
THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**OUTWARD BOUND
CANADA**

“I was hoping this would be a new experience for me, and that I would get an adventure out of it. And I wanted to meet other kids, because honestly I was feeling a little bit depressed that summer after school ended. Online school was one of my only ways of staying in touch socially during lockdowns. I was hoping to meet new people, and it seemed like it was going to be pretty life-changing.”

*Andre, youth participant in 14-Day Flatwater
Canoe trip in Northern Ontario, 2021*

“People said to me, this OBC trip is going to change him. And I thought I don’t want him to change. But he came back more mature, independent and respectful. He came back chipping in more as a team member at home. He emerged a happy, healthy, optimistic teenager who could finally see the possibility of an amazing and fulfilling life laid out for him.”

-Tara, parent of Andre



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AND ANNE FITZGERALD, CHAIR OF THE BOARD

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Field Notes: Anne Fitzgerald's Baffin Island Trek

"To celebrate my retirement, my friend (and fellow board member) Dan Gormley and I decided to snowshoe across Baffin Island, the largest island in the Arctic territory of Nunavut, in March of 2022. We chose to make this into a fundraising opportunity, inviting our friends, colleagues and families to support us through donating to Outward Bound Canada.

We've raised nearly \$100,000 at last count, funds that will be put to great use in providing life-changing opportunities to youth to spark their spirits of outdoor adventure. I've never been to the Arctic. This is probably the most exciting and intimidating trip I've ever taken. But I believe life begins at the edge of your comfort zone. This expedition is my tribute to Outward Bound Canada."



A LETTER FROM ANDREW YOUNG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND ANNE FITZGERALD, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear friends of OBC,

When we think back to the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, we initially thought, “this might be over in two weeks”. Then it was two months... then, it would be by the new year. We all know by now how these predictions turned out.

If 2020 was the most challenging year many of us faced, 2021 felt like a first step back to recovery, a year of silver linings. This was certainly true for Outward Bound Canada (OBC): 2021 was still full of lockdowns and uncertainty – but OBC was resilient, adaptive and enterprising. We have figuratively been on our own Outward Bound expedition this entire time, putting our resilience to the test!

Despite the obvious pandemic-related challenges in 2021, we had many highlights. OBC was one of the first organizations to get in-person youth programming back into operation. With a focus on public health, and an adaptive approach to our programs (including securing grants to purchase 50+ single person tents), we delivered 4,000 student program days without a single “COVID” incident.

Youth feedback on these courses was overwhelmingly positive. The theme that ran throughout was that the experiences were restorative. They allowed youth to recapture what was lost during two long, lonely years of pandemic living and virtual schooling.

Furthermore, the diversity of our students and staff has continued to increase. In 2021, we began tracking demographic information. These insights enable us to adjust programming to be relevant to the individuals we serve, and to help prepare them for the opportunities and issues they may face.

In 2019 the board had set a strategic target to pursue government funding. At the time, we had set a modest target of annual government funding of \$500,000. In late 2021, the Government of Canada announced that OBC had successfully secured a contract for \$7.3 million to launch the first-ever Outward Bound Canada Training Academy for Outdoor Professionals.

As we look to the future, we will build on these silver linings. Thanks to the support of our staff, volunteers and donors, OBC is emerging from the pandemic ready to serve, and ready to thrive – and ready to ensure no young people are left inside!

Thank you for being part of our journey.

~ Andrew and Anne

Handwritten signatures of Andrew Young and Anne Fitzgerald in blue ink.



A YEAR IN REVIEW 2021, BY THE NUMBERS

RISK MANAGEMENT

NEW AREAS



Significant climate-related events, like **forest fires, hurricanes, or sharks (yes, sharks!)**, tracked and managed by our risk management team in the 2021 program season



570 ACRES

Accessible to Outward Bound Canada's Ontario Wilderness operations for use as a staging base, given its agreement to rent space from Minden's Kinark Outdoors Centre

PARTICIPANTS

429

46
PROGRAMS

50%+
FUNDED

NIGHTS ON COURSE

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT



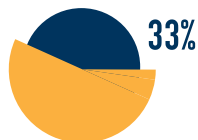
1,700

Number of starry nights youth spent sleeping under canvas

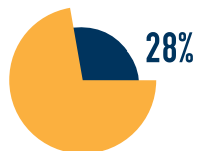
\$7.3M

Funds obtained by OBC through the Government of Canada's Sectoral Initiatives Program to create the Outward Bound Canada Training Academy for Outdoor Professionals.

