



COMPOST EDUCATION  
CENTRE

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021



# Where we are now

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 goal 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 climate resiliency techniques as a means of supporting local waste diversion, local food and ecosystems, and communities within the CRD.

Our mission: to cultivate resilient communities, which support the land and all living beings to thrive.



Neighborhood Composting Program participant dropping off food scraps.  
Image Credit: Jeffrey Bodset



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 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.

# 2021 Highlights

## 29 Years of Composting & Conservation!

2021 marked the Compost Education Centre's 29th anniversary as a composting, conservation, and organic gardening resource center. In February, the CEC's Office Manager, and Healing City Soils Program Coordinator, Alexis Hogan, was promoted to Executive Director. In April, Child & Youth Educator, Chris Dufour moved on from the CEC, and Elora Adamson filled their position. Jeffrey Ellom assumed the role of 2021 Summer Education and Site Assistant through funding provided by Canada Summer Jobs. With support from the Canadian Parks & Recreation Association, Jeffrey's role evolved into a secondary Education Coordinator role in a concerted effort to expand the Child & Youth Education Program.



Staff: Alexis, Kayla,  
Elora, Jeffrey,  
Zoe-Blue

## Connecting Through Soil Health & Food Security

In 2021 the Compost Education Centre (CEC) celebrated 29 years of reaching over 3,939,403 CRD residents with information about composting, waste diversion & reduction, organic 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 provides free factsheets that range from an introduction to the benefits of backyard composting, to mitigation of heavy metal soil contaminants in urban gardens. The CEC also maintains a website, a telephone hotline, and social media channels that offer on-demand information and support. Through collaboration with design agency, Bone Creative, (now) Office Manager Zoe-Blue conducted a complete overhaul of the CEC's website. Upgrades feature enhanced user & mobile-friendly interfaces to better service CRD residents. Since its launch, CEC has seen a 14% increase in website visits.



Garden volunteer harvesting  
gumi berries

In 2021, approximately 1,002 residents visited the CEC's demonstration site, nearly 4,000 participated in an educational or community event, while over 565,713 CRD residents communicated with the CEC online, by phone, or in person. The centre began to develop tools and resources for further addressing soil degradation in the CRD via the Healing City Soils program, and initiated the Neighborhood Composting Pilot Program, which aims to divert food scraps from CRD waste streams and reduce civic usage of resource-intensive collection programs.



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# 2021 Highlights



Elora setting up a worm bin  
for VHS members

## Growth Through Collaboration: The Worm Poop Centennial Project

In Celebration of 100 years of hands-on gardening education, the Victoria Horticultural Society (VHS) made a cash donation to the Centre's Schools Program! Thanks to VHS, 100 schools and non-profit educational groups are eligible to receive a worm bin for free when they book a CEC worm composting workshop. In the fall of 2021 alone, the Education Team set up 39 free worm bins through this program—what a way to celebrate!

## Healing City Soils Program

In 2020, Executive Director Alexis Hogan and Healing City Soils (HCS) Program Creator and Technical Advisor, Danielle Stevenson, broadened the scope of the CEC's Healing City Soils program to include the Ground Beneath Our Feet pilot: do-it-yourself (DIY) remediation of heavy metals in backyard gardens.

The goal of this pilot is to develop plain-language resources and skill building workshops to support community members' DIY phyto (plant) and myco (fungi) remediation of heavy metals in low-to-moderately contaminated soils using native plants, compost and fungi.

Because of COVID, Royal Roads University (RRU) postponed collaboration with CEC in 2020 and 2021 for the safety of RRU students, whose work with HCS often occurs in a laboratory and in the field. This fallow period of the program allowed Stevenson and Hogan, with support from RRU's Dr. Matt Dodd and 2019 RRU student team member Martyna Tomczynski, to begin work addressing the removal of low-to-moderate levels of heavy metal contamination in backyards, community gardens and traditional food and medicine harvesting sites.

