Building Momentum for Change

MakeWay 2021 Year in Review
Youth work on a hide at Misipawistik Pinatismeskanaw Fall camp in Misipawistik Cree Nation. This initiative, supported by The Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative (NMFCCC), brings together youth from the community to learn about their language, land, history and culture.

In 2021, the NMFCCC published a Youth Voices booklet, to showcase reflection from community partners.

Youth Voices booklet
Letter from the CEO

“Very great change starts from very small conversations, held among people who care”.

Margaret Wheatley’s wisdom beautifully illustrates what has been made possible at MakeWay through these many strange months. Solutions for nature and communities have been seeded and advanced through hundreds of small conversations – almost entirely through a screen – listening and problem-solving with phenomenal people who do not just care, they also dare.

These urgent times are calling on every one of us to roll up our sleeves and do the work. We are all awakening to the climate catastrophe bearing down, alongside the deep injustices faced by Indigenous peoples and racialized communities. Instead of dread or apathy, this experience spurs conversations across the MakeWay community to strategize, support, and advance community-led initiatives. These problems are complex, yet solvable.

Each day, we deploy our unique set of tools – whether shared platform supports, impact investing, or donor advised funds and funder collaboratives. These tools reinforce each other when integrated in place to help advance Indigenous sovereignty, to ensure healthy lands and water, or to build systems that ensure economic livelihoods for all.

We see the rising voices and leadership that are changing the face of this country. Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, like the amazing milestones achieved by the Gitanyow and Tahltan Nations this year that model how people and planet can actually thrive together. Black leaders building networks to end environmental racism through policy change and organizing. Community Resilience to Extreme Weather (CREW) Toronto, are creating local opportunities for urban communities to respond to climate change. Indigenous youth in Northern Manitoba are using their voices to inspire other youth around projects in their communities that advance Indigenous food sovereignty. The newly created Northern Birthwork Collective is empowering Northern women and redefining reproductive rights through Indigenous cultural resurgence.

Behind these stunning outcomes, are many great and sometimes hard conversations amongst partners, relationships built upon curiosity and good active listening. It’s how change happens at the speed of trust.

MakeWay is what we do, not what we say we do. So, after lots of learning and powerful conversations, in the new year we will launch a new strategic plan to advance seven ambitious priorities. This coincides with the energy of board renewal as MakeWay brings on five new incredible directors. With momentum and belief that the tide is truly turning, we look to 2022 with hope, conviction, and the promise of many more impactful conversations. Around a real coffee table, even better.

Joanna Kerr, CEO & President

MakeWay Values

Our core values guide the MakeWay team, rooting us in PLACE and guiding our work forward.

Partnership

We are stronger when we work together. Because we believe that we are all connected, we build trust through reciprocity and transparency, seeking opportunities to share and learn from our partners.

Listening

Listening and being open helps us find the best solutions. Hearing out different perspectives helps us build empathy and makes us better colleagues, partners, and collaborators.

Action

We are committed to helping our partners solve problems and achieve their visions for change. We think innovatively and efficiently, work hard to fill gaps and find creative solutions.

Courage

We are not afraid to do things differently—to experiment to accelerate change. We take on complex challenges with courage and compassion. Rather than fall prey to fear and polarization, we choose optimism and perseverance.

Equity

Social, environmental, and economic equity is the essence of lasting positive change. We recognize that many people and communities face injustice and we believe that a healthy environment is a matter of social justice. We are committed to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
We’re building momentum for change.

Every member of the MakeWay team is passionate about building partnerships and solutions to help nature and communities thrive together.

MakeWay is a community of 265 passionate people committed to supporting nature and communities thriving together. We work remotely from small towns and big cities, with offices in Iqaluit, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Yellowknife.

The Northern team now has staff members based in all three Canadian territories, the first time ever!

We hosted over 60 Canada Summer Jobs Students this year across the Foundation and the Shared Platform. Read about some of their experiences here.

This year we

Partnered with 150 foundations, 35 businesses, 30 governments, nations, and municipalities, and nearly 1,400 individuals and families to help nature and communities thrive together.

Mobilized more than $16.5 million in grants to over 300 organizations and initiatives to enable community-led impact and systems change across Canada.

Hosted 8 funding collaboratives for funders, changemakers, and community advisors to build trust-based relationships while disrupting the power dynamics of traditional philanthropy.
Measuring Impact: Our Approach

MakeWay engages in ongoing evaluation to measure impact. This process is highly relational, and involves building and maintaining long term partnerships rooted in trust. We try to reduce the administrative burdens placed on community partners. In addition to informal check-ins and community visits, we gather feedback from community partners at convenings, through surveys, and through regular grant reporting. To foster shared learning for both funders and grantees, a story sharing process is also used by some funding collaboratives to further learning and to inform decision-making.
Healthy people. Healthy planet. Healthy economy.

Our sweet spot is where environmental issues intersect with social and economic issues. Building on more than two decades of experience, MakeWay programs leverage our unique expertise, tools, strategic partnerships, and deep community connections to tackle challenges within a geography or around a pressing issue.

