

finding SOLUTIONS



David
Suzuki
Foundation

fall 2015
www.davidsuzuki.org



Blue Dot volunteers in Regina helped us get the ball rolling.

Blue Dot passes major milestone

As Canadians began enjoying longer, warmer summer days, the Blue Dot movement passed an important milestone. On June 1, our team of volunteers and supporters convinced city council in Kitchener, Ontario, to pass a declaration stating that residents there have the right to live in a healthy environment. On the same day, St. John's, Newfoundland, also passed a declaration — the first community in Atlantic Canada to do so.

That pushed the growing movement over the five million mark! Now more than 14 per cent of Canadians live in a community that recognizes their right to live in a healthy environment!

More than 75,000 Canadians have signed on to the Blue Dot movement, and over 16,000 volunteers and organizers are helping out. With even more communities getting on-board to recognize the right to live in a healthy environment, it's sometimes hard to find time to step back and celebrate where we are. But there's a lot worth celebrating, thanks to donors and supporters like you.

Since passing the five million mark, we've added cities and towns representing a million more Canadians. With Victoria on the Pacific

and St. John's on the Atlantic, Blue Dot is truly a coast-to-coast movement for change!

As success at the community level continues to grow, our long-term plan is starting to crystalize. The groundwork we're laying is putting the idea of environmental rights in front of Canadians in cities and towns across the country.

As we head into the fall, we're looking forward to the next step: convincing provincial and federal leaders to take action.

Preparations have started. We're investing in research and resources, reaching out to political leaders and counting on donors and volunteers from across the country to help us move into the next phase of this exciting endeavour.

Our goal has always been to create a future when all levels of government recognize the right of all Canadians to live in a healthy environment, no matter who they are or where they live.

It's a challenge, but as David Suzuki says, "Things are only impossible until we decide that they're not anymore."

With your continued support, we can come together in this growing movement to protect the people and places we love.



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Ode to a tree named Jessica

This year's 30X30 Nature Challenge reached more than 700 Canadian classrooms from coast to coast to coast. In addition to their 30 days of outdoor activities, classes were asked to adopt a tree in their schoolyards and submit photos and stories to the Foundation. We received dozens of touching tree stories, and it was difficult to pick just one!

Congratulations to the students of Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School in Nova Scotia! Grade 1 and 2 students worked together to tell the story of their favourite tree, Jessica, chosen for her location outside the classroom window at the front of the school.

Given the school's history, students determined that Jessica had been around for a long time and had seen many changes. Their story told of the many friendships Jessica made with other trees and the schoolchildren. One student eventually grew up and stopped visiting Jessica, but many seasons later brought her son to visit and play.

The students included this poem with their story, using their five senses to describe Jessica.



Students at Wentworth gave thanks to their favourite tree as part of the 30X30 Nature Challenge.

To Jessica

You are tall and strong
Your bark is bumpy and rough
Your sap is sticky and sweet
You help the air stay clean
Your branches are skinny and bendy
Your trunk is nice and sturdy
Your roots like water best
Your buds will grow into leaves
You shelter us from weather
You are our favourite tree!

At the beginning of May, Wentworth Consolidated students brainstormed a list of over 70 outdoor activities they could do throughout the month. They wrote these on stars and stuck them to the wall all over the classroom.

Students also shared their fun outside — as a class and with their families — on a wall calendar. By the end of the month, the calendar was completely full! Way to go!

Ontario restricts bee-killing neonic pesticides

Thanks to more than 25,000 Foundation supporters who sent messages to the government, Ontario's groundbreaking regulatory restrictions on bee-killing

neonicotinoid pesticides took effect July 1, 2015. The regulations will reduce the use of seeds treated with neonics, a controversial family of nicotine-based pesticides that has been implicated in the global decline of bees. Ontario is the first jurisdiction in North America to implement restrictions on the agricultural use of neonics.

The regulations follow a landmark study from the international Task Force on Systemic Pesticides, a group of independent scientists that reviewed more than 1,000 published studies about the effects of neonics. The Task Force found clear evidence that neonics are lethal to honeybees and cause a range of harmful

effects on other important species such as wild bees, birds, butterflies and earthworms. The authors conclude that current widespread and indiscriminate use of neonics threatens ecosystem functioning and is not sustainable.

