



# A GLOBAL FIRST FOR NATURE PROTECTION

PHOTO: LEO VAN DOORMAAL

Thanks to you, our team attended the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Montreal last December and worked with other organizations to help achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework — **a historic commitment to protect nature.**

The conference's aim was to develop a bold, ambitious framework to protect biological diversity by conserving and restoring the planet's species, habitats and ecosystems.

As the conference drew to a close, flaws in the framework's working draft spurred attending environmental non-governmental organizations (including the Foundation) to quickly collaborate on a clear, one-page proposal of five key recommendations. Negotiators adopted the most important two: **halt and reverse species loss and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights, responsibilities and knowledge.**

Other highlights of the framework's 23 targets:

- Support a national biodiversity strategy and a strong Biodiversity Accountability Act.
- Protect 30 per cent of land and coastal marine spaces and improve conservation and restoration of those that are degraded by 2030.
- Manage how people interact and coexist with wildlife in the remaining 70 per cent.

- Halt human-induced extinction of known threatened species.
- Reduce risk from pesticides, pollution and plastics by 50 per cent (the first time all three have been identified in a treaty as a big part of what harms biodiversity).

The Government of Canada allocated up to \$800 million for Indigenous-led conservation funding, committed to a first-of-its-kind national First Nations Guardianship Program and contributed about \$600 million for developing nations to invest in conservation.

This is just the beginning. The framework provides a foundation for needed public, private and government transformation. **Now it needs to be implemented.**

With your help, we'll continue to build solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and groups and amplify their voices and influence in the creation and governance of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and other activities in their territories, push Canada to assert more power over corporations, pursue sustainable ways to halt and reverse degradation of the "other" 70 per cent of nature, expand the number of towns and cities that factor nature into decision-making and ensure open-net pen salmon farms are out of Pacific waters by 2025.

Speak up for nature here: [dsfdn.org/help-nature](https://dsfdn.org/help-nature)



## SINKING SUKUNKA

**Victory!** In December, the British Columbia environmental assessment office rejected Glencore’s proposed Sukunka coal mine.

This is a rare event. Over the past 10 years, the province has approved more than a dozen mine certificates, rejecting just three.

You made it possible for us to arm our followers with information as they took part in the public comment period. That made a difference: community input was critical in the government’s decision.

The open-pit metallurgical coal mine was expected to produce three million tonnes of hard coking coal each year for 22 years. It would have overlapped with one of the last refuges for Quintette caribou, whose habitat has already been significantly degraded. It would also have had significant adverse cumulative effects on the watershed, affected Indigenous land use and had serious climate implications.

The proposed Sukunka coal mine in northeastern B.C. would have affected mountain caribou habitat, particularly for the Quintette herd. The province said no.

## SUPPORTING NATURE-DIRECTED PLANNING

In 2016, you made it possible for us to create an *Atlas of Cumulative Landscape Disturbance in the Traditional Territory of Blueberry River First Nations*, which helped that community in its groundbreaking legal win against the province of British Columbia.

The atlas mapped industrial intrusions and found that 73 per

cent of BRFN traditional territory is within 250 metres of infrastructure, light, noise and/or emissions from industry — an infringement of treaty rights to hunt preferred species.

The B.C. Supreme Court ruled in BRFN’s favour, resulting in a radical change in decision-making: *the province can no longer approve*

*industrial projects in the nation’s territory without their consent.*

This decision-making change, coupled with ongoing and ever-increasing support for Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, has changed the landscape of conservation in Canada. Acceptance that conservation projects must either be done collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples or through support of their leadership is growing.

Nature-directed plans foster better understanding of landscapes’ character and condition so economic activities and cultural use respect the natural systems’ integrity and resilience.

**Now, thanks to you, we’re supporting nature-directed planning in the traditional territories of other Indigenous nations and communities — including Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations in B.C., and Swan River First Nation in Alberta.**



## FEEDING AND SHELTERING POLLINATORS

**With your help, the award-winning Butterflyway Project marked its sixth year in 2022, with 750 volunteer Rangers as its public face and heart. And 800 more — hailing from Whitehorse, Yukon, to Sydney, Nova Scotia — have joined for the 2023 season!**

Butterflyway Rangers are community builders and nature lovers, artists and scientists, novice and master gardeners and everything in between. They share a commitment to work together on pollinator protection and advocacy in their communities, spreading their pollinator and native plant love at community events, daycare centres, schools

and workplaces, over garden fences and on sidewalks with passers-by.

