



2019 Year in Review

A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Hollett

It has been an eventful time as the incoming executive director of The Walrus. As always, but especially now, we give our most sincere thanks to The Walrus community, who are at the centre of every story and issue. You are The Walrus. And it's thanks to you—our readers, donors, sponsors, and partners—that we are able to continue bringing fact-checked journalism, in many forms, to audiences across Canada and beyond. This 2019 Year in Review is building off of our [mid-year email update to donors](#), and includes our audited financial statement (revenue and expenses).

Change was a popular theme in 2019, and the beginning of 2020 was no different. We gave a fond farewell to Shelley Ambrose, who led The Walrus for fourteen years as executive director, and thanked Helen Burstyn for her leadership as board chair since 2010. We were also thrilled to welcome Jodi Butts as our newly elected chair, as well as a number of new staff members and fellows.

In this report, you will see how The Walrus has continued to spark important conversations through our journalism, events, and beyond. We are proud of all we have achieved together and are grateful that you continue to invest in trustworthy, stimulating, and forward-thinking journalism.

Thank you for believing in and supporting our work. We know that a healthy society relies on informed citizens, and we look forward to engaging in important conversations with you, our community, for many years to come.

With gratitude,



Jennifer Hollett
Executive Director, The Walrus



Canada's Conversation

The question of who Canada's economy truly serves was an important topic of conversation in 2019 and will continue to be an essential topic as we face a recession due to the economic impact of COVID-19. At The Walrus Talks Inclusion in October 2019, Vancouver Island University president Deborah Saucier explained the need to change how we think about who gets to go to university. And, in the April 2019 issue, an in-depth feature by Raizel Robin explored the world of food insecurity in Canada, criticizing the current food system for being inadequate to support millions of Canadians.

In 2019, The Walrus continued to find creative and evocative ways of informing Canadians about the climate crisis. Our editors decided to make the climate crisis the focus of the annual O'Hagan Essay on Public Affairs.

In his essay, Chris Turner called for a global energy transition and a focus on technological innovations that can be used to build a new, low-carbon economy. In November, Ursula Eicker addressed this energy shift at The Walrus Talks Living Better in Toronto, where she envisioned sustainable and resilient urban communities that run on renewable energy and are inclusive and affordable.

The Walrus also provided integral insight and analysis on Canada's current political climate in the lead up to the federal election. Building on previous digital series, we introduced Common Ground, a special series on democracy, in September. Produced in partnership with the Samara Centre for Democracy, the series examined what democracy looks like today from a global perspective—from the proliferation of hateful content online to the cycle of violence in Kashmir, India, to the lessons we can all learn from Indigenous governance.

The logo for The Walrus Fact-Checking is displayed on a black rectangular background. The text "THE WALRUS" is in a large, white, serif font, with "THE" in a smaller size to the left of "WALRUS". Below it, "FACT-CHECKING" is written in a similar white serif font, also in all caps.

THE WALRUS FACT-CHECKING

Fact-Based Journalism

The most trusted journalism is based on facts, and The Walrus holds itself to the highest fact-checking standards in the industry. From minute details to broad statements, our stories are meticulously fact-checked to ensure that every published piece is accurate, balanced, and reliable.

The Walrus also supports a fact-based media environment through a special project The Walrus Lab created in response to widespread

misinformation and fake news. Since 2018, The Walrus has been fact-checking information published on social media, independent websites, and by other media outlets. A great example of the work being done by our fact-checkers is Allison Baker's investigation debunking the misconception that [camps blocking access to Wet'suwet'en territory are antidemocratic](#).

Now more than ever high-quality journalism and reporting are essential services. The Walrus continues to provide in-depth, fact-checked, trustworthy journalism on many important topics to readers across Canada and beyond.



A Focus on Inclusion

In 2019, The Walrus focused on inclusion across the organization—from editorial content and The Walrus Talks to within our office itself.

- At The Walrus Talks Inclusion in Vancouver, researcher and author Shelley Moore [explained the need](#) to create classrooms that are inclusive of every member of the community, not just those with special needs.
- Tired of being congratulated for functioning as a human being despite her disability, comedian and amputee Courtney Gilmore [talked about reclaiming her identity](#) and being inspirational on her own terms at The Walrus Talks Storytelling in London in November.
- At The Walrus Talks Survival in Montreal, Métis author of Empire of

Wild Cherie Dimaline said it is time to turn to Indigenous knowledge as a way forward. “It begins with listening to those who have answers,” she told the audience.

- The Walrus welcomed the foundation’s first TD Chair on Disability and Inclusion, Sarah Trick. From March to December 2019, Sarah took part in almost every aspect of editorial production—from writing, editing, proofreading, and fact-checking to providing valuable feedback on how The Walrus Talks series can be more inclusive and accessible.
- Our 2019 initiatives also paved the way for the introduction of the TD Fellow on Disability and Inclusion.



Fellowships

The Walrus provides early career journalists with the opportunity to work with our editorial team through The Walrus Editorial Fellowship Program. While the main responsibility of editorial fellows is fact-checking the journalism The Walrus publishes in print and online, the nine fellows we welcomed in 2019 also had the opportunity to attend story meetings, contribute to editorial planning sessions, and shadow-edit articles. The Walrus fellows also receive access to training seminars led by editors and staff of The Walrus on topics ranging from copy editing and long-form editing to circulation and nonprofit management.