THIS YEAR WE

Supported the NWT On the Land Collaborative to disburse $840,000 to 48 organizations and initiatives to facilitate land-based education programs, especially for youth.

Facilitated the efforts of over a dozen First Nation and Inuit communities to advance Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in their terrestrial and marine homelands across the Canadian territories and Inuit Nunangat.

Collaborated with The Firelight Group to publish a guide, in English and Inuktitut, for Indigenous Conserved Agreements in Canada, featuring best practices, challenges, and implications for the future.

Partnered with 49 communities via the Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative to foster stronger communities through improved access to healthy foods and the development of resilient local economies.

Co-created the Right Relations Collaborative which seeks to shift the power dynamics of conventional philanthropy by inviting a council of Indigenous Aunties to set the terms for values-based relationships with funders.

Rapidly deployed over $643,000 in emergency Covid-19 response funds to more than 35 First Nations across the west coast who faced supply chain disruptions.

Raised over $3.2 million in new dollars for marine protection.

Collaborated with Tahltan Nation and funders to secure the creation of a new conservancy adjacent to Mount Edziza provincial Park, known as Ice Mountain, by leveraging $1 million to help buy out mineral tenures.

Partnered with Patagonia to support the Ktunaxa Nation’s “Qat’muk” IPCA, securing protection of critical cultural, habitat, and spiritual territories in the Jumbo Valley, BC.

Collaborated with Tahltan Nation and funders to secure the creation of a new conservancy adjacent to Mount Edziza provincial Park, known as Ice Mountain, by leveraging $1 million to help buy out mineral tenures.

Partnered with Patagonia to support the Ktunaxa Nation’s “Qat’muk” IPCA, securing protection of critical cultural, habitat, and spiritual territories in the Jumbo Valley, BC.
Esa Qillaq, a hunter from Clyde River, and Dr. Shari Fox, PhD., wanted to explore how supporting and strengthening the roles of hunters and harvesters might improve community access to more nutritious, sustainable, and affordable foods. Their work catalyzed an innovative blueprint for communities to share the impacts of hunter/harvester programs with each other and to audiences across the country.

“There is value in honouring existing skillsets and existing resources. Investments in local food systems bring greater returns than subsidizing reliance on external food sources,” says Lori Tagoona, MakeWay’s Senior Associate for Inuit Nunangat.

In 2017/18, Statistics Canada reported that 49% of households in Nunavut were food insecure, compared to the national average of 8.8%. Existing research on the value of local food indicates that every $50.00 invested in harvesting yields enough meat to feed 20 individuals. The same $50.00 spent on imported meat at a local store feeds just 3.3 people.

With support from MakeWay, Esa and Shari developed a pilot project: Esa would hunt full-time for about a year, on a salary, utilizing his expertise to determine how to carry out his duties as a full-time hunter and keeping a record of his activities, challenges, opportunities, and impact. During this time, Esa harvested about 2,000 kg of edible meat, and shared the food with family, friends, and community members. The benefits of the study extended far beyond the amount of food harvested. Esa and Shari highlighted the cultural importance of hunters, including consistent observation and monitoring of the local environment, sharing knowledge and skills with youth, and maintaining language and terminology.

In summer 2021, MakeWay released the Hunter/Harvester/Guardian Evaluation Toolkit, created with assistance and input from Shari and informed by Esa’s work and their joint research. The Toolkit captures the impacts of full-time hunter programs, from the planning stages to monitoring and evaluation, and empowers hunting and harvesting program teams to communicate their many benefits to external audiences and generate financial support. MakeWay is now working alongside a number of Indigenous organizations and communities to implement the Toolkit and demonstrate the benefits of hunter programs at scale across the North.

Why supporting community-led hunter and harvester programs matters
Gitanyow is asserting their vision for their land with a new Indigenous Protected Area

Tara Marsden always wanted to work for her home nation and give back to the community.
Since 2012, she has worked alongside the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs on key strategies to protect the lands and waters of her territory for future generations. And in August she was involved in another huge milestone for the Nation: the declaration of the Wilp Wii Litsxw Meziadin Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).

Indigenous Protected Areas, also called tribal parks or Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, are areas conserved under Indigenous law, through an assertion of a Nation’s Rights and Title. It allows Nations to have an established regional plan when they are approached by industry or government.

MakeWay has partnered with Indigenous communities, including Gitanyow, in many ways over the years. We focus on building deep, trust-based relationships with partners and providing resources, networks, and tools to help them achieve their vision.

As Pacific Partnerships Lead, Kim Hardy, explains: “we try to create healthy pathways between philanthropy and Indigenous partners. Some funders don’t have capacity or connection to Indigenous communities and so we can help create safe neutral spaces for learning and unlearning. And create spaces for philanthropy to land in ways that have been designed by Indigenous partners.”

One such pathway for Gitanyow has been through a community-advised fund hosted at MakeWay – a type of donor advised fund where the decision-making is governed by a collection of community-appointed advisors.