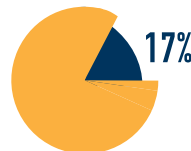
WHO WE SERVE



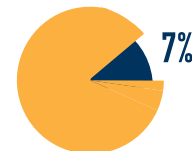
IDENTIFY AS PART OF THE 2SLGBTQ+ COMMUNITY



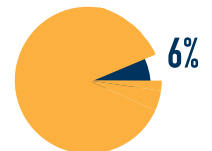
YOUTH FROM HOUSEHOLDS THAT STRUGGLE TO COVER BASIC EXPENSES



IDENTIFY AS FIRST NATIONS, INUIT, METIS



NEWCOMERS TO CANADA



IDENTIFY AS DIFFERENTLY ABLED

2021 Highlights



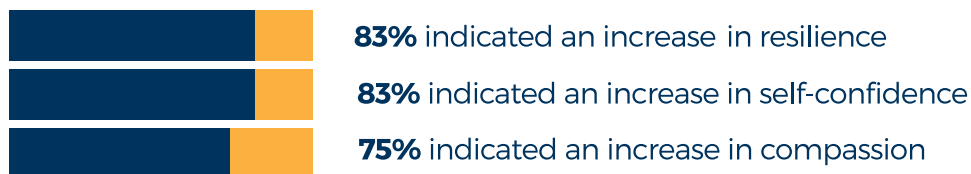
OBC launched, for the first time, two affinity courses (one in the Rocky Mountains and one in Ontario) for 2SLGBTQ+ community participants from 14 to 29 years old. Of these participants, 92% felt that the course exceeded their expectations, according to post-course surveys. More courses are being planned for 2022.



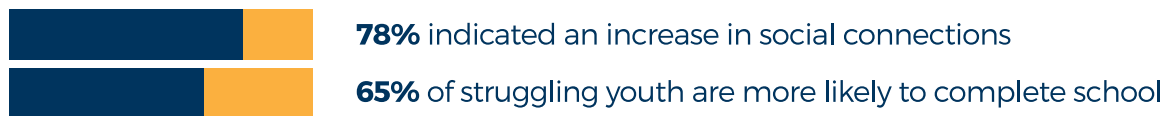
In 2021, we formed an Indigenous Advisory Committee to provide strategic leadership and support to OBC staff. Led by board member Jeff Horvath, the committee is composed of at least 50% membership from First Nations, Métis, or Inuit communities. The Committee will give counsel to OBC staff to ensure our courses for Indigenous individuals are conducted in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner in the context of the 94 calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Our Impact In 2021: Resilient Youth Amidst A Global Pandemic

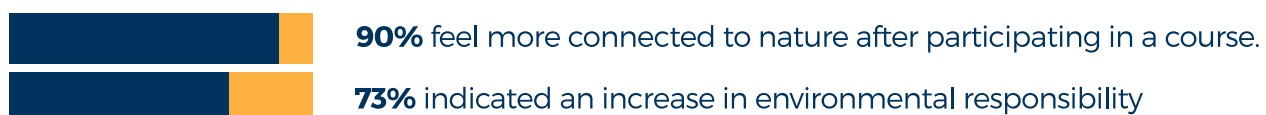
EQUIPPED TO SUCCEED SOCIALLY, EMOTIONALLY



ABLE TO OVERCOME AND ADAPT TO CHALLENGE



INVESTED IN THE NATURAL WORLD



OUR VALUE PROPOSITION

SOCIAL CHALLENGE



All young people in Canada should have the opportunity to fulfill their full potential. Traditional education systems often focus on building technical skills and are increasingly reliant on virtual learning, leaving many youth without access to quality social and emotional learning experiences that will empower them to thrive at school, work and in their communities. Social and emotional learning enables youth to regulate their emotions and behaviour, collaborate with others, build relationships, communicate effectively, and adapt to challenges, all skills required for their positive well-being, future success, and in high demand by employers. Many youth are also disconnected from nature, which impacts their ability to prioritize environmental stewardship. In addition, many marginalized youth face socio-economic barriers that disproportionately limit their access to these critical development opportunities.

OUR SOLUTION



Outward Bound Canada equips youth for the future through authentic adventures in nature. With young people desiring to thrive in an unpredictable and complex world, Outward Bound Canada offers social and emotional education that empowers youth to develop character as they overcome individual and group challenges. Our programs focus on building resilience, social and emotional intelligence, and environmental leadership, which contribute to positive physical, mental and emotional well-being, stronger connections to nature, and prepare youth for future success at school, work, and in their communities. As a registered charity, Outward Bound Canada is committed to providing greater access to our life-changing educational programs so that youth from all socio-economic backgrounds can participate and benefit.

