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Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

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1 Message from the President

CMI's spring 2014 started out in Revelstoke with Carl Schwarz's statistics refresher course, followed by a well-attended Researcher's Meeting and Annual General Meeting. There were a number of super talks at this meeting, with topics ranging from local mountain caribou restoration efforts, to reporting on fish population trends in our surrounding reservoirs following nutrient additions. Following these talks, there were several excellent field trips. These included a look at innovative timber harvesting with biodiversity in mind; birding, bird-banding and turtle habitat observations; as well as an evening presentation to explore some of the history and underappreciated ecological values of nearby Revelstoke wetlands.

Shortly after these events, our focus shifted to an important management related meeting in Nelson. CMI's "Resource Roads in British Columbia: Environmental challenges at a landscape level" conference attracted a large number of participants for two days of talks and posters. This event was preceded by a one day restoration workshop put on by Dave Poster and Thor Smestad. Participants from this were able to examine the city foreshore bioremediation and restoration work that my Selkirk College students and Thor have been working on over the past decade.

In the Fall, we published our strategic plan. This was a product of several meetings over the past two years, aided by some funding from the Columbia Basin Trust. At this time of year our attention also moved to the East Kootenays, where our interest turned to human dimensions in natural resource management. The conference held in Kimberly had a more intimate feeling, even though its title was "Solving Wicked Problems". Later, Carl Schwartz returned to Revelstoke in November to put on a course titled "Trend Analysis in Environmental Assessment".

These events were also where we saw a torch passing in the CMI office. Our Executive Director, Hailey Ross, went on maternity leave, and Sylvia Wood has provided excellent management services as her replacement since that time. The workload of the CMI office is, however, supported by our important volunteer directors. From Kimberly, Creston, and Castlegar, to Revelstoke and Vernon, and even as far away as Vancouver Island, these folks work hard behind the scenes to keep CMI an effective, relevant organization. A big thank-you to you all!

Dr. Brendan Wilson President
Columbia Mountains Institute

2 Operations of the Columbia Mountains Institute

2.1 About Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

The goal of the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology (CMI) is to improve ecological management by increasing and sharing knowledge about the ecosystems of the Columbia Mountains and nearby regions.

We're known for hosting balanced, science-driven conferences and specialized courses that present the newest information and methodologies. We are a regional group that connects people working in the various fields of applied ecology – natural resource practitioners, managers, researchers, educators, academics, stewardship groups, and others with an interest in the ecology of southeastern British Columbia (BC). Our website offers many resources, including summaries for all of our past conferences.

CMI was incorporated as a society in 1996, and is based in Revelstoke, BC. The society is directed by a maximum of fifteen Board members (in 2014, by 11 Directors). An Executive Director supports the Board on a contractual basis. CMI retains the services of a bookkeeper, and of website consultants as needed. Funding for the operation of our society comes from memberships and retained earnings from our projects (events), and other income such as the Contribution Agreement with Parks Canada, grants from the Columbia Basin Trust, event sponsorships from private donors, and bank interest.

2.2 Board of Directors for 2014

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors met eight times in 2014, to make decisions about future events, finances, policies, and hear and discuss reports from our sub-committees. Most Directors attend our meetings via phone conference calls.

For information about each Director, please visit our website at:

<http://cmiae.org/about/directors-administration/>

Executive

Brendan Wilson, President
Marc-André Beaucher, Vice-President
Kevin Bollefer, Treasurer

Directors

Sarah Boyle
Patrick Daigle
Jenny Feick
Heather Lamson
Carrie Nadeau
Mike Miller
Adrienne Shaw
Harry VanOort