With the help of the Gitanyow Wilp Sustainability Fund, the Nation has many plans on the horizon. The Hereditary Chiefs are working with the mineral tenure holders in the area to ensure they are abiding by Gitanyow’s stewardship and cultural values, with a vision to protect and sustainably manage the region.

And the Nation has plans to establish a climate monitoring centre and a long house building in the area, where they can host visitors, whether they are partners, researchers, or other Nations.

Ultimately, the newly declared IPA, community-advised fund, and future long house are all united under a common purpose: to safeguard the land for future generations so that they can live in the place where they’re from and know that it’s cared for.

Learn more about MakeWay’s work in the Pacific region and how we are partnering with communities working to secure healthy lands and waters for current and future generations.

25 years ago I was working in rediscovery camps, youth camps trying to connect Indigenous kids back to the land. Seeing the intergenerational trauma play out with youth and seeing how much their lives could change by being connected to their territories was really impactful for me.

TARA MARSDEN, GITANYOW WILP (HOUSE) MEMBER AND SENIOR INDIGENOUS ADVISOR FOR THE HEALTHY WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE

Individuals & Families
In fiscal year 2021, we received nearly 4,000 donations from individuals and their families across Canada. Our community of individual donors work with us to support hundreds of initiatives, ranging from neighbourhood-scale social programs to national conservation efforts.

Foundations, Charities, & Nonprofits
Foundations, charities, and nonprofits are important members of the MakeWay community. Their donations help us support community-led initiatives across the country.

Lists include all donors of $1,000 or more
In March of 2021, the Trottier Family Foundation began its Staff DAF program, in which a DAF is set up for each individual employee with a sum of $5000 per year that they can grant to charities of their choice. Operated via a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) managed by MakeWay, there’s no matching of funds required or strings attached. Each of the five staff members gets to decide where to grant the money, and this does not have to be aligned with the types of organizations that the Trottier board typically gives to.

“In essence, each staff member has a mini-foundation set up in their name and this is done in a manner that requires no board approval,” explains the foundation’s executive director Éric St-Pierre. This has been named the Staff DAF program, and not surprisingly it has been received with great enthusiasm by the foundation’s team.

In recent years there has been growing criticism of DAFs in Canada, but MakeWay wants to change this. For us the goal is not to use DAFs as an accumulation and preservation of capital but rather to get more funding flowing into community.

While many organizations offer health benefits, dental, and cool team building incentives, this is a staff benefit that really speaks to the values of the staff that work with us and it says a lot about us as a foundation and our culture.

LAURA BUTLER, MANAGING DIRECTOR, TROTTIER FAMILY FOUNDATION

In May, renowned Anishinaabe journalist and author Tanya Talaga opened a fund at MakeWay. The “Spirit to Soar” Fund coincided with the release of Spirit to Soar, or Moshkowininandoo bimoadinwin, a film that she co-directed based on her best-selling book Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City.

The award-winning documentary shines a light on the reality of the lives of First Nations youth in Northern Ontario, forced to leave their communities and their families to attend school in larger towns and cities. We see the hard truth of racism and how it kills. And we see the bravery of Indigenous kids trying to simply get an education in a country that has tried to erase them.

This new fund is able to receive donations and then grant to programs in and around Thunder Bay dedicated to safe transition, as well as cultural programs that offer land-based trips for Indigenous youth to learn and connect with language, family, tradition, and Elders.

In March of 2021, the Trottier Family Foundation began its Staff DAF program, in which a DAF is set up for each individual employee with a sum of $5000 per year that they can grant to charities of their choice. Operated via a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) managed by MakeWay, there’s no matching of funds required or strings attached. Each of the five staff members gets to decide where to grant the money, and this does not have to be aligned with the types of organizations that the Trottier board typically gives to.

“In essence, each staff member has a mini-foundation set up in their name and this is done in a manner that requires no board approval,” explains the foundation’s executive director Éric St-Pierre. This has been named the Staff DAF program, and not surprisingly it has been received with great enthusiasm by the foundation’s team.

In recent years there has been growing criticism of DAFs in Canada, but MakeWay wants to change this. For us the goal is not to use DAFs as an accumulation and preservation of capital but rather to get more funding flowing into community.

Since we published this story in the summer of 2021, MakeWay has been working on re-imagining our DAF offering to increase transparency and make sure that MakeWay DAFs are agile tools for supporting nature and communities. Looking ahead to 2022, we aspire to work with more DAF partners that are willing to humbly listen to and learn from community, who have the courage to adapt, share, or even cede power, and who are nimble and action-oriented in their approach to social, environmental, and economic justice.

Learn more about how Donors Advised Funds at MakeWay are mobilizing capital for community-led change.

LAURA BUTLER, MANAGING DIRECTOR, TROTTIER FAMILY FOUNDATION

In May, renowned Anishinaabe journalist and author Tanya Talaga opened a fund at MakeWay. The “Spirit to Soar” Fund coincided with the release of Spirit to Soar, or Moshkowininandoo bimoadinwin, a film that she co-directed based on her best-selling book Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City.

