

# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020/21





# Annual Report on the BC OGRIS (2020/21)

## About BC OGRIS

The BC Oil and Gas Research and Innovation Society (BC OGRIS)<sup>1</sup> is a stand-alone organization which focuses on addressing knowledge gaps to inform environmental, operational and health and safety policy and industry practices related to oil and gas exploration and development in BC.

As a not-for-profit society, BC OGRIS receives investments, funds research projects and initiatives and provides governance and quality assurance over projects we support.

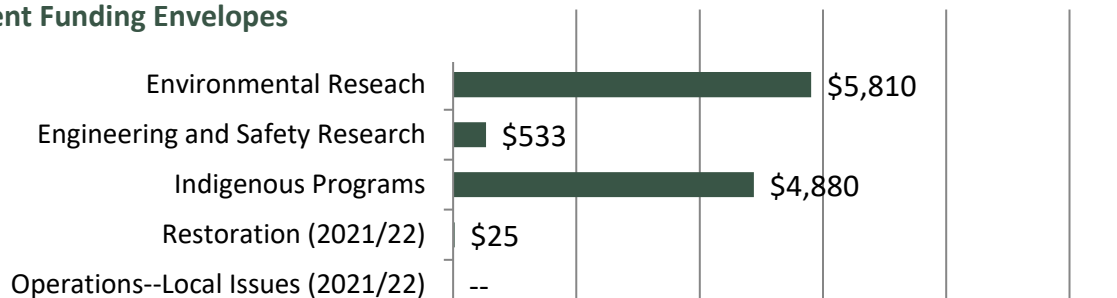
This report summarizes project, extension and financial activity. Key values of cross sector representation, accountability and governance with low overhead combine to make BC OGRIS a valued research entity in the B.C. oil and gas sector.

## Project Activity

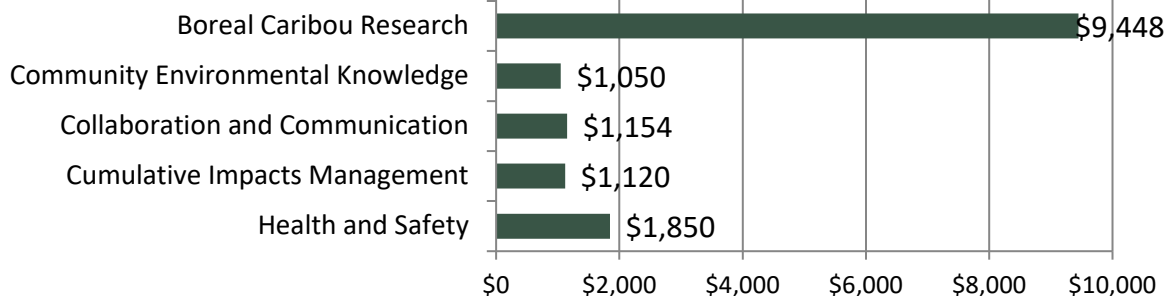
The chart below summarizes over 20 years of research investment since inception in 1999—initially as the Science, Community and Environmental Knowledge (SCEK) Fund and now BC OGRIS.

### Investment To-Date (000's)\*

#### Current Funding Envelopes



#### Historical Funding Envelopes



\* Since project expenditures commenced in 1999.

<sup>1</sup> Formed in 2015, BC OGRIS carried on business previously conducted as the Science and Community Environmental Knowledge (SCEK) Fund.

## Project Funding Envelopes

Envelopes for funding projects are listed below. Information and deliverables from projects supported can be found at: [www.bcogris.ca](http://www.bcogris.ca).

### Environmental Research

Addressing knowledge gaps related to the impact of oil and gas activities on methane, air, water and seismicity—focused on data collection and avoiding, minimizing and/or mitigating the impact of oil and gas activities in these areas. In 2020/21, research focused on all four areas of methane, water, seismicity and air. This will continue in 2021/22.

Expenditures (2020/21) (000s)	Projects (2020/21)	Partnerships (% BC OGRIS funding)	Planned Expenditures (2021/22) (000s)
<b>\$326</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>\$1,066</b>

### Engineering and Safety Research

Addressing knowledge gaps in engineering and safety in the areas of pipelines, wells, facilities, and other related areas. In 2020/21, research focused on risk assessments for pipeline safety and soil productivity on reclaimed pipelines. Additional research involved studying ambient noise from oil and gas activities on areas adjacent to roadways. These projects are anticipated to complete in 2021/22.

Expenditures (2020/21) (000s)	Projects (2020/21)	Partnerships (% BC OGRIS funding)	Planned Expenditures (2021/22) (000s)
<b>\$197</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>\$152</b>

### Indigenous Programs

Building relations and common understanding by engaging Indigenous peoples in the oversight of resource development and management activities. In 2020/21, funding supported initiatives involving Indigenous peoples carrying out stewardship and monitoring programs. A second initiative fostered collaboration with Indigenous peoples on restoration practices and identifying opportunities to incorporate traditional knowledge and resources in restoration activities. These initiatives will continue in 2021/22.

