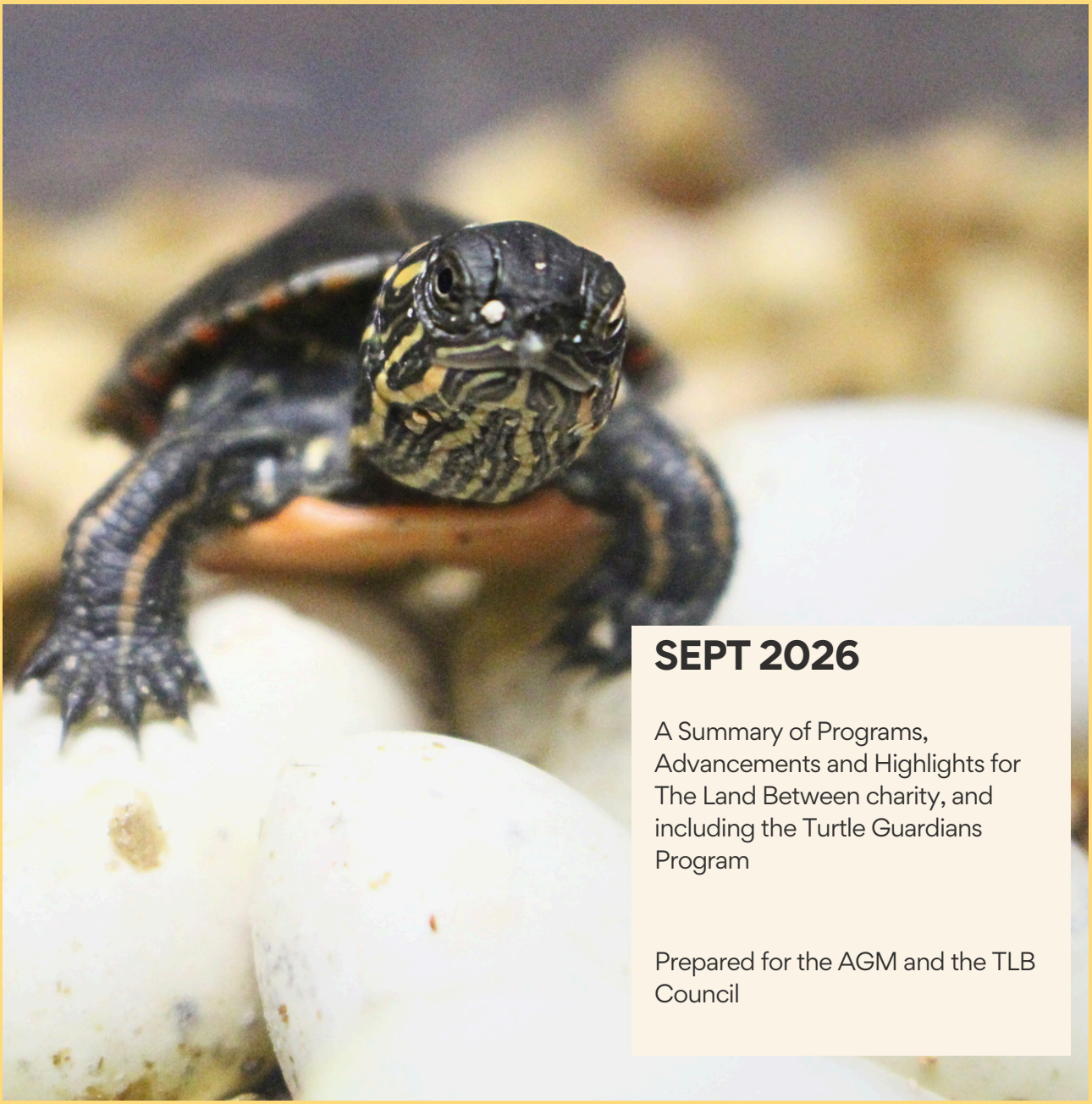
ANNUAL REPORT 2026



SEPT 2026

A Summary of Programs, Advancements and Highlights for The Land Between charity, and including the Turtle Guardians Program

Prepared for the AGM and the TLB Council

LETTER FROM THE COO



LEORA BERMAN

COO and CoFounder

Dear Friends, Partners and Supporters,

As we reflect on this year, and on the nearly twenty years since this work began, there is so much to be proud of and even more to look forward to.

