

Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

APRIL 2023



Spotted owl the centre of our attention

We haven't gone one day since November without talking about the spotted owl. Your support is at the core of our decades-long battle to end logging of spotted owl habitat to give this critically endangered species a chance to recover. For years, you've fought in the forests and before the courts to secure protection for these precious forests. **With only one wild owl and two captive-bred owls remaining in old-growth forests in the Fraser Canyon area of BC this fight has reached its boiling point.**

A draft federal recovery strategy was finally released but doesn't go anywhere near far enough to identify habitat needed for protection. Supporters like you noticed, and submitted more than 1,000 comments. Thanks to your donations our own submission included scientific expert analysis and mapping exposing the government's shortfalls. At the same time, together with lawyers at Ecojustice, **you kept the pressure on the federal environment minister who agreed to recommend an emergency order to cabinet to stop logging owl habitat due to the "imminent threat" to its survival.** You've sent more than 1,000 letters telling the cabinet to approve this emergency order.

The BC government continues to cave to industry, only temporarily deferring two small watersheds from logging. All of this despite demands from First Nations leaders to do more. **Thanks to you we'll continue to spread the word with our allies at Spô'zēm First Nation to prevent a domino chain of extinctions.** It starts with the owl but ends with who knows how many other species.



United for Old-Growth Rally

Thousands marched on the BC Legislative Assembly in February to decry inaction from the government while precious remaining old-growth forests continue to be mowed down by logging companies. This massive march and rally on **lək'wəŋen** territory (Victoria) put pressure on Premier David Eby's government to fulfil their promises to protect at-risk old-growth and landed on Eby's one-hundredth day in office. Thanks to your support, this mega march and rally was a huge success! **Amazing art installations, costumes, puppets and beautifully painted signs and banners accompanied several incredible Indigenous leaders, scientists and forest defenders who spoke to the crowd.** And there were musical acts including a surprise performance by legend Neil Young!

It's been just over two years since the BC government released the Old Growth Strategic Review with recommendations by an expert panel that would help make forest practices more sustainable and protect some key old-growth forest areas. **To date, there's been little meaningful action by the government — so together we took action.**

And the world noticed! Over 30 local, national and international media outlets covered the event, including a piece in Rolling Stone magazine. **This coverage makes the message hard to ignore and raises awareness about this critical issue, increasing public pressure on the government to change forest policies and protect old-growth.** A shout-out to our coalition allies at STAND.earth, Sierra Club BC and Elders for Ancient Trees who spent months of hard work with us to make this happen.

Photo credit: Mya Van Woudenberg



Algonquin documentary screening

We've been hard at work these last few months to bring some very exciting projects to the public to expose the true impact of logging in Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario. **The results from the recent old-growth surveys in unprotected areas of Algonquin Provincial Park — that your gifts made possible — are ready for release!** And we collaborated with director Conor Devries on a new short film that asks the question: does logging belong in a modern-day park?

If you are in the Toronto area, join us at the premiere screening at the Revue cinema on April 30, followed by a presentation from forest researcher Mike Henry and Q&A with the director and our Ontario Campaigner Katie Krelove.

65 per cent of the oldest and most popular provincial park in Ontario is still being degraded by industrial logging and thousands of kilometres of logging roads — but most of the public are unaware of what's going on behind the scenery. Hosting events like this make it possible to share our findings and launch a new phase of our campaign to finally make all of Algonquin the haven for nature it should be. **It's time for the Ontario government to open the overdue review of the park's management plan, including a full environmental impact assessment of logging.**



Frack Free BC art day of action

Last month, with your help and our friends in the Frack Free BC alliance, we pulled off a day of action bigger than any of us could've imagined. From Nelson in southeastern BC, to Port Alberni on Vancouver Island, people hung handmade banners from bridges and overpasses in the morning rush hour and painted the town with posters in coffee shops and libraries. **These activists in over 40 communities across BC sent a message loud and clear calling on the provincial government to end fracking.**

Our Vancouver office was a bustling hub of activity in the weeks leading up to it as supporters like you traced, painted and mailed banners and posters all over the province. Our climate campaigner made trip after trip to a local fabric store because we just kept getting more requests for banners. And boy did the work ever pay off!

Watching photos roll in from volunteer teams in communities large and small throughout the day was so powerful. We couldn't have done it without you. Now we have friends all over the province ready to spring into action and bring hand-painted banners to the next Frack Free BC action in their community. Hope you enjoy this collage of the best photos from the big day and thank you so much for all your support in making it happen.



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