



Squamish CAN
Climate Action Network

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge that our work takes place on the lands of the S̓kwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation). We are grateful to collaborate with and learn from the traditional knowledge of the Squamish Nation, the original stewards of our land.

Our work at times takes us across the region throughout the lands of the St'át'imc and Líl'wat, which is a distinct Nation with linguistic, cultural, familial and political ties to the St'át'imc Nation.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



KRYSTLE TENBRINK

ED, Squamish CAN

Reflecting on the year, Squamish CAN was able to achieve many milestones of which would not have been possible without the commitment of our staff, our volunteers, funders, donors, strategic partners and our Board of Directors.

The Downtown School Farm successfully completed its third year, generating over \$70,000 in sales and achieving financial self-sustainability while distributing over 1,100 veggie boxes of which contributed to local food accessibility and resilience. A major milestone was the co-creation of the Indigenous Plant Garden, a collaborative project involving Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw Elders, students, teachers, and community members. This initiative fostered cultural and ecological learning, highlighted by a memorable lunch where Elders shared traditional plant knowledge. A celebration for all contributors is planned for spring 2025.

Our commitment to sustainability flourished with renewed waste audits and the successful launch of a pilot reusable mug library, increasing awareness and reducing waste in our community. Another highlight was our robust repair cafés and reuse events, which drew over 1,000 attendees and facilitated the repair and swapping of hundreds of items.

Looking ahead, we are excited to expand the Sea to Sky Food Hub, enhance educational programs, and launch revenue diversification initiatives to further our mission of sustainable, community-led change. Key milestones include securing a new half-acre Community Farm on Raven Drive, set to open in spring 2026, and progressing the Squamish-Lillooet Food Hub project with \$55,000 fundraised to date, paving the way for enhanced support for regional farmers and agri-food producers.

Thank you for being part of this journey toward a thriving, climate-resilient future—and we warmly invite you to join or renew your membership and continue supporting this vital work.

Holden Bonwit President, Board of Directors

2024 has been a year of impact and momentum for Squamish CAN, fueled by the unwavering dedication of our staff, board, and community. From strengthening food systems to advancing zero-waste goals, our successes affirm the power of collective action.

As we look to 2025, exciting projects are on the horizon, ready to build on this year's achievements. Together, we are driving forward, grounded in our mission of empowering sustainable, community-led change.

Image credit: Nina La Flamme



MISSION

Squamish CAN strives to empower our community with just and actionable solutions to the climate crisis through education, policy development and systems change.

SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE FOOD SYSTEMS

Strategic Priority #1: Develop Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems

Advance sustainable food systems through a thriving local food culture, diverse food assets, and accessible and abundant food lands.

Engagement and policy work in Loggers East Neighborhood Plan enabled us to provide guidance and recommendations to future developers and neighborhood planning. Working directly with land developers to build another community asset has been a key impact of our approach to advance sustainable food systems.

Through our commitment to strengthening and contributing to an inclusive community, we will pursue further improvements at our community garden spaces to make them more accessible.

Future forward, we will be focused on sustaining the work we do, both financially and within our capacity. A strong team enables the high impact work that is rooted in our existing society and systems that have been cultivated. Aside from our grassroots work, connection and learning from our various community members, we are focused on development for the year ahead.

\$1196

Best Farm Stand Day:
September 20th

\$3,297

Value of yearly sales generated
by tomatoes alone (39.9%)

110

Pounds of vegetables and herbs
donated to Squamish Food Bank

DOWNTOWN SCHOOL FARM

The popularity of the farm stand has steadily increased each month from May onwards as the word got out, with some folks lining up to purchase their weekly produce along with pre-orders for flower bouquets!



Image credit: Nina La Flamme

FARM STAND

Operating Tuesdays May through November.
Tuesdays and Fridays from July through September.

Sales Total:

\$70,513

Farm Boxes Distributed:

1138

"Dear Harriet and team, I have been experiencing a very tough time, especially as it relates to financial uncertainty, and being able to access healthy fresh foods without shame and questions has been a relief that I cannot express. Thank you for feeding my little one and me."

- Farm Stand Veggie Box recipient

FRESH VEGGIE BOX PILOT PROGRAM

- * Up to 81 families arrived each Thursday afternoon to pick up their vegetable boxes. This subsidized program was funded by Feeding Futures Funding through SD48.
- * Nutrient Dense Farms provided an additional 31 boxes for 22 weeks to meet the demand of the families needs.
- * The vegetable boxes make up 49% of sales. We provided 30 low income families a vegetable box with a value of \$30 for 22 weeks, plus another 20 families a veg box for 14 weeks.



