



October 4, 2023

The Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society is a valuable member of the Kootenay Lake community. We actively work to protect and enhance this vital natural resource, foster a sense of community engagement and environmental responsibility, and contribute to the well-being and sustainability of the local area. Our efforts to ascertain and align with the values and priorities of the numerous communities scattered around the lake contribute to our being viewed as an important and respected organization in the region. We are the only stewardship organization that provides a voice for the entire lake and its surrounding basin and who represent the lake as an ecological whole.

We are actively pursuing shovel-ready stewardship projects and are able to undertake this work in a cost-effective, results oriented manner. We speak for the lake at farmers' markets, beach cleanups and educational events including our annual summit and youth engagement events. We do all of this at low cost and significant benefit to the community.

The loss of FoKLSS (in the event of dissolution of the Society) would silence an influential and credible voice for the lake basin. It would mean the loss of over a decade of integrating community knowledge and social connections in relation to the human and natural systems of Kootenay Lake. Ultimately, investing in FoKLSS's work now will bring many benefits to the communities surrounding Kootenay Lake.

FoKLSS is seeking short-term financial support from our community to continue our work. The pandemic has resulted in significantly increased costs (due to inflation), and significantly lower funding levels than requested. These issues and staff turnover have left FoKLSS little time to assess its financial situation and seek diversified funding streams. The result is a shortfall in our year-end projections which could result in a reduced capacity to complete projects and commitments and continue our forward work.

[GoFundMe \(goal \\$15,000 by year-end\)](#)

[Direct Donation](#)

Thanks in advance for your support.

Gwen E. Dell'Anno

Executive Director

Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society