

2018 WINS

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT







# THANK YOU

What a year! It was a challenging one, but thanks to you we had many successes along the way. We also celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Montreal office — a decade of effectively communicating in both official languages and expanding our reach across Canada.

**Our strength, credibility, longevity, public engagement accomplishments, policy successes — *our very existence* — are all because of you.**

This report highlights just a few of the many achievements you helped make possible in 2018.

You helped us push for a federal price on carbon pollution and for the world's first national regulations on methane emissions. You're fuelling Canada's renewable energy revolution.

You're showing communities the benefits of building nature into their municipal development plans, because

protecting ecosystems costs less and often does a better job at absorbing carbon, cooling cities and preventing floods than human-built systems.

You're raising international awareness about ocean health and the plight of threatened orcas, caribou and pollinators such as monarch butterflies. You helped secure a phase-out of bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides.

You're launching the next generation of environmental leaders through the David Suzuki Fellowships.

You're promoting everyone in Canada's legal right to breathe clean air, drink safe water and eat food free of toxic chemicals.

**These are your wins.**

Thank you again for your enduring support. Together, we're working toward protecting nature's diversity and the well-being of all life, now and

for the future, and helping everyone in Canada act every day on the understanding that we are one with nature.

I look forward to continuing to work together in 2019.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Cornish'.

Stephen Cornish, CEO



## 2018 WINS CLIMATE

“All of the major battles of social progress, such as allowing women to vote, were made possible because people got involved and decided they would no longer stand for business as usual. The public knew it was time for a change, and they made sure their legislators knew, too. Nowadays, climate change is at the very top of the polls, and it's up to every one of us to tell our elected and business leaders what we want.”

DAVID SUZUKI





# GETTING CANADA CHARGED UP ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Climate change is a collective threat, but we can all be a part of the solution to meet Canada’s climate targets.

**THE WORLD’S FIRST NATIONAL METHANE REGULATIONS**  
Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and capturing fugitive methane emissions is one of the easiest, most affordable and effective ways for industry to shrink its carbon footprint.

With your support, we began investigating this issue in partnership with St. Francis Xavier University in 2015. Our groundbreaking research — showing actual fugitive methane emissions in B.C.’s oil and gas sector are *2.5 times higher* than reported — was released on the heels of the federal government’s announcement in April of regulations to control fugitive methane emissions in the oil and gas sector (Canada’s largest polluter) — *the first in the world!*

This research was also used to convince the B.C. government to follow the federal government’s lead and develop and implement its own methane regulations, which were released in December.

The national regulations could be undermined if the federal government allows provinces to adopt weak regulations.

Thanks to you, we’re continuing to advocate for methane regulations throughout the country and making it easy for

people to let government decision-makers know they want strong regulations in every province.

**DECARBONIZING THE ECONOMY**  
Climate scientists and economists agree: Carbon pricing is the most effective tool to help transition to a low-carbon economy. It lowers carbon pollution at the least cost to society, makes renewable energy more affordable, and helps ensure polluters address the problem at its source.

Thanks to you, we supported the federal government’s decision to commit to a countrywide price on carbon. When Saskatchewan and Ontario challenged the law, we filed for intervener status in the provincial courts of appeal and spotlighted the issue in the media. With our legal team at Ecojustice, we’re providing evidence that climate change is a national emergency that merits a national response.

We’re also helping the City of Montreal develop a plan to achieve its carbon-neutral goals. We continue to help other municipalities — from Vancouver to Regina and more — adopt strong renewable city strategies. And we’re pushing for urgent climate action in the lead-up to the October federal election.



**HEALTHIER TRANSPORTATION**  
Transportation is Canada’s second-highest source of climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions. Our research shows that building more transit- and pedestrian-friendly cities could substantially reduce transportation pollution, and we’ve campaigned for these solutions for decades.

In 2018, you helped cities across the country choose less polluting ways to move their citizens around. Governments at all levels announced unprecedented investments:

- The federal government announced an astounding \$25-billion investment to modernize transportation networks in Canada’s major cities.
- The federal and B.C. governments agreed to a historic \$4.1-billion, 10-year transportation infrastructure plan.
- B.C. became the first North American jurisdiction to commit to 100 per cent electric vehicles by 2040, including making them more affordable.
- Quebec announced a new sustainable mobility policy that aims to reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2030.
- Quebec City announced a new transit network.
- Montreal announced its first metro extension in 30 years, and began construction of a light rail network that will transform transit in the greater Montreal region.
- Toronto approved a 25-year plan prioritizing walking, cycling and public transit in the downtown area.

