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# Mission

Dogwood Initiative helps British Columbians exercise local control to create healthy and prosperous communities.

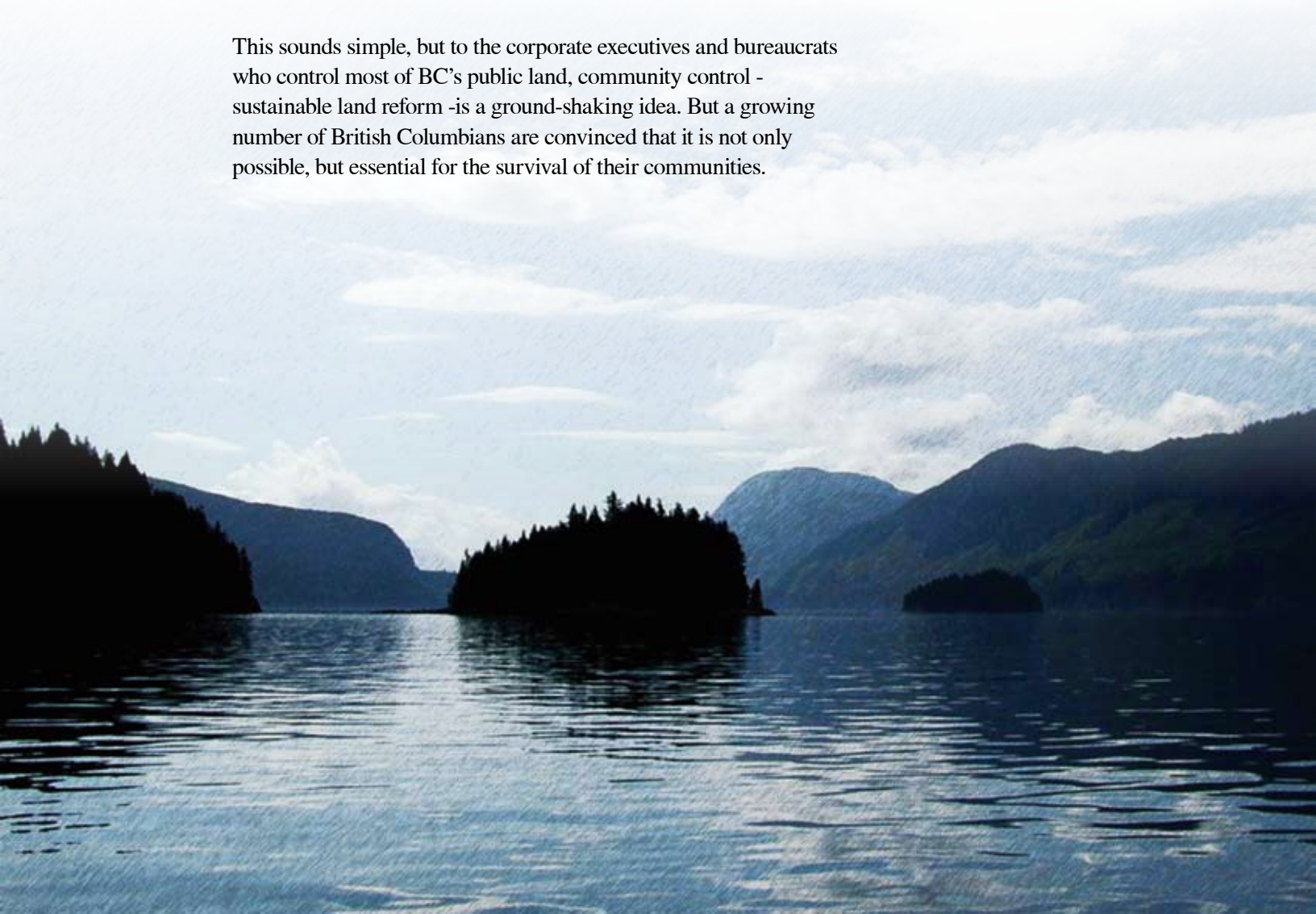
Our goals are to:

1. Increase democratic, local control of land and resources throughout BC.
2. Inspire an informed and engaged citizenry at the local level.
3. Increase the land under sustainable community and First Nation management.
4. Expand collaboration among diverse constituencies.
5. Ensure strong and lasting support for public oversight of communal resources.

