



2025



Compost
Education
Centre

Land Acknowledgement

The Compost Education Centre (CEC) is located on unceded and occupied Indigenous territories, specifically the land of the Lekwungen speaking people—the x^wsepsəm 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 Kwakwaka'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 as well as to fulfill our responsibilities as settlers who live and work directly with the land, its complex and vital ecologies, and our diverse, evolving communities.



Hey Compost Team,

To say it lightly, 2025 was WEIRD. Whether it was geopolitical mayhem, folks drinking the AI Kool Aid, a pending economic recession, or nonstop climate emergencies, it felt like there was a hot garbage fire everywhere you looked. Rather than falling into the trap of cynicism and despair, I remained inspired by a sense of gratitude for the Compost Education Centre community.

I believe strongly that the CEC community is working on the right problems with the right tools and at the right time. There are so many things that feel outside of my control as an individual that it's important to remember that what I do on a day-to-day basis does matter. It matters a lot. And that's what we're focused on here at the CEC: we want to share the education and tools to practice "hands-on resilient soil practices," or activities that can be done at the individual level to take care of and connect with our soil in a meaningful way.

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Like through composting! And sustainable food growing! And pollinator care! And we do our work in a warm and welcoming way so that we can continue to grow the CEC community, ensure our community members feel an increased sense of belonging and purpose, and transform (potential) despair and cynicism into action.

And it's small, but it's through changing how individuals operate at the smallest scale that we can shape larger patterns of human systems. Our work is a model for climate action, ecological sustainability, and social cohesion.

An integral part of that work is commitment to anti-oppression. We can't pursue our mission of reconnecting people to simple and land-based resiliency practices without actively working towards right relations, anti-oppression, and environmental justice. In 2025, we arrived at a "final" draft of our anti-oppression policy. Our hope is that this policy will serve as a guiding light, informing us as we go about our day-to-day, and will remain iterative and adaptable. If you have any thoughts, comments, or questions, we invite you to share them with us!

Talk to you soon,
Claire





Outreach

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.

In 2025, we attended 48 outreach events around the CRD, making it our biggest ever year for outreach! These included Esquimalt Earth Day, Victoria's Fall Family Fair, the CRD's Biodiversity Celebration at Royal Roads University, and many more. Our partnership with Get Growing Victoria! brought us back to the seedling distribution events throughout the City, and we were also able to attend several Seedy Saturdays from Sooke to Salt Spring.

Outreach events like these allow us to distribute factsheets, answer composting questions, and even show off compost under the microscope! We always appreciate the opportunity to meet with folks face-to-face, hear about what issues are important to them, and invite them to stay connected with us and our programs. Thanks so much to everyone who invited us out to these events, and to everyone who stopped by our booth!



Child & Youth Education

The CEC's Child & Youth Education team continued to offer their two program streams: a roster of 25 beloved bookable workshops and the semester-long "Let It Rot" program (LIR). In 2025, we **delivered over 220 workshops** in classrooms, community centres, daycares, camps, in school gardens, and at the CEC's demonstration site. Through both streams, we deliver hands-on, interactive learning experiences covering topics like composting, soil ecology, food literacy, and sustainability. In 2025, the vermicomposting workshops remains a fan favourite!

In the LIR program, a single cohort of students are consistently engaged through a semester's worth of weekly lecture and skill-building sessions in the classroom and at school gardens. In 2025, LIR continued to be offered at both Mount Doug Secondary School and SJ Burnside Education Centre.

Additionally, the CEC continued its collaboration with City of Victoria's Parks and Recreation department by offering a couple of sessions of a Parent & Child program called "Life in the Dirt".

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all the hands that helped make this year such a successful one and we looking forward to continuing this work in the following years!



The lessons and activities were age-appropriate, highly engaging, and perfectly connected to curriculum.



