

A photograph of two children with long dark hair, seen from behind, sitting on a large, weathered log. They are looking out over a body of water with waves, with a forested coastline in the background under a soft, hazy sky. The child on the left is wearing a pink jacket, and the child on the right is wearing a green jacket.

**WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**  
**IMPACT REPORT**  
**2019-2020**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## *Sowing the seeds of the future we need to build after COVID-19*

West Coast Environmental Law works to strengthen laws that protect the health of communities and the lands and waters we all rely on. This past year – amidst an evolving global pandemic, and growing calls for justice in our political and economic systems – our connections to each other, and to the environment, have become clearer than ever before.

Although 2020 has been a time of great upheaval and hardship, making these connections has led us towards this current moment, one of transformative change.

Now, as our federal and provincial governments implement plans for Canada's economic recovery, we are working with partners across the country to demand meaningful investments and decisions that prioritize climate action and social justice. And we're not alone – hundreds of thousands of Canadians are speaking up for stimulus plans that build our economies and communities back better than before, and in ways that prepare us for future crises.

At West Coast, we know that investing in a healthier future also means putting the right legal tools in place to address the compounding crises we face – from climate change, to biodiversity loss and declining ocean health. As always, our legal experts are at the table advocating for strong, modernized laws and regulations that reflect today's pressing realities.

Thanks to our efforts, in 2019-2020 a suite of new federal and provincial environmental laws came into in force, and we're watching closely to ensure that they are well-implemented and enforced. We're also engaging with decision-makers and community members to advance legal solutions to hold governments and big polluters accountable for climate change.

In addition to our law reform and advocacy work, we continue to provide legal and strategic support to Indigenous nations and community groups seeking to prevent environmental harm, challenge risky projects, and ensure fairer, more sustainable environmental decisions. At the same time, we're working with several Indigenous partners applying their own laws to environmental challenges in their territories.

For West Coast, 2019-2020 has been a time of great reflection about our role in the legal landscape, and how we can best contribute to a future that is healthier, safer, and more just. And despite the challenges, we believe we're on the right path. With your support, we're laying the legal foundation for the world we know is possible.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Clogg'.

Jessica Clogg  
Executive Director & Senior Counsel



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Matthaus'.

Lisa Matthaus  
President

# ABOUT WEST COAST

West Coast Environmental Law is a non-profit group of environmental law strategists, analysts and communicators working in the public interest and dedicated to safeguarding the environment through law. Since 1974, we have successfully worked with communities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and all levels of government, including Indigenous governments, to develop proactive legal solutions to protect and sustain the environment.

## TRANSFORMING THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE

West Coast Environmental Law harnesses the power of law to solve complex environmental challenges. We are transforming environmental decision-making and strengthening legal protection for the environment through collaborative legal strategies that bridge Indigenous and Canadian law. By putting the law in the hands of communities and creating legal risk for those who would harm our land, air and water, we are building the collective power to achieve a more just and sustainable future for all.

We recognize the jurisdiction and laws of Indigenous peoples who have actively governed their territories for millennia, and the role of their land and marine stewardship in shaping the ecological conditions that have allowed all beings to thrive through time. Working side-by-side with them we seek legal solutions that bridge between Canadian and Indigenous law to build greater sustainability for all.

We are leaders in the field of environmental law, using legislation and case law in strategic ways to advance environmental goals. At the same time, we are committed to shining the light on laws that contribute to unsustainable or unjust conditions in society and to building well-researched, comprehensive, practical legal solutions.

As a public interest law organization we are committed to advancing access to justice and to public legal education so that individuals and communities have the tools and legal support they need to use the law effectively. We advocate for, lead and participate in deliberative processes to involve communities in shaping legal solutions. And we do so within an environmental justice frame that seeks to break down silos between environmental and other social justice movements.





# OUR SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

**West Coast Environmental Law is made up of three provincially incorporated societies:**

- West Coast Environmental Law Association,
- West Coast Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund Society, and
- West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation.

**West Coast Environmental Law Association** provides legal services to individuals and organizations who have concerns regarding the environment. The Association also advocates for legislative reforms to protect the environment, to uphold the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples, and to promote meaningful public participation in environmental decision-making. The Association publishes West Coast's Environmental Law Alert blog and our Legal e-Brief e-newsletter, and maintains the wcel.org website.

**The Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF)** is administered by the Association and is West Coast's environmental legal aid fund. Since 1989, with the generous support of the Law Foundation of BC, the fund has allowed individuals and community groups to hire lawyers to help them protect the environment in negotiations, mediation, in court or before government tribunals.

**West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation** is a registered charity producing trusted, in-depth legal research to develop laws, regulations, standards and objectives that will promote the maintenance of environmental quality. The Research Foundation educates the public about environmental law issues and advocates on behalf of individuals and communities to prevent legal violations and improve existing environmental laws and regulations.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**West Coast Environmental Law Association/  
West Coast Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund Society**

Sapna Dayal  
Steven DeRoy  
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This annual report is a joint publication of the West Coast Environmental Law Association, the West Coast Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund Society and the West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation.