Image credit: Nina La Flamme

- 78% of people said they used all or almost all of the box each week.
- 78% of people said they were very satisfied with the quality and variety.
- 89% confirmed the program greatly impacted access to vegetables they might otherwise not have.
- 51% of recipients felt major positive impact on their ability to provide food for their families.
- The remaining 49% of people had some positive impact on their ability to provide food for their families.
- 100% of people would participate again and recommend to other families.

Is your business interested in supporting Squamish CAN's work in our community? Learn how you can make a donation or become an Annual Sponsor by contacting our Executive Director.




**Image credit: Nina La Flamme*

INDIGENOUS GARDEN

The Indigenous Plant Garden space is for all students and community members to relax, reflect and connect with Indigenous plants, while learning the cultural significance and pronunciation of them in the Skwxwú7mesh language.

- * Fall 2023: Gathering measurements to generate the preliminary design work.
- * Spring 2024: Groups of students presented proposals for the landscaping and intentions for planting.
- * Consultation with Squamish Elders to discuss project, including students, teachers, Squamish CAN staff and board members. Guidance provided on which plants should be shortlisted as well as understanding, via story, which species were meaningful to those in attendance.
- * Students synthesize and summarise the relevant information to be added to the signage.
- * Summer 2024: Jasmine Baker (Długwala) provided translations and audio to support the learning and interactivity of the signage featured on our website and in-situ at the garden.
- * Fall 2024: Local artist and teacher, Sarah Keller, commissioned to develop illustrations of the plants based in the garden. From which signage was installed.
- * Spring 2025: Official opening and ceremony, whilst plants begin to bloom.




CH'ÁTYAÝ
DEVIL'S CLUB | L'ARALIE ÉPINEUSE

Traditional Uses

- It is culturally and spiritually significant to Indigenous cultures.
- You can use the bark (very sparingly) in a tea.
- The stalk should be processed when fresh.
- It possesses anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties.

Scan to listen and practice how to say Ch'átyaý in the Skwxwú7mesh language



We are thankful to many folks who have supported and guided this work, those of which include:

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Elders, Teachers, staff and students from Howe Sound Secondary (Heather Lafreniere, Indigenous Leadership class 23/24, Jasmine Baker (Długwala), Erin Eidsvik, Farm Studies class 23/24, John Hamill, Colleen Hannah and Tami Jazic) Leigh Joseph (Styawat), Ethnobotanist and the Youth Climate Corps British Columbia (Nicole Kilistoff, Aida Goma Petit, Michela Phillips, Keenan Miles and Will Cote.)



We are grateful to TD Canada Trust, David Suzuki Foundation, Rotary Club of Squamish and National Healing Forest for funding the work on the Indigenous Plant Garden

FARM TO SCHOOL

Edible School Gardens:

The students garden with our educators once or twice a week during the growing season. They learn how to prepare the soil, seed, weed, transplant, mulch, water, harvest, and eat and preserve the bounty. They take an active role in deciding what, where, and when they want to plant certain plants. During the winter, students participate in a variety of activities including: packaging seeds they collected and cleaned in the fall to sell for fundraising, pickling, herbal salve making, and more!

25

Farm studies students in our spring term

30

Vancouver-based students attended a farm tour and work party with us



18

Students from École Les Aiglons

12.1%

Percentage of sales generated by beets alone at the farm stand



250

Litres of worm castings donated from Mind & Soil

65

Hours of practical lessons delivered to grade nine & ten students

8

Squamish Schools received weekly garden programming

12

Participants of the Food and Community Leadership classes at HSS

200

Plant starts of vegetables and herbs donated to Squamish helping hands, Foundry, and elders

2000

Transactions superseded at the Downtown farm stand



We are grateful to Vancouver Coastal Health, Whistler Blackcomb EnviroFund, Eagleview Veterinary Hospital, Nesters Market, Your Independent Grocer, Brackendale Farmers Institute, EMCO Corporation, Lush Cosmetics, Squamish Savings, Squamish Community Foundation, Squamish Gardeners, District of Squamish, RONA, Billie's House and Squamish Integrated Health for funding the work on our edible school gardens.

SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAMS

This year we were able to work with a number of schools new to the Squamish CAN school program including Skyridge Montessori who wanted to develop a herb and pollinator bed, whilst also revitalizing their veggie garden. Alongside this work, we have also been delivering an outdoor class each week for four weeks to one of the casa (kindergarten) classes.



