PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE
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This is a hopeful message from Treaty 7 lands in southern Alberta, in the ancestral territories of the Niitsitapi, Stoney Nakoda, and Tsuu'tina First Nations. Calgary also lies in Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic brought another year of profound difficulties and loss. I offer my heartfelt condolences for any personal loss or suffering you experienced. Despite the many challenges, FSC Canada’s superb staff, volunteers, and dedicated members across all four chambers were able to: develop and implement standards; share information and experiences; and expand the organization’s reach across Canada’s beautiful forests. I look forward to once again meeting in person to strengthen our important relationships.

FSC Canada’s Board remains committed to FSC’s global mission “to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world’s forests”. Three key strategies guide this journey: “cooperate and implement solutions, transform markets, and catalyze change.”

Here in Canada, we’ve made tremendous progress in certifying forests and forestry products under our new national forest stewardship standard. Unique elements of this standard, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent and the Woodland
Caribou Indicators, presented both challenges and new opportunities for catalyzing needed changes in forest management and protection.

Amidst our shared climate crisis, forests are essential for the wild species inhabiting them and for the communities that depend upon them. FSC is a key player in helping the world shift to more nature-based and low-carbon circular economies. The need for strong, respectful, and collaborative relationships has never been more important.

Since 2000, when I first became involved in standards development, I have seen exceptional positive change in sustainable forest management.

I am filled with hope for the future. FSC will build on our successes with even greater engagement by Indigenous Peoples and further spurring the recovery of woodland caribou, a vital at-risk species in our forests.

I would like to close this message by sincerely thanking outgoing board members Arthur Tsai and David Flood for their time and commitment and, for David, his leadership as Chair.

Sincerely,

Cliff Wallis

For Cliff’s bio, visit the Alberta Wilderness Association
François Dufresne
President, FSC Canada
President’s Message

Despite the challenges of a relentless pandemic, 2021 was a productive and positive year for FSC Canada, as we worked diligently to drive forward our commitment to responsible forest management, upholding and advancing the indicators of our new national standard.

Our teams aptly demonstrated the ability to adapt, conducting remote audits, and extending many other COVID-19 measures to ensure the health of certificate holders and FSC auditors. We also hosted our first virtual annual general meeting, with robust attendance and meaningful discussion around solid wood updates, caribou conservation, carbon research and more.

We’ve also demonstrated that FSC is an organization that’s willing to act, taking a stand on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with no material from Russian or Belarus until the invasion ends. While this event unfolded in 2022, it is a concerning and ongoing conflict at the time of this writing, and I’d be remiss to not address where FSC globally stands (ongoing updates on FSC’s position can be found here.)

As you’ll read in this report, there have been several important updates to FSC’s standards and policies, including the development of a National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) maintenance procedure to keep the NFSS current, relevant and clear. We also began developing a performance monitoring framework to evaluate the uptake of the new standard by certificate holders. The Chain of Custody Standard also now includes Core Labour Requirements.

Additionally, to help small-scale, low-intensity and community forests attain FSC certification,
we’re modifying requirements that take into account their operational capacity. All of these efforts and more will continue to drive forward the relevance and rigor behind FSC certification.

It is clear that our certification is driving meaningful results. This report features a wonderful story about efforts to manage the habitat for woodland caribou inside the world’s largest FSC-certified forest in Alberta. We commend pulp producer Al-Pac for challenging itself to meet the new standard, and for uniting the government, energy sector members, environmental groups and multiple First Nations communities in their pursuit.

We recognize our role isn’t solely to build forestry standards but also to help our community meet the urgent new requirements we mapped out. As part of our educational agenda, we hosted several training sessions last year on both the caribou and Free, Prior and Informed Consent indicators to ensure companies are set up for success in implementing change to forestry practices.

Online, we proudly unveiled shopfsc.ca that features a vast array of brands that make products with FSC-certified materials. Just as we will promote those companies sourcing such materials, we will support the consumer-facing companies who uphold our cause.

