

# finding SOLUTIONS



David  
Suzuki  
Foundation

fall 2013  
[www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org)



Canada has more than enough solar, wind, hydroelectric and biomass energy potential to meet its needs.

## Our future will be determined by choice, not chance

Scientists know we're contributing to climate change, mainly by burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests. For its recent Fifth Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change enlisted hundreds of scientists and experts from around the world to comb through the latest peer-reviewed scientific literature and other relevant materials to assess "the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate change, its causes, potential impacts and response strategies." The report shows we need a strong, concerted global effort to combat climate change and protect the health of our economies, communities, children and future.

That's why the David Suzuki Foundation is focusing on solutions. The longer we delay in addressing the problem, the more costly it will become. If we act now, we can take advantage of growing opportunities in the clean energy economy and find ways to reduce our use of polluting fossil fuels—which are becoming increasingly difficult and environmentally risky to extract and transport.

Through our clean energy research with partners including businesses and academics, the Foundation has reviewed energy production and distribution opportunities in Canada, taking into account

economic, social and environmental concerns. The research shows Canada has more than enough solar, wind, hydroelectric and biomass energy potential to meet our current and future needs for fuel and electricity. Clean energy technology costs have also been falling.

Sometimes it's an uphill battle, with a small but powerful faction of entrenched interests from the fossil fuel industry and its supporters in government and media doing all they can to sow doubt and confusion about the reality of global warming. But with your support, we're ensuring that people are not misled by these efforts to discredit scientific evidence from around the world. We're also working on solutions that will yield benefits beyond combating climate change—from reducing pollution and its related health-care costs to avoiding extreme weather-related events to creating long-term jobs and economic opportunities.

Our future will be determined by choice, not chance. We can choose to ignore the scientific evidence or we can make changes to reduce carbon emissions. For the sake of our communities and our children and grandchildren, we must make the right choice.

 Ian Hanington



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## donor profile

### Lifelong activist wants healthy environment rights in Constitution

A self-described activist, 85-year-old Patricia Grinstead spent years walking and singing for social and environmental justice, including with the Raging Grannies. She founded their Kelowna chapter. Now she lives in Vancouver to be near her youngest daughter and two grandchildren. She's also a member of the Suzuki Elders, a voluntary association of self-identified elders working with and through the David Suzuki foundation.

#### Why did you decide to become a Foundation monthly donor?

I can't afford much—I'm on a government pension and live in affordable housing on a rent subsidy. But I have a passion for David Suzuki's work. And I wanted to do something in return for how much I've gained and learned from being a Suzuki Elder.

#### What part of the David Suzuki Foundation interests you most?

I've been a Suzuki Elder since the group began. When the Grannies helped kick off the first Suzuki Elders Forum in November 2009, I stayed the whole day and attended the workshops. I was deeply moved by David's keynote address. I came



PHOTO: CAROLINE OGILVIE

In costume, monthly donor Patricia Grinstead marched with David Suzuki in last year's Vancouver Chinese New Year Parade.

in as a Raging Granny and left a Suzuki Elder. I love the group, the feeling that I belong there and the work we do—such as our exciting storytelling sessions with schoolchildren in grades one through seven at Edith Cavell Elementary and West Point Grey Academy, and the recent, life-altering, sacred experience I had attending the First Nations Truth and Reconciliation dialogues.

#### What is your favourite way to connect with nature?

We took the train from Montreal to Toronto when I emigrated from England in 1956 and passed miles and miles of trees. I'd never seen such tall trees. And when I volunteered creating programs

at a camp in Ontario's pristine Cambrian shield, I literally fell into nature—the ponds naturally cleansed by several underground springs. These days, I love to walk in the forest, examining tree roots and the forest floor.

#### What is the future you envision?

I think we should all get behind the Foundation's Right to a Healthy Environment campaign. Amending Canada's Constitution to protect the environment will make the country healthier for all Canadians, for generations.

*For more on the Right to a Healthy Environment, visit [davidsuzuki.org/issues/health/right-to-healthy-environment/](http://davidsuzuki.org/issues/health/right-to-healthy-environment/).*



## Are you a monthly donor or are you planning to make a holiday gift?



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SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE

Our Community Giving Team is happy to help!

