



# **Annual Report 2015 - 2016**



David  
Suzuki  
Foundation



## Message from the CEO

Anniversaries are important. They are markers to acknowledge and celebrate our existence and progress over time. The David Suzuki Foundation was blessed to experience two remarkable anniversaries this past year.

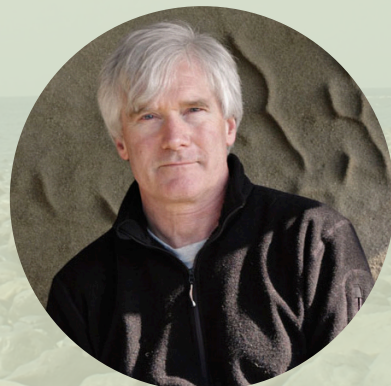
First, we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In September 1990, David Suzuki and Tara Cullis founded this extraordinary organization, with the vision of bringing together science and communications to help people in Canada understand how all life is interconnected and interdependent. Twenty-five years later, we have grown to become one of Canada's most trusted environmental organizations, operating in three cities and two languages, with a following of more than three million people. It is a testament to the founders that the David Suzuki Foundation has endured and evolved to become what it is today.

Second, David Suzuki turned 80 in March 2016. He is, of course, an inspiration to all of us here at the David Suzuki Foundation — but he is also much more. His ability to tell stories and bring meaning to the natural world around us, his persistent voice in support of systems to protect the environment and his passionate perspective on the role of Indigenous voices in how we see our world have inspired and motivated generations.

To all of you who have helped make these wonderful anniversaries possible — staff, volunteers, donors, partners, followers and friends — we thank you for your generous efforts and contributions.



Peter Robinson  
CEO, David Suzuki Foundation



## BLUE DOT MOVEMENT FOR THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The Blue Dot project kicked off with a nationwide tour in 2014, aimed at inspiring a generation of environmental leaders to take action in support of every person in Canada's right to live in a healthy environment. By building public support and political will locally, regionally and nationally, we hope to make environmental rights a core Canadian value. Enshrining these rights will lead to strengthened environmental laws and better enforcement of existing legal protections so that air, water and soil quality and biodiversity are maintained and enhanced for everyone, now and into the future.

During the 2015-16 fiscal year, the movement grew beyond our expectations:

- More than 100,000 people from across Canada have signed the Blue Dot pledge calling on all levels of government to legally protect their right to clean air and water, safe food and a stable climate.
- At the end of the fiscal year, 124 municipal declarations had been adopted in 10 provinces and two territories, representing more than 12 million people in Canada, and the number continues to grow.
- More than 20,000 volunteers have joined the campaign. We initiated volunteer recognition through portraits and storytelling (modelled after "Humans of New York"), which has been popular within the community.
- Staff attended the February 2016 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Conference with more than 400 municipal leaders, and held a celebratory side event with representatives from the 100-plus Blue Dot municipalities, inviting them to join the next phase of the campaign.
- As part of our effort to hold the federal government accountable to its promise of ending drinking water advisories in Indigenous communities within five years, we joined the Water Solidarity Network, which includes the Council of Canadians, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the Assembly of First Nations and a number of unions and other organizations.
- We held two national webinars and are transitioning several municipal teams, including Montreal and Toronto, to a federal focus.
- The movement now has more than 7,800 Facebook followers.

Next steps: We will work to get Canada to adopt an environmental bill of rights and to eventually enshrine environmental rights in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.





## SCIENCE AND POLICY

With 195 nations and the European Union committing to limit greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement in December 2015, the David Suzuki Foundation's Science and Policy Department has continued to focus on solutions to help Canada meet its climate change commitments, as well as conduct research into Canada's natural assets. Support for increased transit investments and improvements in B.C., cycling infrastructure in Toronto, a cap-and-trade system in Ontario, and a national coal power phase-out complemented our work on the Trottier Energy Futures Project and field research into hydraulic fracturing in B.C.