Such collaborative efforts to promote responsible forestry continues with the strong undercurrent of addressing climate change. Each passing year brings this into more acute focus. In 2021, we bore witness to difficult news, led by west coast forest fires and the worst levels of Amazon deforestation in the past 15 years. Yet we watched as leaders from more than 100 countries signed a declaration to end deforestation by 2030 at the UN’s climate conference – in which our international FSC colleagues participated.

It is there where we should remain – hopeful, optimistic, and working in unique collaborations to protect and preserve our forests, and the species and communities that rely on them. A mission that becomes more pressing with each passing year.

Sincerely,

François Dufresne
President FSC Canada
FSC Certification*  
Canada at a Glance

50.4 MILLION  
HECTARES OF CERTIFIED FORESTS  
> +4% from 2020 (48.4 million)  
> Certification goal is 100 million ha by 2030

13.9%  
OF TOTAL FOREST LAND IS FSC CERTIFIED  
(total forest land in Canada 346,964,664)

*As of Jan. 1, 2022
STANDARDS AND POLICIES
FSC Canada has developed a National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) maintenance procedure to keep the NFSS current, relevant and clear. Importantly, it also describes how certificate holders, certification bodies and other stakeholders can provide feedback and obtain answers to their questions.

More information can be found on the FSC Canada website, along with the process flow chart, the summary table of processes to maintain the NFSS, frequently asked questions, and a form to submit comments, questions or requests.
A key step in the use of any standard should be a process by which implementation and effectiveness can be measured and evaluated against key benchmarks for success.

That’s why, in 2021, FSC Canada began developing monitoring framework to evaluate the uptake of the new FSC standard by certificate holders as well as the effectiveness of the national standard. The performance monitoring, which uses primarily audit results, was developed fully in 2021 and is already being implemented.

The development of the effectiveness monitoring framework started in 2021 and will continue into 2022 with a key focus on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Caribou and the Conservation Areas Network.
Following a motion passed at FSC’s General Assembly in 2017, FSC Canada has now published a new impact assessment that looks at the short and long term economic, environmental, and social impacts of managing Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) in Canada. Its primary focus is on British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec.

The assessment was conducted by consultants who reviewed literature and used GIS analysis, mapping and interviews with Indigenous community leaders, forest managers, environmental groups, and others to advance our understanding of the characteristics of IFLs and the impacts of protecting them.

Under the leadership of The Firelight Group, research was conducted and a report published to understand the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent on large landscapes through the development of Indigenous Cultural Landscapes.

Analysis and recommendations from both reports deepens our understanding and will support the continued development of requirements designed to safeguard large landscapes. FSC Canada believes that our collaborative process of working with the standards development group (SDG) to develop IFL requirements, followed by public consultation and testing, is the best mechanism to decide on the management of large landscapes.
SPOTLIGHT: CONSERVING CARIBOU HABITAT
Northeastern Alberta is an integral part of one of the largest boreal forest ecosystems on the planet – a wilderness that covers nearly half the province. Here, several rivers flow from the Rocky Mountains into the watershed of the Arctic Ocean, including the mighty Athabasca River, upon whose frozen waters Indigenous Elders remember herds of woodland caribou once travelling.

Today, caribou sightings are rare, part of stories passed down through generations of Indigenous Peoples who call this region home. The cumulative impacts of oil and gas, mining and forestry have fragmented or destroyed caribou habitat and increased access for predators. In spite of decades of recovery efforts, the situation remains dire: caribou populations across Alberta are declining. “We’re well past life support,” says Carolyn Campbell, conservation director with the Alberta Wilderness Association.

FSC Standard at Heart of New Collaborative Push to Conserve Habitat for Alberta’s Woodland Caribou

This story was published by FSC Canada
“We don’t have the right to cause Alberta caribou to go locally extinct within the span of one lifetime.” But with its overlapping forestry tenures and oil and gas leases, northeastern Alberta is arguably the hardest place within Canada’s boreal to implement caribou conservation measures.

