

## YOUR TOP WINS IN 2023

You've powered 50 many victories for nature in 2023. This report celebrates this year's best of the best.



PHOTO: MING WU

### ACHIEVING RENEWABLE POWER FOR ALL

In March, you made it possible for us to push for — and achieve! — unprecedented renewable electricity investments in federal Budget 2023, a historic first. Thanks to you, we've also campaigned against taxpayer-funded handouts for the oil and gas industry and, in July, Canada committed to phasing out inefficient federal fossil fuel subsidies and said it will develop a plan by 2024 for phasing out all public financing. Learn more about renewable power for all: [dsfdn.org/clean-electricity](https://dsfdn.org/clean-electricity)

### ACHIEVING YOUR RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

After a decade of work made possible by donors like you, in June, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act recognized *every person in Canada's* right to a healthy environment for the first time in law. That means the federal government must uphold the principles of environmental justice; consider cumulative effects on environmental and human health and on vulnerable populations; and review the control of toxic substances and dangerous chemicals. Read more: [dsfdn.org/healthy-environment](https://dsfdn.org/healthy-environment)



PHOTO: LEO VAN DOORMAAL

### SCORING A GLOBAL FIRST FOR NATURE PROTECTION

With your support, our team attended the United Nations Biodiversity Conference COP15 in Montreal last December and worked with other organizations to help achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework — a historic commitment to protect nature. Negotiators adopted two of the most important recommendations: halt and reverse species loss and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights, responsibilities and knowledge. Learn more: [dsfdn.org/UNCOPI5](https://dsfdn.org/UNCOPI5)

### COORDINATING COLLECTIVE ACTION

For the first time since the 2020 launch of our two online organizing hubs, Future Ground Network and Réseau Demain le Québec, you made it possible for people to meet (in-person and virtually) for Building Power: A Future Ground Network Convergence. Sessions in Quebec City, Toronto and Vancouver offered powerful insights on the importance of collective action against the forces driving the climate crisis. Learn more: [dsfdn.org/future-ground](https://dsfdn.org/future-ground)



PHOTO: VINCENT TOM

## INSPIRING CLIMATE HOPE

"It's undeniable where we are, what is happening and what we have to do. It's time for clear, calm and focused divestment from fossil fuels in every aspect of our lives."

SEVERN CULLIS-SUZUKI

September 15 climate rally

In September, after another summer of unprecedented heat, wildfires, droughts and floods, international climate strikes returned in full force for the first time since before COVID-19. Hundreds of thousands protested in more than 500 cities in 65 countries.

**You made it possible for us to promote the youth-led Global Fight to End Fossil Fuels *everywhere on the planet*.** People of all ages mobilized for a fast, just and equitable end to fossil fuels. That includes no new fossil fuels; new commitments for international cooperation; an end to greenwashing; holding polluters responsible for the damage they're causing; and preventing fossil fuel corporations from dictating climate action rules, financing or participating in climate talks, or sabotaging the world's response to climate change.

David Suzuki stirred Victoria attendees with his impassioned, powerful words, as did executive director Severn Cullis-Suzuki and public engagement and mobilization lead Janelle Lapointe in Vancouver with theirs.

Read David's Science Matters column about the strikes: [dsfdn.org/youth-strikes](https://dsfdn.org/youth-strikes)



## STOPPING CLIMATE-ALTERING GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES

"LNG locks in emissions, locks up investment and locks out renewables."

JOHN YOUNG

B.C. energy transition strategist

You made it possible for us to campaign against taxpayer handouts to fossil fuel companies. In July, government finally announced it would turn off that federal funding tap — an important, long-overdue step toward aligning public investments with Canada's climate commitments.

For too long, the oil, gas and coal industry — already raking in unprecedented profits and driving up inflation — has helped inflame climate chaos and delay the necessary transition to renewable energy.

But loopholes mean the public purse will still have to foot the bill for the fossil fuel industry to "clean up its act," using expensive, time-wasting, often unproven emissions reduction technologies such as carbon capture and storage — ultimately leading to *more oil extraction and increased pollution!*



PHOTO: MAREK PIWNICK

Implementing Canada's commitment should also mean no further subsidies for new fossil fuel projects such as proposed liquified "natural" gas plants in British Columbia. **Help stop LNG from fuelling global heating:** [dsfdn.org/no-more-lng](https://dsfdn.org/no-more-lng)

## DEFENDING THE ONTARIO GREENBELT

"Thank YOU for your extraordinary leadership, as well as your advice as we moved forward together. Not a day has gone by where I haven't thought of the early meetings we've had ... I am so proud to have worked alongside you in this fight."

MARIT STILES

*Leader, Ontario's official opposition, to Foundation climate change and transportation policy analyst Gideon Forman and others*

The world's largest protected Greenbelt encompasses forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes and some of the best agricultural land in Canada. Since March 2021, you've fuelled our campaign to stop Highway 413 and safeguard the Greenbelt. With your help, we've held government meetings, led tours for reporters, ran an advertising campaign for transit riders, and rallied support from farmers, business leaders, faith leaders, thought leaders, physicians, actors, comedians and other concerned people throughout Canada.



PHOTO: GREENBELT FOUNDATION

When Premier Ford announced a reversal on a scheme to build homes there in September, he apologized for breaking his past promise not to develop the area and said Ontario "won't make any changes to the Greenbelt in the future." You helped make this victory possible. Thank you!