2.3 Membership of CMI

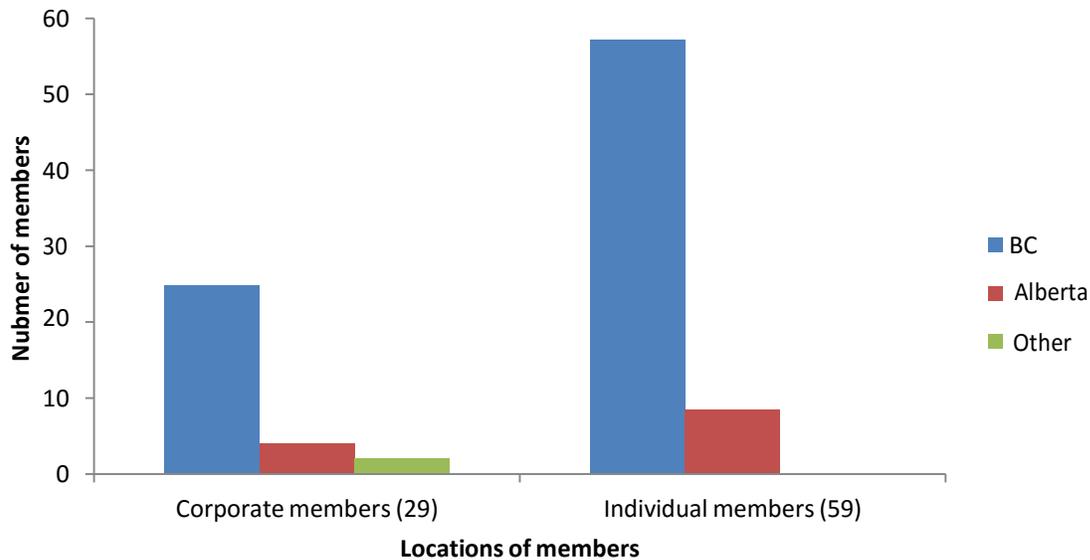
The CMI finished up the year with 59 individual members, and 29 corporate members. Our CMI Members' Updates go out to 249 individual email addresses. The information is circulated further within the corporate memberships.

Late in 2012, the Directors determined that the corporate membership of our academic institutions would include students of those institutions. As of December 2014, 32 students have signed up as members.

CMI corporate members for 2014

AMEC Environmental Infrastructure (<http://www.amecfw.com>)
BC Hydro, Columbia Generation (<http://www.bchydro.com>)
BC Ministry FLNRO, Kootenay Fish and Wildlife Branch (<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/offices.htm>)
Bulkley Valley Research Centre (<http://bvcentre.ca/>)
Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission (<http://fnbc.info/org/canadian-columbia-river-inter-tribal-fisheries-commission>)
City of Revelstoke (<http://www.cityofrevelstoke.com/>)
Columbia Basin Trust (<http://cbt.org/>)
Conservation Northwest (<http://www.conservationnw.org>)
Cooper Beauchesne and Associates Ltd. (<http://cooperbeauchesne.com>)
Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority (<http://www.crestonwildlife.ca>)
Dillon Consulting Limited (<http://www.dillon.ca>)
Downie Timber (<http://www.downietimber.com>)
DWB Consulting Services Ltd. (<http://www.dwbforestry.com>)
Golder Associates: Calgary office (<http://www.golder.com>)
Golder Associates: Edmonton office (<http://www.golder.com>)
Golder Associates: BC Interior offices (<http://www.golder.com>)
Keefe Ecological Services (<http://www.keefereco.com/>)
Lotic Environmental (<http://lotic.co>)
LGL Ltd. (<http://lgl.com/en/>)
Masse Environmental Consultants (www.masseenvironmental.com)
Parks Canada, Ecosystem Services, Calgary office (<http://www.pc.gc.ca>)
Parks Canada, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks and Waterton Lakes National Park (<http://www.pc.gc.ca>)
Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation (<http://www.rcfc.bc.ca>)
Selkirk College, School of Environment and Geomatics (<http://selkirk.ca/>)
Summit Environmental Consultants Ltd. (<http://www.summit-environmental.com>)
University of British Columbia (Okanagan) (<http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan>)
University of Victoria (<http://www.uvic.ca/>)
Vast Resource Solutions (<http://vastresource.com/>)
Wildsight (<http://www.wildsight.ca>)

Where do CMI members live?