In working on how to safely remove heavy metals from soil, using native and non-native plants, fungi and compost, the CEC developed a partnership with the PEPÁKĖN HÁUTW Foundation who have been actively restoring the first village site of the W̱SÁNEĆ people, SNIDĆEŁ. In the early 1900s settlers turned SNIDĆEŁ into the site of a Portland cement factory which contaminated the area's land and waters. Although remediation has occurred in the seabed at SNIDĆEŁ, contamination still exists in the soil in the form of elevated levels of heavy metals, such as lead and arsenic. As the PEPÁKĖN HÁUTW team is actively working with soil while restoring the ecosystem with native plants and working to remove invasive species, which have overrun the culturally significant area, remediation of the soil is an incredibly important aspect of this cultural and community resiliency project.

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# 2021 Highlights

## Healing City Soils Program Continued

The HCS team has also partnered with a past HCS participant, a Capital Regional District homeowner, whose soil tests yielded high levels of lead contamination in their back yard. Additionally, a small portion of the CEC's Demonstration Site contains lead contamination from a decommissioned mechanic shop, which used to exist close to our Teaching Gardens.

At these three locations, the HCS team—along with support from former CEC Education Coordinator Chris Dufour and two youth volunteers from the Artemis Place Cultivating Reciprocity program—installed three remediation test plots in the spring of 2021. The plots were planted with varying combinations of native plants and one common food plant (coastal sage, woolly sunflower, stinging nettle and lettuce), and common soil amendments: compost and the mycelial inoculant arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF). The hypothesis is that these native plants, along with help from compost and AMF, will be able to remove toxic levels of heavy metals from the soil, thus contributing to emergent research about local native plants in the role of phyto-remediator, while simultaneously encouraging communities to garden with native plants for their multiplicity of environmental benefits. The HCS team included lettuce in this study to get a sense of how much metal is adsorbed or absorbed into plant bodies, which might be later ingested by those who grow common greens in their home or community gardens.

This work will be long-term as the team assesses and reassesses the development of the DIY remediation pilot, its supporting resources, and together, their efficacy as a low-cost, plain language model intended to be shared with our communities.



Chris Dufour & Artemis Student Volunteer  
Install Remediation Beds at SNIDÇEŁ



Artemis Student Volunteer Installs  
Remediation Beds at SNIDÇEŁ

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# Adult Education Programs

Our ability to deliver educational programs continued to be impacted by COVID-19 in 2021, regardless, the Adult Education Program earned \$15,600 in revenue, the most revenue this program has yielded since 2016, if not longer! In 2021, CEC taught 1,916 adults in 80 public or privately booked workshops.

Many workshops were offered both online and in-person, with participants attending online from as far as Belgium and Australia! In June, CEC began hosting in-person workshops as COVID-19 restrictions lifted. Particularly popular were two sold out "Illustrating Plants" workshops, which provided an alternative point of entry into the CEC's work, and thus connected our organization with new audiences.

Through the City of Victoria's Participatory Budgeting Grant, Site Manager & Community Education Coordinator Kayla taught "Coming Home to the Garden: Sustainability Workshops and Resources for Newcomers"—six free workshops to 93 immigrants and refugees recruited through the Intercultural Association, the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society, and New Foundations. During one of the workshops hosted with the New Foundations program, CEC collaborated with another organization, the FED Urban Agriculture Society (FED), and their program My FED Farm. FED supplied each participant with two large cloth containers to grow plants in, and they supplied all the soil and seedlings for the participants to plant in their new balcony gardens.

In 2021, CEC launched the Community Solar Dehydrator Program through funding from the City of Victoria's My Great Neighborhood Grant. The CEC hired a skilled carpenter to build two solar dehydrators: one made using an Appalachian design for public use on site; and another mobile design that CRD residents can rent to use at home. The CEC hosted a two-hour workshop on solar dehydration where participants learned how to dehydrate fruits and vegetables using solar power and how to build one of their own. CEC is excited to share another DIY, climate resiliency tool, which supports local food security and reduces food waste in the landfill!



