



2025-2026 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



From watershed to sea

Beatrice Frank, Executive Director

The Salish Sea is a place of wonder—a vibrant inland ocean once teeming with life, from threatened tiny herring that sustain marine food webs to the endangered Southern Resident killer whales that capture our imagination. It is also home to more than eight million people and the ancestral, unceded territories of Coast Salish peoples, whose enduring relationships, knowledge, and stewardship continue to guide the care of these waters. It is this deep connection to this extraordinary place—and the understanding that a healthy Salish Sea sustains all life—that inspired the creation of Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA).

In 1990, a group of passionate citizens came together in Nanaimo, united by concern for the growing threats facing the Strait of Georgia and the wider Salish Sea ecosystem. They imagined a different future and organized a bold, human-powered marathon, with people swimming, sailing, and rowing across the Strait from Nanaimo to Sechart to raise awareness about the need to protect these waters. That act of collective action sparked the beginning of GSA.

Over the past 35 years, GSA has grown from a grassroots movement into a regional leader advancing environmental justice, community action, and lasting protection for the Salish Sea. But this story has never been ours alone—it is a story of what we can achieve together. With your support, we have brought people together, built partnerships across communities and borders, inspired action, and helped create meaningful change for cleaner waters, healthier ecosystems, and more resilient coastal communities.

As we celebrate this milestone year, one truth has emerged stronger than ever: everything is connected. Freshwater, land, and ocean form one living system, with communities at its heart as the “last watershed before the sea.” This understanding guides our watershed-to-sea approach—from protecting Southern Resident killer whales and addressing marine contaminants, to advancing Indigenous stewardship, coastal resilience, and 30x30 conservation goals.

Thank you for being part of this community and for helping carry forward the vision that began over 35 years ago: a healthy, thriving Salish Sea for generations to come.



About us

For over 35 years, Georgia Strait Alliance has worked to protect the Salish Sea and the communities that depend on it. Today, we bring people together to tackle the region's most pressing environmental challenges through advocacy, community engagement, education, legal action and policy change.

Rooted in environmental justice and community action, our work connects people, knowledge and solutions across the region to help create lasting change for the Salish Sea.

Our Mission

To mobilize and support collective action to protect the Salish Sea region.

Our Vision

A Salish Sea teeming with life, where thriving and just communities live in balance with the environment.

How we create change

COMMUNITY POWER

We build and activate community power through relationship development and capacity building.

SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

We foster systems transformation by advocating for community-led initiatives.

PEOPLE & PLACE

We connect people with place through engagement and awareness.

We acknowledge that our work takes place across the lands and waters of the Salish Sea, on the traditional and unceded territories of many Coast Salish Nations, and in communities that are home to diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

We recognize and respect the enduring relationships, knowledge and stewardship of Indigenous Peoples who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial.





Making waves

Thousands of people took part in protecting the Salish Sea this year—from taking action online to showing up in communities across the region. Together, these numbers tell a story of a growing community—deepening connections, taking action and working together to protect the Salish Sea.

A GROWING COMMUNITY

3,000
new supporters

30,500+
digital connections

DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

2,600
people at
24+ events

12
communities
around the
Salish Sea

35+
allies &
partners

TURNING CARE INTO ACTION

5,457
advocacy letters sent

SUSTAINING THE WORK

960+
individual donors



"This year has been one of resilience and renewed purpose.

While non-profits have faced growing financial pressures and uncertainty, GSA has remained strong, thanks to the dedication of our team, leadership, partners, and supporters like you. Together, we have continued to advance our mission and strengthen the foundation for the years ahead.

At a time when the Salish Sea and the life it sustains face increasing pressures, GSA's work is more important than ever. I'm proud of how our organization continues to show up—with courage, collaboration, and hope. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who makes this work possible. We truly couldn't do it without you."

