DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION
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FINDING SOLUTIONS

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CALLING OUT THE COPS

(SEATED, LEFT TO RIGHT) SONIA GUAJAJARA (MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, BRAZIL), JUAN CARLOS MONTERREY (SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, PANAMA), CHIEF RAONI AND PATKORE KAYAPÓ. PHOTO: CYRIELLE MAISON

"The COP process is flawed and rife with failures. But it's one of the few spaces where civil society, youth, scientists and Indigenous leaders can confront power face-to-face. This matters. We desperately need more global collaboration when multilateralism is threatened and authoritarianism is rising. We need international solidarity to push back against the wave of nationalism." Janelle Lapointe, Senior Adviser, Indigenous Strategic Approach

After 30 years of international "conference of the parties" climate summits, delegates to the November COP30 in Belém, Brazil, could not agree on the necessity to "transition away from fossil fuels." More oil and gas lobbyists attended than national delegations. And Canada "won" the "fossil of the day" award — singled out for "flushing years of climate action down the drain."

Thanks to you, we're not giving up. We were there — marching in the streets, on stage with government decision-makers, participating in panels and media interviews and briefings, loudly and proudly taking on the most important issue of our times.

You made it possible for our representatives to:

- Provide on-the-ground live coverage to inform our audiences.
- Call out the over-representation of fossil fuel delegates.
- Elevate the voices and leadership of Indigenous Peoples, youth and front-line communities most affected by climate change.
- Build strong relationships with people from around the world, linking energy and climate justice with human rights.

You allowed our team to push for an end to fossil fuel expansion, with clear, time-bound targets. We centred Indigenous rights and leadership at home and abroad. We demanded that Canada commit to bold, fair contributions to global climate finance — especially to those most affected — and support for global mechanisms for climate accountability.

Meetings included Janelle Lapointe, David Suzuki Foundation senior adviser, Indigenous strategic approach, discussing the impacts of fossil fuel projects with Julie Dabrusin, Canada's minister of environment and climate change. "I shared experiences about what it's like growing up in an area that has no choice but to accept these projects because when we say no they happen anyway," she said. "And to know these projects not only bring impacts to our land and water but also to our health and to our infrastructure in rural communities."

Transformational change only happens when those historically marginalized are at the forefront of decision-making. Climate action that centres justice is more resilient and effective.

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PHOTO: DIOGO CARDOSO

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF BUTTERFLYWAY

What if neighbourhoods could work together to bring butterflies back?

Thanks to you, that idea has grown into one of Canada's most vibrant conservation movements — powered by volunteer Butterflyway Rangers in more than 300 communities who've helped establish thousands of native plant gardens. Together, they've built a living network of Butterflyways that reconnect people, plants and pollinators.

Each Ranger aims to help establish at least a dozen habitat gardens — a Butterflyway — in their neighbourhood, turning streets, schoolyards, parks and backyards into places where butterflies and other insects can thrive.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN — AND GREW

2013 The Homegrown National Park Project invited people to reimagine their blocks as parts of a national park. Volunteers hosted plantings, community events and even musical parades through city parks.

2017 The Butterflyway Project recruited and trained Rangers who invited neighbours, schools and community groups to help create habitat. In 2018, it expanded to more cities, alongside the French-language *L'Effet papillon*.

STILL BLOSSOMING

Now recognized as a proven, community-led solution for pollinator protection, Butterflyway continues to grow. Hundreds of new Rangers joined this year — our 10th cohort — proof that when people are invited into meaningful, hopeful action close to home, they keep showing up.

Conservation works best when it's rooted in neighbourhoods, relationships and joy — and when people are trusted to lead.

MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

You made it possible for us to collaborate with Oilfield Witness and the Environmental Defense Fund to survey methane emissions using a state-of-the-art optical gas imaging camera from June 7 to 14, 2025. Initial fieldwork began in 2022.

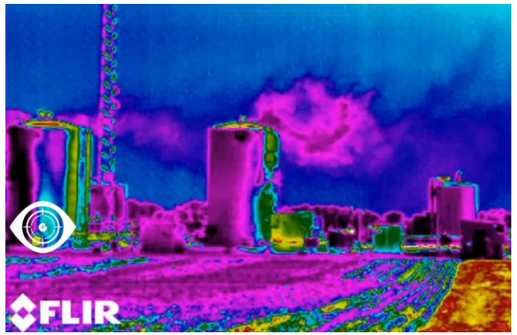
The footage, captured at more than 90 oil and gas sites throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan:

- Shows ongoing and significant releases of methane and hydrocarbon pollution.
- Confirms that — despite Canada's obligations and commitments (federal methane regulations and equivalency agreements with provinces under the Global Methane Pledge) — emissions from oil and gas companies remain uncontrolled and widespread.
- Proves regulations in those provinces are inadequate and poorly enforced.

We have long advocated for stronger methane regulations. Finally, in December 2025, Canada delivered. While the regulations don't include the 75 per cent reductions we pushed for, they are a critical step toward delivering the rapid emissions cuts science demands. These regulations target a 72 per cent reduction in methane emissions.

The oil and gas sector is responsible for almost one-third of Canada's climate pollution problem. It has been failing to act, as our images prove.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, around 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period. It's invisible, odourless and leaking upstream without public awareness. Reducing methane is among the fastest, cheapest ways to slow global warming and protect public health.



