



Impact Report 2020



2020 Impact Report for Ecotrust Canada

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Climate Innovation Initiative

Overview

Our vision is to build and use carbon finance tools to empower rural, resource dependent, and Indigenous communities to manifest community goals for better management of the landscape.

Our program goals include:

- 1) Enable Wahkohtowin owner-communities to lead protection and improved management of the forests of the historical Chapleau Crown Game Preserve, based on carbon credit revenues.
- 2) Advocate for, and support, enacting a structure like the Forest Carbon Economy Fund in Canada where the federal government is investing in Natural Climate Solutions with maximum climate, community, and biodiversity benefit.
- 3) Participant communities will have high quality, accurate, supportive tools with which to develop and communicate their projects.

Ecotrust Canada has a three-pronged approach to innovative climate action:

- 1) Community-led action is at the core of Ecotrust Canada's work in Indigenous, rural, and remote communities. For example, Ecotrust Canada is partnered with Indigenous communities in the Northeast Superior region of Ontario to support implementing forest carbon management for over 1.5 million hectares of forest on their traditional territories.
- 2) Develop and deliver a Forest Carbon Economy Fund, with tools to quantify the climate impact of improved forest management, so that the resulting benefits can be included in Canada's National Carbon Account. Assessment of social, cultural, and biodiversity benefits from forest management are also taken into account to enable management for optimal climate, social, and ecological benefits. These forest carbon reporting tools are designed to give governments an entirely new, cost effective path for investment into sustainable, community-led, Natural Climate Solutions across Canada.
- 3) Ecotrust Canada and the Blockchain for Climate Foundation have partnered to enable the issuance and exchange of climate mitigation outcomes at the global level, and demonstrate how Canada could best integrate blockchain technology to support climate action at home.

Our partners include Wahkohtowin Development Group, Blockchain for Climate Foundation, and the MakeWay Northern Program.

Activities and Outputs

Ecotrust Canada has continued its innovation with Wahkohtowin Development and the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum (NSRCF) to create and implement a forest carbon project across the 1.6 million hectare Martel/Magpie Enhanced Sustainable Forest Licence (eSFL).



Green means work is on track to create desired outcome

Yellow means work is on track but delayed for creating desired outcome

Red means work is not on track to create desired outcome and a renewal of strategy needs to be considered, or the program is “on hold,” due to external constraints and circumstances

Objective

- 1) Enable Wahkohtowin owner-communities to lead protection and improved management of the forests of the historical Chapleau Crown Game Preserve, based on carbon credit revenues.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Create Climate friendly Forest Management Planning (FMP) Scenarios & Carbon Modeling for Magpie/Martel Forest tenure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worked with Forsite to build out both forestry models and carbon models of the Magpie/Martel Forest to assess the business-as-usual baseline of forest management. - Assessed multiple prospective Improved Forest Management scenarios that could be achieved as a carbon project, such as holding 20% more forest carbon on the landscape resulting in generating 5-8 million tonnes of CO2 benefit over the next 30-40 years and \$50 million dollars in carbon revenue.
Develop “Forest Carbon Community Toolkit”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Forest Carbon Community Toolkit is an adaptable engagement product that uses both static documents as well as PowerPoint presentations to enable improved communication, engagement, and collaboration on forest carbon projects.

- 2) Advocate for, and support, enacting a structure like the Forest Carbon Economy Fund in Canada where the federal government is investing in Natural Climate Solutions with maximum climate, community, and biodiversity benefit.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Increase public and government engagement on community-led climate action in Northern Ontario.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government of Northwest Territories has invited us to explore the potential for carbon projects in the territory, and as a result it has become an outgrowth of our work to increase public and government engagement on community-led climate action. We’re working directly with the Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources and members of their forestry department to screen and select prospective projects that would meet Indigenous and government priorities. Wildfire mitigation and improving the climate outcomes of land conservation are two key activities in review. Tides Canada, (now MakeWay) have facilitated our engagement in this work.
Encourage British Columbia to complete its	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon Pulse article entitled “ANALYSIS: Regulatory delays amid COVID-19 creating headwinds for Canadian offset industry” (paywall – PDF copy attached) noting that BC has had strong



new Forest Carbon Offset Protocol.	success with forest carbon offsets to date, and many opportunities to deliver more.
Finalize & implement Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Climate Strategy	- Having created a draft strategy for NAN in 2019, progress has slowed substantially over the last year. This is due largely in part to significant capacity gaps at NAN, paired with their prioritization of other issues competing for leadership attention. We have the draft strategy prepared and are being patient for an opening to advance this work further when the time is right. Progress made on other elements of our climate work will help refine and support the NAN as it is delivered.

