



SIERRA REPORT

Defending nature and confronting climate change FALL 2019

Sierra Club of British Columbia Foundation

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50 Years, 50 Places

As Sierra Club BC celebrates fifty years of protecting special places, we raise our hands to the Indigenous peoples who have stewarded these lands and waters for millennia. Through Guardian programs, specialized knowledge and Indigenous protected and conserved areas, they continue to lead the way in conservation. In many cases, Sierra Club BC and our partners have also played a role in helping protect these places.

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, we're posting multimedia stories about 50 of these special places on our website. Learn more about places like Clayoquot Sound, Cypress Bowl, Gwaii Haanas and the Great Bear Rainforest. There's still much work to be done to truly protect ecological and cultural values in a way that respects Indigenous jurisdiction. Join us in celebrating these stories and find out how you can help create more lasting solutions.

Read the stories at sierraclub.bc.ca/50places.



Email Elisabeth at gifts@sierraclub.bc.ca for more info about events.



Did you know - a podcast is just like a radio show? Ours is available for free online. Get a fresh take on climate change solutions by listening to the second series of our podcast **Mission Transition: Clean Energy and Beyond**. Listen or subscribe at: sierraclub.bc.ca/podcast

REFLECTIONS AND VISIONS

Passion and Persistence

Long-time member Diane Pinch has just published her book, **"Passion and Persistence, Fifty Years of the Sierra Club in British Columbia."** This history of Sierra Club BC and the environmental movement in BC is available in most bookstores and by order at harbourpublishing.com. You're invited to two book launch events - **in Victoria** at Bolen

Books on September 19 at 7pm, and **in Vancouver** at Massy Books on October 8th at 7pm.



We are incredibly grateful for Diane's thorough research, personal interviews, and dedication to presenting the various efforts of so many who care for this special part of the world.

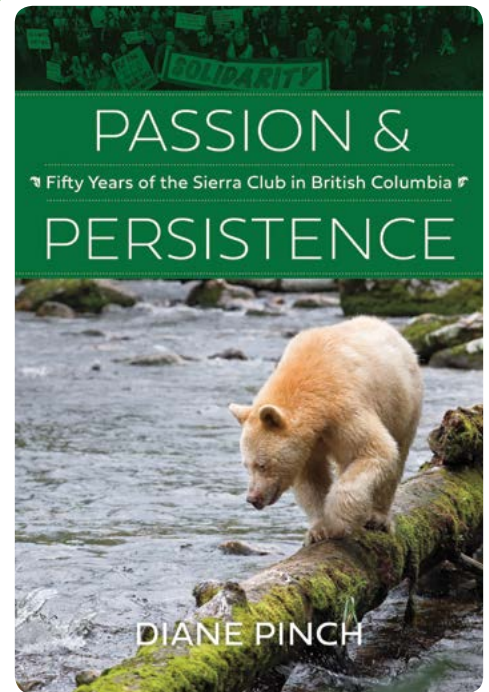


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Acknowledging our past and path forward

As we look back on our 50 years, we recognize and take responsibility for the fact that Sierra Club BC's history of advocacy for the creation of parks and protected areas largely disregarded Indigenous governance and jurisdiction over their territories. In many cases, parks were created without the consent of Indigenous nations affected and Indigenous people were forcibly removed from their land. This violated the human rights of Indigenous peoples. It also harmed the land, by cutting ecosystems off from the beneficial Indigenous management practices that had shaped them over millennia.

Sierra Club BC is engaging in a process to better understand the historical and ongoing impact of these practices by listening to Indigenous peoples. As we move forward, we are striving to do things differently and increase our capacity to recognize and respect Indigenous law and jurisdiction. We are grateful to our Indigenous teachers, colleagues, allies and friends for their guidance and input as we do this work.

Welcome to Sierra, Ciera!

Sierra Club BC is excited to welcome Ciera DeSilva as our new Education Program Manager. Ciera's love for the natural world was fostered through summer camps, school programs and playing among trees and along beaches of her native Bermuda.

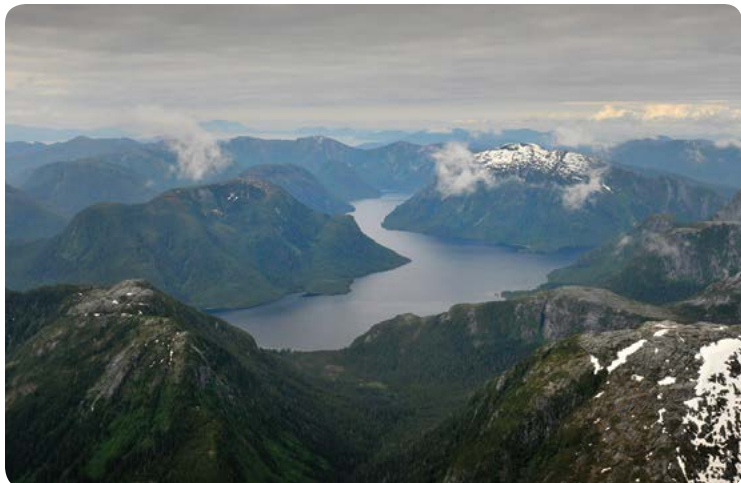
Learning about the cultures and worldviews of Indigenous peoples and building relationships in BC, New Brunswick, Mexico and Peru has impacted how she understands the world and her identity as a settler or unceded territories.