The award-winning documentary shines a light on the reality of the lives of First Nations youth in Northern Ontario, forced to leave their communities and their families to attend school in larger towns and cities. We see the hard truth of racism and how it kills. And we see the bravery of Indigenous kids trying to simply get an education in a country that has tried to erase them.

This new fund is able to receive donations and then grant to programs in and around Thunder Bay dedicated to safe transition, as well as cultural programs that offer land-based trips for Indigenous youth to learn and connect with language, family, tradition, and Elders.

In May, renowned Anishinaabe journalist and author Tanya Talaga opened a fund at MakeWay. The “Spirit to Soar” Fund coincided with the release of Spirit to Soar, or Moshkowininandoo bimoadinwin, a film that she co-directed based on her best-selling book Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City.

The award-winning documentary shines a light on the reality of the lives of First Nations youth in Northern Ontario, forced to leave their communities and their families to attend school in larger towns and cities. We see the hard truth of racism and how it kills. And we see the bravery of Indigenous kids trying to simply get an education in a country that has tried to erase them.

This new fund is able to receive donations and then grant to programs in and around Thunder Bay dedicated to safe transition, as well as cultural programs that offer land-based trips for Indigenous youth to learn and connect with language, family, tradition, and Elders.
Grantmaking

Transparency
We value transparency. All grants are posted quarterly on our website. By sharing detailed grants information, we aim to foster innovation and knowledge exchange across the charitable sector, support more effective grantmaking, and further our commitment to transparency.

Our grantmaking takes place through our program funds, our advisory services, and our donor advised funds.

Program Funds
Program funds at MakeWay are strategically managed by our staff and support community-led initiatives that align with our mission.

NATIONAL
COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund for Remote Communities**
Environmental Racism Emerging Work**
Harvesting Learnings & Measuring Impact**
Upsocial Canada Program

NORTHERN CANADA
Arctic Marine Fund
Emerging Northern Leadership Fund
Indigenous Cultural Revitalization Fund
Indigenous Stewardship Fund
MakeWay Arctic Strategy Fund
Northern Sustainable Livelihoods Fund
Northern Territorial Conservation Fund
Northern Women and Girls Fund
Northwest Territories Water Fund* NWT On The Land Collaborative Fund

PACIFIC
BC Community-Based Marine Conservation Fund
BC Freshwater Collaborative*
BC Marine Focus Fund
Capacity for Conservation Fund
Community Wellbeing Fund
Great Bear Sea Fund
Indigenous Authority and Leadership Fund
Indigenous Ecotourism Opportunities Fund*
Land-Based Wellness Fund*
Pacific Salmon Watersheds Fund

MANITOBA
Northern Manitoba Food, Culture & Community Collaborative

7th Generation Fund
Agaveae Fund
Alberta Clean Economy Fund
Alexander Graham Bell Innovation Fund
Andrew Hartman Giving Fund
Animal Spirit Fund
Ani’s Little Angels Foundation Fund
Aurora Fund
Ayelik Fund
Bedight Fund
Biodiversity-Based Solutions Fund
Black Philanthropy Fund
Burton Family Fund
Butterfly Wings Fund
Caroll Harwell Fund
Central Coast Conservation Fund
Chilcultl Wallace Fund
ChangeCopia
Choovel Fund
Children and Nature Fund
Chosen Waters Fund
Christopher Robin Fund
Climate Heroes Fund
CNIS Surgical & Obstetrical Skills Education Fund
Cozen Building Fund
Communications & Broadcasting Cymation Trust Fund
COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund for Changemakers
Coyle Family Foundation Fund
CRFP’s Nova Scotia Conservation Fund
Dark Horse Fund

