

Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

OCTOBER 2021



Back on the Bird

On a glorious fall weekend in September, some of you joined us on the annual Paddle for Protection — marking a return of a favourite Wilderness Committee community event in Manitoba in Sagkeeng First Nation territory. **Along with Sagkeeng community members, we paddled down the lower Bird River amongst trumpeter swans and painted turtles** to share stories of the river, the risks, and the future of this wild waterway.

Over two days 60 folks aged three and up delighted in a canoeing experience sure to create a long lasting love of the wild in Manitoba. In a fitting celebration of World Rivers Day the group discussed the need for advocates to protect all rivers, the threats mining activity and mineral exploration poses to the Bird River, and the need for our governments to direct resources and funding towards Indigenous-led conservation.

Donors like you make it possible to build on the success of our Wilderness Witness Tours and grow our guided, public boots-on-the-ground events in the coming months. Thanks to those of you who could join us once again!



Pipeline battles limit emissions

Together, we've been fighting the Trans Mountain pipeline and its tankers for over a decade — a fight that began to protect the Salish Sea and to stop new pipelines expanding the polluting tar sands.

Although you and I celebrated many wins against the pipeline, it's ultimately under construction. But thanks to your efforts, **the new federal government has finally promised to cap and slash emissions from the oil and gas industry.**

Our constant refrain of "you bought a pipeline" dogged the Liberal government with every climate announcement to the point where **they were forced to make this major concession to win back environmental voters.** That's a massive victory for the movement opposing fossil fuel expansion.

We're under no illusions it will be easy to reign in the most polluting companies in the country. With your help, we'll make sure the federal government establishes aggressive, binding emissions targets for oil and gas companies without relying on risky schemes like carbon capture and storage. **Together we'll begin the phase-out of fossil fuels that science demands.**



A future for Northern BC

One of the barriers to BC taking more aggressive action on climate change is that liquefied natural gas (LNG) was sold as the path to prosperity for its northern communities. It's one of the reasons the BC government offered billions of dollars in subsidies to LNG Canada, a giant LNG export facility.

Earlier this year, we worked with a graduate student from UNBC to interview 24 leaders from Indigenous Nations and local governments in the region. **We asked what they needed to thrive in a world without fossil fuels that respects Indigenous rights.**

Your support makes it possible to listen and engage. **We heard communities are ready to be part of the solution to climate change but not prepared for this new economy.** They need support for basic services, infrastructure and amenities to be able to attract businesses and residents.

Thanks to you, we were able to produce a comprehensive report and plug it into the provincial government's economic recovery strategy. And with your help, we'll continue working with northerners to position their communities to successfully navigate the transition off fossil fuels.



We won our day in court!

Remember in July 2020 when the Ontario government used the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to make massive cuts to environmental protections? Bill 197 enhanced the government's powers to unilaterally approve development using Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) without due process or public participation. **Many of these were on sensitive wetlands and woodlands — all in the name of "cutting red tape" to profit big developers and incentivize urban sprawl.** So we took them to court!

Represented by Ecojustice and partnered with Greenpeace, thanks to your support, we were determined to defend your rights under the province's Environmental Bill of Rights. The Ontario Divisional Court declared Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark **acted "unreasonably and unlawfully"** by failing to consult the public before rushing through changes to the rules governing MZOs.

This government has been relentless in cutting environmental protection and the courts agreed. The Ford government needs to stop stomping on legal responsibilities to consult with the public on issues that affect land, water, air quality and human health.



Michelle Johnson,
Donor Relations Manager

Your commitment to protect nature and ensure 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.

Thank you

P.S. Talk to me! Would you share the gift of your story with me?

Share your passion for wilderness and wildlife. Why do you choose the Wilderness Committee? Call or write me:

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Wild Impact 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](https://www.wildernesscommittee.org)