The challenges facing wildlife and our natural landscapes are not getting smaller. We are witnessing changes in turtle populations, wetlands, lakes and forests that remind us how much there is still to understand, and how urgently we need to put that knowledge to work. Good conservation begins with understanding the landscape, listening to people, asking difficult questions and finding practical ways to make a difference.

This year has been especially exciting because so many of the things we have worked towards for years are beginning to come together.

With Turtle Guardians, we are preparing to build our new Turtle Ark nursery, where vulnerable young turtles will have a better chance of surviving and eventually contributing to wild populations. At the same time, we are advancing solutions to make roads safer for turtles, expanding our research, and bringing more people into hands-on conservation. These are ambitious undertakings, and they will require a tremendous community effort. But that is also what makes them so promising.

Across The Land Between, our Blue Lakes, Bird Buddies and other community science programs are creating new opportunities for people to understand and care for the places they call home. We are fortunate to work alongside volunteers, First Nations partners, researchers, landowners and community organizations who contribute their knowledge, experience and energy. Whether protecting a turtle nest, monitoring birds, restoring a shoreline or sharing knowledge in a Talking Circle, every contribution helps build a stronger foundation for conservation.

There is also tremendous joy in sharing this work with others. Mentoring our younger staff and emerging conservation leaders is particularly rewarding, as is watching children discover the natural world through programs like Turtle Club. Seeing children put down their phones, get outdoors, ask questions and become genuinely excited about nature brings both hope and a reminder that conservation is not only about addressing problems. It is also about nurturing curiosity, connection and a sense of responsibility for the living world.

Looking ahead, one of our greatest priorities is to build a more sustainable future for The Land Between charity by making conservation an increasingly community-led and collaborative effort. Over nearly twenty years, we have developed a strong foundation of research, practical conservation experience, programs and partnerships. Now, an important part of our work is sharing that knowledge and experience with growing numbers of dedicated volunteers, providing the training, mentorship and opportunities they need to take on greater responsibilities in the charity's programs and operations.

This means building a community of capable and committed people who can increasingly coordinate activities, mentor new volunteers, contribute their expertise and take the reins in many areas of our work. Our Community Leaders Program is one part of this larger effort, alongside the hands-on training and collaboration taking place throughout our programs. By sharing knowledge, skills and responsibilities across a growing network of people, we can strengthen the charity's resilience, reduce its dependence on a small number of individuals, and ensure that the work continues well into the future. In many ways, we are nurturing not only the caretakers of the landscape, but also the future caretakers of the charity itself.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our Council, staff, volunteers, Indigenous and community partners, researchers, donors and supporters. Your generosity, dedication, knowledge and encouragement have made so much possible.

There is a great deal of work ahead, but also wonderful opportunities. By continuing to learn from one another and work together, we can meet the challenges ahead and leave something truly worthwhile for future generations.

With heartfelt thanks,



Leora Berman
CoFounder and Chief Operating Officer
The Land Between Charity















TURTLE GUARDIANS

RESEARCH UNDERWAY

- **Egg implosions and developmental changes.**

Since 2021, Turtle Guardians has documented an unusual phenomenon in which turtle eggs suddenly collapse within seconds of excavation. Our investigations of temperature, moisture and handling have not explained these events, and our observations indicate that affected eggs have compromised structural integrity. Remarkably, after four consecutive years of documented implosions, none were observed in 2026, despite this being our largest incubation season to date. However, some eggs appeared unusually soft, and we observed an increase in hatchling developmental abnormalities, many occurring in areas where egg implosions had previously been documented.