7th Generation Fund
David J. Solok Endowment Fund
Dene V’Yk – Dene Way of Life Fund
Division of UBC PM&R Fund
DLN Fund
Don Rubenstein Housing Fund
Dr. Bhagwant Wani & Dr. Chung Min Lam Endowment Fund
Drangry Fund
Drawn-In Holistic Endowment Fund
Equiterre Fund
Endwell Long-Term Fund
Equiterre Fund
ESP Fund
Friends of Gatunau Fund
Friends of Qasa Conservation Support Fund
Funding Awesome Fund
FuturePAY Fund
Qal’In’Ko’oan Climate and the Arts Series Fund
Olatango Wip Sustainability Fund
Oklam Powers and Melanie Wong Foundation Fund
Oord Warrenhuk Fund
Harbingter Fund
Henny and Benoît Kasasmy Family Foundation Fund
Holyhawk Scholarship Fund
Hoops 4 Hope Fund
Bokha Fund
Jarlath Research Fund
Jesse and Justine Rusch Foundation Fund
Joel and Dana Solomon Fund
John Kenneth-Dobrath Praw Endowment Fund
Jokabepa Foundation Fund
Jon Oates Foundation Fund
Joy Family Giving Fund
Juno Foundation Fund
Justice Impact Fund
Language Documentation and Revitalization Fund
Lights On Fund
Lindblad Truslow Award Fund
Lunapads Global Opportunity Fund
MacGoun Fund
McMullin-DeBello Fund
Mentoring Excellence BC Fund
Michael and Amelia Humphries Earthise Legacy Fund
Myer Fund
Nanamota Conservation Fund
New Literacies Fund
Nonprofit Centers Fund
OneFull Fund
Pacific Wild Fund
Perry Performing Arts Fund
Planeterra Fund
Power of Giving Fund
Prescription for Change Canada Fund
Power of Giving Fund
Prescription for Change Canada Fund
President’s Discretionary Fund
Roni Luthra Charitable Fund
Renewal Funds Charitable Giving Fund
Revive for Life Legacy Fund
Roar Fund
Robert Huber Memorial Fund
Robin Wheeler Legacy Fund
Richardson Family Fund
Ridout Institute Research Fund
Roses Fund
SHUL Endowment Fund
Skene’s Watershed Fund
SkeneWild Conservation Trust Fund
Social Innovation Conference Series
Social Venture Institute Fund
Sokil-Rubenstein Family Life Insurance ODI Fund
Samos El Bardo Fund
Stead Family Giving Fund
Stand Now Fund
Strachan Hartley Legacy Foundation Fund
Strategic Philanthropy Course Fund
Street Kids International Fund
Sustaining Design Fund
Tegan and Sara Foundation Fund
Tevrim Fund
The deer crossing the art farm Fund
Tlaotsin Conservation Endowment Fund
Transformation Fund
Twin Island Protection Fund
Twylo Rasecover Memorial Fund
Valeine Elias Fund
Vancouver Bicycle Fund
Vancouver Tomorrow Fund
Venn’s Community Fund
V. Paul Lee Family Foundation
Wellbeing Fund
Wildhorse Canadian Conservation Fund
Wild Faith Fund
Youhille Foundation Fund

Donor Advised Funds & Advisory Services
Donor advised funds are a flexible and agile way to support nature and communities. MakeWay works with a diverse community of donor advised fund holders – individuals, charities, foundations, nonprofits, and businesses – who share a passion for environmental and social change.

MakeWay also provides strategic advisory services, including grantmaking strategy and management, to funders, enabling more communities to achieve impact.

A detailed list of MakeWay grants in fiscal year 2021
Harvesting fruit from Toronto’s urban orchard. In 2021, shared platform project Not Far From The Tree harvested over 30,000 pounds of fruit, sharing it with community partners like local food banks and community kitchens. Photo: Not Far From The Tree
Accelerating and amplifying impact

It takes a lot of hard work to create positive and lasting change. The precious time and energy available to changemakers should be spent on making it happen. With MakeWay’s shared platform, changemakers share a suite of centralized organizational supports, and coaching when needed, so more time and money can go toward building strong, vibrant, just communities and a healthier planet.

MakeWay’s shared platform is home to over 60 unique projects working on community-led solutions from coast to coast to coast.

THIS YEAR WE

Welcomed 5 projects to our shared platform team, and currently host 67 projects from coast to coast to coast.

The Marine Plan Partnership Project received the BC Lieutenant Governor’s inaugural Reconciliation Award recognizing extraordinary leadership and commitment to furthering Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the province of British Columbia.

The Avalik Project organized confidence-building, on-the-land canoe-trips for Inuit youth in Nunavut employing traditional knowledge processes (Inuit qaujimajatuqangit) known as inunnguiniq: “making capable human beings.”

The Nawalakw Culture Project completed construction on their language camp and welcomed their first students for immersive language programs in their traditional territory on BC’s south-central coast.

Our Living Waters and FLOW worked with 50+ water organizations across Canada to write a joint submission for the federal government outlining a proposed five pillars for the Canada Water Agency.

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative, a partnership between Real Estate Foundation of BC, Watersheds BC and the Government of British Columbia, was launched to support First Nations, local governments, and non-profits to come together to protect freshwater, restore salmon habitat, and adapt to climate change.

Four delegates from the Canadian Coalition for Environmental and Climate Justice attended COP 26 to promote environmental and climate justice for marginalized communities.
### Shared Platform Projects

