

2023 | 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



LEGACY FUND FOR  
THE ENVIRONMENT



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legacy Fund mission is to support citizens in their efforts to protect biodiversity both in their backyard and beyond.

A volunteer driven organisation with a committed and experienced board, we depend on direct donations from hundreds of individual donors who contribute generously to support our work.

For the past few years we have also had financial support from generous foundations, which has enabled us to provide “dollar for dollar” matching grants for some of the projects we have supported.

Foundation support will not continue forever and going forward, the Legacy Fund will be making some difficult decisions.

The Legacy Fund got its charitable number in 2018 and has supported more than 25 citizen efforts since then, a remarkable achievement for this fledgling organisation.

It is with a sense of great accomplishment that we finish this year in a solid financial position, having retired our debt completely in 2021 and now in a strong position to move forward in the next year.

**JASON PRINCE**  
President





## OUR IMPACT



27

citizen initiatives supported, including **7 new ones**.



4

**new** HR policies adopted.



7

heads of grey hair (one with black hair), with **259 years of accumulated experience** on the board of directors, including **111 years of legal experience** (with 38 years city council experience).



1

retreat, at Hudson, **to plan the future** of the Legacy Fund.



340

**donations** in the past year



95

subscribers to our **newsletter**.



38

**Instagram** posts made



**Best performing post** on LinkedIn: Sandy Beach!





## FUNDED PROJECTS/CASE INTAKE

The Legacy Fund for the Environment exists to support citizens in their efforts to protect land threatened by development and other forms of environmental depredation across Canada. Every project we support must see a path in law; our support often involves producing appropriate scientific studies in support of potential legal proceedings. Here are the groups and actions we supported in 2023-24.

The Legacy Fund for the Environment (LFE) funded the citizens' group Boisés et écologie – Châteauguay to have Terra Humana Solutions do a biodiversity study on the site of a proposed residential development on wetlands in Châteauguay. The study was completed by June 2024. It identified over 350 species, including 44 that were threatened and made five recommendations that focused on delineating the extent of wetlands, on understanding their role in flood protection and on liaising with the nearby community of Kahnawake.

In August 2023, the Legacy Fund provided a matching grant – dollar for dollar – for the Collateral Victims' Coalition in Lac Mégantic. The group's legal opposition was to the proposed site for a railway bypass in Lac Mégantic, which will unnecessarily destroy precious forests, wetlands and aquifers. The railway bypass was proposed so that freight trains would skirt the Town of Lac Mégantic following the runaway train disaster of a few years earlier. The legal opposition appeared to fail when the proposed route for the railway bypass was approved, despite strong and unrefuted studies that show serious unresolved problems with the proposed route. In spite of this, and perhaps because, opposition to the route remains strong and is growing.

Also in August 2023, the Legacy Fund gave the Société pour la nature et les parcs (SNAP Québec) a grant of \$5000 for a judicial review led by the Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE) of a decision to build a new terminal by the Port of Montreal Authority in Contrecoeur. The judicial review focuses on the need to protect the essential habitat for the endangered copper redhorse fish.

In April 2024, the Legacy Fund supported a citizens' group in Trois-Rivières in its legal opposition to the proposed industrial development known as Carrefour 40-55 on wetlands. The support allows people to donate to the Legacy Fund in support of Terre Precieuse's legal opposition and receive a charitable tax receipt. Terre Precieuse has secured impressive funding under this arrangement.

In May 2024, the Legacy Fund provided similar support to the Coalition Mobilisations Citoyennes Environnementales de Laval (CMCEL) for their legal opposition to a proposed cinematography studio to be known as Trudel Studios. The proposed site is on empty land in north-eastern Laval which had been used for agriculture from 2001 to 2022. The legal opposition is for a judicial review of Laval's decision to change the zoning of the site without having respected statutory procedural requirements. Once again, the group has garnered significant support under this arrangement. In addition, in June 2024, the Legacy Fund acted as fiduciary for a \$12000 grant from La Fondation du Grand Montréal and a \$3,000 grant from Équiterre for the same legal opposition by CMCEL, in collaboration with Cultivons la justice : Protégeons nos terres, l'environnement et nos droits, another citizens' group.

In June 2024, the Legacy Fund established a similar charitable tax receipt mechanism for donors to the legal opposition by the Save Summit Wood citizens' group to a City of Westmount bylaw that attempts to designate Summit Woods on Mont Royal as an off-leash dog park. The off-leash dog park would compromise the continued ability of Summit Woods to act as a bird sanctuary, which was the purpose for which Summit Woods was donated to Westmount in 1940.

