



## BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL

Knowing your loved ones are safe and healthy, have access to clean water and are getting out in nature... *What are these things worth to you?*

Probably a lot! But the current economic model values none of them.

**A well-being economy puts your quality of life and the health of the natural world first. Thanks to you, we're facilitating a first-of-its-kind alliance to transform the economic system and build better lives for all.**

We're leading the Well-being Economies Alliance for Canada and Sovereign Indigenous Nations. WEAll Can is part of the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance. Its online hub inspires people to act for greater well-being for people and the planet, prioritizing a world where everyone is sufficiently provided for and lives in harmony with nature.

Get involved at [weallcanada.org](http://weallcanada.org).

**You also made it possible for us to join with G15+ and organizations from many sectors to release *Indicators of Well-Being in Quebec*. This reference tool aims to help Quebec governments at all levels make decisions based on the well-being of people in the province, using 51 criteria. It's a historical first in Canada.**

Available to all public policy-makers in the province, it will help:

- Improve understanding of the interdependence of the economy, society and nature
- Pass policies in line with what people need and want
- Identify targets and guide budgetary and strategic planning

Inspired by British economist Kate Raworth's "doughnut economics," which maps how humans can thrive without exceeding planetary boundaries, the indicators value environmental, social and economic factors. Learn more at [indicateurs.quebec](http://indicateurs.quebec).

## MOBILIZING COMMUNITY-LED CHANGE

Imagining the world we want and working to create it needs more than top-down policy change. We need collective action by many people in many communities.

**Thanks to you, organizing hubs Future Ground Network/Réseau Demain le Québec are convening and mentoring the environmental community online. They amplify and accelerate the meaningful work of local groups in their communities and connect them to each other.**

Here are a few of their stories:

### MAKING BIRDS SAFE THROUGHOUT CANADA

Sheri and Pearl met through Future Ground Network and launched Never Collide, a community-led movement to save birds in cities.

The group's first initiative was to campaign for TD Towers in downtown Toronto to apply bird-saving window treatments to their high-collision

facades. After launching a successful letter-writing campaign and winning the attention of local media, the group's efforts paid off!

TD Towers committed to making their windows bird-safe, which will help save hundreds of birds each year.

### SPREADING THE LEARNING

After attending a Future Ground Network screening and webinar about the Land Back movement with Aimée Craft and Danika Littlechild, Genevieve and David were inspired to carry their learning forward.

They accepted Future Ground Network's challenge to host a screening of their own.

Council of Canadians Medicine Hat and Resilient Southeast Alberta shared this learning with their communities throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and motivated a wider circle of organizers to take on more anti-colonial work.



### SHARING SPACE FOR GROWTH

Camille launched Food 4 Thought to educate new and novice apartment dwellers in Vancouver B.C. who have a passion for learning how to grow organic food.

She soon recognized a need for urban garden space and matched people with little to no balcony space with neighbours who had yards to offer.

This past growing season, she was able to connect 50 apartment dwellers looking for garden space with homeowners wanting to redistribute their access to land.

## INDIGENOUS PLANTS THROUGH BUTTERFLIES' EYES

**Thanks to you, we partnered with the Musqueam Indian Band to recruit a local artist to create an Indigenous Pollinator Plant Map.**

