



Cities take climate action

The city of Regina passed a historic motion to become a 100 per cent renewable city by 2050. This is the first time a Saskatchewan municipality has set its sights on becoming an official “renewable city.”

Climate change, the greatest challenge to life as we know it, is mainly caused by humans burning fossil fuels. We must move quickly to cleaner, healthier ways to power our lives.

Thanks to your support, Canadian cities are moving away from fossil fuels and committing to 100 per cent renewable energy.

In October, Regina passed a motion to become a 100 per cent renewable energy city by 2050.

Leading up to that decision, your support meant our project team was able to:

- Meet with city councillors.
- Encourage volunteers to host events, write to media and speak to council.

- Publish an inspiring story about the benefits of renewables to Regina families.
- Engage researchers from the universities of Regina and Victoria to help the city and its citizens understand what the commitment means and the pathways to get there.
- Create an online click-to-call-your-councillor platform that residents could use.
- Provide advocates with an information postcard.

The motion passed unanimously to a standing ovation from the gallery!

Montreal also plans to go 100 per cent renewable, joining other communities — Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, Toronto, Guelph and more — that are creating a livable, sustainable and resilient future.



PHOTO: JEREMY WILLIAMS

HARNESSING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Thanks to research you powered, we know that most people in Canada favour moving away from fossil fuels and switching to renewables. But most people don't know what to do, where to look for inspiration or how to help.

With your help, we're profiling inspiring stories of people who are bringing on renewables and increasing energy efficiency in their communities.

"Our ancestors lived in harmony with the land for over 8,000 years," says Chief Patrick Michell of the Kanaka Bar Indian Band, a.k.a. T'eqt'aqtn'mux, which means "the crossing place people."

"There are some basic principles: take what you need, no more. If you're going to do something, do it right. If you take it in, take it out. And when you're done, clean up after yourself."

One of the ways Kanaka Bar honours those principles is by returning to greater self-sufficiency and sustainability.

In 2013, Kanaka Bar partnered with Innergex Renewable Energy on a 49.9-megawatt run-of-river project. The Kwoiek



PHOTO: ZAIN NAYANI

Creek power plant has been so successful that money saved has been invested in new solar panels, a community garden and improved housing for residents.

For Chief Michell, Kanaka Bar is harnessing the energy that nature provides — something that allows the community to better meet its own needs, as well as providing power to surrounding communities.

It's helping everyone build a better future together.

B.C. LEAPS AHEAD ON A CLEAN FUTURE

In December, B.C. launched its climate action plan, CleanBC, re-asserting itself as a climate leader in Canada.

The plan, which takes into account many of our recommendations, will help meet B.C.'s climate target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent from 2007 levels by:

- Improving the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings.
- Increasing the supply of renewable natural gas, captured from farm and food waste.
- Using clean, renewable energy to power industry and transportation.
- Targeting 100 per cent zero emission vehicle sales by 2040 and making them more affordable.

These are positive steps, but they don't go far enough.

Phase 1 of CleanBC will achieve 75 per cent of needed emissions reductions, but the province must move quickly to close the gap on the remainder. The answer: B.C. needs to cut methane from fracking.



Industry is pressuring provinces to enact weak methane emissions regulations. The federal government needs to make sure all provinces do their part to cut methane emissions. With your support, we're working to ensure B.C. enacts strong regulations to cut methane pollution from the oil and gas industry, the province's largest industrial polluter. We also need a strong framework to hold government accountable for living up to its promises in the CleanBC plan.

GOING TO COURT FOR A NATIONAL APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Scientists and economists agree: Carbon pricing is a necessary tool to meet international emissions goals and prevent climate disaster.

In February, you made it possible for us to appear in court in Regina to support the Government of Canada's ability to apply effective climate policy solutions at a national scale, including setting a national carbon price.

This is the first time climate change has been discussed in the context of Canada's Constitution.

The Province of Saskatchewan brought the case, admitting that climate change is a critical issue, but objecting

to "busybody federalism." The Government of Canada argued that climate change is a national concern and meeting international commitments lies with the federal government. With the fate of the planet at stake, provinces don't have the ability to address the country as a whole.

We argued through our legal team, led by Joshua Ginsberg of Ecojustice, that climate change is a national emergency with unprecedented risk to human health, ecosystems and species survival. As with other national emergencies, the federal government must have the ability to respond when the safety of people in Canada is at stake.

Amir Attaran, representing the Athabasca-Chipewyan First Nation, noted that unless effective action is taken, the nation's traditional territories may experience warming up to 7 C — affecting the people and the caribou they depend on to survive. Attaran also noted that the government of Saskatchewan created its climate plan without consulting Indigenous communities.