**Above Ground**
- AIDS-Free World Canada
- Arctic Funders Collaborative
- Atlantic Water Network*
- Átli7ks7ens/Howa Sound Marine*
- Ayelik Project
- BC Freshwater Initiative
- Binners’ Project
- Black Environmental Initiative (BE Initiative)
- Canadian Biotechnology Action Network
- Canadian Freshwater Alliance
- Centre for Connected Communities (C3)
- Climate Change Connection
- Coalition for Action on Toxics
- CommonUNITY Doulas*
- Community Resilience to Extreme Weather (CREW)
- Connecting Women with Scarborough Services
- Dane Nahig
- Digital Justice Lab
- Digital NWT
- East Scarborough Storefront
- Echo Conservation*
- EcoAnalytics
- Economic Renewal Initiative (ERI) Project
- EntrepreNorth
- Farms at Work
- Firelight**
- First Nations With Schools Collective
- Food Communities Network
- Forum for Leadership on Water
- Gaagige Zaagibiga
- Great Bear Education and Research (GBEAR)**
- Hidden Harvest Ottawa
- Howe Sound/Átli7ks7ens Marine Reference Guide
- Indigenous EYEZ BC
- Indigenous Food Collective
- Indigenous Languages Song Contest**
- Inner Activist
- Innovative Young Indigenous Leaders Symposium (IYILS)
- IPCA Innovation Program**
- Jane’s Walk
- Let’s Grow*
- Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast
- Nawalow Culture Project
- NetPositive**
- Nexawweyztum – Dasquax Tribal Park Initiative
- Northern Birthwork Collective
- Northern Confluence Initiative
- Northern Indigenous Stewardship Network*
- Northern Youth Leadership
- Not Far From The Tree
- Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Program
- Organizing for Change
- Our Living Waters
- Our Voices
- Pathways to Conservation
- Powered By Data
- Project Neutral
- Qanak
- Rainforest Solutions Implementation Project
- Reel Youth Film Project
- Resilient Indigenous Leaders Network
- Resilient Waters
- Resource Movement**
- Rivers Without Borders Canada**
- Round River Canada
- Sacred Seeds Collective
- School for Social Entrepreneurs – Ontario
- Sea to Cedar
- Share Reuse Repair Initiative
- Shifting Lakes
- Slave River Coalition**
- Social Venture Partners Toronto**
- Stein Nahatlatch IPA*
- Stewardship Initiative*
- summerlunch*
- The Canadian Coalition for Environmental and Climate Justice (a new project on MakeWay’s shared platform) at COP 26. (L-R) Naoio Charles, Leila Cantave, Alyson Doyle-Braithwaite, Tyjana Connolly.
- The Existence Project
- The Food Project*
- The Reading Partnership**
- The Together Project
- Turtle Island Institute
- Western Arctic Youth Collective
- Yotuni**

*Opened in FY22**  **Closed in FY21**
Birth is connected to everything. The experience of childbirth can be profoundly healing, and the opportunity to revitalize traditional knowledge and apply it to such a significant moment can have a ripple effect on parents and children, their families, and communities.

In Yellowknife, Sabrina Flack and Degha Scott saw a need for a holistic birthcare program in the North, so that families and community members could have access to wrap-around supports – currently, many Northerners must travel far from their homes to give birth in settings far away from their local and cultural supports. So Sabrina and Degha created the Northern Birthwork Collective. “We realized the best thing to do would be to start creating this ourselves,” says Sabrina. “We’re not reinventing the wheel, but we are bringing something new to the Northwest Territories at a time when it’s sorely needed.”

The Collective is striving to create culturally safe and gender inclusive spaces, programming, and services for Yellowknife residents seeking reproductive, pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and parenting support. They have created a Knowledge Keepers Advisory Committee with Elders from across the NWT advising on curriculum and program development. They also hosted the Manitoba-based Zaagi’idiwin Indigenous Doula Training at the end of July, building doula capacity within the Yellowknife area. Many of these participants are also enrolled in a four-month training module focused on reproductive justice and advocacy.

Northern women and girls are doing incredible things in their communities, even as they face challenges, they are innovators and change-makers. When they thrive, families and communities thrive. MakeWay’s Northern Program focuses on both catalyzing emerging Northern leaders, and supporting efforts to revitalize Indigenous ways of knowing and being. And so, the Northern Birthwork Collective found its home on the MakeWay shared platform, and received initial financial support from the MakeWay and Canadian Women’s Foundation strategic grant-making partnership.

The Northern Birthwork Collective will foster community reconnection to ancient ways of knowing and being, provide widespread access to culturally safe pre- and post-natal care, and ripple outward from family units to contribute to a more resilient Northern community.

Learn more about how MakeWay is helping to advance Northern leadership and Indigenous cultural resurgence.
Several years ago, after a summer of severe flooding in Toronto, a debilitating ice storm struck over the winter holidays. Two bouts of extreme weather in a short span of time indicated to local environmentalists an inescapable reality: climate change was happening in their own city. In response, a small group founded Community Resilience to Extreme Weather – CREW – in order to raise awareness, prepare for, and respond to the effects of climate change in urban centres.

“We’re based in Toronto, but this initiative is relevant to residents of towns and cities across the country,” says Sheila Murray, CREW’s project director. CREW began as a way to expand the dialogue around how climate change could affect residents of Toronto, particularly among people who had little interest because climate change seemed like a far-off concept.

One of CREW’s early activities involved co-creating an extreme weather preparedness program with seniors connected to the Victoria Park Hub in Toronto. “That taught us a lot,” says Sheila, “and it underscored what we already suspected: people hear messages about climate change more clearly from people like themselves.” The program empowered seniors to become experts on climate impacts relevant to them: they learned to check in with their neighbours in situations like extended power outages or heat waves.