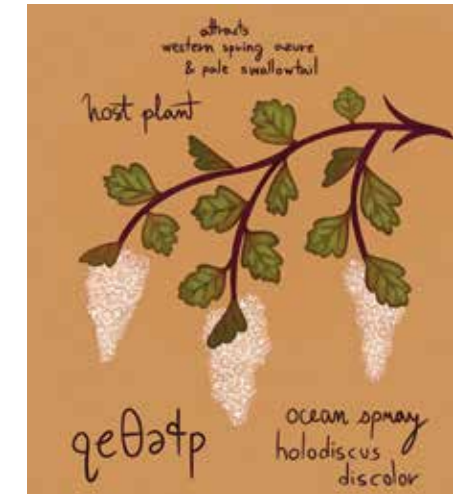
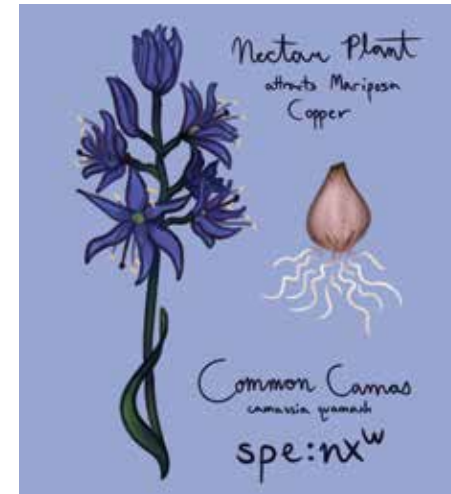
Graciene Ulu based her creation on 160 wildflower plantings by volunteer Butterflyway Rangers in 2020.

"My daughter loves butterflies and she took part, with her school, to plant flowers for bees and butterflies," Grace said. "Her little view of the world inspired me."

"Butterflies are unique and have the ability to transform with beauty and grace. The Indigenous Pollinator Plant Map will guide us — as our ancestors live within us — to help find balance and beauty through the butterfly's view."

A Butterflyway is a loosely connected corridor of wildflower patches through a neighbourhood. From a pollinator's perspective, it's a highway of habitat. You're making it possible for thousands of Rangers to create Butterflyways throughout Canada.

View the map and learn more at [bit.ly/pollinator-map](https://bit.ly/pollinator-map)



Vancouver youth artist Valentine Pagetto created native plant illustrations, with Musqueam language support from Jill Campbell and guidance from Indigenous herbalist and Butterflyway Ranger Lori Snyder.

## INSPIRING ACTION TO FEED AND SHELTER BEES AND BUTTERFLIES

Pollinators ensure reproduction for more than 90 per cent of the world's flowering plants — *including one-third of the food humans eat*. Invertebrate species like wild bees and butterflies have declined 45 per cent over the past four decades.

Gardens are a critical food source for pollinators — providing more than 85 per cent of nectar for urban insects. Planting native wildflowers and shrubs can be an effective way to support these species that help us live.

**Thanks to you and our national partner Cascades, our network of pollinator habitat blossomed last year.**

More than 1,000 volunteer Rangers planted more than 35,000 wildflowers in 279 communities from Saanich, British Columbia, to St. Anthony, Newfoundland.

They also established new "official" Butterflyways in 60 communities.

Here are just a few of their stories:

Ranger Charlene from First South, Nova Scotia, teamed up with her granddaughter to distribute dozens of native plants and seed kits. That inspired 60 plantings as part of the Lunenburg County Butterflyway.

Ranger Sandi encouraged 27 neighbours from her street to plant native wildflowers, creating the Astra Road Butterflyway in Comox, B.C.

Rangers Carla and Gail in Regina, Saskatchewan, led efforts to plant thousands of wildflowers in yards, schools and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum as part of the Regina Butterflyway.

Rangers and high school students Clara and Jordan-Anne from Perth and Almonte, Ontario, teamed up to create a dozen new pollinator patches in each of their communities and are aiming to grow their Lanark Butterflyway throughout the county.

Ranger Arlyne led a group that planted 52 pollinator gardens in and around Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Rangers in four Winnipeg neighbourhoods — Corydon Osborne, Island Lakes, Norwood Flats and Southland Park — created Butterflyways.

Now in its sixth season, the Butterflyway Project has already recruited hundreds of eager new volunteer Rangers for 2022.

## BREAKING GROUND ON NATURE RESTORATION

Nature left alone does a far better job of storing carbon, cleaning water and air, breaking down waste, growing food, regulating prey-predator relationships, controlling "pests" and preventing floods than anything humans have ever invented — and at far less cost.

**Thanks to you, former David Suzuki Fellow Maxime Fortin Faubert's groundbreaking research is determining**



**how best to restore contaminated lands so nature can once again do what it does best.**

Maxime's innovative biotechnology solutions use plants and fungi to decontaminate polluted soils and improve climate resilience.