For highlights of Association/EDRF programs see pages 4-14, and for Research Foundation programs see pages 15-25.

*\*The name "West Coast" refers to one or all of the West Coast Environmental Law societies, depending on where the reference appears in the report (ie. references to "West Coast" on pages dedicated to West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation refer to the Research Foundation).*

## HONORARY BOARD

David Anderson  
Hon. John Fraser Q.C.  
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James Hoggan  
Greg McDade Q.C.  
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Darryl Walker





Photo: Junaidro via Flickr Creative Commons



# ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Through our Access to Justice programs, West Coast provides valued legal resources, education and support for British Columbians seeking to defend the people, places and living creatures they love from environmental harm.

## **LEGAL SUPPORT FOR NATURE AND COMMUNITIES**

West Coast empowers individuals, environmental organizations and communities to safeguard the environment through law and regulation. We provide free legal advice to help British Columbians understand their environmental rights, and we also offer funding through our Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF) for legal and expert services. For over 30 years, the EDRF has provided legal support for environmental defenders across the province, connecting clients with a network of dedicated private lawyers and scientific/technical experts who work at reduced rates in support of this common cause.

## **YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW WATCHDOG**

Our Environmental Law Alert program shares the latest information and legal analysis about key environmental law issues in BC and Canada. Through our blog, email newsletters, and other platforms, we highlight new developments in environmental law and regulation, raise awareness about important concerns, and inform readers about opportunities to make their voices heard. Our expert commentary, insightful analysis and accessible resources help people understand these complex issues and why they matter.

## **INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

West Coast's Building the Environmental Law Bar program offers valuable educational opportunities for law students and legal volunteers – both in the office and in the classroom. In addition to our yearly student and volunteer placements, our lawyers lead a unique environmental law course at the University of British Columbia.

## **MOVING TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

West Coast recognizes that the struggle for environmental protection is interconnected with the struggle for human rights and social justice, and that marginalized communities are often disproportionately subjected to environmental risks. West Coast is working to ensure our Access to Justice programs embody our commitment to environmental justice to the greatest extent possible – building stronger relationships with other organizations, potential clients and lawyers within racialized and marginalized communities in BC, and reducing barriers to accessing our services.



# ACCESS TO JUSTICE

## 30 YEARS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FUND

This past year West Coast celebrated the 30th anniversary of our Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF). Since 1989, the EDRF has distributed more than \$5 million in grants to almost 1000 individuals, Indigenous nations, and community groups from every region of BC – supporting a vast range of legal efforts to defend land, air, water and public health in the province.

The EDRF has helped build the capacity of communities to engage with the law effectively on environmental issues, winning major environmental victories and giving a voice to people who otherwise would not have been heard.

With the continued support of the Law Foundation of BC, this year the EDRF distributed \$150,000 in grants to individuals, community groups, non-profit organizations and Indigenous nations across British Columbia. These funds allow clients to hire lawyers at a legal aid rate, and/or to hire environmental experts needed to advance environmental legal cases.

In November 2019, we commemorated the EDRF's 30th anniversary with a special event at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The event brought together lawyers, clients, donors, staff, board members and other supporters to celebrate the EDRF's great impact on access to justice in BC. The evening also featured the presentation of the Dr. Andrew Thompson Award, which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to environmental protection and sustainability through law in BC.



Bill Andrews (R) with West Coast's Access to Justice Lawyer Larry Reynolds and ED & Senior Counsel Jessica Clogg (Photo: Stephanie Trimble).

## The 2019 Andrew Thompson Award

West Coast Environmental Law was honoured to present the 2019 Dr. Andrew Thompson Award to **William J. Andrews**, a passionate public interest environmental lawyer and long-time friend of the EDRF.

William (Bill) Andrews was previously the Executive Director of West Coast Environmental Law, and founded the EDRF in 1989 to provide BC residents with legal and financial resources to tackle their environmental problems. Bill currently represents clients in regulatory proceedings, judicial reviews and appeals concerning topics such as energy, climate, endangered species, and contaminated sites – taking on numerous cases through the EDRF at legal aid rates.

“Lawyers contribute to legal aid as a professional responsibility. Many of us also feel a personal responsibility to contribute to society and the public interest, the public good. Looking back on my work with the EDRF, I am privileged to have worked with many others on cases and campaigns to stop pollution in waterways, protect public access to environmental information, defend the coast from risky proposals, and more.”

- **William J. Andrews, Recipient of the 2019 Andrew Thompson Award**



# MILESTONES

## May 2019: Tom Coape-Arnold defends access to justice at the EAB

The EDRF celebrated with Tom Coape-Arnold when the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) issued a decision dismissing an application for a costs order against him. This marked the end of a long legal process for a Lavington citizen and former scientist concerned about local air quality impacts from Pinnacle Renewable Energy, a pellet plant sited next to an elementary school in the North Okanagan.