CREW has become best-known for their grassroots work in low-income, racialized communities. Their work is grounded in research that proves the importance of social capital – such as neighbourhood networks and community support plans – before, during, and after an extreme weather event/natural disaster. They have developed a variety of programs that address issues like green space, food security, and emergency preparedness. “Robust social networks are a measure of how effectively neighbours help neighbours when an extreme event strikes close to home,” says Sheila. “Critical to this is know who your neighbours are before disaster hits.”

“This year has clearly shown Canadians what climate change looks like right here at home. We’ve experienced horrific wildfires and floods, and we’re increasingly concerned, and asking questions. The breadth of impacts will be huge, and there is no doubt that we’ll need community more than ever.”

SHEILA MURRAY, PROJECT DIRECTOR, CREW

Learn more about how CREW is supporting Toronto neighbourhoods as they respond to climate change.
With four First Nations, nine local governments, and dozens of stakeholders, there were already several maps of various parts of Howe Sound (Atl’ka7tsem), but not one covering the whole region. Fiona Beaty and a team of dedicated researchers, Squamish Nation, and community members set out to change that, and the Howe Sound/Atl’ka7tsem Marine Reference Guide was born.

Nestled on the coastline north of Vancouver, Howe Sound is an ecologically and culturally important region, home to tens of thousands of residents, and diverse wildlife including glass sponge reefs, orcas, and sea lions. The Sound lies within Sw̱wú7mesh (Squamish) Nation territory, and overlaps Tsleil-Waututh, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and shíshálh (Sechelt) Nations.

Industry threatened the health of Atl’ka7tsem in the 20th century, and while localized remediation efforts have made gains, new challenges are emerging: increased tourism has put pressure on the area, and the effects of climate change are apparent above the water and below.

Because fish swim across administrative barriers, in 2017, regional governments proposed the idea of bringing together local stakeholders to creating a comprehensive map of the area, to facilitate collaborative planning and conservation efforts as well as helping community members to increase their knowledge of their home. The result is a 400-layer interactive map covering the whole of the Sound, from mountain-top to ocean floor.

Creating the Guide also bolstered the energy of Squamish Nation youth, who were inspired to deepen their connection to their territory, filling in knowledge gaps by spearheading field research on plankton, herring, and eelgrass. “The Guide has come to life through the leadership of young people in the Sound,” says the team.

The Guide found a perfect home as a project on MakeWay’s shared platform. The team felt strongly about the need to bring a balanced approach to the creation of the map, so the shared platform offered a neutral structure to house the initiative and take care of the administrative and financial responsibilities while the team focused on the work on the ground.


Learn more about how this community-driven initiative is making waves in Howe Sound.
Board of Directors

We give deep thanks to four out-going members who have provided vital, thoughtful, and strategic guidance through their generous time with MakeWay. Thank you Jane, Sandy, Peter and Liisa.

For the first time ever, we decided to approach Board succession differently with MakeWay putting out a public call for new members of the Board. As a result we are now welcoming five stellar new Directors who will help guide us through this next phase of the organization and expand the Board’s networks, experience, and diversity.

Outgoing Directors

Peter MacLeod
“MakeWay is a frontrunner. It’s an organization that breaks ground by inspiring others with new approaches to funding, partnerships and impact. It’s legacy in Canada is significant and likely under-appreciated – but like all movement makers it focuses on results and not who gets the credit.”

Liisa O’Hara
“I have learned about the incredible power of building bridges; both metaphorical and concrete ones. The synergies resulting from the power of nature and communities thriving together will have everlasting positive impacts. I have also learned about the combined power of humility and boldness that will be crucial in continuing the work on diversity, equity and inclusion.”

Sandy Houston
“It has been inspiring to see an organization so intent on listening to and serving its communities and their priorities. MakeWay has found its “north star” as a catalyst for finding new pathways to the sustainable inclusive and just Canada we all desire.”

Jane Rabinowicz
“MakeWay isn’t afraid to take risks, to be imaginative, and to learn from failure. I appreciate that MakeWay is always striving to do better, holding space for different perspectives and acting as a bridge between funders and community-led initiatives. The integrity of MakeWay is centering community leadership as a value in everything they do.”

Incoming Directors

Raisa Mirza
“I look forward to supporting an organization that thinks big, but acts locally, to support the systemic changes necessary to help ensure that vital ecosystems in Canada, and the humans that depend on them, flourish for many generations after ours.”

Julie Gelfand
“There are a great many issues we have to address in order to ensure our planet is viable in the long term, particularly the climate and biodiversity crises. We need strong supported leaders to help us in the work.”

Nancy Karetak-Lindell
“I look forward to providing a Northern and Indigenous perspective as someone born and raised in Canada’s North. I like the partnership and collaborative approach MakeWay has plus their willingness to listen to the people who are affected by the changes in our world.”