Guest instructor, Tim teaching  
Summer Fruit Tree Pruning



The mobile solar dehydrator being  
loaded with herbs for tea



# Child & Youth Education Programs

2021 was a successful year for the Child & Youth Education Program despite Covid restraints. The Schools Program earned \$9,600 in revenue and presented 168 school programs to 2,970 students and 401 teachers, parents, and/or guardians.

The Child & Youth Education Team incorporated native plants into CEC Soil Superstars workshops and site tours. Former Education & Site Assistant, Hannah, purchased 25 native plants as take-aways for workshop participants.



Elora, reading a compost-related storybook in the Teaching Garden.

Education Team (ET) Elora and Jeffrey introduced Parent-Child workshops in July and August for ages 3-12 on a variety of topics like soil exploration, and worm composting. In September, the ET began developing new workshops including: "Bees and Blossoms" which highlight the importance of pollinators in our local ecosystems; "Spectacular Seeds", where children learn the biology of seeds; and updated "Soil Sleuths" to promote deeper reflection on colonization's impact on land bases, globally, and an intro to Indigenous land stewardship.

The CEC's (now) Office Manager & Communications Coordinator, Zoe-Blue, received funding through the City of Victoria's Everyday Creativity Grant to produce two additional BioDiversity Zine publications: "Seed Saving" and the "History of Black Ecological Stewardship". Additionally, funding supported the hosting of a film screening of Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai. Featuring ecological stewards left out of dominant agricultural and environmental history who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Colour (BIPOC), these publications have earned acclaim from the international and local community as many people continue to learn about systemic and individual racism and grow their awareness of the important contributions of BIPOC land stewards to environmental, food and social justice.



Hannah Estabrooke, leading a site tour through the gardens

So far, the CEC has distributed 1,384 copies of these publications to local bookstores, families, and organizations.

In addition, CEC continued collaboration with the Greater Victoria Public Library and created several videos for their all-ages Spring Break programming including "Composting Basics", "Bees and Pollen", and "Wrigglers at Work".

# Child & Youth Education Programs

## Testimonials

“We loved the workshop and are so excited to have the red wriggler compost bin in our classroom” - Anonymous

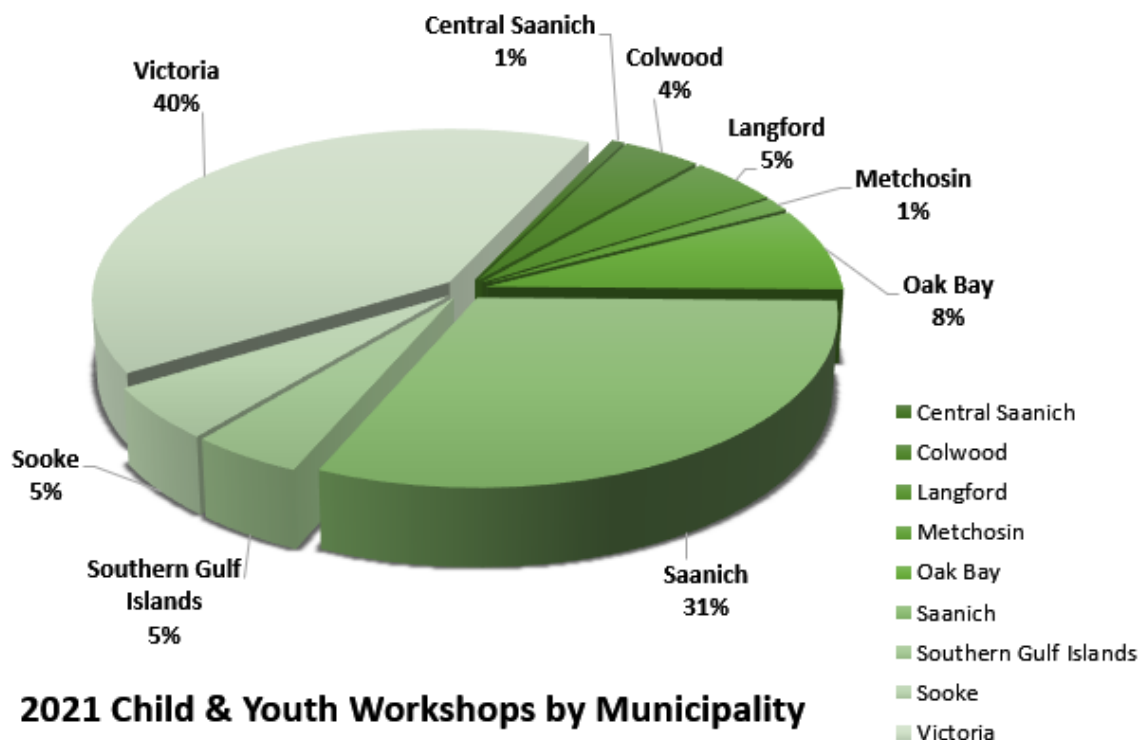
“Jeffrey was awesome, the program was super age appropriate and fun. They absolutely LOVED it. Not sure why I haven't done this before.” -Anonymous