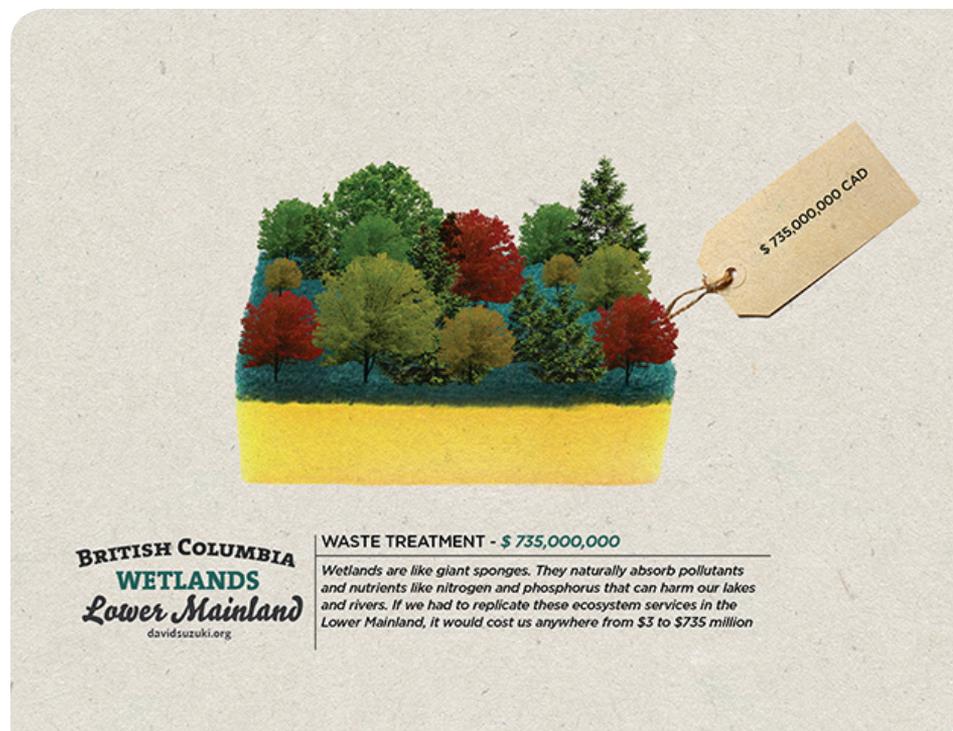
To make a gift or update your monthly donation information, call Laurel & Lorena at 1-800-453-1533 ext 1500 or email [communitygiving@davidsuzuki.org](mailto:communitygiving@davidsuzuki.org).

P.S. Cut this out and keep it on your fridge!

# Natural capital meets rewilding in innovative arts partnership

How do you move people to value and protect nature in an urban environment? We're finding an innovative and collaborative way through media arts public-education projects. We're partnered with students from Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver to create multimedia presentations based on our B.C. natural capital work. The students' work will be showcased at the *Rewilding Vancouver* exhibition at the Museum of Vancouver, curated by *100-Mile Diet* co-author J.B. MacKinnon.

Through a unique and engaging lens, students bring to life our research on the economic value of ecosystem services. Their digital narratives will focus on urban areas that are not only home to green roofs, community gardens and engineered nature, but also to hidden creatures in their natural habitats, including herons, beavers, cormorants and moles.



Emily Carr University students designed posters to highlight our research on the economic value of nature's services.

The *Rewilding Vancouver* exhibition helps us explore Vancouver's natural history, so we can reconnect with nature as a meaningful part of our busy urban lives and remake a wilder world in our own backyards. If we didn't know, for example, that humpback whales used to be common near Vancouver, we couldn't imagine trying to bring them back to our shores. The exhibition will be the first in Canada to focus on historical ecology and its meaning for contemporary life.

Canadians are getting first-hand experience with the value of services provided by nature as they grapple with economically sound ways to prepare for more frequent and intense weather events, like the floods in Calgary and Toronto. And policy-makers are picking up the message and realizing that retaining nature might just be one of the best ways to prepare for climate change-related events we're already experiencing.