* Funding to run school garden programs each season still remains a barrier for some schools. Therefore, we have worked on an ad hoc basis with some schools to support them in developing their school gardens and to offer students an opportunity to experience garden learning. Most recently we were awarded \$25,000 from the Community Prosperity Fund that can support the underfunded schools for 2025/26.

With St'a7mes school we offered an initial ten volunteer sessions to help develop outside learning. This fall we will continue to offer another four additional volunteer sessions.

We have also added Skyridge Montessori to our school roster, with the hope to support all schools in Squamish.

If you're a school leader and are interested in our lessons, please reach out to us directly.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

220

Average number of students per week at Valleycliffe Elementary offered a gardening program

150+

Volunteer hours logged over eight weeks, by volunteers

400+

Teaching hours logged across schools enrolled in our garden program



This was the first year we successfully offered off site teaching lessons. One held for St'a7mes school at the Downtown school farm and one at Mamquam school garden for Garibaldi Highlands Elementary. Both visits were offered to inspire students to think about how they would want to develop their own school garden spaces.



Image credit: Nina La Flamme

FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Our food systems work has changed and enhanced existing systems such as school curriculums and being able to sustain that work is crucial. Likewise, a development and further implementation of the Squamish Valley Agriculture Plan (SVAP) for example, underpins works by the Food Policy Council. Mid-way through a decade of planning, we are shaped by our desire to proceed with the priorities of the District of Squamish's Official Community Plan that wouldn't have been possible without our past policy development work.

Evaluation of the Good Food Program was conducted by the Whistler Centre for Sustainability, to ensure we're on the right track and measure our impact. Crucially, we have received specific recommendations to underlie our engagement and bolster equal access to resources and participation. Gatherings and farm tours have been highly successful, and so further steps to visualize these connections and measure their impact, perhaps through a social network map, should be explored. Securing funding for continued program delivery and desired growth is a top priority as current levels of resourcing are insufficient to achieve program goals. Finally, as we continue to implement the SVAP, the priority for 2025 will be implementing the Squamish-Lillooet Food Hub.

Interested in getting involved? Contact us at krystle@squamishcan.net

DECOLONIZING CLIMATE ACTION

We are committed to integrating Indigenous wisdom and traditions to enhance our efforts in climate action, and will continue to work towards a reindigenization approach to climate stewardship that is inclusive and respectful of Indigenous perspectives and approaches.

We recognize that climate change is rooted in colonial structures and practices. The negative impacts of climate change are borne disproportionately by Indigenous communities; and our organization is influenced by colonial practices.

SEED SOVEREIGNTY

On March 2nd, we hosted our annual Seedy Saturday event at Brennan Park. Around 100 people came by to exchange seeds and knowledge, meet local and regional organizations, attend a seed workshop presented by David Catzel from FarmFolk CityFolk, who joined us to connect with Squamish residents and sell seeds from the BC Eco Seed Co-op, and more.

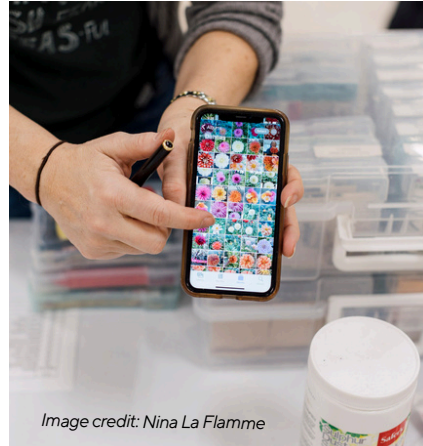


Image credit: Nina La Flamme



SEED LIBRARY AND EDUCATION

- * We continued taking part in Provincial (with FarmFolk CityFolk), National (Seeds of Diversity Canada) and North American (The Seed Library Network) meetings, online, to share knowledge and ideas to continue our work as local seed organizers: Seed Library Management, Seedy Saturday Event Organization and Seed Saving Workshops.
- * With support from the Squamish Public Library, Brennan Park and Salt Spring Seeds we have maintained growth and participation for Seedy Saturday and workshops in 2024. FarmFolk CityFolk and Seeds of Diversity Canada support our events, the seed library, seed saving, resources, literacy and more. Whilst Fox & Oak and Nesters donated food and drinks for our annual Seedy Saturday.

42

Folks attended our garden education workshop in April, led by Marissa & Harriet.

25

Seed savings enthusiasts attended our event at Squamish Library in September

1500

Plant starters of 65 varieties sold. Some grown from locally-saved seeds.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, our Board of Directors remains deeply committed to enhancing systems, refining policies, and prioritizing investments that will create lasting benefits for our organization and the community we serve. Key initiatives include receiving our charity status, seeing the impact of our new Grants and Development Coordinator, developing robust internal policies and processes, and creating increased opportunities for community members to participate in shaping our impact on place-based climate action.