Finally in June 2024, the Legacy Fund established another charitable tax receipt mechanism for donors to the legal opposition of the citizens' group Comité Action Citoyenne – Projet Northvolt to the proposed three-phase Northvolt battery facility at the Towns of McMasterville and Sainte-Basile-le-Grand. The funding is for a legal opinion as to the validity of a “plan particulier d'urbanisme”, adopted by the M.R.C., with the support of the Town of McMasterville, which purports to make zoning changes that authorize the establishment of that facility without being subject to a BAPE review. In addition, the Legacy Fund funding mechanism is for a “citizens' sampling” exercise by the group to determine the levels of contamination or toxicity in or near Sainte-Basile-le-Grand where Northvolt facilities are proposed to be established. The site contains contaminants and toxic substances related to a petrochemical facility that used to operate on the site.





## WEBINARS AND PARTNERSHIPS

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

### **BIODIVERSITY AS A TOOL FOR PROTECTING YOUR NATURAL SPACES**

On September 27th 2023, the Legacy Fund hosted Dr. Isabelle-Anne Bisson to speak on the crucial role biodiversity studies have in safeguarding our natural spaces.

### **THE POWER OF CHARETTES**

On October 25th 2023, we hosted landscape architect Juliette Patterson to introduce this powerful tool to help citizen groups garner broadly-based community support to safeguard and evolve their local green spaces.



# COMMUNICATIONS

This year, the communications committee put a concerted effort to develop the Legacy Fund's communications engine to keep partners, donors and concerned citizens informed about the environmental battles going on in their backyard.

There were 9 notes to supporters that went out during the year, which is a 300% increase from last year. We posted 31 posts on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter based on the stories of our partners. This success is largely thanks to the Communications Coordinator, Florence Larivée, who joined our team for the summer. She was a great help in marking out the content that people would want to read about and designing a Legacy Fund style guide so that our social media will be polished and cohesive from here on out.

Our aim is not to bombard supporters with content, but to give them important, interesting, and relevant information to our collective effort to build a greener future. This doesn't just mean information about cases we are working on, but also educational content about legal features and local natural spaces and species to help strengthen our connection to the natural world around us.

Follow our accounts with the QR codes below and keep an eye out for all the fascinating content we will put out in the next year!





# GOVERNANCE

Board membership renewed in 2023-24, with some key new members and the moving on of others.



## **SYLVIE CLERMONT**

Sylvie Clermont, retired after a career in health, has been active in the struggle to protect the environment her whole life. She is invested full-time in protecting the environment and biodiversity: in MARE, the Green Coalition, the Réseau Demain le Québec and now the Legacy Fund for the Environment.



## **ROB HORWOOD**

Rob Horwood replaces Patrick Gannon as the chair of the Case Intake committee, bringing astonishing experience to the position. A retired lawyer, Rob worked for 26 years in the federal public service, including the drafting complex environment regulations.



## **TARA TALLENTIRE**

Tara Tallentire replaces Suanne Stein Day as Treasurer of the Legacy Fund. Tara is a non-profit management consultant with over 20 years experience, including Greenpeace Canada, the Cirque du Soleil, foundations and others. She joined the Legacy Fund as treasurer in October 2023.



## **SUE STACHO**

Sue Stacho has been an environmental activist for 24 years with the Green Coalition, Sauvons l'Anse-a-l'Orme, Save Fairview Forest. She also manages garden projects with students at nearby schools and is always looking for ways to get kids out of the classroom and into nature.

These new members have contributed significant energy and vision to the board in 2023-24, and add to the existing team:



**Campbell Stuart**, co-founder of the Legacy Fund and former mayor of Montreal West, who also continues as Vice-President;



**Jason Prince**, urban planner and part time faculty member at Concordia University, who contributes to fundraising and governance and assumed the role of President in 2023-24;



**Marianne Bellavance**, articling after completing a Bachelor of Laws at Université de Montréal who leads our social media and communications strategy as Secretary; and



**Dida Berku**, retired lawyer and Côte Saint-Luc city councilor since 1990, who leads in planning and executing our webinar series.



## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

Since the beginning of 2023-23, the Legacy Fund has consolidated its policy environment, adopting key policies on human resources, including on harassment, remote working and privacy.

With the help of our two student interns from the School of Community and Public Affairs, we also made great progress on a donations and corporate gifts policy that will be adopted formally next year.



# FUNDRAISING

On the fundraising front, we are celebrating the heroic efforts of our citizen group partners in hunting down funding in 2023-2024. Legacy Fund supporters and those who supported our funded groups contributed \$33,613 in direct donations in very tough economic times – we are so grateful for this generous show of solidarity!

We have continued to seek out and apply for grants from foundations whose missions align with ours and we are thrilled that the Eric T. Webster Foundation, the Fondation de la Faune du Québec, Equiterre and the Fondation du Grand Montreal have provided significant financial support to our projects and operations this year, enabling us and our allies to continue our important work in the protection of green spaces.

We were fortunate to have obtained grants for student interns over the summer and, among other activities, their projects involved organizing our 2nd Annual Fundraiser in October 2024.