### Highlights for 2015-16 included:

- **Climate change:** In the lead-up to Conference of the Parties 21 (COP21), the Foundation raised public awareness about the importance of the Paris Agreement and has continued to engage the public through campaigns reaching millions of people. The COP21 online strategy was among the most successful of any organization in North America. Our announcement of the final agreement reached nearly three million people on Facebook alone, with further engagement through social media and media relations throughout the Paris conference.
- **Trottier Energy Futures Project:** The Foundation completed its five-year Trottier Energy Futures Project, with the Canadian Academy of Engineering. We presented our final report to stakeholders, researchers, other ENGOs and government officials in April 2016, outlining two scenarios for implementing a national strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent from 1990 levels by 2050, focusing on renewable energy options and energy-grid improvements. We have since commissioned an analysis of where the Trottier Energy Futures Project fits within the broader literature regarding deep emissions reductions and are planning to release a report highlighting recommended strategies that are common across the field. The federal government cited the project's findings as informative to developing the Canadian Climate Action Framework.
- **Hydraulic fracturing:** Our researchers completed ground-based, qualitative and statistical research into fugitive gas releases at shale gas well sites in the Montney Basin in Northern B.C. and analyzed data to identify, quantify and compositionally fingerprint emission sources, from small infrastructure-specific sources to super-emitting sites. A peer-reviewed study is being prepared.

- **Transit and transportation:** The Foundation published “Breaking Gridlock”, an analysis of British Columbia’s transit investments over the past eight years with a strong focus on Metro Vancouver. It had strong media pickup in Vancouver, garnering a response from the province on how it had been spending transit funding. We continue to consult with Metro Vancouver mayors, Translink and B.C. government policy-makers to influence transit policy in Metro Vancouver and the entire province. We also established key partnerships in Metro Toronto and Montreal in support of long-term sustainable transportation funding. DSF has successfully worked with groups in Metro Toronto to secure a pilot cycling lane on Bloor Street, Toronto’s main east-west thoroughfare, in addition to a 10-year bike network plan funded for approximately \$16 million. Meetings have been held with the City of Toronto and the mayor’s office to promote a levy on commercial parking and other tax initiatives to fund transit. DSF contributed to the City of Montreal urban planning advisory group and is meeting with the Quebec Department of Transportation promoting sustainable transportation funding.
- **Groundfish trawl fishery:** Work by Foundation senior research scientist Scott Wallace on the trawl fishery was recognized when Canada’s Pacific Groundfish Trawl Habitat Agreement — a global precedent negotiated between fishers and environmental groups to address the impact of bottom trawling on sensitive seafloor habitats — won the Coastal Ocean Award for Significant Achievement in Aquatic Conservation.







## WESTERN CANADA REGION

The Western Canada Region's eco-assets work, part of the Natural Capital project, has been a huge success, with municipal and regional governments competing to be among next year's five pilot communities. Federal infrastructure investments are creating an opportunity to expand eco-asset tools. Marine plans for the central, north and west coasts of Vancouver Island and the B.C. north coast are complete and signed off by provincial and First Nation governments. This 10-year achievement sets the stage for work on an implementation process that will increase ecosystem protection, bring First Nations into greater co-management, and support evidence-based, ecosystem-oriented ocean management. Our sustainable seafood project has now been completed, having achieved success in raising awareness, better science and shifts in market behaviour. The Foundation will end most consumer and market-facing activities and focus on reforming on-the-water practices, and regulatory and certification frameworks. The Foundation has also taken on fiscal agency of SeaChoice, which continues markets-oriented work.



