



# In times of crisis, we can come together to find solutions

We're living in extraordinary times. I'm writing these lines to you from my home, without knowing the future, practising physical distancing and adhering to the best advice about coping with COVID-19.

We are all experiencing a heightened sense of fear and uncertainty. But we also feel hope and resilience, and we see communities coming together in unprecedented ways.

Our hearts go out to those directly affected by this global pandemic. And our deepest gratitude is to the professionals working tirelessly on the front lines to try and keep everyone healthy and safe. **Thank you.**

Thank you also to the everyday heroes reaching out to vulnerable people in their families and communities and offering support, friendship and compassion.

Just like with the climate crisis, we know we are in this together and that we need to join in collective action for the common good. We know that we need to take this seriously and that the more we do now, the greater the chance we'll have to avoid the most devastating impacts.

Before the pandemic, we saw youth rise all over the world, and a human tide of more than a million people march throughout Canada. It was a magnificent show of solidarity with the promise of a new world.

No doubt, this promise is still alive. Because on the other side of the health, financial and economic crises, we'll still have to respond to the climate emergency. We did not choose to be faced with these huge challenges and we will sometimes be tempted to give in to discouragement. But we will not give in, because together we will succeed.

On the other side of the COVID-19 crisis, we will have gained confidence in our ability to unite when emergency requires it and mobilize our efforts toward a common goal. Isn't that exactly what we need to do to respond to the climate emergency?

There is a new world to imagine, there is hope and we continue to stand together for the future.

In safety and solidarity,  
Stephen Cornish



## SMALL ACTS MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE FOR TINY CREATURES

*“I believe a Butterflyway speaks the common language to all our families and students — one about working together to look after the natural world in our neighbourhood. It gives us a meaningful goal to create a sanctuary in our urban jungle, spend time outdoors, learn about nature and celebrate community.”*

ANITA LAU, MITCHELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Human activity is wiping out global insect populations. Habitat destruction, rising temperatures from climate disruption and pesticide and fertilizer use all play a part.

This is dangerous. When the bottom of the food chain is in trouble, so is everything up the chain — including us!

The good news is that we can all restore and conserve natural spaces, starting with our yards and neighbourhoods.

Thanks to you, hundreds of volunteer Butterflyway Rangers continue to create highways of habitat in parks and schoolyards, on rooftops and balconies, and along roadsides and railway lines.

Last year, the citizen-led Butterflyway Project (and its sister L'effet Papillon in Quebec) planted more than 24,000 native wildflowers in more than 400 gardens.

This year, you're helping:

- Provide in-person training for Rangers in Burnaby, the District of North Vancouver, Richmond, South Surrey, Vancouver and West Vancouver, B.C., and in Scarborough, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec.
- Train Rangers online from 40 new communities.
- Distribute free wildflower kits to schools in 15 Canadian cities.



Insect populations have dropped by 45 per cent over the past 40 years.



Nearly all flowering plants and the food webs they support, including people, depend on insects.



Over 95 per cent of ground-based birds like bobwhites, burrowing owls and quail depend on insects to feed their young.



You're now 46 per cent less likely to see a bumblebee anywhere in North America than you would have before 1974.



## MEET THE BUTTERFLYWAY RANGERS

These are just a small sampling of the scores of eager volunteers all over Canada getting their hands dirty to bring back beneficial bugs.

### Ranger Judith Lam Tang

Edmonton, Alberta

In her first year as a Butterflyway Ranger, Judith planted perennials and shared seeds with friends, neighbours and her daughter's entire Girl Guide group! She's learning more about harvesting and sharing seeds, particularly from monarch butterfly-friendly milkweed.

### Ranger Roger Giraldeau

Boucherville, Quebec

Wildlife photographer and retired corporate vice-president Roger began planting milkweed seeds in his neighbourhood. He offered some to his local golf course, which asked for hundreds of plants. So Roger bought a greenhouse and grew 6,500 milkweed plants from seed, eventually distributing them all over Quebec.

## WHO'S THE GREENEST OF THEM ALL?

*"It's critical that people champion climate action in their communities and get others to take steps every day. Those little actions add up to a big difference."*

DAVID SUZUKI

Since 2014, our Montreal office has awarded its annual Prix Demain to deserving, community-led environmental projects in Quebec.

Previous winners École Lévesque Saint-Donat's school project included composting, raising chickens, distributing and planting fruit trees, outdoor classes, an educational garden, a collective kitchen and an environmental day organized by student council.