Tom had appealed the plant's provincial permit, arguing that the permit failed to properly consider the impact of increases in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released from the facility. When the appeal was dismissed in March 2020, the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change went after Tom for the legal costs. Tom received EDRF funding for legal representation to successfully defend himself against the costs order and create a positive case law precedent.

## December 2019: Protecting the Skagit Watershed from forestry and mining development

In 1984, the Skagit River Treaty between Canada and the United States created the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) to promote habitat protection in the Skagit watershed. Provincial parks protect most of the Skagit watershed on the BC side – however, a 5,800-hectare area of unprotected Crown land known as the “Donut Hole” has been facing threats of mining and logging.

When BC Timber Sales, the government agency responsible for auctioning timber in provincial forests, renewed logging in the Donut Hole, it triggered an outpouring of opposition. The SEEC sought EDRF funding to obtain a legal opinion to inform ongoing negotiations. On December 4, 2019 after a strong public outcry, the BC government announced that no further logging would be allowed in the Donut Hole. The Skagit Donut Hole still faces the threat of mining by Imperial Metals, but the SEEC, environmental groups and Indigenous nations are continuing to work to see these lands designated as protected parkland.



L-R: Joe Foy, Wilderness Committee; BC Env. Minister George Heyman; FLRNO Minister Doug Donaldson; SEEC representatives Thomas Curly and Shannon Bentley.  
(Photo: Alex Hsuan Tsui/Wilderness Committee)

## May 2020: T̓silhqot̓'in Nation defends Te̓ţtan Biny

On May 14, 2020 the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed Taseko Mines' application for leave to appeal the federal government's 2014 decision rejecting the New Prosperity Mine proposal – which means the rejection stands once and for all. Taseko's New Prosperity mine proposal sought to build a \$1.5 billion gold and copper mine in the traditional territory of the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation.

The proposal planned to site the mine in Te̓ţtan Biny (Fish Lake) and Naba̓ş (the surrounding area), an area of profound cultural and spiritual importance for the T̓silhqot̓'in peoples. Two independent expert panels have confirmed the significance of this area for the T̓silhqot̓'in, and it is one of few areas in Canada subject to a court declaration of proven Aboriginal rights. The T̓silhqot̓'in Nation has been defending Te̓ţtan Biny and Naba̓ş from exploratory drilling and the mine proposal since 2008. The EDRF has been supporting the nation in this battle since 2010.



# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ALERT

Not surprisingly, we did not have the COVID-19 pandemic in our work plans for 2019-2020. But when the unexpected hits, our Environmental Law Alert program gives West Coast the flexibility to tackle new and emerging challenges.

West Coast Environmental Law became one of the leading voices calling for the province and the country to respond to the pandemic in ways that would build a greener economy and keep us safe from future climate-fueled disasters. We also interviewed people in communities that had dealt with flooding and wildfires to get their thoughts about how COVID-19 might affect their ability to prepare for future emergencies.

From breaking stories on our blog or in the media, to writing to government decision-makers faced with environmental decisions, a quick legal response in the hands of British Columbians who care can result in better results for the environment.



## MILESTONES

**May 2019:** The BC Government strengthened the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*, addressing problems that Environmental Law Alert has warned about in previous years.

**September 2019:** When media stories misrepresented the rules for talking about climate change in the run up to the 2019 Canadian election, we educated climate activists and others on election advertising rules.

**April and June 2020:** Our Executive Director, along with other environmental representatives, met with BC Premier John Horgan, urging him to ensure that an economic recovery plan prioritizes building a sustainable economy and preparing our communities for future disasters caused by climate change.

**April-May 2020:** We held a series of educational webinars on timely topics related to environmental and Indigenous law. These well-attended sessions provided online learning opportunities for community members, youth, government staff, and supporters while many were stuck at home during the pandemic.

**June 2020:** We held online discussions on building BC back better, inviting our supporters to share their vision of a greener, safer, stronger BC with the provincial government.

# BUILDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW BAR

A new generation of lawyers is training and getting ready to take on environmental challenges, and based on our experience, we're happy to report that the future is bright. Over this past year 11 law students and visiting lawyers worked and volunteered with our staff, and we have been energized and inspired by their contributions.

This includes student interns from Pro Bono Students Canada-UBC, Osgoode Hall, and Macquarie University in Australia. During these exceptional pandemic times, we also managed to keep the summer law student program going, and four students took the plunge into our virtual office reality and did some great work.

This year, we are very excited to welcome Rayanna Seymour-Hourie on board as Staff Lawyer, after she completed her articles at West Coast and was called to the BC Bar in June 2020. Rayanna is Anishinaabe (Ojibway) from Lake of the Woods in Treaty #3 Territory (Northwestern Ontario). She has stepped into the role of managing our RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air & Water) program.