## Highlights for 2015- 2016 included:

- **Natural capital in the Lower Mainland:** First stages of a co-ordinated regional planning initiative have commenced in Howe Sound, led by the Squamish First Nation, Vancouver Aquarium's Coastal Ocean Research Institute and the David Suzuki Foundation. We continue to advocate for Howe Sound marine planning, and have established a strong circle of partners to begin a feasibility negotiation with Parks Canada concerning our new Howe Sound-based near-urban national park proposal. We have also developed natural capital management tools, with pilot projects being tested by Lower Mainland municipalities. Gibsons, B.C., has incorporated natural assets into asset management and financial planning, and Nanaimo and West Vancouver are piloting the approach. Langley and Agassiz are testing payments for ecosystem services to support agricultural services.
- **Sustainable seafood:** We helped reduce bycatch of threatened and/or degraded salmon stocks in B.C. wild pink salmon fisheries. The Foundation has also been invited to sit on a management committee for B.C.'s shrimp trawl fishery and is continuing to work toward our goal of reducing endangered eulachon bycatch using detractor lights on nets. As a key adviser, the Foundation has reduced bottom trawling in the B.C. groundfish fishery. Through work with SeaChoice, other ENGOs and retailers and suppliers, the Foundation has improved availability of sustainable seafood in the marketplace. By the end of the fiscal year, two of our three large retail partners had largely achieved their sustainable seafood procurement commitments. The third partner managed to nearly halve their procurement of red-listed supply between 2013 and 2015. We also went to Manitoba to follow up on our Seafood Watch report to help assist with our strategy on how to improve the Lake Winnipeg freshwater fishery. Our work going forward will focus more on reforming fisheries practices for red-listed stocks. We also released the SeaChoice report "Taking Stock: Sustainable Seafood in Canadian Markets", co-authored by Foundation senior research scientist Scott Wallace. The report is a compilation of data on seafood production and trade in Canada.
- **Fish farms:** Our efforts contributed to closure or relocation of at least five finfish farms in the Discovery Islands/Johnstone Strait/Queen Charlotte Strait salmon migration corridor, and improved fish farm disease reporting. We are developing a protocol agreement with the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association to secure a plan for greater public transparency in disease and sea lice management reporting by the industry. We continue to hold a seat on the Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture, where these issues are discussed. The Aquaculture Stewardship Council's salmon aquaculture standards have improved to meet Seafood Watch "good alternative" criteria, and B.C. salmon farms have changed operating practices to meet these standards.





- **Healthy oceans:** The Foundation released its “Charting Coastal Currents” report on the summer 2015 coastal tour to First Nations councils, municipal leaders, MLAs, MPs, ministers and Fisheries and Oceans staff, and presented it at a World Oceans Day forum in Ottawa with 300-plus guests. We held follow-up discussions with First Nations elected councils, including Snuneymuxw and K’ómoks. Partly based on the Foundation’s submission of the report’s findings in Geneva, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Canada strengthen environmental regulations, address climate change and pursue renewable energy to protect human rights, particularly for Indigenous people. Report recommendations were included in the UN’s concluding observations on Canada. The Foundation has continued to work with Pacific Coast First Nations and the B.C. government on the Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast, and the province and First Nations signed implementation agreements in August 2016.
- **Camp Suzuki - Howe Sound:** Fifty young adult participants from the 2015-16 cohort put in about 1,100 volunteer hours with Howe Sound-based organizations to help complete conservation work. Austin Keen (2015-16 participant and 2017 camp counsellor) won a SASSY award in Environmental Leadership from the City of Surrey. Participant Tesicca Truong made Corporate Knight’s top 30 under 30 and the North American Association for Environmental Education’s top 30 under 30.
- **Oil and gas wells:** The Foundation conducted a field investigation of 35 well sites that were closed and designated as either “abandoned” or suspended in Northeastern B.C. Our report, sent to the B.C. Oil and Gas Commission in December 2015, found that fewer than six per cent of those wells had been properly restored or decommissioned. In January 2016, the commission issued an industry bulletin amending the Drilling and Production Regulation to include a new definition for the term “unused equipment”. Activity sites are now required to be free of debris and unused equipment.







## ONTARIO AND NORTHERN CANADA REGION

The Foundation has worked with supporters, partners and government on expansion of the Ontario Greenbelt, restrictions on the Ontario wolf cull and obtaining significant municipal commitments to invest in pollinator habitat.

