



## A WIN FOR WILD SALMON

PHOTO: JEFFREY YOUNG

During their miraculous but perilous journey from inland spawning grounds, down rivers, out to sea and back again years later, Pacific wild salmon often must run a gauntlet of open-net salmon farms on their coastal migration route. There they swim through waters that can harbour parasitic sea lice and harmful viruses and bacteria, made worse and spread by the farms.

In December, the federal government decided to phase out salmon farms in the Discovery Islands off the coast of British Columbia within 18 months — the first step toward Canada's commitment to move open net-pens out of the water by 2025. This gives juvenile fish migrating past the Discovery Islands a better chance of survival. Together with

**countless Indigenous leaders, community activists, scientists and elected officials you helped make this groundbreaking win possible.**

Decades of research show that the 19 Discovery Islands fish farms — located on one of the most important salmon migration routes in the world — pose a risk to wild salmon. The aquaculture industry's own data show 33 per cent of farms exceeded the federal government's sea lice limit while juvenile salmon were migrating past the Discovery Islands in spring 2020.

Phasing out these farms means Okisollo Channel — also called “Wild Salmon Narrows” because of its importance for juvenile salmon — will be free of farmed fish by the 2021 salmon migration period.

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ACTION

“There’s truth to the saying, ‘Think globally, act locally.’ To resolve a planetary crisis like climate disruption, we need change from the top, but without localized support, that’s difficult to achieve.”

~DAVID SUZUKI

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.

You helped build Future Ground Network/Réseau Demain le Québec. It’s an online organizing resource, and a new convener and mentor for the environmental community. It amplifies and accelerates the meaningful work of local groups in their communities and connects them to each other.

Your support powered:

- 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.

## RAVE FIRST REVIEWS

“I feel privileged to be part of the network, I feel recognized and listened to ... you have allowed me to hold on because I unfortunately had the desire for a certain period of time to drop my citizens’ committee but you have given me the courage to continue.”

~ VALÉRIE MESSIER, Comité des citoyens et citoyennes pour la protection de l’environnement maskoutain, (Les Maskoutains, Quebec)

“Not only can we benefit from the knowledge and insights of other organizers in the network, the tools and support you provide — instructive webinars, the Action Network organizing platform and access to Superteam resources — will make us more effective at getting the job done.”

~ HOLLY REID, Cycle Don Valley Midtown (Toronto, Ontario)

“I’ve raised a lot of alarms, and it’s the first time I’ve been heard...”

~ PATRICIA, SOS Boisé des Pinedes (Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec)

- Recruitment and training of volunteer specialists to help with tech support, design and grant-writing for community-led initiatives throughout the country.

The project was piloted in Ontario and Quebec and launched nationally on February 10, 2021. Groups gather on the new digital platform to promote their work, start local initiatives, host events and push for policy change. At the time of writing, more than 100 groups were registered. That’s more than 2,000 people connecting with tens of thousands in their communities.

Follow the progress you made possible or find a group to get involved with where you live at [futuregroundnetwork.org](http://futuregroundnetwork.org) for Future Ground Network and at [reseaudemainlequebec.org](http://reseaudemainlequebec.org) for Réseau Demain le Québec. If you missed the February 10 English launch webinar, you can catch that at <http://bit.ly/futuregroundwebinar>.



PHOTO: AL DOERKSEN VIA 50BY30 WATERLOO REGION

“Just being able to share our experiences — our successes and frustrations — is so valuable. Maybe we won’t all have to invent the wheel every time we undertake a project, knowing how others have done it.”

~ KATHRYN AITKEN, Transition Notre-Dame-de-Grace (Montreal, Quebec)

“Invaluable tools and resources, thought-provoking webinars, and connections with other environmental initiatives throughout the country ... a lot of potential for both individual and collective action.”

~ TASFIA AHSAN, ECHO Canada (Vancouver, B.C.)

“After hearing about how a lot of the other groups are meeting with politicians, we feel like larger-scale actions are possible! Your ‘difficult conversations’ webinar was the inspiration behind the climate dialogue we held with our community!”