In fall 2019, West Coast also offered the fourth iteration of our workshop course in public interest environmental law at the UBC Allard School of Law. Together with staff lawyers Linda Nowlan, Deborah Carlson and Georgia Lloyd-Smith, 15 students took a deep dive into law reform while participating in activities directly related to the development of our coastal protection work.



2020 Summer Law Students (clockwise from top left) Sunshine Waisman, Rebecca Park, Victoria Baylis and Julia Roe.

“Despite the unique circumstances of starting an internship during a global pandemic and working with colleagues you had never seen outside of your computer screen, the team at West Coast Environmental Law succeeded in making our summer full of connection, learning, and impactful work.”

- Sunshine Waisman, 2020 Summer Law Student





Humpback whale in Gitga'at Territory (Hartley Bay), an area now protected from large tankers with the passing of the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*.  
Photo: Brodie Guy via Flickr Creative Commons



# LAW REFORM & ADVOCACY

West Coast Environmental Law Association advocates for stronger environmental laws, better enforcement and more inclusive decision-making in BC and across Canada.

## STANDING UP FOR STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

This past year, West Coast's leadership in federal law reform helped usher in a series of new and amended federal environmental laws. These important changes followed years of work by our legal experts – submitting recommendations, testifying before committees, meeting with government officials, engaging and creating space for collaboration on solutions. With new laws in place, we continue to advocate for strong regulations and enforcement, while sharing resources and opportunities for Canadians to make their voices heard.

## KEEPING BC OIL SPILL-FREE

As always, West Coast is committed to defending the coast and communities from the threat of oil spills. In 2019 we celebrated a major milestone with the passing of a legislated oil tanker ban on the Pacific north coast – a victory almost 50 years in the making.

Meanwhile, our lawyers have continued to provide legal and strategic support for Indigenous peoples and communities working to protect lands, waters and the climate from the Trans Mountain pipeline and tanker project.



Senators vote on Bill C-48, the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* in June 2019.  
(Photo: Senate of Canada)



# STRONG CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

The past year was a momentous one for our federal environmental laws program, with a suite of new and strengthened federal environmental laws coming into force in summer 2019. West Coast lawyers have worked for many years with Indigenous and environmental allies, local communities, and stakeholders to develop these environmental law reform proposals and see them become law.

Thanks to our efforts, Canada now has a new *Impact Assessment Act* with a stronger focus on sustainability and meaningful public engagement, and a new, more independent and trustworthy Canadian Energy Regulator. Fish-loving Canadians can feel more secure with a strengthened *Fisheries Act* and *Oceans Act*, and our navigable waters are better protected thanks to amendments to our *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*. And finally, after almost 50 years of advocacy the Pacific north coast has gained crucial protection from oil spills with the passing of the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*.

Starting in 2016, West Coast lawyers engaged in an extensive process to review major federal environmental legislation and get these new and amended laws passed – from securing commitments to royal assent.

## 1 FEDERAL REVIEW & CONSULTATION PROCESS (2016 - 2017)

CROSS-CANADA  
ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

WRITTEN/ONLINE  
SUBMISSIONS

EXPERT PANEL &  
PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOVERNMENT  
DISCUSSION PAPERS

CONSULTATION ON  
DISCUSSION PAPERS

## 2 HOUSE OF COMMONS/ PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS (2018 - 2019)

INTRODUCTION &  
FIRST READING

SECOND  
READING

COMMITTEE &  
REPORT STAGE

THIRD  
READING

## 3 SENATE PROCESS (2018 - 2019)

INTRODUCTION &  
FIRST READING

SECOND  
READING

COMMITTEE &  
REPORT STAGE

THIRD  
READING



But our work didn't stop when these new laws came into force. We know that ensuring effective implementation of the new legislation is critical to its success. So, for the last year, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that Canada's environmental laws are working on the ground.

We have developed recommendations for the laws' supporting regulations, policies and guidance and communicated those to federal officials. We have advised Indigenous and environmental groups on how to navigate the new impact assessment process, and collaborated with allies on recommendations on the federal Strategic Assessment of Climate Change. And we are heading to court on behalf of our client Nature Canada to defend the new *Impact Assessment Act* from a constitutional challenge launched by the Government of Alberta.



## MILESTONES

**Ongoing:** We are tracking the first projects to enter into the assessment process under the new *Impact Assessment Act*, providing legal support to Indigenous groups and public participants on engaging in those processes, and making recommendations to government where necessary to ensure that these early impact assessments are conducted in a way that aligns with our recommended best practices.

**June 2019:** The *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* came into force, marking an important victory for the Pacific north coast after decades of effort by Indigenous peoples, coastal communities, environmentalists, labour groups and supporters across Canada.