We are grateful to Vancouver Coastal health and Squamish Community Foundation for funding the work within our seed-based projects.

COMMUNITY FARM

[Left to Right] Amanda Bagliore, [Aura Rose Florals](#), Krystle tenBrink, Squamish CAN, Rebecca Bolkowy, [Local Roots Farm Market](#)



The Common Acres Community Farm initiative was created in response to removing barriers for local farmers looking to access land through leasing and to diversify food assets in the Squamish community. The benefits of providing affordable lands to farmers directly improves access for residents to have locally grown food or value added products year round. There is a direct link between locally grown food access that provides nutrient dense foods that overall improve the health of our community while supporting the local economy.

Our model was created after years of learning and visiting other community farms around BC. Squamish CAN in partnership with Young Agrarians helps bring leases to fruition with land owners. In addition, we can centralize the operations of the project and leverage financial support for capital assets that are shared like cold storage, fencing, and access to water. This significantly helps support new entrants to farming allowing them to work the land and establish their operations.

"This project means the world to me. Having land security longer term, means that I can fully maximize the potential of this project instead of having to keep spending energy resetting up season after season at a new location. This means that I can provide my community with consistent delivery of a beautifully grown product while giving back to the land by practicing sustainable agriculture."

Amanda Bagliore, Aura Rosa Florals

LOOKING AHEAD

We are thrilled to share that Squamish CAN has secured a second location for Common Acres Community Farming project on Raven Drive in Squamish. As part of the Ravenstone Townhome development, .5 acre has been committed along with funding from the developer to establish a forever second community farm. We are working with the District of Squamish, local farmers and hope to open the doors, spring of 2026.

If you have land available, or are looking for land, please contact our Executive Director: Krystle@squamishcan.net



ZERO WASTE

Strategic Priority #2: Achieve Zero Waste

Foster a circular economy through community adoption of the 5 R hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recovery, Residual Management) and collaborative zero waste initiatives.

EDUCATION

For 2024, we launched a reusable mug library based out of Smoke Bluff Cafe. This initiative was launched during plastic free month and the success of this activation has bolstered demand. To date, we know that close to 100 mugs have been distributed, keeping more waste out of landfill.



Image credit: Nina La Flamme



OUTREACH AND ENGAGE

This year we continued to facilitate residential waste audits with the District of Squamish (DoS) and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD). We also maintained staff support to the DoS with a calendar of 'zero waste' events which saw an increase in overall participation from years previous.

Repair Cafe items processed

180

Re-Use It Fair attendees

500+

Attendees: Oct Clothing & Book Swap

640

FUTURE PLANS

As we look ahead to 2025, we have seen the demand to offer commercial and multi-family residence waste auditing and coaching services; after all 75% of the landfill is from commercial operations.

"At the kids toy and clothing swap we had new parents of twins who could stock up with new clothes for 6m and get rid of the 0-3 month. They mentioned that without events like these they would struggle financially and socially."

Shannon Friday, Zero Waste Coordinator.

Image credit: Nina La Flamme



ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

Strategic Priority #3: Energy and Transportation Systems

Empower community members with information and tools regarding low carbon transportation, energy consumption, and carbon footprints.

Since establishing our non-profit in 2009, we've empowered Squamish residents to take meaningful steps toward energy efficiency and sustainable transportation. Through our Energy and Active Transportation pillar, we've strived to educate the community and inspire action to reduce personal energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The climate action landscape has evolved over the past 15 years to include more involvement from nonprofits and governments who have implemented robust climate programs and policies addressing energy and transportation needs, reducing the need for Squamish CAN to focus on this area.

This shift allows us to focus more heavily on our other two pillars: Food Systems and Zero Waste. Both of these areas directly contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For example, our work on Food Systems helps to reduce methane emissions from food waste by diverting organic waste from landfills and promoting local food production, which also cuts down on transportation-related emissions. Similarly, our Zero Waste initiatives aim to minimize waste, reduce pollution, and educate the community on sustainable consumption habits.

While we are stepping back from leading activities like EV Expos, Go By Bike Week, and community energy workshops, our non-profit will continue to play a supporting role in Energy and Active Transportation initiatives. We will actively promote these initiatives through social media, raise awareness of their importance, and continue to engage with the community to amplify these efforts

FUTURE OUTLOOK

PLANS IN MOTION

As a result of our food policy development and the implementation of the Squamish Valley Agriculture plan work, Squamish CAN succeeded in securing a \$20,000 grant as part of the Circular Economy Innovation Challenge, funded by the Province of BC's Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) program. These funds are assigned to the future project of installing cold storage for centralized access, helping to provide a critical shared resource and streamline logistics for food producers and processors in the region.

