



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 | 2023



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2022-2023 has been **an important transition year for the Legacy Fund**, and thanks to an important grant from a foundation, arriving at the end of this year, we have now hired executive support to help the board realize the Legacy Fund mission.

The mission of the Legacy Fund is to fund citizens groups who use legal means to protect the environment and to raise funds to achieve this mission. We also educate citizens on how.

The Legacy Fund contributed to five major lawsuits in 2022-2023, some of which may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, in partnership with other organisations in support of the environment.

The Mascouche case is an important one that impacts the rights of municipalities in Quebec to protect green spaces. Can a municipality rezone private land to protect a green space or is this a form of disguised expropriation? If municipalities are required to pay 'market price' to protect nature, the cost of achieving PMAD (Plan métropolitain d'aménagement et de développement) conservation targets in the Montreal region are in the billions. The supreme court decision will have a major impact on land use planning in Quebec.

Another case we are co-funding is the opposition to the Baie du nord project, joining a growing coalition in this fight against oil. While our financial contribution is modest, the stakes are very high.

But our main efforts at the Legacy Fund are much more local.

How can we help citizens fight to protect their little corner of paradise against the threat of the bulldozers? Every case we support brings activated citizens face to face with those that want to destroy nature. This is where we fund actions.

This is our mission. This is our hope.

Together, we are stronger.

CAMPBELL STUART
President





OUR IMPACT



20

citizen projects funded to date,
including **6 new projects**



Contributions to

5

major **lawsuits**



700

volunteer hours devoted to
project analysis and management



\$20,395.43

(net) raised at our
First Annual Fundraiser



04

year **funding commitment**
from a foundation



\$90,000

committed from
foundations



\$22,454.74

raised through
direct donations



02

legacy commitments,
in wills, in 2022-23



01

complete revamp
of our **website!**



138

followers on
Facebook



175

followers on
Instagram



03

notes to
supporters posted





FUNDED PROJECTS

The beating heart of the Legacy Fund's mission is financing citizen efforts to save their little corner of paradise, in addition to funding legal action on a provincial and national scale. Thanks to an energetic intake committee that responds promptly to any request for help from citizens' groups, we continue to closely follow over a dozen active groups working to protect nature in Quebec, and to finance studies and legal steps appropriate to their situation, on a case by case basis.

The case intake committee is mandated to act quickly. Most of the projects we have supported carry with them a commitment to raise funds locally, on a matching basis. This is an important component of our mission, and assures that local groups engage their local stakeholders—financially—in the effort to save a forest, protect a waterway, or whatever environmental safeguarding work they are undertaking.

Here are some of the projects we funded this year:

In July 2022, we committed funds to the landmark case at Mascouche, headed up by the CQDE (Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement/Quebec Environmental Law Center).

In September 2022, in the context of our First Annual Fundraiser, we received a major donation for the effort to protect land at Lac Tamaracouta. Les Partenaires du Lac Tamaracouta et de ses environs continue to mobilize around this important effort.

Sandy Beach, an important green space in downtown Hudson, received a renewed commitment from the Legacy Fund in February 2023. This space is closer than ever to being protected, thanks to changes to Quebec's environmental law, and an excellent biodiversity study funded by the Legacy Fund and its partners.

In May 2023, we committed new funds to the Comité pour la protection du boisé de chemin Saint-Bernard – Chateaugay to protect this important forest.

Our funding has also found a new focus in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with significant support given to Collectif Antigone for the legal defence of activists involved in the occupation of the Valero terminal, in protest of Enbridge's Line 9B pipeline expansion project.

A complete updated list of our funded projects is found in Annex one of this Annual Report.





WEBINARS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Legacy Fund continues to organize and promote understanding about various legal defence strategies to protect our ecosystems, and this will be a cornerstone to our public education mission in the next year.

USING THE MASTER PLAN TO PROTECT NATURE

On February 22nd 2023, the Legacy Fund hosted Me Pierre Renaud to speak at our first webinar on law and the environment. There were over 60 attendees, including many Mayors and city councillors, as well as representatives of environmental organizations and other citizens' groups.

CITIZENS DEFENDING NATURE: WHERE TO START?

On May 31st 2023, we hosted lawyer and litigator Marc Bishai, from the Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE), to share "lessons learned" on how to win in the fight to protect nature. Citizens from all over the province, mobilizing to protect the environment, were in attendance. Click [here](#) to watch the webinar.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND NETWORKING

In the fall of 2022, we presented at McGill's School of Urban Planning to over 25 graduate students and faculty, and engaged these emerging professionals on the importance of protecting remaining green spaces for future generations.

In the spring of 2023, two board members attended an important networking event at University of Montreal's law school. There is a growing awareness of the primordial need to use the law to protect nature.