**August 2019:** The new *Impact Assessment Act* and *Canadian Energy Regulator Act* came into force, along with amendments that strengthen the *Fisheries Act* and *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*.

**October 2019:** Staff Lawyer Anna Johnston presented on the performance of the first assessments under the new *Impact Assessment Act* at the Ontario Association of Impact Assessment conference in Toronto.

**January-March 2020:** West Coast applied and was accepted to intervene on behalf of our client Nature Canada in Alberta's constitutional challenge of the *Impact Assessment Act*. Our intervention is critical to ensure that Canadian courts recognize the federal government's constitutional power to assess projects that may harm the environment.

**May 2020:** We filed our factum on behalf of Nature Canada in the Alberta court challenge. In it, we argue that Canada has broad authority to trigger impact assessments and that it may – and should – consider all environmental and socio-economic implications when deciding whether to approve a project that will impact areas of federal authority, like fisheries and navigation.



# KEEPING BC OIL SPILL-FREE

## TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE AND TANKER PROJECT

Our ongoing work to stop the Trans Mountain pipeline and tanker expansion project (TMX) includes providing legal and strategic support for Indigenous nations and a vast movement of environmental organizations, grassroots community groups and passionate individuals committed to climate justice and protecting the coast.

This year, our work focused on three areas: legal challenges to the re-approval of TMX, the lack of transparency from the federal government (which owns the project), and the collapse of the business case for the pipeline.

Our clients, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, argued their appeal of the re-approval of TMX at the Federal Court of Appeal in December 2019, following a compressed hearing schedule. Unfortunately, the case was unsuccessful, and the Supreme Court of Canada declined to hear a further appeal. This does not change our client's own determination that TMX is illegal under unextinguished Indigenous law. We continue to provide strategic and legal advice to determine the next steps to stop the risky project.

After months of ignoring requests and petitions to reveal the updated cost estimate for the project, Trans Mountain announced in January that the cost of construction has risen to \$12.6 billion – more than double the original estimate of \$5.6 billion in 2013. These cost increases, combined with the collapse of the global oil market, accelerated by COVID-19, mean that the already poor business case for TMX has eroded to the point of near-collapse.

We continue to provide timely analysis about the lack of transparency and accountability to the Canadian public, the delays in construction, and the ongoing legal and financial risk associated with forcing through a project without the free prior and informed consent of all impacted Indigenous nations. We will continue to fight for the climate, for Indigenous rights, for the coast, and the hundreds of rivers and streams put at risk by this unnecessary project.



West Coast's Eugene Kung (R) with Charlene Aleck, Sara Hyland, Khelsilem, Kayah George & Erin Hanson, meeting with youth climate activist Greta Thunberg during her visit to Vancouver in October 2019. (Photo: Eugene Kung)



Tsleil-Waututh Nation Chief Leah George speaks to media following the Federal Court Appeal's decision upholding the approval of TMX. (Photo: Alexis Stoymenoff)

# MILESTONES

**October 2019:** We met with Greta Thunberg during her visit to Vancouver to discuss TMX, Indigenous rights and climate justice.

**December 2019:** The Federal Court of Appeal heard the appeals of the re-approval of TMX. After attending the hearing, West Coast's timely legal summary helped inform readers about the arguments and highlights from the courtroom.

**January 2020:** West Coast visited Ottawa to discuss the lack of transparency and collapsed business case for TMX.

**February 2020:** After repeated calls for greater transparency from West Coast and others, Trans Mountain released a cost update for the project, revealing a 70% increase to \$12.6 billion.

**April 2020:** Tsleil-Waututh and other Indigenous nations sought leave to appeal the *Coldwater vs. Canada* decision, which upheld federal re-approval of the project. West Coast hosted a webinar and shared our analysis on our blog, providing accessible information for communities to understand the legal case and its implications.

**July 2020:** Tsleil-Waututh and other Indigenous nations vowed to continue defending their territories from the TMX project, despite Supreme Court of Canada denial of leave.







Fraser Valley from Mt. Cheam (Photo: Dru! via Flickr Creative Commons)

# TRANSFORMING THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE

West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation leverages legal research, analysis and dialogue to secure lasting gains for ecosystems, communities and the climate.

## **LEGAL SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTHY OCEANS**

West Coast's Marine team works collaboratively to strengthen the legal safety net for oceans and marine ecosystems – researching, designing and implementing innovative legal strategies grounded in federal, provincial and Indigenous law.

## **LAW IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

West Coast's Climate Law in our Hands program is putting climate accountability on the agenda in BC communities, and facilitating important discussions about who should pay for local climate costs. At the same time, we're working on legal solutions that ensure federal and provincial climate plans actually meet their goals.

## **CREATING GREENER, MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

Our Green Communities program brings together experts and decision-makers from various jurisdictions to develop solutions that build resilience in communities and ecosystems. Our unique collaborative approach combines law and policy, science, Indigenous knowledge and urban planning – offering guidance for communities as they prepare for the impacts of climate change.

