



Compost
Education
Centre

2023

Land Acknowledgement

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 understanding 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.

Dear Worm Aficionados,

The CEC offers a variety of land-based resilience-building workshops, activities, and resources to help individuals positively cope with stress and adversity, create community, and steward our local ecologies. Our approach is to transfer technical skills that empower workshop participants, site volunteers, university students, and schoolkids to take on positive and tangible action amidst unjust systems and the climate crisis. The CEC integrates folks into our community of plants and people; we cultivate an increased sense of connectivity and reciprocity, and we do it by sharing knowledge in a welcoming way. I am thrilled to share that the Compost Education Centre had one of its most impactful and successful years in 2023. We were able to create more capacity for programming by engaging in meaningful and foundational organizational culture work like defining our shared values, revising our employee policy framework, and refining operational systems. (As a systems efficiency nerd, I was thrilled to modernize our financial management system and transition our document management to the “cloud!”) We achieved significant progress as an organization towards creating a culture of critical reflection on systemic

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HEALING CITY SOILS MANAGER

oppression, discrimination, and privilege. With a supportive employee policy manual, we have enabled conscious action and supported employee wellness. Overall, we have worked as a team to achieve mitigated work-related stress, zero employee turnover, and a more inclusive organizational culture.

And for next steps? More of the same! We continue to work on our strengths so that we have the energy and capacity to support ourselves and our community amidst uncertainty. Each section in this Annual Report highlights what we did in 2023 to cultivate resilient communities, which enable the land and all living beings to thrive.

We appreciate your ongoing support!

Warmly yours,
Claire





Our approach is founded on our shared values:

Reciprocity is mutual dependence, action, or influence. We depend on functioning ecosystems to meet our needs and support our wellbeing, and we have a reciprocal responsibility to steward our ecosystems' health and wellbeing. We want to cultivate a community of people who exist in a community of reciprocity with the plants, animals, etc. around us.

Adaptability means that we can adjust to new conditions. We can expect a lot of change in the future, both short-term and long-term, and we will be able to adjust and change course to continue thriving in our community of plants and people.

Curiosity is a strong desire to learn or know something. We recognize curiosity in the children, youth, and adults in our community who come to the Compost Education Centre to learn about climate-resilient practices. We meet the needs of our community by continuing to be curious ourselves. We want to be in a state of continuous learning so that we can be good teachers and role models.

Joy is a radical thing in this world. Radical can mean far-reaching and thorough – and it can also mean proceeding from the root. To be joyful in this world, we need to be grounded and intentional. We incorporate laughter, play, and a sense of awe into our daily lives. It is with a deep sense of joy that we counter and work through moments of challenge and darkness.

Groundedness is how we stay in touch with our social and environmental surroundings. We begin our work with an awareness that we are located on unceded Esquimalt and Songhees territories, and our work allows us to visit Coast Salish lands. We believe in growing roots in community and grounding our work in natural cycles as the challenges and opportunities we face are specific to the place and time where we find ourselves.



2023 by the numbers

528

Volunteer Hours

6,865

Program Participants



58

Worm Bins Created



224

Programs Delivered



1,038

Hotline Calls

Child & Youth Education

"We loved having your compost presentation, the kids were talking about it for a week! They retained a lot of the knowledge and parents were excited to learn about mixing browns and greens."

The CEC's Child & Youth Education Program features two streams: a catalogue of 25 bookable workshops and the semester-long "Let It Rot" initiative (LIR). In 2023, we delivered 286 workshops - an all-time high! - in classrooms, community centres, school gardens, online, and at the CEC's demonstration site. Through both streams, we bring hands-on and science-based learning on topics including vermicomposting, soil health, seed saving, soil microbiology, and pollinators. In 2023 and with support from the NSERC PromoScience grant, we created a new "Exploring Citizen Science" workshop where students conduct a biodiversity survey near their school and learn how to publish the data on the iNaturalist platform.