# What we do

We help communities and First Nations gain more control of the land and resources around them so they can be managed in a way that does not rob future generations for short-term corporate gain.

This sounds simple, but to the corporate executives and bureaucrats who control most of BC's public land, community control - sustainable land reform - is a ground-shaking idea. But a growing number of British Columbians are convinced that it is not only possible, but essential for the survival of their communities.



# Message from Executive Director

2008-2009 was a year of contrasts;  
Hope and fear, crisis and opportunity.

South of the border a former community organizer named Barack Obama reinvigorated politics and energized a new generation of activists to dream big and work hard for a future that only months before seemed improbable. Hope overcame cynicism, “Yes We Can” became a collective mantra for confronting ostensibly insurmountable hurdles, and change became inevitable. Voters turned out en masse and more and more people took an interest in politics for the first time.

On this side of the border, politics was less inspired. Partisan finger pointing consumed our federal and provincial politics, alienating millions. Cynicism grew as politicians answered “No We Can’t” to the important issues of the day. Not surprisingly, voter turnout rates plunged to record low levels.

The economic downturn drove global warming from the headlines, as scientists’ predictions became even more alarming. In response, Stephen Harper’s stalled action and Premier Campbell’s commitment to climate leadership was overshadowed by his desperate promotion of numerous fossil fuel projects to pump revenue into the failing economy.

While the news may have been gloomy, I remain positive. We must never forget that the historic changes of our lifetimes occurred suddenly, taking the so-called experts by surprise. No one predicted that Nelson Mandela would be released from jail, or that the Berlin Wall would fall when they did.

We need to always remember that big changes often happen fast, with little warning. And we must never forget that it is people power, not government actions, that change the world. Mandela wasn’t released because of a government inquiry. And the Berlin Wall didn’t fall because of a government proclamation. No, it was people standing together, against great odds, which caused these and other historic transformations.

I believe, with hard work, and a new bold approach, we can turn the economic crisis and the growing climate catastrophe into a major opportunity. But the story of how this transformation will occur has yet

to be written. And everyone reading this – and many others – will need to become co-authors.

The good news is that it is starting to happen. Despite inaction by politicians, British Columbians all over the province are embracing hope and working hard to make themselves and our province a major protagonist in a new exciting story.

Dogwood Initiative will continue to seek out innovative ways to make government and corporations pay attention. Whether it is by turning loonies into viral messengers, by helping people fight to protect their forests from urban sprawl, by influencing investors to move their money from bad projects to good, or by stopping big new climate unfriendly projects like coal mines, coalbed methane or tar sands tanker and pipeline projects, Dogwood Initiative will be taking bold action.

But ultimately everyone at Dogwood knows our success depends on our ability to make people like you more effective advocates. Un-organized people are powerless, but together we can change the world.

Cynicism may appear to be overwhelming hope, and crisis foreclosing opportunity, but I know that Dogwood Initiative and you working together with a growing network of committed people can, with hard work, make BC a just, equitable and sustainable model for the rest of the world.



**Will Horter, Executive Director**



# Program review

## No Tankers

Learn more about this campaign at [www.notankers.ca](http://www.notankers.ca)

### Goals:

1. Federal government legislates a ban on oil tanker traffic in BC's Northern Coastal Waters.
2. Enbridge Inc. suspends the Northern Gateway pipeline and oil tanker project

### Achievements:

The No Tanker Campaign has generated lots of momentum over the last year. Our focus was to lay the groundwork for the implementation of a legislated tanker ban that will prohibit all present and future tar sands-related tanker and pipeline projects from being built on BC's north coast. This is a key battle in the growing efforts to reign in the tar sands, the most destructive project on earth, and wean the world away from the sources of heat-trapping pollution that cause climate change.

The No Tankers campaign has resonated with British Columbians, and increasingly Canadians from coast to coast. As a result

of Dogwood and our partners' work none of the proposed projects have yet sought government approval. Here are some highlights from this past year;

- An additional 15,000 signatures were collected on the petition to ban oil tankers on BC's coast. To date over 35,000 signatures have been collected.
- The No Tankers campaign has been featured in media from coast to coast with newspaper, TV, and radio coverage in over 50 different national and provincial outlets.
- Our public outreach work led all three major federal opposition parties to commit to legislating an oil tanker ban.





