

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:

**Clare Greenberg**  
**Erin Galloway**  
**Claude-Anne Godbout-Gauthier**  
**Rebecca McDonald**



# OUR MISSION

To minimize the threat of invasive species that impact on the environment, the economy, and human health in the Sea to Sky corridor.



# OUR GOALS

1

Raise awareness (focused on behaviour change) about invasive species, their impacts, and management strategies

2

Facilitate the flow of external information and provide a source of expertise on invasive species

3

Improve stakeholder communications, collaboration, coordination and information sharing

4

Prevent new invasive species from arriving and follow integrated management and early detection and rapid response (EDRR) protocol to prevent their establishment if and when they do arrive

5

Minimize or reverse the spread of existing invasive species through coordinated, integrated invasive species management efforts

6

Ensure program viability



# INTRODUCTION



Looking over yet another SSISC annual report, I feel immense pride in being affiliated with such a successful, hard-working organization - one that makes my job feel more like head cheerleader than board director. And that thought leads immediately to admiration and gratitude for all the folks doing the difficult work in the office, in the field, and in the important realms of education and outreach. Their significant achievements have, once again, been a wonderful contribution to backstopping biodiversity in the Sea to Sky corridor.

As you can see from the way the report is presented (thanks Clare, Claude-Anne, Erin and Rebecca!) considerable thought goes into making that work and its outcomes easily understandable, visual where possible, and even a little fun - something that aids in taking on a task as Herculean as detecting, mapping, controlling and managing invasive species (if you don't follow our Instagram account @ssinvasives yet, you're missing out on some good - and very informative - levity).



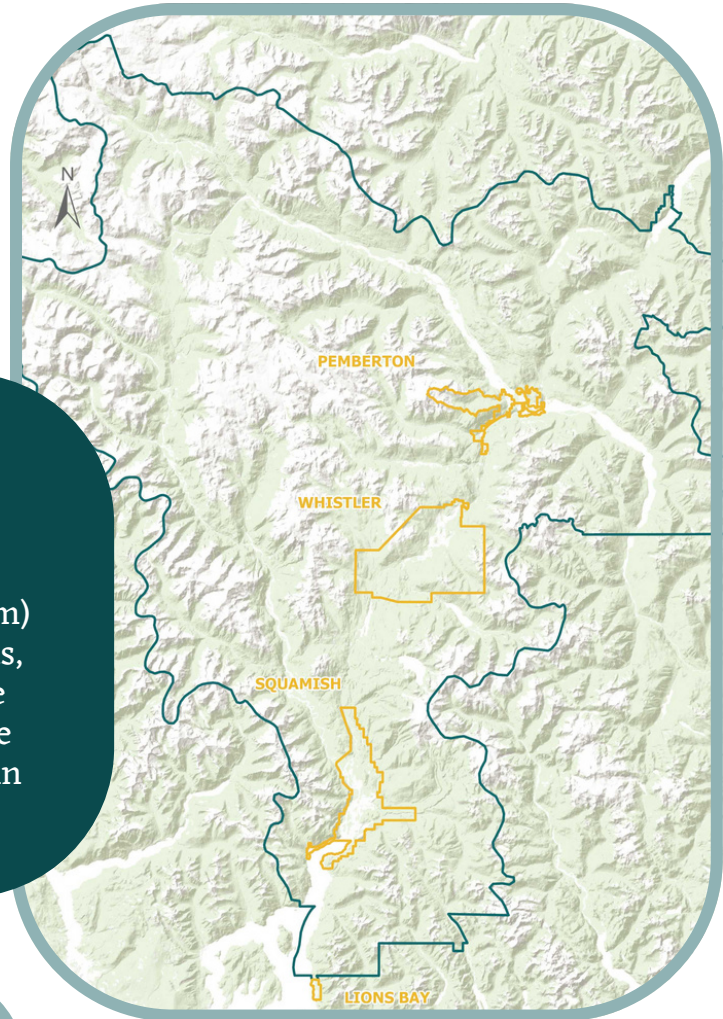
Much of the credit for this high-aiming, smooth-running collective can be traced to the efforts and organizational skills of our exceptional Executive Director, Clare Greenberg, who has taken SSISC to unheralded levels of funding, manpower and capabilities in her ten years at the helm. Thanking her again this year comes with a tinge of melancholy, however, as Clare is moving on to new horizons in the B.C. Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship. Our loss will of course be the government's gain, and we look forward to her making as significant an impression there as she has with us - leaving SSISC in the strongest position possible to continue the important work she has shepherded for the past decade. Thanks for everything, Clare.