“GVPL has been partnering with CEC for over five years to deliver programming for all ages. CEC programs are not only educational but also engaging and fun. We are particularly impressed by CEC’s ability to quickly pivot toward virtual programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the high quality of their virtual workshops and the enthusiasm of the presenters and support staff. We feel fortunate to work with CEC to build community connections and support the development of a healthy community. We look forward to continuing to work closely with CEC to provide quality educational programs for library patrons and community members.”

- Aiyang Ma, Public Services Librarian, Greater Victoria Public Library, April 2021

“Elora was amazing at keeping the children (and adults) engaged. She is firm yet approachable. She actively listened to the children and adapted her lesson plan to guide them along the program. It was wonderful to sit back and watch a great educator in action.”

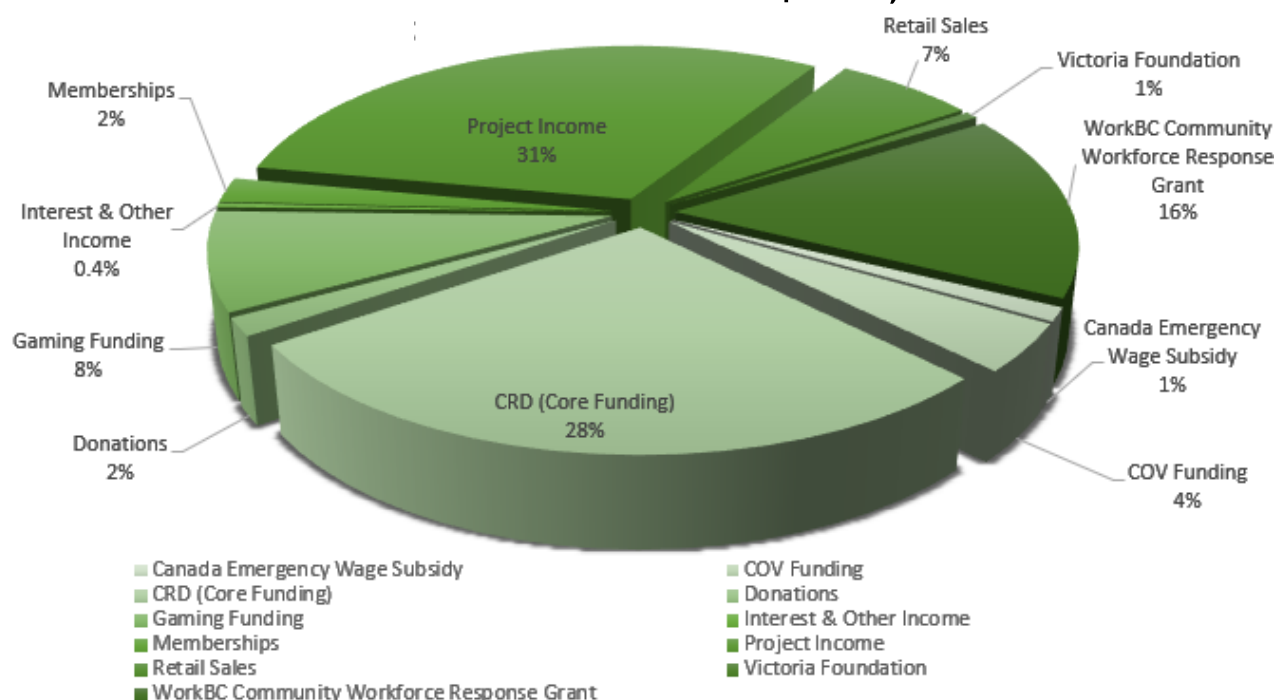
- Private Workshop, Lourdes Loudon, August 2021