Reducing use of neonics in Ontario is a welcome and necessary first step toward banning these harsh, bee-killing chemicals across Canada. And Ontario's determined effort to wean the province from neonics demonstrates that, despite fierce pushback from multibillion dollar companies profiting from pesticide sales, strong science bolstered by public support for protecting pollinators is prevailing.



St. Lawrence campaign is alive and well

This summer marked the fifth year of the St. Lawrence: Our Living River annual campaign in Quebec, to raise awareness of “the river that runs through us” — or, more specifically, through 45 per cent of *les Québécois* who depend on the river for drinking water.

This year, the third edition of St. Lawrence Week kicked off the June campaign with more than 50 family-friendly activities to encourage citizens to reconnect with the St. Lawrence, made possible with the help of over 40 partners from across *la belle province*. Activities included fishing workshops, shoreline cleanups and even whale-singing lessons! A few highlights included a visit from world-famous rower and St. Lawrence ambassador Mylène Paquette during our shoreline cleanup and a family rally event on June 7 in Pointe-aux-Trembles, as well as a screening of the movie *L'or du golfe*,

followed by a panel discussion with filmmaker Ian Jaquier and experts from the St. Lawrence Coalition about the devastating impacts of — and ways to prevent — oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Since the first event in 2013, St. Lawrence Week has successfully reconnected tens of thousands of Quebecers to a river that has shaped their history, culture, health and economy. To highlight the latter, the Foundation launched a report in June on the economic value of aquatic ecosystems in Montreal's Bluebelt area, underlining the need to protect the river's fragile ecosystems as well as Quebecers' willingness to contribute to protecting their drinking water.

Finally, throughout June, Foundation supporters were treated to weekly emails with tips to help care for the river, including our list of top 10 sustainable fish and



PHOTO CREDIT: CAROLINE DOSTIE

Many people joined the David Suzuki Foundation for the St. Lawrence Week shoreline cleanup.

seafood, as well as many fun facts on the river's rich biodiversity and the countless reasons to help protect it, today and for future generations.

Celebrating Coastal Connections with David Suzuki

In June 2015, David Suzuki and Foundation staff held public events in 12 communities along British Columbia's coast to celebrate, motivate and connect around our shared respect and admiration for the oceans.

From Nanaimo to Masset, Foundation staff were greeted with enthusiasm and thoughtful commentary from more than 3,000 people who shared their concerns and hopes for the oceans. Each event started with a welcome from the local First Nation, and many featured ocean-inspired artwork from students and professional artists. We then screened a 30-minute film by Ian Mauro on climate change in Western Canada.

During intermission we asked people to help us better understand the issues facing coastal communities — and did they ever respond! We were amazed and inspired by the 700 written submissions, hours of video and audio recordings and comments on whiteboards in the lobby. After David Suzuki gave an inspirational talk, we had a facilitated discussion on

themes that emerged from the comments we received.

In every community, people expressed their deep connection to the natural world, along with their observations about long-term shifts in ecosystem health and abundance. Perhaps even more powerful was the consistent call for the need to work together to ensure future generations have the same ability to experience

and enjoy the natural world as we do today.

We will be busy over the next several months summarizing what we heard for the provincial and federal governments, and for the United Nations' periodic review of Canada's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We will also report back to the communities we visited so they can hear from each other and share solutions to the common challenges we face.



The people of Masset on Haida Gwaii are expressing concerns about the environment in many ways.