As part of his fellowship research, he identified vacant, paved spaces across the Island of Montreal that most contribute to the heat island effect. Now he's developing a mapping tool to help municipal decision-makers, organizations and residents plan which areas to tackle first.

The research considers existing vegetation cover, surface temperature and relative location to floodplains. It also looks at population densities of socially marginalized people and those under 15 and over 65 to include how best to support the well-being of residents who live nearby.

## INCLUDING RESIDENTS IN URBAN GREENING DECISIONS

Urban forests are a cost-effective climate adaptation strategy. They also boost biodiversity, social equity and physical and mental health.

**According to surveys you supported of Montreal and Quebec City residents, cities should be more ambitious with their greening targets and feel confident about using taxpayer money to pay for them.**

Montreal residents say they are willing to pay \$68 per year for their preferred urban forest attributes, which include more shrubs and coniferous trees, twice the current density



PHOTO: CARL CAMPBELL VIA FLICKR

of trees and triple the species diversity. People who live in Quebec City said they would pay \$50 a year for similar, but slightly different preferences.

Other survey learnings highlight the need for:

- **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** Poorer neighbourhoods with a higher number of people identifying as visible minorities have lower canopy coverage. Lower tree density is associated with compromised health and greater vulnerability to impacts of climate change (e.g., urban heat islands and flooding).
- **SPECIES DIVERSITY** Neighbourhoods with low tree diversity are more likely to experience rapid degradation of their urban forest following disturbances from “pests,” storms, etc. People’s stated preference for more diverse urban forest is contrary to most cities’ greening approach — planting rows of the same tree species for aesthetic reason.
- **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION** Neighbourhood-level buy-in is essential for greening projects, to maximize efforts and respect local preferences.

We’ll conduct similar surveys in other Canadian communities to understand their needs and support more steps toward rewilding our cities.

## FINDING COMMON GROUND

The past couple of years have been challenging for everyone. Because frustrations are high, discussions can be difficult too — even with friends, family and neighbours. Fractures are forming between people who once saw themselves as like-minded.

**The conversation chatbot you powered is helping people shift the narrative and find unity in solving the critical problems we face. The key is listening.**

This online tool teaches people to reach out with empathy and openness and reach shared agreements. It uses a conversation

cycle developed by Karin Tamerius of Smart Politics:

- **ASK** open-ended, genuinely curious, non-judgmental questions.
- **LISTEN** to what people say and deepen your understanding with follow-up questions.
- **REFLECT** back on their point of view by summarizing their answers and noting underlying emotions.
- **AGREE** before challenging them by pointing out your areas of common ground.
- **SHARE** your thinking by telling a story about a personal experience.



Ready to try it? Practice using our climate conversation chatbot coach: [bit.ly/conversation-coach](https://bit.ly/conversation-coach)

## HOW TO START A PLANET PROTECTION GROUP WHERE YOU LIVE

Want to help protect the planet but don’t know where to start? The most effective change begins at the grassroots level. Here are six simple steps to get you going:

### 1. DEFINE YOUR PURPOSE

Want to grow a community garden? Promote cleaner transportation options? Change local laws? Get inspired by what others are doing at [futuregroundnetwork.org](https://futuregroundnetwork.org).

### 2. ORGANIZE A LAUNCH EVENT (VIRTUAL OR FACE-TO-FACE)

Bring people together to kick off your project.

### 3. CONTACT ELECTED OFFICIALS

Many municipalities have recognized the climate emergency and committed to “do more.” But promises mean nothing unless they’re kept. Set up a meeting with your local member of Parliament or council to discuss your demands.

### 4. FIND ALLIES

The more diverse and inclusive your group, the more powerful it will be and the more influence you’ll have on decision-makers. Reach out to others via local businesses, faith groups and schools. There’s strength in numbers!



### 5. TAKE THE FIRST ACTION

This can help you attract new members and generate support.

### 6. JOIN FUTURE GROUND NETWORK

Get free monthly training webinars, online support, digital organizing tools — and more!