2.4 Supporters of CMI for 2014

CMI benefits from the large number of volunteer hours contributed to CMI by our Board of Directors, and by the members of the organizing committees for our various events. These people keep us connected to ecological issues in southeastern BC. CMI continues to be effective because of their willingness to contribute time and expertise.



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada

This year we negotiated a Contribution Agreement with Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks. We received \$5,000.00 in support of our work to maintain a network of natural resource practitioners

working to improve ecological integrity in this region. CMI is grateful for Parks Canada's ongoing financial and in-kind assistance.

The CMI gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind support of agencies that partnered with us to make this year's events and our projects a success. The generosity of these agencies is recognized in the information about each past conference at CMI's website (<http://cmiae.org/events/past/>)

These agencies kindly provided financial support for an event in 2014:

- Columbia Basin Trust
- Summit Environmental Consultants Inc
- Lotic Environmental
- Keefer Ecological Services Ltd.
- Regional District of the East Kootenay
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- BC Conservation Foundation
- Stantec
- Masse Environmental Consultants Ltd.

We also acknowledge the contributions of the presenters and volunteers associated with each of our events.

2.5 Administration of CMI

After one year of leadership as our executive director Hailey Ross, currently on a maternity leave; the Executive Director position is being filled by Sylvia Wood. Hailey and Sylvia had a transition period together in September and October and then Sylvia took over full time at the end of October. Conveniently, Hailey is able to support Sylvia in the Executive Director role as they both live in Revelstoke. During 2014, our bookkeeper was Melody Torgunrud, she remains in that role. Occasionally, the services of other businesses are required.

2.6 Strategic Direction

In May 2013, the CMI Board of Directors held a strategic planning session. Columbia Basin Trust kindly provided funding to hire a facilitator for this one-day meeting, which resulted in an effort to revisit and update CMI's strategic plan. The final version of the Strategic Plan was put up on the CMI website in November, 2014.

This can be found on our website: <http://cmiae.org/about/strategic-plan/>

3 *Activities of the Columbia Mountains Institute*

3.1 Continuing education

Conferences and courses in 2014

A major goal of CMI is to identify current ecological issues and knowledge gaps, then host workshops or courses to address these issues. The conferences and courses are listed on page 9. More details about each event, a list of event partners and supporters, and event summaries are available on CMI website in the “[Events](#)” section. After each event, participant evaluation forms were collected and, for the conferences, summarized in the conference summary document.

Our event announcements are distributed in a very targeted way. We promote almost entirely by email to: members (sent to 249 individuals), our event announcement distribution list (over 800 people), professional associations, various other organizations and individuals as suggested by the topic of each event, and Facebook. Other agencies regularly include our information in their own notices.

CMI now reaches over 1000 natural resource professionals in BC and Alberta

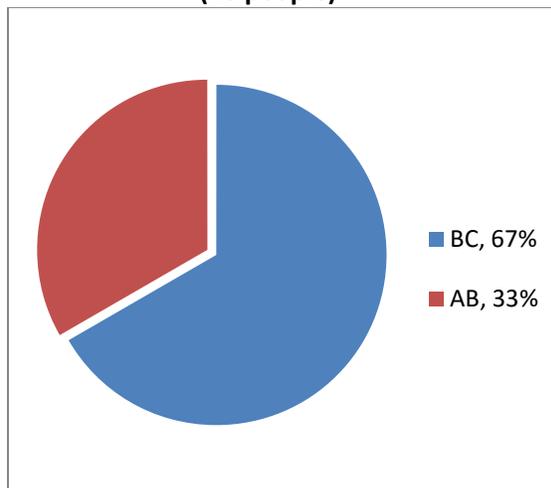
298 people attended a CMI event in 2014.

- 48 people attended a course
- 250 people attended a conference, workshop or meeting.
Some people attended more than one event.