The LIR initiative engages a single cohort of students consistently through a semester's worth of weekly lectures and skill-building sessions in the classroom and at school gardens. In 2023, we started offering Let It Rot at Mount Doug Secondary School and installed irrigation at the SJ Burnside Education Centre garden. In addition to growing LIR, we also strengthened our relationship with the City of Victoria by offering two weeks of summer camps at Beacon Hill in collaboration with their Parks and Recreation department.

286 Workshops Delivered

5,350 Workshop Participants

58 Classroom Worm Bins

Adult Education

"The resources the Compost Education Centre provide to the community are excellent, as usual, and it is nice to reflect on how those Fact Sheets have been a part of my education, teaching and gardening for many years."



1,615

Workshop
Participants

104

Workshops
Delivered

59

Healing City Soil
Participants

We offer a broad range of educational resources on composting, organic gardening, and sustainable living topics to adults across the region including public workshops, private workshops, a free factsheet series, and heavy metal soil testing.

In 2023, we continued to offer a suite of workshops both in-person and online. We host public workshops almost every Saturday at our "Strawbale" classroom. This year, we added new workshops to our series including "Introduction to iNaturalist," "Introduction to Lichens," and "Plant Identification Basics." We also offer private workshops where CEC staff provide expert education to community groups, companies, and organizations.

In 2023, we created two new factsheets: "Grow Your Own Food" and "Hot Water Bath Canning." These factsheets increase community access to knowledge about food growing and preservation. Through Healing City Soils, our heavy metal soil testing program, we sampled over 90 sites around the Capital Regional District for 59 program participants.

Community Building

"It is tough to summarize the impact of the Compost Education Centre. But it is easy to see that this initiative is driven by a passionate and committed team who believes in the importance of education as a means of building resiliency and collective action."



867

Plant Sale Attendees

1,038

Hotline Calls

528

Volunteer Hours

We seek to strengthen relationships with our community. We create social connections through our educational approach, and we also participate in outreach, operate a hotline, and engage volunteers to be in collaboration with our communities. The CEC participates in outreach events like festivals, markets, and special events where we host workshops and set up info booths featuring our 20+ free factsheets, other educational resources, and composting supplies. We operate a hotline (250-386-WORM) during our core hours (10 am to 4 pm from Wednesday to Saturday) where folks can call in with questions on relevant topics. We integrate volunteers into all of our programming.

This year, we continued our collaboration with the City of Victoria, providing composting and gardening expertise at 18 "Get Growing Victoria!" events. Site Manager and Community Education Coordinator, Kayla, was interviewed as a gardening expert by local news stations, including the CBC, CTV, Chek TV, and Vic News. We also hosted a site visit as part of the Coastal Waste Management Association Conference.

Capacity Building

"We all really appreciated your detailed knowledge of the site, and lovely relationship with it, and your willingness to share your experiences."



The CEC welcomed new staff members including Executive Director, Claire Remington; Healing City Soils Program Manager, Martyna Tomczynski; Summer Site Assistant, Celia Mason; and Summer Child and Youth Program Assistant, Rebekah Hatherly.

We installed heating in the Strawbale teaching building, which made experiences cozier for winter workshop participants. We replaced all pea gravel pathways on our demonstration site with woodchips, which has increased accessibility and improved soil quality. We repaired the Centre's solar panels and leaky rainwater cistern. In September, staff and board updated the CEC's strategic plan with support from Tlatoa Consulting.





Gratitude to Our Partners & Supporters

Your support is instrumental in helping the Compost Education Centre achieve its vision of cultivating resilient communities, which enable the land and all living beings to thrive. Thank you!

