



Chipping away at forestry solutions

Vancouver Island Campaigner Torrance Coste again toured six key Vancouver Island hot spots in November, where a once-dominant forest industry is in dramatic decline.

Divergent opinions filled town hall meetings in communities where forestry was once king of jobs. Truckers, fallers and other forestry workers, corporate representatives, regional and municipal leaders and elected officials attended.

The tour was an opportunity to have real conversations and to talk in person with people on all sides of the issue. When we disagree on social media, it stops there. **Face-to-face, we must talk through our key differences.**

Difficult conversations led to common ground on how forestry isn't being managed in the best interests of our ecosystems and what the sustainable solutions are that support the economic development of small towns.

There's no single silver bullet solution to end old-growth logging on Vancouver Island. **But thanks to your support, leading these discussions in forest-dependent communities is a way to build stronger ties and find the way forward to a sustainable future.**



The end of Energy East arrives

North America's biggest tar sands pipeline project is dead in the water. For years you let the federal government know that increased fossil fuel infrastructure has no place in Canada's future and it finally paid off.

Since TransCanada's Energy East pipeline proposal was announced in 2013, we have released reports and organized community events to educate people about the risks of this project in Manitoba and Ontario.

We broke the story that the proposed route would cross through Manitoba's Whiteshell Provincial Park and some of you attended our Walk the Line hike to witness the risks first hand. We held workshops to help some of you weave through the challenging application process just to participate in the public consultations.

Your hard work paid off when we finally beat Energy East in October 2017.

Now, our eyes are set on the fights to stop remaining tar sands pipeline proposals – Kinder Morgan and Line 3 – and any expansion of the devastating Alberta tar sands. The future of our climate depends on it.



Win for free speech and the environment

After six long years, we won the defamation case – and appeal – brought against us by Taseko Mines Ltd. In 2012, as part of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency public consultation on their New Prosperity gold-copper mine project, we asked you to write in and oppose this risky mine project at Fish Lake in Tsilhqot'in territory.

So they sued us. And even after the federal government turned down their mine proposal in 2014, as it was “likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, the lawsuit continued. In 2016 we won the case, but Taseko Mines appealed the decision so again we found ourselves in court. **The appeal judges exonerated us once and for all in December 2017.**

Thanks to so many of you who donated to help cover costs of this drawn-out legal process and to our lawyer Dan Burnett for fighting with us until victory.

The next step in BC is getting anti-SLAPP legislation enacted to prevent deep-pocketed companies from dragging Canadians through the courts simply because they don't like what is said about their project.



Beary good news for the grizzlies

After more than 20 years of campaigning to ban the grizzly bear hunt in British Columbia, we finally did it! The BC government announced a complete ban on the trophy hunt in December. Hundreds of you visited our website's Take Action page when the public consultation took place in October of last year. **Your voices were heard.**

Some of you may remember the beginning of this campaign back in 1996 when we launched a province-wide referendum on banning the bear hunt. Five years later in 2001, NDP premier Ujjal Dosanjh brought in a three-year moratorium on hunting the iconic predator. It was quickly overturned when the BC Liberals took power that same year.

Since that time you haven't backed down. Polling over the years consistently showed a majority of BC residents supported a complete ban, with recent 2017 polls revealing 74 per cent of those surveyed were in opposition.

With this fight won, we will ramp up our advocacy for BC endangered species legislation to ensure permanent habitat protection for this and other iconic Canadian species.

Your commitment to protecting nature and ensuring a wild Canada drives each of our campaigns. Since the Wilderness Committee is funded almost entirely by individual donors like you, your gifts have a huge impact.



Please consider honouring your passion for wilderness and wildlife by transferring a gift of securities or by including the Wilderness Committee in your will or estate plans. To learn more contact Michelle Johnson, Donor Relations Manager at 778-708-9179 or michelle@wildernesscommittee.org

This Impact Report is a quarterly update about the Wilderness Committee and our work you make possible. For more information on any of our campaigns please visit WildernessCommittee.org