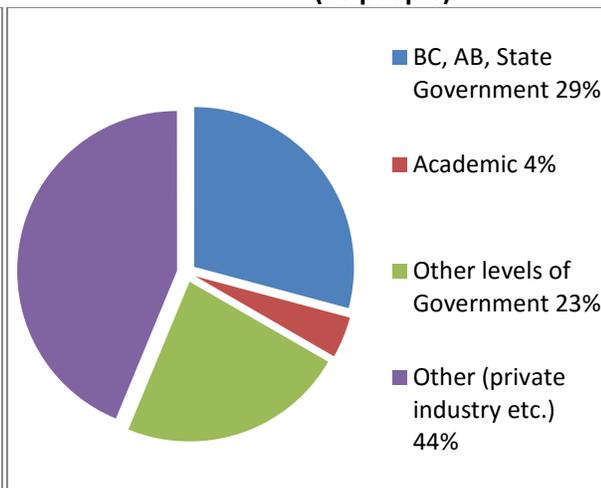
For our 2014 courses and conferences, tables on the following page show where people are from and their affiliations.

Information about CMI course participants in 2014

Where course participants came from in 2014
(48 people)

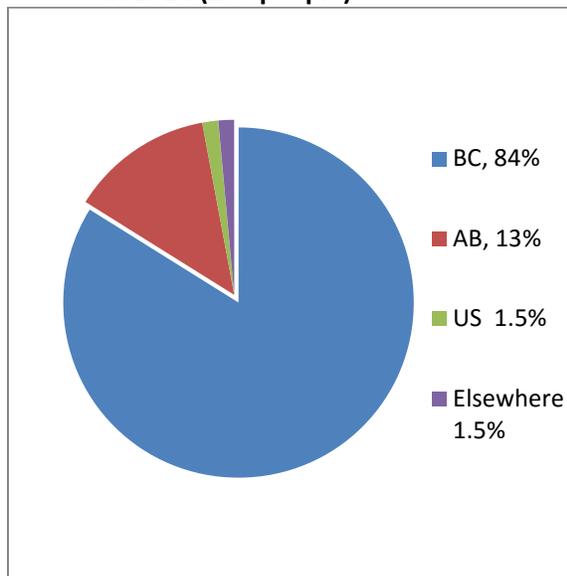


Affiliation of course participants in 2014
(48 people)

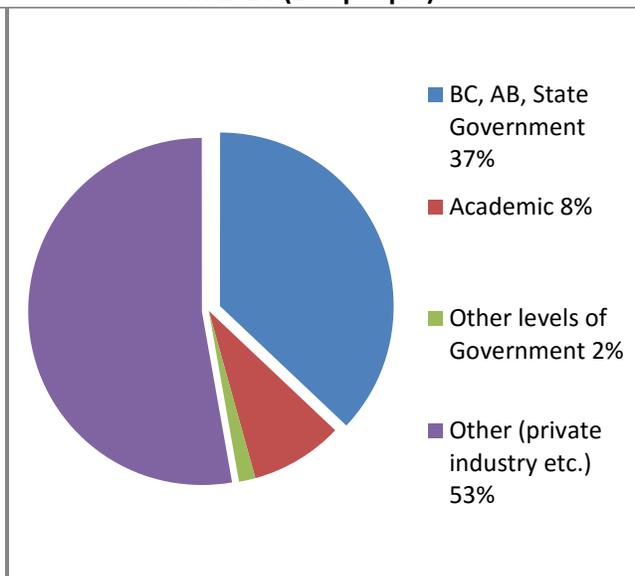


Information about CMI conference participants in 2014

Where conference participants came from in 2014 (250 people)



Affiliations of conference participants in 2014 (250 people)



List of conferences and courses held in 2014

Information about all of these events can be found in the [Past Events](#) section of the CMI website.

Statistics Refresher for Biologists: in “R” software

April 29- May 1, 2014

Regent Hotel, Revelstoke BC

This course had 7 participants.

This course was taught by Dr. Carl Schwarz from Simon Fraser University.

Course Description: Many scientific studies are full of statistical jargon, tables of averages and other statistics, and results of statistical tests which purport to prove a certain hypothesis. The purpose of this course is to review some of the basic sampling and experiment designs used by ecologists and to understand exactly what can and cannot be extracted from a set of data. With the advent of modern statistical packages, the analysis of data is fairly easy, but it is far too easy to get nonsense results. This course will also review common pitfalls in the analysis of data.