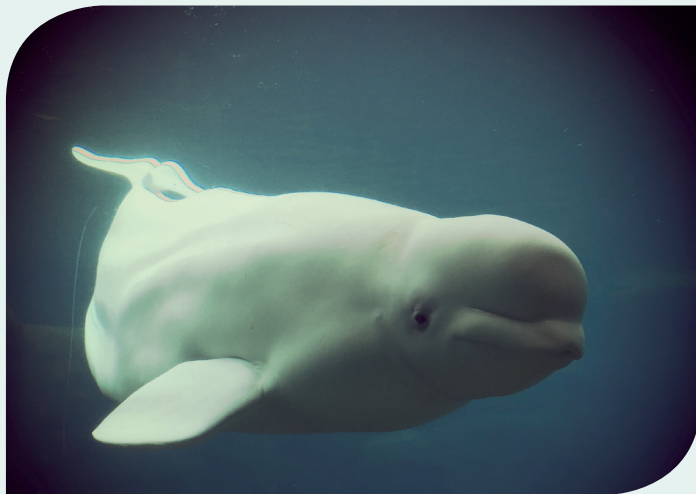


PHOTO CREDIT: ANNICLAUDE WEISS

You helped the belugas

Your support for last year's arduous fight to protect belugas in the St. Lawrence River paid off! In March, TransCanada officially announced it will abandon its plan to build an oil terminal in Cacouna. Sources now indicate that the company plans to rule out the St. Lawrence altogether as an option! What an amazing win for the belugas, for our river and for us! The next step: working to have their habitat designated as a marine protected area.

Camp Suzuki fosters tomorrow's environmental leaders

Fifty-five young adults met in August at a camp on B.C.'s Gambier Island for a unique learning opportunity: to develop environmental leadership skills through science and traditional knowledge lenses. Skills were honed through volunteer placements and a commitment to work for conservation of the Howe Sound region. The camp follows the Foundation's study of natural capital in the region and facilitation of planning discussions to create a sustainable future for Howe Sound.

Queen of Green Coaches rule

In the first half of 2015, David Suzuki's Queen of Green coaches program attracted 127 applicants, 40 coaches and 200 families in seven provinces. Here's what coach Julia from Ontario had to say: "I'm really enjoying this program and that your focus for the coaches is on understanding, compassion and relationships. It is teaching me to ease up on people who don't live like me, which I think is key to reaching people. It is fitting in perfectly with my recent revelation that criticism does not work and that building relationships, listening and respect is the way to collaborate with unlikely partners to create initiatives that everybody can get behind. Also it is teaching me to have compassion for myself, something I never really thought about."

MOSAIC brings tai chi into the 30X30 Nature Challenge

You don't need to be a mathematician to know that MOSAIC + tai chi = 30X30.

MOSAIC is a Vancouver-based, non-profit organization dedicated to assisting new immigrants and refugees settle and integrate into Canadian society.

In May, MOSAIC answered nature's call by joining the David Suzuki Foundation's 30X30 Nature Challenge, with 105 staff members, seniors and tai chi "sifu" (master) An Lian joining the 30-day initiative.

With the help of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden in Vancouver, MOSAIC seniors joined David Suzuki Foundation staff, elders and volunteers to wrap up their first 30X30 season at a one-hour tai chi meet.

MOSAIC was founded in 1976 with a mandate to help new immigrants and refugees ease into their new lives in Canada. The organization has encouraged and helped new Canadians meet and mingle with local communities, bringing newcomers into the Canadian fabric, in keeping with its full name: Multilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities.

Khim Tan is MOSAIC's senior manager for settlement programs. In its spring 2015 newsletter Reach Out! To Newcomers, Tan wrote: "Empowering newcomers is our work so we constantly seek such opportunities to take the lead. We believe our clients do know what is best for their communities and that they do have the capacity to better their communities."

By bringing tai chi to the 30X30 Nature Challenge, MOSAIC is also helping to ensure multiculturalism is an integral part of the green movement.

As the David Suzuki Foundation celebrates five years of multicultural public engagement work this fall, we will welcome more progressive partners like MOSAIC to our movement to build sustainable and diverse communities.



MOSAIC seniors joined David Suzuki Foundation staff, elders and volunteers to for a 30X30 tai chi meet.

Solutions for a warming world

The Foundation's climate and clean energy team has been working hard throughout 2015, with all roads leading to Paris for December's UN climate summit. Internationally, the conversation has shifted from whether governments should act to reduce carbon pollution to which can make the most drastic reductions over the shortest timelines.

