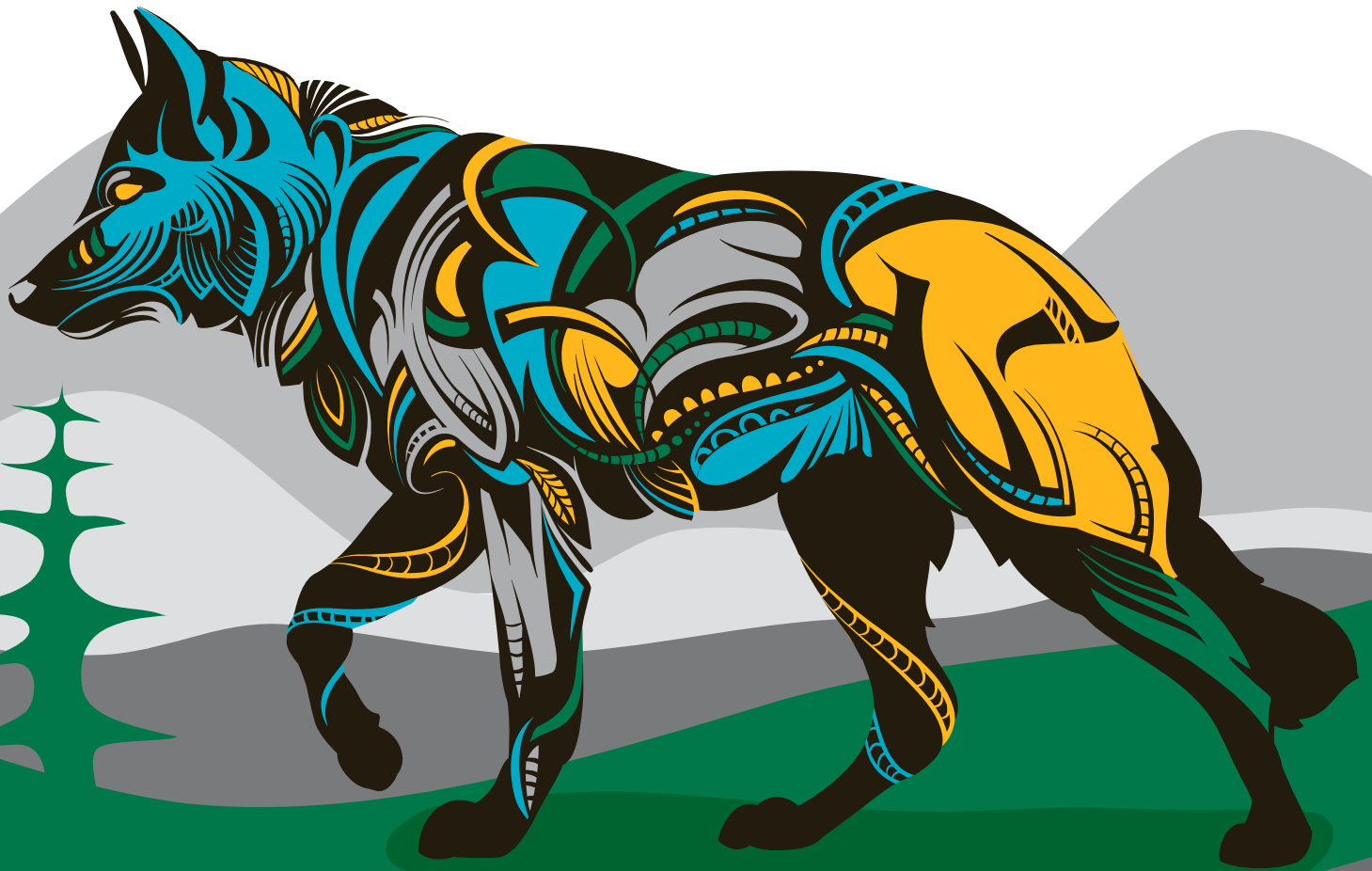


2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Advancing Reconciliation
Through Research



Our purpose statement

The Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) is a national not-for-profit organization that supports the resilience and health of Canada's mountain peoples and places through research partnerships based on Indigenous and Western ways of knowing that inform decision-making and action.

Visit canadianmountainnetwork.ca for more information.

Land acknowledgement

CMN is proud to be part of a rich history of Indigenous knowledge and culture, including Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being. We recognize the historical trauma and the triumphs that many different cultures, lands and Nations have continuously faced within Canada. We acknowledge that we are on the treaty lands and territory of numerous and diverse Indigenous Nations and pay tribute to their heritage and legacy, as we strengthen ties with the communities we serve while taking concrete actions towards meaningful reconciliation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with Indigenous communities on this land. We pay respect to all Indigenous people from all nations across Canada, acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers and honour their leaders.

CMN recognizes and honours the vital role Indigenous knowledge, principles, and ways of being, bring to research, operations and governance as we work together to develop a better understanding of our shared mountain ecosystems and beyond. CMN commits to braiding Ethical Space and Indigenous principles in everything we do, emphasizing the interconnectedness of our society, nature and our collective place in the environment. CMN affirms the rights-based self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and commits to upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) commitments in all CMN undertakings.

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Instagram: [@CanMountainNet](https://www.instagram.com/CanMountainNet)



CONTENTS

Message from Leadership	4
A Year of Impact Realization	6
Reconciliation Through Research	8
Research Highlights	10
Strategic Initiatives	14
Training to Support Capacity	16
Moving Knowledge to Action	18
Our Work Together: Networking & Partnerships	22
Looking to the Future	25
Annexes	26
Audited Financial Statements	32

32




Photo courtesy of James Kling
Report graphic design by Annie Webb, artsciencedesign.org

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) is a group of diverse people demonstrating strong values, consistent action, solid and novel governance, and excellence in knowledge and research of mountain systems. CMN is unmatched in its dedication to advancing the understanding and weaving of Indigenous and Western knowledge systems, leading in Canada, and serving as a model for the international community. Our approach is crucial at a time when Canada's environments are undergoing rapid and uncertain change due to climate change, resource development and biodiversity loss, and renewing Nation-to-Nation relationships with Indigenous Peoples remains a national priority.

CMN has now completed year four of five as a Network Centres of Excellence (NCE) hosted at the University of Alberta. CMN has been on the ground working towards the goal of improving the resilience of mountain peoples and places since 2019. For CMN, 2022-23 was a year of "impact realization". The impact of braiding Indigenous and Western knowledges through research on environmental protection, conservation and restoration in mountain systems was realized through collaborative multi-partner cultural gatherings, knowledge innovation, cultural resurgence, place-based capacity support, and knowledge translation impacting policy and decision-makers.

This past year has also focused on future possibilities with significant applications for sustainable funding beyond 2024 and new Indigenous leadership of our research programs as we welcome Dr. Paulina Johnson as Co-Research Director.

CMN's body of work continues to produce lessons of immeasurable importance, supporting future success in collaborations between researchers and knowledge systems, all while acting to protect, uplift and enable Indigenous researchers, methodologies, and multi-generational knowledge transfer to advance *Reconciliation through Research*.

September 2023

CMN leadership:



A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Dr. Joe Dragon
Chair, Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Dr. Monique Dubé
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Dr. Paulina Johnson
Co-Research Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Dr. Murray Humphries
Co-Research Director

Dr. Paulina Johnson Joins as Co-Research Director of the Canadian Mountain Network



We are pleased to introduce Dr. Paulina Johnson as the new Co-Research Director of the Canadian Mountain Network. With expertise in Indigenous research, community engagement, and traditional law, Dr. Johnson brings valuable knowledge and a commitment to fostering respectful and reciprocal relationships.

Hailing from the Samson Cree Nation, Dr. Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Environment and Civil Engineering at the University of Alberta. Her decade-long experience includes developing tools grounded in traditional law, supporting consultation, and promoting Indigenous-settler relations.

With a focus on Indigenous research methods, Dr. Johnson prioritizes maintaining relationships with communities and amplifying the voices of Indigenous Elders and knowledge holders. Her dedication to collaborative, culturally sensitive work is exemplified through projects like “Land2Lab” Camp, where she bridges Indigenous and Western approaches to learning.

As Co-Research Director, Dr. Johnson extends her care and duty to mountain systems, guided by her Indigenous worldview. Upholding Treaty obligations and respecting diverse values and principles, she strives to ensure that the Canadian Mountain Network’s work is respectful, relevant, and beneficial for generations to come.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Paulina Johnson to the Canadian Mountain Network as Co-Research Director. Her expertise and dedication will further strengthen our efforts to build resilient, collaborative, and sustainable mountain communities.