Andy Beers, Board Chair



Orca Action

Protecting Southern Resident killer whales

Southern Resident killer whales (SRKW) remain at a critical point in their recovery. This year, GSA continued working to ensure the best available science translates into meaningful action—and stronger protection for this remarkable population and the waters they depend on.

From roadmap to action

Building on last year's [Strengthening recovery actions for Southern Resident killer whales](#) report, GSA worked to turn its science-based recommendations into action. We brought key findings directly to senior government decision-makers, emphasizing the need for accelerated action to protect SRKW and their critical habitat, while advocating for stronger measures to address the cumulative pressures facing this endangered population.



GSA's advocacy contributed to continued momentum for stronger protections, including new federal management measures announced in 2026 that increased the mandatory minimum approach distance for Southern Resident killer whales in southern British Columbia coastal waters from 400 metres to 1,000 metres, alongside additional vessel restrictions and speed measures.

Keeping up the pressure

As pressure for industrial development intensifies across the Salish Sea, GSA remains engaged in provincial litigation over the Species At Risk Act permit for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion project (RBT2), while tracking the implications of Bill C-5 and the proposed designation of RBT2 and the West Coast Pipeline as Projects of National Interest. We will continue working with partners to ensure Southern Resident killer whales have a future in these waters for generations to come.



IN THE NEWS: OP-EDS

- [How Canada can protect B.C.'s iconic killer whales without busting the budget](#)
- [A story still being written for Southern Resident killer whales](#)
- [Dredging up risk: what's at stake in Burrard Inlet](#)



Protecting wild salmon

A hard-won victory for wild salmon

After many years of advocacy, an important victory for wild salmon held strong this year. The Federal Court of Appeal upheld the decision to keep open-net pen salmon farms out of the Discovery Islands, protecting a critical migration corridor for wild salmon.

Defending the Discovery Islands

Represented by Ecojustice, GSA and our allies intervened to defend the decision against an appeal by aquaculture company MOWI, building on the Federal Court's 2024 ruling. Early evidence suggests removing salmon farms from these waters is already supporting wild salmon recovery. The decision also **strengthens momentum toward Canada's commitment to transition away from open-net pen farming by 2029.**

Indigenous leadership builds momentum



In November 2025, GSA was invited to witness a historic gathering in the Alberni Valley, where Chiefs and leaders from more than two dozen coastal First Nations signed a declaration calling for an immediate end to open-net pen salmon farms on the Pacific coast.



3,962

letters were sent supporting the removal of open-net pen salmon farms out of BC by 2029

The fight isn't over

GSA will continue working alongside Indigenous leaders, scientists and coastal communities to turn these milestones into lasting protections for wild salmon and the Salish Sea.





Marine Contaminants & Governance

Clean Marine BC

Cleaner waters start with better practices on the water. This year, Clean Marine BC continued helping marinas, boatyards and boating communities reduce their environmental impact through eco-certification, training and practical resources.



A new 5-Anchor marina

We welcomed Milltown Marina & Boatyard to the program with Clean Marine BC's highest distinction: a 5-Anchor eco-rating. GSA celebrated the achievement alongside the Musqueam-owned marina and MP Wade Grant.



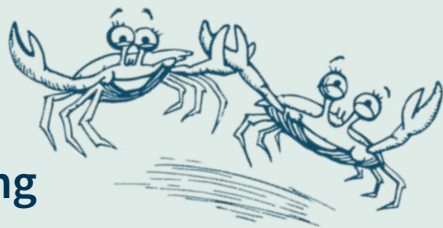
Beyond certification

In November, GSA hosted its annual Spill Response Training at CMBC-certified Maple Bay Marina on Quw'utsun Territory. Led by Waterways Environmental, the hands-on training helped marine facility staff and boating community members build the skills needed to prepare for and respond to small marine spills.



