



2019 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.





2019 Highlights



27 Years of Composting and Conservation!

2019 marked the Compost Education Centre’s 27th Anniversary as a composting, conservation and organic gardening resource centre.

2019 was the second consecutive year of big leadership change for the Centre! Marika Smith’s predecessor, Chet Phillips, joined us in January, leaving the University of Arizona and the Compost Cats for the Compost Education Centre. However, not long after Chet’s arrival, he moved on to another position within the local community.

Taking the unexpected in stride with aplomb, remaining staff members Chris Dufour, Kayla Siefried and Alexis Hogan created a Management Team, which took the Centre through to the end of another successful year, closing in a surplus & leaving milestone achievements along the way.



Change is constant.

Truism aside, the yield of 2019 is one of abundance. For an unexpected third year in a row the CEC received \$18,000 from federal funding body, the Natural Science & Engineering Research Centre, in support of our youth education programs, exceeding prior years’ awards by \$3600. In other good news the Team successfully secured another three year contract with our core funder, the Capital Regional District. We remain incredibly grateful for their direct investment in the CEC’s work and for the CRD’s recognition of how our organization’s vision and mandate assists the CRD’s ability to meet their climate emergency goals.

Community recognition for the CEC also came in 2019 from a couple of different sources: Hoyne Brewing and the Vancity sponsored Ecostar Awards. Hoyne Brewing generously donated \$3500 to the CEC as a part of their community support programs and we received the Educational Leadership Award from Ecostar Awards, which recognizes outstanding environmental achievements and leadership on Vancouver Island.



Adversity creates fertile ground for the richness of growth .

Chris Dufour, in collaboration with Artemis Place Secondary school which serves low income, at risk, women, Trans and non-binary youth, has created a remarkable new, long-term partnership. Daya Moss of Artemis Place explains the program best:

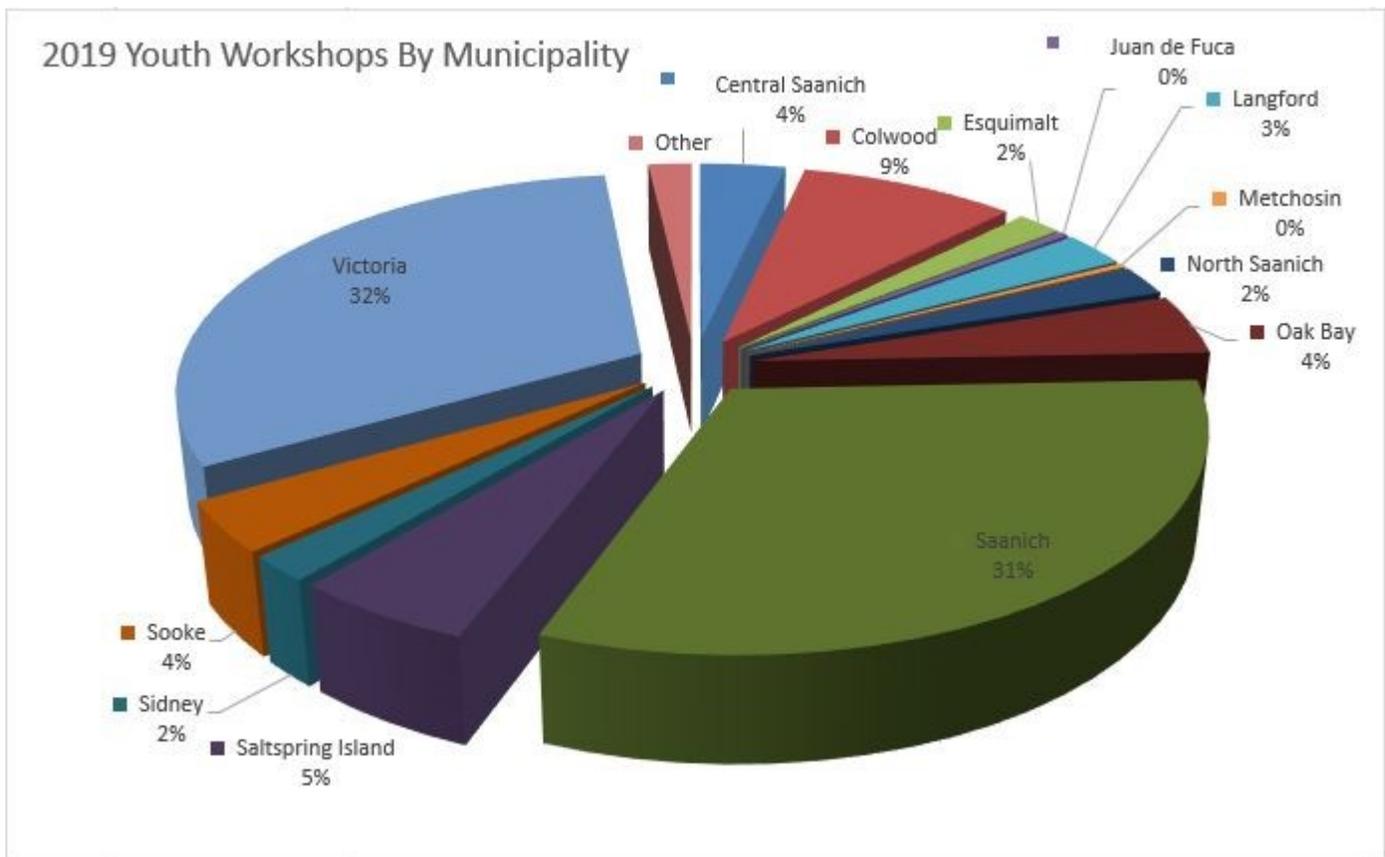
“With the help and support of community partners such as the CEC, what began as a small in-house project with a few raised (often weedy!) vegetable beds, has blossomed into an inspiring integrated environmental education program, weaving together such topics as biology, ecology, restoration and reconciliation, food literacy, the arts – and of course, composting!”

