

LEGAL PROTECTION FOR NATURE



While humanity paused for the global health crisis, you powered advocacy work, diverse coalitions and public engagement campaigns to tackle the climate and biodiversity crises.

And people in Canada achieved important, ground-breaking national victories:

✔ **A game-changing climate accountability bill to chart a course to zero emissions**

Canada has a legacy of missing international climate targets. Now a law will help ensure government follows through on promised climate action and never misses another target.

✔ **A bill to modernize the Canadian Environmental Protection Act**

CEPA, Canada's most important (but outdated) environmental law, addresses toxics and pollution. Government introduced a bill to modernize it that would make CEPA the first Canadian law to recognize the right to a healthy environment.

✔ **Designation of plastics as “toxics” — the first step toward regulating single-use plastics**

Canada added “plastic manufactured items” to CEPA's list of toxic substances, enabling federal regulatory action to ban non-essential, single-use plastics.

✔ **A bill to address and prevent environmental racism and promote environmental justice**

Researchers have found that 25 per cent of the poorest neighbourhoods in Canada's urban areas are within a kilometre of a polluting facility, compared to just seven per cent of the wealthiest. If passed, this bill will require Canada to link race, socioeconomic status and health outcomes. A parliamentary committee approved the bill in June.

✔ **A record-breaking \$17.6 billion federal budget investment in Canada's green recovery, including:**

- Land and ocean protection, natural infrastructure and Pacific salmon restoration (e.g., removing open net-pen salmon farms from the water)
- Interest-free loans for home retrofits to improve efficiency and reduce emissions
- Less polluting modes of transportation in the Toronto-to-Quebec City corridor
- Federal buildings powered by clean electricity, including provisions for Indigenous participation
- Investments in zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure and incentives
- A “climate lens” to assess emission impacts of decisions
- A quality of life framework to assess “economic success” on the basis of prosperity, health, environment, social cohesion and good governance
- Investments in nature-based solutions

With your support, we'll continue to urge government to advance and fully implement these important measures, and guarantee that major investments in biodiversity and nature are in every year's budget.

CITIES AND TOWNS LEAD CLIMATE ACTION

Municipalities can legislate actions that affect about 45 per cent of national greenhouse gas emissions. You're helping people work with their representatives to achieve them.

EDMONTON

"We will live with the direct consequences of climate change throughout our lives."

~ MONICA FIGUEROA, EDMONTON YOUTH FOR CLIMATE, SPEAKING TO CITY COUNCIL

Edmonton's energy transition strategy, passed in April, is one of the first to apply a carbon budget to decision-making. It's 105 bold actions include diversifying the economy, constructing energy-efficient buildings and completing an active transportation network.

Your support is mobilizing people to influence the strategy *and* decision-makers, and work to ensure council funds its proposed commitments.

REGINA

"It would have been very easy to say, 'Okay we got it passed. Now it's up to the city — we're not involved anymore.' But none of us did that."

~ YVETTE CRANE, VOLUNTEER ACTIVIST



Yvette Crane and the members of the Regina Blue Dot group meet David Suzuki.

PHOTO: BLUEDOT REGINA

You supported residents like Yvette to convince Regina to be 100 per cent renewable by 2050. Now it's moving forward on that commitment and you're helping everyone involved seize the opportunity.

VANCOUVER

"A \$500-million investment now pales in comparison to the billions of dollars of economic losses and human health costs we will see within many of our lifetimes."

~ RASHMI CHADHA AND MELISSA LEM IN *THE PROVINCE*

You're helping Vancouver move its climate emergency action plan forward. It includes transformative initiatives on transportation, parking and reduced emissions from buildings.

LIFTING UP LOCAL ACTION

"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."

~DAVID SUZUKI

During COVID lockdown, you supported two youth-focused online interactive multi-week programs of "activism school" on topics ranging from mobilizing a community to promoting self-care.

Those successes spurred another school for people of all ages from all over.

Participants received training in strategizing, decolonization, recruitment, team building and leadership. In between sessions, they organized meetings with people in their neighbourhoods and/or municipalities interested in getting involved to make a difference.



As school was in session, students started their own projects and were able to get guidance during those first critical weeks. After "graduation," many joined our grassroots network hubs, Future Ground Network and Réseau Demain le Québec.

Know someone who wants to act on the climate and biodiversity crises but doesn't know where to start? Activism school helps break activist isolation and multiply the impact of collective action. Several more virtual sessions — some for youth aged 15 to 20 — are planned. Register at futuregroundnetwork.org and reseaudemainlequebec.org.