Marine facilities & organizations participated in the training

25 Years of greener boating



This year, the **Guide to Green Boating** celebrates 25 years, with more than 110,000 copies distributed since 2000. For a quarter century, the guide has helped recreational boaters turn care for BC's waterways into practical action—from responsible fueling and sewage management to preventing spills and protecting marine wildlife and sensitive habitats.

The guide is part of GSA's legacy, shaped over the years by the staff, volunteers, experts and advocates who helped create, share and sustain it. We're grateful to everyone who has contributed to its journey—and to the boating communities that continue to put its guidance into practice.

DIVE IN



110,000

copies of the Guide to
Green Boating distributed
since 2000

Tackling derelict vessels

Abandoned and derelict vessels threaten marine ecosystems, sensitive habitats and coastal communities. This year, GSA met with provincial staff leading BC's Coastal Marine Strategy to explore policy solutions and began developing a Derelict Vessels Advisory Circle.

The initiative will bring together Indigenous leaders, governments, coastal communities and technical experts to strengthen prevention, improve coordination and advance long-term solutions.



Green boating in action

Through community outreach, GSA connects directly with recreational boaters, sharing practical resources and learning more about boating practices on the water.



300+

Clean Boater Surveys
completed and Clean Boater
Kits distributed this year





Turning strategy into action

GSA is working to ensure BC's Coastal Marine Strategy moves from vision to meaningful action. Alongside an environmental NGO coalition, we continued advocating for the government commitments needed to implement the Strategy—including dedicated funding, strong policy frameworks and legislation that supports marine conservation and Indigenous leadership.

Bringing the conversation into community

With CPAWS-BC, GSA launched Tide Turners, a community event series connecting Gulf Island residents with local conservation efforts and the Coastal Marine Strategy.

The series began on Pender Island with a weekend exploring the importance of nearshore ecosystems through a seaweed workshop, a screening of *Trophic Drift* by Allison Moore, and a panel with researchers, conservation practitioners and community leaders.



700+

People joined us in calling on BC to turn the Coastal Marine Strategy into action



Tide Turners on Pender Island explored the vital role kelp forests and eelgrass meadows play in supporting biodiversity, climate resilience and healthy coastal communities.

Together, this work is helping connect community voices and conservation expertise with the future of marine protection in BC.



Resilient Coastal Communities

Building resilience from the ground up

Climate resilience starts with communities having a voice in the decisions that shape the places they call home. This year, GSA brought people together across the Salish Sea to share knowledge, explore practical solutions and strengthen community-led responses to climate change.



From Rain to Resilience

In Victoria, GSA hosted an evening focused on stormwater solutions across the Capital Regional District. Local leaders explored practical approaches including green stormwater infrastructure, improved street sweeping and targeted water-quality monitoring, with Cecilia Dick of the Songhees First Nation opening the gathering with reflections on the cultural significance of the Gorge Waterway and generations of Lək̓ʷəŋən stewardship.

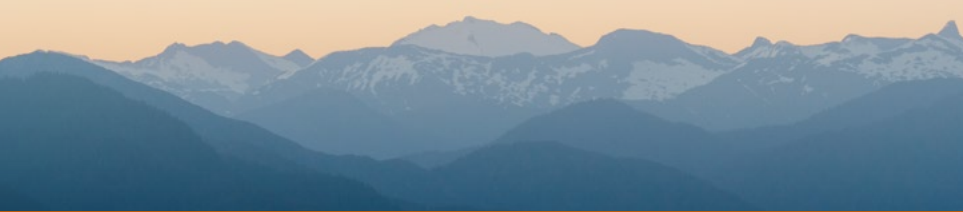
Reimagining False Creek

In Vancouver, GSA joined the False Creek Friends Society and Climate Democracy Initiative for a collaborative workshop exploring a more ecologically vibrant and decolonized False Creek. Through discussion and community asset mapping, participants explored pathways toward a thriving, biodiverse and socially connected urban watershed.



Also in community

GSA joined community members calling for climate action at Victoria City Council and participated in the Changemakers Summit, speaking alongside the Wilderness Committee on environmental justice and community organizing.