~ MARIA NESTOROVSKA, Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (Mississauga, Ontario)

## INSPIRATION: THE GIANT STEPS OF THESE LOCAL SUPERHEROES

### SOWING JOY IN QUEBEC CITY

Beauport, Quebec City resident Marie-Claude Fontaine inspired 14 other families in her neighbourhood to come together to create a “flyé” (extraordinary) green space at the end of her street.

**Croque Ton Quartier** (“bite” your neighbourhood) quickly became a happy hub of connection. Residents installed swings, a sandbox, games, a book exchange and a community garden. They made it easy and fun for people to meet and raised awareness about how urban agriculture can contribute to food security.

When COVID-19 restricted public gatherings, the group shifted to visiting neighbours from a distance — sometimes dressed up as clowns and unicorns — sounding the Croque-mobile horn to bring smiles and break the isolation.



Croque Ton Quartier founder Marie-Claude Fontaine and her “Croque-mobile” help cheer residents in her Quebec City neighbourhood of Beauport.

PHOTO: PATRICK CÔTÉ, CROQUE TON QUARTIER

### MOBILIZING CITIZEN-LED CHANGE IN LAVAL

Two proposed real estate mega-projects on Île Gagnon and Place Sainte-Rose inspired residents to come together to make a difference as **Laval in Transition**.

Spokespersons Alexandre Warnet and Geneviève Dagneau asked, “What are the criteria — public and private — that would attract citizens’ enthusiastic support for a real estate or land development project?”

They formed a citizens’ committee with goals to reduce emissions, positively transform the community and help mitigate the climate crisis. It developed a social and environmental acceptability evaluation grid that



The citizens of Laval in Transition are joining forces to positively transform their community.

PHOTO: LAVAL EN TRANSITION

takes into account economic, cultural and ecological issues — and brought it to decision-makers. And in August, Laval rejected the Île Gagnon real estate project. Victory!

Their approach is now inspiring other citizen-led movements, which are using the same grid to promote their aspirations to their municipalities.

## A LANDMARK WIN FOR NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION



On March 25, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the federal government’s legal authority to implement national measures to combat climate change, including a price on carbon pollution. Canada can now respond to this emergency and comply with the Paris Agreement through an effective, fair, countrywide response based on science.

### You made this victory possible.

With your help, we’ve advocated for carbon pricing as a climate solution for 20 years, including:

- Leading the charge to establish North America’s first significant carbon price in B.C. in 2008.
- Fighting highly polarized provincial and federal elections on it.
- Spending the last three years on one of the most significant environmental cases ever considered by the Court.

In its decision, the Court affirmed that climate change is “a threat of the highest order to the country, and indeed the world... The undisputed existence of a threat to the future of humanity cannot be ignored.”

## WINNING PRAISE FOR POLLINATOR PASSION

Human activity — habitat destruction, climate disruption, toxic pesticides — is driving insects to extinction. When the bottom of the food chain is endangered, so too is everything up the chain, including people.

**The good news: communities can be hot spots for pollinators and other insects. And, thanks to you, residents are leading conservation efforts by adding pollinator patches via the Butterflyway Project.**

Since 2017, the Butterflyway Project has:

- Recruited and trained 1,008 volunteer Rangers throughout Canada.
- Planted more than 54,000 wildflowers.
- Established more than 1,000 community pollinator gardens, plus 250 in schoolyards.

- Hosted or taken part in more than 200 community events, plantings, parties, parades and potlucks.
- Created 15 neighbourhood Butterflyways.



**In November, the Butterflyway Project received the 2020 Nature Inspiration Award from the Canadian Museum of Nature. We donated the \$5,000 prize to the Indigenous Foods Network in Vancouver, the Native Women’s Association of Canada in Ottawa and the Ojibiikaan Indigenous Cultural Network in Toronto.**

Pandemic lockdown has not put off those who are passionate about pollinators.

Armed with a few webinars’ worth of online training, last year the Butterflyway Rangers emailed, texted, messaged and Zoomed their way through their networks and neighbourhoods. They enlisted new recruits who could help spread the word, and began planting seeds — figuratively and literally — that quickly grew and blossomed. A record 1,000 new Rangers joined this spring!



PHOTO: WINNIE HWO

## RECOGNIZING LOCAL EXCELLENCE

“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

Collective action starts with the few and builds to the many. But sometimes smaller initiatives need a boost to get the attention they deserve.