Finally, our Executive Director has been awarded \$12,000 value for receiving coaching from Lee Herrin from the Innoweave program over the next 10-12 months to help her and the team complete and gain a variety of support for the implementation of the Squamish-Lillooet Food hub.

DIVERSIFY INCOME STREAMS

One of our main focuses for next year is to diversify our revenue streams through social entrepreneurship, to work towards increased financial stability. This could take the form of running a commissary kitchen for local agri-food businesses and developing a commercial waste audit program, of which has been identified as a priority within the region.



Image credit: Nina La Flamme

As part of our 2022-2027 strategic plan, we are implementing four priorities via a multitude of objects. When implemented, this strategic plan will lead to significant mission impact and financial sustainability for the organization over the next few years, including working towards our charity status with Canada Revenue Agency.



Image credit: Nina La Flamme

OUR SUPPORTERS

Squamish CAN is dedicated to advancing climate action in Squamish and throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor. We provide a variety of services that are supported by government contracts, membership fees, profits from farm sales, grants, and individual, corporate donors and more.



Image credit: Nina La Flamma

We have developed wonderful relationships with three local businesses in particular, who are all located within 1km of the school farm. Festal Cafe, Left Coast Catering and Farmers on Duty have supported us by collectively purchasing \$6884.50 worth of produce from the farm this season.

LOVE LOCAL, SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

Mind and Soil - In the spring, owner Jordan donated us 250 litres of worm castings, retailing at over \$1500. Crucial for healthy seedling development, these castings have been very important in introducing important microbial life into our soils.

Sea to sky soils - Generously donated 45 yards of organic compost - a value of over \$5000. Having this much compost on hand has allowed us to build up the soil in all of the beds inside and out, to see us through all of next season.

Schoki chocolate mulch - A by-product of the production process of Schoki are the unused chocolate bean husks. They make a wonderful mulch and instead of selling the product to other gardeners, owner Yoann wanted to give back to the community; donating seven large bags.

Vertigo trees and silver back arborists - Four huge loads of woodchips have been donated this season. Utilized for making compost piles, creating our pathways, retaining moisture and helping to build resilient soils at the farm.

INDIGENOUS GARDEN CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you for these specific donations, we have been able to bring the garden to life

Coast Aggregates - Five large granite boulders and gravel contributed.

Coastal Cedar Creations - Provided large cedar wildwood stumps.

Roger Quesnell - Created a Drift wood salmon sculpture to adorn the garden.

DONORS & FUNDERS

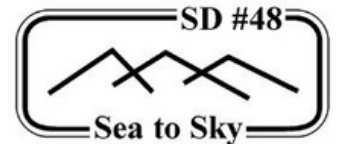


Ticket Sale Revenue **\$5,053**

- * Profits raised from our Spring raffle go towards general programming and operational costs.
- * Local businesses were incredibly generous in donating a multitude of items to our annual raffle. Gifts included original artworks from local artisans, experience tickets and other items.
- * \$12,273 has been donated to Squamish CAN in 2024. This includes our annual raffle, private donors, Brackendale Farmers Institute, and membership donations.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 FUNDERS:

The Province of BC by way of: BC Community Gaming Grants, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Jobs and Economic Development and Innovation



Support Our Work

Is your business interested in supporting Squamish CAN's work in our community? Learn how you can make a donation by contacting Executive Director.

Not a business owner? Consider becoming an annual supporter via our [membership program](#).

OUR TEAM

Strategic Priority #4: Grow Organizational Capacity

Fulfill our mission through sound management, the pursuit of financial sustainability, strong board governance and a commitment to the education and professional development of our staff.



HARRIET

Downtown School Farm
Manager



STEPHANIE

School Garden Educator



CAROLINE

Grants & Development
Coordinator



MARIE-ÈVE

Seed Library & Greenhouse
Manager



CHANTELLE

Communications



MARISSA

Educator and Grower



ERIN

Summer Hand (Seasonal)



SHANNON

Zero Waste Coordinator



KRYSTLE

Executive Director

CONTACT US



Website

www.squamishcan.net

Email for General Enquiries

communications@squamishcan.net

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Address

P.O. Box 3152 Garibaldi Highlands,
BC. V0N1T0

Image credit: Nina La Flamme

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