Theresa Beer

## Montreal greenbelt offers natural value

The Greater Montreal area is home to Quebec's richest biodiversity, best agricultural land and half its population—but it's also home to half its endangered species. And urban sprawl in the region over the past 40 years has led to the loss of a third of Quebec's wetlands, woods and agricultural land.

To combat this phenomenon and to help citizens enjoy the natural environment of the region, the David Suzuki Foundation launched a greenbelt campaign in the Greater Montreal area in 2011. The campaign led to recognition of the Montreal Greenbelt by the Metropolitan Community of Montreal the same year, with investments of \$150 million from the Quebec government.

The Foundation also founded the Mouvement Ceinture Verte (Greenbelt Coalition), a group dedicated to protecting natural

habitat in the Greater Montreal area, and published two scientific studies on the greenbelt. The first report calculated the value of services provided by the region's natural environment at more than \$4 billion a year.

The Foundation has also created an educational map of the greenbelt area, a citizen's toolkit to help protect our natural habitat, and an interactive map of habitat and the advocacy groups working to protect it. We are now working toward obtaining official recognition of the Montreal Greenbelt by the Quebec government, and we're planning a campaign to plant trees to help celebrate the 375th anniversary of Montreal in 2017.

Manon Dubois



PHOTO: TPMARTINS VIA FLICKR

## Pesticides case aimed at protecting health

The Foundation is suing the federal government for its refusal to protect Canadians from harmful pesticides such as chlorthal-dimethyl,

trifluralin and trichlorfon. Although these pesticides have been banned in Europe since as early as 2007 because of their impact on the environment and human health, they continue to be approved for use in Canada. “The health of Canadians needs to be the government’s top priority,” said Mara Kerry, David Suzuki Foundation science and policy director.

## The true value of caribou

This summer the Foundation released a report with the Assembly of First Nations calling for a new way of assessing the value of habitat for iconic species like Canada’s woodland caribou. Traditionally, socio-economic assessments have focused on economic costs and benefits for industry and overlooked the ecological, cultural and spiritual benefits that healthy, functioning ecosystems provide. We hope the federal government will take these benefits into account as they begin to develop action plans for woodland caribou across the country under the Species at Risk Act.

## Canadian families get back outside

How dirty are your outside shoes these days? If you’re one of over 4,500 families that participated in our Fall Family Challenge, they’re probably good and mucky. From mid-September to mid-October, families coast to coast made a commitment to go outside regularly throughout the busiest time of the year. From St. John’s, Newfoundland, to Cedar, B.C., families explored nature in the backyards and beyond, guided by a series of activities suggested by the Foundation.

## One-year anniversary without much to celebrate

October marked the one-year anniversary of the release of the Cohen Commission report



PHOTO: DAVID HALL

into the decline of B.C. salmon. Has anything changed? Our submissions to the commission helped form Justice Bruce Cohen’s response and spoke to the need to uphold the government’s own Wild Salmon Policy for salmon conservation. We’ve helped create the blueprint to protect wild salmon. Now we’re working to encourage the federal government to act.



## Quebec Foundation office celebrates fifth anniversary

Five years ago, in September 2008, the David Suzuki Foundation decided to become a truly national organization by opening an office in Montreal. That allowed the Foundation to communicate in both official languages.

Foundation CEO Peter Robinson is proud of this accomplishment. “The first decision I made when I arrived at the David Suzuki Foundation in 2008 was to establish a presence in Quebec. To have a strong voice nationally, the Foundation needed to be able to communicate effectively in French and take the pulse of Quebec, certainly one of the most innovative sources of environmental solutions in North America.”

It was also in 2008 that Karel Mayrand was selected among several high-profile environmental leaders in Quebec to become the Foundation’s director-general in Quebec. “I joined the David Suzuki Foundation because I wanted to have a real impact on the greatest challenge of our generation, that of ensuring a sustainable future for those who come after us. After five years heading the Foundation in Quebec and being part of the Foundation’s national management team, I acquired the conviction of belonging to an ambitious, innovative organization that wants to use science, education and citizen engagement to create a movement that will transform our communities in Quebec and across Canada.”

