



Pine
Project

2025 Impact Report



Reflections from Pine's Leadership



This year, Pine marked an important milestone with the completion of our 2026–2030 Strategic Plan. Guided by our mission and values, it sets a clear and confident direction for the years ahead.

The plan reflects a careful assessment of where Pine is today and what will be required to ensure long-term strength and stability of the organization. It focuses on strengthening program impact, expanding access for equity-deserving communities, investing in leadership and staff development, and reinforcing the financial and organizational foundations needed to support sustainable growth.

Over the next five years, Pine will continue to build the systems, partnerships, and infrastructure that allow our programs to thrive. A key priority is working toward securing a permanent wilderness home for Pine, which is an ambitious step that will support long-term program delivery and deepen our connection to the land where so much learning takes place.

This Impact Report highlights a year already moving in that direction. With a strong leadership team, a clear strategic vision, and a community of supporters who believe in this mission, Pine is well positioned for the future. I invite you to explore this year's highlights and learn more about our path forward in the Strategic Plan summary.



Jonathan Yeh
Board Chair



**Andrew McMartin and
Jennifer Peer**
Co-Executive Directors

In 2025, Pine strengthened program quality, reduced barriers to participation, and deepened partnerships across the communities we serve, remaining grounded in our mission and values and committed to fostering belonging, connection, and care. Young people built confidence, resilience, and lasting friendships outdoors while developing a deeper sense of belonging in the natural world.

This is ever more critical as children today are growing up in a rapidly changing world. Conversations about screen time, social media, and children's well-being are prompting renewed questions about what young people truly need. Pine's work sits squarely in that conversation and has been addressing these needs since our inception. By engaging children in real life, outdoor experiences; problem solving together, building relationships, and connecting with the natural world, we help create the balance many are seeking in an increasingly digital age. More and more, this kind of learning is being recognized as an essential part of education, and a foundational piece in addressing the growing mental and physical health challenges facing young people today.

We are deeply grateful to the families, participants, educators, donors, partners, and supporters who make this work possible. Your support helps us provide the experiences young people need today, nurturing the environmental stewards and leaders the world will need tomorrow. Thank you for being part of this community and for helping make this work possible.