- Our video, “Fade to Black” with renowned artist Robert Bateman provided a moving illustration of the effects of an oil tanker spill. The online video has been viewed approximately 40,000 times
- Over 300,000 NoTanker Loonie decals have been put into circulation across Canada through our network of individual and business supporters. Our goal is to distribute 1 million awareness raising decals before the end of 2009-2010. The NoTanker Loonie decals are a small static cling film. When applied to a Canadian one dollar coin the decal turns the water and the loon black simulating an oil spill and directs people to visit our petition website at [www.NoTankers.ca](http://www.NoTankers.ca).
- Dogwood Initiative partnered with shareholders to bring a proposal to Enbridge’s annual general meeting (AGM) calling on the company to disclose the frequency and volume of spills that could occur if the tanker project was to be approved. The proposal received close to \$800 million in support sending shock waves through Enbridge’s boardroom.
- Distributed over 1700 No Tanker lawn signs in Greater Victoria and Vancouver.
- We also began targeting Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)- in partnership with Rainforest Action Network (RAN) – because of their role as a major financier of the Canadian oil and gas industry including the Alberta Tar Sands. We jointly organized a shareholder information picket outside RBC’s AGM in Vancouver generating lots of buzz.
- We continue to help First Nation partners communicate their growing opposition to the project to key financial analysts, investors and reporters, increasing the uncertainty surrounding the project. The Nadleh Whuten, Wet’suwet’en, Haida, Carrier Sekani, and Gitga’at First Nations have all spoken out publicly against Enbridge’s plan for pipelines and oil tankers within their territories and are in support of a legislated tanker ban.
- Partnered with the Council of Canadians and organized a BC wide speaking tour of BC, called “Tar Sands - The Dark Side of the Boom”. Over 1500 people attended the 6 tour stops with many venues standing room only.
- Hosted the first public rally ever in the retirement community of Sidney, mobilizing almost 300 local residents to take a stand against oil tanker traffic.

# Forests

Learn more about this campaign at [www.savejordanriver.com](http://www.savejordanriver.com)

## Goal:

Protect Jordan River and surrounding lands by working with First Nations, community associations, forest workers, and other groups to find alternatives to Western Forest Products sprawling subdivisions.

## Achievements:

Dogwood Initiative and our partner groups on the Jordan River Steering Committee succeeded in maintaining strong momentum and increased public support for the campaign targeting Western Forest Products tree farm license deletions and CRD planning issues throughout 2008-2009. Here are some highlights from this past year;

- At the request of Dogwood and our campaign partners, BC's Auditor General investigated the tree farm deletions affecting Jordan River and surrounding area. The Auditor General's scathing 73 page report found the government's decision was not adequately informed, consultation was not effective and communication was not transparent. It also highlights suspicions of insider trading, Liberal donations, and conflicts of interest, which Dogwood Initiative had first identified.
- Well over 150 media articles have been written on the issue, and the work and opinions of Dogwood Initiative have featured prominently. Coverage included front page articles in the Victoria Times Colonist, interviews on local talk radio stations including CBC, CFAX, television coverage on A-Channel and ChekTV
- Our campaign staff and volunteers have collected almost 4500 signatures on the petition to protect the Jordan River forest lands
- Played a key role in helping bring together First Nations, labour and environmental organizations to form the Jordan River Steering Committee
- We held over two dozen public events to build pressure on provincial and regional decision makers in the Capital Regional District. These included rallies, public consultations, and information sessions
- Our campaign staff continue to keep the pressure on Western Forest Products executives as well as provincial and local decision including the Minister of Forest and Range Pat Bell, Former Minister of Community Services Ida Chong, Deputy Minister Community Services Dale Wall, and Former Vice President of Western Forest Products Duncan Kerr.





# Coalbed Methane

Learn more about this campaign at

[www.dogwoodinitiative.org/campaigns/sacred-headwaters](http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/campaigns/sacred-headwaters)

## Goal:

Stop proposed coalbed methane (CBM) projects from receiving government approval and becoming operational in British Columbia.

## Achievements:

The efforts of our campaign partners in northern BC and Dogwood Initiative continue to be successful. No commercial CBM projects in BC have received approval or are currently in operational in the province as of March 31st 2009.