“Oil sands, petroleum, natural gas, metals, minerals, sand, gravel and forestry industries impacts – alongside considerations of Indigenous land uses, carbon and water implications – have created a complex environment,” says Campbell, adding that climate change and rising rates of forest fires further complicate the picture.
Despite all this, there is newfound hope for these caribou populations, thanks to the ongoing work of committed partners willing to do what’s needed to conserve or restore caribou habitat in the boreal landscape.

Promising collaborations are underway between industry leader Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac), energy sector members of the Regional Industry Caribou Collaboration, collaborators of the Alberta Regional Caribou Knowledge Partnership, the Alberta government, environmental groups such as Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA), Ducks Unlimited Canada and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), and First Nations including Fort McKay, Cold Lake, Chipewyan Prairie, Heart Lake, Mikisew Cree, Athabasca Chipewyan and others. Central to this effort are FSC Canada’s caribou requirements, part of the new National Forest Stewardship Standard that supports the 2012 Federal Recovery Strategy for boreal woodland caribou developed under the Species at Risk Act. FSC will not certify any company unless specific caribou conservation requirements are met.

This means that forest managers must set woodland caribou habitat management strategies based on the best available science and risk assessment/mitigation tools. This includes minimizing the building of roads, harvesting outside caribou breeding season, and minimizing landscape disturbances by aligning forestry efforts to nearby industrial activities.

Read full story
FSC shows industry that you can actually operate on a wide landscape while also protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and keeping caribou on that landscape.

— CLIFF WALLIS, DIRECTOR, ALBERTA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION
**TRAINING ON CARIBOU REQUIREMENTS**

The impact of forest management practices on species at risk – specifically woodland caribou, a bellwether of healthy forests – is a significant concern in Canada. Populations of woodland caribou are at varying degrees of risk and are particularly sensitive to habitat disturbance. As a result, FSC Canada has an indicator dedicated entirely to boreal woodland caribou in our national forest management standard. In 2021, FSC Canada developed training material and held training sessions designed to help forest companies and certification bodies better understand and implement these new caribou requirements.

FSC Canada, in partnership with Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc., hosted another training session on caribou requirements for members of Indigenous communities. Geared toward First Nations communities with caribou in their homelands, it provided insights into emerging conservation and habitat strategies and identified the pathways for First Nations to help drive the conversation.

*Photo by Jérémie Leblond-Fontaine*
TRAINING ON FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT

Principle 3 at FSC emphasizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples, requiring all certified forest owners to uphold principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). In accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Labour Organization’s Convention 169, it means a community has the right to give or withhold its consent to proposals that may affect the lands it customarily owns, occupies or otherwise uses. To ensure this important principle is followed and interpreted properly, FSC Canada collaborated with an Indigenous owned consultancy The Firelight Group, to create educational videos on how to implement FPIC.
After an extensive review process, FSC US and FSC Canada selected SCS Global Services to conduct research into the forest carbon impacts of FSC certification in the Pacific West, Southeast US and Canadian boreal forests.

SCS was retained due to their demonstrated experience and proposed approach, which relies on the use of inventory data to model carbon additionality. The research team is building a model to compare the impacts of two policy choices: FSC-certified management and “baseline” practices.

One of the studies has developed initial results, which will be released later this year. Four additional studies are in different stages of development: regional studies in Alberta and Northern California, plus two Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) in Ontario.

Once the research is completed, FSC will make it publicly available. SCS will also submit a research paper to a peer-reviewed journal for publication. The goal is to complete all research studies in 2022.
To help small-scale, low-intensity and community forests attain FSC certification, FSC is modifying requirements to take into account the size, intensity and capacity of operations.

In December 2021, FSC International conditionally approved the Small-Scale, Low Intensity and Community Forests Standard. The standard development group is now working to close the conditions with the goal of final approval in summer 2022. The draft requirements follow the basic forest management certification requirements but have important procedural differences that consider the size and intensity of these smaller-scale forest operations or the capacity to manage them. For example, the new smallholder requirements will include:

- Fewer indicators overall
- Reduced process requirements and broader eligibility criteria for conservation areas networks
- A modified approach to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent for smallholders
- Simpler administration processes
- Fewer external reviews required
The revised FSC Chain of Custody standard has now been updated to include auditable social compliance requirements based on the International Labour Organization’s Core Conventions.