Individual Donors

Enaiya Herdsman · David Greig · Greg Ashby · Wendy Pottery · Chandra Young-Boyle · Christiane Joubert · Daniel Tourigny · Chris Martin · Michael Large · Zoe Jackson · Jeannette Berdard · Cara Gibson · Zlatan Fazlagic · Matthew Woods · Elizabeth Nuse · David Sirtonski · Blesela Garachico · Samantha Gough · Susan McGillivray

Cash & In-kind Donations

Fernwood Coffee · Chek News · Hoyne Brewing · Bucharth Gardens · Luna Collective · The Soap Exchange · Fern Cafe and Bakery · Garden Works · Anian · Nourish Kitchen and Cafe · Metchosin Farm · Borden Mercantile · Inspire Hair Design · Repair Cafe North Saanich · Future Proof · Fernwood Inn · Fernwood Pizza · Working Culture Bread

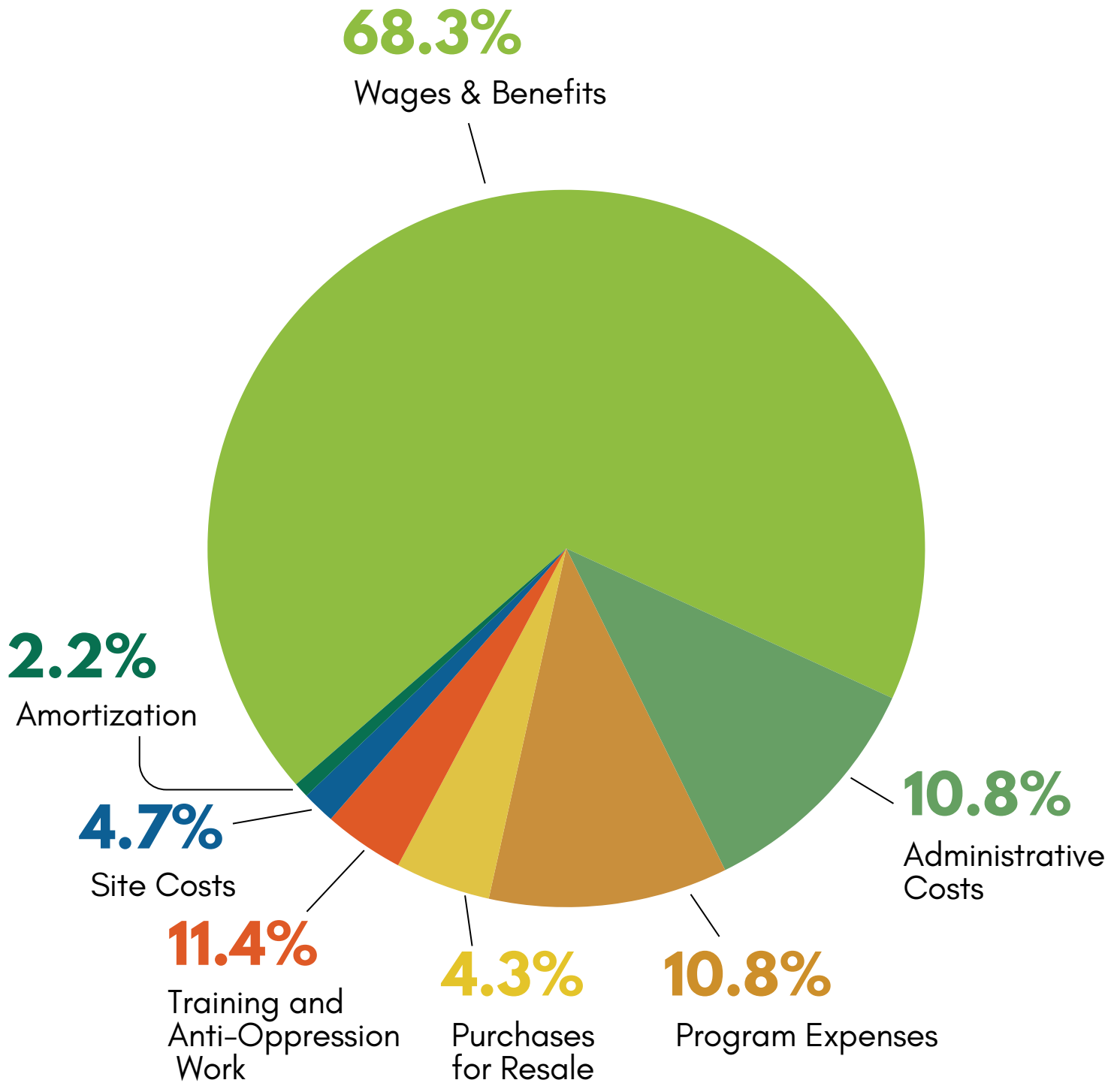
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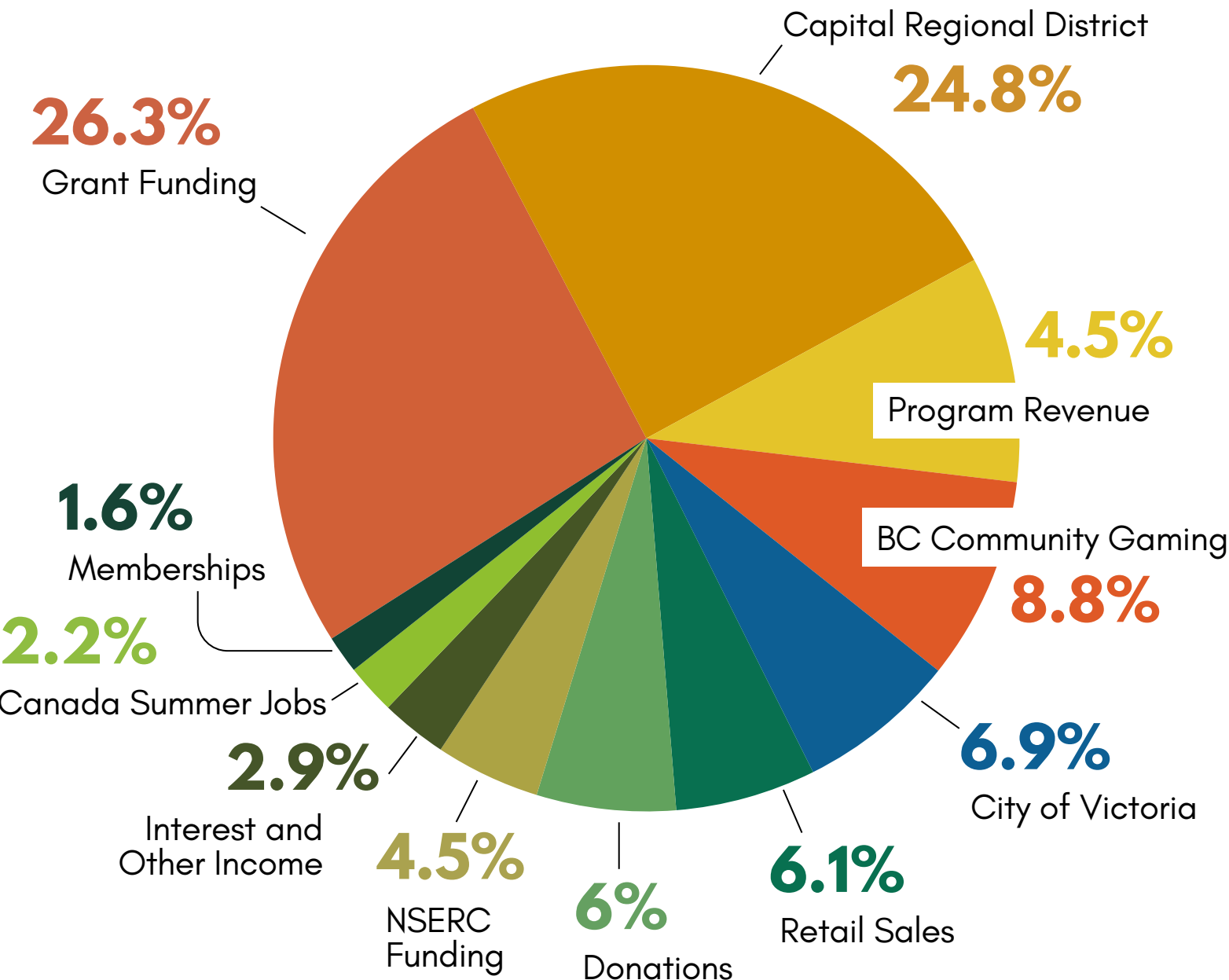
Capital Regional District · Canada Summer Jobs · The City of Victoria · Employment and Social Development Canada · Canadian Parks and Recreation Association · First West Foundation · Canadian Red Cross · National Science and Engineering Research Council · Telus Friendly Future Foundation · Victoria Foundation · Vancity · TD Bank Group · The Lake Group · Province of British Columbia · Rotary Club of British Columbia · Ecclesiastical Insurance

