



BC Naturalists' Foundation (BCNF) and BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists)

It has come to my attention that many members and clubs are confused by the existence and the role of the BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature

The purpose of the BCN Foundation is:

- to promote the preservation of the natural environment for future generations through conservation, research and education projects;
- to solicit donations of money, land and improvements thereon, and other property to be used to advance the purposes of the Society;
- to receive bequests, trusts, funds, land and improvements thereon, and to hold, invest, administer and distribute such funds and property to finance the programs and further the purposes of the Society as presently set out and for such other organizations as are "qualified donees" under the provisions of the Income Tax Act and for such other purposes and activities which are authorized for registered charities under the provisions of the Income Tax Act. The directors in their sole and absolute discretion may refuse to accept any bequests, trusts, funds or property; and
- to do all such other things as are incidental, ancillary, or conducive to the attainment of the purposes and the exercise of the powers of the Society.

The BCN Foundation was truly the brainchild of Joe Lotzkar. While Joe was serving as President of the Federation of BC Naturalists (1987-1988), he became convinced of the long-term value of establishing a Foundation as a major fundraiser for BC Nature. He looked upon it as an endowment that would not be created immediately but, over time, would be in a position to be of great help to BC Nature

The purpose of BC Nature is :

- To provide naturalists and nature clubs of BC with a unified voice on conservation and environmental issues;
- To foster an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generations;
- To encourage the formation and cooperation of nature clubs throughout BC; and
- To provide a means of communication between naturalists in BC.

This means that the BCN Foundation is fundraising-oriented, while BC Nature is Club-oriented and provides a provincial voice for naturalists on conservation and environmental issues.

The BCN Foundation is an entity, run autonomously from BC Nature, but inextricably linked to them by shared goals. The BCN Foundation's bylaws which require that BC Nature appoint the members of the BCN Foundation and nominate the Directors of the BCN Foundation. For the past fifteen years, the BCN Foundation has distributed funds annually to clubs through BC Nature Club Support Grants. Club applications are reviewed at the end of January by a joint committee consisting of two representatives from BC Nature and two representatives from the BCN Foundation. The BCN Foundation provides a permanent vehicle to fund enduring and tangible projects to promote the preservation of the natural environment for future generations through conservation, research, and education projects.

The BCN Foundation some years ago decided against distributing funds to other 'qualified donees' beyond BC Nature and its Clubs, because there is much demand within BC Nature and its clubs.

Since that beginning 29 years ago, contributions by BC Nature members have helped the BCN Foundation grow its capital to over \$700,000. During that time the BCN Foundation has been able to disburse funds from investment earnings on its capital, back to naturalists' projects of BC Nature. \$214,500 has been disbursed from investment earnings to support naturalists' projects. We encourage you to donate through the annual appeal or at any time of the year or to include the Foundation in your Legacy or any other planned giving.

Recently, generous donations through wills have been gratefully received by the BCN Foundation. Members who have generously donated in their wills in the past fifteen years include: Ursula Easterbrook, Gerard Bloem, Rolf Kellerhals, Norm Pursell, Dick Greyson, Melda Buchanan, Edna Robinson, Kay Beamish, and Peter and Pauline Legg. In addition, many of you members are making donations annually to the BCN Foundation and this support is greatly appreciated.

The BCN Foundation's Annual Report is available on the BCN Foundation's webpage, within the BC Nature website. <https://www.bcnature.ca/bc-naturalists-foundation/> This Report includes updates on the nine club projects which the BCN Foundation assisted with funds awarded for the BC Nature club support grants earlier in 2019. In addition, a summary of the BCN Foundation's year-end Financial Statements are available on the aforementioned website.

Yours truly,



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