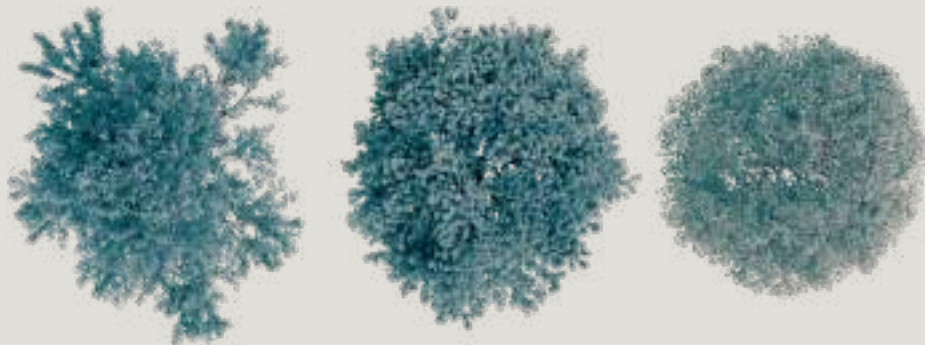




COMMUNICATIONS

2022-23 was a rocky year in communications at the Legacy Fund. We hired experts to help us manage our Google Ad Grants campaigns but realised mid-campaign that our website was not being picked up by Google's search engines.

Suspending our efforts, we scrapped our old website and built a brand new one using a new platform. All this consumed six months of volunteer time and reduced our ability to be able to communicate regularly with our supporters. In March 2023, we finally relaunched the website legacyfundenvironmental.org and hope to regain our momentum in the coming months.



“ ”

How can we help citizens fight to protect their little corner of paradise against the threat of the bulldozers? Every case we support brings activated citizens face to face with those that want to destroy nature. This is where we fund actions. This is our mission. This is our hope.

CAMPBELL STUART
President



GOVERNANCE

The board of the Legacy Fund welcomed two new members to the board in 2023:

Dida Berku, a retired lawyer, has represented many environmental groups over her 40 year career. A Côte Saint-Luc city councillor since 1990, she has vast experience in municipal law and politics and has served on many boards and municipal council commissions across the island, and as leader of the Majority for the Montreal mega-city from 2002-05. She is responsible in Côte Saint-Luc for the Master Plan and the protection of the Meadowbrook golf course. She has six beautiful grandkids who love butterflies.

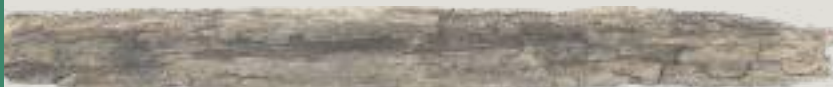
Sharon McCarry, an accomplished business professional, is a passionate community advocate for families living with autism. Founder of La Fondation Place Coco, Sharon is a member of a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Advisory Committee and a member of the Steering Committee for CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, among others. Sharon has also worked with numerous Fortune 500 companies in marketing strategy and brand management.

Our working committees meet regularly: Fundraising, Intake/Case Management and Communications. Each committee has 2-3 members and has delegated authority to act between board meetings.

During the 2022-2023 term, the board enjoyed energetic contributions from:

Campbell Stuart, former mayor of Montreal West, who also continues as President;
Jason Prince, urban planner and part time faculty member at Concordia University;
Marianne Bellavance, completing a Bachelor of Laws at Université de Montréal;
Suanne Stein Day, active community leader and former chair of the Lester B. Pearson School Board;
Patrick Gannon, an expert in environmental assessment and international biodiversity conservation agreements.

As well as amazing help from **many other volunteers**.





FUNDRAISING

The fundraising committee made great progress in 2022-23, and the results are important.

FOUNDATIONS

We applied to several foundations for grants, both for our mission and for special projects. Two foundations supported us in 2022-23, the Echo Foundation and the Eric T. Webster Foundation. The Echo Foundation has committed to funding us for the next four years, in anticipation that we can grow our direct giving to become financially autonomous by 2027. We hope to grow our direct donations substantially in 2023-24.

DIRECT DONATIONS

In 2022-23, our supporters and those who supported our funded groups contributed **\$22,454.74** by direct donations. Our hope is that this amount will increase by 25% in 2023-24.

OUR FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AT HURLEY'S PUB

The bottom line is, the Legacy Fund for the Environment raised over \$20,000 in net donations, at its first annual fundraiser, organized in collaboration with the Green Coalition. We should all be proud of this result, which shows how much our community is willing to mobilize for the protection of the environment.