3) Participant communities will have high quality, accurate, supportive tools with which to develop and communicate their projects.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Enable the Government of Canada to adopt a Forest Carbon Economy Fund program, in the manner it best sees fit, to enable accelerated investment in conservation, restoration and improved management of forests across Canada.	- Ecotrust Canada is partnered on a project to design a mechanism to achieve this needed work through use of the Paris Agreement's Article 6 carbon crediting pathway.

Impact

- Inspiring Northwest Territories government and organizations to explore pathways to carbon financed Natural Climate Solutions, and engage in long term capacity-building with Ecotrust Canada.
- Brought Indigenous and climate community engagement to the Government of Canada's Carbon Pollution Pricing: Considerations for Protocol Development in the Federal Greenhouse Gas Offset System stakeholder consultation. This was established by identifying a covert federal decision to exclude an Avoided Conversion project type that would otherwise be a main Indigenous forest carbon offset opportunity. This led to a reversal from the Government of Canada, and a commitment to include such a protocol in the second round of priority protocol development.
- Inclusion on ECCC Carbon Pricing Bureau Roster of Technical Experts for development of upcoming Improved Forest Management protocol.
- Our partners at Canadian Wildlife Service have confirmed that Ecotrust Canada's Forest Carbon Economy Fund has significantly inspired the Government of Canada's creation of a



“Nature-Smart Climate Solutions Fund” to invest \$4 billion into project-based Natural Climate Solutions in Canada.

- Launch of BITMO Platform, beta version, for national government issuance and exchange of Paris Agreement-compliant carbon credits, in partnership with Blockchain for Climate Foundation.
- Leading voice for sound design of blockchain-based climate programs.
- Helped blockchain space, and the general public, achieve accurate, solutions-oriented understanding of the climate impact of Bitcoin and non-fungible tokens (NFTs) through coverage in mainstream media. Live News appearances on CNBC (New York), *Bloomberg Green* (Daybreak Asia), *Sky News Arabia* and Singapore’s *Channel News Asia*. Appeared in the *New York Times*, *Geekwire*, *The Verge* and other print publications, and podcasts including RBC’s *The Disruptors Earth Day Special*.
- Creation of, and presentation on a Biodiversity Decision-Making tool for Forest Carbon Management Projects at Canadian Wildlife Service conference for industry professionals.

Key Learnings

- “Make hay while the sun shines.” Decision to participate in a cluster of Natural Climate Solutions conferences in Ottawa and Yellowknife led to relationships, work, and grants that played a big role in 2020 program success.
- Inability to be in-community for on-the-ground work can be substituted with other types of capacity building, engagement, and project development depending on the stage of the project. Climate Innovation’s Forest Carbon Economy Fund, and Northwest Territories programs were both in a great state to do so.
- Pandemic restrictions on travel and office work led to a norming of remote engagement, leading to a boom in cross-country and international collaboration that would have been difficult and rarer in the past.
- Power users of digital and remote technologies had a leg up on productivity, access, and success during pandemic times.
- High quality computing, telecommunications, audio, and video technology give a remarkable advantage to professionals in terms of speaking engagements, media, and general renown in the space. Correspondingly, poor internet connectivity, bad cameras and lighting, and communications hesitancy was a significant liability for individuals and teams.

Indigenous Home-Lands

Overview

Our vision is for Indigenous groups in British Columbia and Canada to fundamentally transform housing systems in ways that respond to their self-determined plans and goals for land use and economic futures within their territories.

Indigenous Home-Lands goals:

1. An increase in the number of Indigenous groups utilizing integrated, systems-based approaches to housing, land use, and community economic development processes.



2. Establish innovative land tenure regimes rooted in Indigenous legal systems and values, that attract housing financing and insurance options.
3. Enable and support new reciprocal economic relationships within and between Indigenous groups, particularly involving housing supply chains.
4. Support housing needs-based first forestry models within Indigenous territories.
5. Build integrated land administration and housing governance tools and systems that empower Indigenous groups in territorial self-governance and the implementation of Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

We are pursuing these goals by:

- Building long-term, strategic partnerships with Indigenous groups.
- Developing publicly available knowledge products and toolkits that can be easily utilized by Indigenous groups on their own.
- Connecting qualitative, theory-driven research with practical action.
- Implementing new ways to monitor and evaluate the efficacy of integrated housing, land use, and economic processes.
- Creating the space for facilitated conversations, brainstorming and action by and with community constituents.
- Building bridges and connections.

Home-Lands believes that if we create the space and provide the resources for Indigenous groups to implement systems-based approaches to housing, then we will be supporting Indigenous self-determination, territorial self-governance, and improved well-being.

Home-Lands is partnered with Yunesit'in Government, Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG), Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN), and Xeni Gwet'in First Nation.

Activities & Outputs

Throughout 2019-2020 Home-Lands was in a state of emergence, development, and transition with the result being little to no strategic planning carried out. The following is a 2020 workplan that was developed in 2019, based primarily on the requirements of project grants at the time.

