

**Recipients of funds from Tides Canada (2008-2010)**

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 To: [Ross McMillan <ross.mcmillan@tidescanada.org>](mailto:ross.mcmillan@tidescanada.org)  
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Mr. McMillan,

Having noticed that the 2010 U.S. tax return for Tides Canada recently became available at the web-site of Guidestar, I have taken a look at how Tides Canada has been granting money over the past three years (2008-2010) and have summarized my observations, below.

As I see it, the main funding activity of Tides Canada has been to channel a large amount of money to a relatively small number of B.C. First Nations and environmental groups, especially in British Columbia. For example, over these three years, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society got \$1.1 million, the Sierra Club of B.C. got \$707,848, Ducks Unlimited Canada got \$391,773, and so on, as summarized in the table below.

If I have presented anything here that is factually incorrect, or if I have missed any important points, please let me know. If I do not hear from you today, I will post this at my blog early next week.

As before, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact me.

Sincerely,  
 Vivian Krause  
 604.618.8110

# Tides Canada: Lion's Share of Grants Given To B.C. First Nations & Environmental Groups

Recipient Organization	2008	2009	2010	2008-2010
Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation (First Nations)	\$27,322,143			\$27,322,143
Tides Canada Initiatives Society (internal grant)	???	\$5,315,897	\$7,762,427	\$13,078,324
Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy Association (Nova Scotia)	\$1,528,950			\$1,528,950
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society	\$684,839	\$332,771	\$96,183	\$1,113,793
Sierra Club of B.C. Foundation	\$341,198	\$191,684	\$174,966	\$707,848
Nova Scotia Nature Trust	\$705,040			\$705,040
Plan Institute for Citizenship & Disability	\$163,988	\$217,730	\$154,986	\$536,704
Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$200,000	\$191,773		\$391,773
St. Claire's Multifaith Housing Society	\$50,000	\$284,594	\$48,547	\$383,141
Phoenix Community Works Foundation	\$205,063	\$175,135		\$380,198
David Suzuki Foundation	\$377,586			\$377,586
Ecojustice Canada Society	\$339,378	\$26,477	\$6,281	\$372,136
QOS (Eyes) Projects Society (First Nations)	\$149,900	\$101,149	\$117,289	\$368,338
World Wildlife Fund	\$336,379		\$11,302	\$347,681
SkeenaWild Conservation Trust		\$328,378		\$328,378
Chron's & Colitis Foundation of Canada		\$325,740		\$325,740
Ecotrust Canada	\$306,494	\$5,994	\$9,748	\$322,236
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada	\$102,865	\$82,772	\$96,002	\$281,639
Driftwood Foundation Society	\$93,917	\$73,480	\$49,342	\$216,739
SOS Marine Conservation Foundation		\$43,784	\$160,203	\$203,987
Southern Alberta Land Trust Society	\$195,030			\$195,030
Toronto Rehabilitation Institute Foundation		\$175,135	\$15,535	\$190,670
Northwest Institute for Bioregional Research Society (B.C.)	\$73,000	\$74,432	\$33,983	\$181,415
Institute for New Economics Public Interest Research (B.C.) (which has funded the Dogwood Initiative campaign against coastal tankers)	\$40,654	\$46,639	\$88,902	\$176,195

\$33,216,424 \$7,993,564 \$8,825,696 \$50,035,684

The main funding activity of Tides Canada is to transfer a large amount of money to a small number of First Nations and environmental organizations that are active in British Columbia, particularly on the strategic north coast of the province. That's what I find from my analysis of Tides Canada's U.S. tax returns for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

In the above table, the environmental groups funded by Tides Canada are highlighted in green.

Tides Canada says that it funds hundreds of organizations. This is true. U.S. tax returns show that between 2008 and 2010, Tides Canada granted \$55.8 million to 240 organizations. However, a close analysis of the lists of grantees in Tides Canada's U.S. tax returns reveals that two thirds (68 percent) of Tides Canada's grantees received less than \$10,000 per year, a relatively small amount of money.

Fully 90 percent of the funds granted by Tides Canada during 2008, 2009 and 2010, was divided among only 24 recipient organizations. These groups are listed in the above table. Of these 24 organizations, 19 are First Nations and environmental organizations. Simply put, the vast majority of the funds granted by Tides Canada goes to fund First Nations and the environmental movement, especially in B.C.

In 2008, Tides Canada granted [\\$27.3 million](#) in a single cheque to the Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation. This is a B.C. First Nations organization that was created in conjunction with the Great Bear Rainforest Initiative. The purpose of this organization is to support First Nations by helping create a "conservation economy," but only for First Nations on the strategic, north coast of B.C. As shown below, the stated purpose for which the \$27.3 million was granted was "*to fund conservation planning projects and conservation initiatives of the Nuxalk and Lax'Kwalaams First Nations*," according to U.S. tax returns. Although Tides Canada appears to have reported to the I.R.S. that the \$27.3 million was specifically for the Nuxalk and the Lax'Kwalaams, it is probably reasonable to assume that this money is more likely to have been allocated not only to these two First Nations but rather, as per the stipulations of the [Conservation Investments & Agreement](#), signed by Tides Canada, First Nations and four American foundations (the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation and the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation).

Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation	Canada	The fund conservation planning projects and conservation initiatives of the Nuxalk and Lax'Kwalaams First Nations	27,322,143	cheque
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**Far Less Transparency in 2010 than 2009**

Of the total of \$55 million granted by Tides Canada Foundation during 2008, 2009 and 2010, a total of \$13 million was transferred internally from Tides Canada Foundation to Tides Canada Initiatives Society. This \$13 million consisted of \$5.3 million in 2009 and [\\$7.7 million](#) in 2010. In the tax return for 2009, Tides Canada specifies that how the \$5.3 million was to be allocated in a series of 25 grants for various projects of Tides Canada Initiatives Society. For 2010, however, Tides Canada did not specify how the \$7.7 million was spent by TCIS. TCF reported to the I.R.S. simply that the [\\$7.7 million](#) was for "...." In this sense, it seems to me that Tides Canada was far less transparent in 2010 than in the previous year.

Tides Canada Initiatives	13056 0188 980001	Canada	To support TC's projects in the areas of social inclusion and civic engagement, leadership development and capacity building, food, environmental conservation, water and oceans, climate and energy solutions	7,762,437
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Source: Tides Canada's U.S. tax return. 2010.

**The \$25.6 Million Dollar Question**

While the lists of grants that are required by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service give some indication about the grant recipients of a particular foundation, in the case of Tides Canada there remains a big question because Tides Canada grants a large portion of its total revenue to its internal, operating charity, known as Tides Canada Initiatives Society. In fact, during 2008, 2009 and 2010, Tides Canada Foundation transferred a total of \$25.6 million to Tides Canada Initiatives Society. This is a lot of money and it raises a fair question: How was this money spent by Tides Canada Initiatives Society?