

OVERVIEW



Columbia Basin Trust supports the ideas and efforts of the people in the Columbia Basin.

We often work behind the scenes, and take our lead from residents and communities. The Trust is here to offer resources and support to all Basin residents.

While our range of services, program, initiatives and financial investments is complex, our purpose is straightforward: we exist and act for the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin – now and for generations to come.

Our Mandate

The Trust is mandated under the *Columbia Basin Trust Act* to manage its assets for the ongoing economic, environmental and social benefit of the region, without relieving governments of any obligations in the region. The Trust is also mandated under the *Columbia Basin Management Plan* to include the people of the Basin in planning for the management of the assets and to work with others to coordinate activities related to the purpose of the Trust.

Our Mission

The Trust supports efforts by the people of the Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

What We Do

- Invest capital and manage the assets of the Trust.
- Use the income earned from the Trust's investments to deliver benefits to the Basin.

How We Serve the Region

Using income earned from our Investments, the Trust works with Basin residents to develop, implement and manage programs and initiatives that respond to community and regional needs.

The Trust is flexible and responsive in how we assist communities and residents in addressing their needs; we are always exploring new areas and new ways we can provide support to the Basin.

We serve the region by:

- **investing** in Basin power projects, businesses and real estate (to generate a financial return)
- **investing** in projects that have broader community impact and where financial return is secondary
- **engaging** with residents to understand priorities
- **facilitating**, convening and providing access to information to deepen our collective understanding of issues
- **partnering** with organizations that have complementary objectives and expertise in particular issues or sectors to work toward attaining common goals
- **developing initiatives and programs** that address specific needs linked to our strategic objectives, delivered by the Trust or partners
- **providing grants** to a wide range of community projects, as well as to the social, economic, environment, youth, and arts and culture sectors, administered by the Trust or by partners

Our staff are also a form of support; they work to understand the unique needs of a particular community, organization or project because one size doesn't fit all. While they can direct you to one of our many programs, sometimes the most valuable support is non-monetary: analysis, networking, guidance, facilitation, sharing knowledge and being a sounding board.



Investing on Your Behalf

The Trust manages the original endowment and invests it in order to generate a predictable, sustainable and appreciating income stream. This money is used to deliver benefits in the Basin and fund our corporate operating expenses and new investment opportunities, now and into the future.

Investing in the Future

The Trust balances risk and returns to ensure reliable income and is guided by the Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures. Our investment focus is financial, but our investments earn more than money—they can also provide social, economic and environmental benefits to the Basin.



What We Invest In

Power Projects

Together with Columbia Power Corporation, we own and operate three hydroelectric projects in the southwestern Basin. We also developed a fourth project with Columbia Power and Fortis Inc.

Private Placements

We invest in Basin businesses, always keeping in mind the principles of a prudent investor and the balance between risk and returns.

- Commercial Loans and Investments
- Real Estate Investments

Market Securities

These include a range of investments such as publicly traded bonds and equities.

Creation of the Trust

In recognition of impacts to the region from the Columbia River Treaty, Basin residents, local elected officials and First Nations leaders joined together and approached the Province of BC to get a share of the benefits created by the treaty and to create a Basin-based organization to manage the funds.

In 1995 the *Columbia Basin Trust Act* was signed and Columbia Basin Trust was established. It was agreed that the Trust would operate with a high degree of independence and autonomy; we are accountable to both Basin residents and the Province. The Act outlines our mandate to provide social, economic and environmental benefits to the region, but it doesn't specify how we support communities.

The strategic priorities in the Columbia Basin Management Plan provide a high-level road map for the Trust's work in the Basin and further direction is detailed in sector-specific strategic plans. All plans are developed in consultation with Basin residents.