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1) Develop housing system strategies with partner communities.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Carry out housing system strategy development workshops with key community actors.	- In 2020, we developed a Housing System strategy with Yunesit'in, which included development workshops with key contacts in the community.

2) Create a self-determined governance framework.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Research and document challenges and successes to Indigenous land tenure innovation. <i>Deliverables: legal reports.</i>	- Work was delayed as a result of COVID-19.
Co-develop with community partners plans to operationalize land tenure innovations. <i>Deliverables: Land tenure operationalization plans.</i>	- Work was delayed as a result of COVID-19

3) Create sustainable services for the long term.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Implement 3-year transition strategy and create Indigenous advisory board. <i>Deliverables: Indigenous advisory board.</i>	- Deliverables: Indigenous advisory board. It has been determined that this needs to occur at the board level within Ecotrust Canada.

4) Implement critical first steps of housing system strategy.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Research and develop forestry, value-added enterprise, and/or other identified training and community development needs/opportunities. <i>Deliverables: Proposals and business plans.</i>	- Although delayed due to COVID-19, some research has been carried out in support of this objective.



5) Involve community in housing designs.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Participatory housing design workshops. <i>Deliverables: Multiple housing designs.</i>	- Although we have moved away from housing design as an offering of Home-Lands, we made some advancements on this front including providing community design renderings for HFN, and connecting HFN with UBC Architecture students for the design of the Cultural Community Centre.

6) Enable community-driven housing design and construction.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Develop a monitoring framework. <i>Deliverables: Full-cost monitoring and evaluation framework.</i>	- We have now moved away from housing design and construction activities, and we are focused on processes. This includes the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for housing system activities, but this did not get underway in 2020.

7) Obtain housing financing and support.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Write housing construction project proposals with partners. <i>Deliverables: Housing construction project proposals.</i>	- We pivoted away from this activity.
Work with institutions to develop innovative financing options. <i>Deliverables: Financing options.</i>	- This was delayed due to COVID-19 but will be a part of our Land Tenure work.
Build and document multiple pilot/demonstration homes utilizing locally produced timber and hempcrete products. <i>Deliverables: Multiple houses built.</i>	- We moved away from home building activities.
Renovate multiple conventional homes for energy efficiency. <i>Deliverables: Multiple houses renovated.</i>	- We moved away from home renovation activities.



Pilot study of alternative energy and heating system (monitoring). <i>Deliverables: Monitoring and evaluation reports.</i>	- We moved away from this as it fell within the realm of the Community Energy initiative.
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8) Housing system roadmap.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Workshop delivery and knowledge mobilization. <i>Deliverables: Final workshop report, knowledge sharing documents, strategic learnings, and recommendations.</i>	- This was delayed as a result of COVID-19.

9) Create sustainable services for the long term.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Build national partnerships, communicate best practices. <i>Deliverables: Communications, partnerships.</i>	- In late 2020, we began to strategically organize the Home-Lands initiative such that it becomes positioned as a long-term sustainable support service to Indigenous groups.

Impact

- Former Chief Russell Myers-Ross was impressed by our Housing Ecosystem Overview and Strategy Development Report for the Yunesit'in community and took the steps to ensure continuity and implementation of the recommendations.
- Our first Solutions Lab with Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) was a welcome space that allowed for discussion and conversation about housing and title that otherwise would not have occurred.
- Through our partnerships we identified and shared multiple funding opportunities, and connected HFN to a cohort of UBC Architecture students who were able to provide high-quality design renderings for a soon to be built Cultural Community Centre.
- Our HFN direct contacts were impressed with the three community design renderings completed by Sonal Deshmukh, our Solutions Lab Community Planning Coordinator. They shared them with other departments within HFN and ultimately requested further designs from Home-Lands. These are going to be utilized for broader economic development consultation sessions with HFN citizens.



Key Learnings

2020 was not a normal year for anyone because of COVID-19, but it was a particularly unique year for Home-Lands given that we were in a state of transition and leadership change, and still determining our purpose and strategy.

- We failed to develop a long-term strategic plan. This left us uncertain about a pathway forward and made us realize that with a vision we can better define who we are and what we do. We are addressing this now.
- COVID-19 made evident how dependent we are on our partners and how our work can be slowed or halted completely when our partners are overburdened with more pressing issues. The best that we can do to address this is to ensure that we have multiple people with whom we can connect/work within each partnership, although this does not necessarily resolve protocol issues.
- The above point also indicates a failure on our part to expand our work beyond a place of 'comfort' and familiarity for us. It may be the case that to ensure we are always moving forward and making progress we should develop at least one new partnership in 2021.

Fisheries

Overview

Our vision is for resilient fishery systems, where fisheries and marine resource use meet the immediate social and economic needs of society, without compromising ecological integrity or the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Adjacent communities are the critical locus of action and stewardship as they co-manage local fisheries and are the primary benefactors of their fishery resources.

