

finding SOLUTIONS



David
Suzuki
Foundation

fall 2016

www.davidsuzuki.org

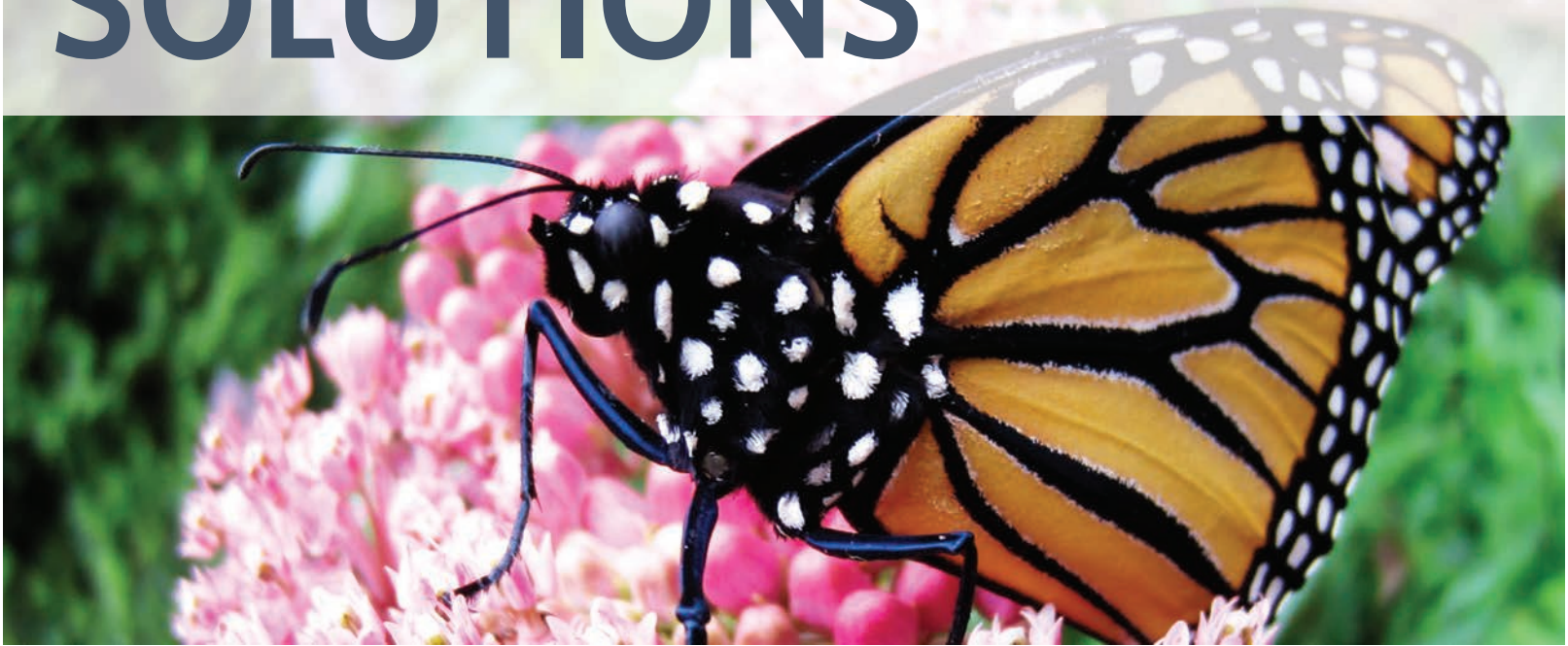


PHOTO: RICK & BRENDA BEERHORST / FLICKR

Your butterfly effect

Milkweed plants are where butterflies lay eggs and are one of the most important parts of their habitat. Thanks to you, more Canadians care about butterflies!

With your support:

- The third annual **#GotMilkweed** sale inspired thousands of milkweed plantings in Toronto. It was a huge success in Montreal. And people throughout the eastern monarchs' Canadian range bought some 250,000 milkweed seeds!
- Our **Homegrown National Park Project** planted wildflowers in schools, parks and along residential streets. Our crew created more native plant canoe gardens and made city lanes bloom. And we're growing community

through pizza nights, outdoor movie screenings and neighbourhood tours.