The major victory during this period was the 2 to 4 year moratorium on CBM drilling and exploration granted by the provincial government for the Sacred Headwaters region of northern BC. As a result of this moratorium Royal Dutch Shell has been forced to halt all exploratory drilling in the area. Mounting pressure from local grassroots groups in the north, as well as Dogwood's work were key factors in this major victory. Over the next two years we have an opportunity to achieve the cancellation of Shell's proposed CBM drilling project.



In 2008-2009 Dogwood coordinated numerous Shell targeted events all over the world. Including;

- An intervention at Shell's Annual General Meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, which included an information picket as well as questions about the Sacred Headwaters project to the Board of Directors;
- Coordinating a joint letter from 14 leading environmental organizations to Shell demanding they "Get the (S)Hell Out of the Sacred Headwaters."
- We placed a \$20,000 ad in the London Financial Times with 14 leading environmental organizations opposing Shell's project in the Sacred Headwaters, to get the attention of Royal Dutch Shell's executives in Europe in the lead up the AGM.
- An employee-targeted outreach event at Shell's corporate headquarters in Calgary;
- An information picket at Shell-sponsored Canadian Environment Awards in Toronto, where Dogwood also coordinated award recipients to denounce Shell from the podium and direct their cash awards to the campaign to stop CBM development in the Sacred Headwaters ;
- Rallies in Victoria and Vancouver.
- Our video British Columbia: Nigeria North? which compared Shell's plans for the Sacred Headwaters with their actions in Nigeria, elevated the Get the (S)Hell Out campaign to a new level. The video became the #2 political video in Canada on Youtube for the year with over 100,000 views. See the video at [www.dogwoodinitiative.org/in-depth/british-columbia-nigeria-north](http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/in-depth/british-columbia-nigeria-north)

# Liquefied Natural Gas

Learn more about this campaign at [www.dogwoodinitiative.org/publications/reports](http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/publications/reports)

## Goal:

Build grassroots capacity and opposition to the planned liquid natural gas (LNG) tanker traffic and power plant development on Texada Island.

## Achievements:

Dogwood recently released its Citizens' Guide to Liquefied Natural Gas. This Guide informs affected First Nations and communities, particularly those facing the proposed LNG facilities on Texada Island in the Georgia Strait, about the threats of the LNG project, its potential impacts and how First Nations and communities may intervene in the approval process to ensure that their interests are protected. The Guide is available for download at [www.dogwoodinitiative.org/publications](http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/publications).

In addition to this in depth research report and Citizens' Guide, Dogwood worked with the citizens group, Texada Action Now, to convince the Capital Regional District to pass a resolution calling for the Federal Government to ban Liquid Natural Gas tankers from the Inside Passage. The resolution is aimed at protecting our waters around the CRD and scuppering Alberta-based West Pac's plan to build a Liquid Natural Gas terminal and power plant on Texada Island. This resolution was later adopted by the BC Union of Municipalities, which represents all municipal governments in BC.

# Highway 37 Power Line

Learn more about this campaign at [www.dogwoodinitiative.org/publications/reports](http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/publications/reports)

## Goal:

To inform and advise First Nations and other communities affected by the proposed Northwest Transmission Line (NTL) of the potential impacts of the proposed transmission line, the regulatory process for approval and their best opportunities to intervene in the approval process to ensure their communities' interests are protected.

## Achievements:

Our spring 2008 investigation documented that the mining and fossil fuel companies that are part of the coalition promoting the NTL (and the individuals behind the companies) have made over \$1.5 million in political donations to the BC Liberals. This investigation produced significant media attention.

Dogwood Initiative also produced and published a "Citizens' Guide to Effective Engagement on the Proposed Northwest Transmission Line." This Citizens' Guide was written to answer preliminary questions about the complex approval process for the 287-kilovolt (kV) power line that is proposed to be built next to Highway 37 in north-western BC. The Guide has been distributed to our First Nation and community partners within the affected area and is also available for download on our website: <http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/publications/reports/reports>

