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Special Issue**

Watershed *Sentinel*



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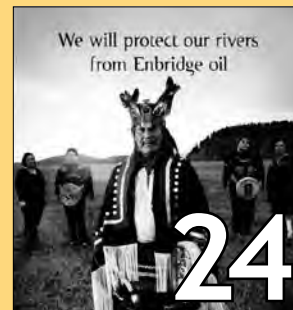
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to Mordor

The guys commuting to Fort Mac for work in the tar sands often say they work in Mordor. It's easy enough these days to see our times as those of the great mythic conflicts, whether one uses Tolkien's Trilogy, the End Times of *Revelations*, the Norse Ragnarok, or simple western dualism (good/evil, black/white, stop/start) as the framework for one's mythology.

However, not all civilizations see these great conflicts in the same way. Many – most indigenous belief systems and cultures, the Hindus, and even the Norse with their great doomsday battles – comprehend that re-creation comes out of the great destruction, in endless cycles.

Whatever frame we use to organize our thoughts about the future, several things are clear. One is that we do not know, and will never know "how the story ends" because the great story goes on, like Earth, long past the moments of our fleeting lives. Another is that we all have roles – walk ons, bit parts, playwrights, stage hands, heroes and villains – in this endless drama. Some of us fight to save a special patch of forest or run a soup kitchen, others work to make the state more charitable to its citizens, yet others engage in the global struggles for justice or to loosen the grip of the oil-driven economy on our minds and rivers.

Let us all live our lives knowing we gave our share to the epic conflicts of our time, but let us remember that the story will go on and on, long after our own tiny roles are done. All the best to you in 2014!

Delores Broten, Comox BC, January 2014

At the 'Shed

Coming Up: For the spring issue, we are going to take a look at urban design and the Transition Town movement and would like to feature some "on the ground" examples in Canada. The summer issue will focus on water and we are looking for exceptional poetry or short fiction about water – in BC, in Canada, and the world. We welcome your perspectives.

On Generosity: Thank you very much for your wonderful generosity. These are tough times for the environment and for magazine publishers, so your gifts are crucial to our survival during these economic and technical transitions.

12 Canadians: Our editrix, Delores Broten, was featured in *Twelve Canadians*, a web based audio series about people who devote their lives to social, environmental or economic justice. Have a listen: www.greenplanetmonitor.net/

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Next issue ad deadline: February 21

Copy deadline: February 7



Around The World

Compiled by Susan MacVittie

Infinito Sues Costa Rica

More than 8,500 people in Canada and around the world sent a message to Infinito Gold CEO John Morgan during the Canadian mining company's annual shareholders' meeting in Calgary. They asked that Infinito drop its \$1-billion investment lawsuit against Costa Rica under the 1999 Canada-Costa Rica Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA). Calgary-based Infinito is suing the Costa Rican government for over \$1 billion because it rejected the company's plan to build an open-pit gold mine in a tropical forest.

— *Council of Canadians,*
December 12, 2013

Study Suggests Ban

New information from a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* should be enough to convince Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency to recommend a ban on bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides. The study helps explain how the pesticide damages the immune systems of bees and destroys their ability to fight disease. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency invited the public to comment until December 12 on its policy of allowing the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in Canada.

— *Sierra Club,* November 28, 2013

Russia Grants Amnesty

Russia's parliament adopted an amnesty which freed two jailed members

of punk band Pussy Riot and enabled 30 people arrested in a Greenpeace protest against Arctic oil drilling to avoid trial.

The outcome removes two of many irritants with the West before Russia hosts the Winter Olympics in February.

— *Reuters,* December 19, 2013

Coal in China

A new report by the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at Oxford, UK says that coal demand in China looks likely to fall in the years ahead, due to concerns about climate change, weakening global coal prices and a decline in coal demand in China. China accounts for half the world's coal consumption.

— *The Ecologist,* December 24, 2013

Scotland Meeting Target

Figures published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, show that renewables met 40.3 per cent of gross electricity consumption in 2012, confirming that Scotland is on track to meet its interim target of 50 per cent by 2015. Scotland continues to be a net exporter of electricity, exporting over 26 per cent of generation in 2012.

— *Environmental News Network,*
December 19, 2013

BP Engineer Convicted

Kurt Mix, a former engineer for oil giant BP, was convicted of intentionally destroying evidence requested by federal criminal authorities investigating the April 20, 2010, Deepwater Horizon explosion, fire and oil spill.

— *NBC News,* December 18, 2013

Whaling Challenge

The governments of Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the US have issued a joint statement condemning any actions at sea that may cause injury, loss of human life or damage to property or the marine environment during the 2013/14 Southern Ocean whaling season.

The legality of Japanese "scientific" whaling in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary is currently being decided by the International Court of Justice. Sea Shepherd Australia will be present when the whaling fleet arrives for the summer months and says it will be the only party able to intervene against their "illegal" operations.

— *Environment News Service,*
December 26, 2013

Let There Be Light

Dutch mechanical engineer Chintan Shah has created a retrofit for streetlights to dim them when people aren't around and to restore full brightness once a motion sensor is tripped. For the past two years, neighborhoods in Ireland and the Netherlands have been implementing the system, and now it could be coming to Los Angeles, as well as parts of Germany and Canada.

The system is adjustable so that streetlights in vast abandoned parking lots could dim up to 70 per cent when no one is around, but those in busy areas like intersections might only dim by 30 per cent.

— *grist.org,* December 20, 2013



From Our Readers

Rallying in the Kispiox

I live in the Kispiox Valley, north of Hazelton, BC. Both TransCanada Pipeline and Spectra Energy propose putting pipelines through this valley. Our community has been rallying and fighting the good fight! We are also very fortunate to have the support of the Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition. Suffice to say, I thought you would appreciate this photo of my No LNG sign at the end of my driveway.



I subscribe to your magazine. Keep up the great work!
PS: Check out our valley website: nomorepipelines.ca
Carol Ponchetound, Kispiox, BC

Getting Gassed

While your article “Liquid Natural Gas: Awash in Green?” is fairly accurate, as a resident of the Peace, I take exception to one sentence, “In BC, the proliferation of drilling and fracking is in remote areas. Few humans may be affected, but water is...”

They should ask the humans in Tomslake, Arras, Farmington, Sunset Prairie, Groundbirch, Fellers Heights, etc. and areas north of the Peace River. Ask the humans about the effects of breathing toxic gasses from drill sights, leaking pipelines, gas plants and flares. Ask the humans who, like one lady, spent two weeks in hospital after being gassed and will have the results of that gassing for the rest of her life. Ask the couple of humans who were gassed six times and were in emergency for treatment and suffer the results of this four years later. Living here, we should all be issued gas masks to wear 24/7 or move out as many residents have been forced to!

Leona Green, Dawson Creek/Arras District, BC

The *Watershed Sentinel* welcomes letters but reserves the right to edit for brevity, clarity, legality, and taste.

Anonymous letters will not be published.

Send your musings and your missives to:

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www.watershedsentinel.ca

Water Gone Bad

On February 12, 2013, my water well went bad. On February 11, 2013, I found out that EnCana had done seismic activity in our area. The water change was overnight. I live in Bluffton, Alberta on a farm with my wife and five children. We have a water test stating that our water was very good before the seismic activity (bottle water quality), and now it is terrible. Our bathtubs, sinks, toilets, washing machine and dishwasher are stained. We contacted SRD (Sustainable Resource and Development) and have had numerous meetings with EnCana. They, of course, have said that their experts have determined they did nothing wrong. The aquifer has been compromised so bad that we cannot drill another well, our water will never go back to its original quality. EnCana made us an offer towards a water treatment unit. The amount offered did not even cover half of the cost of just the system. We turned them down and are looking for help.

Fred Schwieger, Bluffton, Alberta

Enbridge Ads Wasteful

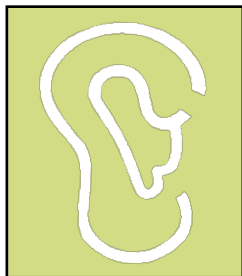
Enbridge is “gracing” us every week in local newspapers with full page coloured ads notable for their bad poetry, while showing us the beautiful features of the Northwest they are putting at risk. Such ads cost more than \$1,000 a week for just one local paper. I want to contrast this lavish spending with their 2012 \$18,000 donation to 14 foodbanks, averaging \$1,286 per food bank for a whole year. I suggest Enbridge should redirect their wasted advertising campaign money to food banks.

Josette Wier, Smithers, BC

WS on Kootenay Radio

I read the article by Joyce Nelson about greenwashing from *Watershed Sentinel* on one of Suzie Hamilton’s Ecocentric shows on *Kootenaycoopradio.com*. Then Suzie did a live interview with her in a later show. My own show is Thursday from 2 to 3 p.m. Apart from my record relics from the 60s and 70s, I always have a “food for thought spot,” often touting you guys because, although I love my old tunes, environment is where my heart lies. I have had lots of positive feedback from listeners who enjoy hearing what you print. Last Friday I met a new subscriber from Yak who heard the program and decided to get your mag. That’s a start! Listen in if you can, since it is on line. The program is called “Storm’s Nostalgia.”

Gabriela Grabowsky, Kaslo, BC.



Have You Heard?

Compiled by Susan MacVittie

Creston's Bear Corridor

As of November, 95 per cent of the lands that were identified for protection near Creston BC, throughout the trans-boundary Cabinet-Purcell Mountain Corridor, have been conserved. With an estimate of less than 100 grizzly bears in the genetically and demographically isolated population, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative and the Cabinet-Purcell Mountain Corridor Collaborative set out to purchase private lands where grizzlies could travel with limited interactions with humans and connect to other grizzly bear populations.

Sixty per cent of non-hunting grizzly bear deaths in the South Selkirk population were the result of bears being killed after they were attracted to human-produced foods including garbage, livestock and fruit trees.

— *Yellowstone to Yukon*,
December 12, 2013

GM Salmon Eggs

In November, Environment Canada approved commercial production of genetically modified (GM) Atlantic salmon eggs. AquaBounty asked for approval of GM Atlantic salmon for human consumption in the US, based on a plan to produce the GM fish eggs on Prince Edward Island and ship them to Panama for grow-out and processing. If fully approved for production and consumption, the GM salmon would be the first GM food animal in the world.

— *Canadian Biotechnology Network*,
November 25, 2013

Canada Ranks Last

Canada came 13th in this year's Washington Center for Global Development survey, but ranked last when it comes to environmental protection. The survey assesses 27 wealthy nations annually on their commitment to seven areas that impact the world's poor.

The low environmental ranking for Canada reflected rising fossil fuel production and its withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol.

— *Globe and Mail*, November 18, 2013

LNG Air Quality Concerns

The effects on air quality from the release of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants will be a key component of an upcoming environmental impact assessment for the proposed Woodfibre LNG plant near Squamish, BC. Dr. Thomas Gunton, Simon Fraser University, says that although LNG evaporates and doesn't get into the water and cause pollution damage, the burning of natural gas emits sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulates.

Gunton also raised economic questions about the BC government's push toward LNG. If all or even most are built, the number of new LNG processing and export facilities planned worldwide will exceed what's needed to meet the projected market demand.

— *Coast Reporter*, December 12, 2013

DFO Signs Out

The National Energy Board (NEB) has reached an agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to assess potential impacts from oil pipelines to fish and fish habitat. The

Memorandum of Understanding means the NEB will assess any aquatic environmental impacts of a pipeline proposal, and it and the DFO will communicate on those assessments, on species at risk, and any violations.

Skeena Wild Executive Director Greg Knox says the NEB has no capacity or expertise to assess impacts to the fish habitat or to administer the *Fisheries Act* and that this is the federal government's attempt to push through pipelines and energy development.

— *Skeena Wild*, December 18, 2013

Economics of Oilsands

A report released by the Pembina Institute and Équiterre, *Booms, Busts and Bitumen: The economic implications of Canadian oilsands development* looks at the side effects of the oilsands boom in uncertain economic times. It finds that the majority of economic benefits, both direct and indirect, are limited to Alberta. The economic side effects of the boom, such as a high dollar, makes it harder for manufacturers to compete globally.

— *greenpages.ca*, December 12, 2013

Fraser-Surrey No to Coal

People in Vancouver, BC have rallied against a new proposal for coal export from the Fraser Surrey Docks. Health professionals and experts are not happy with the environmental assessment being conducted by the Fraser Surrey Docks and point to health concerns created by coal dust.

— *occupy.com*, December 18, 2013

Waste

Gives Koch Empire a \$6 Billion Market



Alberta Petcoke
Gets Around,
Blows Around

Photo by Stephen Boyle
www.flickr.com/photos/fuzzytek

by Joyce Nelson

It looks like Armageddon but it's "just a little bit of Alberta."