**FUELLING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY REVOLUTION**  
With costs dropping dramatically, renewable energy is becoming the best choice for the environment and the economy. Canada’s clean-tech sector is already the fastest-growing, generating well-paying jobs while curbing climate change impacts.

Most people in Canada want renewable energy solutions. And your support is mobilizing tens of thousands of people

to action through our climate program, Charged Up, an engaged, countrywide network of renewable energy champions. *In just one year, 40,000 people have joined!*

You made it possible for Charged Up to produce and broadcast dozens of inspiring renewable energy stories like these from communities across the country:

- Grade 6 and 7 students at Regina’s Lakeview School studied their province’s solar capacity. They were thrilled to learn that Regina has some of the best solar power potential in Canada. A field trip to Cowessess First Nation’s solar project inspired them. “We should obviously have more [solar],” student Nhu said. This is Canada’s solar generation — young, wide-eyed and ready to make a difference. Watch the full story at [davidsuzuki.org/the-solar-generation](https://davidsuzuki.org/the-solar-generation).
- On July 6, 2013, a freight train carrying crude oil derailed and exploded, killing 47 people in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. A few kilometres north, La Coop éolienne du Granit wind farm has emerged from the ashes as a symbol of hope. The surrounding 16 municipalities collect close to \$1 million a year selling clean energy to Hydro-Québec. It’s the most profitable community co-owned wind farm project in Eastern Canada.

Mobilizing renewable energy champions from coast to coast to coast is making a difference!

- Montreal and Regina committed to achieving 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050.
- In February, the federal government passed legislation to power past coal and published terms of reference for its Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal-Power Workers and Communities.
- In August, the Federal Court of Appeal struck down the government’s approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion — a major victory for First Nations and endangered Salish Sea orcas.

**Real, workable solutions such as these can help avert climate chaos.**



# THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Since 2017, we’ve awarded annual fellowships to three leading Canadian scholars — the next generation of climate leaders — to help them tackle complex environmental problems and inspire change. Chosen fellows embody David Suzuki’s research excellence and his ability to motivate people to make a difference through effective communication.

In 2018, with your support, we welcomed:



**NICOLE DAVIES** is investigating regionally and traditionally informed Indigenous sustenance systems and their effect on emissions, waste and conditions contributing to climate change.



**MAXIME FORTIN FAUBERT** is looking into improving Montreal’s climate change resilience by turning contaminated and paved-over “heat island” areas into cooling green spaces.



**TARA MAHONEY** is interested in new, experimental climate change communications strategies and practices that will help excite and engage young people, particularly millennials.

## FIRST FELLOWS TAKE FLIGHT

Now an assistant professor at the University of Regina, **BRETT DOLTER** is exploring scenarios for decarbonizing Canada’s electricity sector. He’s also helping Blue Dot campaigners promote Regina’s 100 per cent renewable energy target.

**MELINA LABOUCAN-MASSIMO**’s Little Buffalo energy plan includes home and community audits, efficiency upgrades and renewable options. She’s also hosting APTN’s Power to the People series on renewable energy, food security and eco-housing.

**JÉRÔME LAVIOLETTE** is studying the psychological and social factors of car dependency and developing tools to help Quebec communities reduce it. He helped create LocoMotion, a neighbourhood-based project for car and bike sharing.

# NATURE, THE BEST DEFENCE

Trees and green plants absorb carbon and clean the air. Forests and wetlands filter water and prevent flooding. These “natural assets” are also more flexible, cost-effective and easier to manage than built infrastructure — especially under intensifying climate conditions.

Thanks to you, we’re working with 11 Canadian municipalities to show that managing their natural assets can help lower their costs while boosting their citizens’ health and well-being.

In 2015, we launched a pilot in the small town of Gibsons, B.C. It became the first municipality in North America to give natural assets the same consideration as traditional capital assets!

Now, the Public Sector Accounting Board is reviewing two documents that could open the door for natural assets to be taken into account across Canada — a significant change to the way we recognize and count the benefits of nature.

Our eco assets project’s straightforward approach makes it transferable to any location, so more and more Canadian communities can get on board.

To further promote natural assets, in November we co-hosted a sold-out scientific summit on natural infrastructure and phytotechnology in Montreal. We launched four studies on how to use plants to mitigate climate impacts, including the environmental benefits of mowing lawns and public parks less often. And we’re pushing for Montreal to invest \$370 million in natural infrastructure.

# 2018 WINS BIODIVERSITY

“Together, all species make up one immense web of interconnections that binds all beings to each other and to the physical components of the planet.”