These projects are an excellent example of communities coming together and creating innovative ideas that could make big environmental impact.

We're expanding to Ontario, in English, with the Suzuki Future First Prize later this year. We're hoping to roll this project out nationwide. More to come soon!

## COURT WIN FOR OCEANS

Endangered North Atlantic whales, threatened fish and sea turtles and fishing and tourism industries depend on the Gulf of Lawrence. But climate change and pollution threaten them all.

Expanding fossil fuel development only adds to this burden. It's the opposite of what Canada needs to do in the face of the climate crisis.

Thanks to you, we've been fighting a proposed oil project in the Gulf of St. Lawrence since 2008. On January 15, a Newfoundland and Labrador court invalidated the Old Harry licence to drill in the gulf, and it reverted to the Canadian public.

We've demanded an end to this project for more than a decade, along with scientists, Indigenous leaders and members of coastal communities. In 2010, seismic blasting — which makes life difficult for species that use sound to navigate — was permitted while endangered blue whales were migrating in the area! And despite our protests, the licence to drill was extended in 2017.

In its decision, the court agreed with us that the offshore petroleum board was wrong to extend the licence beyond its legal limit.

This is a win we can all be proud of. It's thanks to the resilient, dedicated support of people like you that we can continue to stand up for Canada's waterways.



PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER MICHEL

With your help, we'll keep campaigning to demand that government secures marine protected areas that prohibit resource exploration and extraction.

Canada committed to protecting 10 per cent of its oceans by 2020. Only one per cent of the St. Lawrence River is protected. Raise your voice for Canada's oceans at [davidsuzuki.org/action/canadas-oceans-need-support](https://davidsuzuki.org/action/canadas-oceans-need-support).



## COACHING CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

One of the most important things people can do about climate change is talk about it. But having constructive conversations with people who don't agree with us — without sparking heated debate — is hard.

We wanted to help communities have effective and constructive conversations. Meet CliMate, a fun, easy, interactive online chatbot that teaches people to listen to each other, build empathy and find common ground.

CliMate is rooted in science and draws on expertise in social and political psychology. Launched in December, it's already trained more than 5,300 people online. It's also being used in webinar trainings and at in-person events. Now we're translating it into French!

While CliMate will help you have less polarized conversations about climate change, it can also be useful for any potentially divisive topics. Check it out at [davidsuzuki.org/climate-conversation-coach](https://davidsuzuki.org/climate-conversation-coach).



## NATURE TO THE RESCUE!

The world is facing twin environmental crises: climate change and biodiversity loss. At the same time, Canadian municipal infrastructure is aging, capital costs are rising and service delivery is strained by growing populations. We need to reduce emissions and lower demand on crumbling built infrastructure.

With your help, we hosted the Nature-Based Climate Solutions Summit in Ottawa in February to promote these solutions.

More than 400 people attended the event — including representatives from government (such as Jonathan Wilkinson, federal minister of

environment and climate change), business, academia and conservation and Indigenous groups — to share knowledge and pave the way to solutions. It showcased successful Canadian examples, from wetland protection to natural assets included in municipal infrastructure budgets. And our 95 short videos were seen more than 126,000 times.

Watch all the presentations at [nature-basedclimatesolutions.ca/](https://nature-basedclimatesolutions.ca/).

Canada has 28 per cent of Earth's boreal zone, which includes 25 per cent of the world's wetlands. We owe it to the world to respect, restore and conserve

these landscapes. With your support, we'll continue pushing government at all levels to commit the funds necessary to meet species protection, climate control and reconciliation goals.

### WHY NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS MATTER

One in five people in Canada faces some flood risk.

Almost two million Canadian households are at high flooding risk.

Canadians shoulder about \$600 million each year in flood-related losses.

## MAPPING MARINE CONSERVATION

The glistening body of water people marvel at as they travel the Sea-to-Sky Highway from West Vancouver to Whistler, B.C., is more than just visually stunning. It's teeming with life — home to glass sponge reefs, eelgrass beds, salmon-bearing streams, dolphins, orcas and humpback whales.

**With your help, we created a conservation map of the ecologically rich fiord that borders Vancouver: Atl'ka7sem/Howe Sound. On March 5, you helped us host an event to show it off.**

The map features more than 140 layers of data, ranging from estuaries to shipping routes, herring spawning grounds to

log-sorting sites. It also uses computer modelling to highlight marine biodiversity hot spots and recommends 34 candidate areas for protection and management.