The overall objective of the Community Fisheries initiative is to build sustainable, fair, and prosperous commercial fisheries in BC contributing to greater resilience and well-being in coastal communities, First Nations, and for the people who rely on these resources for their livelihoods.

Our work falls across three core strategies including:

- Advancing fisheries policy to better serve the social, cultural, and economic needs of fish harvesters, First Nations, and coastal communities on the Pacific Coast of Canada.
- Enhancing community capacity for fisheries monitoring and management.
- Creating transparency around Illegal, Underreported, and Unregulated fishing (IUU).

At its heart, the Community Fisheries Initiative is about partnerships, and the only way to succeed at creating the systemic transformation proposed by this initiative, is to engage and coalesce with a diverse and powerful set of rights holders, stakeholders, decision-makers, and governments.



These include:

<p>NGO's /alliances (some of whom are also funders):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fisheries for Communities Coalition ✓ TBuck Suzuki Environmental Foundation ✓ Ecology Action Centre ✓ TNC Canada ✓ BC Food Security Network ✓ Food Secure Canada ✓ Slow Food – Slow Fish ✓ Ecotrust, USA ✓ Tides Canada ✓ Sustainable Marine Fisheries and Communities Alliance 	<p>Local Governments and associated agencies or organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ha'oom Fisheries Society ✓ North Coast Skeena First Nation Stewardship Society ✓ Canadian coastal Indigenous Nations (governments, commercial fishing enterprises, and economic development agencies) ✓ Great Bear Initiative - Coastal First Nations ✓ Assembly of First Nations ✓ First Nations Fisheries Council ✓ Ulnooweg ✓ Municipalities and Regional Districts
<p>Industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fishermen's (primary producer) Unions and organizations ✓ Northern Native Fishing Corporation ✓ Native Brotherhood of BC ✓ Native Fishing Association ✓ Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters ✓ Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters Federation ✓ Commercial Fishing Caucus 	<p>Businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Small seafood businesses throughout the supply chain ✓ Financial Institutions (Aboriginal FI's, Credit Unions, Community Futures Development Corporation, Banks, fund managers)

Activities and Outputs

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- 1) Supporting and informing positive changes in BC fisheries licensing policy.

Planned 2020 Activities	End of Year Status Update
<p>Deliver the Fisheries for Communities Gathering 2.0 in Nanaimo, BC in February 2020.</p> <p>Complete a Fisheries for Communities Gathering proceedings report, with an executive summary, and distribute to appropriate contacts. Use as a</p>	<p>- Delivered successful Fisheries for Communities Gathering 2.0 in February 2020. 120 attendees came to consensus around fisheries policy change to support harvesters and coastal communities.</p>



<p>tool for meetings with politicians and policy makers.</p> <p>Communicating to Canadians and decision-makers the importance of independent fish harvesters to the health and welfare of coastal communities and Canada as a whole.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of the Fisheries for Communities Steering Committee (later put on hold due to the pandemic). - Completed a fulsome Fisheries for Communities Proceedings Report and Executive Summary.
<p>Working with T. Buck Suzuki Foundation to create a BC election social media campaign for the network of allies behind the Fisheries for Communities group with the “Fish is Food” video.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successfully campaigned to create the new provincial cabinet position: Parliamentary Secretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture (which didn’t previously exist).
<p>Conduct business case research for various Committee on Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOPO) Recommendations implementation scenarios, short form and long form, to be used as a tool for meetings with politicians and policy makers.</p> <p>Identify tools and models to support transition (E.g., licence banks, access to capital for new entrants, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Created the outline for the <i>State of the Fishery Report</i>, which includes business case research for various FOPO Recommendations implementation scenarios, short form and long form.
<p>Ensure that team is present at key meetings and conferences to keep up to date with policy change and key players.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended World Fisheries Day in January of 2020 in Ottawa – where Ecotrust Canada fisheries staff interacted with politicians, including Bernadette Jordan, the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. - 150 fishermen met online in March to talk about the impacts of COVID-19 on harvesters; as a result, the 27 person COVID-19 Active Fish Harvesters Committee was formed. Ecotrust Canada provided support for the Committee, which met weekly from March 2020 onwards. <p>The Committee worked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o influence the creation of the Fish Harvester Benefit/Grant Program o influence the creation of the provincial COVID 19 Emergency Working Group – with harvesters, processors, shellfish organizations, federal government, provincial government, aquaculture, etc. o provide harvesters with grant/loan info throughout the pandemic.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o influence policy change around different funding programs, informing government when difference harvester groups were left out.
<p>Gain an audience with federal Fisheries Minister for the Fisheries for Communities Coalition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - present Gathering Report and call for implementation of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) 20 Recommendations from the report “West Coast Fisheries: Sharing the Risks and Benefits.” - review of substantive evidence around the need for transition to different policy model. <p>Work in partnership with harvester organizations and their allies to inform a transition plan to develop a new licensing system in BC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met with the Federal Minister of Fisheries virtually as part of the Fisheries for Communities network representatives (fish harvesters, fish mongers, fisheries representatives, etc.) where we: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presented the Fisheries for Communities Gathering Report, and called for implementation of FOPO 20 recommendations. - reviewed substantive evidence around need for transition to different policy model. - Made a successful push for implementation of the FOPO Recommendations #4 and #6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed: FOPO Rec #6 – That Fisheries and Oceans Canada develop a comparative analysis of the East Coast and West Coast fisheries in regard to regulations with a view to devising policy that would level the playing field for independent British Columbian fishers. - Initiated: FOPO Rec # 4 – Increase the transparency of quota licence ownership and transactions, as Fisheries and Oceans Canada determine and publish, in an easily accessible and readable format, a public online database.