AN INFRARED CAMERA REVEALS INVISIBLE METHANE POLLUTION LEAKING OUT OF A SASKATCHEWAN OIL AND GAS FACILITY IN JUNE 2025.

SPOTLIGHTING FORESTRY PRACTICES STUCK IN THE PAST

You're helping us refute Canada's claims about being a leader in forest management and Indigenous partnerships. True climate leadership begins when Indigenous laws are treated not as cultural heritage but as constitutional authority.

When Canada uses the language of "efficiency" and "competitiveness" to override Indigenous jurisdiction and free, prior and informed consent, it repeats the same legal fiction that justified conquest: that the Crown holds ultimate authority over land.

In Canada, domestic laws — from the recently adopted One Canadian Economy Act to similar measures proposed in Quebec or already adopted in Ontario and British Columbia — dress old colonial hierarchies in contemporary economic jargon.

The One Canadian Economy Act asserts that the federal government can declare projects to be in the "national interest," fast-tracking industrial resource extraction and infrastructure projects at the expense of environmental scrutiny and Indigenous consent.

LOGGING ROADS ARE CONSTRUCTED AND THEN REGULARLY USED AS HUNTING ACCESS ROADS, LEADING TO INCREASED KILLING OF LARGER SPECIES SUCH AS CARIBOU, MOOSE AND BEARS — ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE MORE VISIBLE IN CLEARCUTS. PHOTO: NICO STINGHE

This is not innovation. It's the Doctrine of Discovery — the legal order that once claimed Indigenous lands in the name of empire — retooled for a new century. And it still breathes through statutes that treat Indigenous nations as consultees rather than co-governments, and forests as resources rather than relatives.

Learn more about how you're calling for Canada to admit its poor forestry record: **stateoftheforest.ca**

WIN AGAINST BIG PLASTIC

"Plastic *is* toxic and so is Canada's relationship with it. It's time to break up with plastics — to protect the health of the environment and everyone who depends on it." Lisa Gue, Manager, National Policy

The plastics industry — backed by Alberta and Saskatchewan — challenged a court ruling that listed "manufactured plastic items" under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. They claimed this decision is too broad and unconstitutional. You made it possible for us to successfully refute their challenge.

To put the matter bluntly … the chemical content of [plastics] is irrelevant to the sea otter choking on a plastic straw. The problem is the plastic item itself, not its chemistry," the Federal Court of Appeal judges wrote.

We've been fighting against plastic pollution for years.

We advocated for listing under CEPA, which provides the legal foundation for Canada to prohibit manufacturing, import and sale of single-use checkout bags, take-out containers, straws, stirrers, cutlery and six-pack rings.

In its January unanimous ruling, the Federal Court of Appeal said Canada has the authority to list designated plastic manufactured items as toxic, that they can be categorized as a substance and that there's enough evidence that they cause or could cause harm.

With the legal issues settled, industry and governments need to step up action to stop plastic pollution at the source. That means producing less plastic, phasing out chemicals of concern and improving access to alternatives that are better for people and planet.

THE POWER OF AWE: HOW NATURE CAN TRANSFORM OUR PERSPECTIVE

Last November, a swarm of anchovies swam into Semiahmoo Bay near White Rock, British Columbia. Thousands of gulls, grebes, surf scoters and the occasional sea lion amassed to feast. Some 100 harbour seals congregated, seemingly hunting as a pack.

It was a wildlife spectacle many people today rarely see first-hand.

It's one thing to learn about predator-prey relationships from a film or textbook, but seeing species interactions so viscerally offers an awe-inspiring understanding of how everything is connected.

Human connectedness with nature has been declining — dropping by 60 per cent over 200 years, according to a University of Derby science professor. Swedish and Japanese researchers found that "biophilia" — a love of nature — is not innate. They suggest a growing number of people feel fear, disgust or discomfort toward nature.

How do we build back biophilia? If people don't care about nature, and don't see themselves as part of it, they won't fight to preserve it.

One solution is to increase our knowledge and contact through community science. It's growing, with millions of

PHOTO: MARIEL NELMS

people contributing valuable data — including through the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Project and work with iNaturalist.

Advances in computational power allow us to make the most of the huge volume of biodiversity data. Researchers look for trends by studying changes in animal and plant abundance and distribution and gaining an understanding of the importance of species interactions.

This is made possible through the simple act of paying attention to the world around us.

Feeling awe for nature dwarfs one's sense of importance and provides a critical catalyst for acting collectively to preserve something much bigger than ourselves.

HOW WILL YOUR PASSION FOR NATURE LIVE ON?

"Much of what we've dedicated this work to requires enduring vigilance. That's why David and I are Foundation legacy donors — for our children and grandchildren. They are our conscience and our inspiration." Tara Cullis

You care about defending species, habitat — entire ecosystems. You can stay on the front lines with future generations as they continue to fight for the right to breathe clean air, drink safe water and eat toxic-free food. Your legacy will live on in innovative solutions to the greatest threat to life as we know it: climate chaos.

When you include us in your estate plans, you're ensuring your passion for safeguarding Earth's life-support systems goes on.

PHOTO: JULIANE LIEBERMANN

Contact Chantelle Ohrling to learn how you can join thousands of others who care: legacy@davidsuzuki.org