Indigenous Sovereignty & Stewardship

Supporting Indigenous-led marine stewardship



Indigenous leadership and knowledge are essential to the future of the Salish Sea. This year, GSA continued building relationships with First Nations whose stewardship has sustained these waters since time immemorial, while supporting opportunities for Indigenous-led marine protection and governance.



Learning from STÁUTW stewardship

GSA joined more than 100 Indigenous leaders, knowledge holders and partners at the QENET SKÁ, PEŁ TFE STÁUTW Stewardship Gathering, hosted by STÁUTW First Nation. The gathering centred STÁUTW's QEN'T Marine Protected Area—155 kilometres of traditional ocean waters protected through the Nation's own laws, governance and responsibilities.



Strengthening relationships

We also joined the Cowichan Tribes Community Open House and Root Camp, connecting with community members and learning more about the Nation's cultural and stewardship initiatives.



Herring Rising takes shape

Together with WSÁNEĆ Hereditary Chiefs and local partners, GSA laid the groundwork for Herring Rising, an initiative to protect herring and advance Indigenous-led marine stewardship.



30 X 30

Turning conservation commitments into action

Canada has committed to protecting 30% of its lands and oceans by 2030. **GSA is working to ensure that commitment delivers meaningful protection for the Salish Sea.**

Taking Salish Sea priorities to Ottawa

At the 7th annual Nature on the Hill gathering in Ottawa, GSA joined more than 70 environmental organizations from across Canada in meetings with Ministers and Members of Parliament. **We championed whale recovery, stronger protections for the Salish Sea and action to advance Canada’s Nature Strategy.**

Advancing marine protection in BC

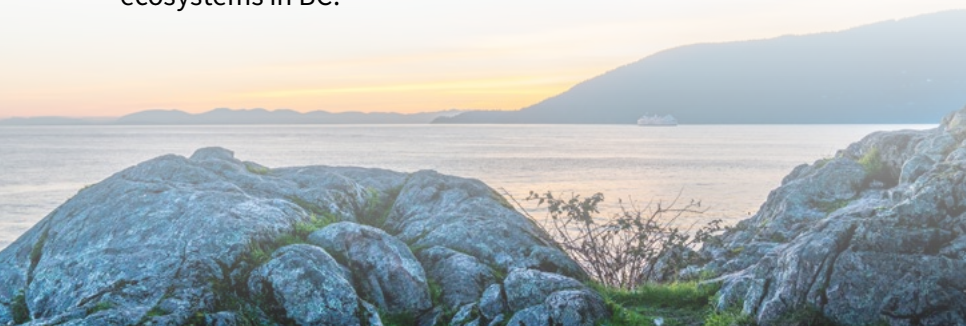
GSA participated in the Pacific Dialogue on the Nature Strategy and Marine Conservation, a multi-sector workshop bringing together NGOs, academia, industry, and government to discuss the future of marine conservation in the Pacific region. The dialogue, opened by the Hon. Natalie Provost, Secretary of State (Nature), explored how the federal Nature Strategy can translate existing commitments—including the 30x30 targets—into meaningful progress for marine ecosystems in BC.



Marine protection in action

GSA provided input on Pacific Marine Conservation Target initiatives including the Glass Sponge Reef–Rockfish Conservation Area Project and Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area.

We also supported expanding marine protection through new marine refuges, with particular attention to strengthening proposed protections in Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound.





GSA in Community

Celebrating 35 years of coastal protection and community power

This year, GSA celebrated 35 years of people-powered action to protect the Salish Sea. Supporters, artists and community members gathered in Vancouver, Victoria and Qualicum Beach for music, art, film and conversation—honouring the people and movements that have shaped our work and looking toward what comes next.

Events included Making Waves: An Evening of Music, Connection & Impact in Vancouver, Art & Ocean: Under the Sea in Victoria, and joining Culture Days: Letting the Land and Sea Thrive in 2025 in Qualicum Beach.