CMI Annual Researchers’ Meeting and Annual General Meeting

May 2, 2014

United Church Hall, Revelstoke BC

45 people attended this event

Every year CMI members get together to provide updates on their projects (research, field trials, new initiatives in southeastern BC) and catch up on each other’s news. It’s an informal atmosphere and non-CMI members and post-secondary students are welcome to attend.

Natural Processes for Restoration of Drastically Disturbed Sites course.

May 13, 2014

Prestige Lakeside Resort, Nelson BC

18 people attended this course

This course was taught by David Polster and Thor Smestad.

Course Description: Natural processes have been “reclaiming” natural disturbances since the beginnings of time. This one day workshop will explore how these natural processes can be applied to the reclamation of roads, borrow pits and other sites that humans have disturbed. It is clear that traditional reclamation programs are failing to generate the ecological goods and services that were lost during the disturbance of the site. Providing erosion control is a key element in the development of effective restoration programs.

Resource Roads in British Columbia: Environmental challenges at a landscape level conference.

May 14-15, 2014

Prestige Lakeside Resort, Nelson BC

This conference had 150 people attending. 36 speakers and 12 posters and displays

Conference Description: Within BC, paved and unpaved road length increased by 82% between 1988 and 2005. In 2000, there were over 420,000 road-stream crossings in BC; over the following five years, road-stream crossings increased by about 13,000 per year (BC Ministry of Environment 2007).

In 2005, acknowledging that there were no comprehensive accurate resource road inventories available, the BC Forest Practices Board indicated there were an estimated 400,000 to 550,000 km of unpaved roads in the province.

More recently, in its 2010 State of BC's Forests report, the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands indicated that in 2005, BC had over 700,000 km of roads. Since then, more roads have been built by companies in the forest, mineral, petroleum, hydro, and wind energy sectors. At the same time, many roads have been abandoned and have become unusable due to a lack of resources for maintenance; others have been intentionally closed or decommissioned. Thus recreational access has been constrained.

The environmental effects of roads are diverse, and include impacts on aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, plants, and their habitats, as well as ecosystem and biophysical processes (including soils, water, and air). This conference explored road-network effects and management responses (solutions) for addressing landscape- level environmental and social impacts.

Data Manipulation and Scripting in R: Becoming an R-expert

May 27-29, 2014

The Hillcrest Hotel, Revelstoke BC

This course had 6 participants.

This course was taught by Dr. Carl Schwarz.

Course Description: R is a free, open-source statistical package that is increasingly being used in many fields. While R is free, it is not cheap — meaning that mastering R requires some time investment. It is particularly helpful to have some guidance in the more complex applications of R.

Solving Wicked Problems – Using Human Dimensions to Inform Natural Resource Management conference

Sept. 30- Oct.1, 2014

The Kimberley Conference Centre, Kimberley BC

The conference had 55 people attending. There were 19 presentations, 5 posters and two field trips.

Conference Description: During this conference we will examine how to utilize human dimensions research and methods to help resource practitioners resolve “wicked problems” in southeastern BC. Examples of important human dimensions topics include: environmental assessment processes, Aboriginal management of natural resources, human-wildlife conflicts, Columbia Watershed governance, land use management, access management, etc.

Through an evening keynote address, 1.5 days of presentations, a poster session, dialogue opportunities, field-trips and a post-conference course, this conference will strengthen the ability of managers and practitioners to incorporate human dimensions into the many aspects of natural resource management.

Trend Analysis and Environmental Impact Assessment Course.

November 18-20, 2014

Regent Hotel, Revelstoke BC

The course had 17 participants

The course was taught by Dr. Carl Schwarz.

Course Description: Environmental impact assessments want to know if trends over time differ between control and impact sites. Statistical methods for the analysis of trends over time use many of the same methods as the analysis of experimental data (e.g. ANOVA, regression) but must now deal with problems such as autocorrelation and process error.