## LIFTING UP LOCAL LEADERS

**People in Canada increasingly want to act on and find solutions to large social issues. You’ve made it possible for us to recognize and support resident-led initiatives helping improve people’s relationship with nature.**

We launched Prix Demain in 2014 in Quebec to recognize community-led engagement and highlight inspiring grassroots projects directed by people building the Canada of tomorrow. Following that success, we launched a parallel pilot project — Future Ground Prize — in Ontario in spring 2021. This year, the contest is expanding to include British Columbia.

These projects:

- Amplify initiatives that have a real impact in their communities.
- Empower local and regional community engagement and provide opportunities to support these efforts.
- Provide as many people as possible appropriate tools to encourage their success and empower those active in the environmental movement.
- Establish networks of David Suzuki Foundation allies throughout Canada.

Contest prizes provide financial and outreach support. As young people are bringing a new perspective to the

environmental movement and challenging it to become more agile and innovative, in 2022, all prizes will go to projects led by youth from elementary school through university — the next generation of environmental leaders. Young people will also be invited to join the jury.

Whether they’re protecting nearby natural spaces like forests, beaches and watersheds, promoting cleaner transportation options in their neighbourhoods or setting up vegetable gardens, all these people are shaping greener, more resilient communities.

Finalists will be announced May 1. Vote on your favourites on our website after May 16.





## UPDATING CANADA'S MOST IMPORTANT POLLUTION-PREVENTION LAW

Government's bill to modernize the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, introduced in April 2021, proposed recognition of your right to a healthy environment for the first time in federal law.

While the bill didn't advance before Parliament dissolved for the fall election, you made it possible for us to keep up the pressure.

The new minister of environment's December 2021 mandate letter directs him to strengthen CEPA "to protect everyone, including people most vulnerable to harm

from toxic substances and those living in communities where exposure is high" and — thanks to efforts you supported — "recognize the 'right to a healthy environment' in federal law."

In February, the government reintroduced the CEPA modernization bill, this time in the Senate.

CEPA hasn't been updated for more than two decades. Pollution sources and scientific understanding of risks have changed. Modernization is long overdue. Tell senators to strengthen CEPA here: [bit.ly/strengthen-cepa](https://bit.ly/strengthen-cepa)

## FINDING HOPE

**Suzuki Elders is a voluntary association of self-identified elders who mentor, motivate and support others — especially youth — on environmental issues.**

In December 2021 and January 2022, their B.C. education working group hosted two "Dialogues on Hope." Participants were encouraged to explore and gain insights into their relationship with hope in the face of the enormity of the climate and biodiversity crises.

Each person was invited to "tell a story/describe a time in your life experience when you called up hope to help you move, to understand something better, to move forward."

In ensuing conversations, they identified threads of experience and affirmed the importance of:



- Recognizing vulnerability
- Listening with heart and without judgment
- Balancing hope and despair in either hand, knowing we move in and out of both
- Seeing that hope starts from the inside and, to be useful, we need to talk about it
- Building communities of hope
- Working with the visions that precede hope together, to agree on feasible scenarios, build consensus and move to action
- Knowing elders' key role is telling their stories

Get involved at [suzukielders.org](https://suzukielders.org).

## 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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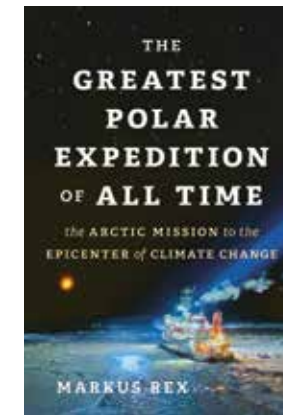
Canada: BN 127756716RR0001  
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## Be the Change: Rob Greenfield's Call to Kids — Making a Difference in a Messed-Up World

Rob Greenfield and Antonia Banyard / GREYSTONE BOOKS

Rob Greenfield is big on getting attention for good causes. He spent a year only growing and foraging what he ate. For a month, he walked around New York City wearing every piece of trash he created. He's committed to "living simply so that others may simply live." Antonia Banyard's other books for kids include the award-winning *Water Wow!: An Infographic Exploration*. This sustainable living guide recommended for readers aged eight to 12 provides kid-friendly climate solutions and inspires youngsters to adopt zero-waste habits.



