



Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Summary

April 2018 marked the start of the sixth operational season of the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS). Thanks to dedicated staff, diligent directors, knowledgeable partners and inspired volunteers, the CSISS expanded its programming and made significant progress on each guiding goal.

The six guiding goals are:



1

Implement a collaborative and coordinated program

6

Ensure Program Sustainability

2

Educate, engage, inspire, participate, manage

5

Slow or reduce the spread of existing invasive species

Project Area: Salmon Arm, Revelstoke, and Golden Invasive Plant Management Areas (IPMAs)

Vision Statement:

The environment, economy and society of the Columbia Shuswap region are protected from the adverse impacts of invasive species.

The objectives of the Society are:

a) To educate and engage public, private landowners, land and aquatic managers, First Nations and others about invasive species and their impacts.

b) To establish and operate invasive species management programs.

c) To do all other things as are incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the above purposes.



Mission Statement:

The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society is a network of partners who facilitate the prevention, reduction and management of invasive species through collaboration, engagement, and education.

Terrestrial Field Program

Completed **712**
invasive plant surveys



Inventoried **330** sites



Found **52** new invasive
plant sites



Mechanically treated **44**
priority invasive plant sites,
treating an area of **1308 m²**



Administered **3**
herbicide contracts,
treating **8358 m²** of
land



Completed Biological
Agent dispersal
monitoring at **5**
locations



Aquatic Field Program

Collected **118**
Zebra/Quagga
veliger samples



Sampled **42**
locations across **22**
water bodies



Highest risk water
bodies sampled with
more frequency



Plankton samples were
collected and analyzed in
the lab



Substrate monitors and
local substrates were
monitored for settled adult
mussels



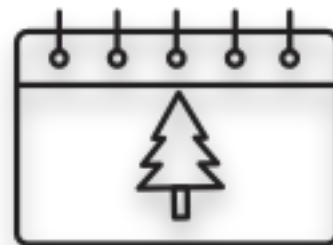
Water quality
was found to be
survivable for
mussels

**No invasive
mussels
Detected!**



Education & Outreach

Engaged with over **3,998** people through **167** community events and meetings



Visited garden centers and hosted workshops to encourage "plant-wise" gardening.



Provided "Play, Clean, Go" outreach at trail heads, biking and running races

Trail signs and boot brushes now installed at over 35 trail heads



Hosted an invasive mussel prevention event with the BC Mussel Defense program in Sicamous



Visited 51 marinas and boat launches to promote "Clean, Drain, Dry" and conduct boater surveys



Provided "Don't let it loose" education at community events and to pet stores throughout the region

Placed American Bullfrog awareness posters at high risk lakes and at pet stores throughout the region



presented at 20 youth and school events



Communication

Media

New! Clean Drain Dry billboard on the Trans Canada Highway in partnership with the Shuswap Watershed Council



CSISS had 8 press releases published and was featured in 42 news articles



406 subscribers to the CSISS newsletter
276 people like our facebook page
215 followers on instagram
73 followers on twitter



Workshops

The following events were held by CSISS in 2018:

- Edible Invasives workshop
- CSISS Annual General Meeting
- Invasive Species Site Rehabilitation workshop
- Annual Land Manager Meeting
- Five Invasive Plant ID and management training workshops
- City of Salmon Arm and Columbia Shuswap Regional District tailgate training
- Invasive Species Education workshop at EECOM conference
- Strategic Planning meeting

