



# A pandemic recovery for people *and* planet

After months of disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic, many people want to get back to “normal.” But “normal” means continued climate disruption and species extinction, growing inequalities and increasing pollution and health risks.

“Normal” wasn’t working for most people or the planet.  
*We can and must do better.*

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

**You’re supporting a growing movement for a green recovery that pushes Canada to invest in a pathway to a safer, sustainable, just future. You’re helping people imagine a brighter tomorrow that puts people and planet before profits AND showing them how to get there.**

The movement calls on Canada to apply “green strings” to federal money invested in Canadian companies, provinces and municipalities to ensure they:

- Have measurable plans to reduce emissions to net-zero by 2050.

- Move Canada away from fossil fuel dependency and toward renewable energy.
- Support workers, including training people for the emerging green economy.

You fuelled our participation in Just Recovery for All. Its principles include putting people’s health and well-being first, building resilience against future crises and upholding Indigenous rights.

You also helped 23,790 people send messages to federal leaders urging them to include nature and climate — the cornerstones of our well-being and economy — in Canada’s pandemic recovery plan. Thousands are flooding social media with the hashtags of our broad-based coalitions, #BuildBackBetter and #BetterThanNormal.

As the momentum for a green, just post-pandemic recovery grows, you’re ensuring government puts people and the planet first!





## BUTTERFLYWAYS BLOOM FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA TO NEWFOUNDLAND

As humans sheltered in place, nature rejoiced. And, with your support, our Butterflyway Project flew even further.

- We led online training for 251 new Butterflyway Rangers from 134 communities throughout Canada. These volunteers committed to plant pollinator-friendly gardens *and* recruit five friends and neighbours.
- Representatives from 265 schools attended monthly educational webinars we hosted for our Butterflyway Schools pilot project — teaching children the importance of pollinators and helping wildlife helps keep this work going for generations to come.

- More than 12,000 people pledged to create backyard bee habitat as Bee-bnb Superhosts.
- One hundred households in Ontario studied wild bees to support University of Toronto Scarborough research. B.C.-based citizen scientists tracked local butterflies with iNaturalist.

The Butterflyway community continues to grow from strength to strength. Not only do these groups protect pollinators, they're also building community in their areas and educating others.

Visit Butterflyways where you live. Find them here:  
[bit.ly/butterflyway](https://bit.ly/butterflyway)