A YEAR OF IMPACT REALIZATION

Mountain regions are the focus and foundation of our Network, but our reach has continued to grow and include other landscapes that are interconnected by watersheds, rivers, the movement of wildlife, and human cultures.

The projects and initiatives highlighted in this Annual Report are demonstrated examples of how CMN is uniquely advancing our knowledge agenda, innovating approaches to knowledge braiding, and supporting Canada to fulfill its national and international commitments to Indigenous Peoples and environmental protection.

In 2022-23, CMN made significant strides supporting the resilience and well-being of Canada's mountain peoples and places. This is achieved through the practice of "Two-Eyed Seeing", which involves viewing the world through both an Indigenous lens and a Western Science lens simultaneously. This approach allows for a holistic and comprehensive understanding that integrates diverse knowledge systems, fostering experiential learning and the mobilization of knowledge.

Over the past year, CMN has continued to build, support, and mobilize partnerships founded on the braiding of Indigenous and Western ways of knowing. These partnerships and research initiatives continue to embody innovative research methods while also informing decision-making and action. CMN also has an eye on the future to a post-Network Centres of Excellence (NCE) era and has been actively pursuing avenues to ensure a continued legacy, including a full application, as "Braiding Knowledges Canada", to the Strategic Science Fund.

CMN's activities continue to break new ground, through the inspiration and guidance of knowledge leaders, researchers, decision-makers, and engaged citizens.



Salmon Gathering 2022
Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Macdonald

This past year, CMN:

- △ Funded or completed 35 initiatives across Canada, including seven innovative Knowledge Hubs, 17 place-based research projects (including two Co-Research Director projects) and 11 Strategic Initiatives.
- △ Generated 39 peer-reviewed publications, which brings CMN's cumulative production of peer-reviewed publications to 137 since its inception in 2019;
- △ Supported multiple knowledge braiding gatherings focused on knowledge exchange and policy impacts at local to national levels;
- △ Partnered to deliver training, including an Advanced Planning Certificate program through the Pacific Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA); Environmental Monitoring certificates in partnership with Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR) and Eco Canada; land-based learning programs exposing trainees to vegetation and environmental monitoring, genetic analysis, and drone management; Land Guardians training and certification; and Mitacs-supported theses and dissertations;
- △ Connected lived experience with reconciliation, including translation of Indigenous law leading to cultural resurgence; development of governance systems based on traditional ethics and protocols; and re-imagining the management of de-colonized landscapes;
- △ Realized the vision captured in the Arctic Inspiration Prize by successfully launching a land-based learning curriculum enabling on-the-land camps in the North;
- △ Released a series of landmark reports that demonstrate CMN's collective impact and contribution to Canada's commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's Calls to Action;
- △ Advanced and mobilized decision-making and action supporting biodiversity conservation and recovery of culturally-valued landscapes and cultural keystone species, including salmon, caribou, and bison;
- △ Envisioned the continuity of CMN's legacy through the submission of a \$79.7 M Strategic Science Fund (SSF) application, which broadened awareness our work and our network of partners; and
- △ Achieved all the above while focusing on long-term sustainability to maintain and enhance CMN's position as an essential element of Canada's research ecosystem.



RECONCILIATION THROUGH RESEARCH

CMN continues to provide opportunities for researchers, knowledge holders, and community members across Canada to pursue place-based research while learning together and contributing to shared goals of sustainability, conservation and restoration. Many of these initiatives are Indigenous-led or co-led with non-Indigenous researchers, actively demonstrating the spirit of reconciliation through braiding knowledge – the continuous process of weaving Indigenous and non-Indigenous (Western) ways of knowing in a way that maintains the integrity of both knowledge systems while also helping them to achieve something together. CMN is building lived experience with reconciliation, taking time to build relationships, and working creatively towards common goals through this collaborative research.

WHAT WE HEARD



2022-23 was the first year CMN incorporated qualitative performance measures into assessing its impact on the advice of CMN's Indigenous Circle of Advisors. The value and impact of CMN is determined by those we serve.

When we asked our researchers, “To what extent do community knowledge holders and Elders share the importance of the work undertaken in their communities?”

They responded that the research conducted in their communities was very important to them and their leadership and contributions to the research were at the core of it.

When we asked our researchers, “To what extent has this research changed your ways of working?”

They responded that the Knowledge Hubs have created the capacity to collaborate and find meaningful ways to work together. They have witnessed “transformative approaches” embedded within Indigenous research methods, which has demonstrated how elevating Indigenous knowledge benefits both Indigenous and Western knowledge systems.



Klinse-Za caibou habitat, Peace River region
Photo courtesy of Clayton Lamb

The Goal of CMN's Research Program is to improve, through the braiding of Indigenous and Western knowledges, the resilience and health of mountain peoples and places through enhanced understanding of rapid and uncertain environmental changes, as well as their economic, social, and cultural implications.

RESEARCH IMPACT IN 2022-23



35 active projects
including 7 Knowledge Hubs,
17 place-based projects and 11
Strategic Initiatives



90% of initiatives
were Indigenous led, co-led
or focused on the braiding of
knowledges



90% of research teams
support models of knowledge co-
production



39 peer-reviewed
publications plus 61
products produced through
the braiding of knowledges




78% of funds
allocated to Indigenous-
led initiatives



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Four of CMN's research projects were completed this year and our Knowledge Hubs closed out their second of three years of funding. The impact of braiding Indigenous and Western knowledges through research on environmental protection, conservation and restoration in mountain systems was realized through collaborative multi-partner cultural gatherings, knowledge innovation, cultural resurgence and training that increased place-based capacity and knowledge translation, impacting policy and decision-makers.



Salmon Gathering 2022
Photo courtesy of Elizabeth MacDonald

Selected examples include:



Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems to Revitalize Connection to Yukon Salmon Culture (Yukon Salmon Hub)

This Hub is dedicated to protecting and revitalizing Yukon River salmon culture. The Hub prioritizes connecting cultures, knowledges, and conservation actions, accomplished in part through an on-the-land Annual Salmon Ceremony and Gathering that directly connects Yukon First Nations and Western knowledge professionals and practitioners to share knowledge and concerns about salmon management and culture.

Research undertaken by the Yukon Salmon Hub includes a focus on the habitats used by juvenile Chinook salmon as well as salmon location data. This Hub is producing local, regional, national and international impacts, including informing land-use planning, supporting implementation of the Government of Canada's Fisheries Act, informing the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative, and creating a foundation for working effectively with Alaskans on trans-boundary governance. In the past, Canada has offered limited contributions to larger-scale, international salmon initiatives. This work is not only contributing to larger international research efforts but is showcasing the benefits of research driven by First Nation communities and Indigenous knowledge priorities.



Níó Nę P'ęńę Knowledge Hub
Photo courtesy of Manisha Singh



Níó Nę P'ęńę - Trails of the Mountain Caribou: Renewing Indigenous Relationships in Conservation (Research Project and Níó Nę P'ęńę Knowledge Hub)

This hub is documenting the genetic diversity and gene flow of mountain caribou by combining helicopter-assisted fecal sampling with samples contributed by local harvesters. This genetic information is then related to landscape change, particularly focused on corridors of accelerated change including along Nááts'jch'oh Howard's Pass Access Road and Nahanni Range Road areas. These results are being complemented with local knowledge mapping, including place names and cultural landscapes, as well as outfitter knowledge.

An additional community knowledge component of the Hub involves in-person interviews occurring in the Tulít'a and Norman Wells communities focused on livelihoods and climate change. The team is also collaborating with the Tulít'a District Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) Steering Committee to establish an IPCA. The Níó Nę P'ęńę plan is being considered for adoption by the Northwest Territories (NWT) Conference of Management Authorities on Species at Risk as a key component of the NWT Management Plan for Northern Mountain Caribou. The project's landscape-change modeling approach has been presented at several international academic forums and is charting new ground in methods for working with historical landscape data.

