



Farewell and thanks from Stephen Cornish

You may already know that I have resigned as David Suzuki Foundation CEO.

COVID-19, which upended all our lives, has sparked humanitarian crises worldwide, leaving millions in need of support. To help address this massive challenge, I've accepted the role of general director of the Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières operational centre in Geneva, Switzerland.

I'm proud of my three years at DSF and the many milestone achievements you made possible. These include Salish Sea orca protection measures; carbon pricing court case victories; ambitious municipal climate plans; a charted pathway for Canada's renewable energy future; groundbreaking research on methane; Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area partnerships; unprecedented Fridays for Future youth climate marches (notably Greta Thunberg's visits in Montreal and Vancouver); and the federal government's initiative to meet

emissions reduction targets, grow the economy and build resilience to a changing climate. The list goes on.

It's truly a heart-wrenching decision to step away, but one I feel I must make. This unexpected change of course is less about leaving and more about answering a call to help the world cope with COVID-19.

This unique moment in history presents challenges and opportunities. Thanks to you, the movement to protect what we need to survive is growing every day. More and more people are raising their voices to ensure a green, just, resilient and sustainable future for Canada.

I'm honoured and humbled to have had the opportunity to steward your generous gifts and protect nature in partnership with you. Thank you for your continued dedication to this organization and the environmental movement.

Stephen Cornish

AMPLIFYING “GAPTIVISTS”

“Gaptivists” are young leaders taking time off from study to focus on activism.

You made it possible for four of these amazing environmental leaders to dedicate 12 weeks each to work with the Foundation on the climate issues they care about.

We’re looking forward to welcoming them. Our goal is help amplify their diverse voices and better support their contemporaries. And they have so much to teach us!

MEET THE GAPTIVISTS

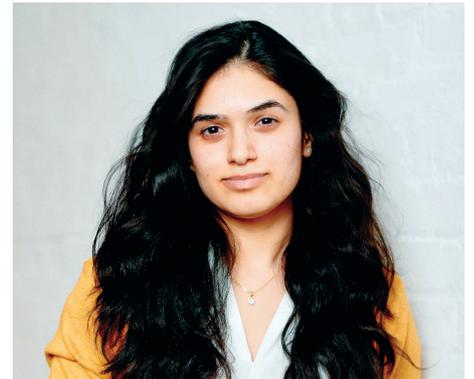


Based in Tiohtià:ke (Montreal), **Albert** is one of the young climate plaintiffs taking the federal government to court. He’s also a member of La CÈVES (the Student Coalition for an Environmental and Social Shift).

PHOTO: FÉLIX LEGAULT-DIGNARD

Divya is co-founder of Community Climate Council, a youth-led organization in Ontario’s Peel Region, interested in providing community residents, especially youth, equitable access to consultations for development and implementation of local policies.

PHOTO: PATRICK LEUNG



In 2019, **Rebecca** was a moderator for David Suzuki and Stephen Lewis’s *Climate First Tour* and helped lead the largest climate march in Vancouver. She’s a member of the youth climate justice movement Sustainabiliteens and also worked with Charged Up, our climate and clean energy project.

PHOTO: TREVOR LEACH

Sustainabiliteens organizer and self-described climate justice advocate **Sam** works on sustainability conferences and local Vancouver initiatives. Her goal is to make the world a more just, equitable place for all.

PHOTO: ALICIA HOLOWNIA





PHOTO: ROBIN LOZNAK VIA OUR CHILDREN'S TRUST

GIVING YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A LIFETIME

This fall, your support made it possible for 15 young people to head to Canada's Federal Court. Their goal: to force urgent and effective climate action.

These children are desperately concerned about the world they're inheriting. **Your generosity is helping to amplify their voices.**

Sadly, on October 27, Justice Michael D. Manson ruled their case won't go to trial. He said the questions raised "are so political that the Courts are incapable or unsuited to deal with them."

This is disappointing news for the young plaintiffs. Like us, I'm sure you'll share their disappointment.

Climate disruption is not just a political issue. It's a matter of survival.

But these 15 climate champions remain determined. Now, your support will back their next step: the Federal Court of Appeal. "If courts can't rule in favour of justice, then who can?" asked Albert, one of the plaintiffs.