Healing City Soils

In 2025, Healing City Soils continued its citizen science approach to residential soil testing, with **participation from 33 residents** of the Capital Regional District who collected and submitted their own soil samples for analysis. Approximately 36% of the soil samples exceeded agricultural soil quality guidelines for at least one of the eight heavy metals included in the program's analysis. Across all samples, guideline exceedance were most frequent for Chromium (19%), Lead (16%), and Copper (15%). The CEC supported and engaged participants—both current and prospective—by delivering an in-person workshop on the topic of “Understanding and Addressing Soil Contamination”, which introduced key concepts in soil chemistry and environmental toxicology, along with practical guidance for growing food in soils with low to moderate contamination.

The Ground Beneath Our Feet project continued its applied research in partnership with Royal Roads University and the PEPÁKĚŇ HÁUTWĚ Foundation at SNĪDĚĚ (Tod Inlet, Gowland Tod Park, and traditional village site of the WŚÁNEĆ peoples). In 2025, undergraduate Environmental Science students investigated bioremediation strategies, assessing the effectiveness of coastal mugwort (*Artemisia suksdorfii*), western Canada goldenrod (*Solidago lepida*), compost, and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in reducing heavy metal concentrations in soil. Additional site-wide soil sampling contributed valuable data to support ongoing assessment, restoration, and long-term monitoring efforts.

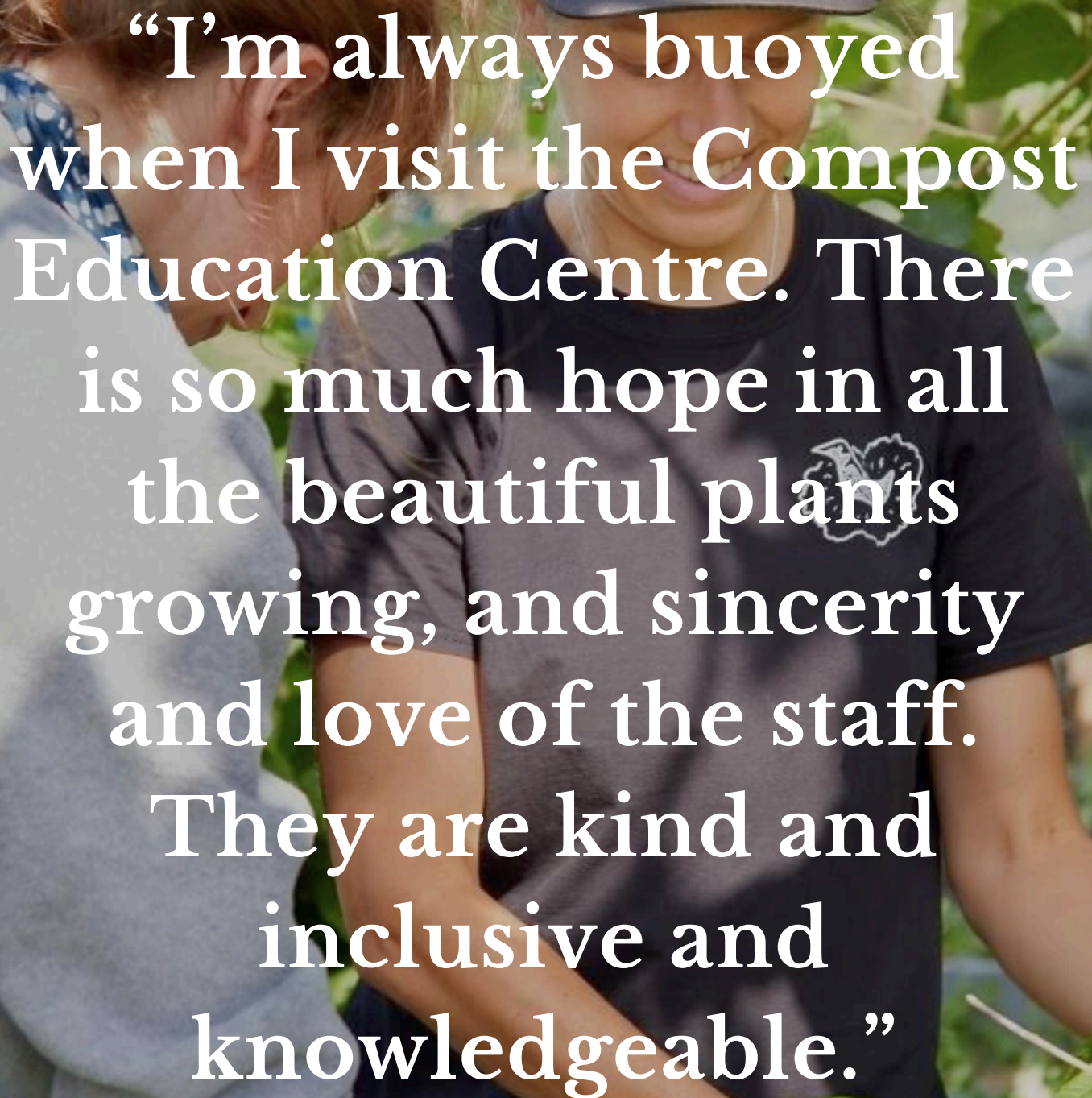
A group of people, including a woman in a green raincoat and a man in a blue cap, are standing outdoors in the rain. They are wearing rain gear and holding umbrellas. In the foreground, there is a green compost bin. The background shows a building and trees with autumn foliage.