A HISTORIC DECISION FOR RECONCILIATION

“Many First Nations have tried to seek justice through the courts. Few have won. This ruling creates a path to repair both treaty relationships and the land.”

~DAVID SUZUKI

A precedent-setting court victory for Blueberry River First Nations — the first cumulative impacts Indigenous rights case in Canada — could help realize key Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action.

Resource extraction and agricultural activity have heavily disturbed Treaty 8 territory in the Peace River Valley in northeastern B.C., severely affecting Blueberry’s way of life and ability to hunt.



The Nations spent more than a decade expressing concerns about cumulative impacts to the Oil and Gas Commission, forestry companies and the province. After being bounced between departments or disregarded, they took the province to court in 2018, arguing their treaty rights were breached.

The late-June B.C. Supreme Court ruling said the province failed to uphold its treaty promises and outlines a bold new framework for decision-making around resource extraction.

The Atlas of Cumulative Landscape Disturbance you powered helped convince the Court. It provided critical information about the extraordinarily high levels of industrial disturbance within Blueberry’s traditional territory. Read that here: bit.ly/atlasdisturbance

The decision offers renewed hope for Blueberry members, who have watched in sorrow as their land was degraded year after year, and for allies frustrated by provincial adherence to the status quo and limitless resource-extraction approvals that have thrown roadblocks on reconciliation pathways. It will put Blueberry River First Nations at decision-making tables around industrial extraction and development approvals. It also marks a groundbreaking step toward shaping the future of treaty relations.

OPENING DOORS FOR INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE

“Allies of Indigenous Peoples should educate themselves and each other, to understand the colonial systems of governance that are root causes for social injustice and environmental crises.”

~JESSE WENTE

You’ve boosted Indigenous-led conservation by supporting our work on Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and Indigenous-led restoration and species recovery.

But Indigenous land governance reaches beyond the boundaries of protected areas.

Indigenous Peoples comprise less than five per cent of the world’s population, but protect 80 per cent of the planet’s biodiversity.

Because Indigenous knowledge of lands and waters has evolved over thousands of years, many are looking at Indigenous governance models to help address the global climate and biodiversity crises.

Now you’re also helping open the door to wider conversations about land governance in Canada. You powered:

- Three short videos exploring Canada’s colonial past, the current Land Back movement and pathways toward a more just future. Watch them here: bit.ly/Landback
- A series of five webinars with Indigenous thought leaders and others who share and discuss the



videos. More than 1,000 people have viewed Land Governance: Towards a More Just Future. Watch that here: bit.ly/landbackwebinar

EMPOWERING PEOPLE IN PLACE

People working together where they live on issues they care about are key to achieving a sustainable future. They deserve attention and recognition.

With your help, Prix Demain le Québec has been celebrating grassroots projects and awarding prizes to the best and the brightest for the past seven years. This year, an English version of the project — **Future Ground Prize** — launched for the first time in Ontario.

Winners of this year's two Grand Prizes (chosen from 135 Ontario entrants and 107 in Quebec) received \$5,000 each and a virtual meeting with David Suzuki. Thirty-six thousand people voted online for the two People's Choice Prizes (each received \$2,500) and two Youth Award winners.

"[We invite] all people to participate in the journey of healing in community by connecting to the land. It's time now to plant our future together in hope, peace and wellness."

~ RENEE THOMAS-HILL



GRAND PRIZE WINNER – ONTARIO Indigenous Seeds of Hope – Planting our Future

Grandmothers Voice united their community to create a Living Monument Healing/Medicine Garden to honour the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People, reclaiming the land and food sovereignty.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER – QUEBEC Le projet lac Osisko

"Our project, a living project, is meaningful for our community and for many other places in the world. This award reinforces our motivation to continue this movement, and to work together for ecosystems and communities."

~ PATRICK MARTEL, PRESIDENT, COLLECTIF TERRITOIRE



Le projet lac Osisko is uniting arts, sciences and industry to rehabilitate and enhance a lake located in the heart of the city of Rouyn-Noranda, in Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNERS

Ohneganos Let's Talk Water
Cyclo Nord-Sud de Québec

YOUTH PRIZE WINNERS

Movers and Shakers Program
Les Alliés de la Mer

Learn more about Prix Demain le Québec at bit.ly/prixdemainwinner and Future Ground Prize at bit.ly/futuregroundwinner.

Prix Demain le Québec and Future Ground Prize are presented by Desjardins and supported by Nature's Way.