That's what some are saying about the black clouds of "petcoke" that have been blowing off huge piles of the stuff in Detroit and Chicago, forcing residents to hide in their homes until the wind dies down, then try to hose off the black grit until the next time Alberta blows through their neighbourhoods.

Petcoke, or petroleum coke, is the powdery by-product of heavy oil refining, which uses a coker to release the oil from the diluted bitumen (dilbit). Petcoke has been accumulating in the Midwest, as refineries have

expanded to handle huge volumes of tarsands crude.

According to the Associated Press (November 25, 2013), "In Detroit, petcoke began appearing along the Detroit River in the spring, several months after the Marathon Oil refinery completed a \$2.2 billion US expansion" in November 2012. That upgrade allows the refinery to process 28,000 barrels per day of dilbit, producing a whopping 1,720 tons per day of petcoke waste.

BP's refinery in Whiting, Indiana, has been undergoing a huge expansion in order to take more tarsands crude. When the new unit opens in

2014, the BP refinery will be able to process 103,000 barrels per day of dilbit, raising its petcoke production to a gargantuan 6,000 tons per day – which it currently transports over to Chicago, Illinois, to avoid regulations.

A New Industry

While some petcoke is useful for steelmaking, the petcoke produced by refining tar sands crude is primarily a waste by-product. The *New York Times* (May 17, 2013) reported, "... the small grains and high sulfur content of this [tar sands-derived] petroleum coke make it largely unusable," except as cheap and dirty fuel. Lorne Stockman of Oil Change International calls tar sands-derived petcoke "the dirtiest residue from the dirtiest oil on earth."

The burning of petcoke emits huge volumes of soot and greenhouse gases, so its use is limited in the US. However, China, Mexico, India, Canada, and others use it as a feedstock because it is 25% cheaper than coal. Despite its smog-creating properties, in the past decade petcoke has become a \$6 billion industry through annual sales of some 100 million metric tonnes of petcoke produced mostly in North America and sold to China, India, Japan, and Latin America as fuel for cement kilns and power plants. By 2008, the price of petcoke had increased five-fold from the previous decade.

Refineries sell the petcoke primarily to Koch Carbon, a company owned and controlled by billionaires Charles and David Koch; KCBX, a subsidiary of Koch Carbon (which is a subsidiary of Koch Industries); and Oxbow Corporation, owned by William I. Koch (brother of David and Charles). As a result, many have ironically changed the spelling to "petKoch." Koch Industries then sells it on to the world market.

Charles and David Koch have a combined net worth of \$92 bil-

lion. *Rolling Stone* (April 20, 2012) calls them “the plutocrats from central casting – oil-and-gas billionaires ready to buy any congressman, fund any lie, fight any law, bust any union, despoil any landscape, or avoid any (tax) burden to push their free-market religion and pump up their profits.”

In December 2012, the Koch’s KCBX subsidiary bought up the Chicago Fuels Terminal (now called KCBX Terminals) on the Calumet River, where more than a mile of Chicago shoreline is now dedicated to uncovered “petKoch” piles. In November 2013, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced a lawsuit against KCBX Terminals; the US Environmental Protection Agency ordered KCBX to install air-pollution monitors; and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel ordered the Department of Public Health to adopt “strict regulations on the maintenance and storage” of petcoke.

Meanwhile, Nova Scotia Power has purchased that Detroit pile of petcoke from Koch Carbon and will burn it in two power plants in the province. According to the *New York Times* (June 6, 2013), a bulk carrier owned by Canada Steamship Lines of Montreal has been bringing the petcoke to a coal terminal in Sydney, Nova Scotia, in a move “something resembling a bottle return program,” with the tar sands-derived petcoke “making its way back to Canada.”

But the Detroit pile will, of course, be replaced. The Marathon refinery’s 1,700 tons of petcoke production per day has a way of piling up.

The Keystone Connection

According to UK-based Roskill Information Services Ltd., 12 refineries in the US Gulf Coast area produced petcoke in 2012 from heavy oil imported from Venezuela. But the decline of Venezuelan oil imports is having an effect on petcoke produc-

tion/sales by Gulf Coast refiners. As reported by *Canadian Oilsands Navigator* (September 11, 2013), “Roskill concludes that a go-ahead for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline [KXL], which would carry about 850,000 barrels per day of heavy Canadian crude to the US Gulf Coast, is critical if refineries are going to continue to supply the [\$6 billion] petcoke market.”

Of course, that petcoke market is only a fraction of the profits that KXL could deliver to Koch Industries.

**“Tarsands-derived
petcoke is the dirtiest
residue from the
dirtiest oil on earth.”**

An October 2013 report by the San Francisco-based International Forum on Globalization (IFG), called *Billionaires’ Carbon Bomb: The Koch Brothers and the Keystone XL Pipeline*, claims that the KXL will provide the Kochs with another “\$100 billion in potential profits” while “intensifying ecological crisis.”

Koch Industries (already with more than \$110 billion in annual revenues) is a major refiner of tar sands crude at its Pine Bend refinery in Minnesota and its Corpus Christi refinery in Texas. Koch subsidiary Flint Hills Resources Canada operates a crude oil terminal in Hardisty, Alberta.

The report states: “The point on the [KXL] pipeline’s value chain at which we were able to identify a significant profit source for the Kochs is their production of crude oil from the two million acres they have in Alberta’s tar sands territory.”

Koch Exploration Canada (KEC) “buys and sells land for energy development, and is well positioned to become a major producer in coming years. Their current land holdings [in

Alberta’s Athabasca region] appear to be significantly larger than those of Chevron, Exxon and ConocoPhillips combined.” KEC is one of Canada’s largest crude oil purchasers, shippers and exporters, with more than 130 crude oil customers.

The “Kochtopus”

The Koch brothers have also created the so-called “Kochtopus” – a vast network of right-wing think tanks, astroturf agents, media manipulators, congressional and courtroom collaborators, and “dark money” donors. The Kochtopus has been the primary funder of the Tea Party movement; the climate-change denial onslaught; and the original backer of the case behind *Citizens United* – the 2010 US Supreme Court decision that opened US campaign financing to unlimited and undisclosed corporate spending.

The IFG report states that KXL’s increased profits to the Koch brothers would mean “more support for the ideological extremists” and “more carbon pollution.”

In April 2012, the *Vancouver Observer* revealed that since 2008, the Koch brothers have donated “over half a million dollars to the ... right-wing Fraser Institute,” PM Harper’s favourite charity. Harper’s dismantling of environmental regulations, his war on science, and his attacks on unions are lifted directly out of the Koch brothers’ ideological playbook.

Those “petKoch” windstorms – obscuring and fouling everything in their path – are an apt symbol of the Kochtopus. Yes, they’re “a little bit of Alberta,” but they’re Koch-created and Koch-owned and now they’re blowing across Canada too, befouling the body politic.



Joyce Nelson is an award-winning freelance writer/researcher and the author of five books.

SIX WAYS

TO KEEP THE PIPELINE DEBATE ON TRACK

by Kai Nagata

On December 22 the National Energy Board recommended approval of the Northern Gateway pipeline, and some of the people who otherwise distrust government, want it out of the economy, and hate quasi-judicial independent appointed bla bla bla – are lining up to praise the probity and wisdom of the Joint Review Panel. Some of these folks are your friends and relatives. Some have a wider audience.

The words of the pro-pipeline press are worth reading today, because they point to both the true debate and the false debates that we will face going forward. Let's make sure we don't get lost in rhetorical cul-de-sacs.

For example, in a *Toronto Sun* editorial titled "Northern Gateway? Get on with it" we are told the "job of government" (executed to applause here by the JRP) is "to stand up to political pressure from green luddites, whose real agenda is to sell us on the idiotic idea of sabotaging our own economy. And to get us to buy their snake-oil claims that wind and solar power are capable of powering a modern, industrialized economy, which is nonsense."

Fin. Mic drop.

Except:

1 The pipeline debate has nothing to do with where Canadians get their energy. That's a completely separate conversation. Nobody is talking here about wind or solar – or burning snake-oil, which would be an interesting, if labour-intensive, bio-fuel. The bitumen in these pipelines will never heat your home or end up in your gas tank. These projects are purely for export.

2 The whole point is for bitumen producers to sell their product at higher prices. Right now the only customers for Alberta heavy crude are in the US, which is in the middle of its own oil-drilling boom and has no interest in our low-grade stuff unless it's cheap. Refineries in Asia are in a different position. Supply is tighter (for now) and demand is higher (for now) so they're willing to pay more (for now), if someone can get the product to them.

3 We can't really say who stands to benefit. In the case of Northern Gateway, we don't even know who all the investors are. We know China's three giant state-owned oil companies are involved: Sinopec is a partner, PetroChina is bidding on construction, and CNOOC bought Nexen, which owns a 10% chunk of shipping capacity. Other confirmed shippers include France's Total SA and Calgary-based Cenovus, Suncor, and MEG Energy. But four of the 10 shippers remain a mystery.

It's worth keeping in mind that oil sands operations are 71% foreign-owned. Certainly the pipelines would generate a certain amount of revenue for government. And hopefully some of the profits would be reinvested in economic development that would benefit all Canadians. But nowhere is that guaranteed. This brings us to the real debate, which is about risk versus reward. Here I'll quote Peter Foster, a columnist in the *Financial Post*, because he hits the nail right on the head:

"All wealth- and job-creating development involves risks. The point is that they should be acceptable, and accepted by those who might have to bear the consequences."

Did you hear that, BC? A guy says you should accept the risk and bear the consequences. After all, this is what the Joint Review Panel said yesterday: "After weighing the evidence, we concluded that Canada and Canadians would be better off with the Enbridge Northern Gateway project." And you know, in a way they're right. If you set aside certain evidence and limit the scope of your inquiry, you could always find the nation-wide risk/reward ratio to be favourable, especially if a project mostly jeopardizes one province's jobs, communities, and ecosystems.

You know what else? You could argue that Canada and Canadians, on average, would be better off if people in Quebec would just speak English. Or if people on PEI would give up on their tiny, ridiculous province. You could say it would make life easier if people on reserves would just move to the city and assimilate. But that's not how our country works.

If British Columbians and First Nations along the path

of these pipelines decide that for us, the risks outweigh the rewards, then too bad. The decision is not up to newspaper columnists in Calgary or Toronto.

4 Where you are, and who you are, will determine whether those risks are acceptable. Some people face more risk. Some people anticipate greater rewards. If you're a company that has signed a shipping agreement with a pipeline that will let you sell every \$60 barrel of oil for \$90, then heck yes, the reward outweighs the risk. If you live east of the Rockies, any benefit is going to sound better than zero risk. If you're the BC government, Enbridge promises to pay \$1.2 billion in taxes over the next 30 years. So, forty million bucks a year, which adds up to \$9.09 per person. Which starts to sound pathetic. And if your home, culture, food, job, health or climate is on the line, there might not be a price at which the monetary rewards outweigh the risks. You're allowed to say that.

5 These pipelines are not charity projects. Even if your land straddles a pipeline route and you're being offered straight cash, that amount of money is still less than it would cost them to go around you. Benefits offered by the proponent only increase their potential profit. If you're a member of a First Nations band and your community is offered equity, great. If you're a citizen of Canada and your government will receive taxes, royalties, and spinoffs, great. They might misplace or misspend the money, but hopefully some of it makes your life better. Just know that whatever numbers they flash, those of us standing between the producers and the customers will never be the big winners.

6 Each proposal will die the day it is no longer profitable. There are three ways this could happen: markets, laws, or physical opposition. This is where we come to a discussion of tactics. If you don't think the risks of Northern Gateway or the Trans Mountain pipeline are worth the reward, then you have some options as a citizen. You can mutter darkly about bulldozers and tear gas. That's certainly your right. You could also look at global energy markets and transport proposals and prices and timelines, then read up on economics and think about how those logical constraints might be leveraged and when. Or you could look at what those sex workers accomplished today in Ottawa, then read up on Supreme Court jurisprudence and think about how previous challenges and decisions might apply to this situation.

Whatever you do, I hope you don't give up on representative democracy and the idea that we elect people to

stand up for our local interests, even if sometimes we have to work pretty hard to hold them to it. Some politicians are already saying the right things. A few need reminding.

Let's set aside the JRP decision and the pipeline ads and the national newspapers for a minute. What would you want to say to your local representative about risk and reward, and what questions would you have for them?



Kai Nagata is a fourth-generation British Columbian, based in Vancouver. He works as a consultant and commentator, with a focus on energy, stewardship, and democracy. He was formerly Bureau Chief for CTV in Quebec City.