- The **City of Markham** is aiming to become Canada's most monarch-friendly city. It passed a unanimous declaration in support of the butterflies. It's raising public awareness and supporting our Monarch Manifesto and **#GotMilkweed** campaigns. And it's creating the world's first municipal "Milkweed Nursery" in Milne Dam Conservation Park. Seeds generated will bolster efforts to bring monarchs home for years to come.

The best news: After a 5,000-kilometre trip from Mexico, monarchs have arrived in Canada. If they could, they'd thank you, too.



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Tara Cullis helped connect remote First Nations communities in B.C.

Amplifying Pacific coast First Nations wisdom

David Suzuki Foundation co-founder Tara Cullis helped found the Coastal First Nations Turning Point Initiative in B.C. DSF staffer Gail Mainster interviewed her on that historic alliance, which became the Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative, a key step toward protecting the Great Bear Rainforest.

In the late 1990s, we at the Foundation witnessed increasing pressures from development, fishing and forestry on the B.C. coast. We wanted to know what could be done.

We studied sustainable fisheries around the world. What they had in common was local ownership and local control.

We were also studying how everything in an ecosystem is interconnected. That became our Salmon Forest project. And we were learning the benefits of ecosystem-based management.

We recognized First Nations' moral and legal authority over the lands and seas they've stewarded for millennia. But their coastal communities were small, remote and diverse — and therefore often ignored by Victoria and Ottawa. Could we help them find a unified voice, to get the attention of provincial and federal decision-makers?

In 1997, we wrote all central and northern coastal First Nations leaders about shared concerns, and asked about possible solutions. All 11 communities invited us to visit.

Of course they wanted to protect the forest and the fish, but they also had to be practical. To maintain their communities they needed jobs for their young people. So we opened up an economic development office in Prince Rupert. We hired First Nations and non-First Nations experts in participatory action, aboriginal rights and title, and community economic development.

We held community meetings to listen to people's job-creation wishes. We discussed fundraising strategies to help keep the process sustainable.

Soon the chiefs of all the diverse communities asked the David Suzuki Foundation to organize a gathering to share solutions to common problems. The first Turning Point Conference was held March 4 and 5, 2000. One topic discussed was how science can support traditional knowledge. This is work the Foundation continues to this day.

On the second day, attendees wrote their eloquent declaration to work together "to ensure the well-being of our lands and waters" and went back to consult with their villages. They signed *The Declaration of First Nations of the North Pacific Coast* on June 13, 2000. This was the First Nations' first step in their key role in working together to protect the region now known as the Great Bear Rainforest.

This was by far the Foundation's biggest project to that point. And none of it would have been possible without the support of our amazing donors.



Thanks to you, a climate victory: A bike lane on Bloor.

You're helping ignite climate optimism in Canada's largest city

Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gases in Canada. Traffic pollution causes about 280 deaths in Toronto alone every year.

How can we reduce the number of car trips and tackle climate change?

ONE PROVEN SOLUTION

Make active transportation easier. Build bike lanes!

Your support helped inspire more than 11,000 people to sign Cycle Toronto's Bloor Loves Bikes! pledge.

That convinced city councillors to create a bike lane on Toronto's main east-west corridor. It was a landslide victory!

Long-term, the city plans to build hundreds of kilometres of bike lanes. And the Foundation will be there with other local partners to help achieve that goal.

The Bloor bike lane is a pilot project. It will improve air quality and combat climate change. It will make city cycling safer and reduce traffic problems. And it will help people spend more time outside being active, improving their health.

A protected bike lane on Toronto's "Main Street" is also a symbol of how people can help the planet. Thanks to you, more Canadians feel positive change is possible. And they're taking action.

You make better transit possible

Without funding, buses, subways and bike lanes can't keep up with population growth. The quality of service declines. Frustrated people go back to their cars. Traffic congestion increases.

For Canada to meet its climate targets, we need more public transit.

Governments make promises to build this transit infrastructure. Thanks to you, we're being watchdogs and holding their feet to the fire.

We looked at the last eight years of B.C. budgets and learned spending has been far below commitments. B.C. had a great transit plan. It just didn't put enough money into it.

Then the federal government stepped up. It promised to spend billions of dollars across the country on regional transit.