Completed Projects

Several of CMN's originally funded projects wrapped up in 2022-23. However, given the success and impact of these projects, follow-up initiatives have been funded to build capacity and momentum related to the original CMN investments. For example:



Mobilizing Mountain Metrics that Matter: Inuit-Led Environment and Health Monitoring in the Mealy Mountains National Park Research

This project produced the highly impactful documentary called HERD, which was completed in 2022-23 and has led to: ***Nanuk narratives: Documenting, Preserving, and Communicating Inuit Knowledge of the Davis Strait Polar Bear Subpopulation in the Eastern Arctic.*** Polar bears are foundational to Inuit livelihoods, well-being, and culture throughout Inuit Nunangat. Currently, polar bears face a variety of threats, which impact their habitat and population, including sea ice loss and management challenges. This multi-year project will focus on the documentation, preservation, and communication of Inuit knowledge about polar bears and relationships between polar bears and communities. The project will support Inuit-led polar bear stewardship in the coastal and mountain regions of Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut, including the co-creation of a video series highlighting the human dimensions of polar bear management.



George River Caribou outside of Nain, Nunatsiavut
Courtesy of inuitvoicesherd.com/press



Łingít Kusteeyí (Tlingit Way of Life): Revitalizing Tlingit Law for Land and Wildlife

Phase 1 of this project began in 2019 and focused on reclaiming and articulating Tlingit laws, allowing their application to decision-making and rebuilding relationships between wildlife and humans in the Taku River Tlingit First Nation traditional territory. This has led to Phase 2 of the project, which will engage in a review and analysis of the learnings to date to clarify and highlight principles of Tlingit law. Additionally, there will be a three-day immersive on-the-land workshop involving Tlingit youth and Elders to provide additional input and guidance enabling a Map of Tlingit Legal Principles. Most importantly, this work has resulted in the hiring of multiple community advisors and staff from within the community to build capacity and support sustainability of this work.



Tlingit Law Focus group
Photo courtesy of Aimee Schmidt

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

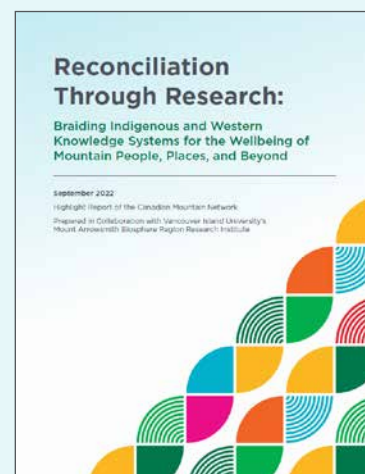
During 2022-23, CMN supported 11 Strategic Initiatives that enhance the connectivity of impact across our projects, Hubs, and training initiatives by drawing out common lessons and knowledge that inform broader research, knowledge mobilization and training outcomes. These initiatives are interdisciplinary and cross-cutting across themes, geographies, and cultural landscapes to coalesce, accelerate and leverage CMN's impacts. Through Strategic Initiatives, we share lessons learned and identify common threads from place-based research efforts. These strategic, cross-cutting initiatives not only build our Network of knowledge and research, but they also serve as significant investments in CMN's training program by supporting learners and mentors to advance *Reconciliation through Research*. Three of CMN's Strategic Initiatives are highlighted below and on the next page.

Braiding United Nations Global Agendas: Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) through the Canadian Mountain Network

Canada is a signatory to multiple national and international commitments, including sustainable development frameworks such as the SDGs and Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy, as well as Indigenous rights commitments, such as UNDRIP. CMN, in collaboration with Vancouver Island University's Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute, released two pivotal reports that identify how CMN's funded initiatives support the SDGs and UNDRIP, and how braiding knowledge creates important and necessary linkages between these global agendas, supporting sustained and connected advancement of both commitments.

The first report titled, [*Advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals through the Canadian Mountain Network*](#), demonstrates CMN's collective impact on the SDGs. The report concludes that, "through its values, research priorities, and efforts to achieve its goals, CMN supports a variety of the SDGs through its structure, governance, partnerships, and initiatives"

The second report, [*Reconciliation through Research: Braiding Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems for the Wellbeing of Mountain People, Places, and Beyond*](#), improves public and policymaker understanding of the Network's contribution to Canada's progress in meeting relevant national and international commitments, further demonstrating CMN's work towards the SDGs and UNDRIP. As the report states: "Among CMN funded initiatives, this is being demonstrated with a movement away from sole reliance on Western science to advance decision-making related to sustainability and sustainable development"





The Mountain Legacy Project (MLP), Imagining Indigenous Resurgence

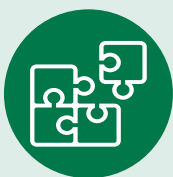
The MLP continues its work to leverage the world’s largest systematic collection of historical mountain images to understand and model century-scale landscape change. These image collections are one of the pre-eminent colonial endeavors, capturing photographs of the interior and coastal mountainous regions of Western Canada that include the homelands of First Nations and Métis peoples. This Strategic Initiative is now pursuing an explicitly decolonized approach by partnering with the Stoney Nakoda Nation and using the MLP’s image collections to support traditional land-based learning, a better understanding of environmental and land-use change, and to re-imagine how de-colonized landscapes could be managed.

Photos courtesy of the Mountain Legacy Project / Library and Archives Canada (left) & Priscilla du Preez, Unsplash (right)

The Canadian Mountain Assessment (CMA)

The CMA provides a first-of-its-kind look at what we know, do not know, and need to know about mountain systems in Canada. The multi-chapter assessment report is based on insights from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit knowledges of mountains, as well as findings from an exhaustive review of academic literature about mountain systems. The CMA’s knowledge co-creation approach aims to bring multiple forms of evidence together in ways that enhance our collective understanding of mountains in Canada, while also respecting and maintaining the integrity of different knowledge systems. The CMA initiative continued to advance its assessment of the state of knowledge about mountains in Canada in 2022-23 by hosting a Learning Circle in Banff with Indigenous knowledge holders from across mountain areas in Canada. Author teams, consisting of 65 Indigenous and non-Indigenous authors, began preparing chapters of the CMA findings and submitting them for external review with almost 40 Indigenous and non-Indigenous national and international reviewers.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES IMPACT & HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022-23



82%

of CMN’s Knowledge Hubs and research projects are “connected” to Strategic Initiatives



8 products

co-authored or co-produced by more than one Knowledge Hub or research project working collaboratively

TRAINING TO SUPPORT CAPACITY

The Goal of CMN's Training Program is to improve the skills and employment outcomes of a diverse community of solutions-oriented mountain systems researchers, trainees and professionals that are capable of working with both Indigenous and Western knowledge systems and research approaches.

CMN's Training Program supports traditional funding of graduate students as well as knowledge exchange through gatherings with communities, teachings from Elders, knowledge keepers, and decision-makers. Our trainees experienced a wide range of learning opportunities over the last year, including training in Ethical Space, certification in environmental monitoring, land-based learning, as well as training in braiding of knowledges, cultural sensitivity, and equity, diversity and inclusion.

TRAINING IMPACT IN 2022-23



179 trainees

in CMN-funded projects, initiatives and Knowledge Hubs



117 CMN members

completed training in Ethical Space, cultural sensitivity, and braiding of knowledges



56 trainees

participated in on-the-land learning



6 students

received journalism training and skill development through the Canadian Mountain Podcast initiative



62 trainees

completed certification courses in 2022-23 on land-based learning, Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR) training, cultural sensitivity, cumulative effects management, and equity, diversity and inclusion



WHAT WE HEARD

Our researchers reported that their trainees experienced benefits from their exposure to community-based research, working between knowledge systems, as well as practical skill development that will support them on their professional journey.