– Daya Moss, Youth and Family Counsellor, Artemis Place Secondary .



Education Programs

- ◆ In 2019 record numbers of people enrolled in our Youth & Adult Education Programs. We offered many new workshops (like Fermented Sauces & Salsas) and offered many repeat workshops (like Planning Your Year Round Veggie Garden) due to overwhelming interest. It was a challenge to meet the growing need for accessible environmental education and knowledge of sustainable practices! The schools program earned a whopping **\$12,000** in revenue and the adult education program, nearly **\$15,000**. Compared to 2018, which was a record breaking year for both revenue streams at **\$7,000** and **\$9,000** respectively, we feel quite triumphant about this accomplishment in the face of much change.
- ◆ We taught or connected with **14,522** adults in **89** workshops and **71** community outreach learning events. We also presented 217 school programs to **5,637** students and **554** teachers, parents, and/or guardians.

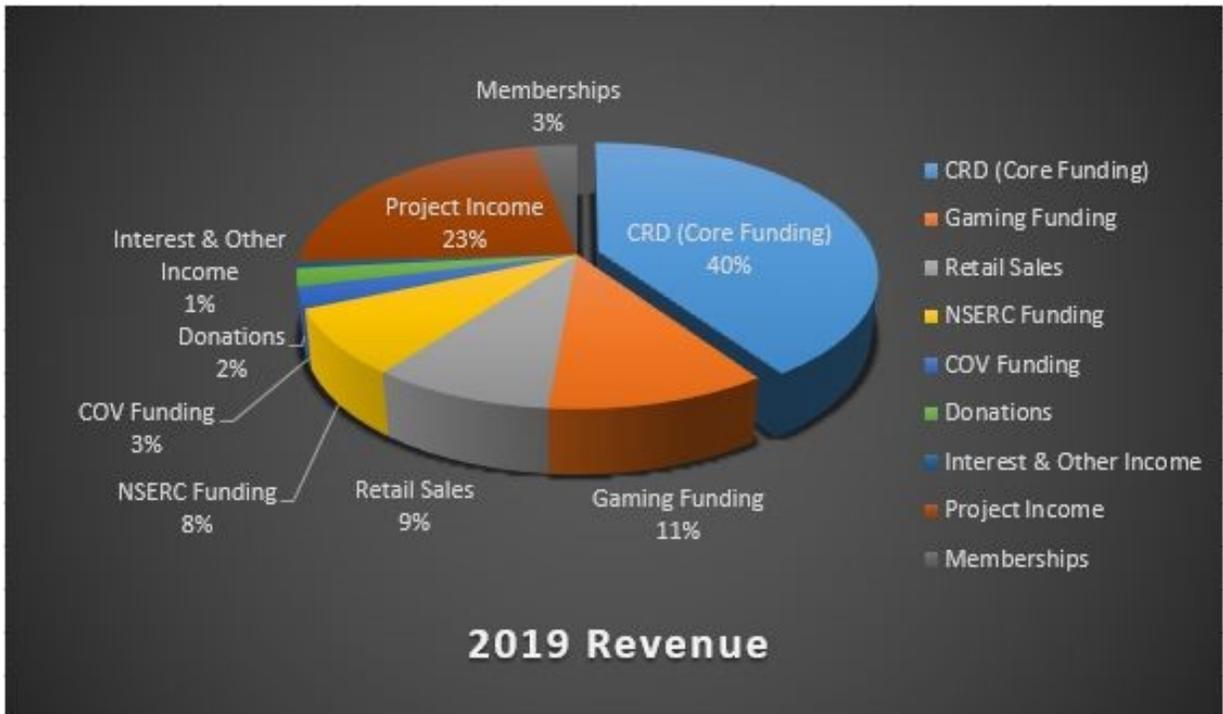


Educator Testimonials About Our Programs:

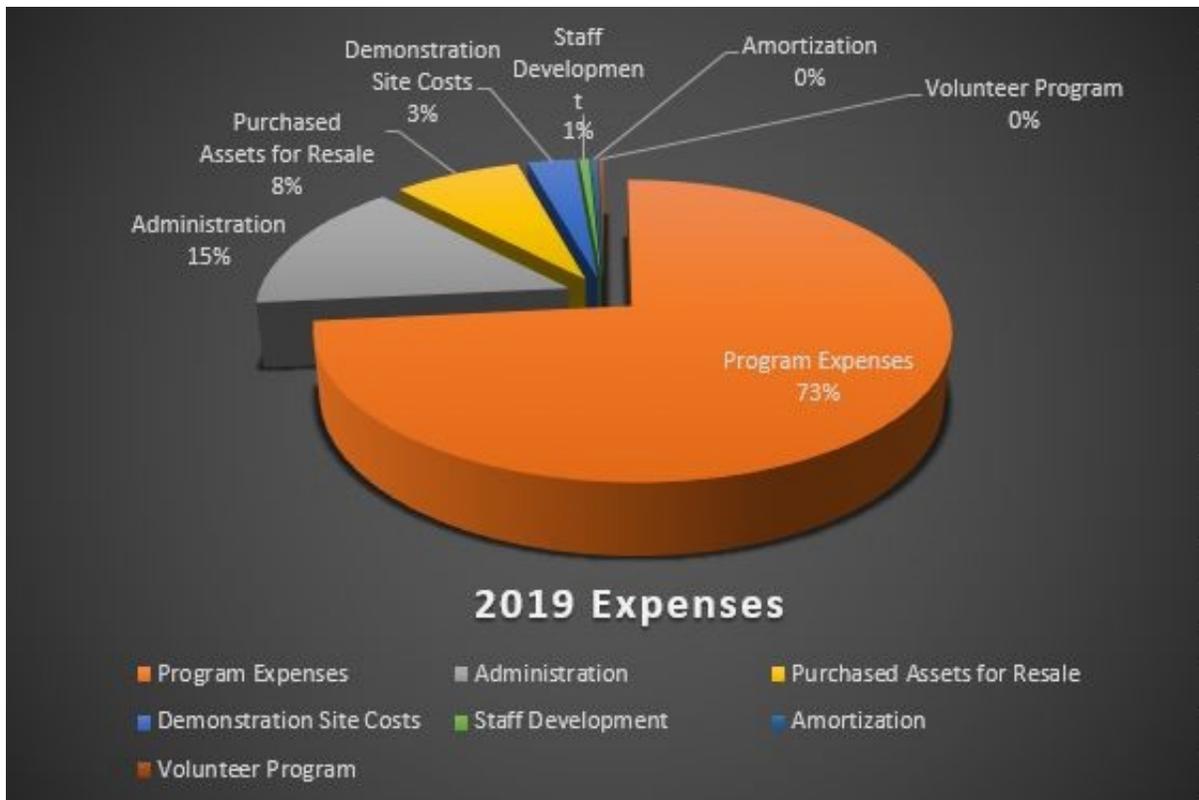
- ◆ *“The CEC has a variety of experiential environmental education programs for children and youth which feature fun, interactive workshops taught in schools or in their vibrant teaching gardens. Hands-on learning opportunities include building and maintaining a classroom worm composting bin through ‘Wrigglers at Work’ and exploring the mysteries of soil ecosystems in ‘Soil Superstars’. These programs frame environmental education through a solutions based learning approach that increases youth engagement and encourages a sense of community connection, individual empowerment and environmental stewardship. The food waste from classrooms is diverted from the landfill while the compost created in the classroom worm bins can be used in school food gardens to further connect students to the compost cycle and soil network. Peninsula Streams Society has worked with the Compost Education Centre on many occasions over our 17 year history. Most recently, CEC has attended our Gr. 6/7 Environmental Education program “Creatures of Habitat” as part of our Workshop Series. The CEC workshops were extremely well done, dynamic and engaging. CEC is always top of our list for workshops to include in our program, and are highly requested by the teachers that we work with.”*
~Francesca Loro, Stewardship Coordinator, Peninsula Streams Society

