

HAVE YOUR SAY

Next year is our 50th anniversary, and we want to take a moment to reflect upon who we are, where we are, and where we're going.

We want to hear from you. We've included a membership survey in this Sierra Report and we hope you'll take a few minutes to fill it out.

It's important to us to know whether we're on the right track, and we need feedback from the valued supporters who keep us going. What do you think about the work we're doing right now, and what would you like to see us do more of?

We've included a postage-paid return envelope to make it easy to pop back in the mail to return to us. We'll report back to you on our results later this year.

Thank you!



THIS MAKES US SMILE

Do you shop at Thrifty Foods? You can support Sierra Club BC's volunteer outreach through the Smile Cards program!

Every time you load your Smile Card to pay for groceries, Thrifty Foods will donate 5% to Sierra Club BC. There's no extra cost to you!

To get your Smile Card, email Elisabeth at gifts@sierraclub.bc.ca or call 250-386-5255 ext. 248.



GET INVOLVED

If you're interested in volunteering, we need your help! There are lots of ways you can put your skills to work, so if you have ideas, please get in touch. Here are some things you can do:

- Office administration and data entry
- Organizing a potluck fundraiser
- Gathering petition signatures
- SEO and IT support
- Setting up a booth at a market or festival
- Organizing a walk or camping trip
- Serving on committees or the Board
- Fundraising

Fill out our volunteer form at sierraclub.bc.ca/join-the-club or contact galen@sierraclub.bc.ca to get started.



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

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Front page: Harold Hommel, Caspar Davis, K. Zolota
Inside: TJ Watt, Wilson's Transportation, Bryan Adams
Back page: Paula Steele, Dreamstime, Sierra Club BC



**SIERRA
CLUB BC**

SIERRA REPORT
Defending nature and confronting climate change Spring 2018

WINS FOR NATURE

The buds of spring are just around the corner, and it's been a busy winter as we work hard to defend BC's natural environment with your help.

We've faced some big challenges in the last few months, like the BC government's terrible decision to continue building the Site C dam. But we've also seen some great wins for nature and there is much to celebrate! We wanted to share some of these good news stories with you.



With your help, our Pull Together campaign has raised \$639,000 for First Nations' legal challenges to Kinder Morgan! And thanks to your pressure, the BC government has proposed regulations that could stop this Texas-based corporation from turning on the tap of its tarsands pipeline.

The federal government has introduced a legislated north coast oil tanker ban—due in part to the hard work of our supporters who, for years, have spoken up for the Great Bear Rainforest.



Our Education Team has launched two exciting new offerings: French-language nature workshops and a teacher mentorship program with monthly gatherings to support teachers in getting kids outside regularly.

Just a few weeks after the Petronas PNW LNG project was cancelled, news broke that the proposed Aurora fracked gas terminal near Prince Rupert was also being scrapped. Thanks to our supporters for sending letters of comment opposing this dangerous carbon bomb.

In December, BC's government rejected the Ajax Mine—a win for First Nations, for residents of Kamloops and for Sierra Club BC supporters who stood with them and spoke out in support of clean water and safe communities.



THANK YOU!

Read more stories of your impact at sierraclub.bc.ca/stories

RAINFOREST ISLAND?

Time is running out for Vancouver Island's globally rare endangered old-growth rainforest

For millennia most of Vancouver Island was covered by old-growth trees, many more than 1,000 years old. Now, after a century of large scale logging, the majority of these ecosystems and 90% of the biggest trees have been logged.

And the pace of destruction is speeding up.

This was revealed recently in a Sierra Club BC review of logging in Vancouver Island's remaining old-growth rainforest. The average amount of old-growth logged in 2016 was more than 10% higher than the annual average for the ten years prior, and equivalent to 26 Stanley Parks per year!

Destruction of coastal old-growth is especially concerning as forests in other areas are increasingly hit by wildfires driven by climate change. Coastal rainforests can store 1,000 tonnes of carbon per hectare. **Reducing emissions by avoiding old-growth logging has immediate benefits for our climate.**

Shockingly, about half of this carbon gets released in clearcut logging. This is often combined with slash burning, an awful practice that releases millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases annually.

And yet the destruction of Vancouver Island's old-growth rainforest is occurring three times faster than primary forest loss in tropical rainforests. This needs to stop.

The Great Bear Rainforest Agreements show that solutions are possible. Increased old-growth protection has resulted in a reduction of up to 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, benefitting the region's First Nations with a new source of revenue in the emerging conservation economy.

Sierra Club BC is advocating for a halt to logging in critical hotspots like the Central Walbran Valley and for an *Old-Growth Protection Act* using elements of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements with support for First Nations and long term forestry jobs.

Please visit
RAINFORESTISLAND.CA
to call for an end to clearcutting BC's
endangered old-growth forests.



MISSION TRANSITION

British Columbia is entering a new economy based on clean energy. What role will workers, technology, Indigenous communities and businesses play in this next economy? Who will pay for it? How will you take part?

We launched a podcast to find out!

Mission Transition: Powering BC's Clean Energy Economy is a show that explores this exciting transition to the new green economy. Mission Transition features innovators across the province who are moving ahead with solutions for housing, transportation and renewable power. It's hosted by our campaigns director Caitlyn Vernon with Susan Elrington, an award-winning former radio broadcaster and CBC host.

Subscribe for free and listen at
SIERRACLUB.BC.CA/PODCAST

In our first episode, we looked at electric vehicles... and electric buses too!

If you've ever been to Victoria BC, you've surely seen them. Perhaps you've even ridden in one. The red double decker sightseeing buses take visitors out to enjoy the sights and sounds of the city. But engine problems and the potent diesel exhaust coming from these 1960s vintage iconic buses meant it was time to retire the fleet.

However, it's not the end of the road for these rigs: **four buses will be converted to electric power.**

Susan hears from John and Andrew Wilson of bus operator Wilson's Transportation on why they felt it was important to convert to electric and what other businesses can learn from their experience. This innovative project is creating local jobs and setting an inspiring example of what moving to the new clean energy economy is all about.



STAR POWER

World famous musician Bryan Adams took to Instagram, Twitter and Facebook in support of Sierra Club BC's forests campaign, releasing this photo with a message for his six million followers:

"I was shocked to learn that the forest industry is still clearcutting the remaining endangered old-growth rainforest of Vancouver Island, on Canada's West Coast. Ancient trees are falling at an alarming rate of two soccer fields every hour and only 10% of the biggest trees are still standing. This rainforest is the habitat of salmon, wolves and bears and stores more carbon per hectare than pretty much any other ecosystem on the planet. Do what you can to help Sierra Club BC as they call on the new government of British Columbia to take swift action to protect what little is left of these magnificent rainforests: www.rainforestisland.ca



The full version of this article by Forest and Climate Campaigner Jens Wieting was featured in the January 2018 issue of The Watershed Sentinel.