

YOUR WINS 2021

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT





THANK YOU

This pandemic has been a rollercoaster. But despite the difficulties, COVID-19 gave us the precious privilege of being in lockdown with our kids and grandkids. We’ve also had time to ponder what matters most in life and think deeply about our hopes for the future.

After our family, this Foundation is our most important contribution. And it truly only exists because of you.

In 2021, you stood behind important new Canadian laws, including a bill to ensure government fulfils its climate commitments. You powered research that convinced the British Columbia Supreme Court to uphold Blueberry River First Nations’ treaty rights to safeguard their traditional territory — a precedent for the land and for reconciliation. You helped stand against fossil fuel extraction projects in Quebec. You supported training of thousands of volunteer Butterflyway Rangers

throughout Canada to build highways of habitat to feed and shelter wild pollinators, and reap the benefits of community connections that transcend cultures and generations. You created online hubs in Canada’s two official languages that teach, mentor, empower and amplify the work of grassroots environmental groups nationwide.

We taught our kids that our family’s role is to try to make things better. That Canada — and all of humanity, all of life — is one huge family.

Your commitment, your encouragement — because you care — makes you part of this family, working to make a better world.

You’ve made a world of difference supporting the planet that supports us all.

And by standing with us moving forward, you’ll help fulfil our vision

that people in Canada understand we are interdependent with nature, act together to avert the worst effects of climate disruption and protect Earth so it can sustain all life.

Thank you.

David Suzuki and Tara Cullis, co-founders



LOOKING AHEAD

It’s been an honour to partner with you during my first months as executive director of this Foundation. I literally grew up here. As a child, I watched my parents — co-founders David Suzuki and Tara Cullis — build and nurture the DSF. I joined the board in my early 20s and I served 14 years. I volunteered for many campaigns, such as the Blue Dot tour.

I come to this new role with gratitude and an urgent call to duty. And I am very aware and humbled that all our work, all our successes, are because of your enduring dedication and generous support.

This report highlights some of the many achievements you helped make possible in 2021. **These are your wins.** They show that when we work together, we can achieve important results toward sustainability — even in the face of multiple crises.

Today, in 2022, global scientific consensus continues to highlight the urgent need to reduce emissions and transition away from fossil fuels. While municipal budgets pale in comparison

to provincial/federal budgets, they tend to deal with more front-line climate impacts than other levels of government. In 2022, we’ll continue our work supporting community groups and municipal government staff in target cities to ensure they develop and implement strong climate plans. Equity and diversity are absolutely key to our sustainability, so we’ll be working to ensure racialized and marginalized communities are central and benefit from these plans.

Indigenous Peoples make up less than five per cent of the world’s population, yet they are stewards of about 80 per cent of the world’s biodiversity. Our path to sustainability depends on the empowerment and leadership of Indigenous Peoples. We’re committed to continue advancing Indigenous-led protection and ecosystem restoration. Our new rewilding communities program will help the National Healing Forest Initiative create spaces for learning, sharing and reflecting on Canada’s history and residential school

legacy. We’ll co-produce another land back video series. And we’ll work with First Nations to analyse and repair decades of harm to their territories and support adoption of the first regional marine protected area network supported by their governments.

There is a lot to do. But let us pause for a moment and recognize what we have achieved together this past year. I hope you can take pride in this report.

Thank you for all you do to support this important work. I look forward to our continued partnership.

Severn Cullis-Suzuki, executive director



PHOTO: PATRICK SHANNON

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

“Protecting Earth’s climate is the challenge of our time.
There is no more important obligation to the world.”

DAVID SUZUKI



NEW LAWS PROTECTING PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

Important, groundbreaking national legal victories you made possible in 2021 included:

A GAME-CHANGING CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY LAW

Canada has a legacy of missing international climate targets. The Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act could be transformational. It will help ensure government follows through on promised climate action and never misses another target.

A SUPREME COURT OF CANADA WIN

On March 25, the Court upheld the federal government’s legal authority to implement national measures to combat climate change, including a price on carbon pollution. 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.”

A BILL TO ADDRESS AND PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM AND PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

One-quarter 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 BILL TO MODERNIZE THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

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

DESIGNATION OF PLASTICS AS “TOXICS”

Canada added “plastic manufactured items” to CEPA’s list of toxic substances and published draft regulations banning non-essential, single-use plastics.