These core labour requirements include added protection for the rights of workers in all FSC-certified operations. FSC certificate holders must demonstrate conformity to the requirements, which cover the abolition of child labour, elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, elimination of discrimination with respect to employment and occupation, upholding freedom of association, and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining. While the protection of workers’ rights has always been part of FSC’s principles and mandatory for forest management certificate holders, the new FSC core labour requirements have also been included in the FSC Chain of Custody standard. The new requirements aim to ensure that the protection of workers’ rights is firmly tied to a company’s FSC certificate. This marks a first for the forest certification industry. Certificate holders are required to implement the FSC core labour requirements in their operations and must be able to demonstrate the same to external third-party auditors. The benefits of the new standard include the fact that it eliminates sourcing risks related to labour and allows businesses to meet the requirements of customers in countries where workers and labour rights are a growing concern. Businesses can provide a demonstrable way to show how they respect workers’ rights, and how human rights are integrated into operations. The FSC Core Labour Requirements went into effect on September 1, 2021.

FSC Canada released a form for the Self-Assessment for FSC Core Labour Requirements to help Canadian Chain of Custody Certificate Holders to demonstrate conformance – see here.

Please visit this link to view the full list of inclusions in the Chain of Custody Certification.
FSC Publishes New Version of the Trademark Standard for Certificate Holders

FSC International has reinforced clear labelling and enhanced the understanding of controlled wood with a revised version of the Trademark Standard – effective on January 1, 2022, with a transition period that ends on June 30, 2024.

Updated FSC Mix Label Text

The new MIX label text will now be ‘Supporting Responsible Forestry’. Read more about the new FSC MIX label, the rationale behind the change, and relevant timelines in this factsheet.
FSC Canada announced our full support of the BC First Nations Forest Strategy in February 2021. “We applaud FSC for leading by example as the first forest certification system in British Columbia to align themselves with a Forest Strategy informed directly by Nations for over a decade,” tells Chief Bill Williams, President and Chair of the Board for the BC First Nations Forestry Council. Released in May 2019, the Forest Strategy was developed in collaboration with the provincial government and endorsed by all First Nations bodies in BC. It features six strategic goals and a framework to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and modernize government-to-government collaborations toward forest governance and stewardship. “The Forest Strategy recognizes Nations as governments and rights holders,” says Chief Williams. “The Forest Strategy implements UNDRIP, shared decision-making, and supports partnerships with industry, building a strong, inclusive way forward with First Nations as full partners.”
Advocating for Sustainable Forestry to Help Safeguard our Health

This story was published by FSC International

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the link between the health of nature and that of humans. Science shows that protection of forests, and the people and biodiversity within them, is key to disease prevention. Though the outbreak of COVID-19 largely took citizens and governments worldwide by surprise, many scientists had been predicting such an event for a long time. Studies linking the health of humans and forest go back more than 40 years, and evidence has increasingly pointed the finger of blame at human-caused damage to forests. In 2001, a study by the University of Edinburgh’s Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine indicated that 75 per cent of all infectious diseases emerging in the last 50 years came from wildlife. These are known as zoonoses, and include HIV, H5N1 bird flu, hantavirus, and most recently, COVID-19.
A CONNECTION TO DEFORESTATION

Subsequent research has linked new infectious diseases to deforestation. Though focusing on different diseases and different regions of the world, these studies have concluded that as forests are destroyed, animals that live in them and can carry diseases to humans, such as rats and bats, are forced into ever smaller areas. This brings them closer to humans, and therefore increases the likelihood of diseases ‘spilling over’, in other words, gaining the ability to jump from one species to another.

One well-known example is the Ebola virus epidemic of 2014-2016, which is estimated to have killed over 13,000 people since its discovery in Africa in 1976. The disease was found to have been spread to humans from fruit bats.
Research published in Nature in 2017 found a significant link between outbreaks of Ebola along the edge of rainforests and forest losses within the previous two years. Preventing the loss of forests could reduce the likelihood of future outbreaks, it concluded.