Enbridge Not the Only One

by Glenn Mathieson

When it comes to pipelines in the media, the Northern Gateway, Keystone XL, and Line 9 Reversal get a lot of attention. It can be easy to forget that there are many other pipelines being developed in Canada.

Existing pipelines of Access, Enbridge, Inter Pipeline, Kinder Morgan, Pembina, Plains Midstream, Portland Montreal, Spectra, Suncor, TransCanada, and Trans-Northern, transport over 3 million barrels of crude oil per day (bpd), and these companies are looking to expand:

Access Northeast Expansion: Construction began in 2012. The pipeline will be 297 kilometre (km) long, and transport bitumen from Conklin, to Redwater, AB. The \$1-billion project will have an initial capacity of 350,000 bpd and is expected to be active by 2015.

Kinder Morgan TMX: The Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion application, filed in 2013, would twin the existing 994 km line from Edmonton to Burnaby. If approved, construction could begin in 2015 with completion expected in 2017. Capacity would be increased from 300,000 to 890,000 bpd. Cost is \$5.4 billion.

Enbridge Light Market Access Projects: The \$6.2-billion "Light Oil Market Access Program," is at the consultation phase, with aims to increase light crude access by 400,000 bpd. Combined, the pipelines will stretch over 1,352 km in North Dakota (Sandpiper Project), Indiana (Line 62), Illinois (Line 61), and Quebec (Line 9). Target is 2014-2016.

Glenn Mathieson is a Vancouver Island University student and intern with the *Watershed Sentinel*.

CETA Is A Bad Deal For Canada

The Not-So-Comprehensive Trade Deal With the European Union



by Van Andross

On October 18, 2013, after four years of negotiations, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, signed a “tentative” CETA agreement in Brussels. CETA stands for Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, and is said by Harper to be the biggest trade deal Canada has ever made, even bigger than North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Typical of the Harper government, this enormously significant agreement was signed before anyone had a chance to view it, but the following contents have leaked into view.

The main thrust of the deal is to give international corporations greater power over Canadian rules and regulations than they already possess under NAFTA. In effect, according to

this deal, foreign corporations are to be treated as equal to domestic companies in Canada. CETA has very little to do with expanding “free trade” and everything to do with giving international corporations ever greater power to over-ride domestic authority.

Public Procurement

CETA will ban government at all levels from “buy local” policies, as harmful to the level playing field urged by international corporations. As Murray Dobbin tells us in *Canadian Dimension*, “The procurement provisions – giving EU corporations unobstructed access to the public spending of municipalities, school boards, hospitals, universities and crown corporations – is especially threatening given the critical role such

public spending plays in a time of virtually zero private investment. The strategic use of public spending for economic development and support for local businesses or sectors (such as green energy), would also be effectively banned. Others worry that if the EU gets its procurement deal, the US will want similar treatment – an even greater threat given its proximity to Canada.”

Under this new procurement regime, the privatization of local services becomes far more likely: water, electricity, transit, medical services, postal services, and social services. On the other hand, in bold contrast to Canada’s part, the European Union has negotiated a blanket exemption to protect their water, energy and public services, including health care. Why don’t we get the same?

Pharmaceutical

As part of the deal, European pharmaceutical corporations are seeking to extend their monopolies on patent drugs, delaying for an even longer term, cheaper generic drugs for Canadian citizens. Meanwhile, there is no indication that the EU will make any changes to its own patent system.

Investor Rights

This term refers to giving foreign corporations based in Canada the right to sue our government for public policies that affect the maximization of their profits. Already Canada is facing nearly \$2.5 billion worth of corporate lawsuits under NAFTA's investment protection chapter, including one from an oil and gas company against Quebec's moratorium on fracking and another against Canada by the pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly, demanding a \$100 million for "expropriation" because the courts refused to grant a drug patent on the grounds it did not satisfy conditions set down by Canadian law. Rather than free trade, the Investor State Settlement Process is more about the elimination of public interest policies instituted to protect consumer, health, safety, privacy and environmental values.

By the same negative token, Canadian companies will not hesitate to sue Europe for completely legitimate public decisions, for example, instituting regulations for mining companies, or stricter environmental rules qualifying the sales of oil and gas.

What's Missing

In all official discussion of CETA, two issues are conspicuously missing: one is the environment and the other is native rights. Already NAFTA, plus the Omnibus Bills C 38 and C 45, and

STOP CETA
DON'T LET CORPORATIONS MAKE THE RULES



the suppression of science in the ministries, have seriously hampered our ability to respond with intelligence to environmental changes.

By now, it would be tiresome to labour the point that the natural world is in decline. Yet, all we hear from Stephen Harper in his cheery speech celebrating CETA is a \$12 billion boost to our economy and the 100,000 cars a year Canadian automakers will export to Europe (hopefully burning tar sands oil!).

But we all know there's no wisdom in putting dollars over health, over life.

Native issues, consultation and land development rights, do not arise in CETA's consciousness. Indigenous people simply don't exist in a landscape of Big Money. Neither, apparently, does the Canadian Parliament whose opinions are not solicited and for whom there is no opportunity for debate.

What Can Be Done

The question arises, what can be done to block this diabolical plan?

Again, Murray Dobbin is informative. We are reminded that Harper "is constrained in what he can do by the constitutional division of powers which gives the provinces so much

political authority.... The provinces also have a mandate on protecting the environment and regarding labour rights, and most working Canadians are in sectors that come under provincial jurisdiction. Lastly, the third level of government [the municipality] is also a creature of the provinces. While municipalities depend on the federal government for financial help, Ottawa has no political authority over them."

Since neo-liberal provincial governments have regularly shown obedience to the federal government, their opposition to CETA is undependable. Only municipal governments have shown strong resistance. Thanks to the good work of the Council of Canadians, some 80 municipalities have called either for complete exclusion or passed resolutions expressing concern. Most of these are in BC and Ontario and include large populations like Toronto, Hamilton, Mississauga and Victoria.

As for opposition to CETA by the general public, no one can predict how that will go. As it happens, we are neither informed nor consulted on issues pertaining to important economic affairs.

The CETA agreement is not a done deal. It's a "tentative" agreement and despite Harper and Barroso's signatures, it will need ratification. Even so it will not come into force until 2015.

The least we can demand is that the agreement be made public. Contact your MP and your MLA and insist that he or she obtain, by whatever means, the full text and proceed to educate their constituency as to its pros and cons.



Information on CETA: Council of Canadians, www.canadians.org and Murray Dobbin's article, *CETA: Can Harper's Trojan Horse be Stopped?*

Hanging Together

A few months ago someone in the office said, “I’d like to look at activism and see what works.” One idea led to another; some enthusiastic readers weighed in with their thoughts and experiences, and here we have this eclectic mix of ideas about activism and social change.

We look at the power of No, the power of community, and the power of persistence. We celebrate the strength of our First Nations comrades in fighting for their legal rights and the water and land we share. There’s also a nod to the power of art.

Below is an excerpt we published in March 2008 from social movement trainer Bill Moyer, in *Doing Democracy: The MAP Model for Organizing Social Movements*, New Society Press, 2001.

*Social movement activists need first to be seen by the public as responsible **citizens**. They must win the respect and, ultimately, the acceptance of the majority of ordinary citizens in order for their movements to succeed. Consequently, citizen activists need to say “Yes!” to those fundamental principles, values, and symbols of a good society that are also accepted by the general public.*

*At the same time, activists must be **rebels** who say a loud “No!” and protest social conditions and institutional policies and practices that violate core societal values and principles.*



This Raeside cartoon is a perfect example of the power of art - a few strokes of the brush says it all.

*Activists need to be **change agents** who work to educate, organize, and involve the general public to actively oppose present policies and seek positive, constructive solutions.*

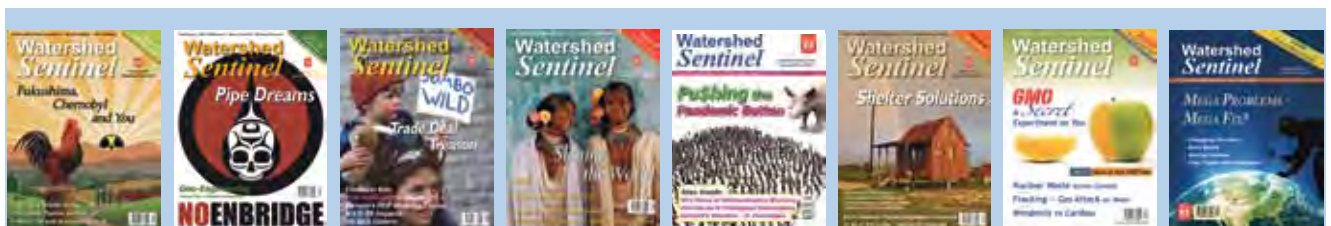
*Finally, activists must also be **reformers** who work with the official political and judicial structures to incorporate*

solutions into new laws and the policies and practices of society’s public and private institutions. Then they must work to get them accepted as the new conventional wisdom of mainstream society.

Many activists are all four: citizen, rebel, change agent and reformer, simultaneously, or in different situations at different times. The trick may be to know which role is most effective and when.

The bigger task for social movements is to recognize the diversity of roles which are required to build strong movements for social change, and to respect each role for the unique and precious part it plays. In that respect lies strength. As one mentor of mine used to say, with a hint of his British Army background showing through, “Come on chaps! We’ve got to hang together, or we’ll all hang separately.”

—Delores Broten



Support Canada’s Environmental News Today

The Power of



by Joyce Nelson

You may have come across the recent Twitter meme by Judd Legum, editor at *Think Progress*, which went viral in October 2013. Ostensibly a comment on US right-wing Tea Party negotiating style, it read: “Can I burn down your house?” “No.” “Just the 2nd floor?” “No.” “Garage?” “No.” “Let’s talk about what I can burn down.” “No.” “You aren’t compromising!”

I suspect the reason this meme went viral is that it so resonates with activists around the world. We live in a time when activists are expected to negotiate and compromise, no matter how outrageous the proposal.

Premier Christy Clark calls it “getting to yes” on resource development projects. As BC activist Ian Gill wrote in *The Tyee* (November 16), the phrase “sounds more like a frat boy trying to get lucky than the workings of a so-called democracy.”

Implicit in “getting to yes” is the idea that people can be manipulated, manoeuvred, lied to, propagandized, and finally worn down into agreement with the corporate agenda.

A year ago, on November 17, 2012, I attended the “No Line 9” conference in Toronto. I specifically went in order to hear Art Sterritt, Executive Director of Coastal First Nations, who has been saying “no” to Enbridge’s Northern Gateway pipeline proposal for almost a decade now.

Sterritt said that when Enbridge first proposed its Northern Gateway pipeline to the Coastal First Nations, “... they actually said to us that time, ‘If you guys don’t agree with this, we won’t do it.’... When we decided we didn’t like it, and we told them, they said, ‘You’re not the only Indians in

British Columbia.’ That’s how they said it. ‘There’s others who might agree.’

“So we then canvassed all of the rest of the First Nations in British Columbia: the Union of BC Chiefs and the First Nations Summit represent 202 tribes, and they both opposed the Northern Gateway pipeline. We went

When we decided we didn’t like it, and we told them, they said, ‘You’re not the only Indians in British Columbia.’

to Enbridge and told them that, and they said, ‘Well, there are non-native people. What about the municipalities?’ We went to the municipalities, and for the past two years [2011 and 2012], all the Union of BC Municipalities have passed a motion opposing Northern Gateway. That should be the end of the story. There’s nobody in British Columbia that wants the project. So what’s Enbridge answer? ‘Canada seems to want it.’”

And now, we’re being told that “the world” wants the pipeline.

John Winter, president and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce, bemoans what he calls the province’s “culture of no” which he says threatens BC’s economic future. In an op-ed for the *Vancouver Sun* (August 16, 2013), Winter hyped the economic benefits of Enbridge’s Northern Gate-

way pipeline and told his readers: “If you’ve been staying out of project debates in BC thus far, we’d urge you to lend your voice to shifting this ‘culture of no.’”

It’s an unfair characterization, because activists well know what they are affirming and protecting when they say “no” to oil pipelines and oil tankers on the West Coast.

Art Sterritt told his Toronto audience that, in order to stop Enbridge’s Line 9 project, “You’re going to have to personalize it. That’s what happened in British Columbia. It became personal.” He explained that in his home territory, “We already had all the people in the region who took it personal that somebody was trying to destroy what they were doing. We needed to extend that to the rest of British Columbia.” And they have done so, very effectively.

Sterritt also warned the audience that “the richest industry that ever hit planet Earth is trying to take over control of our country.”