The 2019/20 fellowship term also provided an opportunity for us to introduce two new fellowship opportunities. The JHR Indigenous Editorial Fellowship was created in partnership with the Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) Indigenous Reporters Program and was opened up to individuals who identify as Inuit, Métis, or First Nations. The Knight Senior Fellowship was also introduced in 2019 to expand our educational programming and offer a more experienced fellow the opportunity to spearhead some of our digital journalism.

Following their time in the program, our editorial fellows go on to build successful careers in journalism and media across the country. Tajja Isen, the inaugural Knight Senior Fellow, was hired as a digital editor at The Walrus after completing her fellowship. Sarah Trick, the TD Chair on Diversity and Inclusion in 2019, is now an assistant editor at TVO, and the JHR Indigenous Fellow, Oscar Baker III, is now a reporter with the Cape Breton Post.

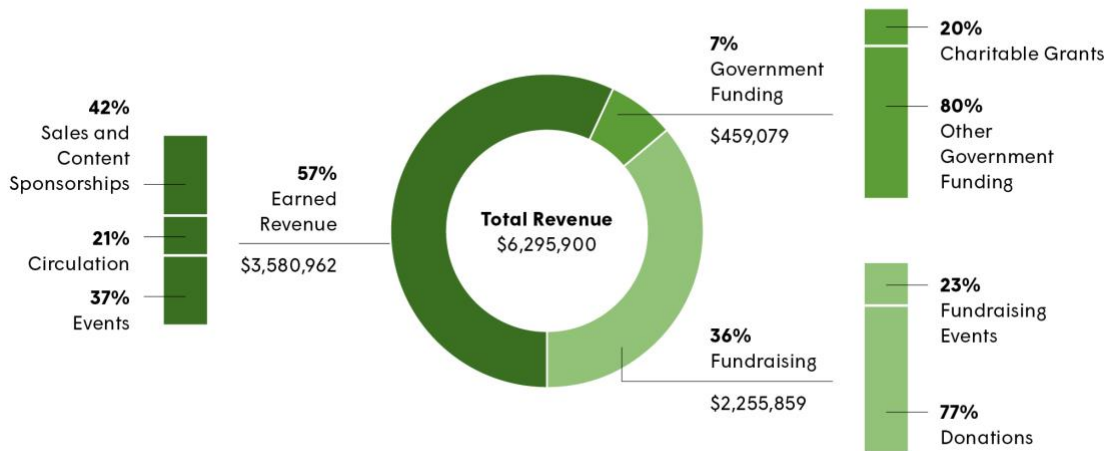
Our 2019 Editorial Fellowship Program would not be possible without the tremendous support of the program's funders:

- Adventure Canada
 - The Cannonbury Foundation
 - The Chawkers Foundation
 - Douglas Knight
 - Facebook Canada
 - Journalists for Human Rights
 - The McLean Foundation
 - Power Corporation of Canada
 - Tory Ross and Keith Gordey
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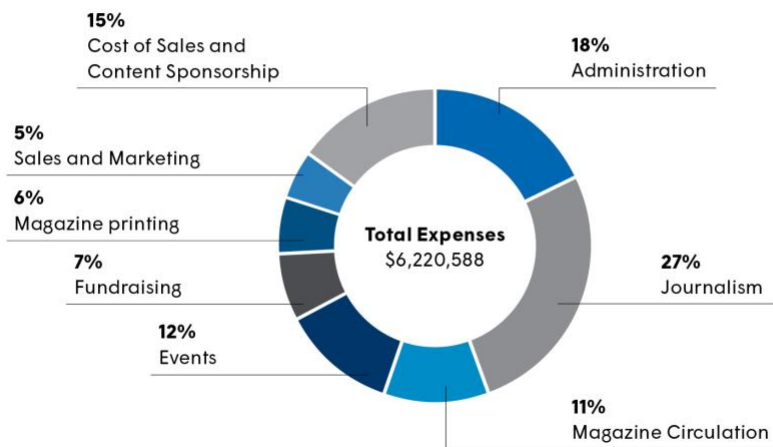
The Walrus 2019 Financials

The Walrus is fully committed to transparency and accountability of financial information. We are in a strong financial position and are very pleased to present a breakdown of our audited 2019 revenue and expenses.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Thank You to Our Donors

We are incredibly fortunate to have a number of multiyear donors and partners who ensure a strong and sustainable foundation for The Walrus. The contributions of our community members have enabled us to provide Canadians with the independent, trustworthy journalism that they have come to rely on. The Walrus plays a critical role in informing citizens and building a healthier society. By presenting Canadians with fact-based journalism and diverse perspectives, we are able to cultivate a deeper understanding of vital issues and of one another. Thank you to all of the donors, partners, and friends who have shown their support over the years, we look forward to continuing to work with you to reimagine the future of Canada.

You can find a complete list of our generous community members [here](#).

Are you looking to support The Walrus?

[Join our community and become part of Canada's conversation.](#)

THE WALRUS
CANADA'S CONVERSATION

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