The devastation caused to lives and livelihoods by COVID-19 has put an increasing spotlight on the issue. As countries worldwide went into lockdown in March 2020, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Inger Andersen, warned that nature was sending humans a message: “Our continued erosion of wild spaces has brought us uncomfortably close to animals and plants that harbour diseases, which can jump to humans.”

Read full story
Protecting forests is crucial for many reasons – and preventing future disease outbreaks is one of them. Now people, companies, and governments are becoming more aware of the essential role forests play worldwide. At FSC, we have been contributing to forests and biodiversity protection for more than 26 years, and we will continue with full dedication.

“

– KIM CARSTENSEN,
FSC DIRECTOR GENERAL
EXPANDING THE BRAND/MARKET
In the village of Waiparous, Alberta, near the Rocky Mountains, sits “The Confluence House” which is set to become just the fifth residence in the world to be fully certified under the Living Building Challenge (LBC) green building standard.

 Owners Gerton and Joleen Molenaar designed the 2,200 sq ft home to produce more energy than it uses, capture water, feature FSC-certified materials – including wood from Meadow Lake Tribal Council – and leave behind minimal waste during its construction.

To be LBC certified, homes must meet high standards for materials used, water, energy, equity, beauty, wellbeing, and relationship with nature. All wood must either be FSC-certified, salvaged, or harvested from timber that had to be cleared anyway for the building. Inspired to meet these levels, the Molenaar family enlisted green building expertise in academia and industry – the Southern Alberta Institute of Technologies and Woodpecker European Timber Framing, respectively – in a unique collaboration that ultimately earned them a 2021 FSC International Leadership Award.

“Having a family, becoming a parent and being responsible for their lives, is the reason we built a Living Building Challenge home — one that protects their health and the environment,” says Gerton Molenaar.
Stand for Forests. Stand with FSC. FSC Week Awareness Campaign

In 2021, to celebrate responsible forestry, FSC designed a social media awareness campaign that ran in September during FSC Week. The theme was “Stand for Forests. Stand with FSC.”

To convey key messages about FSC and the importance of responsible forestry, FSC partnered with award-winning agency Good Form to develop a 60-second Stand for Forests video. This animated short was narrated by Juno Award-winning singer songwriter William Prince and won an Applied Arts Award.

Many of FSC’s partners embraced this successful campaign, which ultimately engaged nearly 800,000 Canadians online.
In 2021, our teams launched ShopFSC.ca – an online directory to connect Canadians consumers directly with FSC-certified products. From furniture to guitars, yoga mats to shoes, toothbrushes to paper products – ShopFSC.ca now has an inventory of more than 100 products, with more added each month.

FSC Canada is trying to drum up awareness that protecting our forests is not exclusive to activist organizations, government agencies, or eco-conscious
corporations. Instead, anyone can accept such a role, by the choices they make with their wallet.

When consumers see the FSC “check-tree” logo they can trust that the product is made from responsible sources and is verified to meet strict environmental and social standards. ShopFSC.ca is a new way that FSC Canada can support certificate holders and partner companies and empower Canadians to shop responsibly.

**BRANDS INCLUDE:**
- Allbirds
- Crate & Barrel
- Domtar
- Greenlid
- Hammermill
- HP
- Hunter Boots
- Kimberly Clark
- Kruger Products
- Lululemon
- Martin Guitar
- Molo
- Mouche
- On the Bend
- P&G
- Patagonia
- PEHR
- Pottery Barn
- Staples
- The Future is Bamboo
- West Elm
- Williams-Sonoma
- Xerox
Hunter Books Commits to 100 Per Cent FSC-Certified Rubber by 2025

“We know it’s important to lead by example so this is why we use FSC certified natural rubber, because FSC is the gold standard when it comes to responsible forestry.