Adult Education

“Kayla clearly has a deep relationship with land and food in a way that I really really appreciate. I loved the class and am excited to learn more!”

From January to December, the Adult Education Program was active. We taught **65 workshops to 870 participants** booked through our private community workshop program, with plenty of groups wanting to book us for series – like the Municipality of Sooke in partnership with the Vancouver Island Regional Library, ReImagine Westshore and the BC Institute of Agrology.

The public workshops for adults at the CEC were again, quite popular. We kept some of the most popular workshops from previous years but also tried some new ones like “Edible Seaweeds”, “Grow the Best Garlic” and “Botanical Comic Zine Making”. The CEC continues to be the destination for folks new to the region, new to gardening, and new to waste reduction, so our core free composting and waste reduction workshops continue to be a key cornerstone to our adult education program. Our public adult workshops brought in **939 number of people to 60 number of workshops in 2025.**

A photograph of two women working in a garden. The woman on the right is wearing a dark blue baseball cap with a white bear logo and a dark t-shirt. She is smiling and looking down at a plant. The woman on the left has her hair in a bun and is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt. They are surrounded by green plants and foliage. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

“I’m always buoyed when I visit the Compost Education Centre. There is so much hope in all the beautiful plants growing, and sincerity and love of the staff. They are kind and inclusive and knowledgeable.”



Capacity Building & Urban Garden Stewardship

2025 was a year of collaboration, place-making and beautification! Through funding from the City of Victoria, we hired Taylor Pannel as an Artist-in-Residence to create a more inviting environment. As part of their residency, they painted upcycled street signs with local flora and fauna like potter wasps that will be affixed to our fence. They also painted the top of a picnic table with the lifecycle of a roundhead mushroom. The table was built by ReWood Victoria using milled eucalyptus wood from the tree that was cut down on site as part of the site shift in 2024.

We rehomed a beautiful piece of artwork from the Fernwood Community and Arts Association that was attached our bathroom building, near a new bench made by Hatchet and Seed of Eucalyptus wood.

We collaborated with Gwagwadaxla, a contemporary Kwakwaka'wakw and lək̓ʷəŋən artist. He designed a long sleeve shirt that explores camas from the perspective of a bee.

2025 was the second year of supporting the stewardship of Chambers and Earthbound Community Allotment Gardens. It's been a joy getting to know everyone who tends to these spaces, and impressive to see the amount of food some gardeners grow for themselves and their friends, families, and food programs.