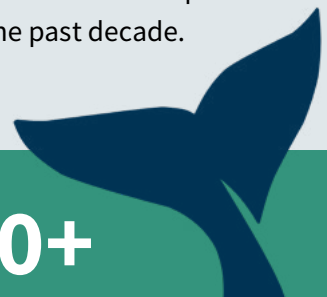


In 2026, GSA proudly became the new host of Wonders of the Salish Sea (WSS), building on a decade of connecting people with this extraordinary ecosystem. In partnership with the Salish Sea Institute, we brought together science, storytelling, Indigenous knowledge and community action through a four-part learning series and hands-on experiences.

Since 2016, WSS has engaged learners across the Canadian and U.S. sides of the Salish Sea. GSA is honoured to build on that legacy and grateful to the people and partners who have shaped the program over the past decade.

400+

people joined the 2026 program from across the Canadian and U.S. sides of the Salish Sea—and beyond. WSS's largest attendance yet!



Finding connection through creativity

In August, GSA hosted its first community poetry night, Saltwater Tongues, at Caffe Fantastico in Victoria. More than 30 people gathered to share original poems, favourite works and songs—an evening of creativity and connection that showed how art and storytelling can deepen our relationships with the ocean and with one another.





Fundraising highlights

Powered by our community

This year, the generosity and creativity of the GSA community showed up in so many ways. From concerts and community gatherings to lemonade stands and young ocean advocates, supporters found their own ways to help protect the Salish Sea.

From Oysters to Orcas

Our 9th annual event, hosted by our friends at Fanny Bay Oysters, brought people together over food, cocktails from Copperpenny Gin and music from Clara Shandler, The Sidewalk Cellist—**raising nearly \$6,000** for GSA. Clara also supported Southern Resident killer whale conservation through her Orca Tour.

Songs for the Strait

Long-time GSA volunteer Brian Robertson brought musicians Michael Burnyeat, Holly Arntzen and Tim Readman together for an afternoon celebrating music, coastal stories and environmental stewardship—**raising \$1,750** for GSA.



Young advocates take action

Young supporters in North Vancouver **raised \$115** with a lemonade stand, while the 20 Grade 2 and 3 students of West Sechelt Elementary's Orca Club continued working toward their **goal of raising \$10,000 by 2030** for orca conservation.



To everyone who donated, attended an event, volunteered, shared our work or found a creative way to support the Salish Sea—thank you. Your generosity keeps this work moving forward.



LOOKING *Ahead*

Building the next chapter

As we move into GSA's next chapter, we're putting our watershed-to-sea approach into action—building on the progress, partnerships and community power reflected throughout this report.

In the year ahead, we'll continue responding to growing development pressures across the Salish Sea and advocating for decisions that account for cumulative impacts on ecosystems, communities and species at risk.

We'll also build on work begun this year through new and growing initiatives, including Climate Ready Now!, supporting community-led climate resilience; Herring Rising, developed with W̱SÁNEĆ Hereditary Chiefs and Herring Conservation and Restoration Society to protect herring and advance Indigenous-led marine stewardship; and new efforts with the South Coast Ship Watch Alliance to address the impacts of freighter anchorages in the Southern Gulf Islands.

**The challenges ahead are significant,
but so are the opportunities to create
lasting change. We look forward to
continuing this work together.**

Thank You

This work is only possible because so many people choose to be part of it.

To our funders, donors, volunteers, allies, partners and community supporters: thank you for sharing your time, knowledge, resources and commitment with us. Whether you took action, made a donation, volunteered, collaborated with us or helped bring people together, you played a part in protecting the Salish Sea this year.