- **Pollinators:** After four years, the Homegrown National Park Project is ending as the Foundation transitions to the national Butterflyway Project. The HGNP stories, materials and volunteers will all become an integral part of the Toronto-based activities of the new Butterflyway project. Through the HGNP and #gotmilkweed campaigns, more than 3,600 households across the country purchased pollinator-friendly plants and seeds during the fiscal year (this included more than 250,000 milkweed seeds). The City of Markham was the first Canadian municipality to become “monarch butterfly-friendly” and grew 800 milkweed plants in its milkweed nursery. The Foundation became a member of the Task Force on Systemic Pesticides and launched a federal lawsuit to compel the federal government to ban two of the most dangerous neonicotinoid pesticides currently registered for use in the country.
- **Ontario Greenbelt:** After several years of government and public relations efforts by the Foundation, the Ontario government has signalled it will expand Ontario’s Greenbelt to protect urban river valleys in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area through regulatory changes to the Greenbelt Act and Plan. The integrity of the wider Greenbelt remains at risk from development pressures.
- **Green infrastructure:** After pressure from the Foundation and others, the federal government has amended its criteria for infrastructure funding to include investments in “green infrastructure.”
- **Boreal forest:** The Foundation continues to provide technical capacity and support to Doig River First Nation and others to establish Indigenous-led conservation areas in northeastern B.C. and has provided policy and technical support to First Nations engaged in land-use planning processes. The Foundation supported Blueberry First Nations in their legal case and negotiations with the B.C. government with a report on cumulative industrial impacts in their traditional territory. The Foundation is also supporting Doig River and Sauteau First Nations in the Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment process. The Foundation continues to pressure federal and provincial governments to implement endangered species legislation to protect caribou habitat. We are one of the primary organizations to raise public concern around the use of predator control (shooting wolves) in lieu of effective habitat protection. This led to the Ontario government rescinding a proposed plan to increase wolf and coyote hunting.



## QUEBEC AND ATLANTIC CANADA REGION



The David Suzuki Foundation's Quebec and Atlantic Canada office in Montreal continued to provide French-language support for many Foundation initiatives, as well as working on projects relevant to Quebec and Atlantic Canada, including:

- **Climate change and energy:** The Quebec and Atlantic Canada office developed the Low Carbon, Climate Resilient Communities in Quebec project to focus on transportation, urban planning and natural infrastructure at the city scale. The department also joined the steering committee of the Energy East coalition and successfully obtained the resignation of National Energy Board members and suspension of NEB hearings after private meetings were revealed between the board and Jean Charest in his capacity as a TransCanada lobbyist. The office took part in two parliamentary commissions: supporting Bill 104, which creates a zero-emission vehicles mandate for Quebec, and opposing Bill 106, which merged two distinct bills into one regarding energy transition and a regulatory framework for oil and gas exploration and extraction in Quebec.
- **St. Lawrence:** The Quebec office launched a campaign with SNAP-Québec to create new marine protected areas in the St. Lawrence gulf and estuary, and to protect beluga critical habitat. Quebec has committed to protecting 10 per cent of the St. Lawrence by 2020.
- **Nature:** Quebec staff visited the winners of the Prix Action David Suzuki contest in Trois-Rivières with David Suzuki. The visit generated significant media attention and brought recognition to the citizens and community groups that had created the winning Brigade Verte entry. Quebec also celebrated the third annual Nature Days, which mobilized 91 partner groups that organized 114 free activities in 60 communities across Quebec. The third "Grand pique-nique urbain" gathered 3,000 participants, and a screening of "En quête de sens" brought together more than 250 people at the Maison du développement durable.
- **Pollinators:** The office launched a monarch fly campaign called "Effet Papillon." More than 5,500 supporters signed the Monarch Manifesto (and the number keeps growing). The national milkweed campaign sold more than 250,000 seeds and more than 3,600 milkweed plants.
- **Greenbelt:** In June, DSF Quebec co-ordinated a tour for municipal leaders to promote measures to protect green areas. We met with the leaders who are part of our strategic plan for greenbelt implementation. We also met again with Members of the National Assembly and key organizations. As part of our plan, we developed and strengthened our links with local organizations specialized in conservation and citizens' groups to improve the impact of the Greenbelt Movement.
- **Green Infrastructure:** The Green Infrastructure Summit took place on June 16-17, 2016, in partnership with the Montreal Metropolitan Community and several academic institutions. It drew 236 participants (elected members, civil servants, scientists, professionals and students). Several mayors attended, including Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre.