GETTING OUT OF GNL/GAZODUQ



PHOTO: MARC GIRARD/FLICKR

You made it possible for us to stand against GNL/Gazoduq — a liquefied natural gas industrial complex project in Quebec's Port of Saguenay and a 780-kilometre pipeline linking it to northeastern Ontario — for years.

In July the Quebec government said no!

If it went ahead, the project would have generated more than 50 million tonnes of greenhouse gases (the equivalent of some 10 million cars) every year for at least 25 years.

It would jeopardize the health of rivers and wetlands and their biodiversity — such as endangered beluga whales — while threatening local people, including many Indigenous communities.

Congratulations on this victory for people and planet!

EXPOSING THE HEALTH RISKS OF PESTICIDES

Pesticides are among the most widely used chemicals in the world. Now all people in Canada carry residues in their bodies.

You've powered campaigns against harmful pesticides for decades.

On March 30, the government of Quebec recognized the scientific link between pesticide use and Parkinson's disease. This is a huge victory for farm workers and others at risk.

Many pesticides affect development of connections between neurons, which may explain associations with neurodevelopmental disorders. These include DDT (banned today in many countries but still present in the environment), chlorpyrifos (approved in Europe against European Food Safety Authority opinion) and glyphosate-based herbicides (banned



in other countries but still permitted in Canada).

Increases in Parkinson's cases were first observed in Quebec in the 1980s. Since the '90s, more than 100 studies evaluated the link between the disease and pesticide exposure.

With our partners, we published reports linking pesticide exposure

and the prevalence of Parkinson's disease and autism in September 2019. We submitted these to the National Assembly of Quebec's Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources.

With your help, we'll continue pushing for restricted pesticide use and strict laws to reduce risks to human health and the environment.

HALTING A HIGHWAY THROUGH THE GREENBELT



"What we decide regarding Highway 413 will define us as a society: Do we favour improved service to priority neighbourhoods using emissions-free public transit? Or do we prefer destruction of farmland and forests to facilitate the movement of gas-burning cars?"

~GIDEON FORMAN, DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION

Thanks to people pressure — made possible by you — in May the federal government called for an environmental assessment of the Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor (a.k.a. Highway 413).

If built, the 52-kilometre multilane mega-highway would cut through a protected greenbelt in southern Ontario, just west of Toronto. It would increase urban sprawl, degrade waterways and pave over hundreds of hectares of prime agricultural land — all in the middle of the climate crisis. It would also threaten several dangerously at-risk species.

The movement against Highway 413 included:

- More than 7,600 people emailing Jonathan Wilkinson, federal minister of environment and climate change, via our online platform
- A letter we organized signed by 59 scientists, which the minister cited as a factor in his decision to call for the environmental assessment
- Meetings with members of Parliament, media interviews and published opinion pieces and letters to editors

With your support, we'll continue to campaign until the proposed project is cancelled.



TEN REASONS TO HAVE CLIMATE HOPE

Canada's progress on climate change continues to be dangerously slow. We don't have an ambitious target. Canada is the only G7 country whose emissions are accelerating. We continue to invest in expanding oil and gas infrastructure.

BUT there are good reasons to hope Canada CAN get on track to do its fair share to prevent climate catastrophe:

1. The cost of renewable energy is plummeting and available to more people. Solar power is now the cheapest source of electricity in history.
2. People in Canada are speaking up. A vast majority are concerned and want action.
3. The international youth-led climate movement is not backing down. Canada's young leaders are innovating ways to fight for their future.
4. The Supreme Court affirmed that climate change is an emergency.
5. Indigenous communities are leading on the transition to renewables in creative, culturally appropriate ways and on the protection of traditional territories from fossil fuel expansion.
6. Canada strengthened and funded its climate plan. It makes polluters pay, supports clean tech development and brings in cleaner transportation and fuel standards.
7. Cities and towns are leading the way by encouraging building retrofits and energy efficiency, enabling electric vehicle charging and active transportation and introducing road pricing and carbon budgets
8. The U.S. is normalizing bold action. Goals and policies once seen as radical are part of the current administration's commitments.
9. Climate action creates millions of jobs. For every job lost in fossil fuels over the past six years, the Canadian economy created 42 new ones.
10. Climate action is addressing systemic causes and interconnected injustices. Historically marginalized people contribute the least to the problem but suffer the most.

Join the call for urgent, bold and ambitious climate action at bit.ly/demandclimateaction.