Funders

Andrews Planet and People Fund (held at Vancouver Foundation), Anonymous Fund, BC Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, Denise Bullock Charitable Trust, Dr. Ann Worth Charitable Foundation, Hummingbird Foundation, Marion Pearson and Jim Orr Fund (held at Vancouver Foundation), Nature Canada, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, Richard and Winnifred Bocking Family Fund (held at Victoria Foundation), Stewart Fund (held at Vancouver Foundation), Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, The Benevity Community Impact Fund, The Houssian Foundation, Vitalogy Foundation, West Coast Environmental Law, West Sechelt Elementary School Orca Club, Wolter Legacy Foundation.

Government

Community Gaming Grants Branch - Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Service Canada (Canada Summer Jobs).

Local Organizations & Businesses

1329466 AB LTD, 48th Ave Productions Inc, Adventus Research + Consulting, Boldt Communications Inc, Claw Bids, Clear Coast Counselling Ltd, Conservation Visuals Inc, C-Tow Marine Assistance, Deep Cove Kayak and Deep Cove Outdoors, Denman Island Chocolate Ltd, Dolphin Insurance Services Inc, Dr. Gordon Horner Inc, Earnest Ice Cream, Electronic Arts, Greenspace Designs, Roberts Creek Elementary School, Seaflora Skincare, The Agency, The Truffles Group, Working Culture Bread, Youth Harbour Action.

In-kind

Blumbergs Canadian Charity Law, Canva.com, CloudControl CPA, Copperpenny Distilling Co, Dolphin Insurance Services Inc, Earnest Ice Cream, Google Workspace for Non-Profits, Gregg Distributors LP, Hullo, Langley Recycling Inc, MasterCard, Microsoft, Monday.com, Owl and Bear Studio, Patagonia Vancouver, Persephone Brewing Company, Salesforce Inc, Salish Sea Botanicals, Seaflora Skincare, Slack Technologies, Sustainable Elements, Tigh-Na-Mara Resort.

Allies & partners

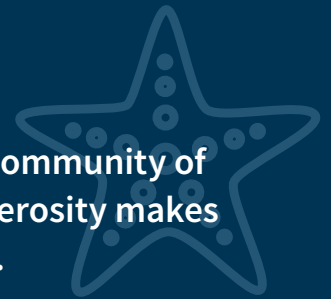
Boating BC Association, Tanya Bubba, Climate Democracy Initiative, Clayoquot Action, Council of BC Yacht Clubs, Cowichan Tribes, CPAWS-BC, David Suzuki Foundation, Ecojustice, Eelgrass Workgroup, False Creek Friends Society, Friends of the San Juans, Gorge Waterway Action Society, Herring Conservation and Restoration Society, Living Oceans Society, Malahat Nation, Marine Educators Group, Natural Resources Defense Council, Northwest Straits Commission, Organizing for Change, Pacific Oil Spill Prevention and Education Team (POSPET), Peninsula Streams Society, QENTOL, YEN / WSÁNEĆ Marine Guardians, Raincoast Conservation Foundation, Brian Robertson, Simon Fraser University, South Coast Ship Watch Alliance, Stand.earth, Sue Big Oil, The Sidewalk Cellist, University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Washington State University Salish Sea Institute, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, West Coast Environmental Law, West Sechelt Elementary's Orca Club, Wilderness Committee, Wonders of the Salish Sea Committee, WWF-Canada, WSÁNEĆ Hereditary Chiefs.

Volunteers

Nolan Babin, Emily Baker, Andrew Beers, Katrina Bennett Scott, Richard Bridge, Tara Brudar, Sharron Coombs, Eden Dale, Christopher Di Marco, Tammy Evans, Sheldon Fernandes, David Graham, Anna Grossmann, Max Mollineaux, Cara Pike, Siobhan Powlowski, Brian Robertson, Nadine Ryan, Gabrielle Savage, Clara Shandler, Mairin Shields Brown, Kristin Street, Jennifer Thornton, University of Victoria Community Engagement student research projects.

Donors

Thank you to our community of donors whose generosity makes this work possible.



