FINDING SOLUTIONS

YOUR TOP WINS IN 2025



PHOTO: RICH MARTELLO

MAPPING CITIES' CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Instead of traditional grey infrastructure (roads, buildings, sewers, etc.), cities need to incorporate more green spaces, trees and waterways that help regulate temperature, reduce floods and improve air quality. We partnered with environmental solutions platform developer Habitat to review and graph ecosystem services in five pilot cities: Gatineau, Ottawa, Quebec City, Saskatoon and Vancouver. The resulting mapping tool helps decision-makers recognize, prioritize and protect natural systems that have significant — and often overlooked or misunderstood — community benefits.

DEMANDING POLITICIANS PROTECT THE PLANET

All people in Canada benefit when we take care of the environment and each other: cleaner air, better health, resilient communities and more jobs and investment opportunities. Leading up to the April federal election, our community members sent thousands of letters to all party leaders demanding that the next government prioritize climate solutions and nature protection and support strong environmental and social justice values. We continue to be your eyes and ears on Parliament Hill.



PHOTO: HANNAH BUSING



PHOTO: NICHOLAS DOHERTY

LANDING CANADA'S CLEAN ELECTRICITY REGULATIONS

Despite opposition from fossil fuel billionaires and politicians who serve their interests, collective action helped achieve Canada's clean electricity regulations. Now it's up to the provinces and utilities to implement plans that go even further, to gain the most benefits for people living in Canada. We must also ensure that workers, communities and Indigenous nations on whose lands these projects are built will benefit directly from this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

REWILDING TO HELP NATURE HEAL

LawnShare helps individuals, companies and communities adopt sustainable lawn-care practices and transform yards, fields and roadsides into healthier environments for wildlife and humans. The Butterflyway Project's volunteer Rangers create neighbourhood native plant gardens to feed and shelter pollinators. Healing Forests bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities together, fostering dialogue and honouring residential school victims, survivors and their families. And we're pushing for bylaw reform against outdated policies that limit these kind of rewilding efforts.



PHOTO: ALFONSO BETANCOURT

ADVANCING THE FIGHT AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION

Thanks to your support, we were able to participate in the most recent round of international plastic treaty negotiations in Geneva this past August. Your continued commitment is also empowering us to hold Canadian politicians accountable and push for stronger plastic regulations at home.

After six rounds of negotiations, the global treaty process is now suspended until further notice. No consensus was reached on a draft text or when talks would resume. But more than 100 countries, including Canada, did not back down on an ambitious agreement, signalling that most participating parties support effective measures to address plastic production. We'll continue to follow international developments and advocate for domestic policies and laws that align with global fossil fuel phase-out and plastic-reduction objectives.



Canada's Federal Court of Appeal is expected to deliver a key decision on the single-use plastics regulations, which have been contested by industry, and — thanks to you — in which we are an intervenor.

SECURING RENEWABLE POWER FOR ALL

You're supporting our work to secure affordable, reliable, renewable power for everyone living in Canada.

We're calling for an upgraded east-west electricity grid based on renewable energy that respects Indigenous rights, creates thousands of good jobs and is more efficient for all people who live here.

In July, we partnered with more than 100 organizations demanding \$20 billion in federal investments over five years in new electricity transmission connections between provinces, supports for Indigenous-led projects and worker training.



PHOTO: NUNO MARQUES



In September, we met with dozens of members of Parliament, in partnership with 16 allied groups, including labour unions, Indigenous clean energy leaders, doctors, municipal leaders, faith groups and others.

Our survey shows growing public enthusiasm for Canada's east-west electricity grid. Seventy-seven per cent support upgrading Canada's grid by connecting provinces and territories with new transmission lines; 72 per cent support federal funding for them.

At writing, more than 17,000 people have signed our petition demanding real, nation-building action for Canada's renewable energy future. Add your voice to theirs here: dsfdn.org/east-west-grid



PHOTO: D. STEED

REIMAGINING A BETTER WORLD

Science shows that experiencing art literally lights up our brains' neural pathways, making us more open to new ideas and more likely to activate them.