PHOTO: TIM ADAMS / FLICKR

With your help, we'll keep talking to federal government representatives to make sure they live up to their pledge. And we'll help provincial and regional governments communicate why transit investments are important.

Now major new transit projects in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver are possible. People need to get behind them. That's where you come in! Create demand: Ride transit. Write decision-makers: Tell them you want more transportation options. (Stay tuned! We'll help.)

briefs



PHOTO: A YEE / FLICKR

Thousands offer climate change ideas

We hear it from you all the time: You want Canada to act on climate change.

When the federal government asked for Canadians' ideas on climate change, we jumped at the chance. We made it easy for our supporters to respond. **In just three weeks, more than 3,500 Canadians visited the government's survey website.**

Comments went to decision-makers at the highest levels. Commenters said Canada should invest in renewables, curb emissions, boost energy efficiency and put a price on carbon.

Your support mobilized the community you helped build to demand action. *Thank you!*



Preparation for Site C has already altered the Peace Valley.

PHOTO: TUCHODI

You're helping stop Site C

Canadians are lining up to oppose B.C.'s Site C dam.

The flood area for the mega-dam includes prime farmland and supports abundant wildlife. The dam will sit on Treaty 8 First Nations traditional territory. And they're pushing back in court. **But BC Hydro is still clear-cutting old-growth trees along the Peace River.**

Large projects like Site C threaten Indigenous people's way of life. Canada should not move ahead with energy projects that violate human rights. Thanks to you, 10,000 people used our website to ask the prime minister not to support the project.



ART BY LAURA TIMMERMANS

Thanks to you, belugas and their babies are now protected by law

The beluga is the only whale found in Quebec's mighty St. Lawrence year-round. Once, thousands of the snow white whales lived in the river. Today, there are fewer than 900.

You helped inspire more than 23,000 people to demand protection for the threatened whales. In April, TransCanada Corporation scrapped its plan to build an oil port in Cacouna. That project, to move oil sands bitumen, would have been right in the heart of everything the belugas need to live.

Now the St. Lawrence estuary belugas are finally protected by law. In May, the federal government banned anyone from destroying the whales' critical habitat. This is a major milestone — and you helped make it happen!

Beluga whales use sound to communicate, navigate, find food and mate. But they can't say thank you, so we're doing it for them!

You're helping people wake up to Canada's toxic shame

Where were you in '62?

In 1962, biologist Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*. It explained how toxic chemicals like DDT concentrate up the food chain. (Some say Carson's book launched the environmental movement. David Suzuki says it changed his life.)

That same year, a pulp and paper mill began dumping untreated waste into the Wabigoon River system, upstream from First Nations communities, including Grassy Narrows. Until 1970, more than 9,000 kilograms of mercury poured into the watershed.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin. Many people in Grassy Narrows suffer from numbness, loss of co-ordination, trembling and other problems. Some can't walk. Many are in wheelchairs. Mercury poisoning is also linked to developmental problems in children, which persist into adulthood.

Japanese scientists have studied Grassy Narrows residents for decades. They say the people are suffering from



PHOTO: LEADNOW / FLICKR

Grassy Narrows residents still suffer from mercury poisoning, decades after a chemical dump.

Minamata disease, caused by mercury poisoning. Yet the Ontario government refuses to clean up the watershed.

The Ontario government has long known that cleaning up Grassy Narrows is possible but has chosen not to act. More than 50 years later, scientists still find dangerous mercury concentrations in area lakes.

Thanks to you, people know that the water and fish Grassy Narrows residents depend on can become safe to drink and eat again. More than 10,000 have written to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne urging her act.

If you haven't already, please stand with Grassy Narrows by signing the letter here: action2.davidsuzuki.org/grassynarrows.

Putting your money where your mouth is

In three short years, the fossil-free movement has grown from a few U.S. colleges to a global movement. By moving money away from fossil fuels and putting it into renewable energy and energy efficiency, we are closer than ever to a planet fuelled by sun, wind and water.

Money is flowing into renewables and clean technology is growing. We already know that fossil fuels are bad for the planet, but now they're a bad investment as well.

The David Suzuki Foundation was an early leader in moving investments out of fossil fuels. We've moved our endowment fund investments into industries such as green energy, sustainable farming and clean water.