OUR COMPLETE DONOR LIST [!\[\]\(898a81de9c4aff71234b2158571b7213_img.jpg\)](#)

*We are grateful to have
you alongside us!*

Our TEAM

Behind GSA's work is a team of people who bring their skills, experience and commitment to protecting the Salish Sea. We are grateful to our staff, contractors, Board and Advisory Council for everything they contribute to this work.

Staff & Contractors

Rebecca Adams, Creative & Digital Engagement Lead
Jacob Banting, Clean Marine BC Coordinator
Cathy Booler, Data & Digital Systems Manager
Khalid Boudreau, Community Organizer (until May 31, 2025)
Maithili Devadas, Biodiversity Campaigner
russell elliott, Campaigns Manager
Beatrice Frank, Executive Director
Ananda Korchynski, Social Media Coordinator (until May, 2025)
Allison Murray, Communications Associate (until May, 2025)
David Palmer, Development Manager
Kellie Rana, Marine Planning Coordinator (until January 18, 2026)
Alaya Seoudy, Data & Donor Services Assistant (until December 26, 2025)
Michelle Young, Director of Finance & Operations
Eden Dale, Clean Marine BC Assistant (May 26 to August 27, 2025)
Riley Watts, Community Engagement Assistant (June 26 to October 8, 2025)

Board of Directors

Andrew Beers, Chair
Katrina Bennett Scott, Treasurer
Sheldon Fernandes, Treasurer (until September 22, 2025)
Gina Lazarowich (from February 17, 2026)
Max Mollineaux
Cara Pike (from February 17, 2026)
Siobhan Powlowski
Nadine Ryan
Gabrielle Savage
Mairin Shields-Brown
Kristin Street, Chair (until September 22, 2025)
Jennifer Thornton (until April 21, 2026)

Advisory Council

John Cashore
Dr. Robert Elner
Dr. Robert Joseph
Dr. Donald McQueen
Suzanne Siemens
Douglas White III Kwalasultan

MEET OUR TEAM



2025-2026

Financial HIGHLIGHTS

Year ended March 31, 2026

Financial Position as of March 31, 2026

Current Assets

\$504,071

Capital Assets

\$8,145

Payables & Accruals

(29,222)

Deferred Contributions

(397,489)

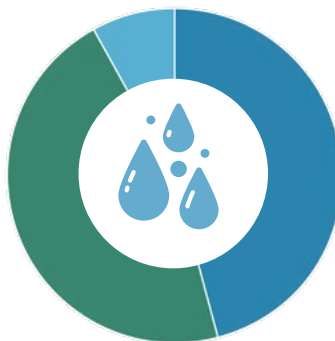
NET ASSETS

\$175,505

In-Kind Contributions

In addition to the revenue above, GSA received an estimated value of \$35,855 in donated goods and services and \$18,650 in volunteer time during the year.

REVENUES | \$895,989

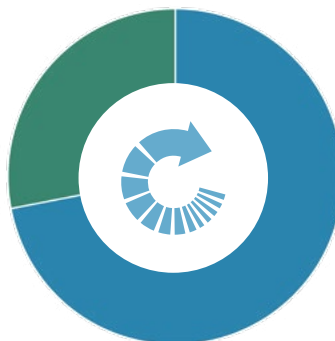


46% | Grants
\$415,089

46% | Donations
\$413,358

8% | Events, investment
earnings & other
\$67,542

EXPENSES | \$833,614



72% | Programs
\$600,478

28% | Administration
& fundraising
\$230,042

0% | Amortization
\$3,094

Excess revenues over expenditures for the year \$62,375

This report is a summary only and not intended to reflect the complete financial status of Georgia Strait Alliance. Members who wish to receive the full financial statements should contact our office at 250-753-3459.



Impact Report © Georgia Strait Alliance 2026
georgiastrait.org | [@GeorgiaStraitBC](https://www.instagram.com/GeorgiaStraitBC)