## **REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS LAWS**

Through our RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water) program, West Coast provides legal support and co-learning opportunities for Indigenous nations working to articulate, revitalize and apply their own laws to address environmental challenges in their territories.

## **COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

In our Collaborative Environmental Governance program, we are working towards healing and sustaining healthy relationships with the natural world through strong Canadian and Indigenous laws. Alongside our RELAW work on Indigenous law revitalization, we seek to transform environmental decision-making through a framework of strong federal and provincial laws that advance sustainability, democracy and reconciliation. Laws about environmental assessment and regional planning are a key focus of this work.



# MARINE PROTECTION

In 2019-2020, we achieved significant ocean protection goals at the federal level. Canada surpassed its target of protecting 10% of Canada’s ocean by 2020, with 13.8% of the ocean now protected by law, and has committed to a new target of protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030. Amendments to key ocean laws have now come into force. With these major goals achieved, we have shifted our efforts to the implementation of the new 30% target and the strengthening of legal frameworks to enable more meaningful marine conservation in the future.

Our focus continues to be on ensuring both quality and quantity of marine protection. Federally, this includes applying protection standards to all new marine protected areas (MPAs), grounding MPAs in a solid legal foundation and equitable governance structures that respect Indigenous governance, and addressing the significant and often-overlooked impacts of commercial shipping in MPAs.

Our new provincial “Blueprint for the Coast” campaign – calling for a coastal protection strategy and law for BC – is gathering support around the province, including from key ministers, MLAs, local governments, and NGOs. In the past year, we produced two reports on lessons BC can learn from coastal protection strategies and laws around the world as well as an FAQ on provincial marine jurisdiction.

Momentum continues to build around Indigenous-led conservation. We are working on new projects with two Indigenous-led organizations on co-governance of MPAs and are continuing our broader work on Indigenous protected and conserved areas (IPCAs). We are supporting Indigenous Guardian programs by providing legal advice and workshops. In addition, we continue to work on ocean projects with RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air & Water) partners, including a project to protect key food fish areas in Kitasoo/Xai’xais territory from commercial fishing and to establish an Indigenous Protected Area in Kitasoo Bay. We are also approaching the final stages of preparation of the *Respecting and Taking Care of our Ocean Relatives: The Haítzaqv Nation Oceans Act*.



West Coast joined the Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS-BC) to launch the Blueprint for the Coast initiative in 2019.



Staff Lawyer Georgia Lloyd-Smith at a gathering with Coastal Guardian Watchmen in summer 2019. (Photo: Georgia Lloyd-Smith).



## MILESTONES

**August 2019:** Canada surpassed its target to protect 10% of Canada’s coast and ocean areas by 2020, making use of new powers in the recently-amended *Oceans Act* to create “interim MPAs.” These new powers were supported by West Coast along with other key amendments to the Act.

**October 2019:** West Coast co-hosted the provincial “Blueprint for the Coast” reception with CPAWS-BC and Environment Minister George Heyman at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, with attendance by over 20 MLAs.

**November 2019:** West Coast and Coastal First Nations co-published a literature review on co-governance in MPAs. West Coast also presented on Indigenous law and jurisdiction at an IPCA Workshop on Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation territory in Tofino, BC.

**December 2019:** In mandate letters for ministers following the 2019 election, the federal government included several commitments advocated for by West Coast – including protecting at least 25% of Canada’s coast and ocean by 2025, improving co-management with Indigenous nations, and implementing protections for fish and fish habitat restored in amendments to the *Fisheries Act*.

**February 2020:** We presented at the Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA Network Advisory Committee Forum on legal implementation of Canada’s first MPA Network. In the same week, we hosted a workshop on shipping in MPAs attended by industry, government and ENGOS.

**July 2020:** Canada joined the Global Ocean Alliance, joining international partners in committing to protect 30% of the oceans by 2030.



# CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY

## LAW IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Politicians and industry may say that they care about climate change, but when it comes to key decisions, they're still acting like it's not real. West Coast Environmental Law's Climate Program focuses on highlighting and creating legal consequences for those who would rather ignore climate change.

West Coast has insisted that Canada and BC need laws that require regular, science-based and transparent planning and reporting on progress to achieve climate targets. This has culminated in new climate accountability laws in BC and promises of future laws from the federal government.

We have also worked with local governments and community groups to warn global fossil fuel companies that they must take responsibility for the harm caused by atmospheric pollution from their products.

With COVID-19, it is a critical time to discuss how we can keep our communities safe from the huge risks, impacts and costs associated with climate change. We are excited to have hired Dr. Silvie Harder, our Climate Scientist, to work in BC communities to discuss how climate change will harm us and how to keep ourselves and our neighbours safe.



West Coast staff members at the Global Youth Climate Strike, September 2019 (Photo: Alexis Stoymenoff).