DAVID SUZUKI







## STANDING UP FOR OCEANS

The ocean is Earth’s largest life-support system. It regulates climate, produces oxygen and provides food and livelihoods for billions of people.

Because of you, we’re able to advocate for sustainable use and evidence-based protections from coast to coast to coast, helping fragile marine species and ocean environments recover and thrive.

We’re holding the federal government to its international commitment to protect 10 per cent of Canada’s ocean environment by 2020 — *and it’s working*. In 2018:

- Canada met its short-term goal to increase ocean protection to five per cent.
- Protection boundaries were set for the Scott Islands off Vancouver Island’s north coast — the first marine area considered for protection under the Canada Wildlife Act. It’s home to half the world’s Cassin’s auklets (small, blue-footed seabirds).
- The governments of Quebec and Canada created Banc-des-Américains, a 1,000-square-kilometre marine protected area in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, east of the Gaspé Peninsula.

### SAVING SALISH SEA ORCAS

Salish Sea orcas, one of Canada’s most endangered marine mammals, are teetering toward possible extinction. Two

of the main ways we can help them is to protect their feeding areas and rebuild populations of chinook salmon, their favoured prey.

In 2018, we called for an emergency order under the Species at Risk Act to save the stricken whales. An emergency order is the best way for government to cut through red tape and take swift action. We also created a map for decision-makers to use to create orca-feeding refuge areas.

Thanks to your support, we provided tools that let people have their say:

- More than 12,400 people used our web platform to write government in support of the emergency order.
- 115 used our click-to-call tool to speak directly to the minister of fisheries, oceans and the Canadian coast guard.
- About 3,500 people have signed our online pledge to protect the orcas.

In September, we went to court to enforce the requirement that the fisheries and environment ministers recommend emergency protections for the orcas.

This resulted in the *first-ever timeline* for concrete actions from the federal government: A commitment to supporting areas where orcas feed, including requiring boats to slow down when they’re near whales and strengthening chinook stocks by reducing the number sports fishers can take to one per person per day (from the previous two per person per day).

## CARING ABOUT CARIBOU

Caribou, beloved across Canada, need two-thirds of their habitat undisturbed by human development if they’re going to survive and thrive. Boreal caribou are listed as threatened federally and in some provinces, but because their habitat is unprotected in most of the country, three-quarters of herds are in trouble.

Caribou need bold action. With your support, we’ve researched and promoted strategies to protect them for the past 13 years. Their situation is increasingly critical.

This year, along with our partners, we submitted a petition urging Environment Minister Catherine McKenna to recommend a Species at Risk Act safety net order for herds in Alberta and Ontario. This would allow

the federal government to extend habitat protection to where it’s not effectively protected. We’ve also called for a judicial review.

Since one of the best things to do to ensure caribou health in the face of industrial disturbance in their habitat is to listen to the Indigenous people who’ve shared the forests with them for thousands of years, we’re also supporting communities that are taking the lead on establishing and governing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

Thanks to you, we’re travelling to remote communities to hear first-hand stories about challenges and pathways to support caribou recovery and connecting federal and provincial governments with First Nations to create regulations that work.



## BANNING BEE-KILLING PESTICIDES

Bees help pollinate one-third of the world’s crops and 90 per cent of all wild plants. Neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) have played a role in mass bee deaths and harm other beneficial species, including aquatic insects, earthworms and common birds.

Thanks to you, we’ve partnered with other organizations, sending a clear message to government. Since 2013, nearly half a million people have sent letters and signed petitions asking for an expedited neonics ban.

Government finally listened. After more than half a decade, Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency has at last proposed to phase out most uses of the three main neonicotinoid pesticides: imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam.

With your support, we’re continuing to push the government for an even faster, more responsible timeline and more rigorous reviews of toxic pesticides in Canada.





## HIGHWAYS OF HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS

About 90 per cent of flowering plant species depend on pollinators, from bees and butterflies to hummingbirds and bats. We have pollinators to thank for one of every three bites of food we eat! Sadly, threats such as development, pesticides and climate change are dramatically reducing pollinator diversity and numbers.

The Butterflyway Project is a citizen-led movement bringing nature home to neighbourhoods throughout Canada. It shows that a small group of residents can make a big difference for pollinators.

We recruit volunteer Butterflyway Rangers in each community and give them a mission: to plant networks of native wildflowers in gardens, balconies, schoolyards, streets and parks to give local pollinators such as bees and butterflies places to feed and shelter. To establish a Butterflyway, Rangers must plant at least a dozen pollinator patches in their neighbourhood.