Without your committed support, none of this would have been possible. These brave young people were moved and encouraged by the 6,000 heartfelt messages of support they received from our community.

They are optimistic about an appeal. Stay tuned for updates.

From all of us — and from them — **thank you.**

It's not too late to add your message of support for the plaintiffs: To read more visit: bit.ly/32VrEWb

HELPING CITIZENS PROMOTE CLIMATE-READY CITIES

“What our cities do individually and in unison to address climate change can set the agenda for communities and governments everywhere.”

~ C40 CITIES CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP*



PHOTO: MALKEET SANDHU

Canada is not on track to meet its commitment to reduce emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. And to meet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s 1.5 C warming limit and avert the worst consequences of global heating, **we need far more ambitious targets.**

The good news: Municipalities are taking action. And you powered a guide to help citizens work with their local councils.

The Citizen’s Guide to Climate Action will help people:

- Envision the future they want for their community.
- Learn about the big solutions that will help reduce emissions.
- Understand how local governments work and how to work with them.
- Connect with like-minded climate advocates where they live.
- Stay inspired with stories from communities throughout Canada.

About 80 per cent of people in Canada live in cities. Municipalities have

influence over about 50 per cent of the country’s emissions.

Citizens’ voices are powerful. Elected council members are responsible to their constituents. Thanks to you, this online guide will help connect like-minded people so they can work together.

**The 97 C40 Cities represent more than 700 million people and one-quarter of the global economy. Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal are members.*

COUNTING DOWN TO PODCAST LAUNCH

This pandemic has launched a mini podcast boom. Thanks to you, we had ours planned months before COVID-19 hit, and pivoted quickly to make outstanding lockdown listening material.

Season 1 of *The David Suzuki Podcast*, “COVID-19 and the basic elements of life,” launches December 2. Its five episodes are fire, air, water, earth and spirit. Each features a David Suzuki

monologue on the episode’s theme, a feature interview, a DSF expert interview and music by Canadian and Indigenous artists.

EPISODE 1: FIRE

Jane Fonda, interviewed by Ian Mauro and Sherry Yano

EPISODE 2: AIR

Kwame McKenzie and Jennifer Keesmaat, interviewed by Gideon Forman

EPISODE 3: WATER

Autumn Peltier, Allie Rougeot and Jeannette Armstrong, interviewed by Jay Ritchlin