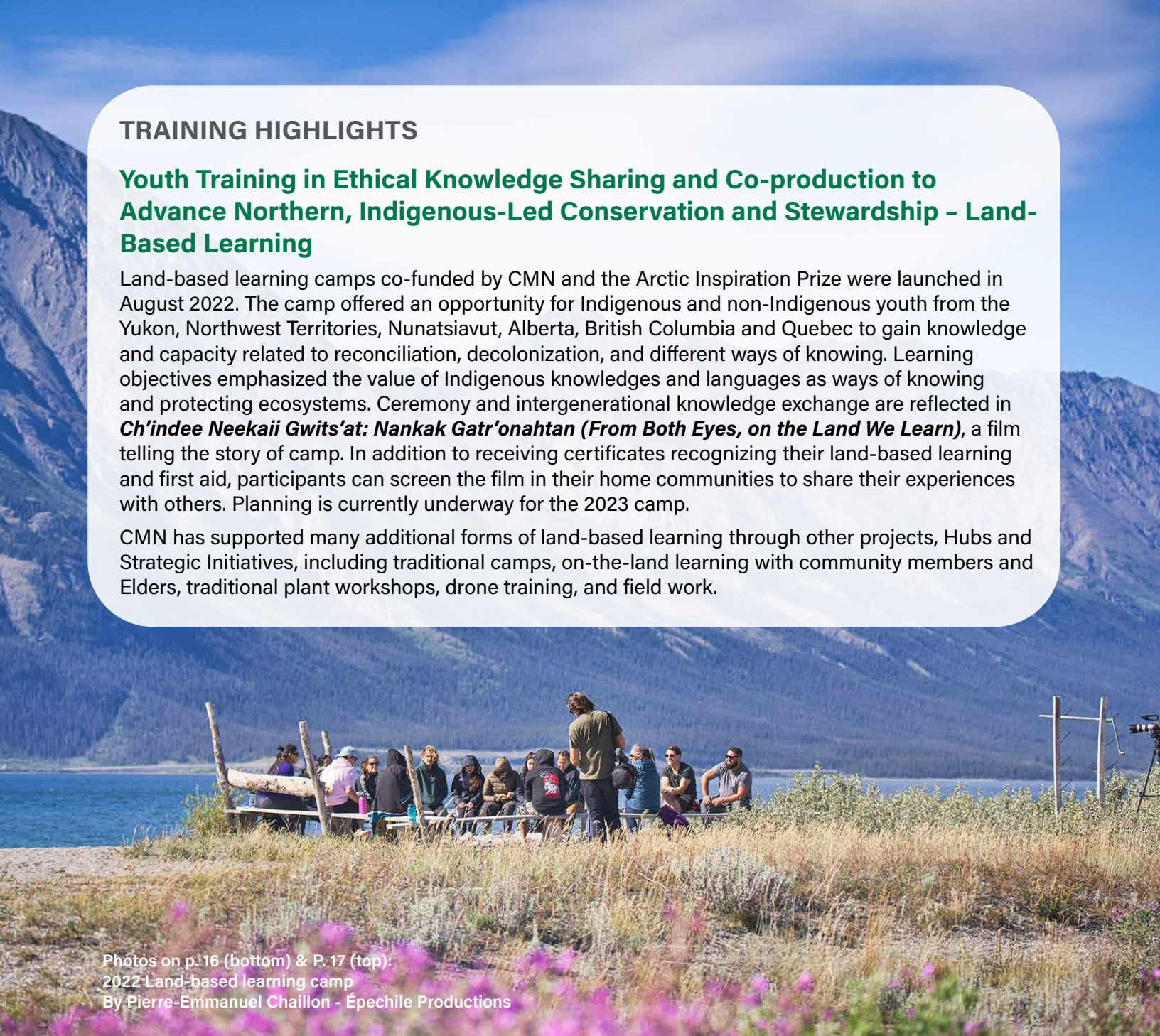
CMN is proud to have contributed to their development and looks forward to the impact they will have on the land and in their communities in the future.

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Training in Ethical Knowledge Sharing and Co-production to Advance Northern, Indigenous-Led Conservation and Stewardship – Land-Based Learning

Land-based learning camps co-funded by CMN and the Arctic Inspiration Prize were launched in August 2022. The camp offered an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunatsiavut, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec to gain knowledge and capacity related to reconciliation, decolonization, and different ways of knowing. Learning objectives emphasized the value of Indigenous knowledges and languages as ways of knowing and protecting ecosystems. Ceremony and intergenerational knowledge exchange are reflected in ***Ch'indee Neekaii Gwits'at: Nankak Gatr'onahtan (From Both Eyes, on the Land We Learn)***, a film telling the story of camp. In addition to receiving certificates recognizing their land-based learning and first aid, participants can screen the film in their home communities to share their experiences with others. Planning is currently underway for the 2023 camp.

CMN has supported many additional forms of land-based learning through other projects, Hubs and Strategic Initiatives, including traditional camps, on-the-land learning with community members and Elders, traditional plant workshops, drone training, and field work.



Photos on p. 16 (bottom) & P. 17 (top):
2022 Land-based learning camp
By Pierre-Emmanuel Chailion - Épechile Productions



Photo courtesy of Graham Sakaki

The IPCA Planning Advanced Certificate

This certificate program was launched at Vancouver Island University, in collaboration with the Pacific IPCA Knowledge Hub. This inaugural program trains land use planners with the skills, knowledge and capacity needed to successfully work between knowledge systems to manage and mobilize Indigenous-led conservation efforts across Canada. In addition to supporting the launch of the advanced planning certificate program in 2022-23, CMN will provide support to all students in 2023-24 to cover the cost of field school fees to engage in on-the-land learning at the Clayoquot Campus, a satellite campus of the Pacific IPCA Innovation Centre.

MOVING KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION

Knowledge is most meaningful and impactful when it is shared. CMN's Goal for Knowledge Mobilization is to inform and influence decision-making and action locally, regionally, nationally and internationally by mobilizing braided knowledges

Over the past year, CMN continued to be a key source of information on braiding Indigenous and Western knowledges within mountain systems in Canada.

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION IMPACT IN 2022-23



90%

The percentage of CMN research initiatives contributing to the TRC Calls to Action, UNDRIP & SDGs



10,668

social media followers / communications subscribers



5,200

The number of participants in CMN events in 2022-23



49

Unique publications, technologies & innovations produced by CMN-supported research teams



207 million

News reach / article views



21,000

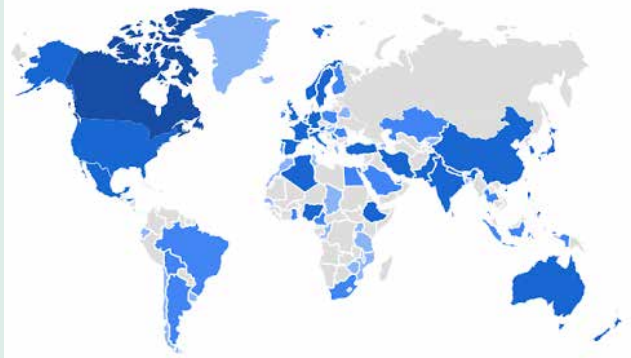
Website visitors



2,268

CMN e-newsletter subscribers

83 countries (website visitors)





WHAT WE HEARD

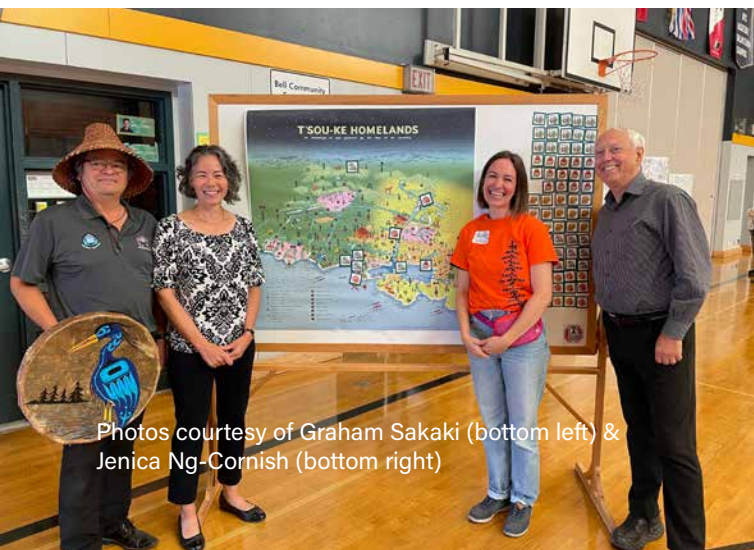
The majority of CMN-funded initiatives intend and aspire for their research results to influence decision-making whether within their own communities or more broadly.

Some initiatives are not far enough along in their work for this to be realized. However, many others definitely see their ways of knowing reflected in the use of information by knowledge users, for example, the use of maternal penning based on Indigenous knowledge and practice for caribou conservation and management. Another example is the Yukon Salmon Hub that states, ***“The Salmon Knowledge Hub is the only platform that facilitates information sharing across communities in space that honors traditions, ceremony, and is reflective of a traditional fish camp. We are excited to see the stories of the Yukon Salmon People spreading to the media, and decision-makers.”***

Other examples however are more telling of the work that needs to be done: ***“The uptake of Indigenous knowledge in practice is still disappointingly slow, even when the knowledge is readily available to decision-makers. There is high-level engagement with braiding knowledge, but little capacity to implement it across organizations or beyond simply valuing it. For example, the bison report by Parks Canada acknowledges the presence of the Stoney Bison Report but does not incorporate any of the recommendations made in the Stoney report.”***



Photo courtesy of Kate Ballegooyen



Photos courtesy of Graham Sakaki (bottom left) & Jenica Ng-Cornish (bottom right)



KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION HIGHLIGHTS



Knowledge Sharing Summit

CMN hosted its second Knowledge Sharing Summit in June 2022 as a hybrid event. The Summit was attended by virtual and in-person guests, including researchers, trainees, collaborators, and Indigenous Network members. The event featured 29 presentations showcasing CMN's work and facilitated in-person networking for the first time since COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and included comments such as:

"It was really nice to be part of an open space where all opinions, perspectives, and cultural traditions were shared openly and with respect."