In particular, subnational governments at state, provincial and municipal levels have made dramatic commitments to move to a low-carbon future. On May 19, leaders from 12 subnational governments (including B.C. and Ontario) spanning seven countries committed to the Under 2 Memorandum of Understanding, promising 80 to 95 per cent reductions in carbon pollution below 1990 levels by 2050 or a level of two metric tonnes per capita. At the international level, G7 countries

committed in June to completely phase out carbon pollution for energy by 2100. Even Pope Francis has spoken up, with a recent call to all Catholics and others to reduce emissions and act as stewards of the environment.

With your support, the Foundation also played a leading role in the climate and clean energy conversation in July when subnational governments met in Toronto for the Summit of the Americas and Canada's premiers met in St. John's for the Council of the Federation. By sending delegations to these events to participate in both grassroots-level demonstrations and government-level policy meetings, Foundation staff hope to advocate for unified action to put a price on carbon, phase out coal-powered energy and increase investment in clean technology. We will also focus our public communications on



A low carbon future is good for all of us.

enhancing awareness and understanding about the benefits of a shift to a low-carbon economy for all Canadians in the lead-up to the October federal election and the December Paris UN climate summit.

green living



How to wash fruits and vegetables



It's easy to clean fruit and vegetables.

Lots of people touch, sniff and sneeze on produce — from the farm to the grocery store. So even if you're enjoying organic and local farmers market fruit and veggies, you're bound to encounter dirt and germs (and pesticide residues) from all the caring hands it passes through. But don't buy fancy produce washes.

Make your own! It's cheaper and avoids plastic containers.

Tip: Wash produce before eating, not before storing (which will make it rot faster).

Tip: Firm-skinned produce, such as melons and citrus fruits, needs warm water, a scrub and rinse. Soft-skinned produce, such as strawberries or grapes, needs a soak for a few minutes.

FIVE WAYS TO WASH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

1. Eco-friendly liquid soap

Choose a simple, unscented, liquid castile soap. Add a squirt to a sink full of water. It's just like washing your hands to remove germs!

2. Eco-friendly dish soap

Use an unscented, dye-free and antibacterial-free dish soap with water.

3. Vinegar


Fill a sink with warm water and add plain white vinegar (or apple cider vinegar), one part vinegar to four parts water. Soak, then rinse.

4. Vegetable glycerin

It's a plant-derived, simple cleanser found at organic grocers or health food stores. Use with water to scrub produce. Rinse.

5. Soap nuts

Stir a few soap nuts into water to release the natural saponins in their shells. Make the solution as needed. Note: Soap nuts can be used a few times before composting.

 Lindsay Coulter,
David Suzuki's Queen of Green

Young people power their hope for the future

Leadership can come from anyone, anywhere — and age has nothing to do with it.

Thank you and congratulations to these young Canadians, who care about the world they live in and are putting their energy, courage and talents toward protecting the people and places they love.



PHOTO CREDIT: KEVIN D.

To celebrate her eighth birthday, Kaitlyn D. of Toronto decided to forgo personal gifts “to give back and highlight the exceptional life’s work of a great Canadian and his Foundation’s efforts to ensure our Earth is healthy for future generations.” She raised \$850.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARK PARSONS

Students in the Grade 12 Beyond Borders program in Guelph, Ontario, hosted Arbor Vitae, a night of speakers, local music and food to learn effective teamwork strategies and event-management skills, and raise awareness about environmental issues. They advertised, sold tickets and asked community members and businesses for sponsorships and silent auction items — and raised \$1,600.

If these young leaders inspire you, find out how to create your own fundraising event at www.davidsuzuki.org/greetingcards.



PHOTO CREDIT: PETER ZHANG, ARTIST

Young Artists in Action co-founder Leon Luo said he didn’t know “how our actions have put pressure on the natural environment” until he and fellow Grade 11 students at Vancouver’s Lord Byng Secondary did research for their David Suzuki Foundation fundraiser. Their May show, *Burgeon*, at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design Concourse Gallery, featured 150 photographs, paintings, sculptures and fashions, all focused on environmental conservation and sustainability. They raised \$2,190.