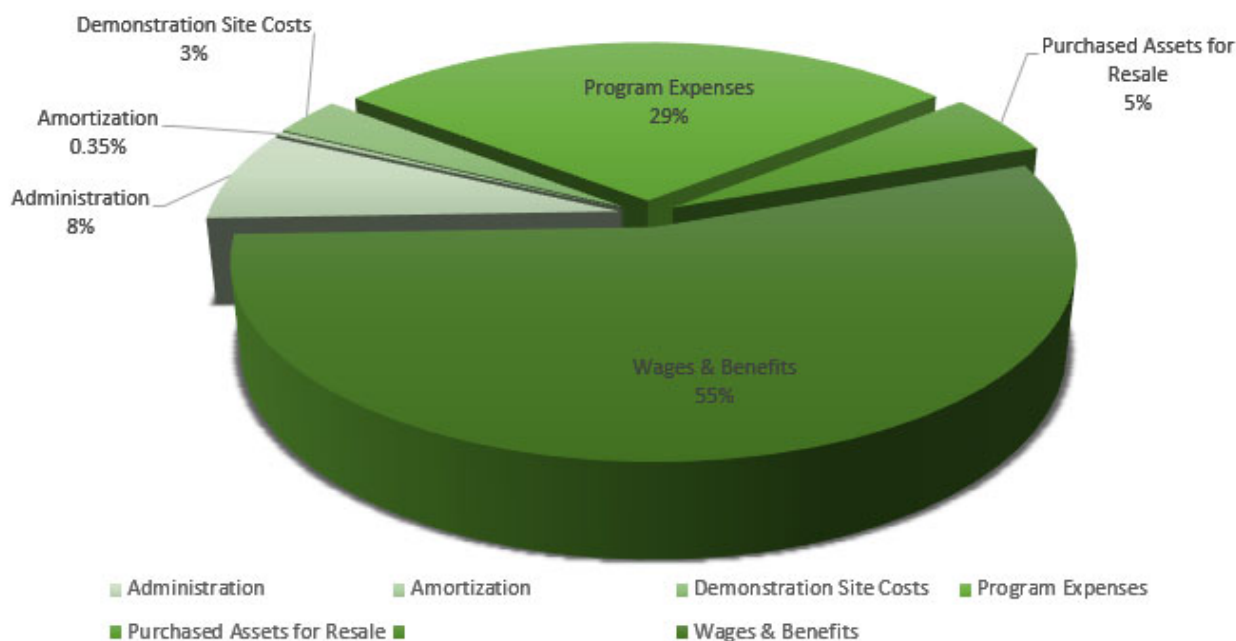


# 2021 Financials

**2021 Total Revenue: \$356,397**



**2021 Total Expenses: \$352,662**



**2021 Total Surplus: \$3,735**

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

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# Fundraising & 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 Community Gaming Grant provide ongoing essential support for the Centre, we are able to do all that we do only through the generosity of all those who have given:

## Monthly & One-time Donors

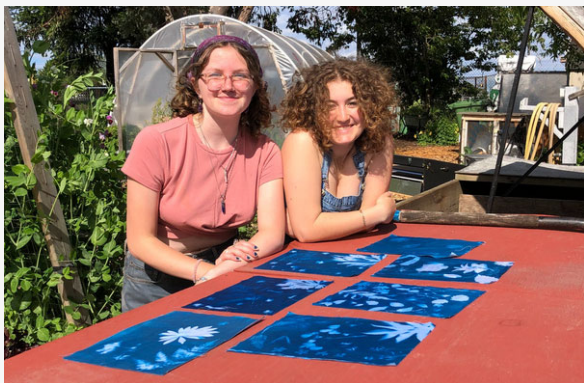
- Melissa Bedford
- Peeranut Visetsuth
- Jeannette Bedard
- Krista Siefried
- Ellie Haagsman
- Leslie Ruthie Wicks
- Mike Large
- David Greig
- Carmanah Technologies
- Hilary McPhail
- Janice Thompson
- Daniel Tourigny

## Community Recognition

- CRFAIR's Good Food Champion award
- Finalist for the Canadian Museum of Nature's Nature Inspiration Award

## Additional Revenue:

- Spring & Fall Organic Plant Sales
- Retail Sales
- Farm Stand Produce Sales



The Let It Rot Youth Program was funded in part by Castle Building Centre

## Cash & In-kind Donations

- Fairfield Bike Shop
- Castle Building Centre
- Hoyne Brewery
- West Coast Refill
- Borden Mercantile
- Dig This Gardening & Outdoor Store
- Gardenworks
- The Soap Exchange
- Metchosin Farm

## Funders:

- Capital Regional District
- B.C. Community Gaming Grants
- The All One Fund
- Victoria Foundation
- The City of Victoria
- Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada Promoscience
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Canada Parks and Recreation Association
- Vancity Envirofund
- Hummingbird Foundation
- Victoria Horticultural Society
- Urban Food Table
- 1% for the Planet Pass through Fund
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Coast Capital
- Investment Readiness Program
- WorkBC



# Staff & Board

## 2021 Staff

Executive Director & HCS Coordinator: Alexis Hogan  
Community Education Coordinator & Site Manager: Kayla Siefried  
Child & Youth Education Coordinator: Chris Dufour, Elora Adamson  
Education & Site Assistant: Hannah Estabrook, Jeffrey Ellom  
Administration & Communications Coordinator: Zoe-Blue Coates



## 2021 Board of Directors

Chair: Lisette Chevalier  
Vice Chair: Olivia Bradbury  
Treasurer: Janeen Sam  
Secretary: Megan Chan  
Member at Large: Danyelle Catini  
Innana Sokil, Abby Maxwell  
CRD Representative: Avril Gilmour Ford, Kate Masters

## Message from the Executive Director

What a year! We were so pleased to see our educational programs and revenue streams beginning to recover from the impact of covid-19 and were thrilled to begin to reconnect with our communities in person.

In our 29th year, the organization trialed a new avenue of social enterprise: making and selling compost on site! CEC worked through the Investment Readiness Program, guided by Scale Collaborative, and participated in Synergy Foundation's Project Zero Incubator program, in order to trial the Neighborhood Composting Pilot Program (NCP). CEC had high hopes that we could divert multifamily residential unit food scraps from the Hartland landfill and recycle green waste back into local soils as nutrient-dense compost through the NCP. Through research, feasibility studies, diligent consultation and business planning we determined CEC is not quite ready for an undertaking of this scale.

However, as we reflect on the organization's 30-year journey, CEC envisions a future where our organization continues to provide dynamic waste and ecological conservation services that fill gaps in regional infrastructure and contributes to local circular economies and climate adaptation strategies.