PHOTO: MARC GIRARD

ENDING FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION IN QUEBEC

Human activity — mainly burning fossil fuels — is heating the planet faster than scientists predicted. You’ve helped mobilize pressure against the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure throughout Canada for decades.

You also made it possible for us to stand against GNL/ Gazoduc — 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. In February 2022, the federal government announced rejection of the project, the long-awaited final step to definitively turn the page on this project.

If it had gone 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, jeopardizing the health of rivers and wetlands and their biodiversity — such as endangered beluga whales — while threatening local people, including many Indigenous communities.

Thanks to relentless pressure from thousands of residents, environmental groups and Indigenous Peoples, Quebec has closed the door on oil, gas and coal in its territory for good.

This decision is in line with the province’s goal to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels to fight climate change, including by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 37.5 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030. It’s a visionary lead for all of Canada — and the world.

THRIVING NATURE

“Together, all species make up one immense web of interconnections that binds all beings to each other and to the physical components of the planet.”

DAVID SUZUKI





BREAKING NEW GROUND ON RECONCILIATION

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 in Treaty 8 territory in British Columbia’s Peace River Valley have severely affected Blueberry’s way of life and ability to hunt. The Nations spent more than a decade expressing concerns to the Oil and Gas Commission, forestry companies and the province. After being bounced between departments or disregarded, they took B.C. 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. **Our *Atlas of Cumulative Landscape Disturbance in the Traditional Territory of Blueberry River First Nations* — which you made possible — helped convince the Court**, providing information about the high levels of industrial disturbance within Blueberry’s traditional territory.

The decision offers renewed hope for Blueberry members and allies frustrated by provincial resource-extraction approval processes and marks a groundbreaking step toward shaping the future of treaty relations.



MAKING PROGRESS ON PESTICIDES

Pesticides are among the most widely used chemicals in the world. Now all people in Canada carry residues in their bodies. They’re also a major threat to biodiversity.

Thanks to donor support, we’ve campaigned against harmful pesticides for decades.

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

In August, the federal government launched a “targeted review” of the Pest Control Products Act and announced a \$50-million investment over three years to bolster pesticide regulations and find alternatives.

Health Canada paused consideration of a flawed proposal to increase allowable

residues of glyphosate on many food-stuffs and then ruled that glyphosate is “safe.” (Glyphosate, the active ingredient in the herbicide Roundup, is now found in one-third of our foods. And it has decimated milkweed — the sole food of monarch butterfly larvae — throughout North America, contributing to the massive monarch butterfly decline.)

In February, the Court of Appeal ruled that Health Canada must reassess a 2017 request for an independent scientific review of glyphosate, which the World Health Organization classifies as a probable human carcinogen.

Health Canada originally rejected the request but the court found the decision was unreasonable. Congratulations to our friends at Safe Food Matters, who brought this important case. We were an intervenor, represented by lawyers at Ecojustice.



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

“All of the major battles of social progress, such as allowing women to vote, were made possible because people got involved and decided they would no longer stand for business as usual.”

DAVID SUZUKI

RESIDENTS SPUR CLIMATE READINESS WHERE THEY LIVE

Canada is not on track to meet its commitment to reduce emissions by 40 to 45 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: Cities and towns around the world are taking action and creating and implementing plans to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In Canada, some big emissions sources, like air transportation and energy utilities, are under federal or provincial control. Municipalities can legislate actions that affect about 50 per cent of our national emissions. And with about 80 per cent of people in Canada living in municipalities, it’s important — even crucial — that we focus on their potential to help stop climate change.

Residents’ voices are powerful. Elected council members are responsible to their constituents.

And thanks to the influence of locals who care, municipalities are taking action:

In **Edmonton**, we supported community groups that wanted the city to develop and implement a strong energy transition strategy. The City of Edmonton recently became the first municipality in Canada to create and commit to a carbon budget.

After **Montreal** released its climate plan in December 2020, we helped the Partenariat Climat Montréal begin to implement it by co-ordinating citizen-led initiatives and taking part in the steering committee. We also pushed for mobility and urban development plans, building regulations and public transportation systems.

In **Regina**, we joined the city’s energy and sustainability framework advisory committee, advanced the city’s energy transition by convening dialogues, supported community organizations calling for public transit actions and worked in developing decarbonization pathways. We supported important climate equity research at the University of Regina that’s also relevant to other cities.