2) Work directly with fishing communities to strengthen capacities for monitoring and management of adjacent fisheries.

Planned 2020 Activities	End of Year Status Update
Area A crab monitoring and bio-sampling programs continue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fee-for-service electronic monitoring work continues in collaboration with Teem Fish Monitoring for the Area A crab monitoring and bio-sampling programs.



<p>With First Nations partners, develop a framework for locally led monitoring programs – through delivery of the North and South Coast Indigenous Observer program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous observers were trained for locally led monitoring programs along the North and South Coast of BC. - Due to very low salmon stocks across BC this year, only a few days of salmon monitoring occurred in the summer of 2020.
<p>Identify funding to implement an enhanced lost and abandoned crab gear retrieval pilot project in Hecate Strait in partnership with T. Buck Suzuki and the Area A Crab Association.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successfully applied to the Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Program for funding to implement an enhanced lost and abandoned gear retrieval project in partnership with the Area A Association and T. Buck Suzuki. - Completed an analysis of existing electronic monitoring data as it relates to lost and found gear. - Designed a survey for collecting data on fishing gear lost at sea. - Identified and trained a vessel to take part in the ghost gear pilot project and collect ghost gear at sea, as well as collect ghost gear data.

3) Creating transparency around Illegal, Underreported, and Unregulated fishing (IUU).

Planned 2020 Activities	End of Year Status Update
<p>Publish research using Spyglass platform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spyclass was used to conduct research on global narcotics trade onboard fishing vessels. - Published a research paper investigating illicit activity sanctioning practices by the EU and analyzing patterns of exploitation along West Africa.
<p>Sustainability planning for the platform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops could not be conducted in person in 2020, due to COVID-19; however, Spyclass was adopted by multiple organizations after it was presented at the Chatham House conference in London, and after the Principal Investigator trained reporters on the use of Spyclass and investigating IUU fishing activities.



Impact

Our Community Fisheries policy work is aimed to directly benefit approximately 5,000 Indigenous and non-Indigenous independent fish harvesters, up and down the West Coast of Canada. Our fisheries observer programs directly supported nearly 400 fish harvesters in being able to sustainably earn a meaningful livelihood in 2020. Our IUU work continues to improve our collective ability to understand and combat harmful practices at sea, worldwide.

Direct impacts in 2020:

- 256 fish harvesters participating in the Five Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nations fishery, supported and facilitated by the Ha'oom Fisheries Society.
- 35 boats and 105 fish harvesters in the Area A Crab Fleet on BC's North Coast, and the 120 fish harvesters and partners who engaged in the Fisheries for Communities 2.0 gatherings to share their needs on Federal fishing policies on the BC coast.
- Attended and provided administrative support for 40 COVID-19 Active Fishermen's Committee meetings.
- Provided essential data through the Spyglass platform to major national fisheries surveillance and maritime enforcement authorities, such as the Canadian Coast Guard, the Department of Fisheries, the US Coast Guard, the Indian Navy, the French Navy, and NGOs such as Oceana and Environmental Justice Foundation, alongside lawyers' offices working on human rights and labour abuse. All benefited from direct access to Spyglass.
- In collaboration with academic partners, we published three reports including, "[Fishing for a Future: Understanding access issues and well-being among independent fish harvesters in BC](#)" and the "[Fisheries for Communities Gathering 2.0 – A Proceedings Report](#)" and "[Narco-Fish: Global fisheries and drug trafficking.](#)"

Key Learnings

Impacts of pandemic:

- Ecotrust Canada's fisheries team lost staff because of COVID-19, due to a lack of childcare. Women were disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and since the fisheries team is 95% female, we felt that acutely. We had difficulties balancing our some of our work at the beginning of the pandemic with the loss of key staff. While there was no gap in service delivery, there were some challenges in the transition. To respond, we reorganized how the responsibilities were distributed and hired more staff.
- The pandemic impacted our ability to hire and train dockside observers for the Five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations Fishery. In previous year's training sessions, staff from Ecotrust Canada and DFO travelled to Tofino from Prince Rupert and Campbell River. In 2020, communities were hesitant to have outsiders enter their communities due to COVID-19. Community safety was our top concern, so in alignment with community protocols, we hosted a small in-person training sessions with new staff living in Tofino or Ucluelet. We were a short staffed in July while we waited to host the second training course, but harvesters were able to start fishing. After restrictions eased, we delivered a second training course, and had sufficient staff to monitor the fishery.