In 2018, we recruited and trained 192 volunteer Butterflyway Rangers across the country. They created wildflower-filled Butterflyways in Montreal, Scarborough, Markham, Toronto, the District of North Vancouver

and Richmond — including more than a dozen canoe gardens and two Butterflyway Lanes.

We grew the number of municipalities signing on to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge to almost 70 in Quebec and Ontario. Some 40 schools planted butterfly gardens. Thousands of people made donations to purchase seeds from our online store, planted wildflowers and learned about the benefits of adding native plants. We also conducted a citizen science project with the University of Scarborough, to identify wild bees in the Greater Toronto Area.

## 2018 WINS ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

"Each person, group or organization working towards a different world may seem powerless and insignificant, but all of them can add up to a force that can become irresistible."

DAVID SUZUKI



# PROTECTING THE PEOPLE AND PLACES YOU LOVE

The right to live in a healthy environment is recognized in law by more than 150 nations — but not Canada. It’s been shown that countries recognizing environmental rights experience better environmental outcomes.

More than 90 per cent of people in Canada believe we should have the legal right to a healthy environment. Most are surprised to find out we don’t! MPs of all stripes have expressed support for the concept in the past.

Since launching the Blue Dot movement for environmental rights in 2014, more than 111,000 people have joined and 173 communities — *representing nearly half of Canada’s population!* — have passed environmental rights declarations.

When the federal government recommended updating the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to recognize, respect and fulfil every person’s right to a healthy environment, you helped mobilize public support for the change, including more than 23,000 messages, 250 phone calls and

800 tweets to members of Parliament. In June, an e-petition started by a Blue Dot volunteer attracted more than 10,000 signatures and was read aloud in the House of Commons.

Government decided not to fix the act during its current mandate, so with your support, we mobilized hundreds of volunteers to set their sights on the October 2019 federal election.

We’ve invited all MPs and candidates to sign a pledge that says, “I will support the recognition in law of the right to a healthy environment for all people in Canada.” By securing a solid base of political support, we can ensure that environmental rights form part of the next government’s mandate.

With your support, almost 300 volunteers across Canada are leading efforts in their local ridings, holding strategy meetings, participating in trainings and securing face-to-face meetings with MPs — 72 of whom are already on board, from all major political parties.

## TURNING UP THE PRESSURE FOR SAFE WATER

“Water is life. We all have the right to safe water for drinking, cooking and bathing. Reconciliation means many things, but access to clean water is an absolute requisite.”

DAVID SUZUKI

As of January 23, 2018, there were 91 long-term drinking water advisories affecting First Nations communities on public systems. Adding short-term advisories brings the number to 147, as of October 31, 2017.

The federal government promised to end all long-term drinking water advisories in First Nations communities by 2021. Yet thousands of people in First Nations communities in Canada continue to live without access to clean drinking water. Over the past two years, it lifted 32 advisories but added 22 new ones.

You helped us produce the report *Reconciling Promises and Reality: Clean Drinking Water for First Nations*, which finds government failing on eight of 14 indicators. It also features stories of communities taking leadership to resolve their drinking water crises that could inspire others.