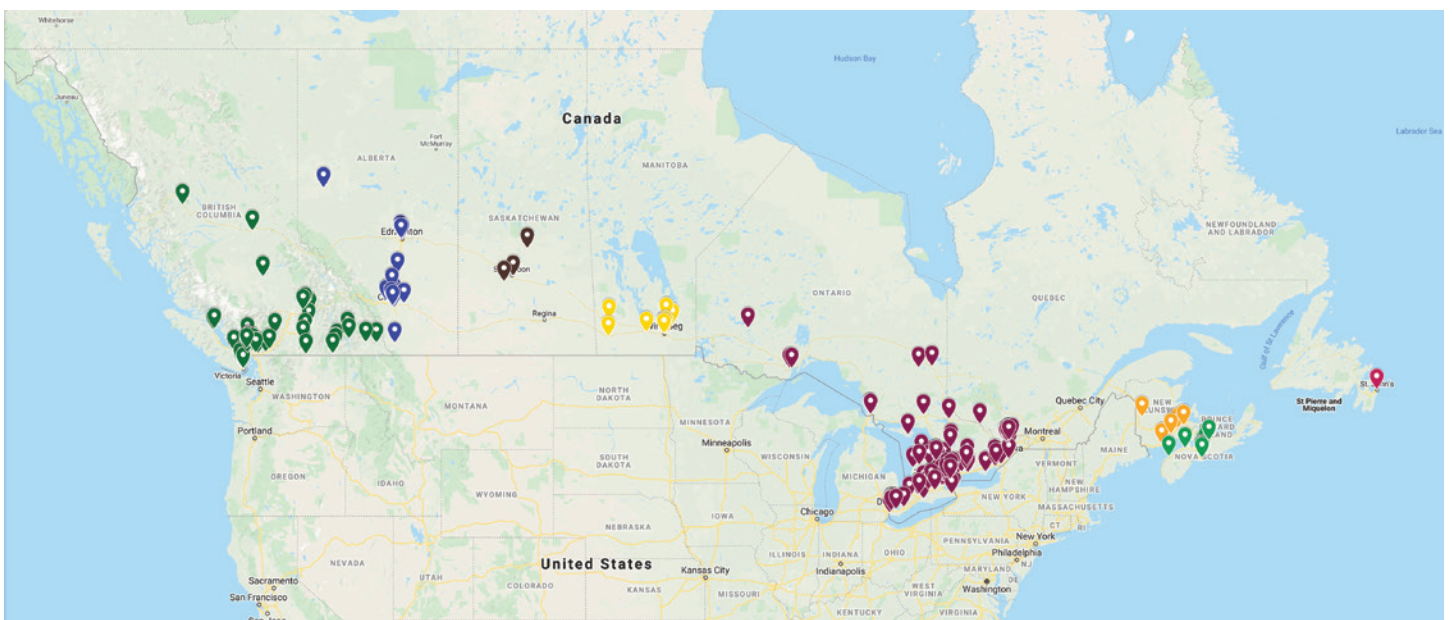






PHOTO: ROBIN LOZNAK

## IN COURT FOR THEIR FUTURE

Young people are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

Impacts they experience include coastal erosion destroying family property, asthma worsened by wildfire smoke, illness transmitted by insects whose ranges have been expanded by global heating and crippling anxiety about the dying planet.

**Since October 2019, you helped 15 young people from Canada file a lawsuit against the federal government for violating their charter rights by contributing to and perpetuating dangerous climate change.**

Over the past year, you powered:

- Their October 25 lawsuit announcement at a Vancouver climate rally attended by some 120,000 people, supported by Greta Thunberg.
- The plaintiffs' statement of claim.
- Public and media engagement sessions and communications training for the youth and their families in November and January.

The Government of Canada released its statement of defence on February 13. It acknowledged that climate change is real, that it has significant negative impact on people in Canada and that addressing climate change is "of central importance to the Canadian government."

In May, it changed course and is now trying to have the case thrown out.

Since the COVID-19 shutdown, you've backed:

- Ongoing biweekly online meetings with the plaintiffs for legal updates and communications training.
- Work to build the plaintiffs' profiles and prepare them for a public hearing scheduled for September 30 to October 1.

It's a long road ahead. But with your help, we'll continue to support these young people. Their future depends on it.



PHOTO: ROBIN LOZNAK



# GETTING INTO #NATUREATHOME

You powered innovative new ways for people to stay connected during lockdown — with nature and each other.

The #NatureatHome social media challenge brought people together to:



PHOTO: JODE ROBERTS

**SPOT CLOUDS** Participants shared photos of weird and wonderful shapes they saw in the clouds. (Canadian celebrity Ryan Reynolds joined in the fun!)



PHOTO: JODE ROBERTS

## LOOK FOR NATURE IN THE CRACKS

“Rebel botanists” chalked names of common (but often unnoticed) plants found growing in their neighbourhoods.



PHOTO: JODE ROBERTS

## JOIN THE FIRST-EVER GREAT CANADIAN CAMP-IN

More than 9,000 households took part, sharing over 3,000 photos and comments. They pitched tents in living rooms and backyards. David Suzuki and Severn Cullis-Suzuki read campfire stories. Girl Guides of Canada co-hosted.

# AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY ACTION

Moving Canada away from climate-altering fossil fuels and into renewable sources requires more than top-down policy change. We need collective action by many people in many communities.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, between 50 and 70 per cent of climate solutions grow from the ground up.

**To amplify the meaningful work local groups are doing in their communities and to connect them to each other, you're helping build Future Ground Network/Réseau Demain le Québec. It's an online organizing resource, and the environmental community's convener and mentor.**

Your support powers:

- Monthly training webinars for community organizers, on topics including transitioning beyond COVID-19, organizer burnout, how to have difficult conversations, government relations and campaign strategizing.
- Resource guides about creative team building, fundraising and social media.
- Recruitment and training of volunteer specialists to help with tech support, design and youth engagement.