**With your help, our Montreal office launched its annual Prix Demain le Québec in 2014. It recognizes communities coming together to create innovative projects that protect the planet and build a healthy future.**

**On April 6, a pilot of the English version — the Future Ground Prize — kicked off in Ontario. If successful, it may expand nationwide, inviting communities throughout Canada to take part.**

This year, six prizes will be awarded (three in Quebec and three in Ontario). Winners of the two Jury Prizes will receive \$5,000 each and an online visit from David Suzuki. The two People’s Choice Prize winners get \$2,500 each. New this year, two Youth Awards will reward projects led by future green leaders — applicants from daycares, preschools and primary and secondary schools.



David Suzuki and winners of the 2018 Prix Demain le Québec, Montreal Zero Waste Festival.

PHOTO: ETIENNE DIONNE

This project builds a narrative, with hundreds of community-led stories to inspire people to act. Because votes for the People’s Choice Prizes and Youth Awards are collected online, thousands of people will review the candidate projects. In 2019, more than 17,000 voted for their favourites!

This year’s winners will be announced in June during a special virtual event with David Suzuki. Special thanks to Desjardins and Nature’s Way for their support.

## CREATING A MODEL FOR INDIGENOUS-LED NATURE CAMPS

Since 2015, you’ve made it possible for us to work with the Squamish Nation to offer Camp Suzuki at Chá7elkwnech (Gambier Island). It’s a multi-generational, nature-based summer camp that combines environmental stewardship and Indigenous-led education in British Columbia’s spectacular Átl’ka7sem (Howe Sound).

**COVID-19 made Camp Suzuki impossible last summer, so we quickly pivoted and produced a report to inspire and guide others to build on and expand partnerships for Indigenous-led outdoor education throughout Canada and beyond.**

The report, *Setting Up Camp: Lessons from Camp Suzuki at Chá7elkwnech: Walking with the Squamish*, describes how educators, activists, Indigenous leaders and engaged community members stepped forward, reflecting people’s emerging desire to integrate and share Indigenous histories and ways of knowing. It looks at the lessons learned from



PHOTO: TREVOR LEACH

the experiences of 170 people ranging in age from eight to 75, singing songs together and learning about Squamish language, cedar weaving and Indigenous plant uses — and much more.

**Now we’re working with enthusiastic people all over to develop their own Indigenous-led camps based on our model. And Camp Suzuki has been nominated for a B.C. Reconciliation Award.**

## GROW YOUR OWN BUTTERFLYWAY IN FIVE EASY STEPS

Insects are the foundation of ecosystems and food webs. But 40 per cent of all insect species are in decline.

**You can help. Provide a place for essential insects to feed and shelter in your yard, garden, balcony or windowsill:**

- 1. SERVE AN ALL-SEASON BUFFET.** Insect life cycles vary. Choose a combination of flowering plants that will bloom from spring through summer and fall.
- 2. MAKE AT LEAST HALF YOUR GARDEN LOCALLY SOURCED NATIVE SPECIES.** Plants and shrubs adapted to your climate support local critters and are easier to grow.
- 3. KEEP IT NATURAL.** Avoid pesticides. Provide a water source. Leave sunny soil patches. Mulch less and mow

less. (Consider swapping out your thirsty lawn for drought-resistant ground cover.)

- 4. BUNCH PLANTINGS.** Plant each species in clumps of at least one square metre (five to 10 plants) to create floral bull's eyes.



PHOTO: DORTE WINDMULLER

Butterflies prefer white, pink, purple, red, yellow and orange. Bees like blue, purple and yellow.

- 5. INCLUDE HOST PLANTS.** Adult insects need places to lay eggs. Find out what caterpillars eat, like nettles, willows and milkweed.