To date, they’ve planted 100,000 native wildflowers and grasses, some 2,500 trees and shrubs and 7,000 habitat gardens, to create 91 Butterflyways (12 or more habitat gardens in close proximity) throughout Canada.

Watch the Butterflyway Diaries here: [dsfdn.org/butterfly-diaries](https://dsfdn.org/butterfly-diaries)

Find a Butterflyway near you — and get involved here: [dsfdn.org/butterflyway](https://dsfdn.org/butterflyway)

## WIN! NO MORE DISCOVERY ISLANDS FISH FARMS

**Open-net pen salmon farms will NOT return to British Columbia’s Discovery Islands**, thanks to science-based, Indigenous-led and community-driven initiatives. You helped make critical elements of this campaign possible, from letters and phone calls to rallies and participation in public consultations.

Wild salmon will no longer have to face the threat of disease and parasites from open-net pens as they pass through the islands’ narrow channels — one of the world’s most important migration

routes for wild salmon — during their perilous journey from streams to sea.

But we can’t stop here! B.C. salmon runs are in serious decline due to many human-made threats. Open-net pens in other important habitat for imperilled Pacific salmon need to be phased out too.

The federal government has committed to end all B.C. open-net pen fish farms by 2025. Help hold government to its promise: [dsfdn.org/end-fish-farm](https://dsfdn.org/end-fish-farm)

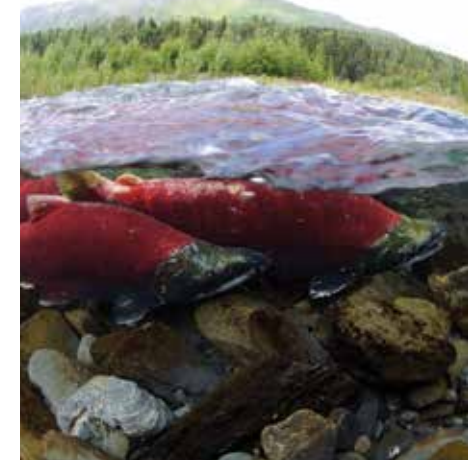


PHOTO: ALASKA REGION U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



## SOLVING THE ENERGY POVERTY CRISIS

The cost-of-living and climate crises share the same root cause: expensive oil and gas with volatile prices. One study showed that 25 cents out of every dollar spent in the last two years went directly to profits in mining and gas extraction.

**A report you powered — *Keeping the Lights On: Ensuring energy affordability, equity and access in the transition to clean electricity in Canada* — identifies the challenges of living with energy unaffordability**

**in Canada and offers solutions to support those who need it most.**

More than one in 10 households in Canada live in energy poverty, struggling to have a sufficient level of energy services at home. This means being either too cold in winter or too hot in summer and having to limit use of lighting and appliances because of cost. This can have damaging effects on health and social relationships and, in extreme cases, can even cause deaths.

As we push for the move to 100 per cent affordable, secure, renewable power across Canada by 2035, it's crucially important to consider issues of energy justice. Powering our lives with clean electricity brings affordability as well as climate wins.

*Want to learn more?* Watch the webinar here: [dsfdn.org/energy-webinar](https://dsfdn.org/energy-webinar) and download the report here: [dsfdn.org/energy-poverty-report](https://dsfdn.org/energy-poverty-report)

## A FIRST FOR CANADA'S OCEANS

**You helped us support an unprecedented partnership between 15 Coastal First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia to create Canada's first Marine Protected Area network action plan.**

It was officially adopted at the International Marine Protected Areas Congress in Vancouver in February.

Based on Indigenous knowledge and science, the Northern Shelf

Bioregion/Great Bear Sea MPA network will:

- Transform how human activities in the ocean are managed in the region;
- Restore ecological abundance and safeguard biodiversity;
- Empower Indigenous stewardship and governance.

Learn more and watch the video here: [dsfdn.org/MPAN](https://dsfdn.org/MPAN)



## GAINING GROUND ON INDIGENOUS LAND GOVERNANCE

**You're helping realize a vision of a world where Indigenous Peoples are responsible to and for their lands and waters in ways that ensure their laws and governance are upheld.**

**The *Governance Back: Exploring Indigenous Approaches to Reclaiming Relationships with Land* report:**

- Profiles how Indigenous governance has been reclaimed in relation to lands and waters.
- Affirms governance Indigenous Peoples worldwide are employing to steward and safeguard previously dispossessed lands and waters.
- Illustrates the need for willing partners and creative solutions — the burden of achieving reconciliation and returning governance to original land stewards should not rest solely on Indigenous Peoples.
- Comes at a time when global resource extraction in pursuit of endless economic growth has landed the world in the middle of a mass extinction and biodiversity crisis.