Hosted by CJAD's Andrew Carter, it was an evening to remember for all who attended, with Montreal Alouettes stars practising their French at the microphone, inimitable witticisms from our host, and prizes being raffled throughout the evening. On auction were valuable paintings, wonderful ceramics and sculptures and even nature walks from some of Montreal's keenest naturalists.

We recorded 11 media reports on our event (see annex two below), well beyond our expectations, and an important indicator of the interest in the mission of the Legacy Fund for the Environment. These articles helped extend the reach of our message to a broader community, in both official languages.

Click [here to watch a great interview](#) with Campbell Stuart on Global News, on August 30th 2022.



A crack team of five volunteers made this event possible. We also want to warmly thank all the others who helped organize – you know who you are – and all who attended this important event. We are planning our second major fundraiser for the spring of 2024. We hope to break last year's record by 25% in net contributions.

LEGACY COMMITMENTS

In 2022-23, we participated in Will Power, a national effort to increase Canadians' commitments to charitable causes, by leaving a legacy in their will. We met with an RBC expert and two independent notaries to discuss mechanisms around these kinds of donations.

The Legacy Fund is proud to announce that we have secured two commitments this year, and hope to double that in the next year, for a total of 6 commitments.

There are many different ways to support the Legacy Fund. Please **do not hesitate to contact Campbell Stuart** if you would like to discuss a legacy commitment in your will.

There is still much work to be done in fundraising. Please reach out to us if you would like to help us raise funds to protect the environment.



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CAMPBELL STUART
President





AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO BE INSERTED!





ANNEX ONE

FUNDED PROJECTS

The Legacy Fund for the Environment contributed to **five major lawsuits** in the last year: opposition to the Baie du nord oil project, appeal of the Mascouche expropriation ruling, defence of Collectif Antigone Ligne 9B activists, opposition to Lac Mégantic Rail By-Pass project, and the defence of the Copper Redhorse at the Contrecoeur Port project.

Below are details of some of our funded projects.

SAUVONS L'ANSE-À-L'ORME:

We funded three injunctions, two biodiversity studies and a fiscal analysis in defence of the wetlands, forests and the Kestrel Fields of the l'Anse-à-l'Orme corridor on the west island of Montreal. Due to these efforts and the activities of our partner and others, Montreal has announced the creation of the Grand Parc de l'Ouest.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Sauvons-lAnse-%C3%A0-lOrme-1180411475317584/>



NATURE HUDSON

A biodiversity study we helped fund found twenty-nine endangered species on the Sandy Beach proposed development site in Hudson, where the developer reported only one endangered species. The results are now part of the Environment Ministry's files. In addition, a financial analysis of this proposed development showed the same result as in Rosemere. We also funded legal procedures in defence of the Willowbrook area in Hudson, which contains wetlands, forests and an important archeological site, the Ottawa Glass Works. The new municipal council has, in part because of these initiatives, placed a reserve on these two areas, thereby halting development.

Nature Hudson

Protecting Hudson's natural environment

<http://naturehudson.org/>



LES AMIS DES MILIEUX NATURELS DE LAVAL

We funded legal research for this citizens' group and, as result of our partner's efforts, the Municipal Council of Laval has put a two-year reserve on twelve hectares of ecologically valuable land including five hectares of wetlands south of Blvd. St-Elzéar West in Chomedey, Laval with the intention to create a park.

<https://www.facebook.com/AMNLLaval/>



ROSEMÈRE VERT

With our assistance this citizens' group presented to their citizens and the Town Council a financial analysis (conducted by former Westmount Mayor, Peter Trent) which shows that development on the Rosemère Golf Course (which they are working to keep green) would actually result in higher taxes for its residents.

<https://www.rosemerevert.ca/>



L'ASSOCIATION DES CITOYENS DE MONT-SAINT-HILAIRE

We helped fund a biodiversity study for this citizens' group in Mont St.-Hilaire to preserve an area at the foot of Mont-Saint-Hilaire.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/acmsh/>



LES PARTENAIRES DU LAC TAMARACOUTA ET DE SES ENVIRONS

This citizens' group has formed to protect the Scouts Canada lands in the Laurentians known as Tamaracouta as well as adjacent forests. We assisted with the formation of this group and are providing funding for legal research.

<https://www.facebook.com/conservation.tamaracouta/>



THE GREEN COALITION

We have funded a number of procedures, including an injunction, undertaken by the Green Coalition to preserve the Technoparc wetlands and forests in Ville Saint-Laurent in Montreal.

<https://www.facebook.com/Coalition-Verte-Green-Coalition-386038188270654/>



EAU SECOURS !

We are providing funding for an appeal being undertaken by the CQDE for this citizens' group, seeking to reverse a lower court decision denying access to records of the withdrawal of water from aquifers by commercial water bottlers.