**Alexis Hogan**

**VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY**

**Financial Information**

**Year Ended December 31, 2021**



VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

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Year Ended December 31, 2021

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**COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

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To the Members of Victoria Compost & Conservation Education Society

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the Statement of Financial Position of Victoria Compost & Conservation Education Society as at December 31, 2021, and the Statement of Operations and Changes In Fund Balance for the year then ended, and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, *Compilation Engagements*, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

*Green Horwood & Co LLP*

Victoria, British Columbia  
April 8, 2022

GREEN HORWOOD & CO LLP  
Chartered Professional Accountants



**VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY**

**Statement of Financial Position**

**December 31, 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 132,736	\$ 215,677
Accounts receivable	934	869
Inventory	<u>13,397</u>	<u>12,303</u>
	<b>147,067</b>	<b>228,849</b>
<b>FURNITURE (Note 4)</b>	<u>2,690</u>	<u>3,014</u>
	<b>\$ 149,757</b>	<b>\$ 231,863</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 16,288	\$ 15,027
Deferred income	<u>5,000</u>	<u>92,102</u>
	<b>21,288</b>	<b>107,129</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>128,469</u>	<u>124,734</u>
	<b>\$ 149,757</b>	<b>\$ 231,863</b>

**VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY**

**Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance**

**Year Ended December 31, 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Project income	\$ 110,456	\$ 64,250
Capital Regional District Base	99,847	96,244
WorkBC Community Workforce Response Grant	57,102	49,818
Casino funds	30,000	25,000
Items for resale	23,872	26,838
City of Victoria	14,620	8,800
Memberships	7,348	7,632
Fundraising - Donations	5,525	2,763
Canada emergency wage subsidy	4,115	8,699
Victoria Foundation	2,223	13,622
Interest and other income	1,289	1,506
TELUS Friendly Future Foundation	-	14,850
	<u>356,397</u>	<u>320,022</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Wages and benefits	193,301	173,005
Project expenses	101,604	60,704
Administration costs	26,203	31,222
Purchases for resale	18,567	19,678
Site costs	11,307	5,468
Amortization	1,234	1,271
Staff development	446	65
	<u>352,662</u>	<u>291,413</u>
<b>NET EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>3,735</b>	<b>28,609</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u><b>124,734</b></u>	<u><b>96,125</b></u>
<b>FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR</b>	<u><b>\$ 128,469</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 124,734</b></u>



# VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

## Notes to Financial Information

Year Ended December 31, 2021

### 1. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the Statement Of Financial Position of Victoria Compost & Conservation Education Society as at December 31, 2021, and the Statement of Operations and Changes In Fund Balance for the year then ended is the historical cost basis and reflects cash transactions with the addition of:

- accounts receivable;
- inventory valued at cost;
- property, plant and equipment amortized on the same basis as for income tax;
- accounts payable and accrued liabilities; and
- deferred income recorded over the useful life of the contract.

### 2. GENERAL

Victoria Compost and Conservation Education Society was incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia on April 12, 1995. Its purpose is to encourage composting and conservation by providing public education programs and by establishing a demonstration site.

### 3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Furniture

Furniture is stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Furniture is amortized over its estimated useful life on a declining balance basis at the following rates:

Equipment	20%
Computer equipment	55%

In the year of acquisition, furniture is amortized at one-half of the annual rate.

### 4. FURNITURE

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2021 Net book value	2020 Net book value
Equipment	\$ 12,077	\$ 10,536	\$ 1,541	\$ 1,928
Computer equipment	9,902	8,753	1,149	1,086
	<u>\$ 21,979</u>	<u>\$ 19,289</u>	<u>\$ 2,690</u>	<u>\$ 3,014</u>

### 5. CRD CAPITAL GRANT

The CRD Capital Grant was disbursed in its entirety during 2011 on the building located at 1216 North Park Street, Victoria, BC. The building is not listed as an asset of the Compost Society as the terms of the CRD Funding Agreement specify that the building reverts back to the CRD upon the Society vacating the premises.