



# 2018 Annual Report

The Compost Education Centre (CEC) is a project of the Victoria Compost and Conservation Education Society, which is a not-for-profit, charitable organization.

Started in 1992 by the Fernwood Community Association, the CEC provides composting and conservation education to Capital Regional District (CRD) residents with the goals of reducing waste, improving local soils, and partnering with others to make our communities more sustainable. The CEC promotes and teaches organic gardening and other sustainable living techniques as a means of restoring our bodies, food systems, ecosystems and communities to health.





# 2018 Highlights



## 26 Years of Composting and Conservation!

2018 marked the Compost Education Centre’s 26th Anniversary as a composting, conservation and organic gardening resource centre.

On June 16th, 2018, CEC staff hosted our AGM and combined this important annual review with a party in celebration of our membership, volunteers, board and staff. The intent of the AGM was, and is, to recognize and celebrate the contributions of all members of our community in maintaining the Centre as a hub of environmental advocacy in the CRD.

Now an annual event, the AGM & Garden Party was hosted in the CEC’s Teaching Garden and featured local musicians, cool drinks, cake and lots of laughter and reminiscing.



## So Much Change!

2018 was a year of great change for the Centre! Our long-time Executive Director, Marika Smith, was recognized for her years of hard work promoting sustainable practices through her hiring as Sustainable Waste Management Specialist at the City of Victoria. Though she has relocated to a new and exciting position, we remain grateful for her ongoing support of the Centre, and we’re thrilled that she can continue her meaningful work within the Capital Regional District.

We also said good-bye to Site Manager Alysha Punnett, who was with the Centre for 5 years. Alysha moved on to pursue graduate work in counselling. Her presence both in the garden and in the office is sorely missed!



## Wows and Welcomes!

After Marika’s departure last June, Alexis, Kayla and Alysha formed an Interim Management Team with support from the Board of Directors in order to steer the organization while allowing space and time to find just the right new Executive Director. Through their combined leadership, the Team guided the Centre to a substantial year end financial surplus.

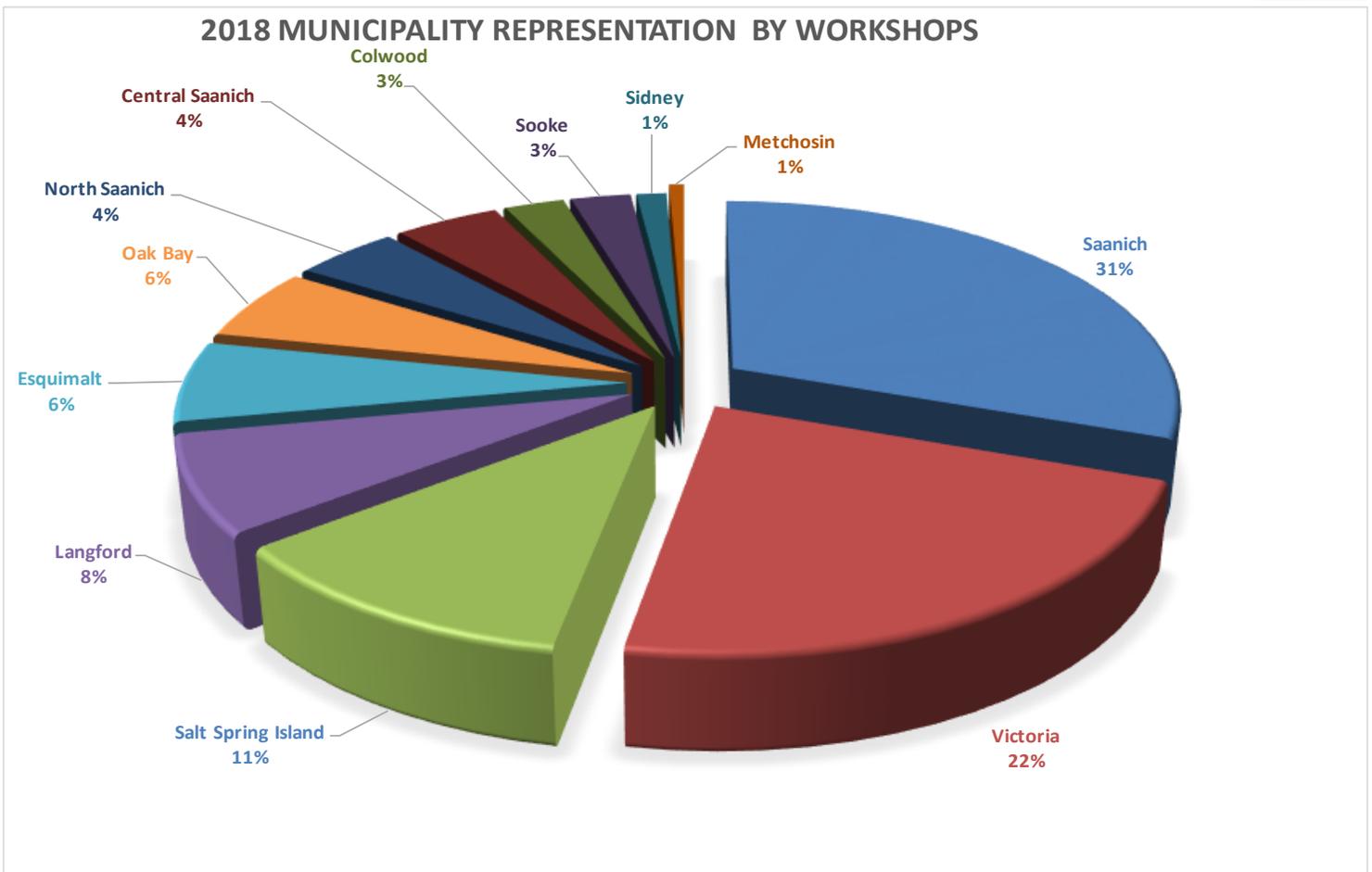
Although we feel the void Marika and Alysha left, staff change has also yielded exciting new beginnings. Education Coordinator and power-house, Kayla Siefried, successfully applied for the position of Site Manager and Adult Education Coordinator and began her new position in November of 2018!

