

# Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

JAN 2026



## Documenting the truth of B.C. caribou



Photo: Conservation and Policy Campaigner Lucero González with Research and Mapping Coordinator Geoff Senichenko surveying caribou habitat in Wells Gray Park (Eric Reder).

Your support puts us where it matters most, on the ground and **in the very ecosystems** we're working to protect. This fall, Conservation and Policy Campaigner Lucero and a team of mapping, lichen and caribou experts were back in 5,000 hectares of intact core caribou habitat — where five months ago, we joined forces with allies to map the relentless old-growth logging approved by the B.C. government.

Traveling logging roads carved into intact ancient forests more than 7,000 feet above sea level, **we found cutblocks marked in groves with trees over 800 years old.** We heard chainsaws running through a forest draped in caribou-sustaining lichen and wondered if we were among the last people who would ever witness its beauty before it's gone.

Funding not just one, but multiple trips means research like this results in maps, photos, data and a consistent, clear call to action: **Stop the destruction or watch caribou in B.C. go extinct.** Confronted by the desolation beyond the maps and in real time on this most recent excursion, the anger, despair and confusion felt by the team fuelled a renewed sense of purpose.

Our commitment to reviving this endangered species remains strong, as well as a **hope for when southern mountain caribou roam B.C. in the thousands**, as they once did. Together we hold the power to make that future real.

Your continued support allows us to document the truth and share these stories. Thank you for working with us to keep these ecosystems safe from logging, and healthy for caribou and generations to come.

## Ontario's old-growth symposium

Last November your gifts were put to work to organize the inaugural Ontario Old-Growth Symposium, a mighty meeting of minds of those who want to save old-growth forests in Ontario. **We packed the house in Peterborough, with sold-out ticket holders and presenters from all over the province.** Together we took an in-depth look at work being done to study and protect old-growth by scientists, activists and volunteers.

Speakers ranged from well-known old-growth experts, like authors and ecologists Mike Henry and Peter Quinby, to academics with cutting edge research, and grassroots groups working to protect these forests in their own backyard. Students, professionals, volunteers and supporters **gathered to learn about the astounding intricacies of these ancient forests, current techniques to identify them and the huge benefits to conserving them.** Fueled by locally-sourced healthy food, the energy in the room was inspiring and the consensus was clear: this needs to be an annual event.

With Doug Ford shredding environmental protections across Ontario, few forests are safe from development. **This event was powerful because it brought exactly the right people together in a moment where old-growth desperately needs defenders — and those defenders need solidarity.** Thanks to passionate attendees, dedicated volunteers and brilliant speakers, we found both at our symposium. Even better, they found each other! With the help of supporters like you, we hope to make the 2026 Ontario Old-Growth Symposium even bigger and more powerful.



Photo: Mike Henry speaking at Ontario Old-Growth Symposium (WC files).

# Organizing to save Goldstream/SELEKTEL



Photo: Forest Campaigner Tobyn Neame working with Elder Carl Olsen and Goldstream Protectors (Agathe Bernard).

Over the past year, the Goldstream campaign has strengthened public mobilization and Indigenous-led resistance to the planned Malahat Highway expansion into the Goldstream River at SELEKTEL. The \$162-million project would widen the corridor to add a median barrier without adding lanes.

Its environmental assessment acknowledges **permanent loss of mature coniferous forest and permanent loss or alteration of salmon and amphibian habitat**. These impacts threaten the WSÁNEĆ Peoples' Douglas Treaty rights to hunt and fish, which are infringed when salmon habitat is knowingly destroyed.

Since early 2023, WSÁNEĆ Elder Carl Olsen has led weekly Tuesday morning protests, joined by the new and growing group, the Goldstream Protectors. And together, **we'll continue to respond with unwavering support of this Indigenous-led and broad grassroots movement**. Working closely with Elder Carl, we leveraged our resources to increase pressure on the Ministry of Transportation with an online letter-writing tool.

In summer 2025, Elder Carl determined pressure needed to be ramped up with a legislature rally. Thanks to donors like you we quickly pivoted, organizing a rally under his guidance. Over 400 people attended that first rally in October, with an all-WSÁNEĆ speaker lineup and strong media coverage.

Since then attendance at Elder Carl's weekly protests has more than tripled! **Because of his leadership and pressure from folks like you, the Ministry of Transportation said it will work with the WSÁNEĆ leadership council** — a historic shift from the ministry's earlier stance. With you backing us, our independent funding allowed rapid, flexible action, supporting protests, outreach and Indigenous leadership as the campaign continues.

## A refreshed website to grow a movement

We're excited to share something new with you... well, new-ish. After months of planning, writing, re-writing, re-re-writing and asking ourselves if "just changing one button" really counts as a simple task — we've officially launched our refreshed website.

**This new design is really about you!** Making sure the place where you learn about campaigns, take action and follow your impact is clear, welcoming and easier to navigate on any device. And to **create an inviting and accessible digital space for potential new supporters to join you** in our united mission to protect life-giving biodiversity.

We've reorganized pages, polished our storytelling, tuned up accessibility, brightened the visuals and made it easier to find the information you told us matters most. It isn't a total rebuild — although at times it definitely felt like one. **These kinds of foundational investments, made possible with your support, ensure we stand out in a rapidly changing and saturated digital landscape.**

It's the same Wilderness Committee you believe in, just with fewer broken links — or, at least, a way cooler Lost in the Woods broken link page — and a tidier layout, with a lot more room to grow. What hasn't changed is what matters: our mission, our values and the community of passionate supporters who make this work possible.

Thank you for keeping it wild with us, online and off. Let us know what you think — we built this refresh with you in mind.

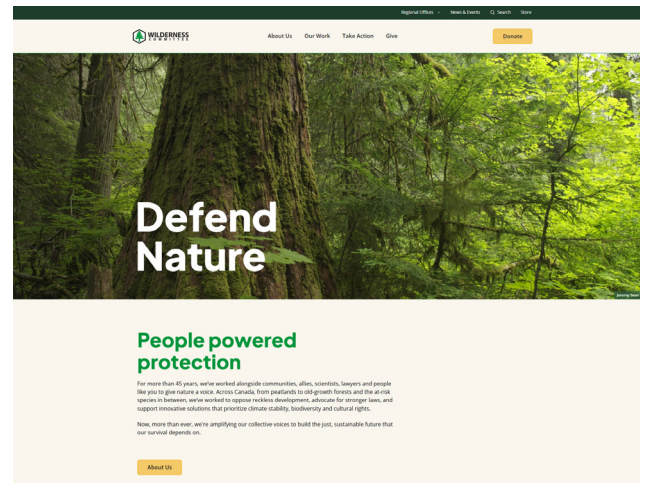


Photo: The homepage of our newly updated website (WC files).



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.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact **Dena Ellery** Donor Relations Manager:  
by ✉ [Dena@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:Dena@wildernesscommittee.org)

Legal Name: Western Canada Wilderness Committee  
Charitable Registration# 11929-3009-RR0001

*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)