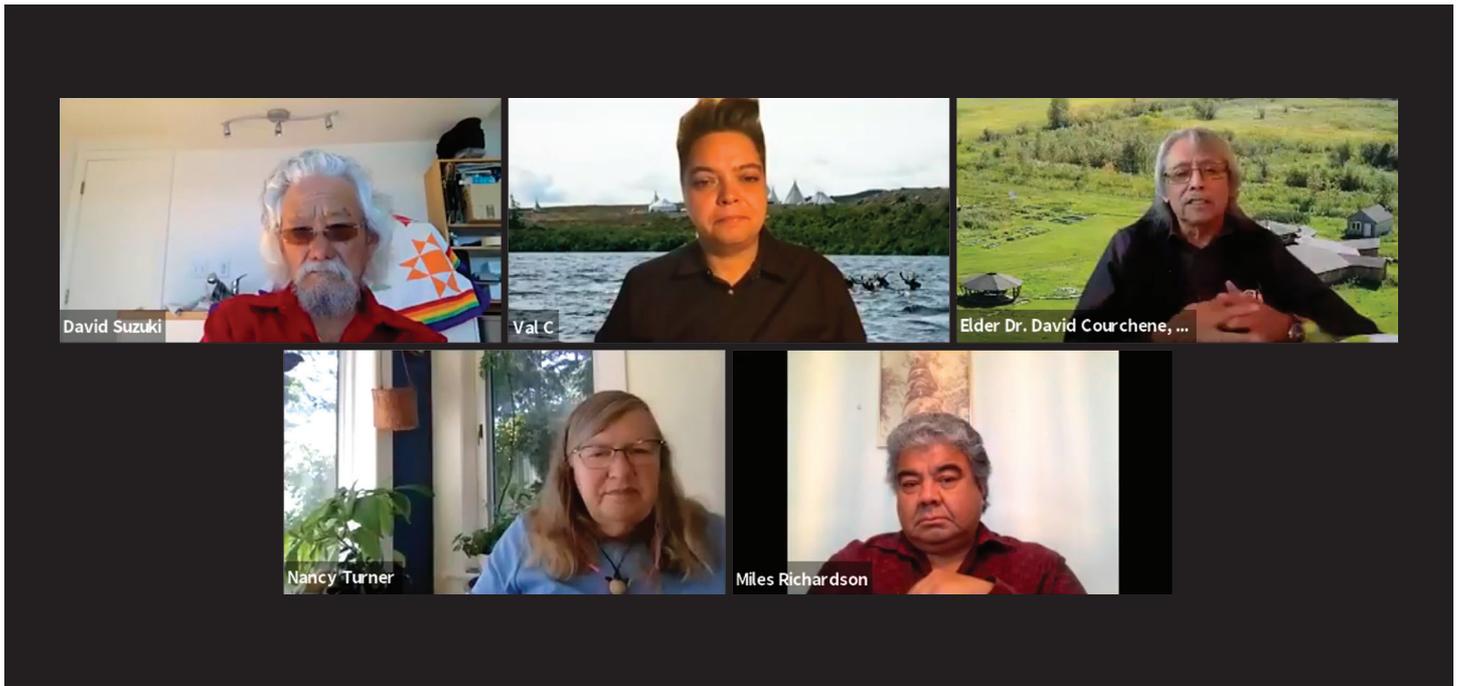
EPISODE 4: EARTH

Winona LaDuke and Attracta Mooney, interviewed by Melissa Mollen-Dupuis

EPISODE 5: SPIRIT

Neil Young, interviewed by Tara Cullis

Check our website for more information.



Valérie Courtois (top row, middle) facilitated the first *Ways of Knowing* online event — “Why reconciling ways of knowing?” — with David Suzuki, David Courchene, Nancy Turner and DSF board member Miles Richardson.

FINDING COMMON GROUND: SCIENCE AND TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

You supported *Reconciling Ways of Knowing*, a groundbreaking Indigenous knowledge and science forum.

For generations, Western knowledge has invalidated Indigenous Peoples’ ways of being and knowing. Science has dominated Canadian society and decision-making across the globe.

Reconciling Ways of Knowing brings together Indigenous knowledge and science and builds relationships between Indigenous knowledge keepers and scientists. It aims to transform environmental stewardship approaches and solutions, and open pathways to live in greater balance with the planet and each other.

Catch all the dialogues at waysofknowingforum.ca. (Click on “online” in the upper right corner.)

EPISODE 1: “WHY RECONCILING WAYS OF KNOWING?”

Dave Courchene speaks to humanity’s collective spiritual crisis and the need for change if our species is to survive. Panelists David Suzuki, Nancy Turner and Miles Richardson underscore the importance of beginning and continuing important projects with Indigenous knowledge keepers.

EPISODE 2: “ENACTING ETHICAL SPACE IN KNOWLEDGE SHARING”

The panel (Kelly Bannister, Dave Courchene, Elmer Ghostkeeper, Viki Kelly, Ira Provost, Gleb Raygorodetsky and Karin Smith-Fargey) explores Indigenous ethics and knowledge and the “space of possibility” that exists between different spheres of culture.

EPISODE 3: “BRAIDING WAYS OF KNOWING”

Davie Courchene, Miles Richardson, David Suzuki and Katherine Whitecloud join Robin Wall Kimmerer and Nancy Turner for a conversation about nature as teacher and how we can all “pick up and carry one piece” of the weight of the world.

EPISODE 4: “TWO-EYED SEEING AND BEYOND”

Albert Marshall, Jacquie Miller, Jesse Popp, Andrea Reid and Deborah McGregor discuss *etuaptmumk* (two-eyed seeing), an idea that recognizes that better outcomes are more likely when two or more perspectives collaborate.