After five years, the Montreal office can count on a dynamic team of eight people, who continue to lead the way and innovate. Our Quebec community has seen its supporter base grow from zero to 55,000, with more than 4,000 donors. Our Quebec team played a leading role in organizing the largest environmental demonstration in Canadian history when 250,000 citizens gathered in Montreal in April 2012. It has also worked on the protection of the St. Lawrence River, contributed to the creation of a Greenbelt for the greater Montreal eco-region and promoted scientifically sound political and individual solutions to Quebec’s most pressing environmental issues.

Manon Dubois



PHOTOS: JEREMY KAI

The Homegrown National Park Crawl event included canoe planters and parades featuring Toronto's Lemon Bucket Orkestra and Choir!Choir!Choir!

## Homegrown National Park Project brings nature home to Toronto

When we began the Homegrown National Park Project in spring 2013 we weren't sure what to expect. We had grand plans to create a green corridor along the former path of Garrison Creek, in the heart of Toronto. We partnered with 14 community groups that were active in the area. We recruited 21 eager volunteers to be our Neighbourhood Park Rangers. And we put the Park Rangers through a training session that instilled in them knowledge and inspiration.

What happened next was extraordinary.

Park Rangers were suddenly everywhere. They attended dozens of community meetings and events, proudly wearing their iconic Homegrown National Park shirts. They networked and organized fun events, like a Birds and the Bees Picnic, hugely popular pizza nights in the park, educational tree tours and an outdoor movie screening.

The Rangers then began to hatch creative plans for greening the corridor's schoolyards, alleys, parks, streets, balconies and yards. Some began experimenting with green interventions, like pothole planters, moss graffiti and canoe gardens. Others aimed for bigger interventions like

transforming a parking lot into a green plaza and a schoolyard into a pollinator garden and "parkifying" a residential street.

Most exciting was that the projects almost exclusively drew upon local resources and talents to transform these underutilized urban spaces into exciting laboratories, translating the project's vision into a physical reality.

In September, the project wrapped with the sunny Homegrown Park Crawl that brought dozens of local musicians, 16 chefs and more than 1,000 residents together for great food and musical parades through four parks along the Homegrown National Park corridor—a joyous and fitting finale to the first season of the project.

So what have we learned? The Homegrown project has demonstrated that by tapping local ingenuity and creative energy, it is possible to transform a neighbourhood, one green intervention at a time.

Check out [davidsuzuki.org/homegrown](http://davidsuzuki.org/homegrown) to see photos and stories from the project, and stay tuned to see how it grows next year.

 Jode Roberts

### Homegrown National Park project by the numbers

- 21 neighbourhood Park Rangers
- 14 partner groups
- 2,000+ volunteer hours
- 50+ events attended and hosted
- 1,500+ native plants and flowers planted
- 12+ Homegrown interventions completed
- 5 canoe gardens planted in parks



## O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree, how green are you truly?

With the holiday season fast approaching, one question looms large in the minds of many: What's the greenest Christmas tree? Advocates of artificial trees take issue with the practice of cutting down trees in the name of festivity, whereas proponents of real trees argue that it's pretty much impossible for a plastic alternative to be green.

I suggest a third option: keep a live tree! Purchase a potted evergreen that will last years, grow with your family and ultimately be planted in the yard. There are



PHOTO: SAMENSTELLING VIA FLICKR

even rental companies that will loan you a tree for a couple of weeks.

A cut tree's the second-best option. According to a comprehensive study conducted last year by Ellipsos, artificial trees have three times more impact on climate change and resource depletion than natural trees, assuming they're being replaced every six years. The artificial tree only wins out if it will last more than 20 years and if you'd have to drive a long way to buy a real tree.