Natural rubber is at the heart of our brand, so protecting our forests and communities around them is critically important to our business. By sourcing FSC certified natural rubber we have the confidence that our rubber meets the world’s strictest ecological and environmental standards, and that we’re not contributing to deforestation. And that the rights of local and indigenous communities are being protected. Hunter is so proud to announce that by 2025 every ounce of natural rubber that we use in our
footwear will be FSC certified. We know this is a large and important job but we’re going to prove that it’s possible and we hope that other leading footwear brands will follow suit.

Internally, our global teams are just so pleased that we’ve made a meaningful commitment to source sustainable natural rubber in our products. They’re also really happy that we’ve aligned ourselves with charities that work to protect rich biodiverse forests and communities around them.

Externally, our relationship with FSC gives our customers and our partners the confidence that we’ve done our due diligence and it gives even more purpose to our products.

Hunter Boots supports forest for all, forever.”
On May 26, 2021, FSC Canada hosted its first-ever virtual Annual General Meeting to harness FSC’s collective purpose to find solutions that meet the needs of our forests. More than 130 participants discussed caribou conservation, nature-based solutions, solid wood uptake, the launch of FSC Week, and upcoming carbon research.
At “COP26” in Glasgow, 100 countries formally signed a major “Declaration on Forests and Land Use” agreement to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 and promoting sustainable development.

Of note, the pledge includes Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo – which, together, contain 85 per cent of the world’s forests. FSC issued a statement of support for this important agreement.

The focus on protection and sustainable management of forests is a crucial element in any solution to the world’s climate crisis. Without increased efforts to protect forests, it will not be possible to meet the ambition of the Paris Agreement to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C. The Declaration commits the participating countries to work together to build resilience and enhance rural livelihoods, including through empowering communities and recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples. FSC stands ready to work with governments, businesses, Indigenous Peoples and interested stakeholders to help meet the ambition of the Declaration.

FSC attended COP26, hosting a meeting on “Co-creating forest-based solutions to enhance social and ecological resilience with shared value.” It was an opportunity for different industry sectors to discuss strategies and tools to promote sustainable forest management that brings positive social, environmental and economic impacts.
Held every three years, FSC’s General Assembly brings together hundreds of leaders and decision-makers, including Indigenous Peoples, environmentalists, business leaders, and many others, who are the core of FSC’s membership to discuss a responsible future of the world’s forests and the people and animals who inhabit them.

The virtual event ran in late October 2021 and featured debates on key decisions and discussions on topics ranging from climate change, Indigenous issues, smallholders, digital innovations and more.
“Fashion Forever Green Pact” Promotes Responsible Sourcing of Renewable Fibre Among Global Brands

FSC’s Fashion Forever Green Pact is a call to immediate action for the fashion industry – brands, retailers and manufacturers alike – to adopt responsible sourcing in support of the world’s forests.

With the rising need for renewable and sustainable fibres in recent years, man-made cellulosic fibres (MMCFs) have become the fastest growing fibre in the market. However, most of this material still comes from uncertified forests around the world – leaving their ecosystems vulnerable to deforestation and threatening biodiversity and the livelihoods of those that depend on them.

The Fashion Forever Green Pact is based on a set of three actions that aim to build sustainability into the fashion industry’s growing reliance on fibres and other forest-based materials. At its core, the initiative represents an industry-wide collaboration between FSC and brand owners to drive a shift in sourcing practices and ultimately safeguard forests globally.

Early signatories include major international names in the fashion world including Birla, H&M, JBS Textile Group, Masai, Bitte Kai Rand, Bravo World, Ghezzi SPA and Brunello SPA and Daenong Corporation.

By joining, companies proactively commit to responsible procurement policies, sustainable sourcing of 100 per cent of FSC-certified MMCFs within a year of signing and labeling at least one collection with the FSC label by 2025.

The Fashion Forever Green Pact is open to any company – brand, retailer or manufacturer – that wants to actively transform the fashion and textiles industry and address its negative impact on our environment.
Financials

Total Income
- Cert Fees: 839,691
- Corp Sponsors: 151,441
- Membership: 79,079
- Govt grants: 60,000
- FSC Grants: 49,153
- Trademark: 33,613
- Other: 6,817

Total: 1,219,794

Total Expenses

Total: 1,348,617