Mountain Sentinels Initiative

In 2022, CMN partnered with the Mountain Sentinels Initiative to co-host our annual webinar in celebration of International Mountain Day. This year's United Nations theme was *Women Move Mountains* and featured a panel of women from across North America discussing the need to elevate the role and voice of women through mountain environmental research and mountain tourism, as well as connecting to the land as empowerment. This event was attended by 142 registered attendees and included a four-week communications campaign reaching more than 144,936 people online.



Canadian Mountain Podcast (CMP)

Four new episodes explored CMN-supported research. These episodes feature examples of CMN research, with a particular emphasis on the Network's knowledge braiding efforts. The CMP is produced by CMN-funded trainees involved in the Community Podcast Initiative of Mount Royal University's School of Journalism. This year, the podcast program included an Indigenous co-producer, and the team published a paper on their experiences in the process of developing a land acknowledgement. The podcast continues to perform well and exceeded 14,000 all-time downloads.





HERD: Inuit Voices on Caribou

The documentary film *HERD: Inuit Voices on Caribou* was co-created by 11 Inuit communities from the Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut regions of Labrador. This film shows the human face of ecological change due to dramatic declines of caribou populations – including a 99% decline in the previously massive George River Caribou Herd, which has caused significant social, emotional and cultural disruptions. *HERD: Inuit Voices on Caribou* will reach broad audiences via its release on CBC Gem as well as playing at film festivals and public and private screenings.



Mountain Research and Development Special Issue

The collaboration between CMN and the Mountain Research and Development (MRD) Editorial Team led to numerous submissions for the Special Issue titled, [*Weaving Indigenous Knowledges – Collaborations in Support of the Wellbeing of Mountain Peoples and Regions*](#), published in MRD, a leading international journal focused on mountain systems and sustainable mountain development. This was the first time the journal dedicated a special issue to braiding knowledges and contributions led by Indigenous knowledge holders. This special issue focused on knowledge collaborations by mountain researchers and Indigenous peoples in support of the wellbeing of mountain people and regions. Articles published in this issue provided examples of knowledge co-production and application in diverse mountain contexts across the globe. Beyond contributing to the recognition of multiple forms of scientific knowledge inquiry, the feature sought to inspire more ethical and meaningful cooperation between academics and Indigenous and local mountain communities, with a view to achieving more sustainable futures and redressing historical injustices.

Photos courtesy of HERD (top), MRD (left) & Bill Snow (right)



Final Report "Enhancing the Reintroduction of Plains Bison in Banff National Park (Mîni Rhpa Mâkoche) Through Cultural Monitoring and Traditional Knowledge"

The final report [*Enhancing the Reintroduction of Plains Bison in Banff National Park \(Mîni Rhpa Mâkoche\) Through Cultural Monitoring and Traditional Knowledge*](#) highlights partnerships with Western decision-makers showing that traditional ecological knowledge can be braided with Western science to define a more holistic approach to park management. Holding a ceremony with Elders can also inform the continued work of cultural monitoring. The report has been announced publicly and was submitted to Parks Canada to inform their evaluation of the five-year Bison reintroduction pilot. In addition to the partnership with Parks Canada on this work, outreach presentations were shared nationally and internationally (e.g., at the Innsbruck International Mountain Conference). These presentations were made possible by leveraging CMN's member Network.

OUR WORK TOGETHER: NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS

CMN's goal is to grow and enhance local, regional, national, and international partnerships and collaborations to support and sustain mountain systems research, training, and knowledge mobilization activities that are informed by both Indigenous and Western knowledges.

Over the past year, CMN's partnerships and collaborations have continued to grow and span cultural landscapes across Canada, including Inuit Nunangat, First Nations and Metis lands supported by comprehensive agreements, historic treaty territories, and non-treaty regions.

A considerable emphasis in 2022-23 was placed on sustaining and growing partnerships with knowledge users, including many who have confirmed their support for CMN transitioning to "Braiding Knowledges Canada". As such, the number of investigators, collaborators, and partnerships across a diversity of sectors – including Indigenous governments and organizations, federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and the private sector – significantly increased in 2022-23. The number of strategic, organizational partnerships showed an 11-fold increase over the previous year and the ratio of leveraged partner cash and in-kind contributions to CMN's funding for research in 2022-23 was 1.52:1, compared to the target of 1:1.

Cumulatively, CMN has shown tremendous increases in networking and partnerships over time, growing its collaborative research community of organizations from 66 (2019-20) to 172 (2022-23). Among these organizations, post-secondary institution participation increased from 27 to 47, and federal department and agencies participation doubled from 2019-20 to 2022-23.

NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS IMPACT IN 2022-23

Network of collaborating organizations:



320
researchers & collaborators



181 partnerships
across a diversity of sectors including:

45
universities

11
industry

10
federal departments and agencies

9
provincial departments and agencies

28
not-for-profits, foundations, charities, associations

16
Indigenous not-for-profits, foundations, charities, associations

12
other

34
Indigenous other



WHAT WE HEARD

All previous feedback from the NCE Expert Panel, Standing Selection Committee, and Monitoring Committee was addressed in 2022-23.

In the Monitoring Committee's annual report card, CMN met or exceeded all five Program Criteria of the NCE program, our own stated objectives, and our commitments to the principles of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice (EDIJ). Since the first NCE Report Card 2019-20, CMN has improved its performance year after year.

CMN's approach to elevating Indigenous ways of knowing is generating impacts beyond the Network's own activities. The increase in our Network and partnerships, evidenced by the Letters of Support and Memoranda of Understanding included in our full application to the Strategic Science Fund, demonstrates the momentum of CMN. Our active and ongoing consultations with federal officials offer encouraging indications that Canada sees CMN as a key partner to support the development and growth of distinctions-based Indigenous research and training capacities that support Indigenous self-determination.



Photo courtesy of Jessica Pyett

NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022-23, CMN experienced a year of increasing impact, surpassing targets and expectations, reaffirming support from its stakeholders, and witnessing continued growth and maturation of the Network. Additionally, this year marked a period of reflection as CMN approaches its final year as an NCE and prepares for a new and transformative future.

CMN's *Braiding Knowledges Canada* Application to the Strategic Science Fund (SSF)

In September 2022, CMN submitted a full application to the SSF, aiming to secure funding for independent science and research by not-for-profit organizations aligned with federal priorities. This application seeks to re-brand CMN as Braiding Knowledges Canada (BKC) starting from April 2024 and focus the organization's post-NCE activities on the commitment to *Advancing Reconciliation through Research*. CMN's future is envisioned as follows: *"the influence of self-determined, place-based, and co-produced knowledge within Canada's science culture is significantly enhanced such that, over time and on a path towards reconciliation, local knowledge approaches contribute more to public policy and decision-making and become more fully and equitably reciprocal with federal science initiatives."*

The interest and support that CMN received when developing its SSF application was humbling, overwhelming and a confirmation of the value of CMN to the research community in Canada. Existing partners, researchers and collaborators conveyed their full support to continue to collaborate with CMN beyond March 31, 2024. New partners and collaborators, and partners of partners came to the table to assist with proposal development, provide Letters of Support, envision next steps of research, and enter Memoranda of Understanding. In total, 117 co-funding partners came forward, including partnerships with national Indigenous organizations (i.e., Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, Indigenous Leadership

Initiative and Land Guardian Program), and national not-for-profits (e.g., ECO Canada, Mitacs, ArcticNet, First National Information Governance Centre, Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Gordon Foundation, Canadian Science Policy Centre), and academic partners (e.g., Universities of Alberta, Calgary, Victoria, McGill, Wilfrid Laurier, British Columbia, Vancouver Island, Thompson Rivers, Montreal, Simon Fraser, Yukon, Ottawa, Mount Royal, Waterloo, Laval, Memorial, Trent, Guelph, Colorado State, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Fulbright Canada).