Ciera is a seasoned educator who holds a BA in International Relations with minors in French and Spanish and a BEd in Secondary Education.

Victory! North Coast Tanker Ban PASSED!

In June, Bill C-48 – the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act – and Bill C-69 – the Impact Assessment Act – both finally became law. **Crude oil tankers are now formally banned from the Great Bear Rainforest!**



I want to honour the leadership of Coastal First Nations in getting the tanker ban passed. These nations – the Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xaixais, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Metlakatla, Old Massett, Skidegate, and Council of the Haida Nation – declared a ban on oil tankers in their territories years ago, under their own laws, and have been at the forefront of the movement to formalize this ban in Canadian law. I raise my hands to their leadership and their tremendous effort, with much gratitude.

The oil lobby pushback against both bills was unprecedented. They were working around the clock to convince senators to make hundreds of

amendments that would have effectively gutted the legislation.

That made your efforts all the more critical. Sierra Club BC called on you for help, and you stepped up in an incredible way. On both Bill C-48 and Bill C-69, you made hundreds of phone calls, sent thousands of letters, tweeted senators, donated and asked your friends to step up too. Our team was pulling out all the stops, talking to senators and coordinating joint letters, and we are so grateful that you were with us every step of the way.

Bill C-48 passed by a mere 3 votes. I'm convinced it passed because of a heroic effort from people like you across BC standing up for the coast. The bills were passed with just a single day left before the summer break, at which point they would have died. It was truly down to the wire.

These bills aren't perfect – Bill C-69 strengthens environmental reviews for oil and gas projects, but it won't apply to all projects. Bill C-48 formalizes a crude oil tanker ban, but it doesn't stop refined oil tankers, LNG tankers or disasters like the Nathan E. Stewart diesel spill in Heiltsuk territory.

Visiting the Great Bear has been a privilege and an honour that comes with a deep responsibility to do all I can to uplift Indigenous governance authority and keep oil tankers off the coast. **Let's celebrate this victory and ensure these pieces of legislation are upheld in the strongest possible way.**

-Caitlyn Vernon, Campaigns Director

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CSIS Releases “Protest Papers”

This July, heavily redacted secret documents were released related to spying on pipeline protestors by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and investigatory hearings held by the Security Intelligence Review Committee (SIRC).

I testified at these secret spy hearings. But because of a gag order, I can't tell you what they asked, what I said, who was there, or where they were held. I can tell you that speaking up for salmon and clean drinking water shouldn't make us enemies of the state. The real threat to our safety and national security is the climate crisis.

Yet our government spent tax dollars spying on its citizens AND shared that information with oil companies - despite it being unlawful for CSIS to share information with anyone other than the Canadian government and law enforcement.

The right to voice dissent is a fundamental right. Spying on people who are participating in public processes is an illegal attack on democracy and completely unacceptable. People told us they were scared to sign a petition, go to a rally, volunteer, or even make a donation, for fear of being put on some list and monitored. With a federal election coming, I'd like to see all parties reaffirm their commitment to our fundamental rights and freedoms.

*-Caitlyn Vernon,
Campaigns Director*



Spotlight on Forests

Our campaign team has been busy working to build the movement for old-growth forest protection. This spring, our field assessments revealed shocking imagery of fresh clearcuts of ancient Vancouver Island forests. We hosted two province-wide days of action, with 34 visits to MLA offices from local residents garnering significant media coverage. We met with government representatives and hosted community conversations, mobilizing people to have their say on changes to provincial forestry laws. Volunteer canvassers have been tabling at dozens of events to get more people involved.

Yet our reviews have revealed that BC's forest carbon emissions are growing at an alarming speed, and that the BC government plans to log 8,800 more hectares of ancient Vancouver Island rainforest - even though these forests are one of our best solutions to the climate crisis.

In June, we helped mobilized hundreds to oppose the auctioning of sensitive old-growth for logging near the beloved Juan de Fuca Trail, winning a temporary halt. We also engaged local residents to challenge the building of a highway through the Sooke Hills, cheering when the Capital Regional District voted to oppose the road. **These victories are temporary, though, and we need your support to ensure these forests remain standing.**

Want to get involved, but don't know where to start? We hosted a webinar series to learn about old-growth from forest experts. **Watch all the recordings at sierraclub.bc.ca/forest-webinars.**