Regardless of whether you choose real or artificial, there are ways to make sure your evergreen is truly green:

### REAL TREES

1. Buy locally.
2. Choose trees from pesticide-free farms.

### ARTIFICIAL TREES

1. Avoid trees made of PVC—the grinchiest of plastics.
2. Make it last 20 years!

🌿 Tovah Paglaro

## funding solutions



## What's great about gifts of stock?

Many people make money by investing in stocks. But did you know that gifts of stock are also a great way to support charities like the David Suzuki Foundation—and have many financial benefits?

Let's say you want to make a gift of \$2,000. You sell some stocks, which you bought for \$1,000 a few years ago but are now worth \$2,000. When you sell them, you'll have to pay capital gains tax (as much as 50 per cent) on the \$1,000 they gained over the years.

But a stock given directly to the Foundation isn't treated the same way. Your gift is the full value of the stock (\$2,000 in our hypothetical example)—without any capital gains tax. That means your overall tax burden is reduced. Plus, we issue a tax receipt for the full value of the stock when we receive it—potentially a greater tax savings for you than if you donated cash.

Everyone's situation is different. For more information, and to fully explore the tax implications of gifts of stock, consult your financial adviser. When you're ready to make your gift, call our Community Giving team at 1-800-453-1533, ext 1500, to find out how to arrange the transfer.

## 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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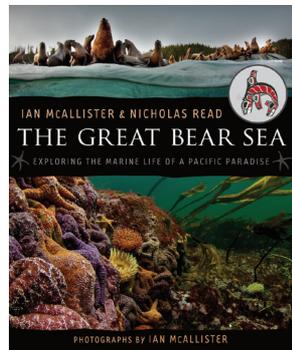
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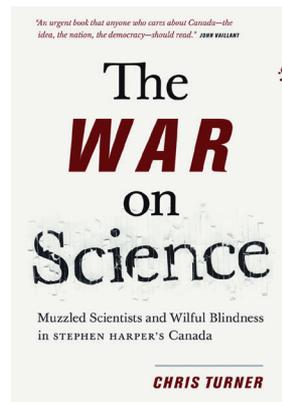
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### The Great Bear Sea

Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read / Orca Book Publishers

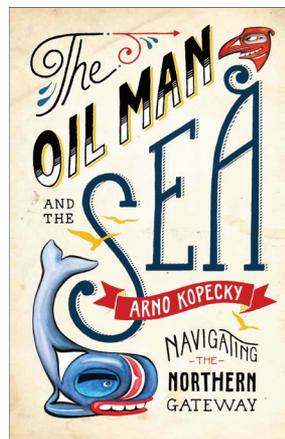
Ian McAllister, whose photographs helped protect B.C.'s Great Bear Rainforest, has teamed up with writer Nicholas Read to tell the story of the unheralded (and unprotected) half of the Great Bear ecosystem—the Great Bear Sea. Shots of breaching whales, dolphins and orcas are spectacular, but it's the images of a bear eating herring eggs on a rocky shoreline, wolves fishing for salmon and the surprising red, purples and oranges of the intertidal zone that make this book special.



### The War on Science

Chris Turner / Greystone Books

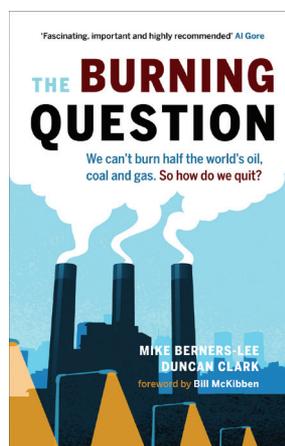
The federal government has been dismantling research programs, silencing scientists, gutting environmental regulations and attacking environmental groups and anyone else who might stand in the way of fossil fuel projects. Award-winning writer Chris Turner puts this “war on science” in context through interviews with scientists and an examination of Canada's historical approaches to science. Author John Vaillant calls it “An urgent book that anyone who cares about Canada—the idea, the nation, the democracy—should read.”