## The Greatest Polar Expedition of All Time: The Arctic Mission to the Epicenter of Climate Change

Markus Rex, translated by Sarah Pybus  
AVAILABLE MAY 17, 2022 / GREYSTONE BOOKS

In 2019, the Institute for Polar and Marine Research launched MOSAiC, a first-of-its kind expedition to collect cutting-edge climate data in the Arctic. Markus Rex, head of atmospheric research at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven, Germany, captained the icebreaker *Polarstern* and its 100-person team for a year. His chronicle interweaves their terrifying challenges and heartwarming moments with natural history and reflections on past Arctic voyages. The trip is also chronicled in the documentary *Arctic Drift*.

## SAY NO TO GAS-POWERED VEHICLE ADVERTISING

Did you know 25 per cent of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are from the transportation sector? Gas-powered vehicles make the climate crisis worse. Demand a new regulatory framework for advertising gas-powered vehicles. Sign the petition here: [regulatecarads.com](https://regulatecarads.com)



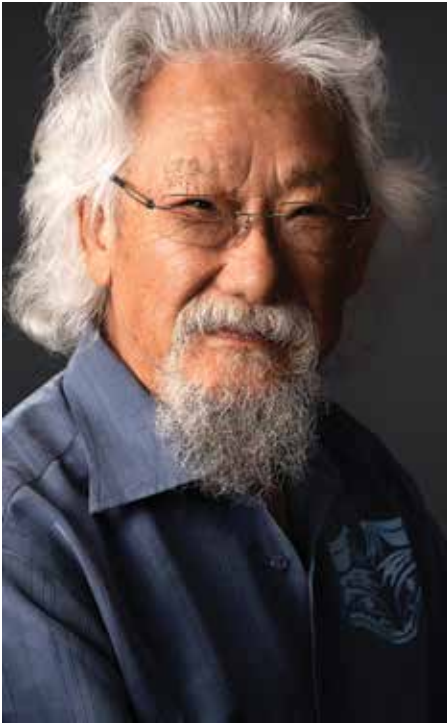


PHOTO: JENNIFER ROESSLER

## FAULTY ECONOMIC THINKING MAKES DESTROYING NATURE PROFITABLE

Everything we need to survive — food, water, air, shelter — comes from nature, of which we are a part. Fuelled by the sun's energy, this planet is amazing in its ability to replenish and recycle the basic elements of life.

Now people are outpacing Earth's ability to maintain these essential services. Our economic systems not only ignore this unsustainable plunder, they encourage it. That's led to a 70 per cent decline in mammal, bird, fish, reptile and amphibian populations over the past 50 years. One million plant and animal species — one-quarter of the global total — now face extinction.

A big part of the problem is that destroying nature is more profitable than protecting it, and tools such as gross domestic product are not fit for assessing real economic health.

GDP measures production but doesn't account for damage to or loss of

essential natural services. Capital produced by industrial development is measured as positive, but the consequent loss of natural systems that absorb carbon, purify water and air, provide habitat for pollinators, prevent soil erosion and more aren't counted, regardless of the costs to everything from human health to water and food supplies.

The economic systems we developed a relatively short time ago have wreaked havoc with the natural systems on which our health and lives depend. Gauging our economic success on constant growth, on endless cycles of work, production and excess consumption, has led to biodiversity loss, disease outbreaks, pollution, climate disruption and greater divides between rich and poor.

Change is not only possible, it's absolutely necessary.

## BUY GIFTS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Need a present for someone you care about? Instead of stuff, send a virtual gift that supports bold climate action, protects nature so it can sustain all life and helps create resilient communities that benefit everyone.

Designs are by Canadian artists, exclusive to the David Suzuki Foundation. You can personalize your message. AND you get a gift too — a tax receipt.

Shop from the comfort of wherever you are — all day, every day: [bit.ly/gifts-healthy-planet](https://bit.ly/gifts-healthy-planet)



ILLUSTRATION BY CRYSTAL SMITH