It’s good advice to activists: “personalize it.” And across Canada, more and more people are taking it personal that the (largely foreign-owned) oil and gas/tar sands industry is trying to destroy what they have – whether it’s their water, their land, their community, their economy, or their democracy. It’s become very personal now.

“Can I burn down your house?”
“No.”



Joyce Nelson is an award-winning freelance writer and the author of five books.



Citizen Science *To the Rescue*



The Discovery
Islands
Ecosystem
Mapping
Project:
*The Power of
Persistence*





by Lannie Keller

The Discovery Islands are the foothills of BC's highest mountains located at the mouth of Bute Inlet. This tidal-driven archipelago separates the Johnstone and Georgia straits and it used to be a land of giant trees.

The Discovery Islands Ecosystem Mapping (DIEM) project is a community response to high impact land "management" practices that present questions about the science of what's really happening and whether it's appropriate. Conceived by outer islanders in 2011 and facilitated by the Surge Narrows Community Association, the DIEM study area creates a comprehensive regional view to benefit and unite all of the Discovery Islands' communities.

Ecosystem mapping integrates science and digital technology to create and manipulate data into thematic maps. Sensitive ecosystem mapping creates an area inventory of rare, fragile, and biologically diverse ecosystems through air photo interpretation and GIS modelling. DIEM has mapped sensitive ecosystems of 105,000 terrestrial hectares (ha) on eleven islands, as well as biophysical "enduring features" for the Georgia Lowlands and Johnstone strait ecosystems (800,000 ha). The DIEM Project's Watershed Study Area (1.5 million ha) includes all freshwater drainages that influence the Discovery Islands, much of it the remote mountainous terrain of BC's most rugged inlet.

Hot off the press DIEM maps are already providing information for local communities responding to a host of logging and development proposals. The DIEM maps are freely available at www.DataBasin.org/galleries (search for "Discovery Islands") where the sensitive ecosystems and enduring features can be layered with

other data sets for interesting perspectives on the local ecology and various human impacts. Learning how to use the map tools is a next-step for islanders who sometimes prefer to let technology glide by, but this effort opens doors on a world of information about what's here, what's rare, and how we can plan to protect what's important.



If you're making donations this year, consider giving to a local community project!

Islanders are eagerly stepping up for Community Mapping (DIEM Phase Two) which is all about documenting what we know and learning more! This got underway with "Moss Mania" and "Landscape Patterns" workshops led by local experts – and there will be natural history and mapping technology workshops throughout 2014. Islanders from all the island communities are presently meeting to identify and map the islands' small watersheds. With help from the Islanders Trust, other folks are producing DIEM's Guide to Discovery Islands' Ecosystems, for online and print distribution. And in preparation for DIEM's next digital map layers, another group of keeners are brainstorming an app that will allow everyone with a tablet or smart phone to participate in community mapping that documents species at risk such as big trees, spe-

cial places, etc.

Accelerated human demands, along with changes in climate, are increasingly impacting the distribution and productivity of plants, animals, and ecosystems. DIEM's mapped data offers valuable information for local government and everyone with an interest in understanding and planning for biodiversity and ecosystem health, as well as the basis for ongoing data analysis and additional insights.

Rigorous standards ensure DIEM maps will be accepted as provincial government data, although BC's government declined to provide any funding. The DIEM Project is driven by tremendous community energy and funding from generous individuals, as well as Strathcona Regional District, Real Estate Foundation of BC, and the glasswaters foundation. If you're making donations this year, consider giving to a local community project! DIEM is fundraising for 2014 for activities including skills and field workshops, the guide to island ecosystems, community mapping, and watershed data analysis. Any donation will be gratefully accepted, and tax receipts are available. Cheques may be sent to "Surge Narrows Community Association – DIEM" at Box 52, Surge Narrows, BC V0P 1W0.

For more information, please visit www.DIEMproject.org. DIEM Project welcomes your questions and comments: Phone Lannie Keller 250-285-2823 or Eve Flager 250-202-0077 or email us at info@diemproject.org

For news & updates please join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DIEMProject



Lannie Keller feels fortunate to call the Discovery Islands home. The Kellers operate Coast Mountain Expeditions and Discovery Islands Lodge.



Acting as a Human Shield

International Activist Does the Right Thing

by Kevin Neish

My activism has been mainly done overseas, working as a human shield or human rights observer, but I've also done plenty of activist work here at home in BC. One thing that is relevant to my work is that when I come in from the "outside" to volunteer to help a project, I put my full trust in the campaign's indigenous leadership and follow their instructions closely. They know the local players, the situation and the risks and dangers much better than me. I try to act mainly as a shield or an enabler, hopefully giving them more security and breathing space to do their own good work. It took a while for me to learn to follow orders from strangers and put my ego in my back pocket. Needless to say, I have to do careful research on the groups I plan to work with, but so far this policy has held me in good stead, and I feel the results speak for themselves.

Guatemala: In 1989 I volunteered to act as a human shield for the Guatemalan opposition in exile, including Rigoberta Menchu, when they returned home for peace talks. Unfortunately, we arrived in the middle of a coup attempt. A death squad harassed us with hourly phone calls, death threat notes delivered in bouquets of flowers, a car chase and finally a car bomb, all to try to stop their peace effort. Through it all, the five leaders were cool and calm and carried on with their work. I followed their instructions without question, and we all safely left the country on schedule. Eventually peace agreements were

signed and Rigoberta won the Nobel Peace Prize, and I learned about the power of convictions and principles.

El Salvador: In El Salvador in 2000, I volunteered to observe one of their earliest democratic elections. I received training from Salvadoran activists who described what to expect and what to do and not to do. I was told to document transgressions, but not to interfere. I watched and photographed as violent right-wing goons ran rough shod over the voting process, threatening election officials, and

I went back because
otherwise I couldn't
live with myself.

blatantly watching how people voted. It was obvious the thugs were upset with my presence, and likely wanted an excuse to assault me and my camera. I followed my instructions, kept my mouth shut and just observed. Our photographs were used to embarrass the right-wing government and expose the fraudulent election. I've observed and photographed two more elections, and now they are fairer to the point that the progressive FMLN party is close to winning the next election in February.

Palestine: In 2002, I volunteered with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) in Bethlehem, Palestine. The ISM is made up of foreigners but is led by Palestinians who control all the actions and security. The original plan was for us to ac-

company farmers as they pruned their olive trees, with us acting as human shields against Israeli settler attacks. Unfortunately, the Israeli military invaded the West Bank in the middle of our training session. We suddenly became human shields protecting an entire refugee camp, and we rode in Red Crescent ambulances picking up dead and wounded Palestinians. Once again the locals knew what the dangers were, and kept us out of trouble as we assisted them. The camp was not invaded and the ambulances never stopped running.

Gaza: In 2010 I volunteered to sail in the Freedom Flotilla to Gaza, on board the Mavi Marmara. The organizers expected a violent assault from the Israeli military, so I was given very clear instructions as to what to do and not do. During the eventual assault, nine people were murdered, 54 shot and 100 more injured by the Israeli forces. I moved about the ship freely, photographing captured Israeli commandos and the dead and wounded aid workers. During the assault, and later in prison in Israel, the aid workers gave me wise and strict instructions for my safety. In the end I wasn't harmed physically, and I was one of the only people who managed to smuggle out photos of the attack, which are now being used at the International Criminal Court.

In September, I returned from three months in Gaza by crossing the Egyptian Sinai desert, which, since the July military coup, has turned into a war zone. We were escorting a young female Palestinian scholar-



Refugee family and kids in Beit Hanoun, Gaza. Note the stick people in the houses spewing blood.

this, and much worse, for years on end.

There are two quotes that I first learned as a child that stay with me:

“... Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience imposed by the individual state” (Nuremburg WWII War Crimes Tribunal, 1945).

“Any one with knowledge of illegal activity and an opportunity to do something about it, is a potential criminal under international law, unless the person takes affirmative measures to prevent commission of the crime” (Tokyo WWII War Crimes Tribunal, 1946.)

These words, framed in the horrors of WWII fascism, speak of a citizen’s duty and obligation to act against oppression in order to make this a better world, and to not just sit on the fence. To sum it all up, my parents taught me to always fight against bullies, whether they’re a person or a country, and to ignore unjust laws.

Just do the right thing.

◆
Kevin Neish is a direct action social justice activist from Victoria, BC. To be an observer in the next El Salvadoran election on February 2, 2014 contact www.cis-elsalvador.org/election-observation.html

Photo p.16: Kevin Neish aboard the Mavi Marmara at the height of the attack.

ship student, on her way to England. The Egyptian soldiers, police, and plain clothes thugs, who manned the numerous checkpoints, repeatedly threatened, insulted, and verbally sexually harassed this student. But once again, instructions and coaching by the student and the taxi driver kept us informed of what was a real threat, and what was just macho bravado, so potentially volatile situations stayed under control. She got to Sheffield unharmed, and I didn’t start any fights I couldn’t finish.

People asked me why I would go on another flotilla to Gaza. I returned because the illegal blockade of Gaza is still in place. The job is not done.

I went back because otherwise I couldn’t live with myself. And it’s all my mom and dad’s fault. As a little kid, I remember my mother and father repeatedly standing up for just causes. They would stand, almost alone in the 1960s, for Cuba, unions, and peace, and against the Vietnam war, nuclear bombs, apartheid South Africa, fascist Spain and book-burning McCarthyites here in Victoria, BC. They risked financial loss, political and social ban-

ishment, and physical assaults. And in the end, they usually, eventually, were proven right.

When I was on the Mavi Marmara in 2010 I thought about them a lot; while watching fellow aid workers be shot, bleed, and die all around me, while having Israeli guns put to my head, while watching others get beaten and while everyone was deprived of human dignity and basic rights for three days.

I don’t remember being scared; I remember being outraged. All the more so when I returned to Canada to hear Israeli-scripted questions from the mainstream media. It was a horrific three days, even though I expected that my Canadian passport and white skin would likely get me home safe. All I could think about was that the Palestinians have gone through all

Watershed Sentinel staff model our new T-shirts. You can have one too for only \$25 postage included! T-Shirts are all organic cotton in Natural or Dark Brown, and come in Small, Medium, Large or X-large. Only the Natural colour has the slogan “Be a Hip Wader.” They are pre-shrunk, but you should allow for a small amount of shrinkage.

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BC Band, Mindil Beach Markets, Dive Deep Into Environmental Issues

by Daniel Kingsbury

I'm a 26-year-old musician and I'm part of a generation that has inherited a profoundly serious problem – the global environment is tapped out and on the verge of collapse. Our oceans are heavily polluted and over-fished, climate change is happening faster and more aggressively than most scientists anticipated, and we seem to be in the stranglehold of multi-national corporations and special interest groups, hell bent on maintaining the status quo.

The problem is that the status quo is completely unsustainable. Our over-consuming, infinite growth-oriented society makes no sense on a planet with finite resources and will surely leave my generation and future with severe challenges. Food scarcity, water shortages, and an increasingly hostile global climate system are an impending reality if we continue on our current path. The good news is that there are plausible solutions. We just need to assert the collective will to act right now.

Three years ago I was like many other people my age – I had respect for the environment but had no idea of the dire straits our planet was in and just how much was at stake. My time was divided between working a day job to pay bills and pursuing my passion for music on my days off. This was the formative period of Mindil Beach Markets, a rock band I started with some of my childhood friends. When selecting our band logo, we stumbled across a jellyfish, and aside from being a majestic and visually stunning image, we learned that the jellyfish is a powerful symbol for the fragility and declining health of our world's oceans.

Jellyfish are an indicator species; changes in their populations represent greater changes in the ecosystem. Around the world today, jellyfish are thriving in record numbers due to a global increase in ocean temperature and acidity (conditions in which jellyfish thrive) and the relentless over-fishing of their predators.

Growing up on the serene Sunshine Coast in BC with the mountains and beaches as our backyards, my band mates and I shared a deep ap-

preciation for the natural world. As our fan base grew, so did a desire to spread a message and make a positive contribution to the environment.

The Jellyfish Project

In 2012 we created The Jellyfish Project, an educational initiative focused on generating awareness among youth about the declining health of our world's oceans and our environment at large. Through the power of music and live performance, students are engaged in environmental conversation and are given information on how to become active participants in the sustainability movement.

Available free of charge to all Canadian middle and high schools, a typical Jellyfish Project presentation begins with a high energy show by our band, Mindil Beach Markets. The performance grabs the students' attention, earns their respect, and serves as a perfect segue into our important environmental messages. Delivered through a captivating slideshow, including images, animations, and videos, we present a stunning portrayal of the environmental crisis our planet is currently facing. Students are edu-

cated on topics such as overfishing, plastic pollution, and climate change.

