

Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

APRIL 2026



You saved the SELEKTEŁ (Goldstream river)!



Photo: Agathe Bernard.

In February, we celebrated a major milestone: the \$162 million Malahat highway widening project into the SELEKTEŁ (Goldstream river) — which would have added no additional lanes — was officially removed from the B.C. budget!

This win belongs to you. Your commitment provided the resources to back WSÁNEĆ Elder Carl Olsen and the SELEKTEŁ/Goldstream Protectors, transforming a small weekly protest into a regional movement. Your gifts were put to work to significantly strengthen this public mobilization and Indigenous-led resistance when we organized a 400-person rally at the legislature opposing the project.

You amplified consistent, community-based action bringing this issue into widespread public awareness across southern Vancouver Island. **This sustained public pressure ensured the provincial government could no longer justify this project** — which put salmon and amphibian habitat, and mature coniferous forest, at risk of permanent loss.

While the threat is not gone for good, this moment marks a shift. Thanks to donor-funded organizing, we are now better positioned to move beyond reactive defence and toward the long-term protection and restoration of this vital ecosystem.

Holding governments to account on 30x30

This past winter, we put Canada's marquee conservation goal under the spotlight in our hard-hitting report, **The Race to Protect 30%**. Cutting through government spin, it exposes how governments are falling short to protect 30 per cent of lands and waters by 2030 — known more briefly as "30x30".

The response blew us away, with our report gaining media coverage and wide public attention! Your gifts continue to put the Wilderness Committee's scrappy truth-telling at the center of the public conversation about 30x30.

Featuring research from every campaigner, nation-wide donors like you allowed our team to assess progress in Ontario, Manitoba, B.C. and Canada as a whole. Your trust in our work pushed us to break down shortsighted political choices that are delaying new protected areas and jeopardizing our 30x30 commitment. And because **you count on us to advocate for lasting change, we offer solutions for those in power to get us back on track.**

How and where new protected areas are established matters. And our conservation work is geared to achieving this critical target to protect biodiversity and slow climate change in the right way. This report will drive our advocacy alongside First Nations, scientists, and communities for the next five years. Thank you.



Photo: WC files.

Connecting the environment to social justice



Photo: Agathe Bernard.

This February, your generosity allowed us to host a series of inspiring conversations in Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. in celebration of our 45th anniversary.

Campaigners Isabel Siu-Zmuidzinas (Climate), Tobyn Neame (Forests), and Lucero González (Conservation and Policy) shared stories of the passion and strategy driving their work. These gatherings were hosted by myself in Vancouver and social change leader Sonia Theroux in Victoria, with support for both events from former Executive Director Andrea Reimer. The themes explored how environmental protection intersects with broader struggles for social justice.

At both events, attendees gained a behind-the-scenes look at how deepening our understanding of these connected struggles motivates our campaigners and advances the impact of their work on endangered species, forests, and climate policy.

By bringing our community together, you expand the conversation around the challenges and victories of this work. These events do more than celebrate a legacy of advocacy; they invigorate our movement for the vital fights ahead to protect our world.

Busting the “sustainable” logging myth

As one of the key environmental organizations behind the **2025 State of the Forests in Canada: Degraded** report, your gifts made it possible to expose the gap between government and industry narratives and the on-ground reality of nationwide forest management. What does this mean in real terms? For one, we were able to challenge the persistent “sustainable” logging myth entrenched in this country.

Our analysis highlights **how biodiversity loss, climate impacts, and intensive industrial practices are systematically underrepresented in official accounts**, and connects how localized forest degradation contributes to broader ecological decline. Connecting these problems at different levels strengthens accountability by making it harder for governments and industry to rely on incomplete or selective data.

This is particularly important because the federal government releases its own *State of the Forests* report every year and has signed onto the Montreal Framework that dictates how countries must support and monitor biodiversity. Thanks to you, we’re able to double-check their public claims with a clear, evidence-based picture of the state of ecosystems in Canada.

Your ongoing belief in our mission means that **misleading government ecological claims can now be scrutinized with hard data**. The result equips communities, decision-makers, and environment advocates like you, with the tools to challenge misinformation and push for forest management rooted in ecological integrity and Indigenous rights.



Photo: Dave Hutchison.



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