These findings have raised important questions about the environmental factors that may be affecting turtle reproduction and development. Calcium regulation plays an established role in eggshell formation and embryonic development, and turtles can mobilize calcium from internal skeletal reserves to support reproduction. Although declining environmental calcium may affect turtles over time, a gradual, widespread decline does not adequately explain the sudden emergence of implosions, their occurrence in some nests but not others, or their absence in 2026. Turtles also inhabit wetlands with differing water chemistry, suggesting that environmental calcium availability alone may not account for the patterns we have observed.

Our research is therefore focused on investigating the presence of environmental contaminants, particularly endocrine-disrupting substances, that may interfere with reproductive physiology, calcium regulation and embryonic development. Certain endocrine-disrupting chemicals are known to affect hormonal and calcium-related physiological pathways, raising questions about whether environmental exposure could contribute to the unusual eggshell weaknesses and developmental abnormalities we have documented. The geology and hydrology of The Land Between may also be important. Across much of the region, shallow soils and fractured bedrock provide limited opportunities for some forms of natural filtration and may allow contaminants to move relatively quickly from the land surface into groundwater, wetlands and other aquatic habitats. These conditions could create localized exposure pathways, potentially helping explain why abnormalities have occurred in some areas and nests but not others. The geographic overlap between previous egg implosions and more recent developmental abnormalities is particularly noteworthy, although a common cause has not yet been established.

Working with Dr. Feiyue Wang of the University of Manitoba, we are bringing together our field observations, preserved egg specimens, water and soil samples, GIS analyses, and existing environmental models of The Land Between's soils and aquifers to investigate potential relationships between landscape conditions, contaminant exposure and turtle reproductive health. This integrated approach will help us identify patterns, evaluate possible exposure pathways and better understand the environmental factors that may be contributing to these unusual reproductive and developmental changes.

- **Road ecology and population change.**

Turtle Guardians developed a long-term road ecology research program in 2019 and has since collected what is one of the longest running standardized turtle road ecology dataset of its kind. Across repeated surveys, we record each turtle's location, road and habitat conditions, body measurements, age class, and behaviour. These records allow us to examine changes in population structure, recruitment, and body condition; investigate how road type and surrounding development affect turtles; identify movement routes, nesting areas, and mortality hotspots; prioritize sites for crossings and other protection; and measure the effects of installed road measures. Early analysis suggests declines of up to 40% in some areas of the Highlands in under 10 years. The full analysis will be led by Leora Berman, Dr. Doug Armstrong of Massey University and our GIS specialist, Kyle Miller.



EMERGING RESEARCH

- **Overwintering and water levels.**

We have begun studying where turtles spend the winter and how changing water levels affect those sites. In shallow wetlands, falling water levels could leave overwintering turtles exposed to freezing. In spring 2026, at least seven large adult Common Snapping Turtles were brought to us or reported dead, with no visible evidence of injury. Previous deaths have been associated with water drawdowns, but we do not yet know what caused this year's deaths. Further study and veterinary or laboratory collaboration will help us examine water levels alongside other possible causes, including disease. We are also monitoring reports of midwinter thaws and openings maintained by bubblers which give River Otters greater access to overwintering turtles. Finally, impacts of a changing climate may be at play. Therefore, we are maintaining a robust database to track trends.

- **Spring emergence of snapping turtle hatchlings.**

Common Snapping turtles usually do overwinter in their nest. They typically develop and emerge in the fall. Since 2023 we have had increasing reports of snapping turtle hatchlings that have remained in the nest through winter and emerged in spring. We have collected reports and had direct involvement with spring excavations and emergence through our Tiny Turtle Contest. We want to learn when and where they emerge, what conditions influence their survival.

TURTLE TUNNELS AND ROAD MITIGATION

- **From prototype to road standard.**

Our barrel-shaped turtle fence has been tested in the field for more than five years for durability and effectiveness, and a patent application is underway. We have secured a three-year grant from federal and provincial funders to engineer and test the design, develop specifications, share the results with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, and install solutions at eight sites. If successful, the design could help set a new standard for turtle road mitigation across North America.