- The COVID-19 crisis exposed just how vulnerable BC fish harvesters are under a privatized, globalized fishery industry on the West Coast. Its impacts reinforced how pressing our policy work is. Even though BC fisheries were deemed an essential service, many were unable to fish. Many quota and licence owners have invested in the fishing industry in the same way speculative real-estate investors buy into the housing market, and they now control whether fish harvesters are able to get out on the water. During the pandemic, we saw how corporate and investor control of licences and quota makes it difficult for harvesters to make their own decisions, take on appropriate risks, or build solutions to this kind of disruption (such as redirecting catch to local markets). The importance of domestic markets became clear during the pandemic when international markets for seafood stalled and cold storage for seafood was full of the previous year's catch. There was nowhere to store freshly caught seafood, and many products that had been processed specifically for export – destined for the international markets – could not be sold locally. Meanwhile, grocery store shelves and fish counters were often empty. At a time when everything was/is more precarious than ever, the lack of control over fishing access was one of the many challenges that made it harder for fish harvesters to work and provide food for people in their communities and across Canada.
- *Illegal, Underreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)*: Racism and discrimination in scientific research and advocacy work are still prevalent and remains one of the main challenges to overcome. There is little funding for inclusive data research, and a funding bias toward more mainstream white male-led projects. The amount of work to decolonize the narrative and allow for a steady continuation of data work is underestimated, and it requires a new perspective to address the colonial aspects in this space.

Community Energy Initiative

Overview

The Community Energy program imagines energy security for all in British Columbia — where no one has to choose between heating their homes and feeding their families.

This means:

- That all British Columbians can access essential home energy services without hardship.
- That all households in British Columbia live in comfortable, healthy homes with affordable heat.
- That all households in BC use clean heating systems that are aligned with the Province of BC's net zero GHG target.

In 2020, Community Energy focused on two strategic interventions:

- At the community level, we believe that if heating system retrofits are implemented at scale in southern and coastal BC communities, then energy security, health, and climate resilience will be improved. Healthy, comfortable homes are an essential foundation for wellness and community resilience. Space heating represents the greatest portion of home energy use, and buildings are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.



- At the policy level, if we run effective public education, policy development, and advocacy campaigns on energy poverty, then policy and programs will more readily support the achievement of energy security for all. Energy pricing and consumption are two of the main factors contributing to energy poverty. Government policies are currently holding this system in place, and governments have a low level of awareness about energy poverty and the role equity-based program design has in addressing it.

Activities and Outputs

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The program aims to reduce energy poverty in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities by:

- 1) Advocating for government and utility programs supporting home energy efficiency that are increasingly:
 - Designed with an equity lens with sincere consideration for the needs of rural and Indigenous communities, low-income populations, and other groups facing higher rates of energy poverty.
 - Realistic about the scale of resources that must be deployed to meaningfully increase adoption of efficient and clean home heating technologies.
 - Meaningfully addressing barriers, through a diversity of initiatives including financial support, capacity-building, and equity-focused engagement.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Develop relationships with national and provincial energy efficiency focused organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formed initial relationships with CUSP Network, BC's Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, and BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, and built our reputation through research and direct engagement. - Participated in the Building Electrification Working Group, which included the Province of BC, City of Vancouver, and BC Hydro, resulting in the inclusion of energy poverty and equity in the draft Building Electrification Roadmap, including two direct citations of our work.
Direct outreach to community partners and government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The scope of BC efficiency retrofit funding programs has been expanded to include homes with wood heat — a change we have been advocating for since 2018.
Build credibility as a research body through published reports, webinars, and media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published 2 reports that outlined policies needed to relieve high energy costs in BC's rural communities, and reviewed energy bill protections programming across Canada and the U.S.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published results from one survey that found widespread support for the extension of COVID-19 crisis programs and the creation of a new program to reduce energy bills in BC. - Energy security work was either mentioned or quoted in five news outlets, and in one Statistics Canada publication. - Presented a webinar on Tackling Energy Poverty in BC with the CUSP Network to discuss the latest research, policy and program design that can help alleviate energy poverty.
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- 2) Ensuring that partner communities are increasingly able to:
- o Identify the most appropriate and significant home energy retrofit opportunities in their communities.
 - o Access resources to meaningfully advance transformative home energy retrofit projects across their communities.
 - o Build local capacity, including technicians and tradespeople skilled in completing home energy retrofits and home energy audits.

Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
Continue to support implementation of the Heiltsuk Heat Pump project.	- The Haítzaqv First Nation community installed another 32 hydroelectric powered air-source heat pump systems in homes, (a total of 131 since 2018). This work has decreased each home's energy spending by more than \$2,400 per year and is removing more than 700 tonnes of gas emissions annually.
Explore and develop new opportunities with Quatsino First Nation.	- Quatsino First Nation installed 23 ductless air-source heat pumps installed in 15 elders' homes.
Complete home energy audits with 'Namgis First Nation.	- One Housing Energy Assessment was completed in 'Namgis First Nation, which will help determine the costs, benefits, and support for different home energy solutions.
Share information on energy efficient retrofit grant opportunities, and resources with partner communities.	- Created an outreach page on Ecotrust Canada's website for residents in the Regional District of Mount Waddington to improve access to CleanBC rebates for new home energy retrofits. There were over 80 submissions for rebate applications. Ecotrust Canada is coordinating a group purchase of heat pumps for North Island residents to save money on purchase, installation, and travel costs.

- 3) Ensuring that households in rural and Indigenous communities in BC are increasingly:
- o Aware of the cost-saving, health, and environmental benefits of fuel switching and efficiency retrofit projects.
 - o Able to access programs and infrastructure supporting energy efficiency retrofits and clean energy projects.
 - o Able to acquire the necessary capital and local capacity to implement projects in a timely fashion.



Planned 2020 Activity	End of year status update
<p>Research and connect with four partner communities to investigate access to programs, financing, and knowledge on the benefits of home energy retrofits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 25 meetings with government and community partners, including meetings with our four partner communities Quatsino First Nation, Haítzaqv First Nation, ‘Namgis First Nation, and the Regional District of Mount Waddington. Impact is severely limited by available funding and a weak patchwork of supportive programs, thus supporting the need for our work on government and utility program design. - There remains a low level of awareness and severely limited resources at a province-wide scale; work to date is primarily impacting partner communities

Impact

- A change we have been advocating for since 2018 has been included in the scope of British Columbia funding programs for efficiency retrofit funding. We estimate that this more inclusive approach means that ~50,000 additional households across BC will be eligible for funding to support heating system upgrades, including many Indigenous communities that would have otherwise been ineligible.
- Our participation in the Building Electrification Working Group resulted in the inclusion of energy poverty and equity in the draft Building Electrification Roadmap, including two direct citations on our work.
- Ecotrust Canada participated as a key stakeholder in designing a pilot program for PACE BC (Property assessed clean energy). The program tools will support energy efficiency financing.
- By the end of 2020, in Haítzaqv First Nation the community had installed 131 hydroelectric powered air-source heat pump systems in homes.
- The heat pump initiative expanded to Quatsino First Nation with 23 ductless air-source heat pumps installed in 15 elders’ homes
- One Housing Energy Assessment was completed in ‘Namgis First Nation to review the current state of home energy in the community, which will help determine the costs, benefits, and support for different home energy solutions.
- Increased media awareness on heat pumps, energy justice, and energy-efficient retrofits. Interviewed by or quoted in two community newspapers, *North Island Eagle* and *Haida Gwaii Observer*, one online news outlet, *The Tyee*, and two national news outlets, *Canadian Press* and CBC. Ecotrust Canada was highlighted in a **Community Spotlight by Statistics Canada** in its Sustainable Development Goals Report, Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Key Learnings

- 1) Heating system retrofits continue to demonstrate huge potential for positive impact in rural and Indigenous partner communities. Our experience has demonstrated strong interest among communities and households, but capital availability remains a significant limitation to widespread adoption.



- 2) While capacity barriers remain a common and serious challenge for rural and Indigenous community partners. In 2020, our work to raise awareness of retrofit opportunities contributed to the development of a new local efficiency retrofit offering.
- 3) Energy poverty and equity are emerging as areas of interest for policymakers in recognition of historical deficits in energy program design. Awareness of the issue is improving but mandates and resources for action within government are still limited.

Community Innovation Programs — North Coast Innovation Lab

Overview

For four years, the **North Coast Innovation Lab** (NCIL) was a place-based initiative for people invested in the future of Prince Rupert to prioritize and work together on tangible projects and initiatives that build a resilient economy as a tool for community well-being.

Inspired by the success of the **Local Economic Development Lab** (LEDlab, 2015-2018), co-created by Ecotrust Canada and RADIUS SFU in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, the NCIL worked across cultures, sectors, and organizations to spark innovative, collaborative, local economic development initiatives designed to improve socio-economic resiliency for Prince Rupert. The NCIL acted as a community node for sharing ideas and information, connecting community members and organizations, and raising awareness and understanding of systems-thinking, social innovation, and collaborative community economic development.