<https://eausecours.org/>





PROTECTION MONT GALE

We are providing funding for legal and related research into a proposed purchase of a parcel of land in Bromont currently slated for development. In April 2023, they were successful in protecting over 14 ha of high ecological value forest. An [article here](#) describes the victory.

<https://www.facebook.com/protectionmontgale/>



SAUVONS LA FALAISE

We funded legal research into Certificates of Authorization issued by Quebec's environment ministry which encroach on the protected area of the Falaise St-Jacques.

<https://www.sauvonslafalaise.org/>



SAUVONS LA FORÊT FAIRVIEW

We are funding biodiversity studies and research into possible legal action by this citizens' group to prevent the destruction of a large forest in Pointe-Claire, Québec by a development project proposed by Cadillac Fairview, the development arm of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

<http://sauvonslaforetfairview.org/>



REGARD CITOYEN !

We are funding legal research by this citizens' group in Saint-Joseph-du-lac to prevent the destruction of a large forest and wetland, including enforcement of the Migratory Birds Convention Act and the production of a related biodiversity study.

<https://www.facebook.com/REgarde-citoyen-155224251277666/>



FONDATION SÉTHY

We provided funding to support the organization in their appeal of the judgement in the Court of Quebec case of Fédération de l'UPA de la Montérégie v. Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec et al, a judgement which could slow down, or even prevent future conservation projects.

<https://www.fondationsethy.org/>



COMITÉ POUR LA CONSERVATION DU BOISÉE DE CHEMIN SAINT-BERNARD

We are providing funding for biodiversity studies in three woodlands in Châteauguay. Previous work with this citizens' group led to the protection of the Terre 16 wooded area in the north of Châteauguay.

<https://www.facebook.com/GROUPS/CCBCSB>





COLLECTIF ANTIGONE

We provided funding to support the legal defense of activists involved in the occupation of the Valero terminal, in protest of Enbridge's Line 9B pipeline expansion project.



SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA FOUNDATION AND ECOJUSTICE

We helped fund the legal opposition, conducted by Ecojustice on behalf of the Sierra Club of Canada Foundation and other plaintiffs, to the Baie du Nord offshore oil project.



COLLATERAL VICTIMS COALITION OF LAC MEGANTIC

We are helping fund this group's injunction proceedings to halt the proposed rail bypass project which, unless rerouted, will destroy approximately 100 hectares of wetlands and compromise the integrity of a large confined aquifer.



TRAINSAPARENCE

We funded an appeal by this citizens' group of a lower court decision refusing an injunction to prevent the cutting of thousands of trees in the Technoparc area by the Réseau express métropolitain.



SAINT-ZOTIQUE - WETLANDS NEAR LAC ST-FRANÇOIS

We are committed to help save these wetlands through research and, if warranted, legal action.





ANNEX TWO

A SELECTION OF MEDIA COVERAGE IN 2022-23

- A lovely detailed article in the Westmount Magazine:
<https://www.westmountmag.ca/you-dont-know-what-you-got-till-its-gone/>
- A great TV interview with Campbell Stuart, co-founder of the Legacy Fund, on Global News:
<https://globalnews.ca/video/9094115/legacy-fund-for-the-environment>
- A second excellent detailed article in the Westmount Mag:
<https://www.westmountmag.ca/dine-dance-bid-and-save-the-environment/>
- Orcasound, with a large readership, gave our fundraiser a lovely visibility at a crucial moment:
<https://www.orcasound.com/2022/08/29/join-montreal-personalities-to-protect-green-spaces-legacy-fund-for-the-environment-fundraiser-september-15-hurleys-pub/>
- We got a nice image and great coverage in RestoMontreal, a blog with a huge readership, in French and English:
<https://www.restomontreal.ca/e/l/fundraiser-legacy-fund-for-the-environment/6091/en/>
<https://www.restomontreal.ca/e/l/collecte-de-fonds-fonds-dheritage-pour-lenvironnement/6091/fr/>
- A nice article in MonoNews about the Legacy Fund and the personalities who were present:
<https://mononews.com/rejoignez-des-personnalites-montrealaises-pour-protoger-les-espaces-verts-levee-de-fonds-du-fonds-dheritage-pour-lenvironnement-15-sept-hurleys-pub/>
- A great spread in the Suburban, just before the major fundraiser:
https://www.thesuburban.com/life/community/legacy-fund-for-the-environment-annual-fundraiser-takes-place-sept-15-at-hurley-s-irish/article_6c438df1-bcc7-51e2-ac3f-42f18a482d39.html
- CJAD personality and morning show host **Andrew Carter**, host of the Legacy Fund's annual fundraiser at Hurleys held on September 15 2022, spoke about the fundraising event on his radio show, the morning after. Great visibility!

Design by Denise Cunha



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