# MILESTONES

**September 2019:** The Island Municipality of Bowen Island became the 25th local government in BC to send letters asking that fossil fuel companies pay a share of local climate costs.

**October 2019:** Canada's government was elected on a promise to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, and to follow expert advice on setting regular interim milestones – a policy long recommended by West Coast.

**November 2019:** BC's *Climate Change Accountability Amendment Act, 2019* strengthened scientific oversight of BC's climate plans and requirements to report on progress.

**August 2020:** West Coast Environmental Law hired Dr. Silvie Harder, our Climate Scientist, to guide public conversations about the threats and costs facing BC communities from climate change.





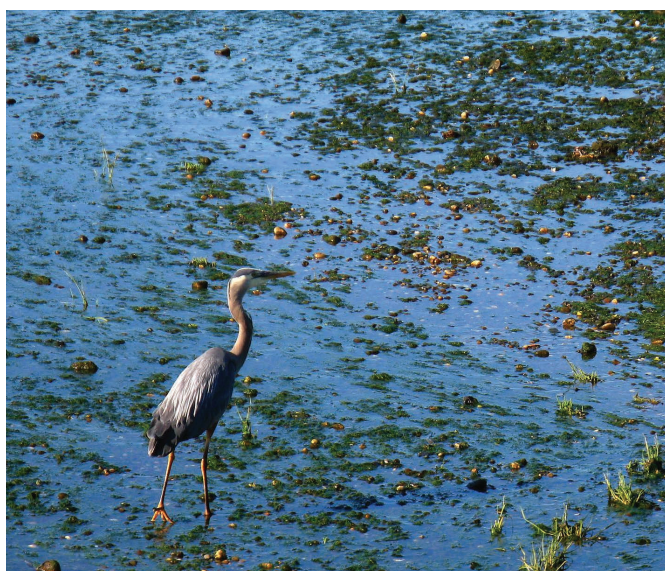
# GREEN COMMUNITIES

In recent months, many of us have had the unexpected opportunity to get to know our neighbourhoods better than ever before. Our Green (and Blue!) Communities program has also been exploring how we can deepen our relationships with nature in urban places. Of course, at West Coast, our lens on these relationships is a legal one, but it's all about making the connections in a meaningful way – and understanding how human health is connected to the well-being of ecosystems and the other species we share space with in cities, like trees, bees and fish.

Last year we reported that a partnership of the City of Surrey, Semiahmoo First Nation and City of Delta had successfully obtained 10-year funding from Infrastructure Canada for a range of coastal flood management projects, including pilot projects to explore the Living Dike in Boundary Bay. These pilots will investigate how to enhance salt marsh habitat in a way that helps it adapt to sea level rise while providing flood regulation services to coastal communities. Together with the Emergency Planning Secretariat, West Coast is facilitating a roundtable process with rightsholders and policymakers to foster collaboration and help to overcome jurisdictional barriers to these types of projects.

Arguably, no single governmental body had the authority or mandate to pursue a project like the Living Dike, but working together through the roundtable, participants are learning how to collaborate. For West Coast, the process is helping us understand the gaps in conventional governance arrangements and develop recommendations for how law and policy reform can facilitate more innovative projects like the Living Dike. As we think about how to “build back better” after COVID-19, it's important to be realistic about the limitations of our current laws and policies, and be prepared to make some changes to support healthy, green communities for the future.

In 2019-2020, West Coast also continued to build on its collaboration with researchers at Simon Fraser University. Drawing on the work of SFU Masters graduate Maija Gailis, we explored possible synergies between managing blue carbon – the carbon stored in healthy coastal and marine ecosystems – and incorporating ecosystem-based management in coastal law and policy. We shared our work on blue carbon at the Nature-Based Climate Solutions Summit in Ottawa in February 2020, and a forthcoming report will summarize our findings and recommendations in this new and exciting area where climate, law and coastal health intersect.



Great blue heron at Boundary Bay, the site of the Living Dike Project. (Photo: Gord McKenna)



Staff Lawyer Deborah Carlson speaking at the Nature-Based Climate Solutions Summit in February 2020. (Photo: Susanne Ure)



A satellite photograph showing the city of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and the mouth of the Fraser River. The city is visible as a dense urban area with a grid pattern of streets. The Fraser River flows through the city and empties into the Pacific Ocean. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding land is a mix of green forest and brown urban areas. The image is taken from a high angle, looking down on the city and the river.

## MILESTONES

**September 2019 and February 2020:** Together with our working partner, the Emergency Planning Secretariat (a new Indigenous organization “created to support a coordinated mainland Coast Salish-led flood management strategy, from Yale to Tsawwassen to Squamish”) we convened a series of roundtable meetings with rightsholders and policymakers from across all orders of government (Indigenous, federal, provincial and local) to share information on a proactive basis about the design and development of pilot projects for the Living Dike in Boundary Bay. Roundtable meetings continue in fall 2020.