2019 Financials

2019 TOTAL REVENUE \$229,172



2019 TOTAL EXPENSES \$209,440



2019 TOTAL SURPLUS \$19,732

To request a full copy of the CEC's unaudited financial statements please email 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 (Gaming)
- 1% For The Planet Foundation
- Horne Coupar Law
- Hummingbird Foundation
- Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada
- TD Friends of the Environment
- Victoria Foundation
- SAFE Fund

Additional Revenue

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

Cash and In-kind Donations

- Borden Mercantile
- Caffe Fantastico
- Cold Comfort
- Danica Nursery
- Dig This
- Eco-Lodge Tofino
- Fernwood NRG
- Fernwood Community Association
- Garden Works
- GeoBC
- Heart & Hands
- Hoyne Brewery
- Mason Street City Farm
- Northern Quarter
- Royal Roads University
- Saanich Native Plants
- Van Isle Water Systems
- Fol Epi/Agrius
- West Coast Refill
- & many more!

Summary of Programs and Services

In 2019 the Compost Education Centre (CEC) celebrated 27 years of reaching over **1,895,377** CRD residents with information about composting, waste diversion & reduction, ecological gardening practices and ecological conservation. Through a contract with the CRD, the CEC offers presentations, workshops, and educational demonstrations both at our on-site gardens and throughout the community.

The CEC engages an active team of volunteers, publishes a monthly e-newsletter and fact sheets that range from an introduction to the benefits of backyard composting to critical mitigation of heavy metal soil contaminants. The CEC also maintains a website, and a telephone hotline, and social media channels that offer on-demand information and support.

In 2019, the CEC delivered **217** preschool to grade 12 programs to **5,637** learners, and ran **89** community workshops and learning events on topics including 'Understanding and Addressing Soil Contamination', 'Grow Your Own Food 101', 'Indigenous Plant Walk', 'Gardening for Gary Oak Ecosystems', and 'Composting Basics.'

Approximately **14,522** residents visited the CEC's demonstration site or participated in an educational community event, while over **521,919** CRD residents communicated with the CEC online, by phone, or in person. In 2019, the CEC worked to increase its capacity to better reach underserved rural regions and those municipalities without curbside pickup in the Capital Region.

2019 Staff

Management Team, HCS & Office Manager:

Alexis Hogan

Management Team & Site Manager:

Kayla Siefried

Management Team & Education Coordinator: Chris Dufour



2019 Board of Directors

Chair: Jelena Putnik

Vice Chair: Tamara Chirovsky

Treasurer: Janeen Sam

Secretary: Lisette Chevalier

Members At Large: Kay Hebbourn



Message from the Management Team

What a year! To top it all off we launched the 4th iteration of our partnership program, Healing City Soils & received the most participation from CRD residents, ever! Beyond this, the CEC continues to support the CRD kitchen scraps landfill ban through educational resources & programming that emphasizes accessible education around food waste diversion, both on and off-site, as well as promoting backyard composting.

Our online & social media marketing presence, as well as our youth and adult workshop programs all yielded record highs. This means our work to encourage stewardship of the environment and to provide residents with climate resiliency tools and skills needed to compost, reduce waste, grow their own food and conserve soil and water is mushrooming throughout our communities.

Throughout 2019 we witnessed continued leadership from the CEC's Management Team, comprised of Chris Dufour, Alexis Hogan & Kayla Siefried and strong collaboration between staff and the Board of Directors. Though we are saying good bye to Jelena, Tamara and Kay in 2020 we are so enthusiastic about the new growth spreading throughout our compost and conservation community and look forward to an even more fruitful year and years to come.



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, Nuuchah-Nulth and Kwakwaka'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.