PHOTO: JAMES ENNIS / FLICKR

One of the companies that is helping us manage our sustainable investments is Genus Capital Management. Find out about Genus at www.genusfossilfree.com or contact them directly at 1-844-660-5122 or fossilfree@genuscap.com



PHOTOS: SHANNON RUTH DIONNE PHOTOGRAPHY

Soap nuts are biodegradable and free of scents.

How to make dish soap

This recipe has no fragrance or toxic ingredients, takes a minute to make and works.

Ingredients

- One handful soap nuts (a.k.a. soapberries)
- 1 L (4 cups) tap water

Directions

Add ingredients to a glass jar with a tight-fitting lid or to a pump soap dispenser. Shake before each use. When it bubbles, pour about 125 ml (½ cup) of the solution into your sink. Refill the jar with water. Use this solution until the soap nuts stop making suds or smell bad. Then throw them in the compost and start a new batch.

You may need to alter ingredient ratios. Success will depend on water hardness and dish grime.

HOW DO SOAP NUTS WORK?

Soap nut shells contain large amounts of natural surfactants called saponins. Surfactants lower a liquid's surface tension, so they make good detergents or foaming agents.

Find soap nuts in many health food stores, organic grocers or online. They're biodegradable, certified organic and many companies pay fair wages to local producers (e.g., in India).

Take soap nuts on your next camping trip and use the solution to wash fruits and veggies!

YOUR LEGACY FOR NATURE

You can create a truly sustainable future for generations of Canadians today.

As you plan for the future, you have an opportunity to ensure that the work you care deeply about continues by including the David Suzuki Foundation in your will.

A gift in your will offers tremendous value to you. It's a gift for the future, doesn't affect your current finances and has tax benefits that preserve more of your estate for your loved ones. Your legacy gift can be a final tribute to a charitable

cause that has been important to you during your lifetime. It is a wonderful legacy for your family.

If protecting the people and places you love embodies your highest aspirations, please consider a legacy gift to the David Suzuki Foundation. For more information, visit www.davidsuzuki.org/legacy, email communitygiving@davidsuzuki.org or call us at 1-800-453-1533, ext 1500.



PHOTOS: NOAVIVIKIDS1 / FLICKR

recommended

finding SOLUTIONS

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

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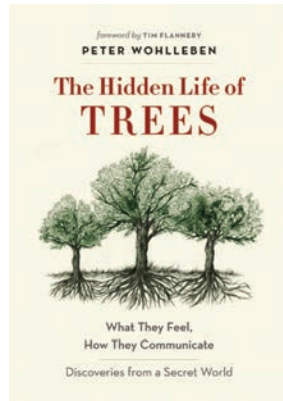
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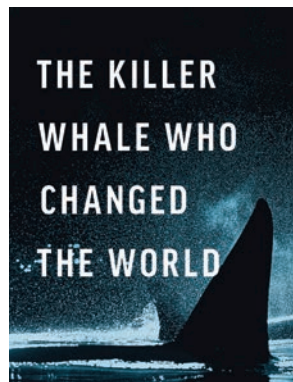
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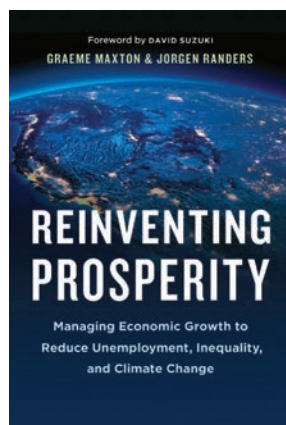
**The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel,
How They Communicate** by Peter Wohlleben
Greystone / David Suzuki Institute

We still have a long way to go to unravel nature's mysteries. Trees, for example, lead far more complex lives than we once thought. In delving into their "hidden lives", German forester Peter Wohlleben explains that trees share characteristics with human families: parents live together with children, communicate with them, support them, share nutrients with the sick or struggling, and warn each other of impending dangers. Wohlleben argues that, armed with this knowledge, we can create forestry practices that will "benefit the health of our planet and the mental and physical health of all who live on Earth."