HARD CURRENCY FOR THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT

Amounts of money spent by governments to spur COVID-19 recovery may be some of the largest of our lifetime. Economists calculated that every \$20 invested in a green and just recovery would contribute a whopping \$307.85 to Canada’s gross domestic product over the next 10 years.

Thanks to you, we backed the Green New Bill, a national campaign to convince decision-makers of this enormous return on investment by “minting” the world’s first \$307.85 bill.

Using augmented reality on social media, participants pointed their smartphones at an image of a \$20 bill and watched it morph into this potential value.

It worked:

- People viewed the Green New Bill video more than 12,000 times.
- Nationwide media coverage included the *Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, *La Presse* and *Le Journal de Montréal*.
- The speech from the throne and Canada’s Infrastructure Bank announcements echoed the campaign’s ideas.

This strategic investment could help address the economic, environmental and equity crises. In 10 years, it can create millions of quality jobs, put Canada on the path to being carbon-free by 2050, and restore and support nature in the process.

QUEBEC HITS MARINE PROTECTION TARGET

In September, Quebec reached its goal of 10 per cent marine protected areas. And you helped power the countless videos, postcards, petitions, emails and sailing and diving trips that made this win possible.

This is a victory for threatened beluga whales and other life in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the St. Lawrence River estuary.

But optimal marine protection comes from networks, not just isolated areas. And further protections must enforce ways to reduce noise, impose shipping speed limits, curb boat traffic volume, and preclude any industrial resource exploration or extraction.

With your support, we’ll continue pushing for measures to protect the St. Lawrence and all of Canada’s rich marine heritage, from coast to coast to coast.



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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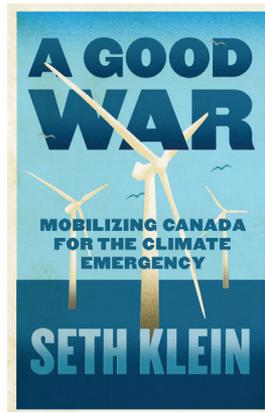
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A Good War

Seth Klein / ECW PRESS

Seth Klein explores how we can align our politics and economy with what the science says we must do to address the climate crisis. Klein brings an original and uniquely hopeful take to this challenge. The book is structured around lessons from the Second World War – the last time Canada faced an existential threat. Klein asks readers to consider who we want to be as we face down the defining task of our lives.

The Magnitude of All Things

Jennifer Abbott

This powerful, moving film conveys the magnitude of the growing crisis that humans brought about by failing to understand our sacred duty to the one world that sustains us — as well as the magnitude of nature and life. The film debuted at the Vancouver International Film Festival in September. It will be released more widely throughout Canada in 2021. Check out www.themagnitudeofallthings.com/ to view.

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

HUMILITY, CARING AND WISDOM MAKE A BETTER FUTURE POSSIBLE

As we consider the natural world, we must remember that how we talk about it matters.

Steven Nitah, former elected chief of Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and four-time member of the Northwest Territories legislative assembly, says shifting our language can help shift our understanding. "We need to re-do land use plans. We need to rebuild those plans as land-relationship plans," he says, urging us to re-imagine and re-orient our relationship with nature — to manage for abundance based on reciprocity and to recognize our responsibilities to the land, water and air.

We can no longer afford to listen to advocates of narrow self-interest or those who falsely claim that favouring the wealthy and powerful will send benefits trickling down to the rest. In Canada, the most affluent 0.5 per cent of families now holds 20.5 per cent of the wealth — some \$2.4 trillion — and income inequality continues to grow.

In her book *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, ethnobotanist, professor and Citizen Potawatomi Nation member Robin Wall Kimmerer encourages us to recognize the world as a gift. Humility, she says, will help us make better choices.



Stories have always helped humans make sense of the world, and Kimmerer says they're strong tools for restoring the land and our relationship to it, "for we are storymakers, not just storytellers."

We can choose humility, caring and wisdom based on knowledge gained from Indigenous Peoples, scientists and experts, and shoulder the responsibilities to each other and Earth through our actions — creating a better future for all. Or we can continue on as we have, knowing that the crises we face will worsen.

Humanity's ability to take the first path lies in the values we choose, the stories we tell ourselves and the strength of the relationships we are willing to build with each other and Earth.

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