3.2 Supporting applied ecological research

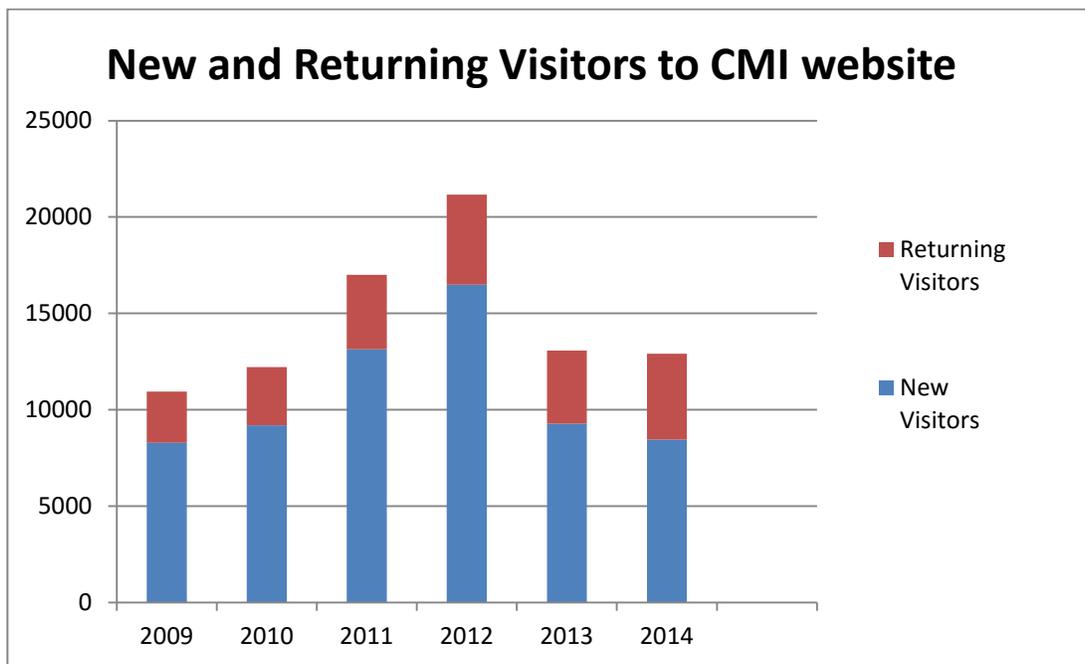
CMI Members' Updates

Seven CMI Members' Updates were sent in 2014, as well as assorted announcements for events and a few interim messages with information that did not make it into the Updates. These email Updates include CMI news and information about funding sources, resources in print and on other websites, job postings, workshops, and assorted other information of interest to professionals working in southeastern BC. Updates went to 249 individual email addresses, and were circulated further within the corporate memberships.

CMI web site (www.cmiae.org)

Our Google Analytics program tells us that in 2014 our web site received 12,899 visits.

- 65% of the people visiting our site were new visitors.
- 34% were returning visitors.



- The most visited page on the site was the CMI Home page with 4,327 visits in 2014.
- The second most visited page was the Resource Roads in BC page, with 2,967 visits.

These numbers suggest that the recently updated website may be better at bringing people to the home page than the previous website since traditionally it was always the Current Events page which was most popular. We won't be able to make any true deductions here until the website has had more time, more traffic, and a season with more events.

The most popular PDF downloads in 2014 were for our conference summaries and call for presentations. The conference summaries are a legacy of our events, and make the information from the event available to a much wider group than the participants. As of December 31, 2014, the

following number of downloads had occurred:

- summary from the *Resource Roads 2014* conference (132 downloads)
- the *Human Dimensions* conference call for presentations (46 downloads)

Facebook

In May 2011, CMI opened a Facebook page with the aim of reaching more people with our announcements, and enabling discussion about ecological issues. In addition to event announcements, one item from each CMI Members' Update was chosen for posting, in addition to any material which the Executive Director thought might be of interest to members of the CMI Facebook page. The number of people that "like" the CMI Facebook page grew from 108 in 2012 to 278 people by the end of 2014.

