

Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

OCT 2026



Admiring fungi with friends



Photo: Katie Krellove.

Thanks to years of growing support from committed donors in Ontario, we've followed the path forged at our organization's inception, to bring folks out to experience the oldest forests. **This season, we completed our third year of old-growth trail trips**, gaining momentum with 32 volunteers participating in canoe camping excursions to the Temagami area.

On the slightly damp August trip to Sunrise Lake we scouted, mapped and added signage to **a brand new trail!** At Blueberry Lake, we were joined by old-growth ecologist and champion Mike Henry, whose ongoing work of surveying the area and establishing trails, goes all the way back to the 1990s. Mike shared his skills and passion as we measured trees and admired fungi and lichen. The work you're funding to clear portage and forest trails, and fix interpretive signs is growing support for adding this exceptional area to the protected places network.

The season closed with a memorable opportunity to work with the local stewardship committee and Curve Lake First Nation to organize a public hike in Catchacoma old-growth forest. It was a powerful day discussing Indigenous cultural and spiritual relationships to plants and trees with Midewiwin Elder Mike Panza.

Donors like you expand our field work to new areas. We can't wait to bring more folks into these forests so together we can work to protect them!

The wild heart of Nopiming

One year out from devastating wildfires that swept Nopiming Provincial Park, we gathered on Springer Lake to share a people-powered vision for the park. The wild heart of Nopiming is there, in a roadless region with destination lakes and intact forest. Our Senior Campaigner Eric has been visiting this area for decades, and he puts your gifts to work to ensure everyone can experience this natural treasure.

So on a sunny Saturday in September we slipped our canoes into Springer Lake to undertake a Paddle for Protection. **As we paddled, we discussed how the fire affected old forests and young forests, and what trees survived.** We talked about the impacts of the nearby military base and what the area could be without it. We even found a few blueberries as we wandered ashore at lunch. People pored over a map showing the existing trails and how we could explore 14 different lakes from where we were.

Thanks to your funding, our Wilderness Witness Tours take people to endangered spaces to share our path for a wilder future. **Ideas that may seem distant or abstract from the city feel close at hand on the shores of Springer Lake**, and the resolve to protect the peace of those healing forests grows more urgent having known them. We drove away from Springer with a greater understanding of what Nopiming can grow to be, and what we have to do to win that future.



Photo: Eric Reder.

Building access and diversity on the trails



Photo: Sarafina Henderson.

For 45 years, donors have powered our trailbuilding program and 2026 was another incredible year in B.C.! We brought two different groups to Koksilah Grove in Cowichan territory, a special pocket of ancient forest, connecting with the movement to protect them. **These day hikes increase accessibility for folks who can't spare a full weekend doing this sweaty work!**

Next, to Clayoquot Sound, we replaced old boardwalk and cleared brush along the Big Tree Trail on Meares Island, under the guidance of the amazing Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks Guardians. On to the Wildside Trail on Flores Island for more snipping back the brush, in partnership with Ahousaht First Nation. Both trips were done alongside Colour the Trails, a national organization promoting access to the outdoors for Black, Indigenous, and people of colour.

Your support for this critical fieldwork meant we could partner with Special Bird Service, a group that makes outdoor spaces and birdwatching more accessible to equity-denied groups. For Marbled Murrelet Day, more than 50 people, including scientists, artists, ENGOs and birders gathered with Pacheedaht Elder Bill Jones on Pacheedaht territory to monitor the bird's population, as well as celebrate and learn more about this endangered species.

You keep this outreach going so the trail trips continue to grow, as word spreads about people's amazing experiences. Thank you.

Feds building megaprojects “at any cost”

Fighting to protect species at risk in Canada has never been more urgent or challenging. Your funding backs the nonstop work it takes to resist a suite of federal laws that bulldoze environmental protections and fast-track dozens of megaprojects across the country.

In the past months, we've fought a major West Coast pipeline proposal, two B.C. LNG project approvals and a proposal to fast-track the permitting and construction of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion. **And alarmingly, one of the most dangerous omnibus bills for species at risk we have ever seen: Bill C-39.**

This bill follows last summer's Building Canada Act, and the federal government's push to get megaprojects built “at any cost.” Its initial proposal included weakening the “jeopardy test” — a critical safeguard in the Species at Risk Act (SARA) preventing projects from proceeding if they imperil the survival of a species.

The stakes were too high to ignore. Supporters like you sent more than 1,100 letters to the federal government, opposing this regressive proposal. **Thanks to your efforts, the federal government backed off amending this vital legislation.**

Yet, the fight continues. Despite enormous public backlash, the proposed Bill C-39 would still allow projects deemed to be of “national interest” to bypass these critical protections under SARA — and the list of projects with that designation grows by the day.



Photo: Kendra Nelson.

As we remind the federal government that extinction is forever and cannot be bypassed, we'll need your support, voices and strength more than ever.



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.

Contact Dena Ellery Donor Relations Manager:
by ✉ 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://www.wildernesscommittee.org)