BUT our work isn't over. The Ontario government still plans to pave parts of the Greenbelt with the proposed six-lane, 52-kilometre, \$8-billion Highway 413!

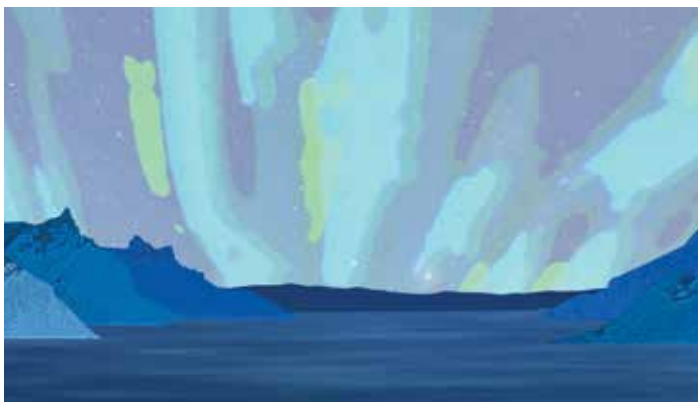
**This hypocrisy needs to stop. Help stop the 413 and save the Greenbelt: [dsfdn.org/stop-413](https://dsfdn.org/stop-413)**

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## SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS LAND AND WATER DEFENDERS

"The only people with a track record of living sustainably in place for thousands of years are Indigenous people, and despite all that has been done to get them out of the way, they are still here fighting for their land."

DAVID SUZUKI



When settlers arrived in what is now called Canada, they initially made treaties with Indigenous Peoples in some territories to share the land. These guaranteed that Indigenous communities would still be able to carry out their traditional ways of life. But Canada's implementation of treaties has, in almost every instance, failed to honour that understanding.

In other territories, treaties were not signed. Indigenous Peoples made no legal agreements with Canada to share responsibility for the lands and waters, and Canada took over governance without consent.

Because most people are unaware of this political landscape, with your help, we created *Treaty Promises*, a five-part video series that examines the relationship between Canadian citizens, Indigenous Peoples and treaties.

**Watch the videos here: [dsfdn.org/treaty-promises](https://dsfdn.org/treaty-promises)**



## WHEN WILL WARMING WARNINGS KICK-START CRITICAL CLIMATE ACTION?

With wildfires burning worldwide, floods inundating communities and washing away topsoil, hurricanes battering coastlines, ice melting at both poles and in glaciers everywhere, and desperate climate migrants fleeing hostile conditions, scientists continue to issue increasingly urgent warnings.

The *Guardian* recently asked 40 scientists from all over to assess where we're at:

"We need to stop burning fossil fuels. Now. Not some time when we've allowed companies to make all the money they possibly can."

FRIEDERIKE OTTO  
*Imperial College London*

"Knowing that we will look back on today's extreme events as mild relative to what lies in our future is truly mind-boggling. The speed at which we make this transition will define the future that we get."

ANDREA DUTTON  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison*

"The extremes we see now happening could induce tipping points such as the collapse of the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation and melting of the Antarctic ice sheets, that would have devastating impacts."

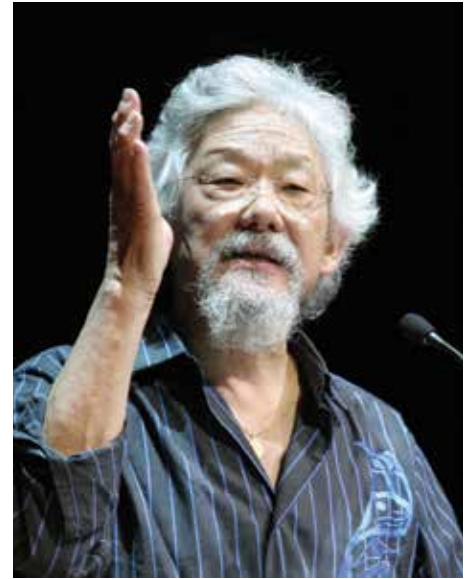
REIN HAARSTMA  
*Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute*

The survey found overall agreement that we're entering uncharted territory — "*flying partially blind.*"

Warnings from scientists and Indigenous Peoples aren't new. People on the front lines have been reporting the extreme changes they've been witnessing for decades.

Why do politicians, media pundits and keyboard trolls with no background in science think they know more than those who have observed and studied every aspect of climate?

We've put off change to the point of crisis. Experts tell us we must curtail



rampant consumerism, leave fossil fuels behind and shift quickly to renewable energy. There's no time left to lose.

Humanity's understanding of the causes and solutions for the climate emergency is growing. With great effort and human ingenuity, we can learn to better live in balance with nature. We can get through the climate crisis. Together, let's change course and build a better future.

## INSTEAD OF STUFF, GIVE GIFTS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Sending gifts to your loved ones and protecting nature *at the same time* is as easy as one, two, three:

1. **Choose your gifts.** Train a Butterflyway Ranger to protect pollinators. Fund critical climate research. Power a new generation of environmental activists... *and more.*
2. **Dedicate them to special people.** Let them know by sending beautiful, personalized e-cards.
3. **Make a difference.** Your gifts will push for bold climate action, to protect nature so it can sustain all life and to create resilient communities that benefit *everyone.*

Buy gifts for a healthy planet:

[dsfdn.org/symbolic-gift](https://dsfdn.org/symbolic-gift)



ILLUSTRATION: CRYSTAL SMITH