# SUZUKI ELDERS



The Suzuki Elders are a voluntary group of self-identified elders working with and through the Foundation, specifically embedded in and reporting to the Communications and Public Engagement Department. The Elders bring their voices, experiences and memories to mentor, motivate and support other elders and younger generations in dialogue and action on environmental issues. The 16-member Vancouver-based council plans and oversees Elder work in education, communication and non-partisan advocacy. There are 116 Suzuki Elder members, mostly in the B.C. Lower Mainland area, but also sprinkled across Canada.



# Highlights last year included:

## Education and community engagement working group

The Elders designed and facilitated a daylong workshop in May 2016, “Building Resilience to Climate Change Disruption”, which had 24 participants.

Sixty people participated in two half-day workshops prepared and presented by the Elders, called “Food Security in the 21st Century – Are We Prepared?” in February and April 2016.

The Elders continued their work with youth during three half-day dialogue sessions with Lower Mainland secondary school students. In April 2016, they held “Nature, Love, Climate Change” as part of the annual leadership conference of Vancouver School Sustainability Network; and held two “What Moves Me” sessions with Metro Vancouver Youth Sustainability Network in September 2015 and Richmond Earth Day Youth (REaDY) Summit in April 2016.

The Elders researched, designed and developed annual daylong summer retreat workshops on the theme of “Saying Yes and Saying It Well” in August 2016, with 31 participants. Workshops were based on Jim Hoggan’s book *I’m Right and You’re an Idiot* and pre-planning for the March 2017 Elder Youth forum, “Saying Yes — Elders with Youth on Paths to a Sustainable Future.” Non-partisan advocacy working group.

Elders co-sponsored an all-party election forum on the environment in conjunction with the environment and social justice committees of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, in September 2015, with 125 attendees.

### They:

- Researched and wrote two submissions to the British Columbia Climate Change Leadership initiative.
- Participated in the formation and promotion of the International Alliance of Grandparents for the Climate, November 2015.
- Communicated with the new prime minister and minister of environment and climate change, November 2015.
- Researched and prepared a letter supporting Treaty 8 concerns related to Site C Dam development, in summer 2016.

## Communications working group

A January afternoon panel/dialogue on “What was learned at COP 21,” with presenters from DSF, 350.org and the Elders, had 45 participants.

Continued editing of the Elder Story Project.

Facilitation of “Elders Tell Stories” session at Camp Suzuki, August 2016.

Maintenance of active Suzuki Elder website, blog and Facebook presence. (Twenty blog posts, 38,000 visits, 210 Facebook posts, 150-200 visits to the website per day.)



# Donors

The David Suzuki Foundation's work depends on the support of many individuals, foundations and other companies. We would like to thank all of you for your generosity during our fiscal year. The listed gifts were donated to support program activities between September 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016.

3249531 Canada Inc.  
Aimia Canada Inc.  
Alianz Development Inc  
Anne C. Hale  
Anonymous  
Anonymous Donations  
Arthur Breglia  
Beauty Bend Inc  
Bennett Family Foundation, The  
Bertram S. Wreford  
Bullfrog Power Inc.  
Bullitt Foundation, The  
CanadaHelps.org  
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS) - BC Chapter  
Charitable Gift Funds Canada Foundation  
Charles & Julie Bentall Family Foundation  
Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation  
Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund  
Don Green  
Doris M. Sutherland  
Elizabeth Kerklaan  
Estate of Beverley Anne Hunter  
Estate of Carol Eva Norman  
Estate of Cecilie Flora Kwiat  
Estate of Elizabeth Mary Kwan San-Tao  
Estate of Hilary Majendie Stewart  
Estate of Joan Eleanore Merten  
Estate of Margaret Edith Oliphant  
Estate of Marian Ethel Thompson  
Estate of Marion Mills  
Estate of Maureen Crompton  
Estate of Raymond Charles Reid  
Estate of Richard Michael Eaton  
Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec  
Flight Centre  
Fondation du Grand Montréal  
Fondation ÉCHO  
Fondation Intact  
G. Raymond Chang Ltd.  
Gencon Foundation  
Genuine Health