Available data on CMI Facebook followers as of March 2015 (earlier data not available):

- As of March 2015, this page has 278 "likes"
- 58% of the people who "like" the CMI facebook page are women, 39% are men.
- 33% are between the ages of 25-34, and 32% are between the ages of 35-44.
- 207 people are from Canada, 14 people are from the US, 6 are from Australia, and 8 are from other countries around the world

3.3 Collaboration

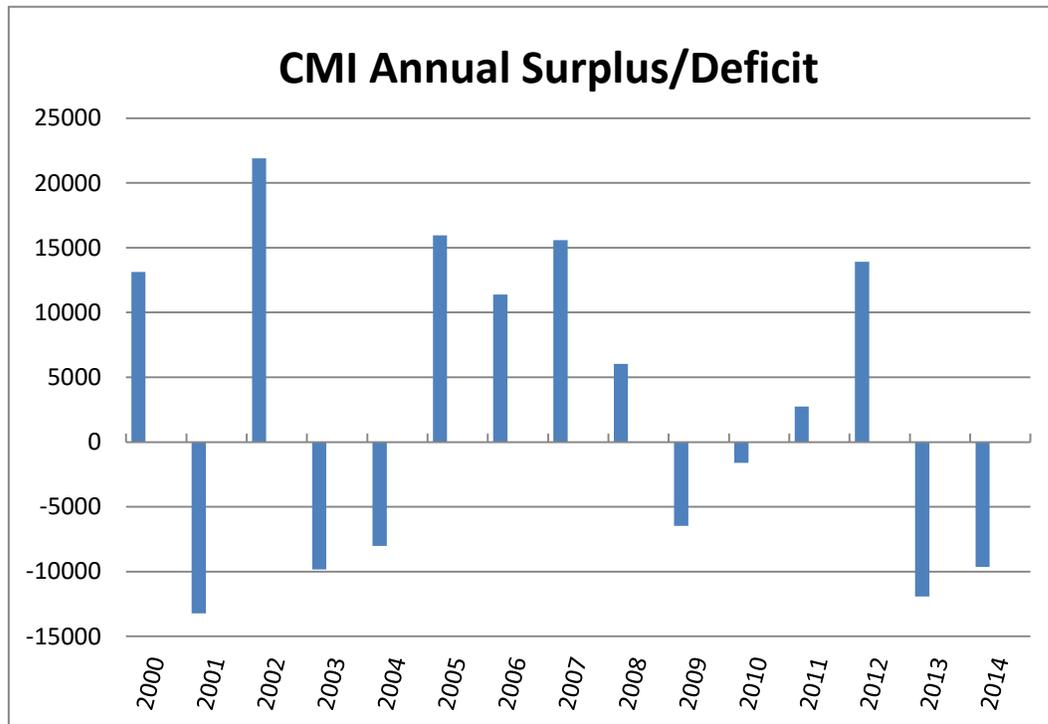
This year Parks Canada and CMI developed a one year Contribution Agreement. Funds from this agreement were used to support CMI's general operating costs. The two agencies share a common goal of improving environmental management in this region.

CMI exchanges information with professional associations, East Kootenay Conservation Program, Y2Y Network, Columbia Basin Trust, the Bulkley Valley Research Centre, Kootenay Association for Science and Technology, and many other agencies and mailing lists.

Information from these groups is often passed on to CMI members in our Members' Updates.

4 Preface to Financial Statement

The un-audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014 reported a net loss of \$9,641.64. The chart below shows how our net earnings have fluctuated from year to year. This is because our main revenue stream varies according to the number and type of events held each year. In 2014 we had several successful events that made money. The deficit came from the amount spent on contractor fees as it was more than anticipated due to the transition between our Executive Directors.



The balance sheet on the last page of this annual report shows that we have built up our savings since CMI began in 1996. These savings are for keeping the society going if we have a year with low income; for replacing our assets; and for shielding us from risks (such as having to cancel an event at the last minute but still having to pay expenses for the event). All in all, CMI remains in a good financial position to continue with what we do. CMI would like to thank all of our financial sponsors for this year's events. This list includes: Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks, Columbia Basin Trust, Summit Environmental Consultants Inc, Lotic Environmental, Keefer Ecological Services Ltd, Regional District of the East Kootenay, Real Estate Foundation of BC, BC Conservation Foundation, Stantec, and Masse Environmental Consultants Ltd

With the financial and in-kind support of these organizations, the fees for courses and conferences are kept as low as possible.

