

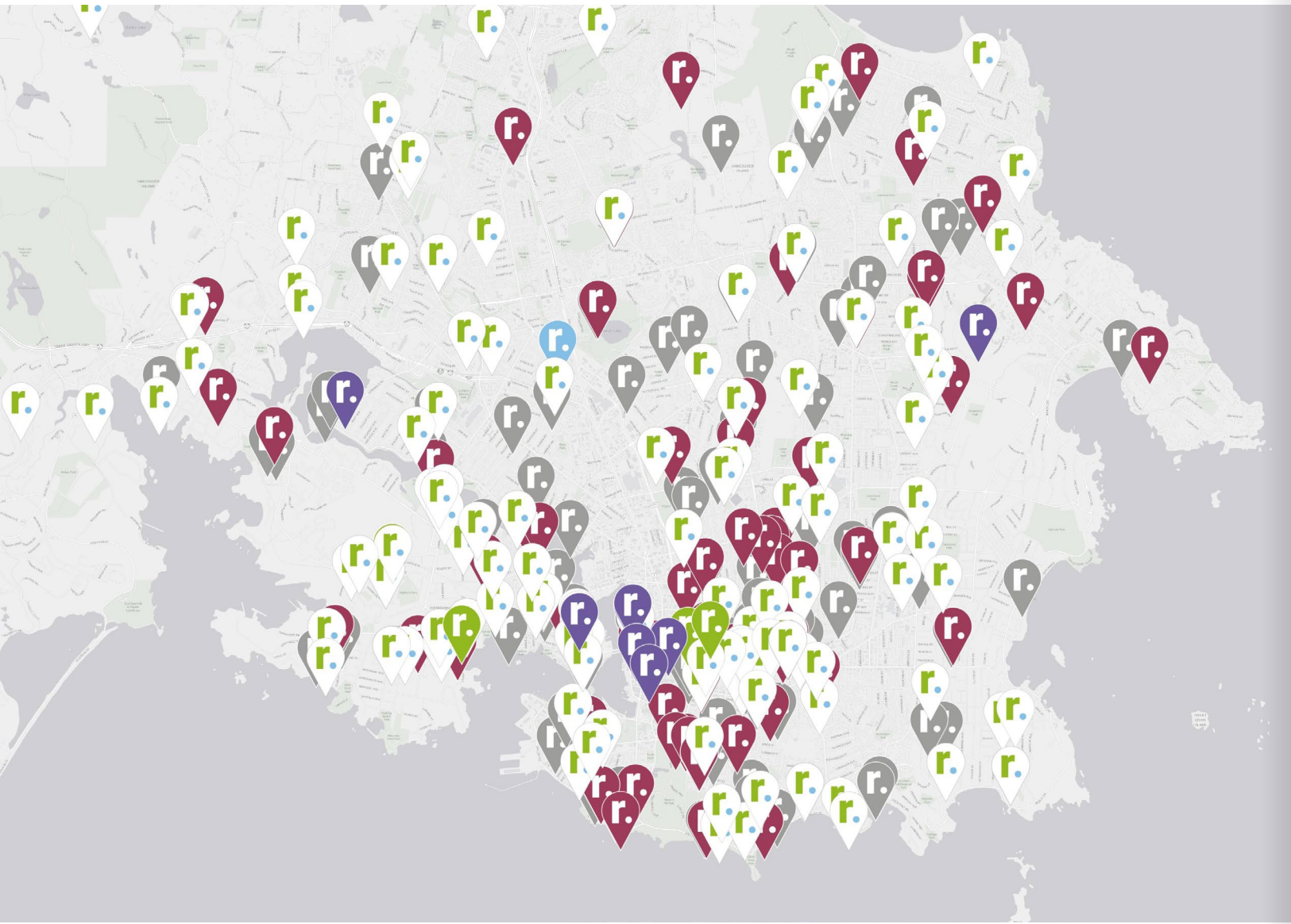


reciprocity.trusts.

June 2023 - Dec 2024

Reciprocity Report





A Note From Our Leadership

As we reflect on the past year, it is heartening to see how far the Reciprocity Trusts Society has come, guided by the spirit of collaboration, respect, and reciprocity. Since the establishment of the South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust, we have taken meaningful steps toward supporting reconciliation in our region.

