



RÉSEAU CANADIEN DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Annual Report

2021/22



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Land Acknowledgement

The Canadian Environmental Network acknowledges that as a national organization, we operate within the land now known as Canada, located on the territories of the many Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island.

We understand that the places where we work and those of our members are home to many past, present, and future First Nations, Inuit and Metis people, and acknowledge our journey to learn from, support, and enact to action our ongoing commitment to truth and reconciliation.



Message from the board.

We do better when we work together.

With decades of experience working with the federal government, RCEN represents environmental NPOs across Canada, joining efforts to solve the country's most pressing environmental challenges.

This year, our team has focused on building connections and partnership with federal government departments and growing our capacity to magnify the work and contributions from NGOs.

Over the past year, our national policy priorities have continued to expand. RCEN has a long history providing several avenues for collaboration on policy that reflects the needs of Canadians and their communities through these changes.

A collective respect for the planet and knowledge of local issues makes us proud to represent a diverse network of civil society efforts, uniquely equipped to bring the green economy to life.

The board of directors is ever grateful and humbled by your support.

A dedicated team.

Staff Members



Ana Giovanetti

*Program
Director*



Gurneet Dhaliwal

*Outreach &
Communications Manager*



Ryan MacDonnell

*Engagement
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Larissa Diamantopoulos

*SDG and Engagement
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Board of Directors



Ian Peace

*Chair, Salt Spring
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Alex Keenan

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*Secretary,
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Anna Johnston

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Devanshi Kukadia

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Mission, vision & values.

Mission.

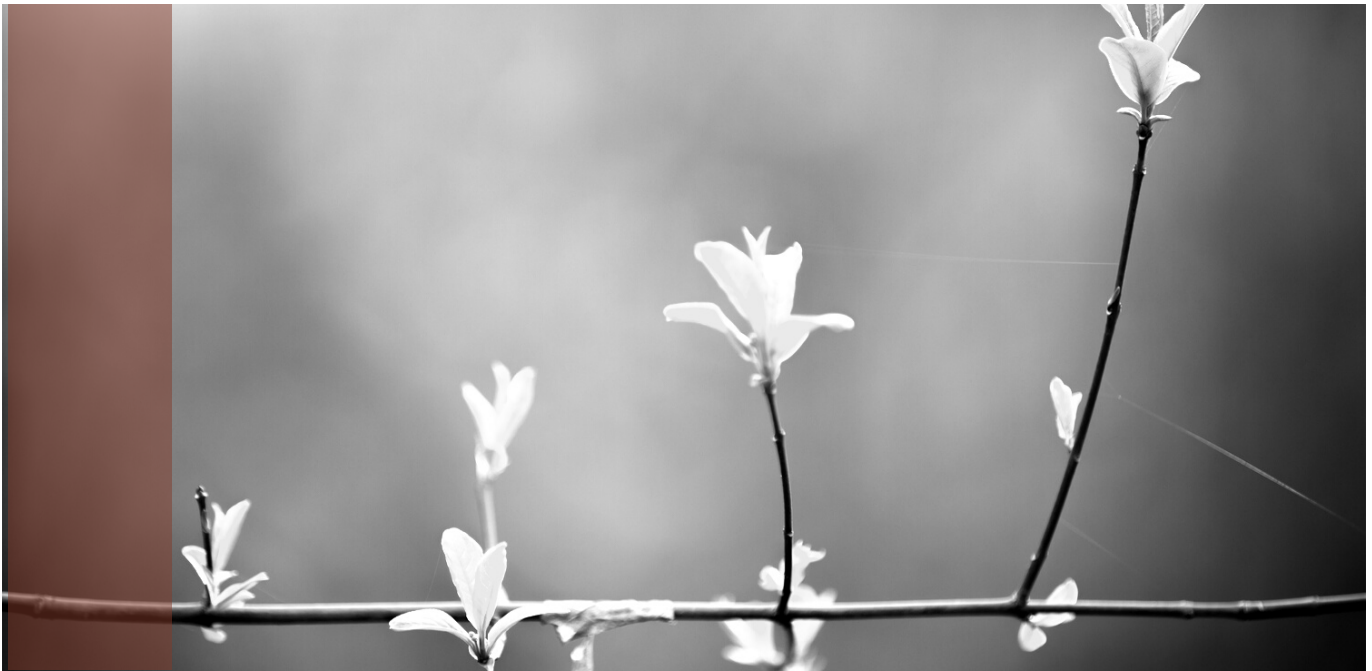
To enable and enhance our members' work of protecting, conserving, restoring and promoting a clean, healthy, sustainable environment.