Power imbalances remain a factor in most dynamics between Indigenous People and various states. Nevertheless, Indigenous Peoples are leaders in reclaiming governance in their lands and territories, in accordance with their laws and governance principles.

Read more about the report: [dsfdn.org/governance-back](https://dsfdn.org/governance-back)



PHOTO: AMAH MUTSUN LAND TRUST

## MAPPING PATHS TO CITY CLIMATE ADAPTATION



Green spaces in cities provide beautiful, mood-boosting places for people to spend time in.

They also help regulate local temperatures, manage heavy rainfall, improve air quality, capture carbon and provide habitat for biodiversity.

Essential to climate adaptation, trees are also subject to effects of the climate crisis: increasing extreme weather events and invasive insects.

**You're powering an interactive mapping tool to help cities better understand the benefits their green spaces (or "natural infrastructure") provide, calculate climate and development risks threatening them and consider whether all people have equal access.**

Produced in collaboration with Gatineau, Ottawa, Quebec City and Vancouver and available to the general public, the tool will make it possible to:

- Visualize the state of the cities' natural infrastructure by 2050 according to different management scenarios.
- Compare, at a glance, the long-term impacts of human activity.
- Increase natural infrastructure where it's needed, such as by planting, protecting and maintaining urban trees where they'll provide the most climate benefits to the most people.

Together, we're empowering local action — one of the best ways to ensure cities adapt to future climate risks.

## REWILDING ART

Art can be a powerful catalyst — to educate, advocate and inspire.

A half-dozen years ago, Jode Roberts worked with muralist Nick Sweetman to raise awareness about pollinators via a Toronto street art project that included giant depictions of bees — tiny, imperilled creatures too often taken for granted. That became part of our thousands-strong, nationwide Butterflyway Project.

**Now, thanks to you, the first annual Rewilding Arts Prize has also been an astounding success.**

After reviewing almost 600 compelling entries, our jury (Christi Belcourt, Edward Fu-Chen, Charmaine Lurch, Sarah Lazarovic and Nick Sweetman) selected six winners and seven runners-up. Every submission featured innovative work communicating the importance of rewilding the human-dominated landscapes we call home: yards, neighbourhoods and communities.

### WINNERS

*Rewilding Magazine* profiled this talented bunch, who each received \$2,000.

Learn more at [dsfdn.org/rewilding-arts-prize](https://dsfdn.org/rewilding-arts-prize)



For “Performing community garden” **Khadija Baker** from Saint-Leonard, Quebec, combines live performance — including participation by community members — plants and handmade paper.

*“I position my body in a highly visible public space, it becomes a garden and then I invite people to take a plant with a name [of a person lost or displaced] to care for, care for a stranger, for a plant.”*



Over four years, Vancouver Island-based **Natasha Lavdovsky** created “moss-covered armchair” in a remote, undisclosed spot in the coastal rainforest. It’s still alive.

*“The forest welcomes us to feel its love and remember our kinship with its beings, yet as a society we destroy it, relentlessly exploiting its magic for our own domestic comforts.”*



**Justin Tyler Tate’s** “Post-Anthropocene Architecture” structures focus on creating co-habitative spaces for interspecies dialogue and collaboration.

*“‘Post-Anthropocene Architecture’ does not seek to be reciprocal, because in the world’s ledger, we are already deeply overdrawn. It seeks to ... provide a methodology that can be used to repay that debt ... while reimagining the world as one where humans channel resources ... back into the environment.”*



Vancouver’s **The Only Animal** theatre company brings arts and artists to the front lines of the climate emergency and seeks to re/connect human nature with nature.

*“We are calling for, and creating work that is green, not just because we recycle the set, or use carbon offsetting, but because art itself gives back to the earth, the work itself is ecological restoration, combined with our own vivacity and fun.”*



Exploring connections between scientific research, ecology and decorative patterns, Toronto-based **Amanda McCavour** creates large-scale, immersive embroidered installations.

*“I am interested in the recent movement to restore Wisconsin’s prairie environment, almost completely destroyed by decades of farming. ‘Ode to a Prairie’ both looks back to the past and toward an idealized future of what might be.”*



**Amber Sandy** created a purse using birch bark and home-tanned moose and deer hide.

*“My art practice focuses on using natural elements from the land to reclaim traditional knowledge that was lost over generations because of colonialism, and to continue honouring relations with non-human kin.”*

## 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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## TRIM YOUR FOOD WASTE

When you toss food, all the resources to grow, ship and produce it get chucked too, including massive volumes of water. Besides wasting money, time, energy and nutrients, unused food in landfills is one of the main sources of greenhouse gases.