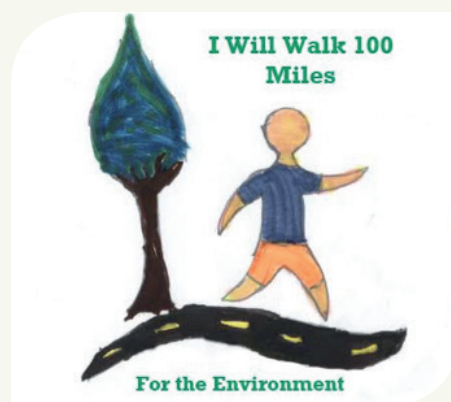


Want to make a difference, too?

Find the resources you need to set up your fundraiser:

www.davidsuzuki.org/fundraise

You won’t just raise money. You’ll raise awareness, help the planet — maybe even surprise yourself (and us!) with what you can accomplish! Thank you!



“If I can walk 100 miles you can walk to the grocery store or work/school instead of driving your car and polluting the air,” says 11-year-old Keegan Kelly. His walk, which took “a little less than a week”, started on Canada Day and raised more than \$2,000. Keegan also invited people to leave a pledge on his Facebook page “to walk (or use your bike or wheelchair) more places or share your own actions towards a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.”

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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.

2211 West 4th Ave., Suite 219
Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V6K 4S2
Toll free 1-800-453-1533
davidsuzuki.org

Editor

Ian Hanington

Contributors

Theresa Beer, Lindsay Coulter, Manon Dubois Crêteau, Panos Grames, Ian Hanington, Winnie Hwo, Steve Kux, Gail Mainster, Jode Roberts, Alvin Singh, David Suzuki

Design and Production

Catherine Owsik

Board of Directors

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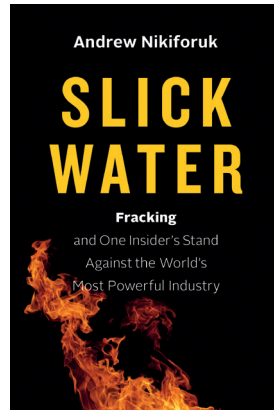
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Human Resources Director

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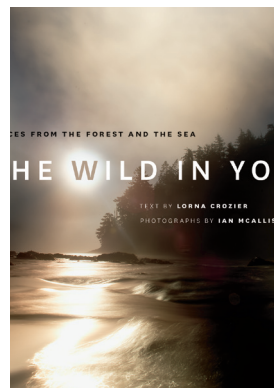
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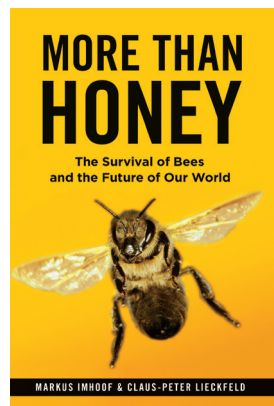
Slick Water by Andrew Nikiforuk *Greystone / David Suzuki Institute*

Investigative journalist Andrew Nikiforuk uses the story of Alberta resident Jessica Ernst's battle against the energy industry and its government supporters to shine a light on the science and human and environmental repercussions of fracking. Ernst discovered that energy giant Encana had secretly fracked hundreds of gas wells around her property, contaminating the community aquifer to such an extent that even her dogs avoided drinking the water. It's an engrossing story that raises questions about the current obsession with fossil fuels.



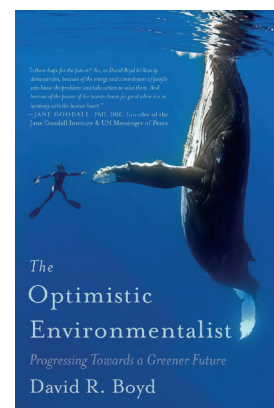
The Wild in You by Lorna Crozier and Ian McAllister *Greystone / David Suzuki Institute*

In this lovely book, renowned Canadian poet Lorna Crozier and author, photographer and Pacific Wild co-founder Ian McAllister bring words and images together to celebrate the beauty of life and nature. As Crozier writes in the introduction, "May these poems stand as testaments to the miraculous beings that share our planet and to the habitats that are necessary to their and our survival." They stand up well.