Last fall we took The Jellyfish Project from Vancouver to Halifax and brought our environmental messages to over 35,000 Canadian students. We invited students to join the environmental movement and engage in activism with the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC), one of our partner organizations. We're home in BC now. 90 days, 12,300 km round trip, 62 high school presentations, 21 bar shows, 2 moose sightings, at least 100 chicken shawarmas, and only 1 RV breakdown. What a trip!"

As we say during our presentation, "music has always gone hand in hand with the revolutions and movements of the past, and it's our job to continue that tradition and spread awareness of the most essential revolution of our time: the transition to a fully sustainable existence of human beings on planet earth." This is a sobering reality and it's something we spent hours pondering during our long drives in the RV.

Cornerstone of Change

We are living in a truly pivotal time in history. Human civilization is faced with a simple choice: evolve and transition smoothly into a sustainable way of being, or face certain catastrophe as the effects of climate change and the myriad of associated environmental realities worsen and inevitably envelop every corner of the globe. Some might call me an alarmist for such statements, but when current biological indicators and the unilateral confirmation of this crisis by the world's foremost scientists are taken into account, any informed (and uncorrupted) individual will agree. Unfortunately, this choice isn't so simple. We are still heavily entrenched in an archaic system that is controlling mainstream media and keeping the general public in the dark about the defining issues of our time.

This system is effectively preserving the bottom lines of the world's most powerful corporations at the expense of our planet and future generations. We can't let this happen.

We believe quality education to be the cornerstone of change. When a person has the good fortune of achieving a thorough understanding of the depth and breadth of the problem, it's nearly impossible not to care and be motivated to become part of the solution. As Einstein said, "those who have the privilege to know, have the duty to act." And they are acting. Due to the rising popularity of social me-

The performance grabs
the students' attention,
earns their respect,
and serves as a perfect
segue into our important
environmental messages.

dia and web video (which we can now access from our smart phones) critical information is spreading like never before. This unprecedented access to information is changing the very fabric of our culture and is proving to be a massive force for global action and change, significantly increasing the reach and impact of many new movements. It's a very exciting and a very important time to be alive.

Music With A Message

Our days on tour can be long and gruelling, but we are fuelled by the mutual satisfaction that we are engaged in extremely important work and that our message is being heard. Personally, I feel excited and energized and have just come off of what I would describe as one of the best summers of my life.

It was a transformative season of profound realizations and epiphanies, the most significant of which being

the decision to invite other bands to join The Jellyfish Project, exponentially increasing the reach and impact of our program. We believe that many bands are aware of these issues and care deeply about the state of our environment, but don't know how to be a part of the solution in an impactful way. The Jellyfish Project provides an answer to this need and will give bands a number of realistic opportunities to meaningfully engage in the environmental movement. Although our organization has achieved tremendous recognition and success in its short life, we have not yet scratched the surface of its potential power.

The universal language of music is something that reaches almost all people regardless of age, gender race or religion. Adored by endless millions worldwide, music has the power to save lives and change the world. It has been and will continue to be the voice of generations. The inspirational power that musicians have over their legions of loyal fans is unmatched in any other field of entertainment; many groups have achieved god-like status in the eyes of their followers and have an incredible ability to be a major influence in their lives. It is the belief of The Jellyfish Project that the mobilization of the music industry to promote environmental awareness and activism could be the catalyst to the tipping point for the most essential revolution of our time: the transition to environmental sustainability.



Daniel Kingsbury is the Executive Director of The Jellyfish Project and vocalist and guitar player in the band, Mindil Beach Markets.
www.thejellyfishproject.org

Is Change Just a Click Away?

by Susan MacVittie

Many of us are familiar with the endless amount of emails stuffed into our Inbox asking us to sign an online petition. Petition sites such as Avaaz, Change.org, SumofUs, and LeadNow have given a digital voice to millions of people and organizations. They use online petitions to work towards changing laws, influencing corporate behaviour, and making communities healthier and more equitable.

Sharing links to articles, petitions, and campaigns help to get the word out but there is much debate about whether online activism, often derogatorily called slacktivism, just serves to increase the feel-good factor of the participants and doesn't create much change beyond the click.

Some research supports the notion that Internet campaigns can have an impact on political decisions. One successful online campaign was launched in 2012 by 13-year-old activist Abby Goldberg. After more than 170,000 people signed her petition to veto a bill that would have made it illegal for towns in Illinois to ban single-use plastic bags and impose a user fee, Governor Pat Quinn vetoed the legislation, partly as a result of her campaign. In an August 27, 2012 *Chicago Tribune* story, Jennifer Walling, Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Council, said, "It was the end of the session, and nobody was paying attention. The work Abby did was huge and played a big role in persuading Quinn to veto the bill."

According to a 2010 study, *The Political Click: Political Participation Through E-petitions in Germany*, e-petitions have an agenda setting function. In 2005 the German Bundestag implemented an electronic pe-



tion system. Individuals were given the opportunity to send in private petitions to the German parliament via an online platform and submit petitions of public interest which in turn were published by the German parliament to enable other users to express their support of these public petitions through electronic co-signatures. Researchers found that not all e-petitions were created equal, as only a few e-

Some people might think that written petitions are more authentic than electronic petitions but that's nonsense.

petitions attracted the majority of co-signatures needed to meet quorum, but those that did were able to have their campaigns brought before parliament for discussion.

Though the success of the petitioners' request may not be the exact change they are looking for, there is more to gain than to lose from the use of this new communication media in politics. Other countries such as England, Scotland, and Wales are offering the online petition as a model for citizens to engage.

The Canadian Experience

In Canada, the Quebec National Assembly has implemented an online petition system and currently MP Kennedy-Stewart has a motion before the House of Commons that will face a vote in January. It proposes to create a new system to allow Members of Parliament to sponsor electronic petitions. Along with being seconded by NDP, Conservative, and Independent MPs, Motion 428 has been endorsed by respected leaders and organizations from across the political spectrum, including Ed Broadbent, Preston Manning, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, and the Canadian Federation of Students. Polling conducted by Angus Reid found that over 80% of Canadians also support bringing electronic petitions to Parliament.

"Right now letter petitions are accepted in the House, but not electronic petitions, but we still receive a lot of electronic correspondence. We look at how many emails we receive every month on a particular issue and take note," says Kennedy's Legislative Assistant, Andrew Cuddy. "Every MP addresses receiving electronic petitions and form letters in a different way. Some email campaigns clog up the email account, so they may just get deleted and not counted. Some people might think that written petitions are

more authentic than electronic petitions but that's nonsense. The Internet helps to engage the youth and we tell people to Tweet at your MP because they are always on their Blackberry and will take notice."

MLA, Claire Trevena agrees that making sure people are engaged in the political process is important. "I haven't been presented with online petitions but I receive emails. You judge whether it is an issue in your constituency; you don't weigh which avenue they've used to bring an issue to your attention. The fact is, that someone is raising a concern and it's your job to respond to it."

Beyond the Virtual World

Worries have been expressed that clicktivism isn't a replacement for

boots-on-the-ground activism. Grassroots movements have a rich and potent history demonstrating that the big wins were achieved through lots of people doing lots of little things over a long period of time. Each movement has used the latest technology to get their message out, whether it was the printing press, telegrams and telephones, hand-bills, fax machines or more recently email, Facebook and Twitter. The movement no longer remains underground – it's also online.

For Avaaz, the click is just the beginning of a much longer campaign. Each year, Avaaz sets out its overall priorities through all-member polls. From these, campaign ideas are then polled and tested with random samples to see which initiatives have the most support. These range from lob-

bying H&M and GAP to back a life-saving safety code for clothing factory safety, to putting pressure on the Maldivian President to end the practice of flogging victims of sexual abuse. Avaaz combine online petitions with the expertise of more than 100 well-trained advocates who are experts in policy, campaigning, media and law, and many of their campaigns have been successful.

Whatever the method, participating in a cause gives people a chance to feel empowerment, and that, in itself, is a positive step towards change.



Susan MacVittie is Managing Editor of the *Watershed Sentinel* and has been known to sign an online petition or two or three...

Success in Activism

How a group of citizens influenced change at a Vancouver Island pulp mill

by Sue Hiscocks

With 40 years of activism behind me, I don't doubt Margaret Mead's statement, "a small group of people can make a difference. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Every activism cause seems to take on a life of its own, with different personalities assuming different roles, building confidence and trust with one another as the action progresses.

The campaign to clean up the Crofton pulp mill on Vancouver Island, BC in the 1980s began with a small gathering of locals, who were concerned about emissions blowing over gardens on the west side of Salt-spring Island. Strange coloured foam was seen off Vesuvius Bay and blue heron eggs near the mill were crack-

ing, preventing normal reproduction. A Crofton doctor attended a public meeting and indicated chlorine was the culprit at the mill. Renate Kroese, a researcher at Greenpeace, wrote about dioxins getting in the fish and going up the foodchain. A showdown took place at the mill with protestors from the Island, Crofton, and Greenpeacers. They carried paper mache eggs and laid them in front of the mill. It was moving and dramatic event, with activist Randy (Will) Thomas MCing, an eagle soared above us during speeches, while in the background a worker was carried out on a stretcher from another gas poisoning in the mill. In the end, the owners of the mill, Fletcher Challenge, spent around

two million dollars on a clarification system and controls in the stack. A coalition to clean up the 26 pulp mills in British Columbia emerged.

There seem to be patterns in activism: Concerns lead to group brainstorming. Cooperation and coordination are key factors in success. Causes morph into different forms with the same characters reappearing and now, in different generations. Islanders, a motley bunch we may be, support one another!



Sue Hiscocks is a Vancouver Island, BC activist

The Fernwood Urban Village

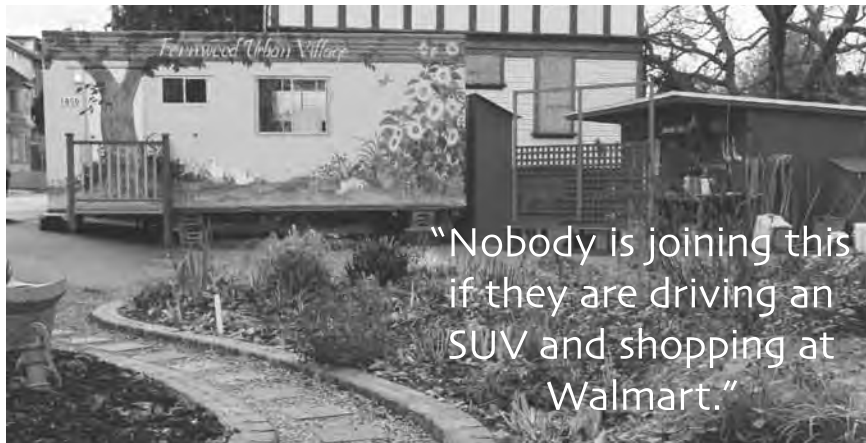
The Power of Community in an Individually Centered Society

by Drew Copeland

Blueberry bushes climb on trellises at the corner of Chambers and North Park in Victoria, BC. Beets, garlic, kale, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts grow in tidy rows in raised beds and at the centre is a floral bed. The colourful flowers in this part of the garden were transplanted from the homes of the people who created this space. The relocation of these plants represents a commitment towards a purposeful change in way of life. This group strives to build a community; a place to live.

The first meeting for prospective members of the Fernwood Urban Village was held August 22, 2010 and currently has 22 members on board with more applicants in process. The group is waiting to complete the final step of approval for rezoning – a public hearing at city hall – after which they can start building the physical structure of their community. It is one of dozens of developing projects across Canada – contributing to a wave of re-conceptualizing how we house ourselves.

Behind the gardens at the project site, inside a temporary structure serving as the office, members Mollie Kaye, Sue Hara and Bill Mckechnie discuss the latest in the development process and community formation. Kaye, who signed on in February of last year, speaks with calm conviction about the benefits of living in community and about why people are increasingly seeking out living situations like the Fernwood Urban Village. Kaye propounds the lack of satisfaction and meaningful interactions afforded by the single-family dwelling. In 2006, she found herself living in a nice house with her children in Fairfield, in what she feels is generally regarded as



a high standard of living, “You know, a block away from the ocean with four bedrooms, who would want anything more than that? But I felt myself withering, and that was not actually what was supporting me in being a healthy human being, even though it had all the trappings of what we call success in North America.”

Mckechnie and Hara agree with Kaye’s sentiment on the excessive pursuit of material gain as a sad reality of culture in North America. The rejection of this part of North American culture is prevalent among cohousers. Hara explains some of her motive for signing up, “I’m a social person and the idea of growing old alone in a little box somewhere isn’t very appealing. The idea of having my own front door that I can lock and have total privacy with the potential to socialize with people, but not just any people.” She hesitates and then adds, “Nobody is joining this if they are driving a SUV and shopping at Walmart.”