Breakdown of Expenses



Breakdown of Revenues

Program stability and growth are possible thanks to the diversified streams of funding outlined below.



VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

Compiled Financial Information

Year Ended December 31, 2023

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

Index to Compiled Financial Information

Year Ended December 31, 2023

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COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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, 2023, and the Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets 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 16, 2024

GREEN HORWOOD & CO LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants


VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY


Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Cash | \$ 315,945 | \$ 197,339 |
| Accounts Receivable | 1,041 | 2,789 |
| Inventory | 11,306 | 16,864 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 1,726 | - |
| | <u>330,018</u> | 216,992 |
| EQUIPMENT <i>(Note 3)</i> | <u>5,305</u> | 8,072 |
| | <u>\$ 335,323</u> | \$ 225,064 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities | \$ 22,169 | \$ 13,532 |
| Deferred Income | 125,823 | 63,000 |
| | <u>147,992</u> | 76,532 |
| NET ASSETS | <u>187,331</u> | 148,532 |
| | <u>\$ 335,323</u> | \$ 225,064 |

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

 Director

 Director

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets****Year Ended December 31, 2023**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Grant Funding | \$ 116,448 | \$ 65,717 |
| Capital Regional District Base | 109,525 | 96,949 |
| Program Revenue | 43,375 | 51,590 |
| Province of BC Community Gaming | 39,000 | 39,000 |
| City of Victoria | 30,635 | 16,000 |
| Items for Resale | 26,956 | 17,743 |
| Donations | 26,667 | 37,029 |
| Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada | 20,100 | 15,100 |
| Interest and other income | 12,724 | 3,733 |
| Canada Summer Jobs | 9,588 | - |
| Memberships | 7,255 | 7,389 |
| | <u>442,273</u> | <u>350,250</u> |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | |
| Wages and Benefits | 275,447 | 235,111 |
| Administration Costs | 43,774 | 30,579 |
| Program Expenses | 43,460 | 38,597 |
| Purchases for Resale | 17,350 | 15,603 |
| Training and Anti-oppression Work | 14,652 | 1,693 |
| Site Costs | 6,024 | 6,217 |
| Amortization | 2,767 | 2,387 |
| | <u>403,474</u> | <u>330,187</u> |
| NET EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS | 38,799 | 20,063 |
| NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR | 148,532 | 128,469 |
| NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR | \$ 187,331 | \$ 148,532 |

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

Notes to Compiled Financial Information

Year Ended December 31, 2023

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, 2023, and the Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets for the year then ended is on the historical cost basis and reflects cash transactions with the addition of:

- accounts receivable;
 - prepaid expenses amortized over their applicable time span;
 - equipment amortized on a systematic basis over their estimated useful life, consistent from year to year;
 - accounts payable and accrued liabilities; and
 - restricted contributions are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.
-

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. EQUIPMENT

| | Cost | Accumulated amortization | 2023 Net book value | 2022 Net book value |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Equipment | \$ 16,015 | \$ 12,193 | \$ 3,822 | \$ 4,777 |
| Computer equipment | 13,733 | 12,250 | 1,483 | 3,295 |
| | <u>\$ 29,748</u> | <u>\$ 24,443</u> | <u>\$ 5,305</u> | <u>\$ 8,072</u> |

4. 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.

5. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.