OUR IMPACT

▶ **Outward Bound Canada leaves a lasting and measurable impact on participants' lives in three key areas:**



1. RESILIENCE

Improved health and greater workplace productivity



2. GREATER LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

School success, elevated career positions and lifetime earnings



3. BUILDING STRONGER ENVIRONMENTALISM

Improved environmental conservation behaviours

OUR VALUE PROPOSITION

OUR FRAMEWORK

We enable youth in Canada to get away from their daily lives, creating space in nature to engage in self-discovery and experiential learning.

Expert instructors lead participants through adventure-based activities such as backpacking, sea kayaking and canoeing, empowering them to develop positive behaviours, attitudes and habits and to collaboratively problem solve through challenge, failure and success.

HOW WE IMPROVE STUDENTS' CAPACITIES

PERSONAL & COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

RESILIENCE

- Techniques taught to help manage emotions and boost self-efficacy, self-confidence and motivation.
- Through unpredictable challenges, students learn how to self-regulate, make decisions, and set goals.
- Through failures, success and reflection, students learn flexibility, adaptability, and how to take initiative.

Program Results

- More Resilient Individuals

Long Term Outcomes

- Greater Control over Physical and Mental Health





SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

- Students gain tools for social awareness and managing relationships.
- Students collaboratively problem-solve, building teamwork, communication and creativity.
- Through adversity, students learn respect, empathy, and the benefits of diverse and inclusive decision-making.



ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

- Groups critically discuss the climate crisis and connected themes.
- Students demonstrate citizenship and leadership through service projects connected to the environment.
- Participants take responsibility over how they appreciate and protect the natural world.



EXPERTISE

- Emphasis on small cohorts fosters individual and group needs and challenges participants toward future success.
- Participants benefit from highly qualified and experienced outdoor educators.
- OBC is an industry leader in wilderness risk management theory and practise.

Program Results

- Greater Leadership and Social Connections

Long Term Outcomes

- More confident, collaborative, and bold team players

Program Results

- A Stronger Connection with Nature

Long Term Outcomes

- Higher environmental considerations throughout life





WHO WE ARE



GUIDING LIGHT

Equipping youth for the future through authentic adventures in nature.



OUR MISSION

To cultivate resilience, leadership, connections and compassion through inspiring and challenging journeys of discovery in the natural world.



OUR VISION

A healthy, resilient society formed through lasting connections to self, others and the natural world.

CORE VALUES >

We intentionally build trust and community by prioritizing these values:



GROWTH

THROUGH ADVENTURE



INTEGRITY

THROUGH COURAGE AND TRANSPARENCY



BELONGING

THROUGH COMPASSION AND SERVICE

Our Statement On Justice, Equity, Diversity And Inclusion

As a charity, we strive to increase access to empowering adventures in nature for people from all backgrounds. However, we cannot achieve this without addressing systemic oppression. Marginalized and racialized people continue to face barriers that prevent them from accessing the natural world, including to pursue recreational activities and education, as well as careers in the outdoor industry.

The land that our programs take place upon continues to be stewarded by Indigenous people and has been since time immemorial.


We have much work to do to better understand, identify, address and take accountability for the issues that impede the inclusion and representation of marginalized communities.

We must:

- **Live up to our values of growth, integrity and belonging;**
- **Embrace vulnerability and positive risk-taking and embark on purposeful journeys that redefine our perceptions of what is possible;**
- **Commit to advancing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in our organization, through our programs and in the outdoor community and society; and**
- **Make space for, listen to and amplify the voices of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour, and other equity-deserving communities.**


Progress We Made In 2021

- **OBC signed up for The 50 - 30 Challenge.** The 50 - 30 Challenge is an initiative spearheaded by the Government of Canada. It asks that organizations aspire to **Gender parity ("50%") and Significant representation ("30%")** on Canadian board(s) and senior management of equity-deserving groups.
- In 2021, all full-time administrative staff participated in five JEDI training sessions delivered by an external provider.



"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to go on an unforgettable journey. It allowed me to connect with my culture and make friends as I explored my self-identity."

-Alyssa, participant in 14-day West Coast Indigenous Youth Leadership program, 2021



“I chose to work at OBC as an instructor because it takes risk management and inclusivity to heart like I do. After a serious knee injury, OBC found new opportunities for me within the organization, working on outdoor education curriculums. I feel like I’m still growing as an instructor, even in my new role.”

- *Beatrice Beaudoin-Masse,
Lead Instructor, Outward Bound Canada*



OUTWARD BOUND CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

Anne Fitzgerald – Chair of Board, Fundraising Cabinet
Chief Legal Officer, Cineplex Inc.