- **Finding solutions that fit the landscape.**

Building a safe turtle crossing is more complex and challenging than it appears: turtles must be guided to it the underpass, and the whole system must work with the terrain. Lateral fencing is potentially dangerous as it creates barriers and sites must be designed with this in mind. Our system is entirely permeable to wildlife; backfilling enables all wildlife to find egress - even snakes can get off the road. Any mistakes which create barriers can inadvertently create death traps, meanwhile any

infrastructure such as driveways can make the enter system ineffective. To date or site assessments across 148 potential ecopassage areas, suggest that only about 5% of locations can be retrofitted, underscoring the need for practical designs suited to the Highlands. Therefore, we have also installed billboards, and road crossing signs and are working on a Turtle Greeway project for community members to alert drivers and monitor crossings and roadways in areas where mortality is high and where mitigation potential through infrastructure is low. This Greenway concept has been developed by Kate Dickson, our Ecologist.



INCUBATION AND FIELD RESPONSE

- **Our biggest incubation season yet**. In 2026, Turtle Guardians excavated nearly 14,000 eggs—more than in any previous year. Behind every nest was a coordinated effort to respond quickly, care for the eggs, and return hatchlings to the places they came from. A huge thank-you to Darian Carpenter and Sarah Hutchison for coordinating the incubation program and hatchling releases, including developing and delivering field training- for guiding this extraordinary season.
- **More community members helping turtles.** We trained community volunteers to participate in work covered by our permits. Their involvement is helping us grow the local knowledge and capacity needed to respond when turtles nest and when hatchlings are ready for release.
- **A smarter way to respond.** Calls about nesting turtles and emergencies can come in at any time. Our new dispatch hotline app, developed by Dave Aucoin was a lifesaver- literally. We were able to respond to over 2000 calls and texts this year efficiently and while tracking locational data. This, together with newly developed staff and volunteer apps, that provided georeferenced maps to show field activities and priorities in real time, made it easier to coordinate turtle rescue, nest responses and hatchling releases,- increasing our response success.
- **Building a nursery for what comes next.** Getting turtles safely through the egg stage is a major achievement, but it may take headstarting beyond one season to help replace the losses their populations face. We secured a grant for the nursery's basic building envelope. An additional match of $200,000 is required to reach full operations at the new location. A donation campain will be lauched. We are truly grateful to Al Mansel and Marie Windover who donated the property and have offered many other kinds of support to help bring this vision closer to life.





EDUCATION AND LEADESRHIP BUILDING

- **Education and Leadership Training.** A curriculum ready for Ontario classrooms. We developed turtle learning activities across elementary subjects and grades, aligned with Ontario curriculum expectations so teachers can use them in their classrooms. We also created teacher resources for science through Grade 4. The curriculum brings turtle conservation into everyday learning while meeting the requirements teachers work with. A big thank-you to Yael Lewis for developing curriculums extensively, and Melissa Saker for mentorship in 2025. As well as previous contributions by Grace Wiley, Meadow Funkenhauser, and Brittany Hum.
- **Turtle Guardians Leaders.** Led by Leora Berman and Meghan Ward, this program trains First Nations communities first, followed by chapter leaders and volunteers, in advanced conservation biology and herpetology. Participants build the skills to interpret conservation information, assess development proposals, and design and coordinate conservation projects in their own communities-growing local leadership that can carry this work forward.
- **Turtle Club.** Turtle Club is for kids! With support from the Haliburton Public Library 16 graduated workshops were delivered for children to learn about turtles and become involved in their protection. A big thank-you to Andre Mylan Goulet for leading the program, and to Emily Boersema, Jay Berry, and Grace Pollock for helping deliver it.