Expenditures (2020/21) (000s)	Projects (2020/21)	Partnerships (% BC OGRIS funding)	Planned Expenditures (2021/22) (000s)
<b>\$1,622</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>\$1,992</b>

## Project Funding Envelopes (cont.)

### Restoration Programs

Supporting a multi-year initiative to restore disturbances from historical or legacy PNG activities in northeast British Columbia incorporating both ecological and traditional knowledge. In 2020/21, activities involved preparing and building capacity to support restoration projects starting in 2021/22.

Expenditures (2020/21) (000s)	Projects (2020/21)	Partnerships (% BC OGRIS funding)	Planned Expenditures (2021/22) (000s)
<b>\$25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$2,168</b>

### Operations—Local Issues

A funding envelope for researching and addressing local issues of an operational nature. This includes knowledge gaps around noise, light, traffic densities and other factors related to oil and gas activities at the local (community) level. This is a new funding envelope starting in 2021/22.

Expenditures (2020/21) (000s)	Projects (2020/21)	Partnerships (% BC OGRIS funding)	Planned Expenditures (2021/22) (000s)
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## Extension Activity

Activities to communicate project and BC OGRIS wide information include the following:

**BC OGRIS Annual Report**—reporting out to BC OGRIS members on the Society’s research activities and accomplishments.

**BC OGRIS Website**—containing a listing of BC OGRIS projects and initiatives and their deliverables ([www.bcogris.ca](http://www.bcogris.ca)).

**Project/Initiative Specific Communications**—disseminating project and initiative specific activities, findings and implications to applicable industry, regulator and government public interest policy and operations personnel (undertaken by the Researcher).

**Social Media**—disseminating information on projects and funding opportunities via social media.

## Financial Activity

### Contributions

The BC OGRIS Board of Directors targets 95% of contributions going directly to research projects and initiatives with the remainder covering financial and governance activities. This approach of maximizing the spend on research by minimizing administration and overhead is attractive to our contributors as demonstrated by continued contributions year over year.

In 2020/21, we received contributions totalling \$3.47 million:

- The B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLRNORD) provided contributions for specific initiatives in the Indigenous Programs funding envelope.
- The BC Oil and Gas Commission provided a contribution for research in various topics under environmental research, restoration, and operations—local issues.

Discussions are underway for additional contributions from the Federal government and the Canadian Energy Regulator for restoration and Indigenous programs. These contributions estimated at \$5.15 million are anticipated to arrive in mid-2021.

### Expenditures

Project expenditures in 2020/21 were \$2.17 million. This is essentially the same as the previous year's expenditures of \$2.12 million. Expenditures on management and administration increased from \$116,000 in 2019/20 to \$167,000 in 2020/21. This is a result of preparations, and acquiring resources, to oversee major expenditures on restoration projects planned for 2021/22. Project expenditures are anticipated to double in 2021/22 to between \$4.25 and \$5 million.

The annual financial audit of the BC OGRIS was completed by external auditors. Copies of the audit statement and the audited financial reports are available on the BC OGRIS website at <http://www.bcogris.ca/about>.

### Governance

BC OGRIS is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of three directors. The Board of Directors met five times in 2020/21 to select research investments and fulfil duties such as financial and administrative support services for designated projects. The Board places a high value on good governance and maximizing the impact of our contributions by leveraging funding with partners and other research organizations while keeping overhead at three to five percent of project expenditures. Quality assurance over research projects and initiatives to ensure appropriate and applicable research continues to be a high priority for the Board.

In 2020/21, our researchers adapted well to COVID-19 restrictions and pre-cautions. A couple of projects had minor delays due to issues travelling and collecting field data. We are confident that current and future projects have made the necessary adjustments to their approaches and will have minimal impacts from COVID-19 going forward.



The BC Oil and Gas Research and Innovation Society (BC OGRIS) is a B.C. based not-for-profit society with membership from the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission), Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), and The Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (EPAC).

## Vision

To continuously improve the understanding and management of the impacts of oil and gas activities in B.C.

## Mission

BC OGRIS supports practical studies and initiatives that develop credible and relevant information to address knowledge gaps to inform environmental, operational and health and safety practices related to oil and gas exploration and development in B.C.

## Contact Us

For further information, please contact the BC OGRIS,  
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[www.bcogris.ca](http://www.bcogris.ca)

[info@bcogris.ca](mailto:info@bcogris.ca)

## In Closing

From our beginning in 1999, we have supported over 170 projects ranging in size from short studies and reports to multi-year projects and initiatives involving multiple researchers and organizations.

We thank all our stakeholders, researchers, technical reviewers and administration team for their assistance in delivering these research projects and initiatives. Your support and assistance enable us to meet our goals and deliver findings that address important knowledge gaps in environmental, technical and social aspects of oil and gas development in B.C.

Comments and questions on this report and/or the BC OGRIS can be sent to [info@bcogris.ca](mailto:info@bcogris.ca).