



SIERRA  
CLUB  
BC

# Sierra Report

ONE EARTH. ONE CHANCE.

FALL 2015

## MESSAGE FROM BOB PEART, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sierra Club BC has been front and centre protecting nature and with campaigns to stop pipelines and tankers. Through the Pull Together initiative we raised enough money for First Nations to challenge the pipeline in court, which they did in October. We also worked hard to shine a light on the flaws in the review process for Kinder Morgan helping to delay the hearings into that pipeline expansion.

We're not going down without a fight when it comes to the Site C dam either. This year we've supported the Treaty 8 legal challenges and made sure we were a strong presence at the legislature every time the B.C. government took another step towards approval. We have a publicity campaign uniting southern and northern farmers in the fight to save the Peace River Valley rolling out over the next couple of months.

Our education and youth programs flourished this year as we taught more than 5,000 students in more than 120 classrooms around the province about B.C.'s environment and how to defend it.

We were targeted for one of the Conservative government's environmental audits in the spring and in August were testifying at secret hearings into allegations the RCMP spied on us for the government and industry, but emerged stronger than ever.

Today is a new day. We have a new federal government and there is reason to hope for a fresh attitude about environmental issues and this is no time to rest!

While the world gathers in Paris to take global action on climate change we'll be telling you more about our 10-point plan for B.C. called *The Future is Here*. This ambitious plan lays out what we must do in B.C. to meet the challenges of climate change head on. On the other side of this Sierra Report you'll find the ten points mapped out. I invite you to read the entire document on our website.

One of our finest scientists retired from Sierra Club BC this year. Colin Campbell has applied his brilliant mind to defending the environment for his entire life. *The Future is Here* was his last project for Sierra Club BC – he gave us the benefit of his extraordinary wisdom and we're running with it. I hope you join us.



## MAKING YOUR VOICES COUNT

### RAPID RESPONSE



Photo by Sue Andrews

When we learned, late on a Tuesday afternoon, that Site C was going to be debated in the Legislature the next day, we rushed out a call to action. The next day, the MLAs crossing the Legislature lawn were presented with the sight of hundreds of citizens waving signs in support of Peace Valley farmers and First Nations. 29 MLA's voted against the dam – the strongest show of opposition yet to come out of the B.C. Legislature.

### PULLING TOGETHER



Photo by Wayne Worden

Sierra Club BC helped inspire thousands of British Columbians to Pull Together with First Nations to stop the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline and tankers. Through bake sales, concerts, yoga-a-thons and other innovative fundraisers more than half a million dollars was raised to support court challenges against Enbridge. Every nickel raised went directly to First Nations so they could challenge Enbridge in court.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

91%

Overachievers? Maybe. But we love getting A+ grades from the teachers we work with. In 2014-2015, teachers gave our programs an average rating of more than 4.5 out of 5.

Last year our team engaged over

5,500

students to learn about and love their local natural environment.

Sierra Club BC is a leader in Environmental Education in B.C.

We've been connecting kids and nature for

17  
years

Here, there, and everywhere in between. We delivered

220

Environmental Education programs to K-8 classes from Victoria to Quesnel; Terrace to Penticton.

115

hours filled with sunlight, raindrops, magnifying glasses, laughter, running, teamwork, deep thinking, and hands-on, nose-open experiences with plants, birds, bugs and lichen.

Find out about our plan for a post-carbon B.C.



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# THE FUTURE IS HERE

## 10 STEPS TO POST-CARBON PROSPERITY

### STABILIZE THE CLIMATE



**INCREASE & EXPAND CARBON TAX**  
B.C.'s carbon tax has played a key role in emission reduction progress. Increasing and expanding the tax will further motivate business and consumer choices that benefit the climate and increase the cost to pollute.



**2030 EMISSIONS TARGET**  
Building new fossil fuel infrastructure will make it impossible to meet our climate goals. We want B.C. to commit to 40 per cent emissions reduction by 2030 compared to 1990.



**ESTABLISH A CLIMATE TEST**  
Putting fossil fuel projects through a climate test during B.C.'s environmental assessment process will help to regulate the total greenhouse gas emissions of new energy infrastructure.



**SET ASIDE 'UNBURNABLE CARBON'**  
The majority of fossil fuels must stay in the ground. B.C. can develop a new land use designation for unburnable fossil fuel deposits.

### DEFEND NATURE



**PROTECT 50% OF OUR LAND AND SEA**  
If B.C. develops a conservation plan to protect 50 per cent of our land and sea we can maintain ecological values, provide connectivity, and maximize carbon storage in our forests, peatlands, eel grasses and salt marshes.



**ENSURE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS RESPECT FIRST NATIONS TITLE & RIGHTS**  
We can work in partnership with First Nations to amend existing and develop new land use designations.

### TRANSITION TO A POST-CARBON ECONOMY



**REDIRECT FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES**  
By redirecting existing fossil fuel subsidies and carbon tax revenue, B.C. can accelerate the shift to a post-carbon economy.



**IMPLEMENT A FOREST ACTION PLAN**  
A forest action plan would restore government capacity for forest stewardship, protect biodiversity, increase forest conservation, improve forest management and reduce the allowable annual cut.



**RECONNECT WITH NATURE**  
Increased urbanization and technology has left many people unaware of the connection between human health and ecological health. We can create more opportunities for children and families to reconnect with nature.



**DEVELOP A CLIMATE ADAPATATION PLAN**  
An adaptation plan would help us understand potential climate change impacts and determine how best to increase the protection of critical lands for food production and freshwater.

To read the full report visit [www.sierraclub.bc.ca/TFIH-Report](http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca/TFIH-Report)

**Be remembered for your good nature.**  
Remembering Sierra Club BC in your will or estate planning safeguards B.C.'s wild places. To find out more or to meet other good-natured people please visit:

[www.sierraclub.bc.ca/legacies](http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca/legacies)

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Want to be more involved in the movement to save B.C.'s wild places and stop climate polluting fossil fuel projects?

**Volunteer with Sierra Club BC**

[www.sierraclub.bc.ca/join-us](http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca/join-us)

**To make a donation or ask questions contact us at:**



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