BLUE LAKES

RESEARCH UNDERWAY

- **A regional picture of lake health.** We have built a data warehouse bringing together of over 30,000 lakes in the region, and more than 20 years of information on over 3,000 lakes, including shoreline analysis. The comprehensive integrated database allows us to map conditions across the region, examine relationships among lake measurements, and identify emerging stressors and priorities for action.
- What the data are showing: Our models show a relationship between development within lake basins and phosphorus levels. They also indicate substantial losses of suitable habitat for lake trout and, in some cases, walleye-up to 40% over twenty years. These findings can help communities understand which lakes are changing and where closer investigation is needed.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- **The Blue Lakes ecolabel.** With guidance from a strong steering committee, we have developed an ecolabel program that recognizes lake associations taking part in stewardship. Participating associations can access information in the Blue Lakes database and the program provides them with a portfolio of tools and resources to steward lake ecosystems, including collecting new, current data about their own lakes. A big thank-you to Jess Livingstone and Rebecca Reimer for enhancing and leading the program. Within this program we gave our shoreline naturalization work a new name: Wild by the Water. We also further developed a Potluck Passport series as a way to bring neighbours together around learnign about features of their lake communities and rewilding. Thank you again to Rebecca and Jess for their work on these efforts.
- **More capacity to understand lake change.** We are pursuing grants to launch the Blue Lakes Ecolabel widely, and increase water sampling and monitoring, including to open a water testing lab focused on algae, phosphorus, and calcium at the Gooderham station. We are also discussing a three-university Alliance grant with Dr. Andrea Kirkwood to use the Blue Lakes database to investigate broader questions about how lakes are changing.



BIRD BUDDIES

A remarkable place for breeding birds. The Land Between supports among the highest breeding bird diversity in Ontario. Its mix of habitats gives us a special responsibility to understand and protect the birds that depend on this region. An earlier breeding bird analysis estimated that approximately 79% of Ontario's Golden-winged Warblers occurred here.

- **Tracking birds across the landscape.**

We have erected eight MOTUS tracking stations to help detect tagged migratory birds. Since 2024, we have also deployed autonomous recording units, or ARUs, on large landholdings- first to monitor bats and now birds as well. A big thank-you to Destiny Flores for her leadership of the ARU program.

- **Growing Bird Buddies.**

This is an emerging program, with three funding applications submitted to support its development.
We are in discussions with Birds Canada to ensure collaboration.
In 2025 we contributed data to the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, including authorship within the atlas itself.
Thank you to Kate Dickson for helping with the program design and outreach.





TALKING CIRCLES

WOLVES, COYOTES AND WETLANDS

- **Bringing knowledge together.** Our Talking Circles have brought harvesters, biologists, and community knowledge holders together to discuss wolves, wetlands, beavers, and changes in the forest. By combining firsthand accounts with habitat mapping and scientific literature, we are developing a fuller picture of changes that have been difficult to understand through any one source of knowledge. A report is in preparation.
- **Making room for trust and shared understanding.** The circles have helped people with different experiences examine the evidence together after years of misunderstanding and mistrust. Thak you to Gary Williams for leading the Talking Circles in 2025/2026. Thank you to Kate for helping organize the circles and to Dominic for supporting the literature reviews.
- **Following the wetlands.** The next phase will focus on wetlands and beavers, including spring beaver surveys over three years and wetland mapping with our GIS specialist, Kyle Miller.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- **A regional direction.** Our Regional Conservation Strategy is complete and will remain a living document. Human footprint mapping and an interactive curriculum about planning in Ontario will help put regional knowledge to work in conservation and community decisions.
- **Projects moving forward.** We are preparing for the inauguration of ALT this fall. The Two Rainbows Museum is awaiting a renewed steering committee. Other community science projects continue across the region.
- **Welcoming and connecting people, funding and capacity.** The new visitor centre and store continues to invite greater numbers of tours and creating a larger impact for local conservation and tourism. We also completed a review of Turtle Guardians' marketing. Thank you to Zihan Majlish Khan for his thoughtful work and recommendations.

The Land Between
Financial Statements
March 31, 2026

Numeris CPA
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of
The Land Between

Qualified Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of The Land Between, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2026, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2026, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

Basis for Qualified Opinion
In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the organization derives revenue from fundraising activities the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the organization. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2026 and 2025, current assets as at March 31, 2026 and 2025, and net assets as at April 1 and March 31 for both the 2026 and 2025 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2025 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Independent Auditor's Report, continued

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Numeris CPA Professional Corporation
Chartered Professional Accountant
Licensed Public Accountant