Vision.

By working together at consultations and workshops or through various caucuses or committees—local, regional and national groups share best practices and build strong relationships.

Values.

Evidence-based, sustainable and equitable policy formulated through robust and meaningful consultation with Indigenous peoples, community-based organizations and subject matter experts.



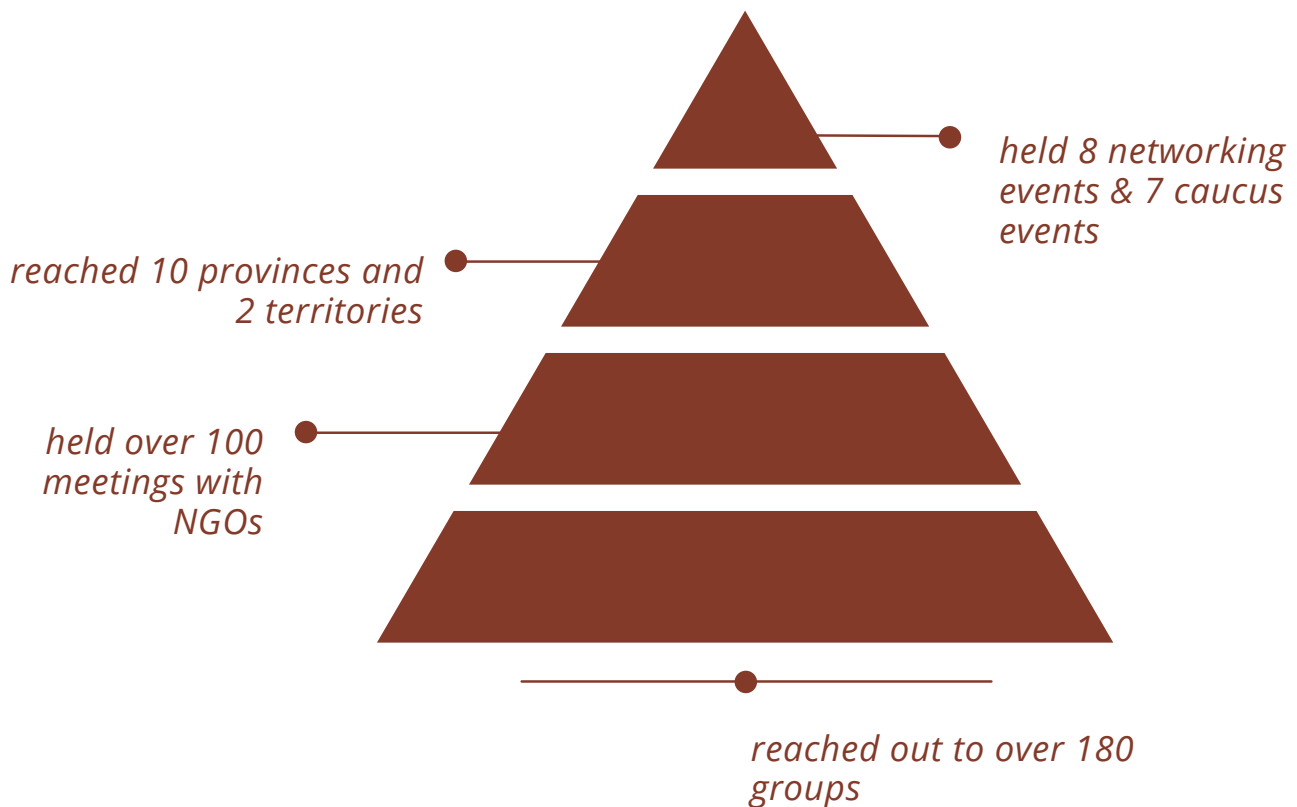
A diverse network.

RCEN membership has continued to grow, with 45 organizations and individuals from each province and one territory. Member organizations and individuals carry expertise in protected areas, agriculture, environmental justice, environmental policy, sustainable development, health, climate change and biodiversity.

This year, the team created and delivered on an outreach strategy aimed at increasing our network, welcoming Gurneet Dhaliwal, first as Outreach Coordinator and then as our Outreach and Communications Manager.

Aimed at increasing engagement within our network, RCEN publishes both a public and a member newsletter, introduced a Slack channel for engaging in caucuses, and a Members Only Section for sharing events and informing members of funding opportunities.

Communications and Outreach update.



A growing online presence.

We have steadily grown in the past year, expanding our following through our online platforms sharing news, events and updates. Our Instagram has grown 57.8% in followers, LinkedIn has grown 27.9% in followers, Facebook by 69.6% in likes and Twitter by 12% in followers.