Members of the Urban Village are committed to reducing their dependence on fossil fuels. A wealth of garden space, greenhouses and fruit trees will provide members an opportunity to produce some of their own

food. Each member of the project will be given a city transit pass and have access to a vehicle through the Victoria Car Share Co-op. A yearning to live more communally and a greener life are common motivators for people opting into cohousing and other community oriented living situations.

Perhaps the emergence of cohousing in Canada is part of a larger social shift. So suggests Cameron Owens, professor at the University of Victoria, who researches sustainable cities. He explains how throughout history societies swing back and forth between being more communally oriented and being more individually oriented. “These sorts of things [cohousing, the commune movement of the 1960’s, and ecovillages] are a response that we’ve swung way too far towards hyper-individualism, competition and independence and there is a yearning to live more communally,” says Owens.



Drew Copeland has lived in many parts of Canada – most recently in Fernwood, Victoria. He is a wanderer and an aspiring wordsmith: drewcopeland.wordpress.com



A Voice For The Wilderness

by Glenn Mathieson

Exploring backroads, beaches, and woodlands of Vancouver Island in a vibrant red rainslicker and black rubber boots, this young man could pass for just another hiker. What's unique is that his coastal adventures are professional as well as personal.

Torrance Coste was born and raised on Vancouver Island, BC. Surrounded by nature, he developed strong environmental values which led to a degree in conservation geography from the University of Victoria in 2010. Coste joined the Wilderness Committee, Canada's largest membership-based, wilderness protection group, as their Vancouver Island Campaigner in spring 2012.

Coste works on several Wilderness campaigns including: Clayoquot Sound, Raven Coal, and Save the Salish Sea. Though based in Victoria, he travels often to stay connected to the local communities. Getting to remote locations can be difficult, but Coste says that it is essential. He explains that he doesn't want to be a parachute environmentalist, which is when groups drop into a community and campaign on an issue.

Wilderness Committee campaigns are member-dependent, and while the tar sands are of major concern, so too are US exports of coal, local mining issues, and deforestation. Determining which campaigns to invest in is critical. "We try and make [our] strategy as ground up as possible," Coste says, "listen[ing] to the communities that we're working with."

While much campaign work is done in person, there is substantial growth in the online domain. Through email and social media, complex issues are reduced into simple, everyday language. However, "social media is not going to replace long form writing, such as the op-ed format," Coste says. The internet is an effective platform for massively disseminating information but Coste says he's glad to still have an office on Vancouver Island to get work done locally and stay connected to the communities.

What form the local action takes depends on the campaign. Sometimes it's a protest, like the "Defend our Climate" rallies in Victoria, Vancouver, and Winnipeg (office locations of the Wilderness Committee), though often it's just a matter of getting people together to discuss issues. "I'm a fan of the good, old fashioned town hall,"

Coste says, "You invite people out and talk about the issues in depth, provide information, and let them ask questions."

Coste says that two major issues for the future will be food and water. "Vancouver Island produces only five per cent of the food it consumes and imports the rest. The disruption of food distribution would create a crisis situation, the results of which would be severe," says Coste. "Water as an issue is rising, especially with the government's aggressive LNG [Liquefied Natural Gas] agenda and the huge impact on water provincially." From a contaminated waste dump in Shawnigan Lake, to mining at Raven Coal, or logging in Clayoquot Sound, water issues are a huge concern.

Coste is a young activist and the learning curve in his first two years at the Wilderness Committee has been steep. "I don't expect the curve to go down, so learning new approaches, new ways to be respectful and [help] the communities that I like to work with on issues that I like to work on will be essential. My approach will always be changing and evolving."



Glenn Mathieson is a student at Vancouver Island University and an intern with the *Watershed Sentinel*

First Nations' Legal Frameworks Stand to **Protect all**

by Andrea Palframan

Last June, I spent three days in a Vancouver courtroom watching the Hupacasath First Nation argue their case against the federal government.

The Hupacasath came robed, just like the judges and the lawyers. They weren't wigged-out like the Department of Justice benchmen. They wore cedar woven headbands and hummingbird embroidered regalia (and underneath, comfortable blue jeans).

The Hupacasath were challenging Canada over the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (CC-FIPPA) on the basis that the treaty, with its implications on their sovereignty, should have triggered the duty to consult them under Section 35

of the constitution. Under CC-FIPPA, Canada would be locked in to a 31-year deal that would allow Chinese corporations unprecedented access to Canadian resources. The agreement allows Chinese companies to sue Canada for passing laws – environmental, labour, health or safety – which impede their profit-making ability. As in Chapter 11 of NAFTA, such lawsuits would be settled by international tribunals of unelected, usually corporate, lawyers.

The Hupacasath are not only safeguarding their own future, they're standing up to the naked emperors in Ottawa who feel free to toss the keys to Canada over to transnational corporate interests.

Save the Fraser Declaration

And they're not alone. All over Canada, from Elsipogotog to Kitimat, First Nations are resisting ill-conceived fossil fuel and mining development projects on their territories.

Perhaps the only positive outcome of Harper's hard steer to the right is the resulting alliances that are being built among First Nations. In BC, a group of 20 nations along the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline route, known as the Yinka Dene Alliance, have passed indigenous laws banning tar-sands products from moving through their territory. The Save the Fraser Declaration has been signed by 130 First Nations, engaging



“just about every single band ... from the Alberta border to the Arctic, to our US neighbors, and out to the west coast,” according to spokesperson Geraldine Thomas-Flurer. In November 2012, the Yinka Dene launched a Solidarity Accord to the Fraser Declaration, inviting non-indigenous people to sign on to “do whatever it takes” to stand in the way of Enbridge. Unifor, Canada’s most powerful private sector union, signed on, along with municipalities, tourism associations, and opposition MLAs.

Gerald Amos former chief counselor and treaty negotiator for the Haisla Nation, in reviewing Arno Kopecky’s new book, *The Oil Man and the Sea*, explains: “despite

the political discord we see in the news, the things that First Nations and non-indigenous Canadians have in common outweigh the forces holding them apart. We all need clean air, clean water, and happiness. Those who push for development at all costs only bring the rest of us closer together.”

First Nations, Last Bastions

The Royal Proclamation of 1763, that was written 250 years ago, established that Aboriginal Peoples were independent nations subject to their own laws. It's an enlightened document that respects the sovereignty of Canada's first peoples: Thomas King argues, in his book, *The Inconvenient Indian*, that Canadian policy-makers have been trying to make up for it ever since.

The last historical treaty was signed in 1923. In 1927, it became a criminal offense for First Nations to assemble politically or to hire a lawyer to pursue land claims. That law wasn't repealed until 1951.

By then, as now, the majority of the province's First Nations had not ceded title to their territories.

Canada entered a whole new era with the *Constitution Act of 1982*, whose Section 35 recognized inherent aboriginal and treaty rights. First Nations seized this as a tool to move forward to realize rights that had been repressed under the *Indian Act*.

After close to 40 million dollars in costs and nine years in the courts, the Supreme Court of Canada's 1997 *Delgamuukw* decision established that First Nations in BC had never surrendered title to their traditional territories, reaffirming the existence of aboriginal title. *Delgamuukw* found that the Crown has a duty to consult with First Nations on development projects in the unceded territories, comprising most of the land base in BC.

Even the neo liberal Fraser Institute acknowledges, in the publication *Laying the Groundwork for BC LNG Ex-*

HOLD THE WALL

“We and other First Nations are using our lawful authority to protect the land and water from dangerous tar sands projects like Enbridge's that threaten our way of life and that of future generations. But our collective future remains on a knife's edge as the federal government considers approving the project.

The time is now when First Nations call on all Canadians to stand with us, in whatever way you can: with your voice, in the streets, or on the land. Can we count on you? ... Make a pledge to stand with First Nations in opposition to Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipelines and tankers project. Let's show that whatever it takes, people of all backgrounds will Hold The Wall along with our First Nations allies.

Whatever it takes, we will stop this project from ever being built, together.

ports to Asia, that “In the case of First Nations without treaties ... the extent of their property rights are essentially undefined. If a First Nation has a treaty agreement with the government, then prospective investors know precisely who to negotiate with and on what basis. However, a non-treaty First Nation that successfully asserts “title” to land in court ... has a degree of control over how the land is developed.”

“In the last 30 years of Canadian environmentalism, there has not been a major environmental victory won without First Nations at the helm,” says Clayton Thomas-Muller of the Indigenous Environment Network. The Haida decision, in 2004, is a good example: while the short-term goal – stopping Weyerhaeuser's logging operations – was realized, the case ultimately accomplished far more: Haida established the government's

legal obligation to consult with First Nations – even when dealing with First Nations who hadn't proven land ownership through treaties or in the courts.

The Haida case set a precedent that has allowed subsequent First Nations plaintiffs to leverage ancestral title in opposing forestry and mining projects (see sidebar). It is also the basis upon which many First Nations are poised to launch legal challenges to tar sands and LNG infrastructure such as the Northern Gateway pipeline and Pacific LNG export terminals.

“The Federal government are washing out environmental laws, so that all that remains is in the hands of ... First Nations who have constitutional powers, making theirs one of the strongest sources of environmental protection in Canada if not the world,” says Drew Mildon, lawyer for the Beaver Lake Cree First Nation.

Thomas King's ‘inconvenient Indian’ is suddenly the most consequential presence in the house.

Continued on Page 26 ⇨

⇐ *First Nations continued*

A lawyer for every dollar

All of this comes to a head this month when the findings of the Joint Review Panel on the Northern Gateway are released. “There are some very serious questions about whether the Crown will have discharged its duty to consult First Nations,” says Jessica Clogg of West Coast Environmental Law. According to Clogg, the constitutionality of Enbridge’s pipeline comes into question regardless of whether or not the Harper Government declares it to be in the national interest.

The next steps in tar sands and LNG opposition are likely to hinge upon First Nations rights-based legal frameworks, with support and funding from citizens, unions, and NGOs. Yet the immense cost to carry out litigation remains prohibitive for most First Nations. “We are out-resourced; for every dollar we have they probably have a lawyer,” quips the Yinka Dene’s Thomas-Flurer.

First Nations who don’t have rock stars touring on their behalf can access the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund of West Coast Environmental Law, an innovative legal aid fund with access to a network of 100 lawyers. Another group, R.A.V.E.N. Trust (Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs) also administer legal defense funds for First Nations who are defending their lands or livelihoods. Neil Young is slated to play a series of “Honour the Treaties” concerts over the next weeks, with funds raised going to the Athabasca Chippewan First Nations legal defense fund.

Like Young, “We’re trying to level the playing field,” says R.A.V.E.N. director Susan Smitten. “(Governments) are forcing First Nations to sue them to uphold promises that government should be keeping in the first place.”

The Hupacasath example may be one case where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The initial court challenge, and the resulting court appeal, were funded in part through Lead Now, an online community who mobilized donations from 8,000 ordinary citizens.

Had the Hupacasath not brought their lawsuit, the CC-FIPPA might have been immediately ratified. The consequence could have triggered millions of dollars in lawsuits by Chinese investors were the federal government to have said “no” to the Enbridge pipeline. Perhaps, at the end of the day, all that the Hupacasath will accomplish in court will be to buy time, until legislators take up the concerns of the hundreds of thousands of citizens who have raised their voices against CC-FIPPA.



“... The things that First Nations and non-indigenous Canadians have in common outweigh the forces holding them apart. We all need clean air, clean water, and happiness. Those who push for development at all costs only bring the rest of us closer together.”

—Gerald Amos, Haisla Nation

Think cumulatively, act locally

After their struggle to establish legitimacy in the lower courts, the Supreme Court has agreed to consider the cumulative impacts of industry on the Beaver Lake Cree as a violation of treaty rights. Facing 19,000 oil and gas projects in their territory, the band argue that their rights to hunt and fish in perpetuity are under threat from all sides. Lawyer Jack Woodward has stated that a Beaver Lake Cree win “would be the most powerful ecological precedent ever set in a Canadian court.”

Because they bear the burden of proof, the Beaver Lake Cree are engaged in mapping and land use planning that sets up frameworks for protecting resources and cultural values over the long-term. "All of that information will become public," says Smitten. "Even if they lose, their case has assembled this body of knowledge on the cumulative impacts of the tar sands: on species, on livelihoods, on traditional use of lands."

The cumulative approach is being applied not just by the Beaver Lake Cree in their constitutional challenge, but by aboriginal alliances that stand together to preserve biodiversity and uphold indigenous law.