Leslie Anthony  
Board Chair, Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council

# WHERE WE WORK ↘

We humbly acknowledge that we live and work on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyám (Musqueam) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, as well as the unceded territories of the southern St'át'yemc communities of the Lil'wat, N'Quatqua, Samahquam, Skatin and Xa'xtsa Nations.



SSISC is part of a network of Regional Invasive Species Organizations (RISOs) working to stop the spread of invasive species throughout BC.

Learn more @ [ssisc.ca/where-we-work](https://ssisc.ca/where-we-work)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SSISC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. We are grateful for their time and involvement in our cause.



**Leslie Anthony**  
Chair



**Edith Tobe**  
Vice-Chair



**Caroline Ashekian**  
Treasurer



**Nicola Church**  
Secretary



**Paul Beswetherick**  
Past-Chair



**Candace Rose-Taylor**  
Director



**Karlene Loudon**  
Director



**Derek Jazic**  
Director



**Penny Nelson Abbott**  
Director



**Aaron Marchant**  
Director

# OUR TEAM



What a team we had this year! Thanks for the hard work, everyone.

**Clare Greenberg**, Executive Director

**Claude-Anne Godbout-Gauthier**,  
Education & Outreach Manager

**Erin Galloway**, Field Program Manager

**Ellika Cairns**, Invasive Species Program  
Coordinator

**Matt Muller**, Field Program Assistant Manager

**Rebecca McDonald**, Invasive Animals  
Coordinator

**Georg Nussbaumer**, GIS Technical

**April Blumberg**, Field Crew Lead Hand

**Kiera Murray**, Field Crew Lead Hand

**Sonia Landwehr**, Field Crew Lead Hand

**Katie Craven**, Field Crew Lead Hand

**Nicola Gjerdalen**, Field Crew Member

**Rowan Winson-Longley**, Field Crew Member

**Natalie Krause**, Field Crew Member

**Sarah Boivert**, Field Crew Member

**Becky Turner**, Education & Outreach  
Coordinator

**Sara Tobias**, Education & Outreach Assistant

**Erika Brauner**, Education & Outreach  
Assistant

**Bob Brett**, Field Technician (contractor)



Spring staff training day, with most of the team. Look at those eager faces!

# INVASIVE PLANTS FIELD PROGRAM



13,895 m<sup>2</sup> of invasive plants observed and mapped, including 23 new project areas



1,900 kg of invasive plants removed!



364 mechanical treatments at 192 project areas, removing 2752 m<sup>2</sup> of 35 invasive plant species



279 chemical treatments at 103 project areas, removing 11,792 m<sup>2</sup> of 25 invasive plant species

That's like  
9 hockey rinks!

## Wins for 2023:

- 351 project areas showed no regrowth
- Only 2 flat tires!
- Surveyed or inventoried 3108.34 ha

That's 1.5 times the size of Nauru, the world's smallest republic, in the South Pacific!



# Invasive species don't stand a chance!

In 2023, 351 project areas showed no regrowth, including:

50% of **Japanese Knotweed** project areas

78% of **Scotch Broom** project areas

62% of **Yellow Flag Iris** project areas

The team carried out invasive mussels sampling in Alta Lake.

Great news, all the samples came back negative!



## Common offenders

The Field Program team spent much of their time tackling the following:



Japanese Knotweed



Scotch Broom



Himalayan Blackberry



Yellow Flag Iris



# EDUCATION & OUTREACH



16 weed pulls, including 10 with school groups

Participants removed 1,100 kg of invasive plants

228 students removed 318 kg of plants. Phew!

Whenever possible, we partnered with other community organizations to organize weed pulls. Special thanks to our activity partners:



THE ROAD LESS  
TRAVELED



## Banish Burdock in Whistler

- Program was revamped for 2023
- 18 participants from 13 parties 'adopted' 19 Burdock patches
- We presented at the ISCBC Forum 'Speedy Session' about the project in February 2023



Gary the Goldfish was popular at our booth; Gideon (front) joined the team in September 2023 (a gift from our TNRD colleagues).

# New Invader Eliminator Kits

We revamped the community-specific DIY Weed Pull Toolkit, developed in 2020, which we now call the Invader Eliminator Kit. The 4 versions of the kit (for Pemberton, Whistler, Squamish and Lions Bay) promote local environmental stewardship by feature all the information necessary for a resident to remove targeted invasives on their own.

→ Check out this resource @ [ssisc.ca/toolkit](https://ssisc.ca/toolkit)



## Digital Outreach

 17,298 website users

 934 newsletter subscribers,  
10 editions

That's a 82%  
annual increase!

