

Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

JULY 2023



Duck Mountain report wins media attention

In May, our campaign to stop logging in provincial parks in Manitoba culminated in the launch of our latest publication, the Manitoba Duck Mountain Region Audit. **Years of your support and activism allowed us to produce this first-of-its-kind, comprehensive, independent investigation into a forest management licence area, documenting the devastating impact logging is having in Duck Mountain Provincial Park.** This report connects the dots between guidance being ignored, poor policy and regulation, and their visible impacts on the ground.

The media noticed! The report launch press conference got the attention of CBC, the Winnipeg Free Press and the Narwhal. **But we didn't stop there and took it right to the hands of government officials — literally.** We disrupted a press conference by Minister of Natural Resources and Northern Development Greg Nesbitt, who said he was unaware there was clearcutting in the park, to hand him the audit and tell him to stop logging parks. We handed it to Minister of Environment and Climate Kevin Klein during Prime Minister Trudeau's Winnipeg stop.

This report lays the groundwork for real biodiversity care in the province — care that is absolutely critical if we are going to protect 30 per cent of lands and waters and survive the biodiversity and climate crises. But our work together doesn't end here. The next step is a tremendous push for protection of the forests in the Ducks. We're ramping up outreach efforts this summer, so watch out for us at a community event near you!



Vernon visit to end fracking one town at a time

Your donations won't quit in the fight to end fracking. This time you sent our climate team to Vernon in the North Okanagan of BC to spread the word about the climate impacts of fracking in this politically important region. Together with local allies, we held a pub night, a documentary screening, door-to-door canvass days, and attended a street festival, craft fair and electric vehicle show! **It was a busy week, and with your help, we signed up 250 folks to join the movement to ban fracking in BC.** It was inspiring to meet with the existing community of activists dedicated to stopping this destructive industry — they are a small but mighty group!

We successfully got the attention of the local provincial elected representative during our conversation about the climate consequences of fracking. Given the government's own Harwinder Sandhu won this riding by a small margin, we're off to a great start convincing her to bring up her constituents' concerns about fracking with party leaders prior to the next election. To make sure she does, activists and donors like you launched a Vernon chapter of Frack Free BC!

Together, we're building the movement to end fracking in places like Vernon, the Fraser Valley and Richmond, where the BC NDP needs votes to hold onto power in the next provincial election. When these candidates head out door-knocking, they will find we got there first.

Thanks for all you do to spread the word about the dangers of fracking both in your community and in these strategically important ones.



Solidarity with labour against port expansion

When the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion project proposed for Delta, BC, was approved in April, people from all walks of life were devastated. If built, communities will grapple with the impacts ahead — increased noise and pollution, substantial job loss as workers are replaced with robots, and grief for at-risk orcas and salmon that won't stand a chance.

The federal government justified approval of this massive port expansion in the name of "jobs," yet many workers, unions and communities oppose it because it will trigger widespread automation in the sector. **Your support made it possible to bring these voices together with environmentalists at a press conference calling out the government's weak reasoning for sacrificing wildlife and ecosystems based on false justifications and incomplete facts.** Almost every media news outlet in Vancouver covered it!

On June 14, 14 environmental groups, many communities and two prominent unions stood together in opposition to the project, demanding answers from the federal and provincial governments. **It was an incredible display of the power that can be found when environmental justice and labour justice come together — because they are the same fight.** A sustainable, just and equitable future means projects granted approval are ones that work for communities, workers and the environment. Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion is not that. **Thanks to you, the government knows this now and has some explaining to do.** Together, we can ensure they are held accountable.



Turtle protectors vs. quarry

Developing respectful relationships with First Nations and learning Indigenous protocols for collaboration is a key aspect of our work to protect nature. In past months, your gifts made it possible to work closely with a Kii Ga Do Waak Nookimiskuk (Grandmothers Council) and other Indigenous allies in Robinson-Huron treaty territory to raise awareness about the threats to water and wildlife of a proposed massive rock quarry on the north shore of Lake Huron.

This questionable quarry project would blast 68 hectares of pristine woodland surrounded by wetlands into the Serpent River watershed, the source of drinking water for Serpent River First Nation. The location is home to one of the densest documented populations of threatened Blanding's turtles and is a significant site for moose.

At open meetings in Serpent River, Mississauga, Garden River and Sagamok First Nations, hundreds of community members were able to hear vital information about these threats to counter the narrative of the quarry company. Many have taken up calls to action and written letters of concern to their Chief and Council. Several Indigenous land and water defenders plan to set up a research camp at the quarry site, where your donations will produce signage to support their efforts.

In September, we'll continue this work and travel to Sault Ste. Marie to present the case against the quarry alongside elders at a meeting of the Robinson-Huron Chiefs. **Thank you for keeping us out in communities most impacted by the potential devastation of this proposed quarry.**



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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Email: 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](https://www.wildernesscommittee.org)