

Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

JULY 2024



Court win: a helping-hand for species



Photo: Spotted Owl (Jared Jobbs).

Last month, you and I celebrated a **historic and critical win for the spotted owl and all at-risk species**. On June 7, Honourable Justice Yvan Roy ruled federal Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault's eight-month delay in recommending an emergency order for the spotted owl violated the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

In January 2023, Minister Guilbeault determined the **spotted owl faced imminent threats to its recovery, primarily due to logging throughout its critical habitat**. We thought the minister would then act urgently and recommend an emergency order to cabinet, as required by SARA, to protect the spotted owl's old-growth habitat from the ongoing logging permitted by the B.C. government. Instead, the minister waited eight months before finally recommending the cabinet take the emergency action required. **Ecojustice lawyers represented us in court, arguing this delay was unlawful**.

And it was! **With only three spotted owls left in the wild, the minister had an obligation to sound the alarm to cabinet and not wait around eight months to do that**. Thanks to your support, this decision will ensure the minister responsible for species at risk will recommend an emergency order to cabinet within a timeline that's responsive to the nature and severity of the threat in the future.

Building resistance to Highway 413

We won't back down in the ongoing fight to stop the proposed mega-highway 413. **This highway would cut through Greenbelt lands and pollute over 80 waterways**, including the headwaters of the Credit and Humber rivers. It would also destroy critical habitat for at-risk species including the endangered redbelt dace minnow, an indicator of water quality, and the federally protected red-headed woodpecker.

In early spring, the Premier spoke as though the highway was a done-deal, but **we know the federal government can still intervene with a new impact assessment if there is enough public demand**. Folks like you put the pressure on when you experience the ecosystems you're fighting for. That's why some of you joined us on a bird-watching hike, with an endangered species biologist, in the Nashville Conservation reserve, where the highway would cross a major artery of the Humber river.

Together we saw over 35 species of birds in this sanctuary of mature forest, grasslands and wetlands. **We made new friends too and they joined in the fight to write to their local MPs and take home 'Stop the 413' lawn signs**. With your continued generosity we will keep bringing people to the land and waters threatened by this highway, build the resistance to this foolish and short-sighted project and protect the places we love.





Photo: FrackFreeBC mural (Dinjot Matharu - Dogwood).

110K say no to LNG and Fracking

For the last three years in a row, with your help, we've teamed up with our allies at Stand and Dogwood to crash the Canada Gas & LNG Exhibition at the Vancouver Convention Centre. **This exhibition is basically an annual gathering of fossil fuel executives plotting how to ramp up fracking in northeast B.C. and the pollution that goes with it.** Thanks to you, 2024 was our greatest stunt yet. We painted a 20-foot wide mural out front, held a press conference and delivered over 110,000 petition signatures opposing liquefied natural gas (LNG) development in B.C.

The gas industry is getting together to scheme and strategize. And we need to do the same. That's why we hosted **Forward! For a Frack Free Future**, a weekend gathering of activists from all over the province with one shared goal: end fracking in B.C. It was a whirlwind of training, learning and networking to build the movement we all know is necessary to finally stop fossil fuel extraction.

Your support gave around 150 attendees the opportunity to hear from frontline Indigenous speakers opposing gas developments on their territories. This prepared us to put our strategy into action in time for the next provincial election. This chance for folks to meet each other, realize we're not alone and find new ways to hold the province accountable for its climate commitments was extremely valuable — and we couldn't have done it without you.

Manitoba protects the Ducks and beyond

We're always looking for opportunities to meet you, our treasured donors, last May was no exception. **An early morning banner drop or a hike up a mountain might not be everyone's cup of tea — maybe you'd rather just drink one** 🍷. So we invited some of you to our Winnipeg office to get the inside scoop on how your gifts power incredible accomplishments in the fight to permanently protect provincial parks at risk from industrial development in Manitoba. **Thanks to those of you who dropped by — it won't be our last.**

This past fall, your generosity led to the publication of our **Duck Mountain Audit**, a comprehensive review including on-the-ground research and audits of logging operations in the Duck Mountain area and the Provincial Park. Now is our chance to ramp this up. **A new provincial government, combined with international commitments to protect 30 per cent of land and waters by 2030 provides us a critical opportunity to realize our vision of protecting wild areas and key biodiversity in Manitoba.**

At our May event **Ducks and Beyond**, donors joined Executive Director Beth Clarke, Wilderness and Water Campaigner Eric Reder and Wilderness Committee board member Heather Fast, from the Manitoba Eco-Network, to hear about what comes next. We had some great conversations and plan on more of the same to connect with the urban communities surrounding our offices in Victoria, Vancouver and Toronto. **If this sounds like your particular brand of activism — stay tuned for an invite in your hometown!**



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** Annual Giving 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