The project is piloting in Ontario and Quebec. Groups gather on its new



Future Ground Network's reach in its Year 1 pilot.

digital platform to promote their work, start local initiatives, host events and push for policy change. At the time of writing, 36 groups were registered. That's more than 700 people connecting with tens of thousands of people in their communities.

## KEEPING COOL AT HOME

Climate change means warmer than normal temperatures extending into autumn. And with many people taking “stay-cations,” a full house can raise energy consumption *and* costs.

Try these tips to cool your home and save energy:

1. **COOL THE PERSON, NOT THE SPACE** Try a cold drink and a personal fan. Wrap ice cubes in a cloth and tie it around your neck. Find a shady spot outside.
2. **EASE OFF THE AIR CONDITIONING** Shed some clothing layers instead. Set your a/c temperature a smidge higher. Even two or three degrees will save up to ten per cent on your monthly energy bill.
3. **CLOSE BLINDS AND CURTAINS** Direct sunlight heats things up and makes a/c's work harder. Reduce solar heat gain by adjusting blinds throughout the day.
4. **TAKE AN OVEN BREAK** Prepare foods that don't require cooking, like salads and sandwiches. Try cooking smaller portions in a toaster oven or microwave. Eat outside.



5. **REDUCE DAYTIME USE OF LARGE APPLIANCES** Run your dishwasher and clothes dryer overnight —even better, air dry clothes.
6. **CHANGE A/C FILTERS** Dirty filters restrict airflow, making the a/c work harder. Replace disposable or wash reusable filters at least every three months.

## BIKE LANES SURGE AHEAD

Fewer cars on roads helps tackle the climate crisis, improve air quality and save lives — human and other species'.

During lockdown, people stayed indoors or close to home. Cities and towns throughout Canada converted a number of roads to bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly spaces. Bicycle sales boomed!

In May, Toronto city council voted to create 25 kilometres of new bike lanes, in addition to 15 kilometres already approved. **The *Toronto Star* called it the “largest single-year buildout of on-street cycling infrastructure in Toronto’s history.” This is a huge win and you helped make it possible.**

You:

- Commissioned a poll that found almost 80 per cent of city residents support protected bike lanes.
- Fuelled meetings with city councillors to show how bike lanes bust congestion and clean the air.
- Powered work with doctors' and nurses' groups to make the case that bike lanes save lives.



- Provided the online platform where more than 5,000 people sent supportive emails to Toronto mayor and councillors.

In pandemic recovery phases, city planners are keeping bike lanes open and creating more.

This is a great start. But more protected bike lanes are needed. Many streets, particularly in suburbs, aren't safe for cyclists. With your help, we'll continue pushing for a city-wide Toronto bike lane network.

# FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Since 2017, you've helped three cohorts of David Suzuki Fellows dig deep into critical environmental issues. Beside benefitting from Foundation staff expertise, here's what they said about this opportunity:



## ANNABEL WEBB, ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS FELLOW

"I've been able to jump on urgent opportunities to use international human rights law for environmental and climate justice, such as bringing national attention to violations against Wet'suwet'en land defenders and bolstering the youth climate lawsuit via the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child."

## MELINA LABOUCAN-MASSIMO, INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

"The fellowship allowed me to visit and document climate solutions that Indigenous communities are implementing based on our traditional knowledge merged with new technologies. Many are featured in my *Power to the People* television series, and I'm creating a *Just Transition Guide* to inspire other communities to implement more Indigenous climate solutions."



## JÉRÔME LAVIOLETTE, TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

"My fellowship launched a discussion about people's psychological and cultural attachment to cars. I'm showing that, in addition to changing the way we plan our streets, neighbourhoods and transportation systems to offer more alternatives, we also need to work on changing attitudes towards cars to make them less socially and emotionally attractive."

## TARA MAHONEY, CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS

"The fellowship helped me focus on the intersection of climate change and millennials. I've hosted webinars, workshops, podcast interviews and presentations to organizations, the public and university classes. I'm excited about increasing exposure of my research by re-purposing elements of my report as bite-sized pieces on social media."