"We're not just looking at our small piece of the pipeline," says Yinka Dene's Thomas-Flurer. "We are living in a time when people are actually working together, standing together. This unity never happened in my grandmothers lifetime. I'm glad it's happening now."

When is a pen mightier than a pipeline?

The solidarity that has come about as a backlash to Harper's polarizing petro-politics means there are plenty of citizens, indigenous and otherwise, ready to "Warrior Up."

Since its launch on the 5th of December, the Solidarity Accord to the Save the Fraser Declaration has mobilized thousands of citizens who have made the commitment to do "whatever it takes" to stand in the way of Enbridge's pipeline project.

"West Coast Environmental Law signed on," said Clogg. "What it means to me is that when First Nations call, I'll be there. For some people, it means writing a letter, for some it may mean attending a corporate AGM or a rally, and for others ... it may come to a point where First Nations call on signatories to stand with them to defend their territory."

The commitments engendered by the Solidarity Accord invite non-aboriginal people to reframe their relationships with First Nations.

"I look at it as unity: you see people coming together for the greater good," says Thomas-Flurer. "We have our non-First Nation brothers and sisters that live around our communities, who are talking to us, supporting what we're trying to do. It's something I'm going to cherish all my life."

The Yinka Dene Alliance, the Beaver Lake Cree, the Hupacasath and many others with cases before the Canadian judiciary (see sidebar), stand as a formidable barrier against the Harper government's fossil-fuel expansion agenda.

Let us stand with them.

Sign the Fraser Declaration's Solidarity Accord at www.savethefraser.ca/SolidarityAccord-nov2013.pdf

Current Significant First Nations Legal Cases

- **Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation** sued Shell over the Jackpine Mine Expansion; the Supreme Court refused to hear their bid to block a ruling on the tar sands operation. In December, the federal government approved a 100,000 barrel per day expansion. Now, the band is considering legal action against the provincial and federal governments.

- **West Moberly First Nation** stopped mining exploration on the Burnt Pine caribou rangelands. Their court challenge asserted that cumulative coal mining impacts on the herd constituted a violation of their treaty rights.

- **The Frog Lake and Mikisew** bands took the feds to court last year, seeking a judicial review of controversial Conservative omnibus budget legislation. Their concern is changes to environmental legislation in omnibus Bills C-35 and C-45 that remove protection from the lakes, rivers, and streams in their territory.

- **The Beaver Lake Cree** are contesting the "cumulative effect" of 300 industrial projects in their territory as a breach of "the solemn commitment" of Treaty 6, to hunt and fish in perpetuity. They have raised \$30,000 through crowd-sourced funding to collect critical evidence of cumulative impacts in support of their case against the Canadian and Albertan governments.

- **Tsilhqot'in First Nation** were at the Supreme Court in November, triggered by their ongoing fight against commercial logging. While the BC Appeal Court upheld their rights to hunt, trap and trade in their traditional territory, the Tsilqot'in are now seeking title to a cohesive, unbroken ecosystem joining the "postage stamp" patchwork of their traditional territories. Other Tsilqot'in legal proceedings have forced environmental reviews of the Taseko Mine's Prosperity project in Williams Lake.



An Activist's Take On *Legislation*

by Elizabeth May

When I practiced environmental law, I used to joke that the challenge in Canada was that we didn't have environmental laws to enforce. When Richard Nixon was US President, he brought in a slew of strong laws, with scope for enforcement by the courts. *The National Environmental Protection Act* (which mandated advance environmental reviews), the *Clean Air Act*, *Clean Water Act* and *Endangered Species Act* were all brought in under Nixon. The *US Endangered Species Act* allowed a judge to review the habitat requirements for the spotted owl and decide the US Forest service had failed to provide adequate habitat protection and ordered a halt to logging.

Meanwhile in Canada, we have had, since the times of Sir John A Macdonald, the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* and the *Fisheries Act*. Modern era laws were brought in by Mulroney – the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, and then under Chretien, the *Species at Risk Act*. The different culture in the judiciary in Canada meant that we would never have had a judge do what the US courts did in the spotted owl case. Our courts are more likely to look at the laws and see if the right steps were taken by the minister – not whether the right decision was reached.

I was part of the effort (from within government) to bring forward the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, and I was part of the Non Governmental Organization campaign to get the *Species at Risk Act*. (We started with the slogan, "There ought to be a law!") As an MP, I have fought hard to protect our laws.

So here we are in 2013, with the recent efforts of Stephen Harper leaving a heap of wreckage where our weak environmental laws used to be. Since forming a majority government in the 2011 election, he has brought a wrecking ball down on the *Fisheries Act* (gutting habitat protection provisions in Bill C 38, spring 2012 omnibus budget bill), repealed the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, replacing it with a vague and useless replacement (also in C 38), and removed over 95% of the waterways in the *Navi-*



gable Waters Protection Act (NWPA) (in C 65, the fall 2012 omnibus budget bill). Only the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (dealing with toxic chemicals) and the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) remain untouched. Meanwhile the Commissioner for Environment has found that SARA's required action plans for species recovery are back-logged and underfunded.

So, what can an activist think about the importance of laws? It matters whether we have legally-required permits for bridges or obstructions over waterways (as we used to under the NWPA) and whether those projects have to be reviewed by a proper environmental assessment (as we used to under CEAA). It matters when, in C 38, the *National Energy Board Act* was changed to say that pipelines, anywhere and everywhere, were not impacted by the NWPA (in other words, even before C 65, the NWPA could not slow down a pipeline. By the way, SARA no longer applies to pipelines either.)

What happens in Parliaments and legislatures matters to species, and waters, and the fish in those waters. So too, it should matter to citizens.

Once the national nightmare of the Harper administration passes into history, we will have an enormous amount of work to do to re-build our environmental laws to be even near the bottom rung of environmental performance of the rest of the industrialized world. In the meantime, the role of the citizen-activist is to keep the public focus on the damage that is being done with the false assumption that the environment and economy are in opposition to each other. Harper's "tough on nature" policies are not just a disaster for the environment; they are also bad economic policy. Canada's global reputation is being trashed. The task of re-building will not be easy. Let it begin soon!



Elizabeth May is an environmentalist, writer, activist, lawyer, leader of the Green Party of Canada and Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands, BC.

The *Right Thing* to Do

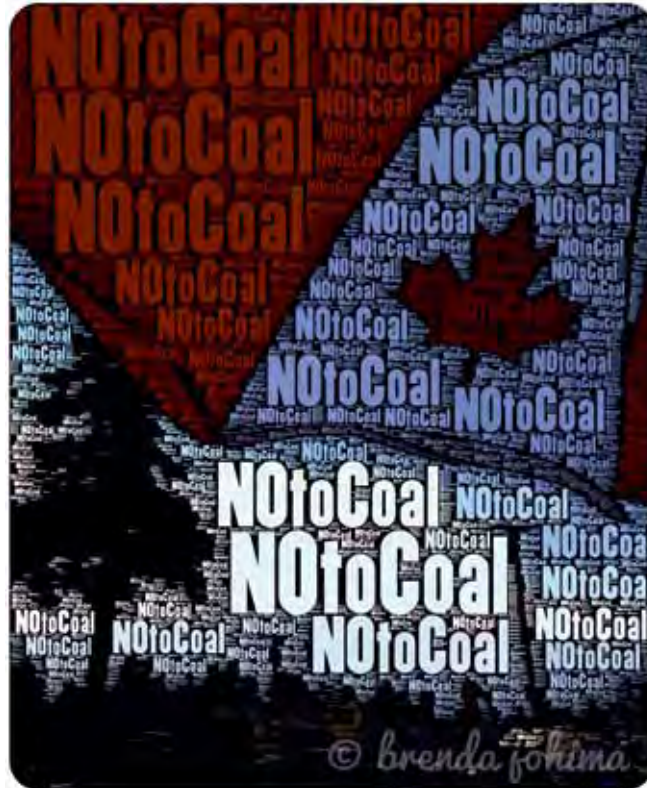
by Mike Bell

Last year our local environmental group had an exhibit at the Fall Fair. In front of our exhibit was a map showing where the proposed Raven Coal Mine, in the Comox Valley, was located. I saw a man looking at the map, I approached him and, after a brief discussion about the mine, he said to me, “I really respect what you are doing. But this is not for me. For eight years I worked for Greenpeace, but I burned out when I realized that despite all our work we were not going to win.”

By sheer coincidence, a little later another man with a history of environmental work came up to our booth and said, “I’m not going to come out against the mine. It will do no good unless we can change the whole capitalistic system. We are never going to win.”

I’ve thought a great deal about these two men. I hate the use of “winning” as a motivator. For one thing, this is not a game. Both the Enbridge Pipeline transporting tar sands bitumen across BC to huge ships traveling down our coast and the proposed coal mines planned for the Comox Valley are a clear and present danger to our community, to our province, and indeed to Canada and to the world at large.

For another thing, when we lose, and we sometimes do lose, some folks just take their bat and ball and go home. They are not in for the long haul.



So what does motivate you? I believe it is a spiritual reality. I’m sure that if you look deeply into your soul, you will find two things. First, awareness that you and what you love is being abused. This is often manifest in anger and perhaps outrage. Second, you discover welling up within you a desire to stop this injustice by standing up and doing the right thing.

Many people have gone ahead of us who have faced even greater challenges than we face. We can learn from them.

When Mahatma Gandhi decided to take on the almost 100 year old British colonial Raj, he didn’t get a small group together and say, “Okay guys, how are we going to win this thing?” He and his friends just decided to stand up to the abuse and do the right thing.

Then there was that day on the bus in Montgomery Alabama when Rosa Parks refused to surrender her seat to a white passenger and ended up in jail. She wasn’t thinking of winning anything. She just got tired of being pushed around and knew it was the right thing to do.

Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in a South African jail. After years of international pressure, the regime tried to deal with him. They would let him out if he would be a good boy and stop protesting. “No Deal” he said. He refused to come out until he could be released on his own terms. He knew it was the right

thing to do.

As we look to the future, there is one thing we can win. We can win the minds and hearts of the people.

Every New Year I write these words of Teilhard de Chardin on the front page of my Daytimer. “The future belongs to those who can give a reason for hope.” I really believe that this is a mission for each one of us – to give others hope and the courage to resist injustice.

And when they ask you why they should get involved, say to them, “Because ... IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.”



Mike Bell, a former consultant working in the Arctic, is the retiring Chair Person of the Sierra Club Comox Valley

Image by Brenda Johima

The Aesthetic

The perspective – the aesthetic – of our sustainable future has yet to take hold, but it’s a simple, honest way of living. It follows organic cycles and mimics nature’s ways. It’s not so much about being moral or “good” as being a little bit wild and fiercely determined, like crabgrass growing through cracks in the concrete. It’s about “being” rather than “having” and “process” rather than “form.” As this new way of experiencing the world seeps into our imaginations, it begins to change our clothes, our houses, our shops, streets, food, music, and especially, our currency.

The money of the future will not have famous men, architectural triumphs, Masonic symbolism – no pyramid, an all-seeing eye of providence or god ... nor will it reflect the anonymity, the faceless modern scientific aesthetic, the abstract emptiness of the current crop of Euro notes ... these gloriously old fashioned designs will give way to snow-capped mountain peaks, salmon river runs, caribou herds, towering glaciers, breathing forests, teaming jungles, vibrant plains ... it will reflect the mind shift from anthropocentric to ecocentric ... from individual to communal ... from political to spiritual ... and from concrete to nature ... which is the ultimate source of survival of this human experiment of ours on Planet Earth.

Text: Excerpted from Adbusters latest book, *Meme Wars: The Creative Destruction of Neoclassical Economics*. Check out kickitover.org if you’re interested in causing a ruckus on your campus!



Image Credit (Adbusters): Future Money 2

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New Clues to Coral Reef Survival

Large study shows pollution impact on coral reefs and offers solution

by David Stauth

One of the largest and longest experiments ever done to test the impact of nutrient loading on coral reefs has confirmed what scientists have long suspected – that this type of pollution from sewage, agricultural practices or other sources can lead to coral disease and bleaching.

A three-year, controlled exposure of corals to elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorus at a study site in the Florida Keys, done from 2009-12, showed that the prevalence of disease doubled and the amount of coral bleaching, an early sign of stress, more than tripled.

However, the study also found that once the injection of pollutants was stopped, the corals were able to recover in a surprisingly short time.

“We were shocked to see the rapid increase in disease and bleaching from a level of pollution that’s fairly common in areas affected by sewage discharge, or fertilizers from agricultural or urban use,” said Rebecca Vega-Thurber, an assistant professor in the College of Science at Oregon State University.