Caucuses.

Caucuses bring together RCEN Members to build partnerships between those seeking action and collective progress on biodiversity, environmental planning and assessment, and sustainable development. Caucuses provide a voice for organizations and their members to share information, provide support and offer advice to other national organizations, government at multiple levels, the private sector, international organizations (including the United Nations and its specialized agencies), and multilateral environmental agreement secretariats.

In doing so, caucuses explicitly recognize the importance of respecting and considering diverse belief systems, politics and world-views. The caucuses are non-partisan advocates that strive to operate on a consensus basis in developing recommendations for how to safeguard and restore ecological systems, protect public health and promote deliberative dialogue.



Biodiversity Caucus.

The Biodiversity Caucus aims to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by improving society's understanding of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, and to promote ways of meeting the challenges. This year, the Caucus was reignited with new energy through a new Steering Committee.

In February, the Caucus held an event called "Biodiversity Matters: Storytelling to Build a Biodiversity Act" to spark collaboration between those seeking to take action on biodiversity and halt the large-scale destruction of Canada's ecosystems. The event featured speakers from Plenty Canada, Legal Rights for the Salish Sea, the Environmental Youth Alliance and the Yukon Conservation Society.

Fred Perron-Welch, Caucus International Liaison, attended the CBD meetings in Geneva, resumed sessions of SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3 on behalf of RCEN and the Biodiversity Caucus and sparked important conversations on the urgent need for NGO consultation in policy.

Sustainable Development Goals Caucus

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the world's guidebook to address the most pressing environmental, social, economic, and security challenges by 2030.

RCEN held elections to create an inaugural SDG Caucus, deepen connections within existing SDG networks, and established a working framework for the Caucus's activities. The SDG caucus will work towards the following goals: to improve and disseminate knowledge, lead activism on the ADGs, operate at multiple levels, and encourage dialogue by building a safe, collaborative space to explore best practices for achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Together, the Caucus can start a larger conversation that centres the global goals within our communities, meets local needs and develops valuable ideas for groups to engage with stakeholders on the ADGs in mutually beneficial and rewarding ways.

The Caucus has held seven meetings, including five public events featuring guest speakers from the Northern Council for Global Cooperation, Pillar Nonprofit, the Sustainable Development Challenge, Imagine17, BC Council for International Cooperation, and UBC Vancouver.

The Caucus is submitting a proposal on the Government of Canada's draft 2022 to 2026 Sustainable Development Strategy , as well as preparing a report on SDGs and the law in Canada.





Environmental Planning & Assessment Caucus

The Environmental Planning and Assessment (EPA) Caucus members share a common vision of achieving truly effective environmental impact assessment (EIA) in Canada, including the integration of EIA into development planning and decision making at provincial and federal levels of government.

Through a collaboration agreement with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, the Caucus members inform the environmental community about developments and issues connected with federal and provincial EIA laws, policies and implementation, and allows member groups to fit local initiatives into larger policy contexts.

In March 2022, the Caucus held its first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The three-day meeting was held in Ottawa, with Caucus members exchanging lessons learned and discussing national and regional EIA priorities. The meeting also involved discussions on Caucus strategy and priorities, including key areas of focus such as Regional and Strategic Assessment within the federal impact assessment process. On the third day, Caucus members met with senior officials from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Act to discuss key issues and priority recommendations, as well as how to better ensure that EPA Caucus recommendations help inform and shape federal impact assessment policy, regulations and implementation.

RCEN tackles air quality.

In collaboration with Health Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada, RCEN is rallying the strength of its network for improved air quality.

Air pollution has strong implications on social, economic and environmental sectors. Significant economic impacts can be caused by those who may see pollution as a natural consequence of development. This means that a call for cleaner air is a call for sustainable development and environmentally-responsible public policy.

Leading up to Clean Air Day on June 8th, RCEN has been reaching out to stakeholders and highlighting the successes, efforts and challenges within our network for improved air quality.



Intersections Between Air, Health, and Climate Change



RCEN held an event on the intersectionality between air quality, health, and climate change. The goal of the event was to highlight the work of environmental NGOs presenting unique solutions to improve air quality and mitigate the effects of climate change in their region.

The guest speakers for this event included:

- Melanie Langille from New Brunswick Lung Association
 - Saadia Hara from New Brunswick Environmental Network
 - Emma De Roy from Sierra Club Ontario
 - Francis Lavoie from Health Canada
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Reach out and become a member.

We encourage applications from nonprofit organizations and individuals, interested in collaborating, networking and sharing resources with others at a national level.



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