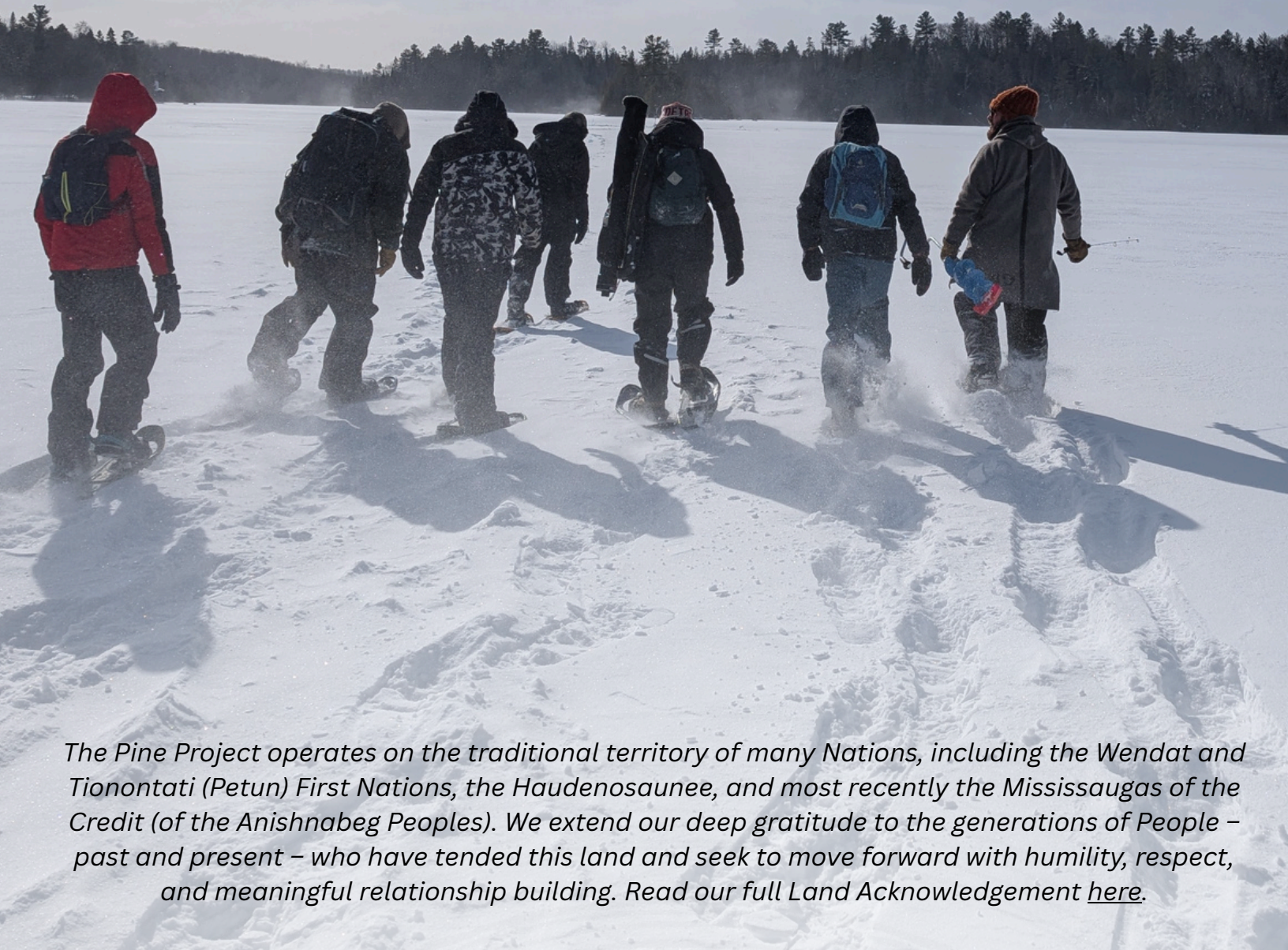


The Pine Project is a Toronto-based charitable organization dedicated to inspiring a love of nature. Our mission is to foster confidence, resilience, learning, and connection to nature through transformative outdoor experiences for children and youth.

Since 2008, Pine has offered year-round outdoor education programs in parks and wild spaces across Toronto and beyond. Through school-year programs, camps, and community partnerships, we create meaningful experiences that shape how children relate to nature, themselves, and one another.

Kids who join Pine:

- Feel deeply connected to nature
- Grow curiosity and a love of learning
- Experience belonging and community
- Build confidence and resilience
- Support their physical and mental well-being
- Develop care for the Earth and motivation to protect it



The Pine Project operates on the traditional territory of many Nations, including the Wendat and Tionontati (Petun) First Nations, the Haudenosaunee, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit (of the Anishnabeg Peoples). We extend our deep gratitude to the generations of People – past and present – who have tended this land and seek to move forward with humility, respect, and meaningful relationship building. Read our full Land Acknowledgement [here](#).

Connection in Numbers



> 2,200
CHILDREN
served



Children experienced
114,000
HOURS
of nature's magic



228
DAYS
spent outside
together



9,500
HOURS
of programming
delivered, including
school year programs,
summer day and
overnight camp



In Their Words

"I love the Pine Project. I love that we get to learn about nature and embrace the wilderness and be brave. I really love the kids who attend - they are curious like me."
- R (age 12)



"Unexpected challenges created unforgettable experiences and to me, that's what the Pine Project is all about."
- Ozzy (age 15)

"Pine Project has contributed greatly to my children's resilience, self-confidence and enthusiasm for the outdoors. I feel good knowing that they are spending time in a safe, compassionate, and stimulating program."
- Sara, parent of Marlon and Stanley (age 7)



"My son looks forward to Pine each month. He asks every weekend if there is Outdoor School. He says he loves it so much because he never knows what nature surprise he will find each time he goes."
- Karen, parent of Tristan (age 6)



"Pine is more than just a program. It's a community that I feel grateful to be a part of and has had a profound impact on me and my child."
- Laura, parent of Orin (age 3)



Nature makes kids happier and healthier!

**Pine programs had
a real impact!**

2025 participants reported:

98%

felt more connected to nature

(e.g., increased knowledge, interest in going outside, caring for nature)

96%

**improved their social and
relationship skills**

(e.g., making friends, cooperation, sharing)

96%

**experienced better
mental health**

(e.g., feeling happier, calmer, less anxious)

94%

saw physical health benefits

(e.g., better fitness, more interest in walking longer distances)

96%

enhanced their life-skills


(e.g., confidence, independence, resilience, creativity)

Hundreds of studies and counting show that time in nature supports children's health, happiness, and development. ✓✓

At Pine, we see that research come to life in muddy hands, wonder-filled questions, shared laughter, and deep friendships.

“ I'm so grateful to have found Pine when I did. My son was six and struggling inside the classroom all day, but Pine gave him a safe haven to learn and be active in nature. I **immediately noticed an improvement in his happiness and confidence.** ”
- Grateful Pine Parent





All children need nature

Every child deserves to connect with nature and experience its benefits.

At Pine, we're expanding access to outdoor experiences by increasing financial support, strengthening accommodations for children with exceptionalities, building meaningful community partnerships, and more.