More than Honey by Markus Imhoof and Claus-Peter Lieckfeld *Greystone / David Suzuki Institute*

Without bees, humans wouldn't survive for long. Beyond providing us with honey, they pollinate a large number of food crops. In this book, subtitled *The Survival of Bees and the Future of Our World*, filmmaker Imhoof and ecology writer Lieckfeld delve into our complex relationship with and reliance on bees and the human contribution to their current decline. It's an important and fascinating book, illustrated with beautiful photos.



The Optimistic Environmentalist and Cleaner, Greener, Healthier by David R. Boyd *ECW Press / UBC Press*

Environmental lawyer David R. Boyd, who has been working with the David Suzuki Foundation and Ecojustice on our Right to a Healthy Environment campaign, has been busy, with two books set to hit stores this fall. Boyd offers hope and inspiration with *The Optimistic Environmentalist*, outlining progress that has been and is being made on the environmental front — from protecting the ozone layer to creating greener transportation options. *Cleaner, Greener, Healthier: A Prescription for Stronger Canadian Environmental Laws and Policies* describes the devastating and unjust impacts of environmental degradation on Canadians' health and outlines proven solutions that, if implemented, would prevent thousands of premature deaths, millions of illnesses and billions in unnecessary health care expenditures.



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Decision time is coming. Please vote!

Canadians go to the polls to elect a new federal government on October 19. We're all faced with an important decision at a critical time in the history of our country and the world. A diverse range of people and organizations around the world are calling on leaders to deal with some serious problems we have created, including climate change and growing inequality.



PHOTO CREDIT: RON POGUE

From Pope Francis to the International Monetary Fund to corporate leaders and thinkers to citizens everywhere, recognition is increasing that we can't continue down the same destructive path.

I've seen a lot in my 80 years. After studying in the U.S. for eight years and receiving job offers from several American universities, I returned to Canada in 1962. I was bothered by racism in the U.S., although I found that Canada also shares those problems, especially when it comes to treatment of aboriginal peoples. But I appreciated Canada's health care system and other social programs, as well as equalization payments between provinces, and the CBC and National Film Board. They made Canada different from the U.S. and I preferred it.

Because my Canadian-born parents, and First Nations people, couldn't vote until 1948 and 1960, respectively, I have always regarded the ability to vote as the most precious right in a democracy. But that right is accompanied by a responsibility to be well-informed and to take part in the political process. As a charitable organization, the David Suzuki Foundation can't offer advice on where to place your vote. But we want to encourage everyone to become informed and to question local candidates and leaders about their policies on key issues. Find

out which parties have the best and most realistic policies to deal with issues like climate change, pollution, protection of waterways and ecosystems, Indigenous rights and social justice.

As a northern country with the longest marine coastline of any nation, Canada is especially vulnerable to climate change. A growing body of research shows that addressing the problem will also improve the health of citizens and provide numerous benefits to the economy. Failing to act could be costly in many ways, with impacts on human health, agriculture, water resources and the economy. This is where governments need to think beyond the four-year election cycle. Canada needs a national energy strategy and a viable plan to deal with greenhouse gas emissions.

Regardless of your political leanings, you should encourage your candidates to take these matters seriously. No matter which party forms government after October 19, it's up to us to ensure that it puts the interests of citizens first.

Voters like you will choose the direction the country takes. You can even help shape this election before Election Day by signing up for the David Suzuki Foundation's voter pledge, at www.davidsuzuki.org/vote. Please make sure to vote!

Get ahead of the holiday rush

Purchase greeting cards that support the work you care about!

Cards come in packs of 12 and feature original art exclusive to the David Suzuki Foundation. Choose from three themes: belugas, pollinators and seasonal.

Inside, the cards are blank — ready for you to personalize. The packs also make great gifts.

www.davidsuzuki.org/greetingcards