Capacity Building & Urban Garden Stewardship

Stewardship of the Allotment Gardens has also meant an additional workload to learn about the cyclical nature of tending to these spaces, hosting work parties, collecting yearly allotment fees, and rebuilding of vital infrastructure. In 2025, we replaced one portion of the Earthbound Community Allotment garden fence, with two more sections needing replacement in the future. In 2025 we had **81 active gardens growing food, fruit, and flowers in 60 plots**. The CEC also supported the continued growth of the Boulevard Gardening Network and are excited to support the continued stewardship of these types of gardens.

The Demonstration Gardens at 1216 North Park Street continue to be a magnet to community. The fall of 2025 saw the Caledonia development complete, which means we have plenty more neighbours trickling in and discovering our greenspace.





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

Zoe Jackson · Michael Large · Elizabeth Nuse · Chris Martin · Daniel Tourigny · Wendy Pottery · Judith Kalman · Dawson Verboven · Donna Pendziwol-MacMillan · Jonathon Dyck · Susannah McKee · David Greig · Lisa McCormick · Yvonne Haist

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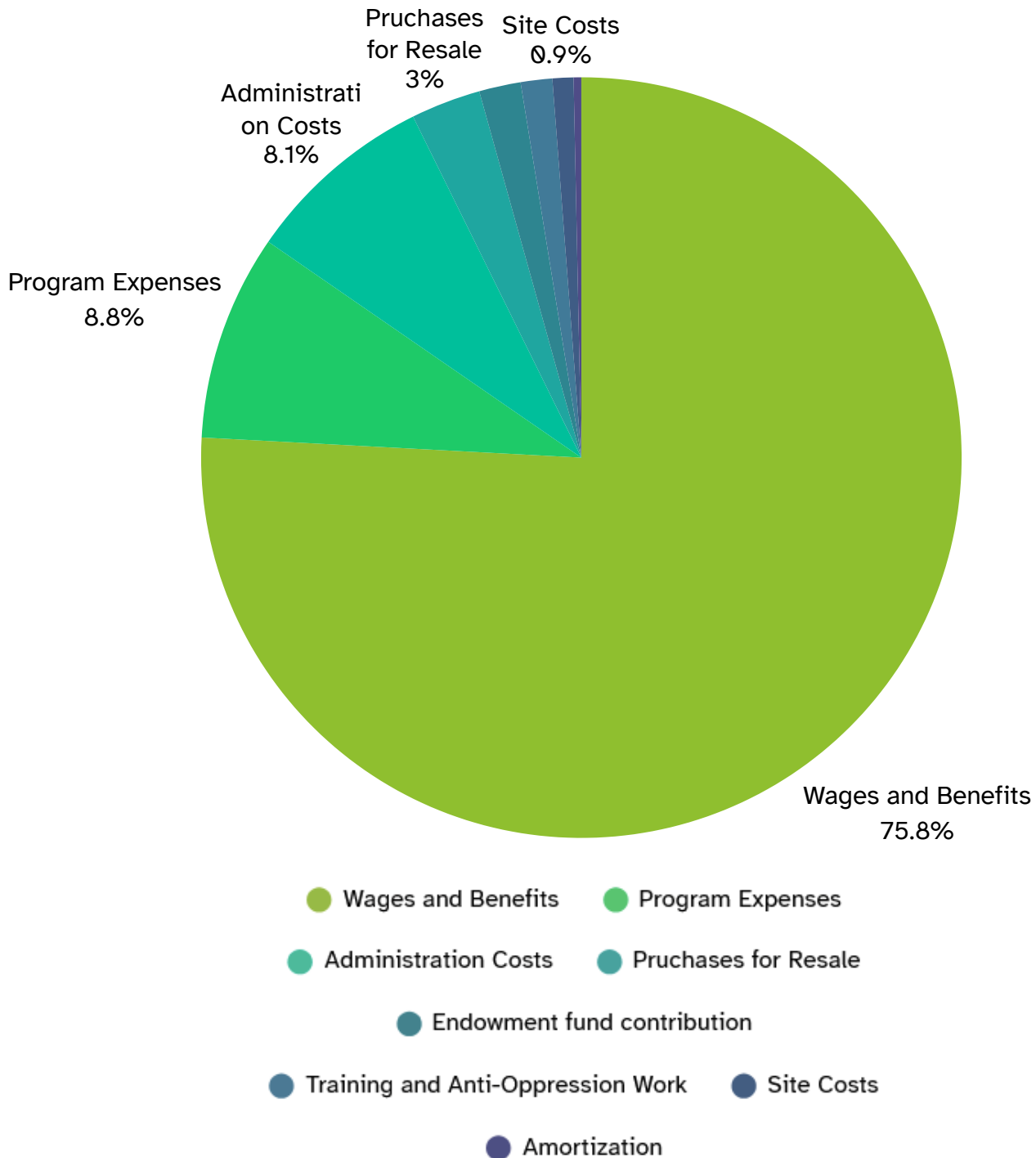
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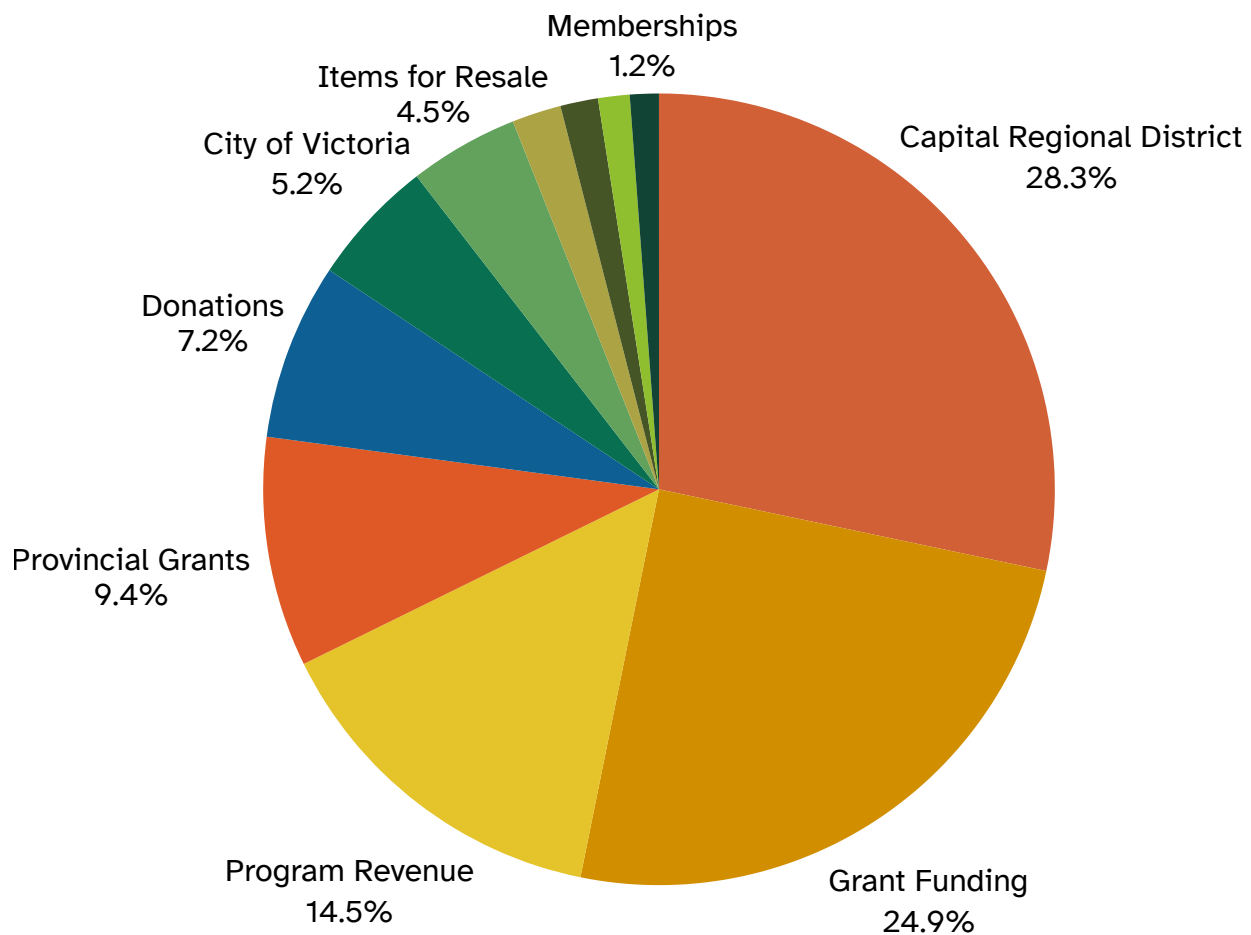
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Breakdown of Expenses