\$151,000

total contributed

by Pine to enable participation



\$67,000

in bursaries

awarded for low-income families



808

**equity-deserving
children**

received support to participate

“ Pine Project programs have been a truly transformative experience for our daughter. **It's amazing to see her confidence, curiosity, and connection to nature grow so deeply.** We're so grateful that Pine prioritizes inclusion and makes their programming accessible to a wide range of families. ”

- Andrew



258

**children with
exceptionalities**

supported with accommodations

“ Being surrounded by nature has had a profound effect on my son's well being. I can see positive changes in his attitude and enthusiasm towards learning and exploring the world. **Your sponsorship through Pine's Bursary Fund has truly made a difference** in Ryker's life, and for that we are forever grateful. ”

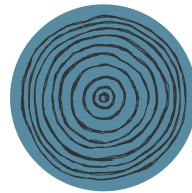
- Mandy

Growing nature connection through community partnerships

In 2025, we continued to strengthen our community partnerships, deepening our work with Rose Ave. Jr Public School, Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre, and Native Child & Family Services. Through these collaborations, more children and youth accessed consistent, high-quality outdoor learning experiences rooted in connection, belonging, and hands-on discovery.

100

free sessions offered in partnership with schools and community groups



100%

of Rose Ave. teachers said programs supported their students' well-being, social skills & academic experience.

410

children benefited from free programs



86%

of Eastview kids said that Pine helped them to be more comfortable outside, and 100% reported improved mood!

“The forest is such a great place to learn.”
- Rose Ave P.S. student

“I love going outside – it's never boring!”
- Eastview participant

“The Pine Project has been transformative for students and teachers at Thorncliffe Park P.S., building self-confidence, independence, and teamwork in the outdoors.”
- Thorncliffe P.S. teacher

Expanding impact

This fall, we launched a new partnership with Thorncliffe Park Public School and expanded our work with Native Child & Family Services, bringing our annual reach to 800 children and youth by the end of the 2025/26 school year.



Advancing Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

At the Pine Project, we are deeply committed to building a community where everyone feels a true sense of belonging. We strive to recognize and celebrate the many facets that shape our identities and experiences.

In the spirit of accountability, we continue to share updates on how we are advancing this commitment across our organization, from our programs and partnerships to our policies and long-term planning. (You can find previous updates our [website](#).)

As we further embed equity into every aspect of Pine's work, much of our progress in 2025 is reflected throughout this Annual Report. Highlights include:

- **Expanding partnerships to reach more equity-deserving children and youth.** We strengthened existing school and community collaborations, launched a new partnership with Thorncliffe Park Public School, and expanded our work with Native Child & Family Services to broaden access to consistent outdoor programming.
- **Growing support to reduce financial and participation barriers.** We increased dedicated funding for bursaries, gear support, and individualized accommodations, strengthening our ability to welcome more children in the years ahead.
- **Strengthening how we share information about access supports.** We refined how we communicate bursaries, accommodations, and participation supports so more families can access the supports that make participation possible.
- **Centering equity in our long-term direction.** Equity is woven throughout our 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, Theory of Change, and refreshed Mission, Vision and Values, guiding how we design programs, build partnerships, and measure impact.
- **Continuing to expand equitable practices across Pine.** We continue to grow partnerships that provide financial assistance, strengthen accommodations and 1:1 supports for children with exceptionalities, invest in staff training, and refine policies and recruitment practices so our team reflects and serves the diverse communities we are part of.

We remain committed to building a Pine community that finds strength in diversity and works intentionally to ensure nature is accessible to all. We look forward to continuing this journey together, learning, listening, and growing alongside our community in the years ahead.

Your Support Matters

We are deeply grateful for the generosity and partnership of so many in our community. Thank you to every donor, supporter, participant, volunteer, and staff member who helped make it possible for more children to spend meaningful time outdoors this year. Because of you, kids are growing into happier, healthier, and more caring environmental stewards.

Thanks to your support, over 2,200 children connected with nature alongside caring mentors in 2025. Your investment strengthens financial aid, expands accommodations for children with exceptionalities, builds partnerships with equity-deserving communities, and grows Pine's ability to welcome more children each year.