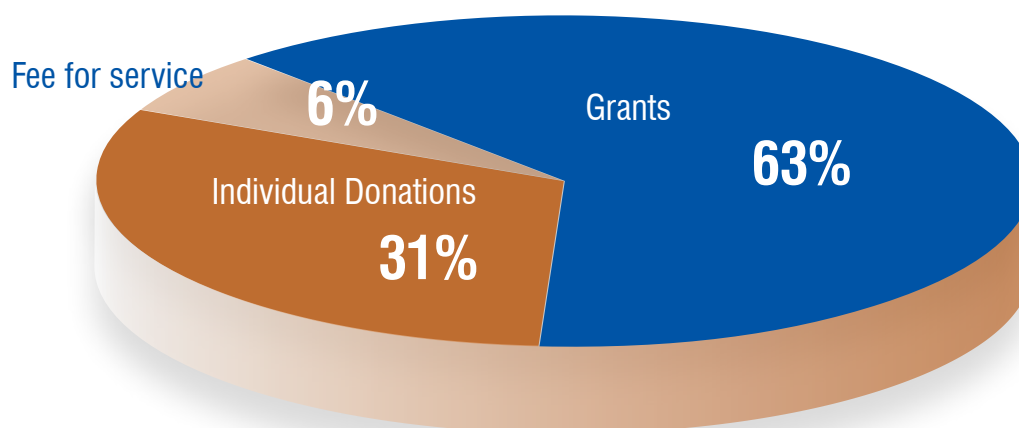


# Financial Overview

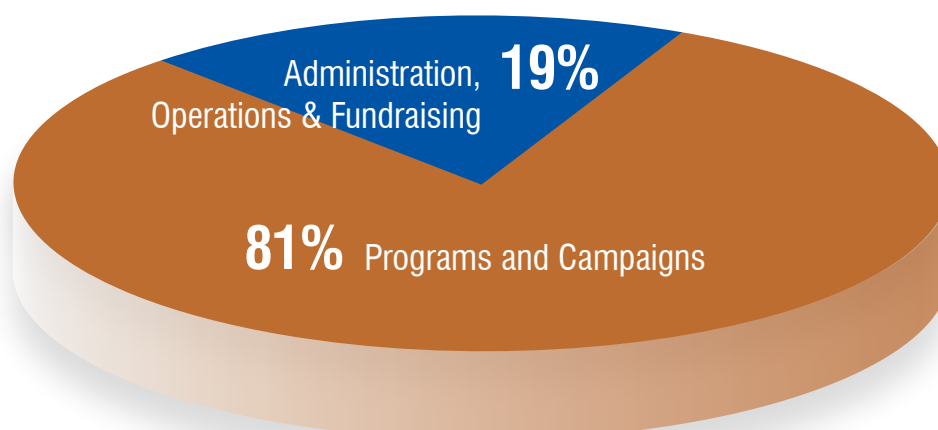
Income		
Grants	\$247,217.00	63%
Individual Donations	\$123,011.00	31%
Fee for service	\$22,669.00	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$392,897.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

Expenses		
Programs and Campaigns	\$328,301.00	81%
Administration, Operations & Fundraising	\$76,747.00	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$405,048.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Income



## Expenses



# Our supporters

This list includes donations received directly by Dogwood Initiative as well as through our charitable partners.

## Foundations

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 Coast Mountain Resorts

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Angus McAllister  
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 Denman Island Chocolate  
 Pivot Legal

Thank you all for your very generous support! Dogwood Initiative would not exist without you.



**75% of BC residents oppose  
oil tanker traffic.**

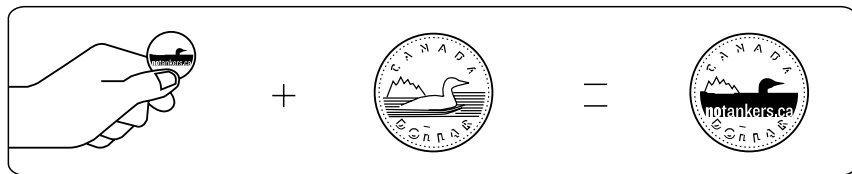
**So do 100% of otters.**

Petition at [notankers.ca](http://notankers.ca)

**STOP  
THE  
TAR  
SANDS**



Send a message with every loonie you spend.



We've printed 200,000 removable cling decals that simulate an oil spill when applied to the loon on the \$1 coin. With your help we can circulate these, and more, getting lots of people talking about the threat of oil tankers along BC's coast. To order decals or make a donation, visit [notankers.ca](http://notankers.ca)



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