



WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

IMPACT REPORT

September 2017



Unique Walbran Valley tour Immigrants and refugees visit

The Wilderness Committee has used wilderness expeditions for decades as a strategy in successful campaigns to preserve wilderness areas. This August, we introduced 40 new immigrants, refugees and community members to Canada's old-growth forests in the Walbran Valley on Vancouver Island.

"It was a great experience for immigrants and refugees to enjoy mother nature. Their hearts were touched by the nature," said Haixia Liu, a Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre representative.

Our Vancouver Island Campaigner Torrance Coste said, "It's always great to spend time in the intact old-growth rainforest, **but to be with people from all over the world as they all experience this ecosystem for the first time was next-level special.**"

"They led us through the woods to show us some historical trees, wild mushrooms and other creations. At the end of the park we went to a large freshwater pool. Some of the organizers and some of the visitors took a dip into the fresh water. It was my first time to experience such event to educate people about their surrounding and how to protect it for generations to come"

— Yousif Hamad, Walbran Valley tour participant



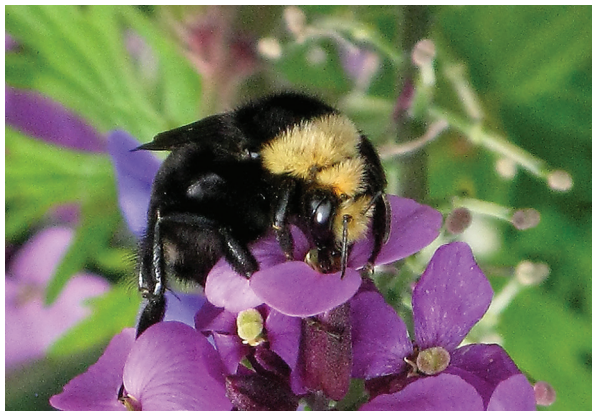
Inspired to Give Gwen Barlee Memorial Fund

Like so many environmental and social justice activists across this province, I was devastated by the **news of Gwen Barlee's death**. She was a colleague, friend and a tireless advocate for the protection and preservation of BC's pristine wilderness and wildlife. Within days I contacted our friends from the Wilderness Committee, where Gwen had proudly been employed for the past 16 years. "Let's do something – like setting up a fund in her memory," I suggested, channeling my grief into action. I wasn't alone in those thoughts, I was told. They had already received several inquiries about in memoriam gifts. Staff jumped into action, organizing a memorial event for Gwen and investigating options for a fund in her memory.

A source of tremendous pride for Gwen was the Wilderness Committee's policy not to accept government funding – leaving the group free to act independently. A fund in Gwen's name offers the organization resources to respond to urgent and emerging environmental issues.

If you admire the work of the Wilderness Committee as I do, and Gwen Barlee's contributions specifically, I hope you will **give generously to this fund established in her name.**

— Emet Davis, Friend and Longtime Supporter, Vancouver



Bees still under threat

This summer there was a lot of buzz around our bee-defending court case.

Back in 2016, represented by Ecojustice, we filed a court case with our allies against Health Canada for the unlawful registration of Thiamethoxam and Clothianidin – two “neonicotinoid” pesticides that have been proven to be extremely toxic – deadly, even – to bees and wild pollinators. The federal government and the pesticide-producing companies brought a motion to dismiss our case on technical grounds earlier this year.

In July that motion was heard and a Federal judge ruled in our favour, stating that the case raises issues that must be heard as a matter of public interest. Although the federal government has appealed this decision, we are confident that the strong ruling by the judge means we will get our day in court to ensure the lax pesticide regulation in Canada is not allowed to continue.

Thanks to thousands of supporters like you **we are currently at 9,093 towards our goal of 10,000 signatures** on our petition calling for a federal ban on neonicotinoids. Only 907 to go, then we'll share your voices of concern with the federal government in our demand for a nation-wide ban on these deadly pesticides.

– Beth Clarke, Development and Program Director



LNG pulls out: You helped win!

After a hard-fought campaign with our allies on the Skeena River in BC, Malaysian backers **of Pacific Northwest LNG abandoned their plans to build one of Canada's most polluting projects** in July.

During the environmental review for the proposal Wilderness Committee supporters sent over 450 letters to the regulator, prompting major delays, while the federal government evaluated salmon science and climate impacts. We featured the fight against Pacific Northwest LNG in our papers, countless e-alerts and media interviews. As is often the case in our campaigns, our initial interest and messaging led to more groups getting involved.

Leading up to the approval, **we met with Lelu Island occupiers** camped for nearly two years in the path of the project on their territory. Together we produced a video to highlight their struggle to save vital salmon habitat from destruction.

Though the company ultimately blamed market conditions for its decision to give up, environmental and Indigenous opposition to the proposal mired the project in delays, court challenges and uncertainty.

You should be proud to be part of defeating a \$36 billion project that would have made it impossible for Canada to meet its climate targets.

– Peter McCartney, Climate Campaigner

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