Glen R. Estill  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
Gordon Lightfoot  
Grant D. Linney  
Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life  
Hugh James Corcoran Memorial Trust  
Hummingbird Foundation  
Ian Langs  
InterfaceFLOR Canada Inc.  
John, Carryn, Caymus and Rome Ruffolo  
Koru Distribution  
La Fondation communautaire juive de Montréal  
Les Fermes Lufa Inc.  
Live Nation Canada Inc.  
Loblaws Inc.  
Mary D. Zimmerman  
McCall MacBain Foundation  
Metric  
Moksha Yoga  
Mouvement Desjardins  
Nature's Way of Canada Limited  
New Roots Herbal Inc.  
North Growth Foundation  
Participant Media, LLC  
Pay-as-you-drive BC Society  
Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia  
Renewal Partners Company  
Schein Foundation  
Sitka Foundation, The  
The Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company  
The Chawkers Foundation  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
The J. W. McConnell Family Foundation  
The Jonah Group Ltd  
The Sharp Foundation  
Thomas W. Lane  
Toronto Community Foundation  
Trottier Family Foundation  
United Way of Greater Toronto  
Victoria Foundation  
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

# Statement of Operations

Year ended August 31 2016, with comparative figures for 2015

		2016	2015
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Recognition of restricted contributions	\$	3,351,713	\$ 3,744,886
Unrestricted contributions		5,867,183	5,774,348
Fundraising events		687,750	1,919,557
Investment income		379,866	408,470
Amortization of deferred capital contributions		81,923	
Other		49,446	32,052
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,335,958</b>	<b>11,961,236</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Programs			
Science & Policy	\$	1,146,964	\$ 1,270,433
B.C. & Western Canada		1,096,907	1,071,641
Ontario & Northern Canada		875,000	875,466
Quebec & Atlantic Canada		1,139,117	970,070
Program Management		65,124	75,151
Communication, Education & Public Engagement		2,679,377	3,809,723
Programs total		<b>7,002,489</b>	<b>8,072,484</b>
Administration		580,559	489,950
Fundraising & Donor relations		2,364,265	2,607,606
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,947,313</b>	<b>11,170,040</b>
Excess of revenue over expenses before realized and unrealized gains on endowment fund investments		<b>388,645</b>	<b>791,196</b>
Realized and unrealized gains on endowment fund investments		<b>597,350</b>	<b>762,037</b>
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$	<b>985,995</b>	\$ <b>1,553,233</b>



The David Suzuki Foundation is a registered Canadian charity working to protect the diversity of nature and our quality of life, now and for the future.

219-2211 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V6K 4S2  
1-800-453-1533  
davidsuzuki.org

### **Co-founders**

David Suzuki, Tara Cullis

### **Board of Directors**

Stephen Bronfman (Vice-Chair)  
Tara Cullis (President and Co-founder)  
Sarika Cullis-Suzuki  
Severn Cullis-Suzuki  
Pauline D'Ambroise  
James Hoggan (Secretary and Past Chair)  
Peter Ladner (Chair)

Samantha Nutt  
John Ruffolo (Vice-Chair)  
Miles Richardson  
David Schindler  
Elaine Wong (Treasurer)  
Margot Young

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Peter Robinson

### **Deputy Chief Executive Officer**

Andrea Seale

### **Program, Regional and Administrative Directors**

Jeremy Douglas (Development and Strategic Partnerships)  
Janice Allardyce (Finance and Technology)  
Karel Mayrand (Quebec and Atlantic Canada)  
Faisal Moola (Ontario and Northern Canada)  
Jay Ritchlin (Western Canada)  
Tracey Friesen (Communications and Public Engagement)  
Catherine Gordon (Human Resources)