Preparation of the SSF proposal also required significant consultations and discussions with senior levels of the federal government (Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, Innovations, Science and Economic Development Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans) as well as deep engagement with provinces and territories, including meetings and/or communications with political to senior executive levels across multiple departments in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories and Yukon Territories. Of critical importance was the ongoing support of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities to lead and enable the work of proposed BKC-funded initiatives.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

CMN is focusing its efforts on long-term sustainability and deepening relationships and partnerships with a focus on the future of the organization. CMN's research has had significant place-based impacts, and has amplified that impact by facilitating a national Network of shared learnings where projects connect with cross-cutting initiatives. The results speak for themselves; our successes reinforce the importance of maintaining CMN's position as an essential element of Canada's research ecosystem.

Canadian Mountain Network

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Edmonton, AB, T6G 2E9 Email: admin@cmn-rcm.ca Phone: 780-492-8229

Connect with us:

Contact: communications@cmn-rcm.ca
Website: canadianmountainnetwork.ca
Facebook: [@CanadianMountainNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianMountainNetwork)
Twitter: [@CanMountainNet](https://twitter.com/CanMountainNet)
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/school/canadian-mountain-network](https://www.linkedin.com/school/canadian-mountain-network)
Instagram: [@CanMountainNet](https://www.instagram.com/CanMountainNet)

Photo courtesy of Sam Titze

ANNEXES

Annex A: Our Network

(as of March 31st, 2023)

Network members

Aurora College
Kluane First Nation
Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat
Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Simon Fraser University
Mount Royal University
T'Akhu A Tlen Conservancy
University of Alberta
Thompson Rivers University
Université Laval
Université de Montréal
Université de Sherbrooke
University of Saskatchewan
Vancouver Island University
University of Calgary
McGill University
University of Victoria
University of British Columbia
Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council
Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society
Association de gestion halieutique Mi'gmaq et Malécite (AGHAMM)
The Norwegian University of Life Sciences
University of Waterloo
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
IISAAK OLAM Foundation
Porcupine Caribou Management Board
University of Edinburgh
Council of Yukon First Nations
Yukon University
Stoney Tribal Administration

Board of Directors

Dr. Joe Dragon (Chair) – President, Dragonworks Inc.
Lawrence Ignace (Vice Chair) – PhD Student, University of Victoria
Alida Thomas (Secretary) – MPPGA Graduate Student, University of British Columbia
Kelly Sloan (Treasurer) – Owner, Sloan Leadership Consulting/Owner, Odyssey Adventures for Women
Laurel Carlton – Founder and Principal, Summit in Stride
Lynne Hatley – Director, Development and Communications (Alberta), Nature Conservancy of Canada
Charity Callahan – Director, Callahan Services Inc.
Dr. Walter Dixon – Associate Vice President (Research and Priority Initiatives), University of Alberta
Dr. Maribeth Murray – Executive Director, Arctic Institute of North America
Dr. Niall O'Dea – Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Dr. Mark Prystupa – General Manager, Indigenous and Community Relations, Suncor Energy Inc.
Wendy Wan – Senior Consultant, Humanity Financial Management Inc.
Tiffany Traverse - Independent Indigenous Researcher, Land & Seed Steward
Ryan Bear - Senior Business Analyst, Southern Chiefs Organization Inc.
CeCe Baptiste - Vice President - Finance, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
Erinn Drage - Programme Officer, World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN

Observers

Sara Esam – Senior Program Manager, Network of Centres of Excellence
Other Board Officers
Dr. Monique Dubé – Executive Director

Governance Committee

Alida Thomas (Chair) – MPPGA Graduate Student, University of British Columbia

Charity Callahan – Director, Callahan Services Inc.

Erinn Drage - Programme Officer, World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN

Ex-officio - Dr. Joe Dragon (Board Chair), President, Dragonworks Inc.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

Kelly Sloan (Chair & Board Treasurer) – Owner, Sloan Leadership Consulting/Owner, Odyssey Adventures for Women

Wendy Wan – Senior Consultant – Humanity Financial Management Inc.

Dr. Mark Prystupa – General Manager, Indigenous and Community Relations, Suncor Energy inc.

Ryan Bear - Senior Business Analyst, Southern Chiefs Organization Inc.

CeCe Baptiste - Vice President, Finance, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies

Ex-officio - Dr. Joe Dragon (Board Chair), President, Dragonworks Inc.

Research Management Committee

Andrew Applejohn (Chair) – Senior Science Advisor, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories

Meagan Grabowski – Consultant, Researcher, Biologist and Yukon University Instructor

Lawrence Ignace – PhD Student, University of Victoria

Mary Jane Johnson – Lhu'ààn Mân Ku Dañ Elder

Dr. Julia Klein – Professor, Department of Ecosystem Science & Sustainability, Colorado State University and Head of the Mountain Sentinels Network

Marlin Legare – Research Associate, Morning Star Lodge, a lab of the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine's Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre

Dr. Cathy Ryan – Professor, Department of Earth, Energy and Environment, University of Calgary

Erinn Drage - Programme Officer, World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN

Tiffany Traverse - Independent Indigenous Researcher, Land & Seed Steward

Ex-officio - Dr. Joe Dragon (Board Chair), President, Dragonworks Inc.

Ex-officio - Murray Humphries, CMN Co-Research Director

Indigenous Circle of Advisors (ICA)

(Note: all Indigenous members of CMN's Board of Directors and Committees are invited to attend meetings of the ICA)

Adam Gaudry – Vice Dean and Associate Professor, Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta

Lawrence Ignace – PhD Student, University of Victoria

Marlin Legare – Research Associate, Morning Star Lodge, a lab of the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine's Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre

Mary Jane Johnson – Lhu'ààn Mân Ku Dañ Elder

Network Staff

Dr. Monique Dubé - Executive Director

Dr. Murray Humphries - Co-Research Director

Ainsley Sykes - Operations Manager

Dr. Jen Feikes (contractor) - Controller

Charity Oisamoje - Financial Administrator

Nicole Olivier - Programs Manager

Kirsten Bowser (contractor) - Scientific Engagement Coordinator

Hannah Ordway (contractor) - Governance Coordinator

Kimberly Harbour (contractor) - Communications and Events Coordinator

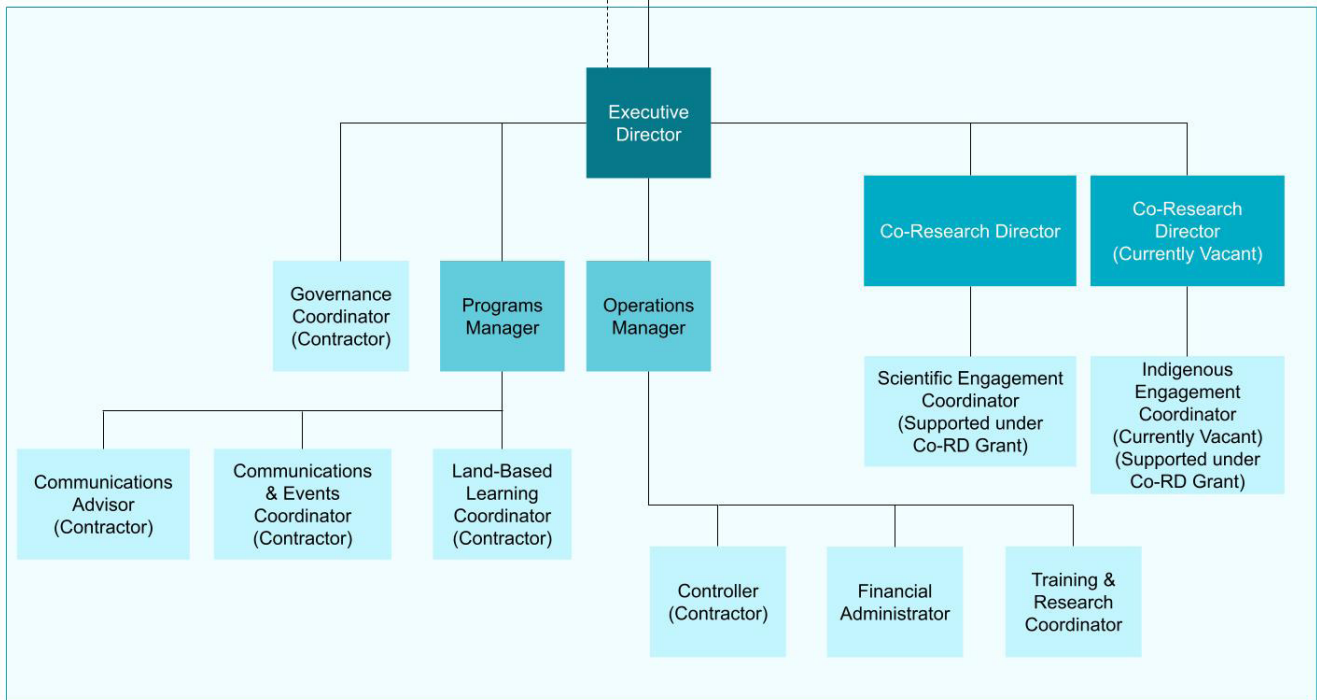
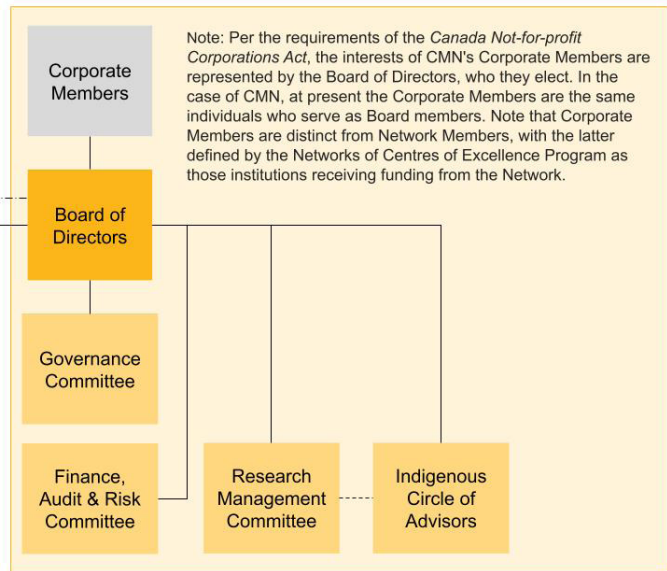
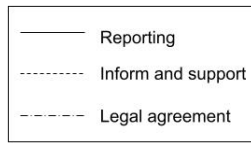
Shannon Lohner - Training and Research Coordinator