The Killer Whale Who Changed the World
by Mark Leiren-Young
Greystone / David Suzuki Institute

Orcas were once commonly known as killer whales, in keeping with their reputation as bloodthirsty monsters. In 1964, staff at the new Vancouver Aquarium decided to harpoon one, to study its corpse and to build a sculpture. After spearing one, they were surprised that it didn't fight back, and so they towed the live whale back to Vancouver and put it in the aquarium. The small and good-natured orca, named Moby Doll, drew 20,000 visitors — but 85 days after his capture, he died. In this fascinating account, Mark Leiren-Young explains how the first captive orca changed people's perception of "killer whales" and started a movement to protect them.



Reinventing Prosperity
by Graeme Maxton and Jorgen Randers
Greystone / David Suzuki Institute

Graeme Maxton is a renowned economic thinker and writer and secretary general of the Club of Rome, and Jorgen Randers is a professor of climate strategy at the Norwegian Business School. In this book, subtitled *Managing Economic Growth to Reduce Unemployment, Inequality, and Climate Change*, they examine the global obsession with and consequences of continuous economic growth, and come up with "13 politically feasible proposals that would reduce unemployment, inequality, and the pace of climate change — and also allow for further economic growth, if society wishes."



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South Australia shows how clean energy is done

Visitors to Australia are often drawn to Sydney and Melbourne or the fabulous beaches of Queensland's Gold Coast. I've always had a soft spot for Adelaide in South Australia, a city built on a human scale.

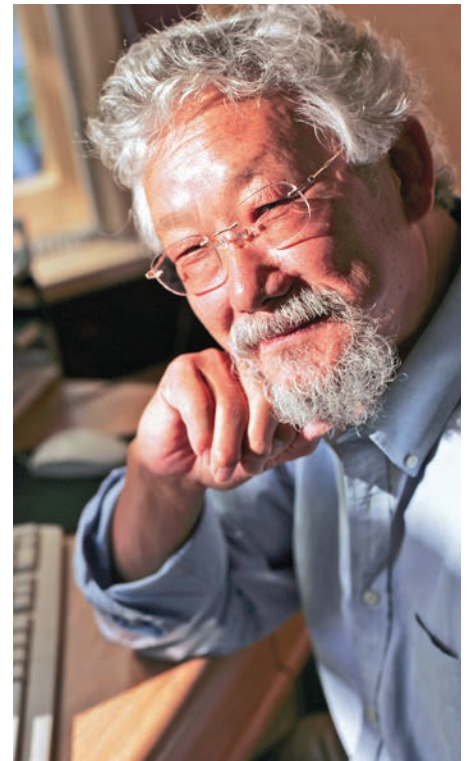
When I first visited in 1993, I met Mike Rann, a young aboriginal affairs minister in South Australia's Labor government, who later became party leader and then state premier in 2002. In 2003, he outlined ambitious plans to address climate change by moving South Australia into renewable energy.

He also introduced me to the Youth Conservation Corps. Young people in this program are trained to restore land overgrazed by sheep or cattle, plant trees and make wildlife inventories. Rann surprised me by dedicating 45 hectares of reforestation land as Suzuki Forest. I was impressed by the passion and eagerness of the young people, many of them street kids. They believed in what they were doing and it provided a small income to get them off the streets.

My Adelaide visit that year ended at the World of Music and Dance festival, or WOMAD. It's a marvelous annual event where I met Uncle Lewis O'Brien, a Kurna elder who honoured me with the name Kurna Mayu (mountain of a man).

Last March, I returned as a guest of WOMADelaide. To my delight, Uncle Lewis once again welcomed us to his country. I also met Ian Hunter, South Australia's environment minister, who boasted of his state's progress in renewable energy. South Australia gets 40 per cent of its electricity from solar and wind and hopes to reach 50 to 60 per cent within a few years. From my hotel room, I looked down on a factory roof covered in rows of solar panels, which are now mounted on one of every four houses. I also returned to Suzuki Forest and was delighted at the variety and size of plants and trees, and the birds that now flourish among them.

Despite the impressive work in South Australia, most of the country is caught between the terrible reality of climate



change — droughts, massive fires and dying reefs — and continued pressure to serve the economy by relying on fossil fuels, including recently approving the world's largest coal mine.

Australia — like much of the world — is in the throes of deciding whether to act seriously to reduce the threat of climate change. South Australia shows that many opportunities exist to do so.



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