Since 2023, we have seen the trust grow from an idea to a vibrant community of contributors, with 290 homes and businesses giving over \$160,000 in voluntary reciprocity payments. These contributions made it possible to disburse more than \$15,000 directly to each the Beneficiary First Nations, with decisions on fund distribution made entirely by the Indigenous Trustees of the South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust. This Indigenous governance is at the heart of our commitment to reconciliation.

From the unveiling of LessLIE's stunning reciprocity artwork to our recognition with the EcoStar Award for Social Impact, each milestone has reminded us of the power of shared purpose. The trust has also sparked national interest, with coverage in The Narwhal bringing our work to the attention of communities across Canada.

At the heart of this initiative is a commitment to "move at the pace of trust." This means listening, learning, and working in genuine partnership with Indigenous nations. It is a privilege to see this model of reciprocity take root here on the South Island, and we are eager to expand this vision to other regions in the future.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this work so far. Together, we are taking tangible steps toward decolonizing our backyards and creating a more equitable future.

With gratitude,

*SMOÇEFET, Chief Abraham Pelkey,
South Island Reciprocity Trustee appointed by the STÁUTW (Tsayout) Nation*

*Naomi Devine,
Chair, Reciprocity Trusts Society*



Hundreds of homes, small businesses, events and film productions are choosing to recognize the Indigenous lands we call home by making recurring reciprocity payments to the South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust.



1-2 year property



3-10 year property



10+ year property



Reciprocity Business



Rental Property



Pledges

Reciprocity Trusts:

Activating land, language and Nation rebuilding alongside First Nations in the CRD

Launched in the Summer of 2023, Reciprocity Trusts facilitates the transfer of voluntary Reciprocity payments from homes, small businesses and events to the Indigenous Nations whose lands they live and work on.

From June 2023 - Dec 2024, over 290 homes, small businesses, events, non-profits and small film productions have contributed more than \$165,000 in voluntary payments to the South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust as a way to say thank you, in a more meaningful way, to the First Nations whose lands we now call home.



As the Trustee appointed for my Nation, I am encouraged to know that there is a community of settlers ready and willing to walk alongside the Indigenous peoples of this land in a good way on the pathway to reconciliation. Thank you for your commitment, your trust and your respect."

~ Beneficiary First Nation Trustee

Examples of some amazing community-led initiatives that Reciprocity Payments were able to support in 2024 include:

MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation

was able to complete the installation of a multi-sport mini pitch, inspiring play and engaging members (of all ages!)

T'Sou-ke Nation

used the funds to help address household food insecurity amongst their members by way of providing increased access to food with grocery store gift cards.

Songhees Nation

has enhanced underfunded youth/elder mentorship programs that help address barriers for youth to join (or re-join) the workforce. The program is centered around the principle of providing a hand up, not a hand out, so the participants develop skills and relationships that are long lasting.

STÁUTW (Tsawout) Nation

has allocated funds to assist with the ongoing operating costs associated with the new big house. "What better purpose than to hold up all of our people in the longhouse. There's no better investment", said Tsawout Chief Pelkey about the decision to allocate funds.

paačiid?aa?tx (Pacheedaht) Nation

earmarked the funds to hold a traditional foods feast for their community, including harvesting, preparation and the ceremonial protocols that go along with a community feast.

SC'IANEW (Sci'aneu) Nation

was thrilled to have over 30 young Sci'aneu members participate in the Youth Canoe Journey to Puyallup. Sci'aneu Councilor Traci-Lynn Pateman described how powerful it was to see so many young members accomplishing this journey, and being welcomed onto Puyallip shores with strong ceremony and cultural practices. "The youth journey is an opportunity for elders to impart their knowledge, for adults to guide and support, and for our youth to step confidently into roles of leadership. This will assist in ensuring that the culture is continued on through future generations." (Puyallip Tribe 2024)



“The journey with Reciprocity Trusts has been pretty amazing... the initiative builds allyship with people outside our Nation, and builds capacity for our people... It’s helping us offset a lot of costs to uplift our people in a cultural way.”

