

Annual Report

Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society

Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound
Biosphere Region



Approved



Our Purpose

Strengthening collaboration in the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region.

Our Vision

An Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound where humanity and nature thrive.

Our Mission

We facilitate and support the organizing and planning of complex activities that bring allegiance to balancing development, conservation, and equity in the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region.

I am very proud to report the accomplishments of this past year.

In 2016 we set our sites on the possibilities of a UNESCO designation for the region. On June 4, 2021, our application for this prestigious designation was approved. We are particularly proud of this acknowledgment from the UNESCO International Advisory Committee in their recommendation:

“The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the quality of the nomination proposal and acknowledged that it represents the culmination of a long process.”

We began the year with a strategic plan that focused on the organizational and governance structures. After welcoming Co-Chair Joyce Williams and new board members Hasan Hutchinson and Jessica Schultz, we established committees and got to work. In early 2021 we revisited our strategic plan with Junxion Strategies. We renewed our vision, mission, and objectives with a five-year strategy to lead us towards our our ten-year goals.

This past year we advanced our partnership relationships with Capilano University and the Institute for Environmental Education through developing several projects and plans for field schools based in the region. We continued to help steer the development of the Marine Reference Guide (MRG) to success . The team has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Squamish Nation to support their marine use plans. As well, we established a seat at the table with the Destinations BC's Sustainable Tourism Council supporting the development of the tourism destination planning for the region.

With COVID -19 restricting people to meetings online, we reached several hundred people through our webinars and meetings over Zoom. We partnered with organizations to host UN World Oceans Day events aimed at youth and an engagement session on the BC government's Cumulative Effects Assessment project for Howe Sound. We hosted two well attended Howe Sound Community Forums and convened three Ocean Watch Action Committee meetings. We assumed the role of host for the Ocean Watch Action Committee and developed an Action Tracker for Local Governments to track contributions towards improving ocean health.

Our ability to advance our UNESCO nomination and develop collaborative relationships over the year continues to be driven by volunteer passion, time, care, expertise and commitment. Funding from Islands Trust, Sitka Foundation, Sunshine Coast Regional Districts, and individual donations helped support our efforts. Thank you to all the contributors, we have an exciting year ahead.

Ruth Simons, Project Lead



Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS) **Board Member Highlights**



Joyce Williams

Co-Chair

Highlights: Joining HSBRIS as the first Squamish Nation Co-Chair. Supporting the initiative in the community and as a Squamish Nation Council member. Participating in the Marine Reference Guide development that led to the signed MOU.



Ian Winn

Vice-President, Board Recruitment and Development Committee, Communications Committee, Industry committee, Bylaw review committee

Highlights: Developing a research project for forestry sector with Capilano University, welcoming new members and Co-Chair Joyce Williams to the board.



Jessica Schultz

Marine Ambassador, Communications committee

Highlights: Participating in the Ocean Watch Action Committee, World Oceans Day events. Development of a Communications plan and answering questions related to Howe Sound marine environment.

Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society

Board Member Highlights



Hasan Hutchinson

Treasurer, Academic Committee

Highlights: First year with HSBRIS, reconnecting with Howe Sound, learning about non-profit finances, **engaging with Capilano University and Institute for Environmental Learning.**



Suzanne Senger

Founding Director, Bylaw Review Committee, Charitable Status Committee, Conservation ambassador for the Sunshine Coast

Highlights: Advancing HSBRIS' governance structure with the establishment of a Squamish Nation Co-Chair role and member.



Patricia Plackett

Academic, Board Development and Recruitment Committee and Fire & Ice Geopark Working Group

Highlights: Terms of Reference development with Capilano University and joint working group with the proposed UNESCO Geopark. Review of board hiring matrix and recruitment possibilities. Advisory committee with the Institute for Environmental Learning.

Strategic Plan 2021-2021

Highlights

Programs

- ✓ Achieved UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation
- ✓ Advance Biodiversity Conservation through the Marine Reference Guide
- ✓ Collaborated with communities to foster understanding and actions that further Sustainable Development
- ✓ Developed relationship and projects with Capilano University.
- ✓ Partnered to deliver education programs on World Oceans Day, webinars, two Howe Sound Community Forum gatherings and three Ocean Watch Action Committee meetings.

Resources

- ✓ Within budget
- ✓ Funding from Islands Trust, Sitka Foundation, SCRCD and individual sponsors to support specific projects
- ★ Donations were below target

Administrative systems

- ✓ Assessed, budget and implement efficient administrative systems.
- ✓ Received technical support as needed.

Management

- ✓ Communications plan and tools reviewed and updated
- ★ Hiring and staff succession planning deferred
- Defined Programs and Key Projects aligned with strategy, metrics still to be developed
- ★ Policies and procedures still to be developed

Governance

- ✓ Reviewed and Update Constitution and Bylaws
- ✓ Recruited a new and expanded board including Squamish Nation Co-Chair
- ✓ Established board committees, policies and developed plans
- ✓ Determined options for obtaining Charitable Status
- ✓ Participated on CBRA network meetings
- ★ Establish AHSBR Roundtable was deferred

