nation, the Songhees and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre through election-related events in the fall.

In November and December, we focused on mobilizing supporters and amplifying the work of Indigenous leaders in passing B.C.'s historic Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, hosting two well-attended webinars explaining UNDRIP and how it might apply in B.C. Our goal is to help maintain and reinforce broad public support for the recognition of Indigenous rights, and free, prior and informed consent under this new legislation.

Late in 2019 we were fortunate to meet leaders of the Ktunaxa First Nation as part of our work on Local Power. We've connected these leaders to the Cowichan Valley team and prioritized spreading the word about the Nation's Aq'am solar project to Dogwood supporters, our contacts in the environmental movement and the B.C. government. Helping to break down barriers to Indigenous-led renewable energy projects has become a central pillar of the Local Power campaign.

In early 2020, we used our resources to spotlight abuses by the RCMP in Wet'suwet'en territory, and create and distribute existing online actions designed to hold provincial politicians accountable for, again, subsidizing Coastal Gaslink — a project that exacerbates the climate crisis and violates Indigenous rights using billions of taxpayer dollars.

As Dogwood heads into a longer-term strategic planning process next year, our staff, board and volunteer leaders will be dedicating time to learning more about B.C.'s colonial history, and contemplating how we can deepen our commitments to decolonization and solidarity with Indigenous communities.







# Fundraising

Dogwood is committed to building a better B.C. by creating networks of passionate and resilient campaigners, and that is just as true in our advocacy as it is in our fundraising. As you can see by reading the rest of our annual report, every action, volunteer team, piece of content or training was funded by you, our donors. We are grateful to the thousands of everyday people who are creating meaningful change \$25, \$50 or \$100 at a time.

On top of that, more than 2,200 monthly donors provide a steady stream of income that gives us the flexibility to meet new challenges as they arise. We would not be as effective without their steadfast support month by month.

Contributions from both our one time donors and monthly donors have been critically important, especially as we approached the end of our fiscal year on March 31 just as COVID-19 began threatening our province. You have built a nimble funding base that is ready to weather the shock of the pandemic, even while we keep fighting Big Oil.

In February, before COVID-19 became a threat to our seniors, one of our long-time supporters passed away peacefully in her home and left Dogwood a legacy of activism gift in her will. By planning ahead, she was able to ensure her life's work — to protect the people and places she loved — would carry on in her name and spirit.

In the spring, we welcomed a new member to our team. Jamie Hynes comes to us from Organizing BC and brings a wealth of talent in digital systems, a skill that ensures your gift will be put to the best possible use standing up for B.C.

Dogwood exists because thousands of passionate and generous people believe in our work and support us \$25, \$50 and \$100 at a time. If you are one of them, thank you. If not, I invite you to join them!

**Adam Bailey,**  
**Head of Revenue**

# Thank you

**We would like to recognize all of the 6,000+ donors who support Dogwood.**

**We're particularly grateful to:**

Brian Craig & Shelley Kuipers, Jess Dempsey and Ryan Lucy, Darla Drader, David Gagnon, Bob Hackett, Tom Hackney, Bruce Hanson, Cheryl Kabloona, Jacqui MacDonald and John Priddle, James McDonald, Walter Meyer zu Erpen, Jennie Milligan, Carol Newell, Gail & Jonathan O'Riordan, Leonard Schein, Tina Schliessler and Charles Wilkinson, Joel Solomon, and many anonymous donors!

**While the majority of Dogwood's annual revenue comes from individual donors, we'd like to recognize the funding we receive from grants and contracts with the following groups and organizations:**

Greater Vancouver Community Assistance Foundation, Patagonia, Bullitt Foundation, Oak Foundation, West Wind Foundation, Western Mining Action Network, Institute for New Economics, Winky Foundation, Timken Sturgis Foundation, Tides Foundation, HRSDC — Canada Summer Jobs.







COVID-19 recovery projects  
can fight climate change and  
build a healthier, fairer province



Let's build  
a better B.C.

BetterBC.ca

 Dogwood

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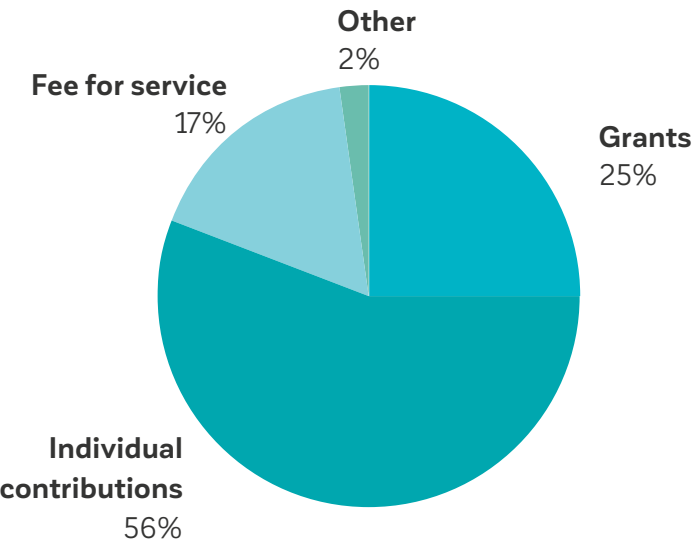
# Financial summary

## Summary of revenues and expenditures

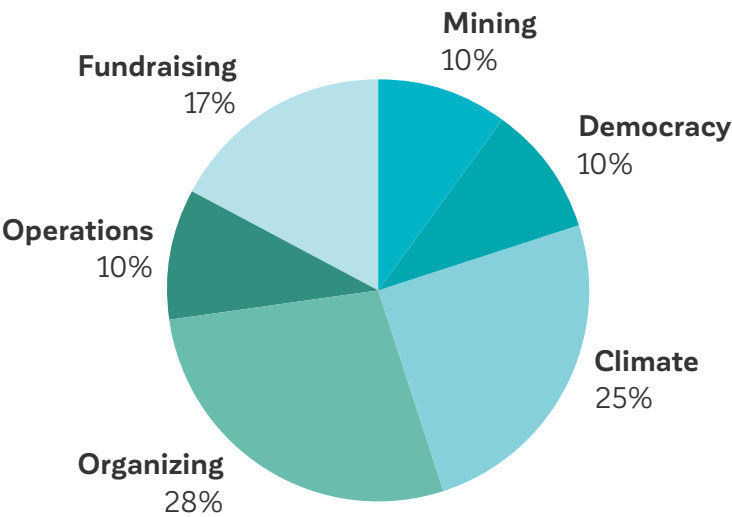
Year ended March 31, 2020

Revenue	
Grants	\$369,707.00
Individual contributions	\$842,841.00
Fee for service	\$253,311.00
Other	\$35,863.00
	<u>\$1,501,722.00</u>
Expenditures	
Overhead	\$158,236.00
Communications/Campaigns	\$254,554.00
Special events	\$17,172.00
Travel	\$16,310.00
Human resources	\$1,019,525.00
Amortization of assets	\$56,331.00
	<u>\$1,522,128.00</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures	-\$20,406.00

## Revenue



## Expenses







**Thank you!**



**dogwoodbc.ca**

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