~ SMOÇEFET, Chief Abraham Pelkey, of the STÁUTW (Tsayout) Nation



South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust

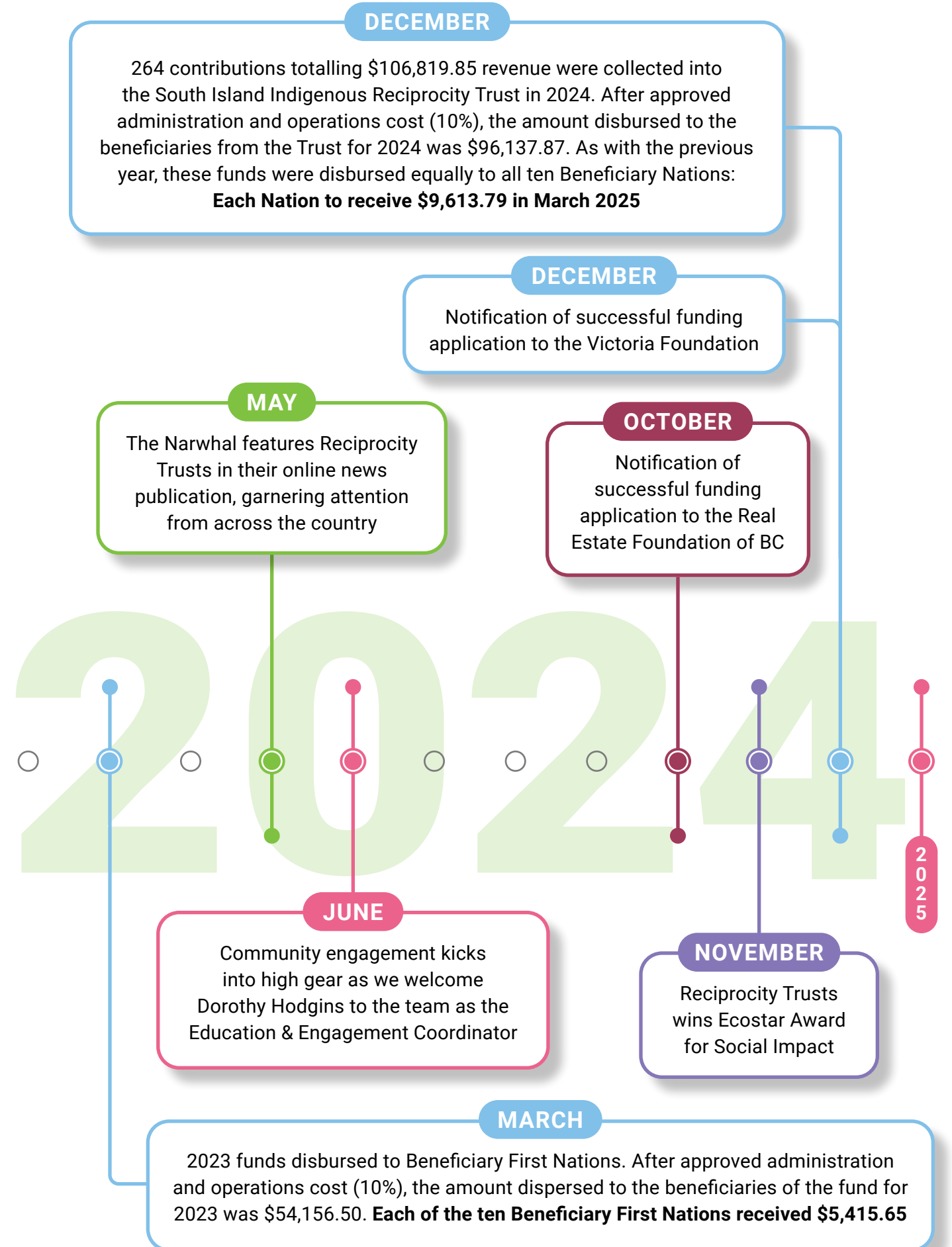
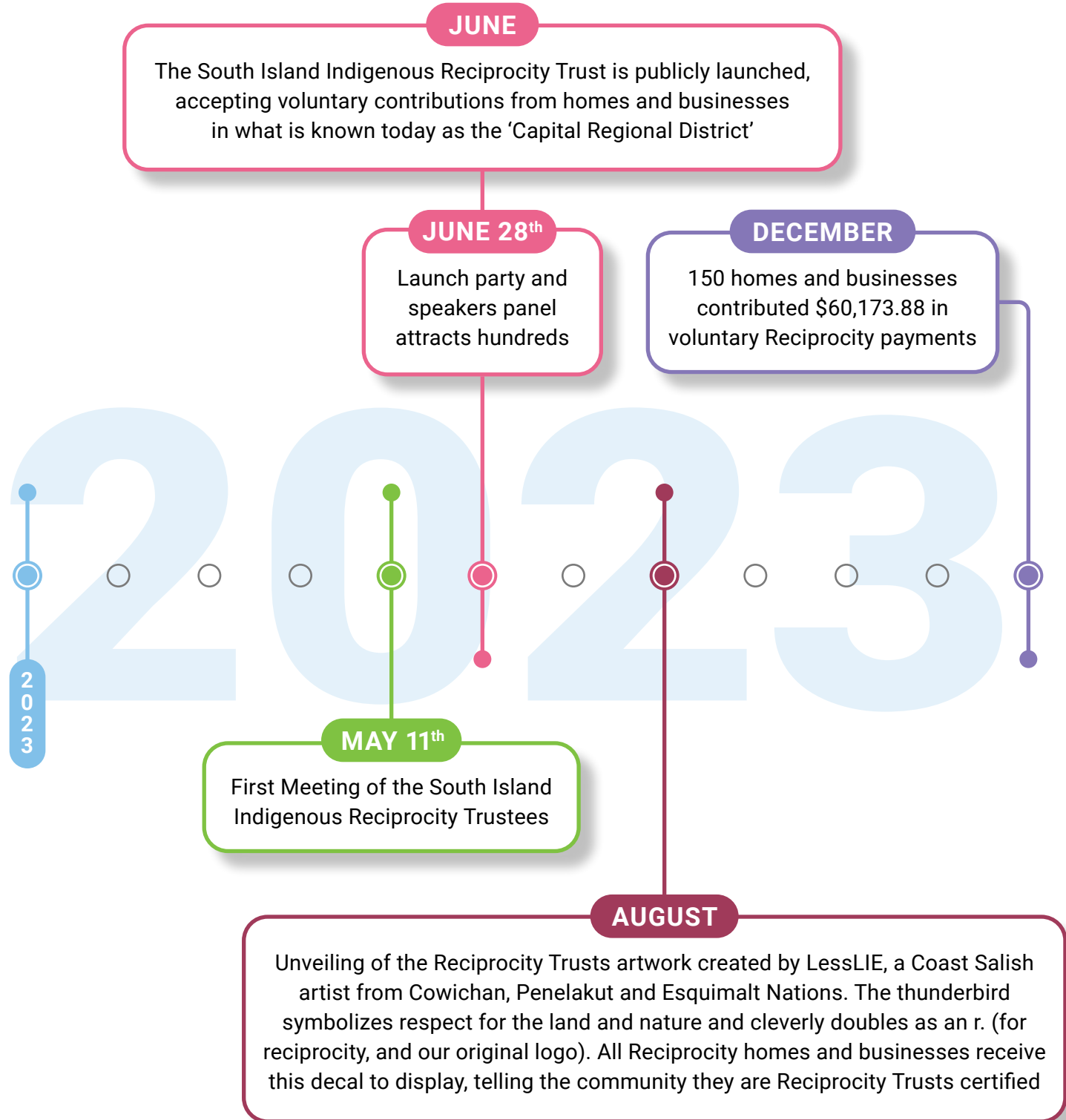
The South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust (the Trust) facilitates the transfer of voluntary Reciprocity payments from homes, small businesses and events to the Indigenous Nations whose lands they live and work on. We are working to increase public familiarity with the concept of Reciprocity payments as a low-barrier avenue to go beyond land acknowledgements. The Trust is Indigenous-led and governed by a board of Trustees, appointed by the participating First Nations in the region (the Beneficiaries). The role of the Trustees is to determine how Reciprocity payments are disbursed amongst the Beneficiaries. All decisions of the Trust uphold the Coast Salish guiding principle of naut'sa mawt, “to work together with one heart and one mind.”