A special thanks to:



Johansen Larsen Foundation



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



The Path To Summer Adventures



The Catherine and Maxwell MEIGHEN FOUNDATION



Funded by the Government of Canada



THE CHAWKERS FOUNDATION



DOLPHIN GAMING



The McLean Foundation



Rose Avenue Jr. Public School

Thorncliffe Park Public School

Tippet Foundation

Stait Family Fund

McCull-Early Foundation

Frederick & Douglas Dickson Foundation

Jackman Foundation

J.P. Bickell Foundation

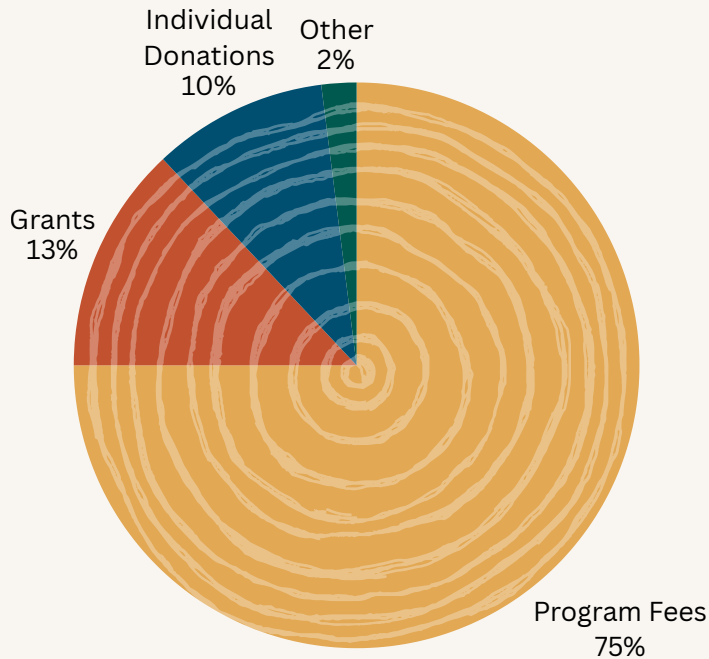
A special thank you to the hundreds of individuals who support children and nature, including those who gave in loving memory of Alessandro Pica and Stephanie Conway. We are honoured to help carry their legacy forward through nature connection.



Pine Project Financials*

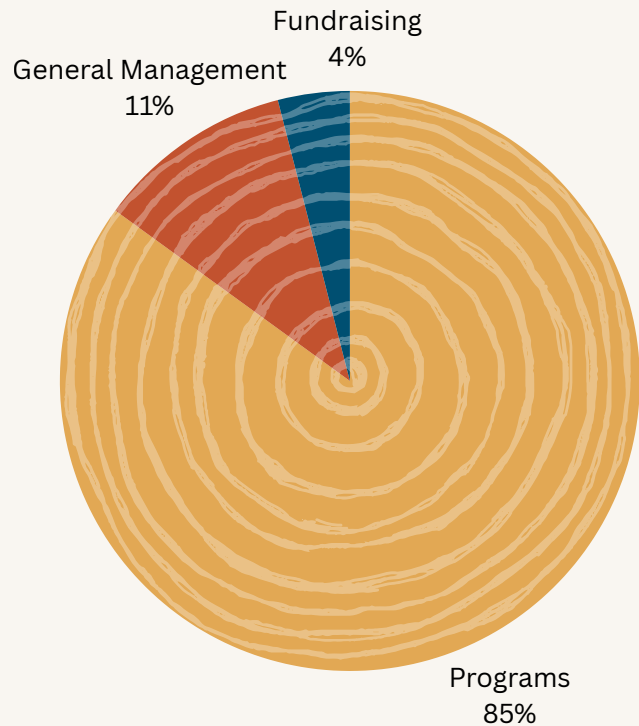
2025 Revenue

\$1,908,000



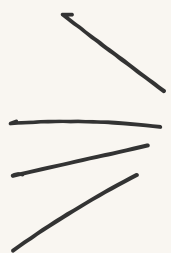
2025 Expenses

\$1,724,000



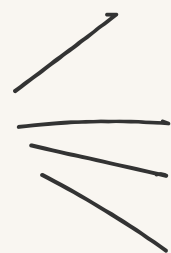
*Unaudited due to the timing of this report's publication. The 2025 audit will be completed in June 2026; audited financial statements are available on request.

Any excess revenue over expenses is invested in future programming and in building financial reserves, strengthening long-term stability and helping ensure children can access nature connection programs for years to come.



**“Keep it up Pine. You’re making a difference.
Thank you for building connections in all
ways to ensure our children's future.”**

- Pine Donor





With Gratitude

As we close another year, we find ourselves thinking about moments from the seasons we shared.

A group of children standing quietly outside a cedar tree, whispering so they don't disturb the porcupine tucked inside.

A child proudly showing off a snow shelter they built with friends after a heavy snowfall.

A pause in the middle of a game to watch a red-tailed hawk soar overhead.

These little moments are where confidence grows. Where friendships form. Where curiosity deepens. Where children begin to see themselves as capable, connected, and part of something larger than themselves.

This is the quiet, steady impact of nature connection.

To everyone who makes this work possible — our mentors, volunteers, partners, families, and supporters — thank you. You are helping create the time, space, and care that allow children to grow in ways that will stay with them for a lifetime.

With gratitude,
The Pine Project Team



Pine Project

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