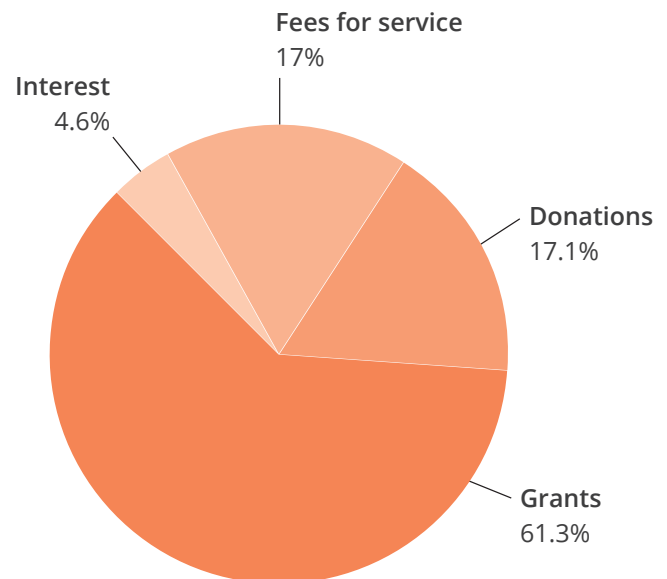
Summary Financial Highlights

Assets

Cash in Credit Union and PayPal	\$6,996.77
West Vancouver Foundation	\$10,284.86
Total Current Assets	\$17,281.63

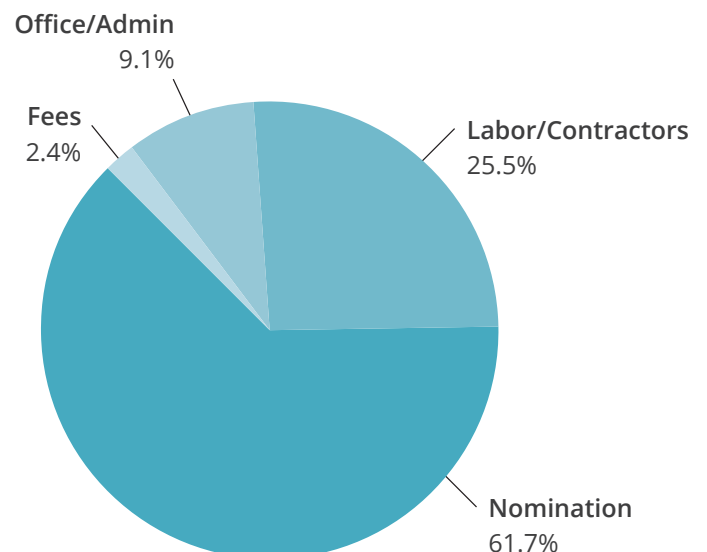
Revenue

Donations	\$3,930
Grants	\$14,092
Fees for service	\$3,908
Interest	\$1,051
Total Revenue	\$22,981



Expenses

Labor/Contractors	\$4,809
Nomination	\$11,637
Office/Admin	\$1,719
PR/Printing	\$251
Fees	\$453
Total Expenses	\$18,869





Thank you to all who have inspired us through their vision for a sustainable Howe Sound, supported this nomination, and joined us on this journey.

Ruth Simons

To the 2016 exploration team of Jan Hagedorn, Bob Turner and Suzanne Senger who travelled with me to Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve and to Rebecca Hurwitz and her team for their time answering our questions. To Patricia Plackett, Tom Raffael, Suzanne and Bob for the trip to visit Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve and to Dave Witty, Pam Shaw for sharing their enthusiasm and welcome. To Stan Boychuck for teaching us, providing feedback and presenting with us to the Howe Sound Community Forum.

Many thanks to Brigitta Von Krosigk and Drew Copeland for their contribution to the team as we developed the strategic communications tools and to Gowlings law firm for pro-bono assistance registering our Society.

We are grateful to Sewell's Marina for having a boardroom with an inspirational view for our Working Group meetings and Sharon Thompson for the use of MLA Sturdy's office in Horseshoe Bay. The many meetings and people who participated have helped shape the Atl'ka7sem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region.

The document is content-rich due to the contribution of time and expertise from the following people: Bob Turner for the geological information and endless hours on maps and boundary options; Greg Weary, Alyssa Togado, Andrew Huang, Judith Holm, Melissa Todd and LGL Consulting for the biospherical information; marine information and species lists from Jessica Schultz, & Donna Gibb at Ocean Wise with contributions from

Carolyn Melville, Colin Levings, Stephanie Lingard and Lora Tryon; Barry Hall for research and writing on ecosystem services, human population and economic development; Patricia Plackett and Jenn Meilleur's sound advice on wording of purpose and logistic support; and Jeff Juthans of FLNRORD for support and guidance on Provincial land use. Research was helpful from Anton Van Walraven, Ian Winn, Rob Knight and the Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives. Appreciation to Jennifer Orum for many final edits.

We appreciate guidance and input from Tonianne Mynen of FLNRORD, Regan Kohlhardt of BC Parks, Dave Southam of the Sea to Sky Forest District, Deirdre Finn of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Squamish Nation.

Many thanks to editor/producer Bill Henwood for his patience and enormous contribution. Special mention goes to Jeff Senichenko and the Wilderness Committee for their patience and production of many maps.

We appreciate the contribution of extra time from Chantal Schauch as she guided our 5-year strategic planning, the final step to our successful nomination.

The nomination was produced mostly through "in kind" donations of time but we are grateful to the many donors and the Sitka Foundation for their financial contributions, and to the West Vancouver Community Foundation and Edith Tobe of the Squamish River Watershed Society for their support.

Thank you