Five justices heard the case. On April 15, we took part in a similar challenge from Ontario. These references cases are among the most important Canadian constitutional challenges in the last several decades.



Butterflyway Rangers from B.C.'s Lower Mainland completed training with experts at UBC Botanical Garden.

BLOOMING POLLINATOR HIGHWAYS!

The Butterflyway Project is a citizen-led movement growing highways of pollinator habitat across Canada. It shows that a small group of residents can make a big difference for bees and butterflies!

You make it possible for us to recruit and train scores of volunteer Butterflyway Rangers. Their mission: plant pesticide-free, native wildflowers along streets and in parks, schoolyards and gardens in their communities, creating new habitat where pollinators like bees and butterflies can flourish. Once a Ranger troop establishes at least a dozen pollinator patches, that achievement receives official recognition as a Butterflyway (habitat corridors created to help pollinators like bees and butterflies flourish).

This year, Vancouver Butterflyway Rangers join other pollinator enthusiasts in B.C. (Richmond, District of North Vancouver), Ontario (Markham, Scarborough and Toronto)

and Quebec (Montreal). VIA Rail Canada not only committed to create a Butterflyway patch at its Vancouver terminal station, its executive staff also signed up to be Butterflyway Rangers!

Butterflyway Rangers from B.C.'s Lower Mainland gathered in early March for a one-day training session with experts at the UBC Botanical Garden. Seventy new recruits joined alumni Rangers to learn about the state of B.C. butterflies and other pollinators and how they can help. The new Rangers will also act as citizen scientists, documenting butterfly species in the Lower Mainland, including the western monarch.

Butterflyway Rangers are passionate neighbours, parents, grandparents, children, teachers and friends supporting each other to protect the natural world that supports us all. Visit davidsuzuki.org/butterflyway to learn more.





HOW TO CREATE A POLLINATOR PARADISE

Protecting pollinators means providing them with welcoming habitat and avoiding harmful pesticides. Even a small garden will bring in many species, especially native bees and butterflies.

- Choose native plants adapted to your climate. They'll feed and shelter local species and are easier to grow.
- Choose a combination of flowers that bloom in spring, summer and fall.
- Create floral bull's eyes. Plant a few of each species together in bunches.
- Plant what caterpillars eat; e.g., dill, fennel, parsley, nettles, native thistles, lupines, willows and milkweed.

- Provide a source of water with a perch.

LEAVE IT MESSY!

- Let veggies bolt and flower.
- Collect twigs, bundle them up and leave them outside for bee-nesting habitat. Brush piles and dead or dying trees also make great pollinator homes.
- Leave some bare ground; e.g., dry, uncultivated and unmulched for bees to nest underground.
- Let leaves lie to provide a butterfly nursery.
- Learn to love mud puddles. Some butterflies prefer mud and poop (a.k.a. "scat" or "dung"), sap and rotting fruit.



THE RISE AND FALL OF MONARCHS

Since 2015, you've helped us raise awareness about the plight of threatened monarch butterflies. You helped get milkweed — the only plant where monarchs lay their eggs and their caterpillars' first food — into peoples' hands. Thousands of people sowed seeds and planted seedlings in schoolyards, parks and roadsides along the monarchs' migratory path.

It's working! Millions of monarch butterflies safely made it from Canada to

Mexico for the winter — more than twice as many as last year!

Favourable weather conditions along the migratory route helped the eastern monarch population swell to its highest numbers in more than a decade.

At the same time, the western population of monarch butterflies, which migrates along the Pacific coast and spends winters in Southern

California, has dropped to 28,429 butterflies — a 99.4 per cent decline since the 1980s.

These dramatically contrasting stories highlight that this species remains in serious peril.

Thanks to you, we're continuing to inspire people throughout the country to plant native wildflowers to support butterflies *and* bees.



Blue Dot volunteers helped secure pledges from 69 MPs and candidates. From left, counter-clockwise, with volunteer constituents: Richmond Hill MP Majid Jowhari (Liberal Party of Canada); Vancouver East MP Jenny Kwan (NDP); Markham-Unionville MP Bob Saroya (Conservative Party of Canada); Scarborough Centre MP Salma Zahid (Liberal Party of Canada); Kitchener South MP Marwan Tabbara (Liberal Party of Canada).

MPs PLEDGE TO PROTECT YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Canada's next federal election is October 21. David Suzuki says it's our once-in-a-lifetime chance to get this country on track to meet its climate action responsibilities to the world.

With your help, we launched our MP Pledge for Environmental Rights last October, so decision-makers of all political stripes could show their support for equal access to a healthy environment, including clean air and safe water. At writing, 69 MPs and candidates — representing every major federal party — have signed!

