

# A YEAR OF SHARED

## THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS' ANNUAL REPORT



Since 1985, the Council of Canadians has been building power, and a political home, for people across the country—people who believe in a bold, uncompromising vision of a better world and who know that solidarity and collective action are how we turn that vision into reality.

It is your generosity and steadfast commitment to a just and equitable future that have sustained us for nearly 40 years. The financial support and tireless efforts of our members, donors, and chapter activists allows us to hold elected representatives accountable to the people and push back against the power and influence that corporations wield over our governments.

We're in this fight for one another, and we know that we need one another to win. Here's a snapshot of what we collectively accomplished over the last year.

### PROTECTED THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

Water is life. Without fresh water, we cannot survive. That's why our campaigners, regional organizers, and chapter activists have devoted so much time and attention to protecting and defending our waterways and our human right to water.

In Edmonton, chapter activists worked in collaboration with Keepers of the Water to

educate and mobilize Albertans to defend the Athabasca River delta from the impacts of toxic tailings pond water.

For decades, poisons from the Athabasca tar sands have been leaching into the groundwater in the surrounding area, leading to elevated cancer rates in Indigenous communities that depend on the river delta ecosystem for survival. More recently, the federal government proposed to dump tailings water into the river itself. In response, the Edmonton chapter and Keepers of the Water put on a three-part symposium series to let the public know of the government's plans, and to generate action to stop it.

Halfway across the country, we have been monitoring the situation in Simcoe County, Ontario, where a possible gravel mine threatens the region's aquifer, which boasts some of the purest water in the world.

At the same time, we have been working to build more Blue Communities across the country, encouraging individuals and communities to commit to protecting and defending water.

We have also continued with our Water Drop campaign, sharing resources with schools so students can send a message to the Prime Minister urging him to keep his promise and end long-term drinking water

advisories on First Nations. The Water Drops send a powerful message, not only to the Prime Minister but also to the next generation of activists, showing them that their words and actions carry weight and can drive change.

### FOUGHT FALSE SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

From record-breaking smoke to record-breaking heat to record-breaking wildfires, the climate crisis has been undeniable over the past year. In the face of this, chapter members and activists have continued our Flood Parliament campaign, ultimately getting 48 MPs from across party lines to commit to tabling our just transition legislation.

Although the Sustainable Jobs Plan, introduced in June 2023, falls far short of what is needed for a truly just and equitable social and economic transition, it's a step towards something that may never have happened without constant, sustained grassroots pressure. Going forward, we will continue to fight for legislation that rejects false solutions like carbon capture, utilization, and storage, and which centres the rights of Indigenous people, migrants, workers, and communities most impacted by the climate crisis.

# HOPE AND RESOLVE



**Top right:** Climate action and civil society organizations held a demonstration in Ottawa in July, delivering 138,000 letters urging the Canadian government to end fossil fuel subsidies.  
Photo: Eagleclaw Thom

**Top left and middle:** The South Shore Chapter and their project, the Campaign to Protect Offshore Nova Scotia, celebrate World Oceans Day in June 2023.  
Photo: David Sorcher

**Bottom left and right:** Delivery of the latest collection of Water Drops to Prime Minister Trudeau with the help of some Ottawa elementary school students.  
Photo: Eagleclaw Thom

## STOOD IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS STRUGGLES

The future we want is a future where Indigenous rights and sovereignty are central and where free, prior, and informed consent is non-negotiable. There can be no just transition without this. This year we worked alongside Indigenous allies as they defended land and water from corporations and the government.

Last fall the Edmonton chapter's symposium series with Keepers of the Water centred Indigenous rights and knowledge in the fight against the tar sands. Hundreds of people tuned into the series,

and many more sent a letter to their MPs and to Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault, demanding that regulations not be changed to allow toxic tailings to be dumped into the Athabasca River.

In June, the Kitchissippi-Ottawa Valley chapter supported Algonquin First Nations in the region as they pushed back against a proposed nuclear waste dump on their unceded, unsundered territories. We joined them in calling on the government to refuse to allow the facility to be built without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Algonquin Nations.

## BUILT PEOPLE POWER AND CELEBRATED VICTORIES!

In May, five years after the project was first proposed, the Bay du Nord offshore oil and gas project was shelved for at least three years. This is a tremendous victory for the activists and organizers who pushed back against the project, and it helps create a path away from fossil fuel projects and towards a renewable future.

Our pharmacare town hall series launched in April, hitting cities across the country. The town halls energized and mobilized Canadians



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

from coast to coast, bringing people together to build power and put pressure on the federal government to finally implement the universal, public pharmacare plan they have long promised. While the fight won't be over until essential medicines are free to all Canadians, the tabling of the NDP's pharmacare bill was a welcome development in the fight for pharmacare that the Council of Canadians has been a part of since 2001.

None of these victories would be possible without the support of the grassroots—people like you who believe that a better future is possible and are willing to fight for it.

And thanks to your generous financial contributions, we can continue to pride ourselves on our political independence and refuse to accept funding from governments or corporations.

We are ever grateful to all of you—our donors, supporters, members, and chapter activists—for another year of shared hope and determination. Together, we win. **CP**



Left: Council of Canadians staff discuss the strategic direction of the organization at an in-person retreat.

Below: Climate action and civil society organizations held a demonstration in Ottawa in July, urging the Canadian government to end fossil fuel subsidies. Photos: Eagleclaw Thom



**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OUR REVENUES AND EXPENSES IN THE FISCAL YEAR THAT ENDED ON DECEMBER 31, 2022:**

**REVENUES**

Memberships and contributions	\$ 3,495,356
Foundation grant	\$ 63,010
Other income	\$ 26,299
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 3,584,665</b>

**EXPENSES**

Each dollar you gave spent on the following:

Political work	\$ 1,155,705
- National and international campaigns	\$ 762,801
- Local and regional campaign	\$ 392,904
Communications & outreach	\$ 553,185
Annual conference	\$ 24,668
Fundraising	\$ 1,281,719
Operations	\$ 670,371
Other*	\$ 486,726
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,172,374</b>

**% OF EXPENSE TOTAL**

Political work	28%
- National and international campaigns	18%
- Local and regional campaign	9%
Communications & outreach	13%
Annual conference	1%
Fundraising	31%
Operations	16%
Other*	12%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*In 2022, the Council settled a back-rent dispute concerning our National Office.