Aviva Fialkow (contractor) - Land-based Learning Coordinator

Annie Webb (contractor) - Communications Advisor

Vacant - Indigenous Engagement Coordinator

CMN Organizational Chart



Annex B: 17 Research Projects in CMN's first Call for Proposals

- 1. Bringing research home: Reclaiming research to tell the story of climate change in the Kluane First Nation Traditional Territory.** Principal Investigator: Kate Ballegooyen (Natural Resources Manager/Lands Resources and Heritage, Kluane First Nation, Burwash Landing). Research location: Kluane First Nation Traditional Territory, Yukon Territory.
- 2. Co-creation of a governance structure: The case of a recreo-tourism development in Mont-Orford.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Laurent Bourdeau (Professor, Department of Geography, Laval University). Research location: Mont-Orford region, Québec.
- 3. COMPLETED! Effects of climate change and human activities on mountain species and ecosystems.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Stan Boutin (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta). Research locations: British Columbia and Yukon Territory.
- 4. Enhancing the reintroduction of plains bison through the inclusion of cultural monitoring and traditional knowledge in Banff National Park.** Principal Investigator: William Snow (Consultation Manager, Stoney Tribal Administration). Research location: Banff National Park, Alberta.
- 5. Explore, describe and develop a methodology to best account Indigenous perspectives on the value of land guardianship in mountain regions and the contributions to the biodiversity and well-being of their Nations.** Principal Investigator: Norma Kassi (CMN co- Research Director (2019-2022) & Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Science, McGill University). Research locations: Yukon, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Quebec, Newfoundland & Labrador.
- 6. COMPLETED! From the mountains to our tables: Freshwater security in three Canadian eastern Rocky Mountain watersheds.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Vincent St. Louis (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta). Research locations: Banff National Park and Jasper National Park, Alberta.
- 7. Indigenous land rights in Canada and New Zealand: Sustainable protected areas in rural and mountain environments.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Courtney Mason (Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair in Rural Livelihoods and Sustainable Communities, Thompson Rivers University). Research locations: Alberta (Banff National Park, Jasper National Park, Yoho National Park); Northwest Territories (Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary); and New Zealand (Urewera National Park).
- 8. Łingít Kusteeyí (Tlingit way of life): Revitalizing Tlingit law for land and wildlife.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Aimee Schmidt (Executive Director, T'akhu Tlèn Conservancy). Research location: Taku River Tlingit Traditional Territory, British Columbia and Yukon Territory.
- 9. Long-term monitoring of harvested mountain ungulates to improve their conservation and sustainable use.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Marco Festa-Bianchet (Professor, Department of Biology, University of Sherbrooke). Research locations: Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, and Alberta.
- 10. COMPLETED! Managing groundwater resources in mountainous areas: Planning for and adapting to drought conditions.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Diana Allen (Professor, Earth Sciences, Simon Fraser University). Research location: Okanagan Basin, British Columbia.
- 11. Mineral dust dynamics and climate change at high latitude mountainous regions.** Principal Investigator: Dr. James King (Assistant Professor in Geomorphology Wind Erosion Lab, Department of Geography, University of Montreal). Research location: Łhù'ààn Mân (Kluane Lake), Yukon Territory.
- 12. COMPLETED! Mobilizing mountain metrics that matter: Inuit-led environment and health monitoring in the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve.** Principal Investigator: Jamie Snook (Torngat Wildlife, Plants, and Fisheries Secretariat). Research location: Mealy Mountains, Labrador.

- 13. Níó Nę P'ęnę - Trails of the mountain caribou: Renewing Indigenous relationships in conservation.** Principal Investigator: Leon Andrew (Shúhtagot'jné Elder/Ancien, Tulít'a Dene Band, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board). Research location: Mackenzie Mountains, Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.
- 14. The mountain risk knowledge exchange - Building risk management capacity and resilience in mountain communities.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Glyn Williams-Jones (Co-Director, Centre for Natural Hazards Research / Professor, Volcanology, Simon Fraser University). Research locations: Lil'wat Nation/Squamish- Lillooet Regional District, British Columbia; various Nunavut communities.
- 15. The Shútagot'ine cultural landscape project.** Principal Investigator: Glen MacKay (Territorial Archaeologist, Cultural Places Program, Government of the Northwest Territories). Research location: Mackenzie Mountains, Northwest Territories.
- 16. The View from 2117: Human actions, consequences and perspectives on mountain regions.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Pamela Shaw (Research Director, Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute, Vancouver Island University). Research location: Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve, British Columbia.
- 17. Hills thought to be mountains: the biocultural value of island highlands in the continental plains.** Principal Investigator: Dr. Murray Humphries (CMN co-Research Director & McGill Northern Research Chair/ Director, Center for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE), McGill University). Research locations: Canada's continental plains (Northwest Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec).

Annex C: Seven Knowledge Hubs in CMN's second Call for Proposals

1. Developing Knowledge on the Status of Aquatic Ecosystems in the Chic-Choc Mountains (CREA-CC)

Knowledge Leaders:

- Catherine Lambert, Executive Director, Mi'kmaq Maliseet Aboriginal Fisheries Management Association
- Louise Chavarie, Associate Professor, The Norwegian University of Life and Sciences

Research location: Chic-Choc Mountains, Gaspésie, Quebec.

2. Blackfoot Guardianship of East Slope Watershed and Weaving Blackfoot Values with Science

Knowledge Leaders:

- Kimmy Houle, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council, Member of the Kainai Nation (Blood Tribe)
- Laura Lynes, The Resilience Institute

Research location: Rocky Mountain East Slopes, Alberta.

3. Rekindling Indigenous-Led Land Stewardship and Cultural Connections in the Rockies

Knowledge Leaders:

- Clayton Lamb, University of British Columbia;
- Chief Roland Willson, Chief, West Moberly First Nations + Níkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society

Research location: Northern and central Rocky Mountains of British Columbia and Alberta.

4. Nió Nę P'ęné (NNP) - Trails of the Mountain Caribou

Knowledge Leaders:

- Leon Andrew, Living on the Land Forum, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, Nááts'ı̨ch'oh National Park Reserve
- Catarina Owen, Acting Executive Director, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board

Research location: Sahtú Region of the Northwest Territories.

5. Ecological Change and Livelihoods in the Porcupine Caribou Summer Range

- Deana Lemke, Porcupine Caribou Management Board
- Trevor Lantz, University of Victoria

Research location: Northern Yukon and the Richardson Mountains of the Northwest Territories.

6. Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems to Revitalize Connection to Yukon Salmon Culture

Knowledge Leaders:

- Elisabeth MacDonald, Council of Yukon First Nations
- Fiona Schmiegelow, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences - Renewable Resources Dept

Research location: Yukon Territory.

7. Pacific Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) Innovation Centre

Knowledge Leaders:

- Eli Enns, IISAAK OLAM Foundation
- Pamela Shaw, Vancouver Island University

Research location: Pacific Coast mountain regions of British Columbia.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Canadian Mountain Network

Financial Statements

March 31, 2023

**Canadian Mountain Network
Index to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended March 31, 2023**

	Page
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	1 - 2
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Operations	4
Statement of changes in net assets	5
Statement of Cash Flows	6
Notes to Financial Statements	7 - 9



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BDO Canada LLP
903 - 8th Avenue SW, Suite 620
Calgary AB T2P 0P7
Canada

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Canadian Mountain Network:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Canadian Mountain Network (the Network), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023 and the statement of operations, statement of changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Network as at March 31, 2023 and its results of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting Standards for not-for-profit Networks.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Network in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matters

The financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2022 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements on September 13, 2022.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting Standards for not-for-profit Networks and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Network's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Network or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Network's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Network's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Network's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Network to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Calgary, Alberta
September 28, 2023

Canadian Mountain Network
Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 526,386	\$ 628,947
Grants receivable	4,285	-
Miscellaneous receivables	5,142	2,268
Prepaid expenses	-	3,426
Due from Network Host (note 3)	4,054,981	5,746,194
	<u>\$ 4,590,794</u>	<u>\$ 6,380,835</u>
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 40,665	\$ 42,839
Deferred contributions (note 4)	4,550,129	6,337,996
	<u>4,590,794</u>	<u>6,380,835</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted net assets		
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 4,590,794</u>	<u>\$ 6,380,835</u>

Approved by the Board of Directors



Joe Dragon, Director



Alida Thomas, Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Canadian Mountain Network
Statement of Operations
For the year ended March 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Revenues		
Grants (note 4)	\$ 4,258,046	\$ 4,849,506
Event revenue (note 5)	27,909	-
	<u>4,285,955</u>	<u>4,849,506</u>
Expenditures		
Funding distributions	2,327,855	3,414,915
Staff payroll, contracts and benefits	775,139	809,457
Consulting fees	762,411	483,423
Travel	207,290	4,833
Promotion and sponsorships	67,807	71,912
Professional fees	39,298	22,109
Equipment and software	37,723	16,932
Meeting	28,194	50
Honoraria	15,015	6,500
Insurance	14,058	10,180
Office	11,165	9,195
	<u>4,285,955</u>	<u>4,849,506</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Canadian Mountain Network
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended March 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance - Beginning of year	\$ -	\$ -
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the year	-	-
Balance - End of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Canadian Mountain Network
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended March 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the year	\$ -	\$ -
Changes in non-cash working capital items		
Grants receivable	(4,285)	110,518
Accounts receivable	(2,874)	(2,268)
Prepaid expenses	3,426	1,337
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(2,174)	(23,821)
Due from Network Host	1,691,213	1,592,400
Deferred revenue	(1,787,867)	(1,624,032)
	<u>(102,561)</u>	<u>54,134</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents during the year	(102,561)	54,134
Cash and cash equivalents - Beginning of year	<u>628,947</u>	<u>574,813</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - End of year	<u>\$ 526,386</u>	<u>\$ 628,947</u>
Cash and cash equivalents comprise:		
Short-term interest bearing deposits	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Cash	<u>511,386</u>	<u>613,947</u>
	<u>\$ 526,386</u>	<u>\$ 628,947</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

1 Nature of operations

Canadian Mountain Network (the Network) was incorporated on January 25, 2019 to support the resilience and health of Canada's mountain peoples and places through research partnerships based on Indigenous and Western ways of knowing that inform decision-making and action. Under the funding agreements between the Network, the Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program and the University of Alberta (the Network Host), the Network is allowed to incur expenses against the funds provided. These funding agreements expire March 31, 2024 (note 7).

The Network is a not-for-profit organization and, accordingly, is exempt from income tax in accordance with Section 149(1)(e) of the Canadian Income Tax Act and Section 35 of the Alberta Income Tax Act.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis for presentation

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). The preparation of financial statements for a period necessarily includes the use of estimates and approximations, which have been made using careful judgment. Actual results could differ from those estimates. These financial statements have, in management's opinion, been properly prepared within reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the accounting policies summarized below.

Revenue recognition

The Network follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expense is incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year received or receivable if the amounts to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Event-related ticket and sponsorship revenue is recognized in the period of the corresponding event.

Projects funded by the Network receive cash and in-kind contributions of services, personnel and supplies from other funders. These contributions are not recorded in the financial statements of the Network as they are not revenues of the Network.

Contributed goods and services

Contributed goods and services are recorded in the financial statements at fair value on the date contributed when fair value can be reasonably estimated and the contributed goods or services would have otherwise normally been purchased by the Network.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are initially recognized at fair value and are subsequently accounted for at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method. Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment.

Cash equivalents

Cash equivalents comprise short-term interest bearing deposits with maturities of three months or less.

3 Due from Network Host

Due from Network Host are amounts held in trust by the University of Alberta in its role as Network Host under an agreement dated March 4, 2019 between the Network and the Network Host. Under the terms of the agreement, the Network Host is responsible for receiving and administering grant funding received from the NCE program and providing administrative support in the disbursement of funds as directed by the Network.

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are recorded at their exchange amount, which is the amount agreed to by the parties. Due from Network Host is unsecured and non-interest bearing with no set terms of repayment.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
NCE funds held by Network Host	\$ 3,738,734	\$ 5,371,514
Network Host Funds	316,247	374,680
	<u>\$ 4,054,981</u>	<u>\$ 5,746,194</u>

4 Deferred contributions

Funding received in the year includes grants from the NCE program, which are restricted to eligible expenditures under the terms of the grant agreement, funding contributions from the Network Host, and contributions from other Network partners.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance - End of year from NCE	\$ 3,809,375	\$ 5,445,611
Balance - End of year from other funders	740,754	892,385
	<u>\$ 4,550,129</u>	<u>\$ 6,337,996</u>

Details of the changes in deferred contributions from NCE are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance - Beginning of year	\$ 5,445,611	\$ 7,015,756
Grant received	2,346,440	3,125,474
Amount recognized as revenue	(3,982,676)	(4,695,619)
Balance - End of year	<u>\$ 3,809,375</u>	<u>\$ 5,445,611</u>

Details of the changes in deferred contributions from other funders are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance - Beginning of year	\$ 892,385	\$ 946,272
Grant received		
Network Host	100,000	100,000
Others	119,454	100,000
Grant receivable		
Network Host	(100,000)	(100,000)
Others	4,285	-
Amount recognized as revenue		
Network Host	(59,977)	(59,700)
Others	(215,393)	(94,187)
Balance - End of year	<u>\$ 740,754</u>	<u>\$ 892,385</u>

5 Event revenue

The Network hosts an annual Knowledge Summit event through which revenue is earned through ticket sales and event sponsorships. In the prior year, no such event was held due to pandemic restrictions.

6 Financial instruments

Financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, miscellaneous receivables, due from Network Host and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Network is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following provides a measure of the Network's exposures and concentrations as at March 31, 2023. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Network is not exposed to significant credit, liquidity or interest rate risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk the Network will not be able to meet its obligations as they fall due or to fund any commitments the Network has planned. The Network is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Network manages liquidity risk through management of its capital structure in conjunction with cash flow forecasting including anticipated investing and financing activities.

Credit risk

The Network is exposed to credit risk related to miscellaneous receivables and due from Network Host. The Network monitors the balance due from Network Host and does not consider that it is exposed to significant credit risk due to the creditworthiness of the Network Host.

7 Economic dependence

The Network currently generates substantially all of its revenue from the NCE grant received from the Government of Canada. The five-year term of the NCE grant will end March 31, 2024. The Network is currently in the process of applying for a new 5-year federal grant program and if successful, the new funding agreement will commence April 1, 2024. In addition, the Network is actively working to renew existing and establish new funding partners based on NCE precedents and other identified opportunities.

The Network also receives ongoing support from the University of Alberta in its role as the Network Host. As permitted by the Network Host, a portion of this funding will be used to support the transition from NCE program funding during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.



2022 Land-based learning camp
By Pierre-Emmanuel Chaillon - Épéchile Productions



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Host institution



Sustaining partners