Ottawa, ON
October 7, 2026

The Land Between
Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Assets		
Current		
Cash	$ 615,960	$ 532,026
Accounts receivable	356,487	321,130
Inventory	6,200	5,800
Prepaid expenses	11,685	5,550
	990,332	864,506
Capital assets (note 3)	5,134	4,000
	$ 995,466	$ 868,506
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 69,501	$ 27,675
Unearned revenue (note 4)	-	21,777
Due to related party (note 5)	215,552	172,823
	285,053	222,275
Fund balances		
Unrestricted Funds	480,413	646,231
Animal Care and Continuity Fund	230,000	-
	710,413	646,231
	$ 995,466	$ 868,506

On behalf of the Board

Member

Member

The Land Between
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year ended March 31, 2026

	Unrestricted Funds	Animal Care and Continuity Fund (note 7)	Total 2026	Total 2025
Balance, beginning of year				
As previously stated	$ 646,231	$ -	$ 646,231	$ 525,689
Prior period adjustment	-	-	-	35,988
As restated	646,231	-	646,231	561,677
Excess of revenues over expenditures	64,182	-	64,182	84,554
Transfer between funds	(230,000)	230,000	-	-
Balance, end of year	$ 480,413	$ 230,000	$ 710,413	$ 646,231

The Land Between
Statement of Operations
Year ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Revenues		
Grants and subsidies	$ 827,152	$ 794,992
Donations	79,292	78,891
Merchandise	24,982	26,447
Workshops and events	31,177	68,905
Interest income	2,374	1,893
Miscellaneous income	385	13,491
	965,362	984,619
Cost of sales	-	10,512
Gross profit	965,362	974,107
Expenditures		
Administrative		
Office	46,253	4,396
Professional fees	28,355	21,816
HST expense	13,273	5,189
Insurance	7,848	3,587
Outreach		
Advertising and promotion	20,281	22,300
Meeting and catering	1,969	1,985
Special Projects		
Salaries and related benefits	474,577	560,743
Project equipment and supplies	53,317	38,774
Rent	31,280	15,450
Contract services	167,541	162,834
Project office and administration	19,292	14,397
Advertising and promotion	13,797	3,545
Travel and workshops	12,490	25,158
Honorariums	6,477	5,700
Publications and printing	2,553	2,112
Amortization	1,877	1,567
Excess of revenues over expenditures	$ 64,182	$ 84,554

The Land Between
Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Operating activities		
Excess of revenues over expenditures	$ 64,182	$ 84,554
Adjustments for		
Amortization	1,877	1,567
Prior period adjustment	-	35,989
	66,059	122,110
Change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(35,357)	(8,885)
Inventory	(400)	9,200
Prepaid expenses	(6,135)	(2,400)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	41,826	(16,071)
Unearned revenue	(21,777)	20,010
Repayable to funder	-	(14,986)
Due to related party	42,729	91,824
	86,945	200,802
Investing activity		
Purchase of capital assets	(3,011)	(875)
Net increase in cash	83,934	199,927
Cash, beginning of year	532,026	332,099
Cash, end of year	$ 615,960	$ 532,026

1. Nature of operations

The Land Between ("the Organization") was incorporated by letters patent without share capital under the provisions of the Canada Corporations Act on June 13, 2011, it began operations in May of 2012 and is a Registered Charity. The Organization has defined its mission as follows:

a) to protect, preserve, and conserve the ecotone along the southern edge of the Canadian shield from southern Georgian Bay to the Frontenac axis north of Kingston - "the land between";

b) to conduct research into social, economic, environmental and cultural issues that are relevant to the land between, and disseminating the results of such research to the public;

c) to convene conferences, seminars and workshops for the benefit of the public on social, economic, environmental and cultural issues that are relevant to the land between;

d) to convene meetings of the public for the purpose of exchanging knowledge about best practices for preserving, conserving, and restoring the land between.

2. Significant accounting policies

The organization applies the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

(a) Revenue recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable when the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Revenue from merchandise sales, workshop and event are recognized as revenue when the good or service is delivered.

Funds provided by government subsidy and grants are recognized as revenue in the year within which the conditions are met with respect to the use and terms of the funding.