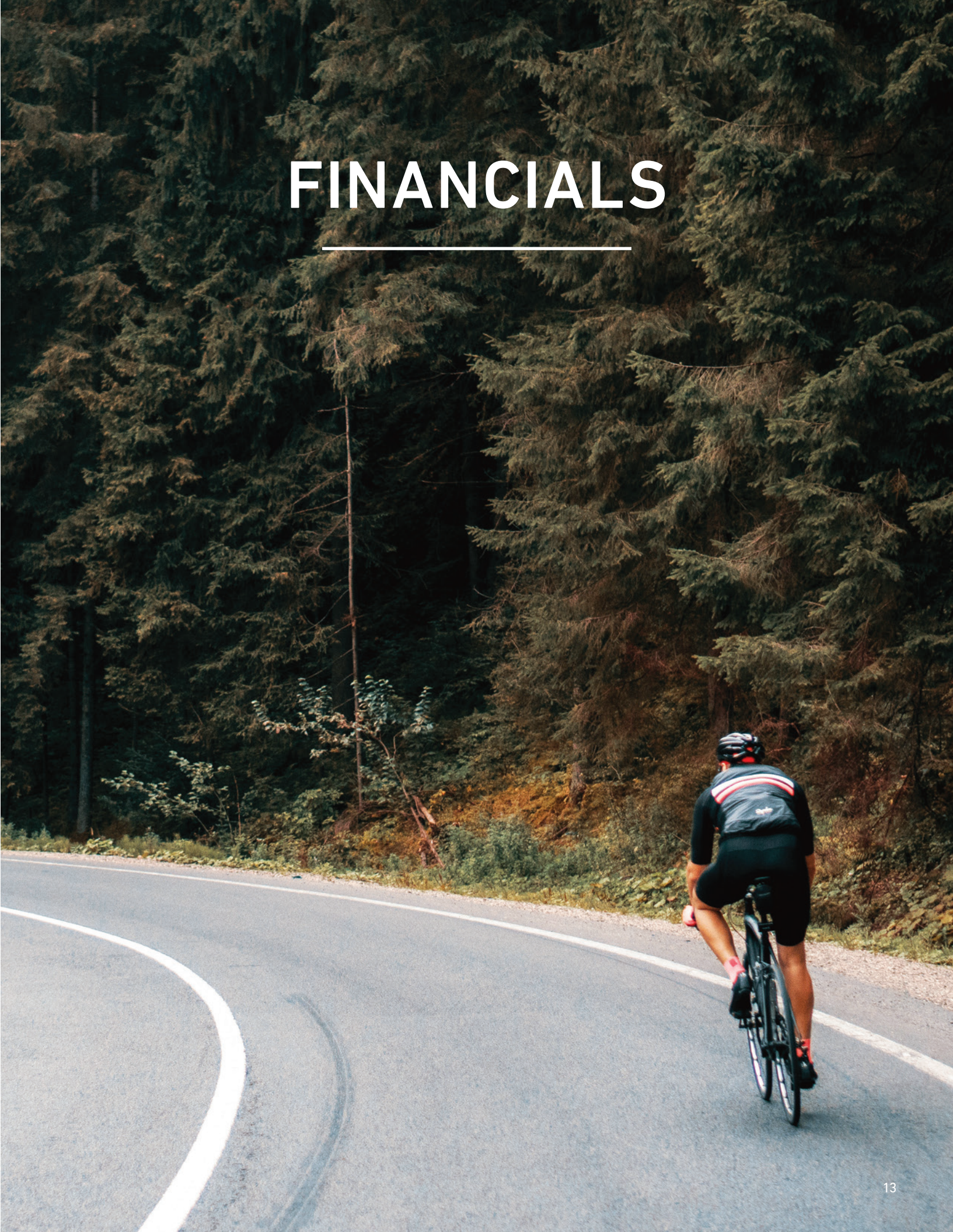


The report encourages government to adopt these approaches:

- Investing in First Nations–led approaches to resolving drinking water advisories.
- Speeding up system upgrades, including funding for operations and maintenance.
- Developing legislation and regulations with First Nations as equal partners.

More than 7,000 people used our web platform to send messages to decision-makers demanding access to clean water for everyone in Canada.

# FINANCIALS





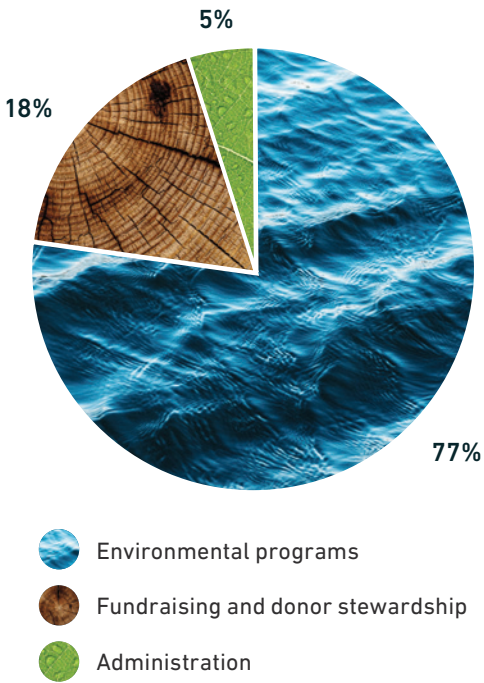


# YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Many sources, including tens of thousands of small, individual donations, power our work. This wide range of support allows us to be fully independent.

Year ended August 31, 2018,  
with comparative figures for 2017

	2018	2017
Revenue	\$10,519,038	\$9,706,208
Expenses	\$10,480,499	\$9,802,099
Gains on endowment fund investments	\$748,900	\$641,032
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$787,439	\$545,141



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Thank you for your generosity. This list includes donors who contributed \$5,000 or more between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018.

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