Make a difference five ways:

### 1. PLAN MEALS

Use what you already have first.

### 2. ONLY BUY WHAT YOU NEED

Make a list and stick to it.

### 3. HELP FRESH PRODUCE LAST LONGER

Avoid plastic wrap. Wash it when it’s ready to eat, not before. Keep it whole as long as possible. Eat the most perishable first.

### 4. ORGANIZE

All fruits and veggies give off ethylene, a colourless, odourless, gaseous hormone that, among other things, stimulates ripening. Keep high ethylene emitters (e.g., apples, melons, apricots) away from the ethylene-sensitive (e.g., strawberries, cucumbers, carrots).

### 5. USE IT ALL

Swimming in leftovers? Got perishables on the edge? Make soup or juice. Share with others. Freeze what you can.

Read the full article: [dsfdn.org/end-food-waste](https://dsfdn.org/end-food-waste)



Did you get this postcard?  
Thanks Annie Trudeau for this joyous celebration of nature image.

## NEVER RETIRING

You've probably heard that this is my last year hosting CBC's *The Nature of Things*. But I'm not slowing down! I'll keep fighting the good fight as long as I can.

We're living in the first real global civilization. And the creeping legacy of colonial, capitalist and patriarchal history has erupted — in the climate and biodiversity crises, multiple global health crises, economic instability, growing inequalities and political polarization.

At the core of it all is the fact that the planet is what gives us life. Most of us have forgotten this, and that all people are utterly dependent on and embedded in nature.

For Earth to continue to be habitable for humans, we must change the way we live and how we think about our place in the natural world.

When Tara and I started the Foundation in 1990, we thought we had a decade to turn things around. I

overestimated people's comprehension of the dangers and their willingness to act. But I have never given up hope.

I'm beyond proud of the Foundation's work to respect, restore and protect forests, wetlands, grasslands and oceans, work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, advance Canada's climate ambition (including showing how to get to an affordable, reliable 100 per cent zero-emissions national electricity grid in just 12 years) and promote a well-being economy.

Canada can lead. Quebec is Earth's first jurisdiction to end oil, gas and coal extraction in its territory. More must follow.

I'm pleased that I was able to be a part of *The Nature of Things* for 44 years and bring all those lessons and experiences to people. But I'm proudest of the fact that I can look my grandchildren in the eye now and say, "I'm only one human being, but I did the best I could for you."

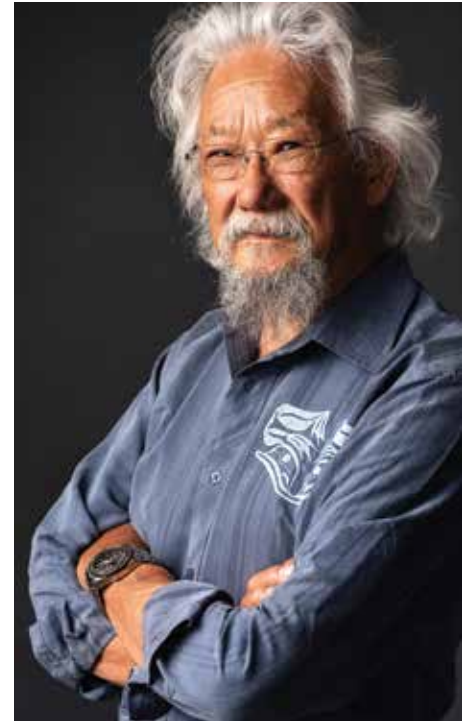


PHOTO: JENNIFER ROESSLER

## BECOME A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

Solo or with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues there are LOTS of ways to help raise money to support work you care about.



### 1. BRAINSTORM YOUR "HOOK"

Birthday parties, bake and arts sales, pub nights, work events — get creative!

### 2. START

Use Facebook Fundraising, Canada Helps or simply collect cash and cheques.

### 3. SPREAD THE WORD

Use social media. Email people. Promote your event.

### 4. BE A GREAT HOST

Get everything you need in advance. Make sure you're set up to receive donations.

### 5. THANK YOUR DONORS

### 6. FEEL TERRIFIC AND SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US!

Get step-by-step help here: [dsfdn.org/community-fundraiser](https://dsfdn.org/community-fundraiser)