### The Oil Man and the Sea

Arno Kopecky / Douglas & McIntyre

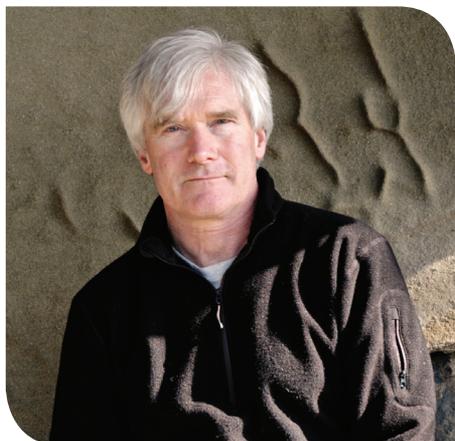
The proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project has been fraught with controversy, pitting the fossil fuel industry and a very supportive Canadian government against First Nations and thousands of Canadians who don't see the sense in rapidly expanding tar sands production and shipping the bitumen over hundreds of streams and rivers and into supertankers that will navigate through fiords and inlets on its way to the ocean and Asia. Writer Arno Kopecky and photographer Ilja Herb sailed though the tanker route along the Great Bear Rainforest to examine the risks to this precious part of Canada. It's an important contribution to the pipeline debate.



### The Burning Question

Mike Berners-Lee and Duncan Clark / Greystone Books

The subtitle of this comprehensive book says, “We can't burn half the world's oil. So how do we quit?” In their thorough examination of the history and problems with fossil fuel use, efforts and barriers to reduce emissions, and possible solutions, the authors provide an indispensable contribution to the necessary dialogue on climate change, “the most urgent scientific, political and social puzzle in history.”



## Frivolous attacks poison the well of discourse

Foundation is a registered Canadian charity and David Suzuki has never been a paid staff member. He's one of our most generous donors and volunteers. He's lived in the same house for decades, a home he has shared with his in-laws and in which he has raised his daughters.

He does not own land with an "oil company". David and a friend bought into co-owned land on remote Nelson Island many years ago to protect it from development. Another owner's family ran a company in the 1950s and '60s that supplied oil to households and small businesses, mainly for furnaces. He has made other investments in real estate to provide for his retirement and family.

And, although Sun Media derisively refers to David Suzuki as a saint, he isn't. He has received many awards and honours, but he has not been sainted or knighted. He's a 77-year-old grandfather who has devoted his life to communicating the wonders of science and finding solutions for our shared environmental problems.

Many of Sun Media's TV hosts and newspaper columnists are vociferous

supporters of the fossil fuel industry who often stoop to petty attacks against environmentalists, First Nations and anyone raising questions about policies that could harm the air, water, land and biodiversity we need for our health and survival. They have been found in violation of the Canadian Broadcasting Standards Council's ethical guidelines, deny the overwhelming scientific evidence for human-caused climate change, and even question the value of recycling.

We appreciate that some media outlets would rather engage in mud-slinging and political rants than providing honest information and news coverage. But we continue to hope the negative noise will be drowned out by positive and rational discourse aimed at creating a healthy, sustainable future. We'd like to thank all of those who stand with us, and who see through the lies and keep working to protect our planet. Please contact my team at the Foundation if you have questions or would like to discuss this further.

 Peter Robinson, CEO

We pride ourselves in seeking science-based solutions to the urgent challenges of our time. But recently we've had to respond to attacks against David Suzuki and the Foundation, many from Sun Media.

We'd rather focus on our work, but we believe it's important to shed light on the claims. To that end we've published a rebuttal on our website that we've shared with supporters through email and Facebook. Canadians from across the country have responded with an outpouring of support.

Most of the allegations are untrue, exaggerated or ad hominem—that is, they are aimed at perceived flaws in an individual's character rather than his arguments. To start, David Suzuki is not the head of a corporation, as claimed by one Sun News host. The David Suzuki

## This holiday season, give to protect the planet

Donate to the David Suzuki Foundation in honour of your loved ones this year. We'll send them a personalized card or e-card to let them know about your thoughtful gift. And you'll get a tax receipt.

Making your gift is easy. Just tell us what you want your card to say and we'll mail it for you. Visit [dauidsuzuki.org/HolidayCard](http://dauidsuzuki.org/HolidayCard) or call our Community Giving team at 1-800-453-1533.

To ensure your paper card is delivered by December 25, please make your gift online by December 10. E-cards are delivered immediately.

