

# Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

OCT 2025



## Documenting Manitoba wildfires



Photo: Aftermath of wildfires in Manitoba (Eric Reder).

Your ongoing support puts us on the ground in one of nature's most vulnerable places — the boreal forest in Manitoba. **This year, a wildfire season like no other caused catastrophic destruction in this precious forest.**

In early May, a climate change-fueled forest fire began along the Bird River, and continued smoldering into September. We've been running our popular World Rivers Day Paddle for Protection canoe trips here for more than a decade, keeping mining interests from damaging this sensitive waterway. With record dry soil in much of the province, fires burned furiously, causing loss of life and property as well as mass evacuations. In late August, we visited the forest to bear witness to how it survived the flames. **Sadly, we found that the fires had scarred the forest for generations.**

The lower Bird River is a cherished destination for Manitobans. Because of donors like you, who've funded our historical work on the wild lands of eastern Manitoba, **we had boots on the ground to document the devastation.** We produced videos narrating stories of a burnt Bird River and how fires affected boreal caribou and Nopiming Provincial Park. Viewers connected with the reality of losing eight per cent of forests in Manitoba in a single year — and the videos went viral. Recognizing our knowledge of nature in the fire-ravaged forest, the media requested several live interviews to talk about what the fires meant for the woods.

Stay tuned for three new reports on provincial park management, boreal caribou and wildfire planning in a climate crisis. Your financial support and your voice allow us to offer a path towards recovery for these special places. Thank you.

## The resistance to fracked gas

This summer your gifts were put to work building the resistance to fracked gas and LNG expansion — on the ground, in the air and everywhere in between.

A powerful, highly visible action during the famous Vancouver Festival of Lights sent a bold message to thousands gathered on the beaches for fireworks — STOPPRGT. CA. Activists displayed these illuminated letters across the iconic Burrard Bridge, shining a spotlight on the growing opposition to the recently approved Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) project. The PRGT fracked gas pipeline cuts through Northern B.C., disrupting critical ecosystems and watersheds, without the consent of all the First Nations whose territories it crosses. **The action wasn't just a protest but an invitation for the public to learn more, get involved and be in solidarity with frontline communities.**

Your gifts made it possible to build deep, durable power at the grassroots level through our Connect the Dots series. This campaign brought communities across B.C. together to talk about climate and the issues that matter the most to them. From a walking tour of the Tilbury LNG facility on the banks of the Fraser River in Delta, where participants saw first-hand the threat this project poses to local air quality and the climate, to a community meeting in Dawson Creek focused on water scarcity and drought, these gatherings created spaces for connection, learning and organizing. So far, **your support funded events in nearly 10 communities**, each one strengthening the network of people ready to take action.

While the federal and provincial governments are doubling down on fossil fuels and approving climate-destructive projects, despite worsening climate disasters, our response has been unified and clear: **when governments side with industry, we turn toward one another.** We focus on what matters most: building community and deepening solidarity.



Photo: STOP PRGT illuminated banner drop on Burrard Bridge (Danielle Costelo).

## B.C. field season success



Photo: WC Staff and supporters on Meares Island trail trip (Em Hoffpauir).

We've had yet another amazing trail season this year and it's all thanks to you! Your support continued our work in the legendary ancient forests of Clayoquot Sound, with trail trips on Flores Island in Ahousaht territory and Meares Island in Tla-o-qui-aht territory. On Meares Island, volunteers teamed up with the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Park Guardians to build new sections of boardwalk along the iconic Big Tree Trail. **We came just shy of breaking the record for the most boardwalk ever constructed on one of our trail trips — a huge achievement!**

We're thrilled to continue our trail work in partnership with two incredible organizations: Colour the Trails, that works to increase access and remove barriers to outdoor activities for Black, Indigenous and other people of colour and those within the intersection of BIPOC and 2SLGBTQAI+ communities, and the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA), a settlement organization for newcomer immigrants and refugees. **Together, we're working to make these spaces more inclusive and accessible for all.**

A major highlight this season was our first-ever trail building trip to Nootka Island, in Nuchatlaht territory. **You've put solidarity into action with the Nuchatlaht Nation for years as they fought to reclaim their land through the courts.** Now that they've successfully regained part of their territory, they've invited us to build trails to help reconnect their community to the land. Our first trip was a huge success! We cleared a lot of trails and had a lot of fun. We're excited to continue this partnership with Nuchatlaht and are already planning a trip next spring.

Being in relationship with nature is a core value of our environmental justice work. **Your gifts make this unique impact of our field program possible. Thank you.**

## Five years to protect 30x30

The Wilderness Committee was founded 45 years ago on big ideas formed around a small kitchen table. And true to form we rang in our 45th anniversary with a small event at the back of our Vancouver office — while hatching big plans for the next five years. Some of our dearest partners, allies and friends joined staff and board in our dusty, hot, East Van alley and it was oh so special to celebrate the day in our community.

**Since our beginnings back in 1980, we've seen the protected areas in B.C. grow from just six per cent of the province to over 15 per cent.** That's impressive, but not enough. A lot more needs to be done for nature protection and to build relationships with Indigenous communities, labour and equity-deserving communities most impacted by biodiversity loss. And that's what the global commitment to preserve 30 per cent of the lands and waters by 2030 is all about.

**Canada joined this 30x30 pledge in 2022, but achieving it requires a clear vision for more protected nature across all provinces.** Our conservation vision for Ontario includes adopting the 30x30 target, which will require concerted government action, collaboration with grassroots groups, non-governmental conservation organizations, Indigenous leaders, municipalities, industry and private land owners. In Manitoba, supporting and encouraging Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) proposals is key to getting us to our goal.

30x30 protection would make a truly incredible 50th anniversary present. With donors like you backing us we can keep the pressure on the federal government to work with provinces and First Nations and achieve this goal. We know it's possible because we've gotten this far, together.



Photo: Wilderness Committee 45th Anniversary Celebration (Earl Havlin).



## QUESTIONS?

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.

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*Thank you*

*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://WildernessCommittee.org)