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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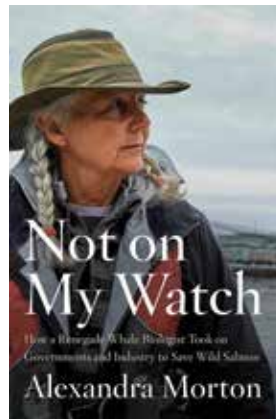
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Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

Suzanne Simard / PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

The more we learn about trees and forests, the more fascinated we become with them. UBC scientist Suzanne Simard's research has been the basis for much of this growing interest. In her first book, Simard illustrates how trees and forests are not just resources to be exploited but are complex, interconnected beings and systems that communicate and co-operate through underground networks. Her journey from logging community to profound scientific inquiry is engaging and enlightening.



Not on My Watch: How a Renegade Whale Biologist Took on Governments and Industry to Save Wild Salmon

Alexandra Morton / PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CANADA

Alexandra Morton has been fighting for more than three decades to protect and save wild Pacific salmon and orcas. In this book, she talks about her journey from California to B.C.'s Broughton Archipelago to observe the resident orcas. A single mother, she was there in times of abundance, until the fish farms arrived in 1989. And so began her unrelenting efforts to save wild salmon, and by extensions whales, from the aquaculture industry. Her passion is reflected in her writing.

Learn more about how you're
making a difference here:
bit.ly/moresolutions



FINDING WISDOM IN SCIENCE AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Science tries to make sense of observations by setting up a hypothesis, then testing it with experiments and further observation. Depending on findings or subsequent research, we modify or throw out the hypothesis.

But science can be influenced by money and profit and used to harm.

In the early 20th century, geneticists' claims were used to justify legal discrimination against immigrants from "inferior" nations, incarceration of Japanese people born in North America, and the slaughter of Roma, Jews and homosexuals in Nazi Germany.

Science often fails to consider the big picture. We need more observational science, but we have to recognize its fundamental weaknesses. Scientists

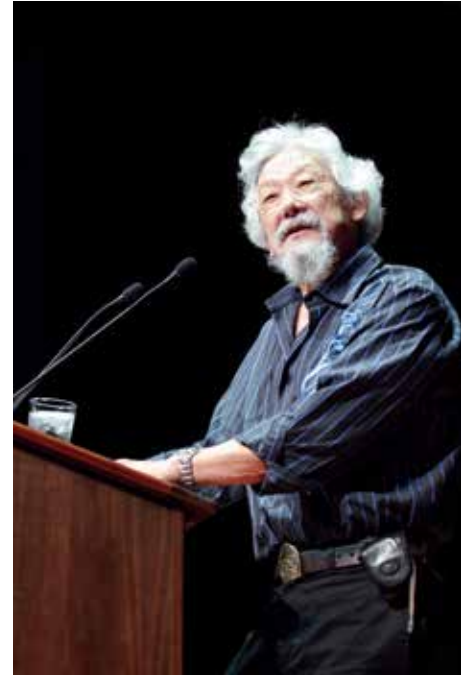
must not confuse their biases with truths.

In many ways, Indigenous knowledge is more encompassing and profound than science. It embraces gratitude, love, respect and a deep sense of responsibility.

It's the accumulated observations, trials and errors, successes and failures of people living in place — critical for a peoples' survival and tested over thousands of years.

It's also deeply subjective and meaningful, considering the web of relationships with all other animal and plant species, and air, water, soil and sunlight.

We need both science and Indigenous knowledge for a fuller understanding of our place in the world.



Reconciling Ways of Knowing forums bring together Indigenous knowledge and science. Tune in at waysofknowingforum.ca.

DEPICTING NATURE'S BEAUTY

The daughter of a lighthouse keepers, Victoria, B.C. artist Crystal Smith has an expansive perspective of nature. For the last four years, she's translated her vision onto cards for the David Suzuki Foundation.

"While living in the light station, we lived out in the middle of nowhere on a small island surrounded by nature," she said. "Even after moving to Vancouver Island, we grew up next to a park, my mom had a garden and we'd go camping all summer."

Crystal "hunts" with her eyes. One surprising "catch" was a red fox on ice.

"Before COVID, I was on a winter trip across Canada and visited each province. I was leaving Prince Edward Island, crossing the Confederation Bridge. It was so cold that the island was surrounded by ice sheets. I spotted a bright red fox on one of them, fishing in the ocean — the first time I'd seen a fox in the wild. I don't think I would have even seen it had the colour not stood out so much against the white ice."



ILLUSTRATION: CRYSTAL SMITH

Crystal has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Emily Carr University of Art + Design. She also does illustration for children's books, graphic design, wildlife fine art prints and more. Like many creatives, she tries to use her talents to make the world a better, smarter, more sensitive place.

Discover Crystal's new designs at bit.ly/DSFGreetingCards.