The South Island Trust is located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island extending across what is known today as the 'Capital Regional District' (CRD): from Port Renfrew, around the WSÁNEĆ Peninsula and across the Southern Gulf Islands. This area includes the traditional territories of ten distinct First Nations communities: the T'Sou-ke Nation, the Ləkʷəŋən speaking people of the Xwsepsum and Songhees Nations, the WSÁNEĆ communities of WJOŁEŁP (Tsaylip), STÁUTW (Tsayout), WSIKEM (Tseycum), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) and BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nations as well as the SC'IANEW (Sci'anew) First Nation and paačiid?aa?tx (Pacheedaht) First Nation. All ten First Nations are named as Beneficiaries of the Trust.



June 2023 - Dec 2024

Highlights





Millie Modeste & Andrea Thomas at Esquimalt Nation



Jeanine Cooper at Tsartlip Nation



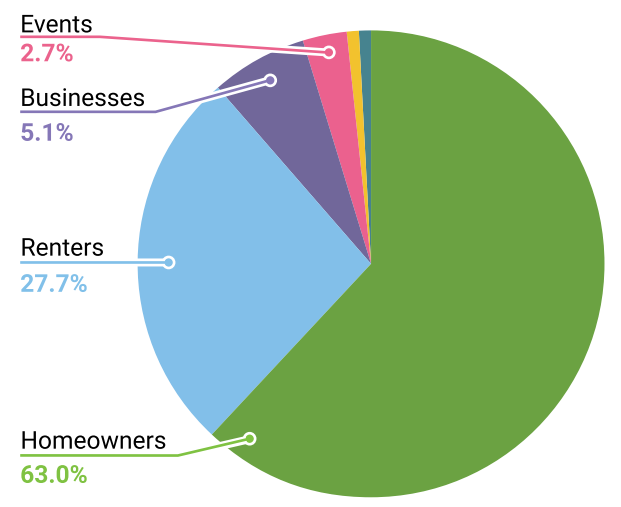
Alva Bob at Pauquachin Nation

Sharing the gifts of Reciprocity with the host Nations takes place in March of each year.

THE NUMBERS June 2023 - Dec 31, 2024

290
contributors

TO THE SOUTH ISLAND INDIGENOUS RECIPROCITY TRUST



total contributions: **\$166,993.73**
2023: \$60,173.88 + 2024: \$106,819.85

KEY GOALS FOR

2025

1

Continue to nurture and build the South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust to a community of 1000+ contributors.

2

Expand the offerings of Reciprocity Trusts to the lower mainland and other urban centres across the country.

3

Provide engaging and consistent public education to increase guests' awareness of Indigenous culture, presence and ongoing influence in urbanized Indigenous territories.

4

Motivate guests on Turtle Island to understand their responsibilities on shared Indigenous lands.

Coast Salish artist LessLIE's commissioned artwork depicts a thunderbird which symbolizes respect for the land and nature and cleverly doubles as an r. (for reciprocity).