With 338 ridings to cover, the campaign depends on a national network of local volunteers. This team is a result of several years of building communities and leveraging Blue Dot's earlier municipal-level efforts. (Now more

than 170 municipalities recognize the right to a healthy environment.)

Each pledge signed represents many meaningful conversations and another politician convinced that supporting environmental rights is the right thing to do and steers us in a direction that holds great promise for Canada.

The Liberals, NDP and Greens have all passed resolutions in support of creating a federal environmental bill of rights. More than 150 countries have recognized these rights in law. If this momentum continues, Canada could soon join this group — thanks, in large part, to our amazing Blue Dot volunteers.

Does your MP recognize your environmental rights? Find out at bluedot.ca/mp-pledge/supporters-list.

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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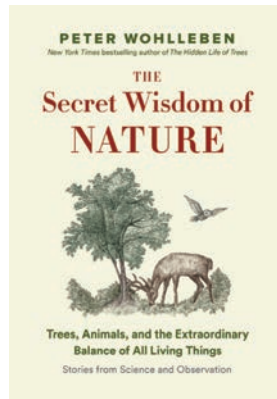
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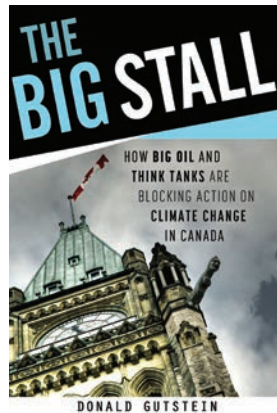
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The Secret Wisdom of Nature: Trees, Animals, and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things — Stories from Science and Observation

Peter Wohlleben / GREYSTONE BOOKS/DAVID SUZUKI INSTITUTE

Following *The Hidden Life of Trees* and *The Inner Life of Animals*, Wohlleben's *The Secret Wisdom of Nature* completes the trilogy, examining the connection between plants and animals. Drawing on the latest scientific research coupled with his own observations and insights, Wohlleben (with translator Jane Billinghurst) offers the same type of engaging storytelling that made *The Hidden Life of Trees* a runaway success.



The Big Stall: How Big Oil and Think Tanks Are Blocking Action on Climate Change in Canada

Donald Gutstein / LORIMER

Who's calling the shots on climate policy in Canada? Despite our prime minister's claim during the Paris climate talks in 2015 that "Canada is back," former Simon Fraser University professor Gutstein argues that policy has been developed to benefit the fossil fuel industry rather than citizens hoping to resolve the climate crisis. With meticulous research, he details how fossil fuel interests and their supporting think tanks have lobbied, infiltrated and influenced governments to develop policies that allow them to continue to reap massive profits even as the planet warms to disastrous levels.

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Donate your Aeroplan Miles and we'll use them to cover essential travel. Plus, Aeroplan will increase your donation by 10 per cent!

Your donated Aeroplan Miles offset administrative costs, which means that more donor dollars go to programs to tackle Canada's most pressing environmental issues.

We use donated miles for meeting face-to-face with decision-makers, visiting communities affected by environmental destruction, presenting at international conferences and holding on-site news conferences. All travel via the Aeroplan member donation program is tracked and offset with Gold Standard carbon credits.

Donate your miles at davidsuzuki.org/donate-aeroplan-miles.



CHILDREN SHOULD BE SEEN AND HEARD

Summer 2018 was Sweden's hottest since record-keeping began more than 260 years ago — too much for 15-year-old Greta Thunberg.

So she refused to go to school until a general election on September 9. Every day, she sat outside Parliament in Stockholm and handed out leaflets that said, "I am doing this because you adults are shitting on my future."

Her lone action spread worldwide. She addressed negotiators at December's UN climate summit in Katowice, Poland, and delegates at the January World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. She inspired thousands of students to walk out of classes in protest. Young people have also launched a number of climate-related legal actions around the world.

These kids have more wisdom than our elected grownups. Because most are too young to vote, they have few avenues other than protests and legal action to get politicians and other decision-makers to pay attention.

As much as I admire them, I'm saddened that it's come to this. Children shouldn't have to spend their time in court



or protesting. They should be enjoying their formative years, playing outside, spending time with friends and family, studying.

It's time for us adults to heed the world's youth, or get out of their way.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TARA CULLIS

Tara Cullis, an award-winning writer, educator and activist, co-founded the Foundation with her husband, David Suzuki.

As David always says, the Foundation would never have launched or achieved so much without Tara's guts, determination and amazing smarts.

Tara continues to shepherd the Foundation as president of its board and galvanize the hundreds of staff and volunteers.

Tara turned 70 in February. Thank you to the thousands of you who wished her well on her milestone birthday.

And thank you, Tara, for your continued dedication and inspiration.