See for yourself!  
<https://bit.ly/3Hdqr07>

### Social media



2359



882



831



50

- We left Twitter in August.
- We joined TikTok in October.
- One of our reels went viral

### Behaviour change programs we promoted



# CRAB TEAM



## European Green Crab Monitoring in Howe Sound

### 3 sites:

- Furry Creek
- Cattermole Slough
- Mamquam Blind Channel

We completed our third monitoring season for European Green Crab in Howe Sound in 2023.

We also travelled to Williamsons Landing in West Howe Sound to train Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre staff, who will begin their own EGC monitoring program in 2024.



11 awesome volunteers



Sampling once a month, June-Sept.



0 European Green Crabs so far!

### From our volunteers:

"I really enjoyed meeting other people and getting out to learn more about nature!"

"I feel lucky to have been a part of the team this year!"



# COORDINATION, CONSULTATION & ADMINISTRATION ↘

In 2023, we

- Applied for, and secured diverse funding;
- Maintained and improved existing partnerships with municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments;
- Continued to build and expand partnerships with Squamish Nation; Lil'Wat Nation; developers; industry and private stakeholders.
- Maintained membership as an affiliate partner of the Invasive Species Council of BC.



We participated and collaborated with the BC Regional Invasive Species Organizations (RISO) working group, and attended a field tour organized by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District in Kamloops.

## 2024 in numbers

- Managed spatial databases and public sightings:
  - Received 173 sightings throughout the year
- Responded to general enquiries from 91 community members
- Responded to 31 messages on social media
- Provided meaningful employment, training and professional development for three full-time (year-round) employees and 16 seasonal or part-time employees.

75% of those were submitted by current or previous SSISC staff and board members. Plant nerds, unite!



# PARTNERSHIPS AND IN-KIND SUPPORT



A special thanks to the local businesses who donated prizes. They were extremely generous; the in-kind donations we received totalled over \$900!



SCANDINAVE SPA  
WHISTLER



SEA TO SKY  
GONDOLA

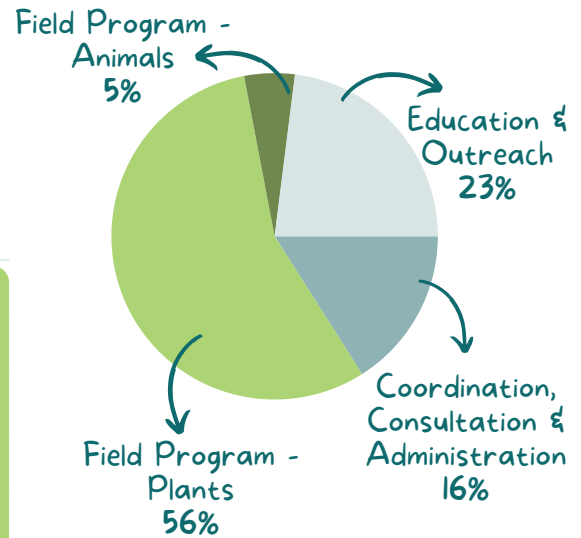
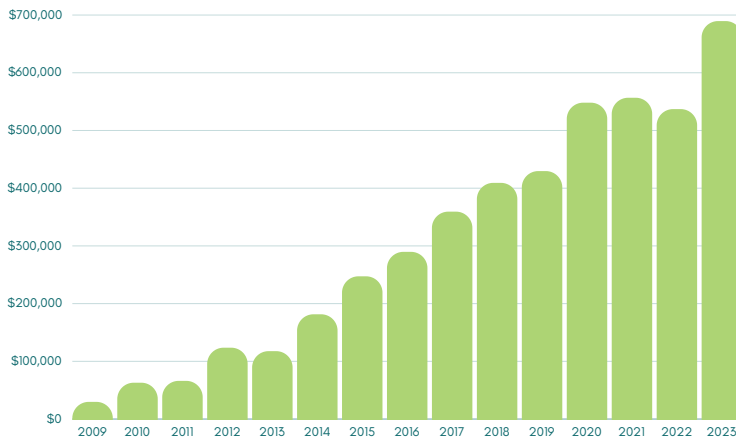


# FINANCIAL REPORT



**Total funding secured for 2023 was \$689,923.**

SSISC's funding has significantly evolved since the organization was founded in 2009.



## Funding by type



- Federal Government
- Provincial Government
- First Nations
- Local & Regional Governments
- Industry & Developers
- Granting Bodies
- Earned Revenue & Sales
- Donations
- Interest



Thank you to our funders



And to our in-kind donors, program participants, private land owners, donors, collaborators, customers and volunteers!