## 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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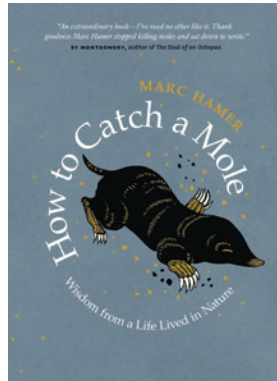
Canada: BN 127756716RR0001  
US: 94-3204049



## Hey Little Rockabye

Buffy Sainte-Marie / GREYSTONE KIDS

Through decades of powerful music and activism, Buffy Sainte-Marie has devoted her life to making the world a better place. That includes rescuing animals. Her first picture book contains lyrics to a song she wrote to comfort rescue animals when they arrive from the shelter. With the song available for listening at [buffysainte-marie.com](http://buffysainte-marie.com), kids and adults can read the book or sing along while enjoying Ben Hodson's charming illustrations.



## How to Catch a Mole

Marc Hamer / GREYSTONE

Marc Hamer was a mole catcher — among other things. One day he decided to stop trapping the creatures and learn more about them. In this literary non-fiction work, subtitled *Wisdom from a Life Lived in Nature*, Hamer explores the wonders and wisdom of nature through his own peripatetic outdoor life and that of the fascinating burrowing mole. It's a poetic and original journey.

# A FUTURE FOR EVERYONE

Creating a charitable legacy through your will is a powerful way to express your values and continue your support for nature — and for generations to come.

Legacy donor Victor gets peace and sense of belonging from spending time outdoors. “Most people don’t realize the depth of our relationship with nature,” he said.

He’s proud to support the Foundation’s wide range of projects that protect nature while encompassing technology, human behaviour, and Indigenous rights and traditional knowledge. “We must work from multiple fronts to create solutions that complement each other and that consider everyone.”

Young and healthy, Victor and his wife decided to leave a gift to the Foundation in their will. Like most parents, they care about protecting their two sons, but they



also care about nature. They wanted to do both. “We immediately thought of the David Suzuki Foundation,” he said. “After our kids, ensuring a future for everyone was the most sensible thing to do.”

If you’re interested in making a legacy gift that helps today and into the future please contact [legacy@davidsuzuki.org](mailto:legacy@davidsuzuki.org)

## THE PANDEMIC UNMASKS WHAT'S POSSIBLE

COVID-19 has created hardship, especially for the most vulnerable. But it's also given us a glimpse of what's possible. It's shown that we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. It's demonstrated that we can work differently. It shows that co-operation and altruism will get us through.

But a pandemic isn't a solution to climate chaos. We can and must change our ways. Hyper-consumption, car culture and burning fossil fuels are putting our future at risk.

It's time to rethink economic systems that were adopted in the mid-20th century when resources were plentiful and built infrastructure was lacking. The human population was much smaller then, and the U.S. promoted consumerism as a way to keep the postwar boom going. Now it's time to conserve energy and shift to cleaner sources, to help workers in sunset industries train for and find employment in industries that will shape our future. It's time to rethink the ways and hours we work, now that technology has entered every sphere of our work lives.

So many solutions could be implemented immediately — from a four-day workweek to maintaining road closures and restricting car traffic.



When one per cent of humanity owns almost half the world's wealth, and that one per cent is largely behind the push to get the economy rolling no matter the human cost, then we know change is necessary.

Tackling the pandemic is a start to addressing the other crises we face, including climate disruption and species extinction. We can't afford to miss the opportunity.

## WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

*"I've learned that much of what we've dedicated this work to requires enduring vigilance. That's why David and I are Foundation legacy donors — for our children and grandchildren. They are our conscience and our inspiration."*

TARA CULLIS

We can all make a lasting impact on what we care about. A gift in your will to the Foundation is a gift of hope for future generations. It will safeguard species, habitat — entire ecosystems. It will fight for every person in Canada's right

to breathe clean air, drink safe water and eat toxic free food. It will support urgent, innovative solutions to the greatest threat to life as we know it: climate chaos.

When you include us in your estate plans, you're safeguarding Earth's life-support systems for people today, tomorrow and into the future — thank you.

Contact Tory Nairn if you're interested in learning more about making a legacy gift at [legacy@davidsuzuki.org](mailto:legacy@davidsuzuki.org)