PHOTO: COMMUNITY CLIMATE COUNCIL

We worked with **Brampton** city staff and council to build capacity for motions and help build social licence for climate action. We’ve also supported Brampton on transit projects and energy transition.

We hosted several dialogues with young Black, Indigenous and other people of colour and learned that their priority is climate justice. We’re currently piloting an initiative that brings social justice organizers from across the Peel community together to make connections and find common ground.

We’re helping **Metro Vancouver** strengthen its climate plan and regional transportation strategy and we provided recommendations on best policies and practices that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

MOBILIZING LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION

For anyone who wants to get started where they live, you made it possible for us to publish *Your Voice at the Table*, an online guide that helps people work with their local governments on climate action.

It helps people interested in getting involved in local action envision the future they want for their communities, learn which solutions help reduce emissions, connect with like-minded fellow climate advocates and understand how local governments work and how to work with them. It also provides inspiration via stories from communities throughout Canada.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE IN PLACE

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.

You helped create Future Ground Network/Réseau Demain le Québec, online organizing hubs (one English, one French) that convene and mentor the environmental community.

They amplify and accelerate the meaningful work of local groups in their communities and connect them to each other,

and provide free monthly training webinars, resource guides, recruitment and training and digital organizing tools.

The project was piloted in Ontario and Quebec and launched nationally on February 10, 2021. Groups gather on the digital platform to promote their work, start local initiatives, host events and push for policy change. At the time of writing, more than 150 groups were registered. **That’s more than 3,000 people connecting with tens of thousands in their communities.**

“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



PHOTO: DEMAIN VERDUN

ACTIVISM EDUCATION

During COVID-19 lockdown, our organizers launched a youth-focused activism school offering online interactive multi-week programs 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 Future Ground Network/Réseau Demain le Québec.



PHOTO: PROJET LAC OSISKO



PHOTO: LES ALLIÉS DE LA MER

RECOGNIZING LOCAL EXCELLENCE

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

Our Montreal office launched its annual Prix Demain le Québec in 2014. The contest recognizes communities coming together to create innovative projects that protect the planet and build a healthy future. With your help, a pilot of the English version — the Future Ground Prize — kicked off in Ontario in 2021.

Six prizes were awarded (three in Quebec and three in Ontario). Winners of the two Jury Prizes received \$5,000 each

and an online visit from David Suzuki. The two People’s Choice Prize winners received \$2,500 each. Youth Awards recognize projects led by future green leaders — applicants from daycares, preschools and primary and secondary schools.

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 were collected online, thousands of people reviewed the candidate projects.

The project aims to gradually expand nationwide. In 2022, the focus will be youth activism in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec.

GETTING OUT THE VOTE

In a snap federal election during a global pandemic, you made it possible for us to get out the vote in a campaign that reached tens of thousands of people in Canada.

We provided party platforms on key environmental issues, and helped people register, vote by mail or find their polling station. We partnered with One Earth One Vote, a non-partisan effort to ensure the environment, social justice and Indigenous rights were on the election agenda. And we provided opportunities for people who live in Canada but can’t vote to get involved.





FINANCIALS

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Many sources, including tens of thousands of small, individual donations, power our work. This wide range of support allows us to be fully independent.

The climate and biodiversity crises are escalating. They require science-based policy advocacy to influence government decision-makers and hold them to their promises *and* public engagement in communities throughout Canada to empower people where they live — at the same time.

Despite the overlapping environmental, health and economic stresses, our revenue increased from 2020 to 2021, thanks to the generous support of our new and existing donors.

Thank you. We can't do the work we do without your constancy and commitment.

Incoming monies, combined with gains on endowment fund investments, resulted in an excess of revenue over expenses of \$4,177,304 in fiscal year 2021. This will help ensure our financial sustainability and the successful delivery of our important projects that push for bold climate action, protect nature so it can sustain all life and create resilient communities that benefit everyone.

YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2021, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 2020

	2021	2020
REVENUE	\$14,248,940	\$13,328,917
EXPENSES	\$11,070,201	\$12,350,878
GAINS ON ENDOWMENT FUND INVESTMENTS	\$998,565	\$683,200
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$4,177,304	\$1,661,239

View our audited financial statements at davidsuzuki.org/financials

DONORS

Thank you for your generosity. This list includes donors who contributed \$5,000 or more between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021.

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THE PROGRAMS YOU SUPPORT? **WE'RE HERE TO HELP.**

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