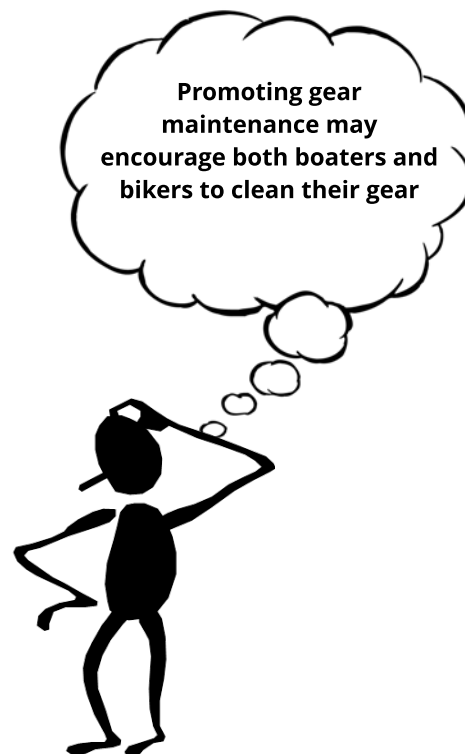
Weed pulls

Hosted 12 weed pulls with 158 volunteers

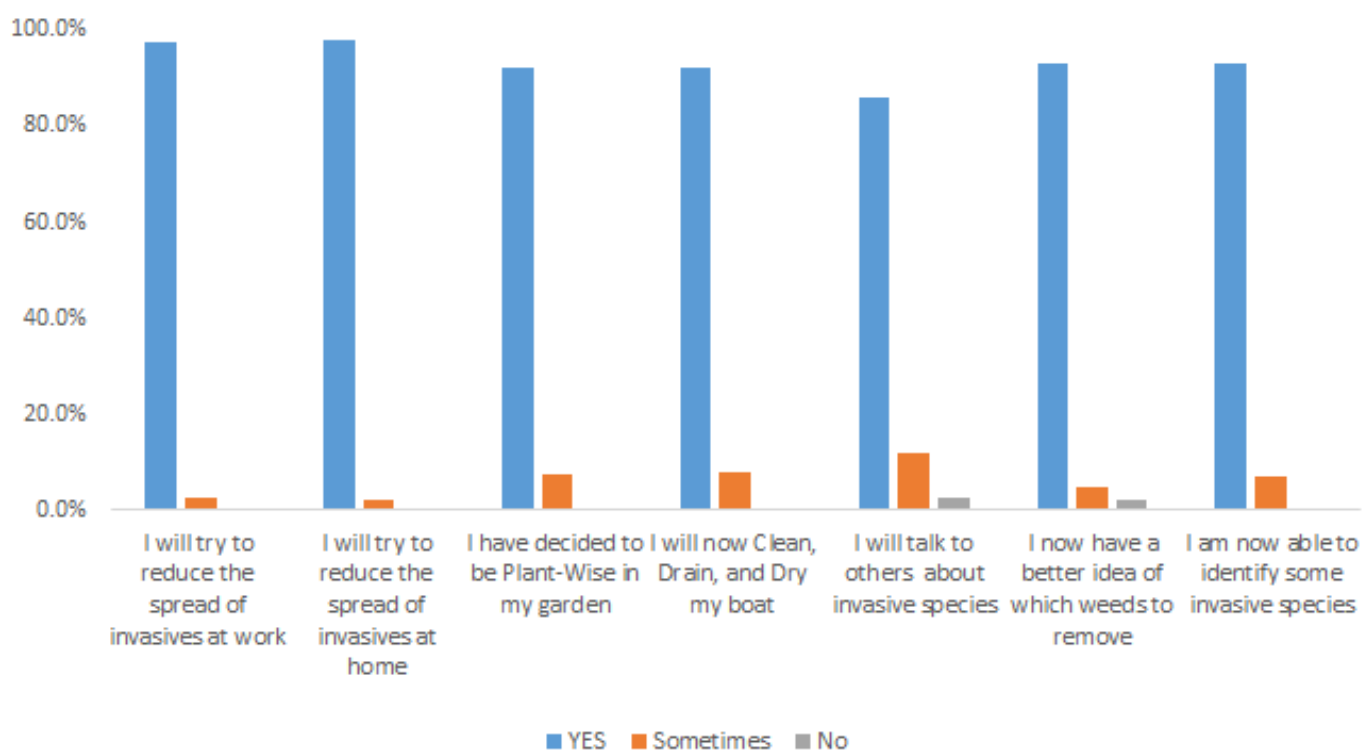


Program Evaluations

CSISS used surveys to understand and overcome barriers to positive behaviour change, and found perceived benefits that can promote useful behaviours.



Survey Results From 53 CSISS Evaluation Forms in 2018





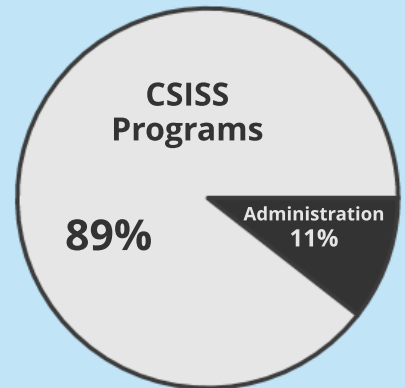
17 Funders

Supporting CSISS in 2018

Expenses in 2018



- B.C. Community Gaming Grant
- Parks Canada
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- City of Salmon Arm
- BC Hydro
- Shuswap Watershed Council
- BC Parks
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)
- Ministry of Forests, Lands , Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD)
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)
- Columbia Basin Trust (CBT)
- Employment and Social Development Canada (Canada Summer Jobs Program)



Small contributions received from:



- North Columbia Environmental Society
- Invasive Species Council (boat industry workshop and training workshop)
- Shuswap Trail Alliance (RBC Water Grant partnership)
- Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society (SABNES)
- Okanagan Regional Library

We thank all members and stakeholders for their donations at workshops and events



Our Team and Board of Directors

CSISS Staff 2018

Robyn Hooper
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Laura Gaster
FIELD OPERATIONS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Sue Davies
AQUATICS & OUTREACH PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

Kim Kaiser
EDUCATION PROGRAM OFFICER

Sam Legebokow
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Heather Wilson
PROGRAM ASSISTANT



Meet the board



Hamish Kassa
CHAIR

Chris Cochran
VICE CHAIR

Adam Croxall
DIRECTOR
not pictured

Darren Komonski
DIRECTOR

Bruce Husband
DIRECTOR

Diane Millar
DIRECTOR

Chris Gill
DIRECTOR
not pictured

Laurel Corrigan
DIRECTOR
not pictured

Natalie Stafl
DIRECTOR
not pictured

John Braisher
DIRECTOR



"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make."

—Jane Goodall





Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society



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