With your support, we're again hosting the Rewilding Arts Prize. Five winners will each receive a \$2,000 prize and a profile on our website and in *Rewilding* magazine. They'll also join the Rewilding Arts Collective — a national network advancing ecological awareness through creative practice.

Past winners' work spanned textiles, sculpture, installation, photography and sound. It was on view at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa until October — the first major exhibition in Canada devoted entirely to rewilding-themed art.



PHOTO: PHILIP ORONI

DO YOU KNOW "THE DIRTY DOZEN?"

Product labels often say "natural," "sustainable" or "biodegradable" — terms not regulated in Canada. Without a reputable ecolabel, these can give people a false sense of environmental responsibility.

Thanks to you, we're building on research we did in 2010 to investigate toxic ingredients found in cosmetics. Personal care products have proliferated. And harmful chemicals show up in food, household cleaners, packaging and everyday items.

To adapt to the evolving toxins landscape, we've retired the name "The Dirty Dozen." But the goal is the same: providing information and solutions people need to make safer, healthier choices. Making those decisions sends a powerful message to industries and policy-makers that people who care want stricter regulations on toxins.



KIMBERLI KOLODY-WATT (CENTRE) WITH REGINA CITY
COLINCILLORS VICTORIA FLORES AND SHANON ZACHIDNIAK

LIFTING UP YOUNG LEADERS

Your support helped Kimberli Kolody-Watt, a David Suzuki Foundation "gaptivist," present to Regina city council on behalf of Better Bus Youth for a fare-free transit pilot for high school students — an important step toward building a safer, more equitable city. It passed unanimously.

Students' school involvement improves when they have safe, reliable transportation. When young people ride the bus for free, they're more likely to continue using transit as adults. And not having to pay (in Regina, a youth bus pass costs \$600 a year) helps people afford other necessities.

Earlier this year, Kimberli was named one of Regina's top 25 change-makers for her work on fare-free transit and inclusivity.

Read more about Kimberli and Regina's youth-led fare-free transit movement here: **dsfdn.org/accessible-transit**

PLASTICS TREATY FAILURE REVEALS A BROKEN SYSTEM

What caused the Geneva plastics treaty talks to fail after six rounds of negotiations? Efforts by petrochemical-producing countries and by the largest delegation attending, made up of 234 lobbyists from the fossil fuel and chemical industries.

Only nine per cent of plastics are recycled, with most of it burned, sent to landfills or released into the environment. It's now everywhere on the planet, including in our bodies.

Plastic is a byproduct of oil and gas. With the impacts of fossil-fuelled global heating increasing daily, the industry needs ways to continue reaping exorbitant profits. Curtailing it — protecting the global environment and the life that depends on it — threatens a system designed to give a small minority a disproportionately large share of money and influence.

One could argue the system is obsolete, but it was never that great to begin with. It's just that the disastrous results of profit- and consumerist-driven avarice are now hitting home, with increasing pollution and climate disruption threatening our survival.



PHOTO: MARIEL NELMS

The failure of the plastics treaty is yet more evidence that the fossil fuel industry and its supporters in governments and media are just one powerful element in a system that isn't designed with our interests in mind.

We need to wake up and take back the power.

LAST CHANCE FOR A 2025 TAX RECEIPT

Take a moment right NOW to make a year-end donation to support work you care about AND get a 2025 tax receipt.

The Canadian tax credit for charitable donations can range from 20 per cent to more than 40 per cent of your donation. Depending on your province or territory, you may receive an additional refund of 24 per cent. Here's an example of possible tax benefits:*

Your gift	\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500
Your tax credit	\$10	\$20	\$63	\$177	\$406	\$1,093
Actual cost of your gift (after tax credit)	\$40	\$80	\$187	\$323	\$594	\$1,407

^{*}These figures are approximate and refer to donations made by British Columbia residents. Tax credits for donations by residents of other provinces may vary.



Donate here **dsfdn.org/fall2025** to support bold climate action, protect nature so it can sustain all life and create resilient communities that benefit everyone.

Thank you for your enduring support.



PHOTO: KALEN EMSLEY

Charitable number Canada: BN 127756716RR0001 U.S.: 94-3204049