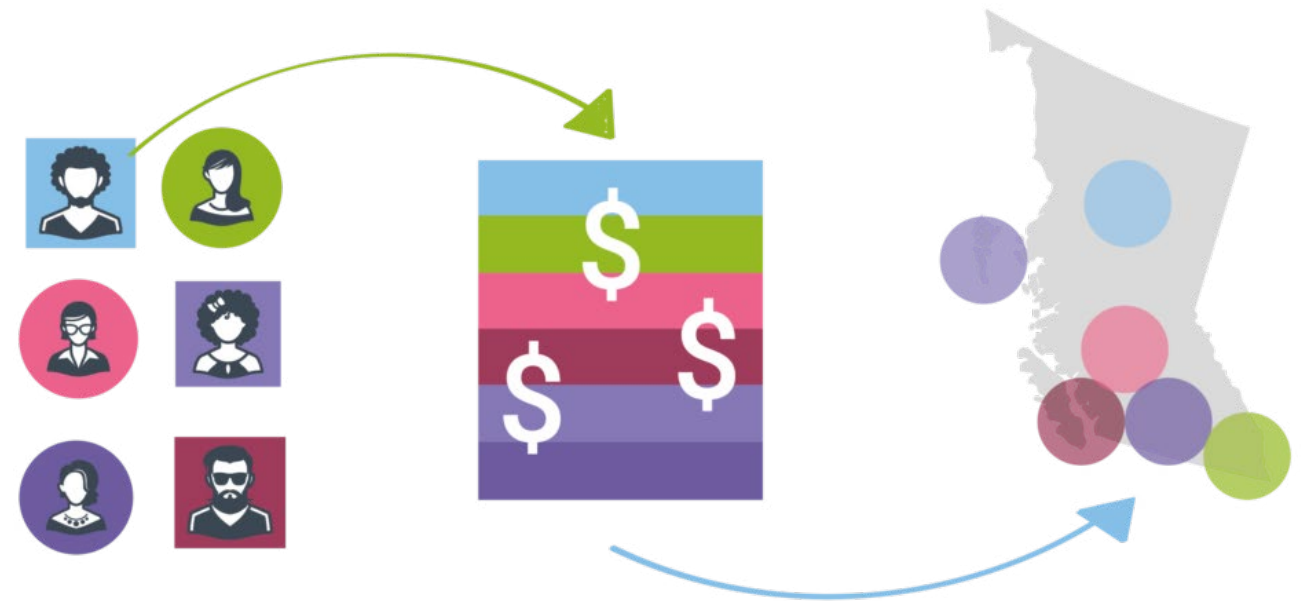


Making Recognition of Indigenous Lands Visible

With a current focus on the South Island Trust Area, we aim to raise awareness of the diverse Coast Salish history, relations and presence in the region and to normalize the concept of Reciprocity payments as a way to be in good relations with the Indigenous hosts whose lands we live on. We offer a number of ways for Reciprocity homes, small businesses and event producers to visually acknowledge their place on Coast Salish lands:

- Reciprocity contributors receive window decals which identify their homes and businesses with LessLIE's thunderbird artwork, serving as a powerful reminder that we are on Indigenous lands.
- Businesses, non-profits and events who make Reciprocity payments receive digital media assets to post online and spread awareness virtually through incorporation into their land acknowledgements and other digital content.
- The map at reciprocitytrusts.ca provides a powerful visual of homes and businesses contributing to Reciprocity Trusts. This map helps to colour the landscape and create accountability across the unceded lands of "BC" and to visually illustrate the number of people who choose to acknowledge and contribute to local Indigenous cultural and ecological wellbeing.

With more people speaking publicly about Reciprocity Trusts as an opportunity to demonstrate material respect towards fulfilling our responsibilities as guests on Indigenous lands, we aim to help inform newcomers about the Indigenous legal principle of reciprocity and the sense of community that it creates.



How Reciprocity Trusts Works

Reciprocity is inspired by the 1% model, which makes getting started approachable and affordable to a diversity of individuals and businesses. For homeowners, the total recommended payment is equal to approximately 1% of your property taxes per month. For renters, the recommended payment is equivalent to 1% of your monthly rent. For business owners, we follow the 1% Pledge which commits 1% of profits, shares, time and/or product. If you live on the South Island, you can get started with calculating your recommended reciprocity payment at reciprocitytrusts.ca. Folks in other geographies are encouraged to explore the reciprocity calculator tool and pledge to join once a regional reciprocity trust is up and running in your area.

Funds collected into the South Island Indigenous Reciprocity Trust are annually distributed to participating Beneficiary Nations, who have control over where they accept payments from and what priorities they are put towards.

You might be familiar with 1% for the Planet or the 1% Pledge – Reciprocity follows a similar 1% model, which makes getting started approachable and affordable to a diversity of individuals and businesses—everyone has a 1%.

In Thanks

reciprocity homes, businesses, events & productions

There are more than 290 of you who are demonstrating active commitment to meaningful recognition of Indigenous land rights. háysxʷ qə (ləkʷəŋən) / HÍ SW̓ KE (SENĆOŦEN)

trustees of the south island Indigenous reciprocity trust

While beneficiary First Nations are able to appoint a Trustee to support governance of the Trust at any time, not all Nations have the capacity to do so. We would like to acknowledge and thank the work of the Indigenous community leaders who have participated in our meetings and shaped the direction of our work over the first year:

Alva Bob,
*Council Member at
Pauquachin Nation*

Jeanine Cooper, Snauquia,
*Council member at
Tsartlip Nation*

Norman Garry Sam,
*Council member at
Songhees Nation*

Steve Henry,
*Council Member at
Malahat Nation*

Abraham Pelkey SMOŦEŦET,
*Chief at
STÁ,UTW First Nation*

Jerome Thomas,
*Chief at
Esquimalt First Nation*

core funders & partners

We would like to recognize with gratitude the following funders & partners who together enable the Reciprocity Trusts Society to operate:



Camas Illustrations
& Layout Design
Arianna Augustine
www.ariannaugustine.com



reciprocity.trusts.

We hope you'll have questions

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