Combined with outreach to community groups, the map helps promote the next stage of Howe Sound's remarkable marine rebirth. After decades of pollution from mining, pulp and paper and other industries that pushed many species to the brink, marine life is once again burgeoning in the sound.

This recovering ecosystem could be an ecological oasis for Metro Vancouver's millions of residents and visitors. We must make sure we protect it.

## CLEAR YOUR SPACE, CLEAR YOUR HEAD

Spending more time at home is an opportunity to declutter and reorganize. Clearing space in our homes — and minds — feels great! Here's a list to get you started:

1. **BEDROOM** Starting in a corner, clear off one surface at a time.
2. **HOME OFFICE** Clear everything off your desk except your computer. Choose three items you must have within arm's reach. Sort the rest into three piles: review, donate, recycle/toss.
3. **KITCHEN** Look for “forgotten” things tucked away in hard-to-reach places.
4. **CLOSET** Go through your clothes, shoes and accessories and bag up what you no longer use or need.
5. **PET GOODS** Rescue organizations need animal-transport crates, old towels, leashes and dishes.

To protect their staff and the people they serve, many charities that normally accept goods donations are closed. Find a spot in your home to store the stuff you plan to donate for now.



## POWER TO THE PEOPLE PROMOTES INDIGENOUS-LED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

*Power to the People* is a 13-part docuseries on APTN hosted by former David Suzuki fellow and internationally acclaimed environmentalist Melina Laboucan-Massimo. It explores the Indigenous-led clean energy revolution taking place throughout Canada — a “hope-filled glimpse into a post-carbon future,” as show creator Carmen Henriquez said.

“Given the widespread pressure on government and business leaders to solve the climate crisis, Indigenous communities across Canada have taken control of their future by adopting clean energy technologies,” Laboucan-Massimo said. “*Power to the People* shows how building more resilient communities is key to the survival of Indigenous communities and humanity as a whole. And we can start by shifting our dollars to build more clean, renewable energy projects.”

Each half-hour episode highlights Indigenous communities with successful projects from wind farms, solar power micro grids and micro hydroelectric projects to geothermal initiatives. Viewers learn about each community's environmental



challenges and the benefits of and science behind clean technologies.

The show premiered in January and is broadcast in Cree and English. Learn more at [powertothepeople.tv](http://powertothepeople.tv).

Follow *Power to the People* on social media:

Instagram: @pptp.tv (follow Melina at melina\_miyowapan)

Facebook: @PowertothePeople.TV

## 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.

219–2211 West 4th Ave.  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V6K 4S2  
1-800-453-1533 • [davidsuzuki.org](http://davidsuzuki.org)

### Contributors

Anna Bidmead, Charlotte Burke, Lindsay Coulter, Diego Creimer, Brendan Glauser, Panos Grames, Ian Hanington, Winnie Hwo, Gail Mainster, Karel Mayrand, Tory Nairn, Jode Roberts, Olga Shuvalova, Jodi Stark, David Suzuki

### Design and Production

Sarah Krzyzek

### Co-Founders

Tara Cullis, David Suzuki

### Board of Directors

Stephen Bronfman (Vice-Chair, Quebec), Tara Cullis (President and Co-founder), Pauline d'Amboise, Ginger Gibson (Secretary), Peter Ladner (Past Chair), Miles Richardson, John Ruffolo (Vice-Chair, Ontario), Simone Sangster (Treasurer), Leonard Schein (Vice-Chair, B.C.), David Schindler, Margot Young (Chair)

### Chief Executive Officer

Stephen Cornish

### Program, Regional and Administrative Directors

Janice Allardyce (Finance and Technology), Yannick Beaudoin (Ontario and Northern Canada), Ian Bruce (COO), Karel Mayrand (Quebec and Atlantic Canada), Kristen Milliron (Development and Strategic Partnerships), Jay Ritchlin (B.C. and Western Canada), Jo Rolland (Digital and Technology)

### Charitable number

Canada: BN 127756716RR0001  
US: 94-3204049



## Changing Tides: An Ecologist's Journey to Make Peace with the Anthropocene

Alejandro Frid / NEW SOCIETY PUBLISHERS

The birth of his daughter in 2004 and his work as an ecologist with coastal First Nations inspired Alejandro Frid to explore how we can find a sense of place and belonging that will help us value and protect the natural systems on which our lives and well-being depend. It's a challenge because most of us lack that connection. Through his articulate and heartfelt writing, along with illustrations gifted by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas and compelling photos, Frid offers hope and inspiration for challenging times.