(b) Accounts receivable

The Organization records accounts receivable for amounts owing by a funder for approved expenditures incurred in the current year.

(c) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. The organization provides for amortization using the straight-line method at rates designed to amortize the cost of the capital assets over their estimated useful lives. The annual amortization rates are as follows:

Equipment	5 years
Vehicles	5 years

Capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

2. Significant accounting policies, continued

(c) **Capital assets, continued**

The organization regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items. Upon retirement or disposition of capital assets, the capitalized cost and related accumulated amortization are removed from the balance sheet and any resulting gain or loss is recognized in the statement of income.

Full amortization is recorded in the year of acquisition.

(d) **Impairment of long-lived assets**

The organization tests for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable. Recoverability is assessed by comparing the carrying amount to the projected undiscounted future net cash flows the long-lived assets are expected to generate through their direct use and eventual disposition. When a test for impairment indicates that the carrying amount of an asset is not recoverable, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent carrying value exceeds its fair value.

(e) **Government grants**

Government grants are recorded when there is a reasonable assurance that the organization had complied with and will continue to comply with, all the necessary conditions to obtain the grants.

(f) **Deferred revenue**

Deferred revenue is the excess of money received for programs over expenditures made by the year that is available to be used in a future year.

(g) **Contributed services**

Contributions of materials and services are recognized in the financial statements at fair value at the date of contribution, but only when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials and services are used in the normal course of operations, and would otherwise have been purchased.

(h) **Financial instruments**

The organization's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and long-term debt. Unless otherwise noted it is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

2. Significant accounting policies, continued

(i) Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Capital assets

			2026	2025
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Equipment	$ 5,347	$ 2,413	$ 2,934	$ 700
Vehicles	5,500	3,300	2,200	3,300
	$ 10,847	$ 5,713	$ 5,134	$ 4,000

4. Unearned revenue

Deferred revenue is comprised of unspent operating grants and unspent restricted donations. The availability of the grants in future periods is ultimately dependant upon various funding bodies, and as a result amounts included in deferred revenue may become repayable to the funder.

	2026	2025
Marilyn Neaves Trust	$ -	$ 18,818
Colleges and Insitutions Canada	-	2,300
Kawartha Credit Union	-	659
	$ -	$ 21,777

5. Due to related party

	2026	2025
Balance, beginning of year	$ 172,823	$ 80,999
Advances	693	520
Management fee	133,340	91,304
Payments	(91,304)	-
	$ 215,552	$ 172,823

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

Advances from a related organization are non-interest bearing and have no set repayment terms.
Management fees payable include the applicable HST.
The organization is related by common management and significant influence.

6. Prior period adjustments

During the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 two errors were identified in the general ledger of the the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. Rather than restate the March 31, 2024 financial statements the organization had elected to record these transactions directly to surplus.

Error #1:
The fiscal year ending March 31, 2023 repayable amount owing to the NIBTF was double entered. It was correctly entered as an amount owing in fiscal 22/23. Then, when it was paid in January 2024 the amount was entered a second time. The result of this error is that grant income was understated and A/P was overstated by $14,986 in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

Error #2:
The full Clean Nova Scotia Foundation income was not recorded in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. The result of this error is that grant income was understated and A/R was understated by $21,003 in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

7. Animal Care and Continuity Fund

The Animal Care and Continuity Fund is an internally restricted emergency and contingency reserve for unforseen animal-care and associated operating needs, urgent repairs or replacement of animal-care equipment and infrastructure, and other emergencies. In 2026, $230,000 (2025 - $nil) was transferred to the Animal Care and Continuity Fund. Use of the reserve and changes to its designation require Council approval.

8. Corporate credit card

The organization has a corporate credit card. The card has a $2,000 spending limit. It is secured with the personal information of the executive director and by a $2,000 freeze on funds held in the investment account.

9. Economic dependence

The continuation of this organization is dependent upon the continuing financial support from government and other organization grants and subsidies.

10. Comparative amounts

The financial statements have been reclassified, where applicable, to conform to the presentation used in the current year. The changes do not affect prior year earnings.