David Reeve – Past Chair of Board, Fundraising Cabinet
Founder and President, InvestorCOM Inc.

Tahir Ayub - Director; Finance Committee
Executive Vice President and CFO, Open Road Auto Group

Chris Benedetti - Director
Principal, Sussex Strategy Group

Mark Burton – Finance & Risk Oversight Committees
Managing Director, NINEFOLD Inc.

G. David Cole – Director, Chair of Fundraising Cabinet
Vice Chairman, Enterprise Strategic Client Group, RBC

Jeff Horvath - Director
Principal, Morley Community School

**Dan Gormley – Director, Governance Committee;
Fundraising Cabinet**
Partner, Goodmans

Paul Nicoletti - Treasurer; Chair, Finance Committee
Partner and COO of Altas Partners

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President, MarchFifteen Consulting Inc.

Tabassum Ramhendar - Director
Senior Manager, Youth Strategy & Innovation, RBC Foundation

Jill Schofield - Director; Chair, Human Resources Committee
Managing Director, ZRG Partners

John Terry – Secretary, Legal
Partner, Torys LLP

**Luxy Thuraisingam - Director; Marketing Advisory Committee;
Risk Oversight Committee**
Vice President of Growth Marketing, Cisco Canada

Andrew Young
Board of Directors - Executive Director
Executive Director, Outward Bound Canada

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Richard Talbot
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George Fowlie
Jamie Anderson
Susan Dallhoff
Pamela Fralick
Bart MacDougall
Rob Safrata



CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31 * rounded to nearest thousandth

	2021	2020	2019	
ASSETS	Cash and other current assets	818	921	599
	Capital assets	229	296	363
	Total Assets	1,047	1,217	962
LIABILITIES	Deferred grants and bursaries	570	510	235
	Deferred course fees	295	306	86
	Other current liabilities	257	300	370
	Total Liabilities	1,122	1,116	691
NET ASSETS	Invested in capital assets	189	211	228
	Sustainability fund	32	32	32
	Unrestricted	(297)	(142)	10
	Total Net Assets	(76)	101	270
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	1,046	1217	961	

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31 * rounded to nearest thousandth

REVENUES	Course fees	1,011	521	1,781
	Contributions, grant and bursaries	986	316	1,724
	Donations, fundraising and other	1,671	2,225	2,178
	Total Revenues	3,668	3,062	5,683
EXPENDITURES	Program	2,346	1,567	3,679
	Administration	1,499	1,664	1,831
	Total Expenditures	3,845	3,231	5,510
	Excess of revenues over expenditures	(177)	(169)	173
Net assets, start of year	101	270	97	
Net assets, end of year	(76)	101	270	

“With the pandemic and other global challenges, we’re pleased to see OBC programs focus on youth from all types of backgrounds to learn in the best classroom setting there is: the great outdoors. We are happy to support OBC, and are proud our donations have and continue to support those who can benefit from these incredible life-learning experiences.”

*-Joan and David Burke,
long-time supporters of Outward Bound Canada*



THANK YOU

We are proud to work with like-minded people and companies that are inspired by our mission and driven by our purpose of offering life-changing programs that nurture, motivate, and unlock potential.

Listed below in alphabetical order are the donors who supported Outward Bound Canada at the \$5,000+ level in 2021. Thank you for your ongoing generous support!

Jamie and Patricia Anderson
William Bamber
Roch Boucher
Richard Bradshaw
Joan & David Burke
Mark Burton
David Cole
Brian Craig
Don Cranston & Megan Hill
Bob & Gayle Cronin
Jennifer Cuthbertson
Patrick Daniel
Brandon Edwards
Brian Ellington
Anne Fitzgerald & Ian Tuck
Mary-Owens Fitzgerald
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Jacob Clemens at Raymond James Foundation
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Krogseth Foundation
Lawson Foundation
Nature Canada
Nemar Foundation
Ontario Government
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Open Road Auto Group
Peter Cundill Foundation
Peter Gilgan Foundation
Ptarmigan Charitable Foundation
RBC Foundation
Sabourin Foundation
Slaight Family Foundation
Somerset Foundation
The Naomi and Gerald Goldenberg
and Family Charitable Foundation
Toronto Foundation
Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
Vancouver Foundation

“We are passionate supporters of Outward Bound Canada because the work it does changes lives for the better. Over 40 years ago, Barb’s 23-day course shaped who she is today. Our experiences with OBC, past and present, make it an easy decision for us as a family to provide both financial and vocal support. OBC brightens the future for so many.”

*-Barb Gosling and Derek Small,
long-time supporters of Outward Bound Canada*





[OUTWARDBOUND.CA](https://www.outwardbound.ca)