Our members and our volunteer Board of Directors continue to keep us in touch with current ecological issues and skill development needs. This is what keeps our events relevant and well attended. If there are any ideas out there for additional courses or conferences, please let Sylvia or our Board members know.

Kevin Bollefer
CMI Treasurer

Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

**Comparative Statement of Operations
for fiscal year ended December 31, 2014**

	December 2014	December 2013
Revenues		
Completed Workshops, Courses and Projects*	21,240.76	11,087.43
Grants and Contributions for general use	5,020.00	5,010.40
Membership Fees	5,868.42	5,410.00
Miscellaneous Income and Bank Interest	559.20	543.82
Gain or (Loss) on Sale of Assets		
Total Revenues	32,688.38	22,051.65
Expenses		
Accounting and Bookkeeping	1,770.00	1,565.00
Amortization	846.12	846.12
Bank Charges/Visa fee	119.50	23.98
Contract Fees	31,575.39	22,497.80
Donations		-
Insurance	1,908.00	1,881.00
Licenses and Dues	25.00	25.00
Miscellaneous	98.93	127.80
Office Equipment, Furnishings and Software	-	164.13
Office Supplies	262.18	146.99
PayPal Charges Admin	69.63	68.06
Printing and Photocopying	17.69	349.23
Postage and Courier	92.50	56.93
Rent	2,724.18	2,758.34
Services	200.00	-
Staff Training	50.00	140.00
Telecommunications (Phone, Fax and Internet)	2,267.47	2,037.79
Travel	-	192.38
Website	265.00	1,046.56
Workers' Compensation	38.43	39.13
Total Expenses	42,330.02	33,966.24
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	(9,641.64)	(11,914.59)

* The "Completed Workshops, Courses and Projects" entry is the net retained earnings for all of the year's events. We track each event as a separate project (income is registration fees and grants, expenses are the Executive Director's time, instructors' fees, venue rental, catering, credit card fees, etc.) and pool the final results in this category.

Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

**Comparative Balance Sheet
for period ending December 31, 2014**

	December 2014	December 2013
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union – Chequing	17,952.90	19,236.28
Money to be deposited (Cash Clearing)	7,014.19	
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Term Deposit - 20-May-2011	-	-
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Term Deposit - 30-Jan-2014	20,000.00	11,253.15
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Term Deposit – 25-Nov-2015	25,629.78	25,313.36
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union - Member Rewards	-	-
Bank - Revelstoke Credit Union – Shares	50.65	50.15
Accounts Receivable	1,000.00	4,500.00
Prepaid Expenses	-	-
Work In Progress	2,571.84	-
Total Current Assets	<u>74,219.36</u>	<u>70,174.07</u>
Capital Assets		
Computer Equipment	2,218.00	2,218.00
Accumulated Amortization - Computer Equipment	(1,595.32)	(1,150.60)
Data Projector	1,915.82	1,915.82
Accumulated Amortization - Data Projector	(1,906.65)	(1,505.25)
Total Capital Assets	<u>631.85</u>	<u>1,477.97</u>
Total Assets	<u>74,851.21</u>	<u>71,652.04</u>

Current Liabilities		
Visa Payable	10.58	(2.96)
Accounts Payable	1,217.41	2,441.21
Prepaid Memberships	145.00	-
GST payable	(10.42)	(635.47)
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,362.57</u>	<u>1,802.78</u>
Deferred Revenue	7,000.00	8,850.00
	<u>8,362.57</u>	<u>10,652.78</u>
Surplus		
Surplus - Beginning of the Year	60,999.26	72,968.76
Surplus (Deficit) - For the Current Year	5,489.38	(11,969.50)
Total Surplus	<u>66,488.64</u>	<u>60,999.26</u>
Total Liabilities And Surplus	<u>74,851.21</u>	<u>71,652.04</u>