There is still much work to be done in fundraising, however, if we are to secure the future of the Legacy Fund. In the year ahead we will be focusing on diversifying our fundraising efforts, exploring new funding sources, and developing a fundraising policy to ensure we adhere to the highest standards of integrity and best practices in our fundraising activities.

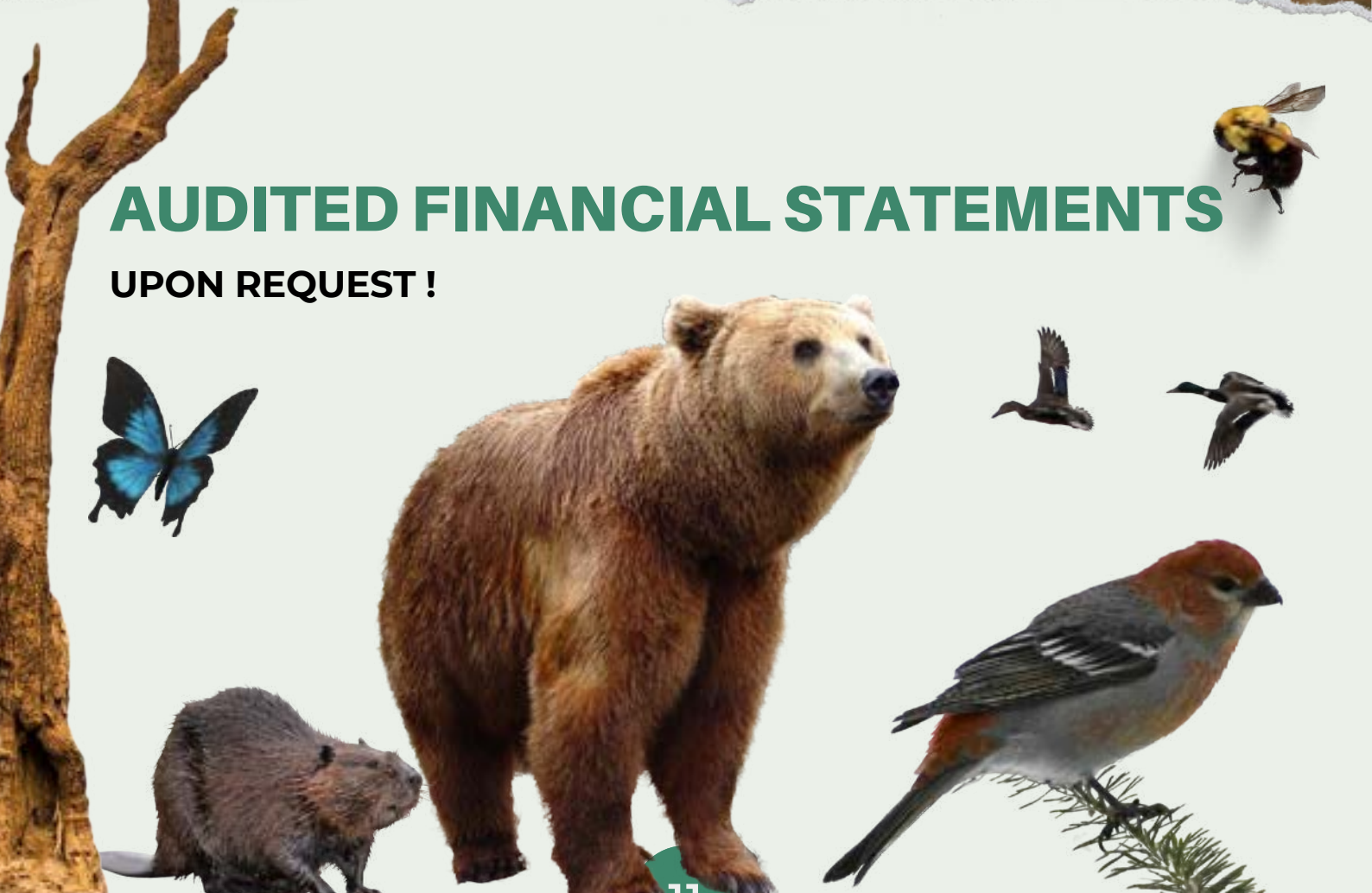
There are many different ways to support the Legacy Fund. Please contact Campbell Stuart, our Vice President at 514-927-7802 or [campbell.stuart@legacyfundenvironmental.org](mailto:campbell.stuart@legacyfundenvironmental.org) if you would like to discuss a legacy commitment in your will, or to reach out to the Fundraising Committee if you are interested in helping us raise funds to protect the environment.





# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

UPON REQUEST !





**LEGACY FUND FOR  
THE ENVIRONMENT**  
CITIZENS, DEFENDING NATURE

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