Caroline Merner
“MakeWay’s vision of the inseparable connections between nature and people through generations deeply resonates. I hope to support MakeWay’s work in centering communities in leading a transition towards a more equitable and sustainable future.”

Erica Barbosa
“In today’s societies, economies are increasingly centered around networks and communities, defined by information sharing, connectedness, reduced tolerance for injustice. I consider MakeWay as actively aligning its practice in this way, having a great impact on communities, and setting an example for philanthropy nation-wide.”

We give deep thanks to four out-going members who have provided vital, thoughtful, and strategic guidance through their generous time with MakeWay. Thank you Jane, Sandy, Peter and Liisa.

For the first time ever, we decided to approach Board succession differently with MakeWay putting out a public call for new members of the Board. As a result we are now welcoming five stellar new Directors who will help guide us through this next phase of the organization and expand the Board’s networks, experience, and diversity.

Outgoing Directors

Peter MacLeod
“MakeWay is a frontrunner. It’s an organization that breaks ground by inspiring others with new approaches to funding, partnerships and impact. It’s legacy in Canada is significant and likely under-appreciated – but like all movement makers it focuses on results and not who gets the credit.”

Liisa O’Hara
“I have learned about the incredible power of building bridges; both metaphorical and concrete ones. The synergies resulting from the power of nature and communities thriving together will have everlasting positive impacts. I have also learned about the combined power of humility and boldness that will be crucial in continuing the work on diversity, equity and inclusion.”

Sandy Houston
“It has been inspiring to see an organization so intent on listening to and serving its communities and their priorities. MakeWay has found its “north star” as a catalyst for finding new pathways to the sustainable inclusive and just Canada we all desire.”

Jane Rabinowicz
“MakeWay isn’t afraid to take risks, to be imaginative, and to learn from failure. I appreciate that MakeWay is always striving to do better, holding space for different perspectives and acting as a bridge between funders and community-led initiatives. The integrity of MakeWay is centering community leadership as a value in everything they do.”

Incoming Directors

Raisa Mirza
“I look forward to supporting an organization that thinks big, but acts locally, to support the systemic changes necessary to help ensure that vital ecosystems in Canada, and the humans that depend on them, flourish for many generations after ours.”

Julie Gelfand
“There are a great many issues we have to address in order to ensure our planet is viable in the long term, particularly the climate and biodiversity crises. We need strong supported leaders to help us in the work.”

Nancy Karetak-Lindell
“I look forward to providing a Northern and Indigenous perspective as someone born and raised in Canada’s North. I like the partnership and collaborative approach MakeWay has plus their willingness to listen to the people who are affected by the changes in our world.”

Caroline Merner
“MakeWay’s vision of the inseparable connections between nature and people through generations deeply resonates. I hope to support MakeWay’s work in centering communities in leading a transition towards a more equitable and sustainable future.”

Erica Barbosa
“In today’s societies, economies are increasingly centered around networks and communities, defined by information sharing, connectedness, reduced tolerance for injustice. I consider MakeWay as actively aligning its practice in this way, having a great impact on communities, and setting an example for philanthropy nation-wide.”
Legal Structure

Makeway Foundation*
- Regional Grantmaking
- Advisory Services
- Donor Advised Funds
- National Initiatives
- Collaboratives
- Impact Investing

Makeway Charitable Society**
aka
“Shared Platform”
60+ Projects

* A national charity and public foundation with a goal to help nature and communities thrive together

** An operating charity that houses social change projects ranging from neighbourhood-scale initiatives to national conservation efforts on a shared platform providing administrative supports and charitable expertise.

Externally we operate as MakeWay

Pacific Waterfall by Shayd Johnson
Financial Results

MakeWay is home to MakeWay Foundation and MakeWay Charitable Initiatives Society. The following provides a summary of the combined fiscal year 2021 financial results for MakeWay.

Revenue

- Total Revenue: $39,869,844
  - Foundations, Charities, and Not-For-Profits: $28,808,252 (72%)
  - Governments: $7,599,858 (19%)
  - Individuals & Families: $1,776,512 (4%)
  - Business: $1,413,551 (4%)
  - Other Income: $271,671 (1%)

View Full List of Funding Partners

Expenses

- Total Expenses: $37,604,348
  - Shared Platform Programming: $18,810,543 (50%)
  - General & Admin: $6,974,432 (19%)
  - Pacific Program: $4,066,843 (11%)
  - Grants from Donor Advised Funds: $3,692,737 (10%)
  - Northern Program: $2,465,284 (7%)
  - Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, & Community Collaborative: $949,616 (3%)
  - National Programs & Advisory Services: $644,893 (2%)

Transparency is important to us. See full details in our Audited Financial Statements here.

Grants from Donor Advised Funds

- Federal Government: $1,579,649
- Manitoba Community Foundations: $2,127,241
- Local Community Foundations: $1,29,432
MakeWay is a national charity and public foundation with a goal to enable nature and communities to thrive together. We do this by building partnerships, providing solutions, grants, and services for the charitable sector across the country.