## 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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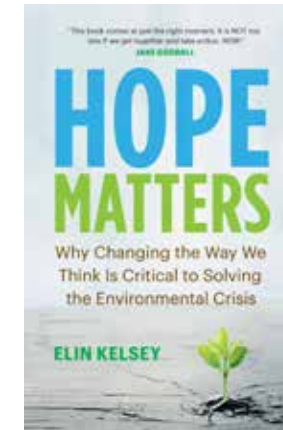
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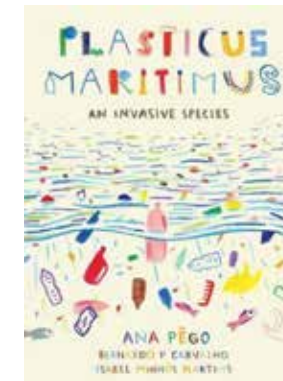
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## Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way We Think Is Critical to Solving the Environmental Crisis

Elin Kelsey / GREYSTONE BOOKS/DAVID SUZUKI INSTITUTE

Author and educator Elin Kelsey offers hope in times of despair. Realizing the damage that focusing on environmental crises and doom can bring — especially to young people — she delves into the story that isn't told often enough. Looking at successful campaigns around ocean conservation, species resilience, rewilding and more, she shows how we can harness emotions, happy and sad, into effective personal and political action to bring about change.



## Plasticus Maritimus: An Invasive Species

Ana Pêgo and Isabel Minhós Martins; illustrated by Bernardo P. Carvalho; translated by Jane Springer

Biologist Ana Pêgo grew up near the beach. Fascinated and disturbed by the increasing amounts of plastic she was finding, she gave it a new name: *Plasticus maritimus*. In this beautifully illustrated book, she identifies the different types of plastic — from fishing nets and bottles to microplastics — and how it gets into waterways. She also looks at current solutions to the problem and argues that we must “revolutionize” and make deep changes in our habits to get rid of this most invasive “species.”

## SUPPORTING MONTREAL'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Thanks to you, Montreal is taking a leadership role among the world's major cities with its ambitious climate plan, unveiled on December 10, 2020. You made it possible for us to partner with the city and co-lead the municipal consultative committee developing this plan over the past two years.

Montreal's climate plan will:

- Plant 500,000 trees in the city by 2030.
- Enhance the energy efficiency of buildings.

- Establish sustainable mobility systems.
- Support zero-waste and circular economies.
- Make Montreal carbon neutral by 2050.

You also helped establish the Partenariat Climat Montréal (Montreal Climate Partnership.) It's mobilizing representatives from institutional, economic, community and philanthropic sectors to put the climate plan into action, through innovative decarbonization projects, partnerships and public engagement.



## WELCOME SABAA!

We're delighted to welcome environmental and human rights attorney Sabaa Khan as director general, Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

Originally from Montreal, Sabaa has extensive experience in international environmental law, trade law, multilateral environmental agreements, international labour law, human rights and Arctic co-operation and governance. She also holds a doctorate in law from McGill University.

Sabaa has advised governments and conducted scientific projects in



PHOTO: YAT-CHI LAU

environmental and trade co-operation, access to justice and the link between science and law.

## LOCAL ACTS CAN BUILD GLOBAL IMPACTS

To resolve a planetary crisis like climate disruption, we need change from the top. But without localized support, that's difficult to achieve.

Grassroots action can grow into something much bigger. As we've seen from Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela and many others, small acts can lead to big changes. Greta Thunberg's 2018 solitary school strike for climate outside the Swedish parliament blossomed into a massive youth movement that drew more than four million people to 2,500 events in 163 countries on all seven continents just one year later.

Local action can help communities respond to specific issues, such as adapting to regional effects of climate change. It can help protect threatened plants and animals and their habitats. It can inspire municipal or provincial governments to implement important policies, pushing governments higher up to act.

But those who want to get involved to better their communities often find it difficult to gain knowledge, tools and support for their endeavours.

The Foundation's Future Ground Network/Réseau Demain le Québec provides education, tools and networking opportunities to help groups throughout Canada strengthen their impact, on initiatives ranging from urban agriculture projects and climate campaigns to advancing sustainable transportation solutions. It's all about support, connection and inspiration.

Harvard political scientist Erica Chenoweth looked at hundreds of campaigns from 1900 to 2006 and found that non-violent campaigns are twice as likely to achieve their goals as violent ones. And all campaigns that involved at least 3.5 per cent of a population succeeded!

The climate and biodiversity crises and other environmental emergencies call for rapid change. This global pandemic



has shown such change is possible with political will and public support. Empowering people to get involved in their communities provides a path to positive local change and builds networks to help resolve major national and global crises.

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