This was a 'think and do' approach concentrated on understanding the conditions required for a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable northern community, and building ground-up solutions that engage people across sectors, cultures, and perspectives. There was an ongoing emphasis on tangible demonstrations and results, both action-oriented and action-focused.

Our partnerships in 2020 included, but are not limited to: Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society, Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce, Coastal Shellfish Corporation, Changemakers' Education Society, North Coast Ecology Centre Society, City of Prince Rupert, Hecate Strait Employment Development Society, and Mitacs Canada.

In 2020, NCIL's final year our goals were:

1. Successfully facilitate the final cohort of Mitacs students and projects alongside our partners.
2. Determine and secure fiscal pathways to succeed the NCIL as a food security-focused program that builds on past successes and deepens partnerships and food-security outcomes.
3. Smoothly transition Ecotrust Canada Skeena Office leadership, and beyond.
4. Commence development of local and regional networks of food production, distribution, and food retail.



Activities & Outputs

Green means work is on track to create desired outcome

Yellow means work is on track but delayed for creating desired outcome

Red means work is not on track to create desired outcome and a renewal of strategy needs to be

2020 Project Table - Cohort 3 – **All completed**

2020 Project Timeframe	Project	Partner	Mitacs Student	Links
Jan-May	Ecology Centre Feasibility	North Coast Ecology Centre Society	Jasmeen Bhangu	Blog post
Jan-Sept	Business Innovation	Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce	Janet Song	Blog post , Report & Project Video
May-Sept	Food Literacy and Security	Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society	Carly Checholik	Blog post , Report & Project Video
May-Sept	Restorative Ocean Farming	Coastal Shellfish Corporation and Metlakatla Stewardship Society	Mary Williams	Blog post , Report & Project Video
May-Sept	Arts and Youth Reconciliation	Changemakers' Education Society	Lori Hamar	Blog post , Report & Project Video

Impact

The following videos provide testimonials to NCIL's legacy and impact.

- [Ecotrust Canada NCIL Community Presentations 2020](#)
- [North Coast Innovation Lab's 2020 projects in Prince Rupert](#)
- Isolated project-specific videos can be found on the [North Coast Innovation Lab playlist on YouTube](#).
- One of the greatest NCIL impacts includes the cohorts of Master's student Project Coordinators, most of whom were successful in moving to Prince Rupert and delivering on their project mandates — and several of whom have carried their NCIL experiences forward to continue sparking innovative and collaborative solutions to systemic challenges.
- Final reports and videos associated with each 2020 project:
 - [Business Innovation](#) (Janet Song, Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce)
 - [Raven Tales Storytelling](#) (Lori Hamar, Changemakers Education Society)
 - [Food Security](#) (Carly Checholik and Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society)
 - [Restorative Ocean Farming](#) (Mary Williams and Coastal Shellfish Corporation)



Key Learnings

- **Inadequate Indigenous community engagement.** Meaningful engagement with Indigenous community members was a challenge in 2020. The team received criticism for not gaining adequate permissions and consents to pursue our work on Tsimshian Territory. The emerging Food Systems work provides a new opportunity to meaningfully co-create the new program and partnerships in a transparent and inclusive manner.
- **Communications and attribution.** The NCIL team have been criticized for their manner of presenting and attributing the work by overemphasizing the contributions of the NCIL and students in activating partner-led projects, events, and activities. This is particularly sensitive when sharing our work with Indigenous partners who have special considerations and protocols around how place-based work is communicated. This will continue to be an important consideration for Ecotrust Canada as it forges ahead with food security work in the coming years.
- **Skeena Office leadership transitions.** Since 2018, the NCIL manager, and now the Food Systems Initiative, has changed twice, a markedly high rate of leadership turnover in Prince Rupert. One can hope for more stability in a food-focused program but should also be wary of the inconsistencies across leaders and importance of knowledge and relational transfers through the changes.
- **Network building and dialogue facilitation.** One key learning noted throughout the NCIL's four-year history is the invaluable role that "network entrepreneurship" and community facilitation can bring in sparking collaboration, innovation, and communication. Although "social innovation" as a methodology struggled to resonate in Prince Rupert, the application of the approach certainly does. Few, if any, other initiatives exist explicitly to "connect the dots" between organizations and leaders, and the NCIL team frequently received positive feedback for the collaborative nature of the work. We are privileged to occupy a neutral space as facilitators and sustainable community developers with the ability to connect business, cultural, social, and educational organizations in ways that other institutions, such as local governments, are challenged to carry out.

About Ecotrust Canada

Ecotrust Canada works with rural, remote and Indigenous communities toward building an economy that provides for a healthy and resilient natural environment; sustainable and abundant energy, food, and housing; prosperous and meaningful livelihoods; and vibrant cultures and inclusive societies. We call this approach, **building an economy that provides for life**. Our on-the-ground work and systems approach is entrepreneurial, partnership-based, and relentlessly practical.