

# Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

JANUARY 2023



## Pushing for change at the biodiversity COP

In December, federal and provincial decision makers, corporate lobbyists and environmental organizations gathered with world leaders in Montreal for COP15.

**Your donations put three of our team on the ground to push for an agreement that wasn't full of platitudes and false solutions.**

You made it possible to host an event with a powerhouse roster of Indigenous panelists who spoke about their reality fighting to protect biodiversity in BC. The theme was consistent — BC's framework for biodiversity protection is failing and must change while ensuring an Indigenous rights-based approach.

Dressed as dead monarch butterflies and bees under the deadly spraying of glyphosate, our action to call out the hypocrisy of CropLife at the conference gained national media attention. CropLife represents Bayer, Corteva and Syngenta-ChemChina — some of the world's largest pesticide and herbicide producers. We were there to challenge their top executives, asking why they should have a place at a biodiversity conference when their products kill wildlife and poison land.

In the final days, when the framework was at serious risk of being diluted to nothing, we stood up to decision makers and kept the pressure on governments, especially Canada. **We pushed for strong targets and a commitment to actual legal reform, not empty promises.** With your support, we'll continue to hold governments accountable.



## You stopped the Sukunka coal mine!

Last July, we visited Saulteau First Nation territory and met with council members and caribou guardians. **Home to the endangered Quintette southern mountain caribou, we documented the incredible wilderness refuge of their territory** and how the proposed coal mine would devastate the caribou, land and the health of the community. Your gifts were put to work to produce a video that spread the word about the mine and the consultation to cancel it. **It worked!**

**More than 1,000 people told the governments of BC and Canada to reject the Sukunka coal mine — so they did.** You raised concerns about the devastating impact the project would have on the habitat of the Quintette herd, evidenced by traditional knowledge and science that show this project could drive the Quintette herd from its last refuge and push them to extinction. **You stood up for the lands and waters Treaty 8 First Nations rely on for traditional practices and livelihood.**

In December, the federal government released the final decision. They determined there were "significant adverse environmental effects" that could not be mitigated. **Your submissions were critical to this success.**

Thanks to your actions, the at-risk Quintette caribou herd will live to see another day.



## Building the movement to end fracking in BC

We've been making some big moves to end fracking these last few months. **Your support made it possible to launch a project to target outreach in key ridings across the province demanding action to end fracking in BC.**

In November, we held our first community meeting in Premier David Eby's riding with over 50 people excited to go door-to-door in their neighbourhood. We hired a canvass coordinator to work with these fabulous volunteers and support them as they hit the streets. **They're talking to the exact voters the BC NDP needs to hold onto to stay in power and asking them to demand action from their MLAs using our digital action tools.** With your help, over the next year, we'll be in communities from Vernon to Parksville building the movement where it matters most.

**But you and I can't defeat the fossil fuel industry alone.** We're partnering with allied organizations to launch FrackFreeBC, an alliance of Indigenous, environmental and community groups calling on the province to end fracking. Together, we crashed Eby's cabinet swearing-in ceremony with 18-foot-high red banners and put the issue on the radar of ministers and media alike. **Our work together has paid off — fracking was mentioned in most news stories about Eby's swear-in and several pundits are using our messaging about gas being BC's biggest climate problem.**



## And the Eugene Rogers Award goes to...

Last year was the 30th anniversary of the Eugene Rogers Award — an annual award presented, thanks to your support, to a conservationist who has worked exceptionally hard to protect nature. **This year's went to Devon Page, Executive Director of Ecojustice.**

Since Devon's first days as a lawyer at Ecojustice in 2001, the organization has worked arm in arm with the Wilderness Committee on numerous cases to secure habitat protection for some of the most at-risk species.

In the first year, we worked with Devon to file for an injunction to stop logging in an old-growth forest encompassing important spotted owl habitat. The BC Supreme Court ordered a halt to logging in the Fraser Canyon area in the territory of Yale First Nation. **It was the first time in Canadian history that an injunction had been granted to protect endangered species habitat.**

20 years later, Devon's persistent strategic approach employing court actions to protect spotted owl habitat alongside the Wilderness Committee has facilitated a halt to logging on over 120,000 hectares of wild and forested lands.

**Although Devon leaves Ecojustice this month, his legacy of key court battles created strong legal precedents and laws that effectively protect at-risk species and their habitat.** Thanks for making it possible to celebrate a tireless ally and friend to wildlife.



**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:

Phone: 1-800-661-9453

Email: [michelle@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:michelle@wildernesscommittee.org)

*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](http://WildernessCommittee.org)