## Beyond Climate

A film by Ian Mauro, narrated by David Suzuki

Ian Mauro, an environmental scientist, geographer and filmmaker at the University of Winnipeg, takes viewers past the headlines and into the heart of the climate challenges and opportunities facing British Columbia in this award-winning film. From Haida Gwaii to Kelowna, Vancouver and Whistler to Mount Robson, we hear from people whose stories will inspire all those working for a better world. The film is available for free at [beyondclimate.ca](http://beyondclimate.ca).

## CURBING CLIMATE CHAOS AT COP25

The United Nations leads annual international Conference of the Parties summits to solve climate change problems. **You made it possible for our staff members to attend the critical COP25 climate change conference last December in Madrid, Spain.**

As reported in the media, the meeting didn't reflect the level of ambition the global climate emergency needs.

Some rich countries prevented agreement on a mechanism to secure money for adaptation in developing countries and create a global carbon market. Countries also failed to show ambition in reduction targets to be tabled at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland in November.

At the conference, our staff deflected Canadian natural gas industry attempts to get their exports counted as greenhouse gas reductions under a cap-and-trade system. They also highlighted the importance of incorporating Indigenous and human rights in any mechanism of international emissions trading.

David Suzuki spoke about the importance of protecting biodiversity and upholding Indigenous rights.

We'll continue highlighting real climate solutions for Canada and the world at the next COP event.



## A CHANCE TO RESET PRIORITIES

Despite technologies to occupy us during the COVID-19 lockdown, many people feel profound isolation, loneliness and boredom.

But this slowdown gives me time to play with my grandchildren, read and think about what's mattered most in my life, what's given me great joy and satisfaction, and where I hope the world might go after I'm gone.

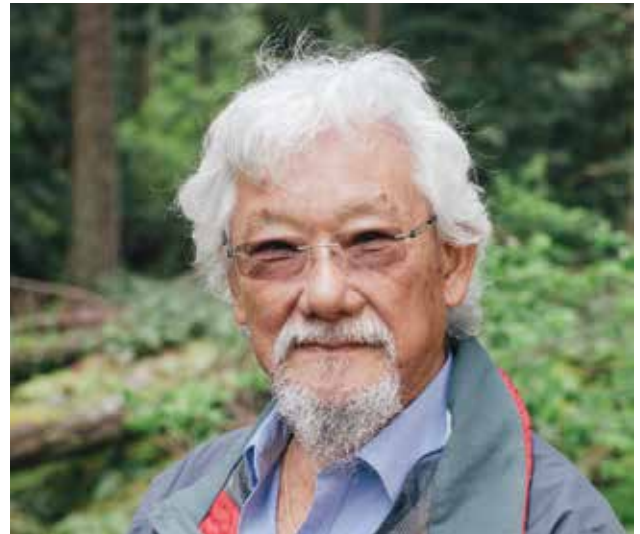
It's a challenge for all humans. As B.C.'s Indigenous people say, "We're all in the same canoe and we have to paddle together if we want to reach our goal."

Difficult as it is, this pandemic will subside and we'll learn some profound lessons from the experience. It may provide a chance to reset priorities and direction for ourselves and society.

My parents married in the 1930s during the Great Depression. Those were hard times, but Mom and Dad said that hard work, family and community got them through.

They told me repeatedly, "Work hard for the necessities in life, but you don't run after money as if having a new car, a big house or fancy clothes makes you a better or more important person." That's guided me all my life and I've drummed it into each of my children — that money isn't the goal of existence; the goal is a life well lived.

In this crisis moment, let's ask what an economy is for,



whether there are limits, how much is enough and whether we're happier with all this stuff.

Can we establish a far more modest agenda for ourselves filled with reverence for the rest of creation?

One of the most dramatic effects of humanity's COVID-19-induced slowdown has been nature's rapid response; clean air over China, fish in Venice canals and a raptor in my Vancouver backyard.

In this disaster lies an opportunity to reflect and change direction in the hope that if we do, nature will be far more generous than we deserve.

*From an op-ed originally published on the CBC website.*

## SUPPORT POLLINATORS BY PLANTING THE FLOWERS THEY LOVE!

Choose from a selection of seeds that are perfect to plant where you are, find out more here: <https://store.davidsuzuki.org/>

Proceeds will support the Butterflyway Project and power volunteer Butterflyway Rangers who are creating pollinator pathways throughout the country.