Also in November we welcomed Chris Dufour as our new Education Coordinator. Chris is an exceptional individual who brings their skills in food justice, community organizing, art and education to the CEC’s School Programs.



# Education Programs

- ◆ In 2018 we continued to teach thousands of children and adults about composting, soil health, waste diversion/reduction and organic gardening. We saw record numbers of people enroll in our Adult Education Programs and opened up many new workshops to meet the growing need for accessible environmental education and knowledge of sustainable practices.
- ◆ We taught 13,655 adults in 66 workshops and 26 community outreach events. We also presented 157 school programs to 3,667 students and 444 teachers, parents, and/or guardians.

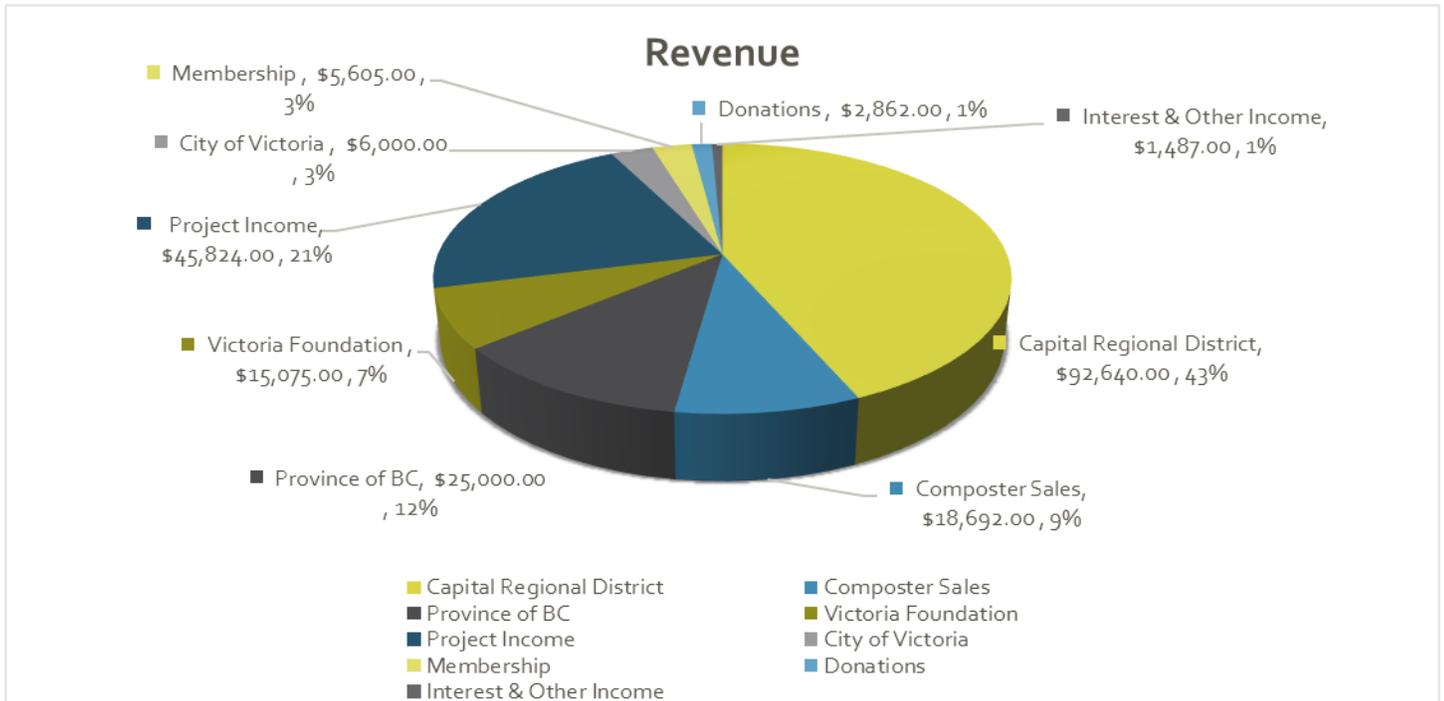


## What students and teachers are saying about our programs:

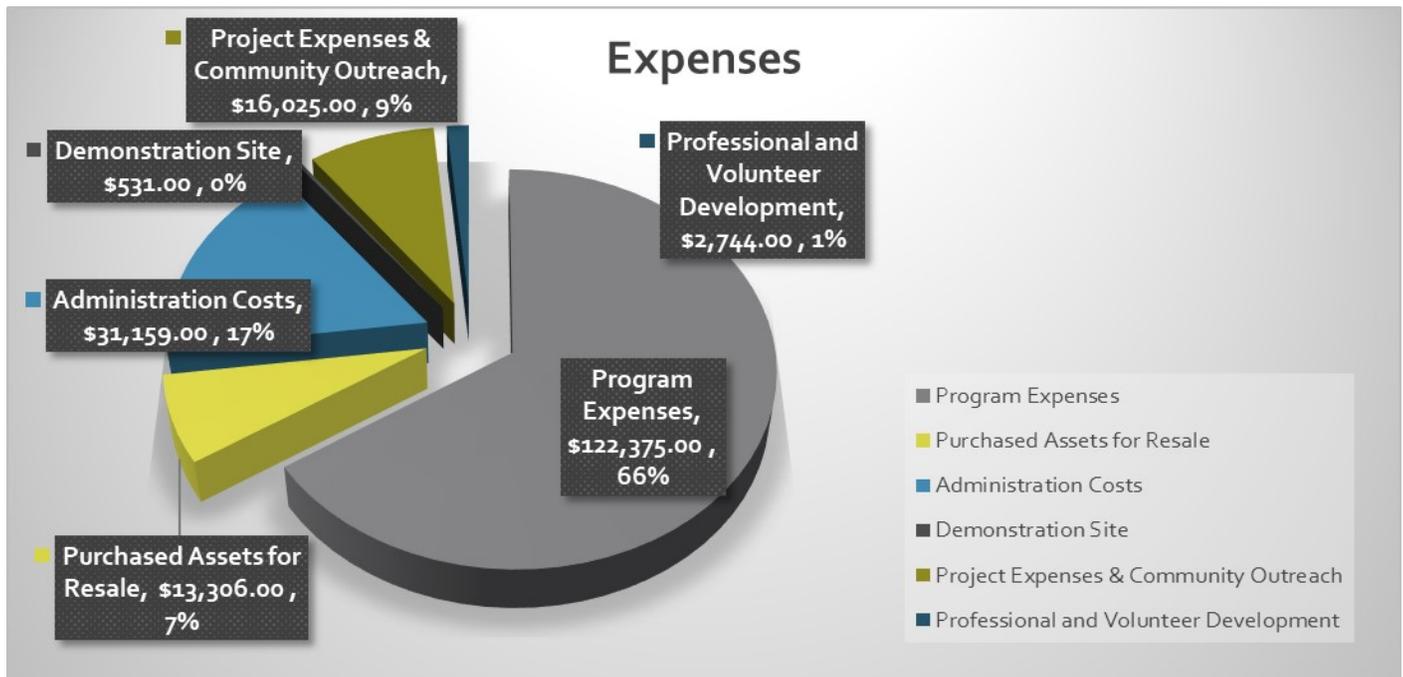
- ◆ “The students loved learning about the various gardens, how plants all contribute in different ways to the ecosystems and the chemistry and biology involved in the compost cycle.” *Claremont Secondary School Teacher, April 2018*”
- ◆ “Can you buy goumi berries at Walmart?” – *Youth from Burnside-Gorge Community Centre OSC*

# 2018 Financials

2018 TOTAL REVENUE \$213,185



2018 TOTAL EXPENSES \$187,144



2018 TOTAL SURPLUS \$26,041

To request a full copy of the CEC's unaudited financial statements please email [info@compost.bc.ca](mailto:info@compost.bc.ca)

# Fundraising and Donor Recognition

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from our funders, community partners, volunteers and membership base who help us deliver quality educational programming within the Capital Regional District. While the Capital Regional District and City of Victoria provide ongoing essential support for the Centre, we are able to do all we do only through the generosity of all those who have given:

## Funders

- Capital Regional District
- City of Victoria
- Province of British Columbia
- 1% For The Planet Foundation
- Horne Coupar Law
- Hummingbird Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment
- Victoria Foundation
- First West Foundation

## Additional Revenue

- Spring and Fall Organic Plant Sales
- Sales of composters
- Event Fundraising
- School programs
- Community workshops
- Memberships
- Donations

## Cash and In-kind Donations

- Black Press
- Grey Line Tours
- Hoyne Brewery
- Borden Mercantile
- Danica Nursery
- Dig This
- Fernwood NRG
- Fernwood Community Association
- Fernwood Inn
- Garden Works
- GeoBC
- Little Elf Garden Centre
- Meadow Oak Nursery
- Mason Street City Farm
- Royal Roads University
- Van Isle Water Systems
- Victoria Aquaponics
- Sooke Voice News
- Nezza Naturals
- Caffe Fantastico
- Fol Epi/Agrius
- Lifestyle Markets

## Summary of Programs and Services

The Compost Education Centre (CEC) was established in 1992 to educate CRD residents about composting, ecological gardening practices and soil conservation. Under contract to the CRD, the CEC offers presentations, workshops, educational compost demonstrations, volunteer training, monthly e-newsletters and maintains the CEC Hotline, in-house resource and retail space and website.

In 2018, the CEC delivered 157 school programs to 3,667 learners from Preschool to Grade 12. The CEC facilitated 66 community workshops and learning events on topics including: “Planning Your Year Round Veggie Garden,” “Building Healthy Soils,” “Food Preservation Basics,” and many more. The CEC also conducted many free workshops on topics such as “Composting Basics” and “Soil: Tiny Important Lives.” A total of 20,719 residents visited our demonstration site or participated in an educational community event, while over 380,000 residents from the CRD and beyond communicated with the CEC online, by phone, or in person.

Over the course of the year, CEC hosted five community education open houses: the Spring and August Organic Plant Sales, the annual Garden Party, the Annual General Meeting. Flagship program of the CEC, Healing City Soils (HCS), entered its 3rd year in 2018 with considerable support from the Victoria Foundation, and Royal Roads University. In its 3rd year the HCS team created a mini-documentary about the history and impact of the program, and focused on soil health outreach in the West Shore Communities, but received more interest from other municipalities in the CRD. Soil Best Practices workshops were held at UVic for HCS program participants and the general public alike, and were demonstrative of the upward trend in CEC adult workshop attendance. Additionally, CEC increased its outreach and workshop capacity in 2018 by teaching more adult workshops, and extending our reach to better serve the rural regions of Sooke and the Gulf Islands.

## Staff

**Executive Director:** Chester Phillips

**Site Manager:** Kayla Siefried

**Office & Communications Manager:** Alexis Hogan

**Education Coordinator:** Chris Dufour



## Board of Directors

**Chair:** Jelena Putnik

**Vice Chair:** Tamara Chirovsky

**Treasurer:** David Neate

**Secretary:** Lisette Chevalier

**Members At Large:** Kay Hebbourn & Kimberley Veness



## Message from the Executive Director

The Compost Education Centre has had an eventful and promising 2018! In our 26<sup>th</sup> year, we launched the third year of our partnership program, Healing City Soils; increased our online and social media marketing presence significantly; and grew our very active K-12 school and adult workshop programs to promote soil health, waste reduction, climate wise gardening, rainwater harvesting, composting on multiple scales, and urban sustainability in general. This year also saw the departure of two longtime staff members and the arrival of Chris Dufour as Education Coordinator and, at the beginning of 2019, Chester Phillips (hi, everyone) as Executive Director.



Soil stewardship provides the foundation for all CEC educational programs because healthy soil is essential to healthy and resilient food systems, ecosystems, and human communities.

Together with our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and fabulous volunteers, we reach over **380,000** CRD residents annually with our educational services and practical solutions for living more sustainably. As a community hub connecting soil health to food literacy, ecological restoration and bioremediation, the CEC is proud to be an educational resource for composting, organic food production, waste reduction strategies and more, teaching children and adults to take good care of the natural systems that take care of us. ~ **Chester F. Phillips**

The Compost Education Centre is located on unceded and occupied Indigenous territories, specifically the land of the Lekwungen speaking people—the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. These nations are two of many, made up of individuals who have lived within the porous boundaries of what is considered Coast Salish, Nuu-Chah-Nulth and Kwakwa'wakw Territory (Vancouver Island) since time immemorial. At the CEC we seek to respect, honour and continually grow our own understandings of Indigenous rights and history, and to fulfill our responsibilities as settlers, who live and work directly with the land and its complex, vital ecologies and our diverse, evolving communities.