Strong Recovery

“But what was even more surprising is that corals were able to make a strong recovery within 10 months after the nutrient enrichment was stopped,” Vega-Thurber said. “The problems disappeared. This provides real evidence that not only can nutrient overload cause coral problems, but programs to reduce or eliminate this pollution should help restore coral health. This is actually very good news.”

The findings were published in *Global Change Biology*, and offer a glimmer of hope for addressing at least some of the problems that have crippled coral reefs around the world. In the Caribbean Sea, more than 80 per cent of the corals have disappeared in recent decades. These reefs, which host thousands of species of fish and other marine life, are a major component of biodiversity in the tropics.

Nutrient Overload

Researchers have observed for years the decline in coral reef health where sewage outflows or use of fertilizers, in either urban or agricultural areas, have caused an increase in the loading of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. But until now almost no large, long-term experiments have actually been done to pin down the impact of nutrient overloads and separate them from other possible causes of coral reef decline.

This research examined the effect of nutrient pollution on more than 1,200 corals in study plots near Key Largo, Fla., for signs of coral disease and bleaching, and removed other factors such as water depth, salinity or temperature that have complicated some previous surveys. Following regular injections of nutrients at the study sites, levels of coral disease and bleaching surged.

One disease that was particularly common was “dark spot syndrome,” found on about 50 per cent of diseased individual corals. But researchers also noted that within one year after nutrient injections were stopped at the study site, the level of dark spot syndrome had receded to the same level as control study plots in which no nutrients had been injected.

The exact mechanism by which nutrient overload can affect corals is still unproven, researchers say, although there are theories. The nutrients may add pathogens, may provide the nutrients needed for existing pathogens to grow, may be directly toxic to corals and make them more vulnerable to pathogens – or some combination of these factors.

“A combination of increased stress and a higher level of pathogens is probably the mechanism that affects coral health,” Vega-Thurber said. “What’s exciting about this research is the clear experimental evidence that stopping the

pollution can lead to coral recovery. A lot of people have been hoping for some news like this.

“Some of the corals left in the world are actually among the species that are most hardy,” she said. “The others are already dead. We’re desperately trying to save what’s left, and cleaning up the water may be one mechanism that has the most promise.”

Nutrient overloads can increase disease prevalence or severity on many organisms, including plants, amphibians and fish. They’ve also long been suspected in coral

reef problems, along with other factors such as temperature stress, reduced fish abundance, increasing human population, and other concerns.

Local Fix

However, unlike factors such as global warming or human population growth, nutrient loading is something that might be more easily addressed on at least a local basis, Vega-Thurber said. Improved sewage treatment or best-management practices to minimize fertilizer runoff from agricultural or

urban use might offer practical approaches to mitigate some coral reef declines, she said.

Collaborators on this research included Florida International University and the University of Florida. The work was supported by the National Science Foundation and Florida International University.



Text and Photos by Oregon State University: Diver at study site & Bleached coral



New BC Curriculum Would Sever the Ecological Connection

by Lenny Ross

I am very concerned about the direction being taken with the new curriculum for BC students.

We are in a time of grave environmental peril. Our governments are waging a sustained and successful war against the development of an informed, involved, and environmentally knowledgeable citizenry. They reduce scientific research on the environment; they muzzle environmental scientists from speaking out; they reduce the budgets for park interpreters who teach us about our local ecosystems; they close environmental education facilities like the Freshwater Ecology Centre in Duncan that was a world class experience in understanding our world. They are more interested in building dams than protecting fisheries, and they even spy on concerned citizens who might want to make their views known on environmental issues. And now they are turning their attention to the next generation of concerned citizens.

In the new BC curriculum, the Ministry of Education was asked to include environmental education and they refused. We need to understand that something is going on in our schools that could put a whole generation, and indeed our futures, at risk. We need to demand that changes be made.

In the proposed new curriculum for elementary schools there has been a reassignment of environmental topics to different grade levels, and the removal of important ecological concepts altogether. Such changes appear to create some very negative consequences.

One very negative consequence is the financial hit to our schools. When topics are changed in such a manner from grade to grade, with very little pedagogical justification, it causes an immense expense for our already underfunded educational system. For example, when the topic of animal physical and behavioural adaptations is switched from grade four to grade one, a very questionable change based on the complexity of the concepts, teachers cannot reassign resources to the new grade level. New materials must be produced, at great cost, so that they are age appropriate for reading and content. It is the same with the study

of light and sound, once a grade four topic but now regulated to grade one, making all of the school's investments in books, posters, units, and kits worthless.

Another even more serious negative consequence is the diminishment of environmental education. Becoming an ecoliterate citizen, who in turn creates an ecoliterate society, is rapidly becoming one of the most important knowledge sets for our future. In many jurisdictions, environmental education is deemed so important that it is

required at each grade level, is integrated into all social studies and science topics, appears on the report card as a separate area of assessment, and is the subject matter around which whole schools and curriculums are organized. Teaching about the environment is a significant unifying theme that children can relate to, and a very effective teaching method. Yet the new BC curriculum destroys the cohesiveness of what little environmental education we had.

At grade four, where students currently study weather, and its impacts on humans, different habitats and ecosystems, food chains, and adaptations of animals to survive, we have the strongest focus on ecology in the elementary years. This has been replaced with the study of atoms and molecules, ten forms of energy, and the rock cycle. Hardly "Big Idea" topics that 9 year olds get passionate about. This fragmented approach to science, taking science concepts out of context of a study of our world, is more reminiscent of 1960s-era science where topics were broken apart into small, almost meaningless nano-bites of information, where it was quite difficult for students to find meaningful applications to their own lives. It is the type of content that can destroy the development of an early interest in science and life on our planet.

Let's compare how science is organized now to the proposed arrangement of big ideas in the new curriculum. The existing curriculum has a strong structure for the development of environmental science. Science is divided into three areas: Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science. Life Science has the most environmental

Something is going
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education and is described as the study of the diversity, continuity, interactions, and balances among organisms and their environment, to extend students' understanding of the living world and their place in it. Other topics in Physical, and Earth and Space science could also contribute to the development of environmental literacy.

There is a clear introduction and development of the basic concepts of ecology. By grade seven, one could reasonably hope that students had a rudimentary knowledge of how our planet works and what their role is in it.

Unfortunately, environmental goals are not so clear, or so well developed within the proposed curriculum. The New Curriculum completely does away with the term "Life Sciences" and instead uses biology, physics, chemistry, and Earth/space science as the areas of science. In the new explanation of science, there is a purposeful exclusion of the term "Life Science," which instead is referred to as biology. These are not child-centred science terms.

Gone are all the current age appropriate studies of animals, adaptations, behaviours, and food chains. Gone is the study of weather and its impact on humans. Gone is any direct reference to aboriginal concepts of environmental stewardship. It does indicate in the science overview that, through a First Nations perspective, a connection will be made to ecology, but that does not exist in the Concepts and Content portion of the guide. Instead what we have is a study of atoms, energy, and rocks!

In social studies, there have also been disappointing changes. In the existing elementary curriculum social studies guide there are learning outcomes like:

- **Kindergarten** – Explore ways to care for their environment
- **Grade One** – Explore characteristics of environments. Examine how the environment affects daily life and find ways for caring for the environment
- **Grade Two** – Demonstrate responsibility for the environment
- **Grade Three** – Demonstrate responsibility for the environment
- **Grade Four** – Examine Aboriginal relationships with the land
- **Grade Five** – Explore the sustainable harvesting of resources
- **Grade Six** – Examine relationship between cultures and their environments
- **Grade Seven** – Study the effect of humans on the environment of ancient civilizations

In the new socials curriculum, the concept of responsibility for the environment is completely erased. Instead of a year-by-year, sequential development of the awareness of the need for environmental stewardship, students are

merely asked to investigate the relationship between a community and its environment.

This new curriculum fragments and confounds concepts of environmental education and is not good enough to create responsible citizens, who are able to make informed decisions about their concerns for their planet, and thus, hopefully sustain our world for future generations. It might, however, create a generation of woefully environmentally-ignorant citizens who will not protest logging of old growth forest, or vote against increased oil tanker traffic, or ask for sustainable transportation solutions. Surely the role of our schools in the 21st century is greater than that.

I believe the science and socials curriculums need to be reorganized to include clearly-identified big ideas of Ecology and Environmental Social Responsibility, and it is everyone's job to tell their community leaders that they are concerned too, so we can change the direction of this misguided curriculum transformation.

You can explore the new science curriculum and comment at www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca/



Lenny Ross has a MA in Environmental Education and is a Grade 4/5 teacher for the Greater Victoria School District. He is also a concerned grampa.

The Science Concepts and Content for Grade Four in the proposed new curriculum indicates that students will know and understand the following concepts and content:

- The five senses
- Structure and function
- Role of receptors
- Voluntary and involuntary responses
- Atoms or molecules as particles of matter
- The properties of materials are related to the particles they consist of
- The 10 forms of energy
- The law of conservation of energy
- Devices that transform energy
- Types of earth materials in their area
- The rock cycle

The Big Ideas

- Living things sense and respond to stimuli in their environment
- All matter is made of particles
- Different kinds of matter have different particles and therefore different properties
- Energy comes in a variety of forms that can be transferred from one object to another
- Energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transformed
- Rocks, minerals, and soils are formed by processes that occur over a variety of time scales



Wild Times

Waiting for the call on Fish Lake

Text and Photo by Joe Foy

It was late September, and I was walking through the forest with a friend looking for the cultural youth camp we had been invited to.

We looked up to see a swirl of campfire smoke break free of the pines then disappear in the wind gusting off the lake. Depressions from winter pit houses formed ancient craters on the forest floor, a sure sign that people had called this place home for a very long time. We could hear drumming and singing coming from the direction of the campfire smoke. Time seemed to swirl with the smoke, blurring past centuries with the present in a breeze of sights, scents, and sounds.

We were near the shore of Teztan Biny, known as Fish Lake in English. It's located in the heart of Tsilhqot'in territory, west of Williams Lake, BC. Fish Lake is also at the heart of a fight that will shape both the Tsilhqot'in people and Canadians for decades to come.

Stepping through the last of the trees toward a campfire ringed by drummers and singers, we arrived at the cultural youth camp. We were there to photograph, video and interview members of the Tsilhqot'in Nation about their views on a proposed open-pit copper mine slated for the forested meadow right at the outflow of Teztan Biny.

In a reasonable world, that should have been that – the First Nations people living around the mine don't want it, so that's it.

Taseko Mines' so-called New Prosperity mine proposal would create a massive open pit up to 1.6 kilometres across and over half a kilometre deep. Mine tailings and potentially acid-producing rock would be stored underwater in a huge area impounded by dams and dykes four kilometres long, constructed just two kilometres upstream from Fish Lake. The tailings impoundment would require long-term maintenance. A huge de-

posit of waste rock, tailings and impounded water would cover much of Fish Lake's upstream catchment area, including Little Fish Lake and surrounding feeder streams and wetlands.

This catchment area now supplies much of the water that flows into Fish Lake and a great deal of the trout spawning habitat that provides the watershed with some of the best fishing in all of BC. Because so much of its headwaters would be cut off by the tailings pond, Fish Lake would need pumps to recycle its outflow water, much like a backyard goldfish pond.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that the Tsilhqot'in Nation does not want this mine. Every one of their elected community governments have voted against the mine proposal because of its potential impact on Fish Lake and their surrounding territory.

In a reasonable world, that should have been that – the First Nations people living around the mine don't want it, so that's it. But the mining compa-

ny has kept pushing to build the mine. Many native and non-native groups joined with the Tsilhqot'in to oppose the project, and still the mining company has kept pushing.

As the group of youth and their elders drummed and sang at Fish Lake, the most recent environmental assessment report was being sent to Ottawa, where Canada's Minister of Environment would ponder it before making a final decision. The report is scathing and calls into question the very survival of Fish Lake were the mine to be built.

It's been a long, tough environmental assessment process. While it is true that the organization that I represent, the Wilderness Committee, has been very critical of the mine project in our communications around the en-



vironmental review process, we were still caught off guard when Taseko Mines Ltd. launched a court action against us in early 2012 because of what we had written. That case has yet to be heard in court – but I can tell you it has made it much more costly and time-consuming for us to speak out against the mine project.

Meanwhile, the company has just threatened more court action, apply-

ing for a judicial review of the report from the Environmental Assessment Agency if the Environment Minister doesn't give approval for the project.

Has the mining company dug itself into a public relations hole they can't get out of? Perhaps. One thing is for sure: the Tsilhqot'in people and their allies will not rest until this terrible mine project is abandoned and Fish Lake is saved for all time.

In the meantime, we all wait for the Environment Minister's call on Fish Lake.



Joe Foy is Campaign Director for the Wilderness Committee, Canada's largest citizen-funded membership-based wilderness preservation organization.

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