Breakdown of Revenues

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



Support our work

[Join as a Member](#) | [Volunteer](#) | [Make a Donation](#)

Follow us on social media: @viccomposted

Compost Education Centre

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VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

Compiled Financial Information

Year Ended December 31, 2025

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

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Year Ended December 31, 2025

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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, 2025, 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.

A stylized, handwritten-style logo for LTD, with the letters 'LTD' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, underlined.

Victoria, British Columbia
April 8, 2026

LTD CPAs & ADVISORS INC.
Chartered Professional Accountants

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY


Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Cash | \$ 409,368 | \$ 362,144 |
| Accounts Receivable | 1,347 | 28,569 |
| Inventory | 12,949 | 13,841 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 3,421 | 3,637 |
| | <u>427,085</u> | <u>408,191</u> |
| EQUIPMENT (Note 3) | 3,078 | 4,463 |
| | <u>\$ 430,163</u> | <u>\$ 412,654</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities | \$ 23,022 | \$ 19,073 |
| Deposits Payable | 61,026 | 55,581 |
| Deferred Income | 156,200 | 145,009 |
| | <u>240,248</u> | <u>219,663</u> |
| NET ASSETS | <u>189,915</u> | <u>192,991</u> |
| | <u>\$ 430,163</u> | <u>\$ 412,654</u> |

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Ash Whelan  Director

Claire Remington  Director

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets****Year Ended December 31, 2025**

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Capital Regional District | \$ 119,125 | \$ 106,683 |
| Grant Funding | 104,667 | 115,692 |
| Program Revenue | 61,212 | 56,343 |
| Provincial grants | 39,538 | 30,500 |
| Donations | 30,365 | 15,050 |
| City of Victoria | 21,775 | 29,726 |
| Items for Resale | 18,806 | 19,410 |
| Interest and other income | 8,463 | 14,079 |
| Municipal Grants | 6,475 | - |
| Canada Summer Jobs | 5,413 | 5,327 |
| Memberships | 4,970 | 5,329 |
| Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada | - | 15,100 |
| | <u>420,809</u> | <u>413,239</u> |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | |
| Wages and Benefits | 321,486 | 313,202 |
| Program Expenses | 37,145 | 29,581 |
| Administration Costs | 34,314 | 33,959 |
| Purchases for Resale | 12,596 | 14,484 |
| Endowment fund contribution | 7,500 | - |
| Training and Anti-oppression Work | 5,682 | 12,859 |
| Site Costs | 3,777 | 1,635 |
| Amortization | 1,385 | 1,859 |
| | <u>423,885</u> | <u>407,579</u> |
| NET EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS | (3,076) | 5,660 |
| NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR | <u>192,991</u> | <u>187,331</u> |
| NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR | <u>\$ 189,915</u> | <u>\$ 192,991</u> |

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

Notes to Compiled Financial Information

Year Ended December 31, 2025

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, 2025, 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 | 2025 Net book value | 2024 Net book value |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Equipment | \$ 16,015 | \$ 13,569 | \$ 2,446 | \$ 3,058 |
| Computer equipment | 14,750 | 14,118 | 632 | 1,405 |
| | <u>\$ 30,765</u> | <u>\$ 27,687</u> | <u>\$ 3,078</u> | <u>\$ 4,463</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.