**February 2020:** West Coast presented at the “Nature-Based Climate Solutions Summit” in Ottawa, offering the 400+ delegates from government and environmental organizations across the country our perspective on why nature-based solutions need nature-based laws. We also co-organized (with Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society and the David Suzuki Foundation) a break-out session on oceans and coasts and the management of blue carbon.

**July 2020:** The Recommended Design Concept for the Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade at the mouth of the Fraser River was endorsed by the Metro Vancouver Board. It includes foreshore enhancement projects inspired by the Living Dike in Boundary Bay that will enhance coastal habitat and provide climate adaptation benefits for the facility and related infrastructure.



# RELAW: REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS LAW FOR LAND, AIR & WATER

West Coast's RELAW program provides co-learning opportunities and legal support to Indigenous nations using their own laws to address environmental and other issues affecting their territories. We take a collaborative approach, working with Indigenous nations in partnerships that value relationships and reciprocity.

Together we research Indigenous laws, summarize and draft legal principles, and help communities decide how these principles should be applied on the ground, including through the development of written laws or plans if that is their choice.

West Coast has worked with three different RELAW cohorts since the program launched in 2016. More than a dozen Indigenous groups, involving more than 50 First Nations, have implemented RELAW projects – each based upon the Indigenous peoples' own laws and decision-making processes.

In October 2019, we held a retreat for our partners and extended an invitation to individual co-learners to join us. This retreat was held at Sts'ailes Lhawathet Lalem, an Indigenous-owned healing centre located on the Chehalis River, where we came together for four days of experiential learning. COVID-19 presented pedagogical and logistical challenges for our May 2020 retreat, but we successfully adapted our materials and methodologies to an online format.

The past year has seen some personnel changes on the RELAW team. Our articulated student Rayanna Seymour-Hourie was called to the BC Bar in June, and has recently agreed to step into the role of RELAW Manager. Maxine Matilpi continues as RELAW Program Lead but working reduced hours.



Rayanna Seymour-Hourie, Staff Lawyer and our new RELAW Manager.



Community focus group conducted as part of the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance RELAW project in fall 2019.

# PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019-2020, the RELAW team worked on projects with a number of Indigenous nations and organizations, most of which are still ongoing. These include:

- **The Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance** – focusing on reading, sharing and discussing the *swōxwiyám* (stories/oral histories from the distant past); working towards completing a legal synthesis on Indigenous laws related to watershed management and fisheries governance in the Lower Fraser;
- **Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs** – to create a Wilp Sustainability Assessment Process reflecting their *Ayookxw* (law);
- **Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation** – protecting key food fish areas from over-fishing and developing a management plan for an Indigenous protected area in Kitasu Bay grounded in Kitasoo/Xai'xais law;
- **Haítzaqv (Heiltsuk) Tribal Council** – developing an Oceans Act (*Haíkíłaxsi čisłá wáwáxtusa gáyáqłá qñts dñxsaǰv: Respecting and Taking Care of our Ocean Relatives*) rooted in their own *ǰvīlas*/laws and enacted under their forthcoming Haítzaqv Constitution (this work will be ongoing and extends beyond the RELAW project); and
- **Taku River Tlingit First Nation** – exploring the integration of Tlingit legal education with ongoing Tlingit language courses in the community, and engaging citizens on a draft written statement of Taku River Tlingit legal principles.



# COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Environmental assessment is one of the most important tools in BC's legal regime for seeking to ensure that decisions affecting land, air and water can support long-term sustainability.

British Columbia brought into force its new *Environmental Assessment Act* at the end of 2019, after a lot of advocacy and involvement from West Coast. The new Act makes some significant improvements over its predecessor, such as providing for Indigenous-led assessments, establishing a new early engagement process, requiring community advisory committees by default, and requiring assessment of a project's effect on BC's ability to meet legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets.

West Coast continues to advocate for how BC's new assessment regime should be strengthened through regulations and policy, as the first projects begin to proceed through the process.

## MILESTONES

**March 2019 – December 2019:** Staff Lawyer Gavin Smith acted as an appointed member of the BC Government's Environmental Assessment Stakeholder Implementation Committee, meeting regularly to provide input on the development of regulations and policy to operationalize the new environmental assessment regime.

**May 2019:** West Coast played a leading role in securing a Regional Assessment Workshop hosted by the BC Environmental Assessment Office, bringing together a variety of experts to start discussing how regional assessment in BC should be put into practice through regulations.

**September 2019:** West Coast published a report highlighting problems in BC's approach to deciding what projects will undergo assessment in the new regime. We provided information and encouraged supporters and other organizations to participate in the public comment period about this issue.

**December 2019:** BC's new *Environmental Assessment Act* and related regulations were brought into force.

**January 2020 – present:** As the first projects start entering BC's new assessment process, West Coast is providing advice to communities about how to participate.

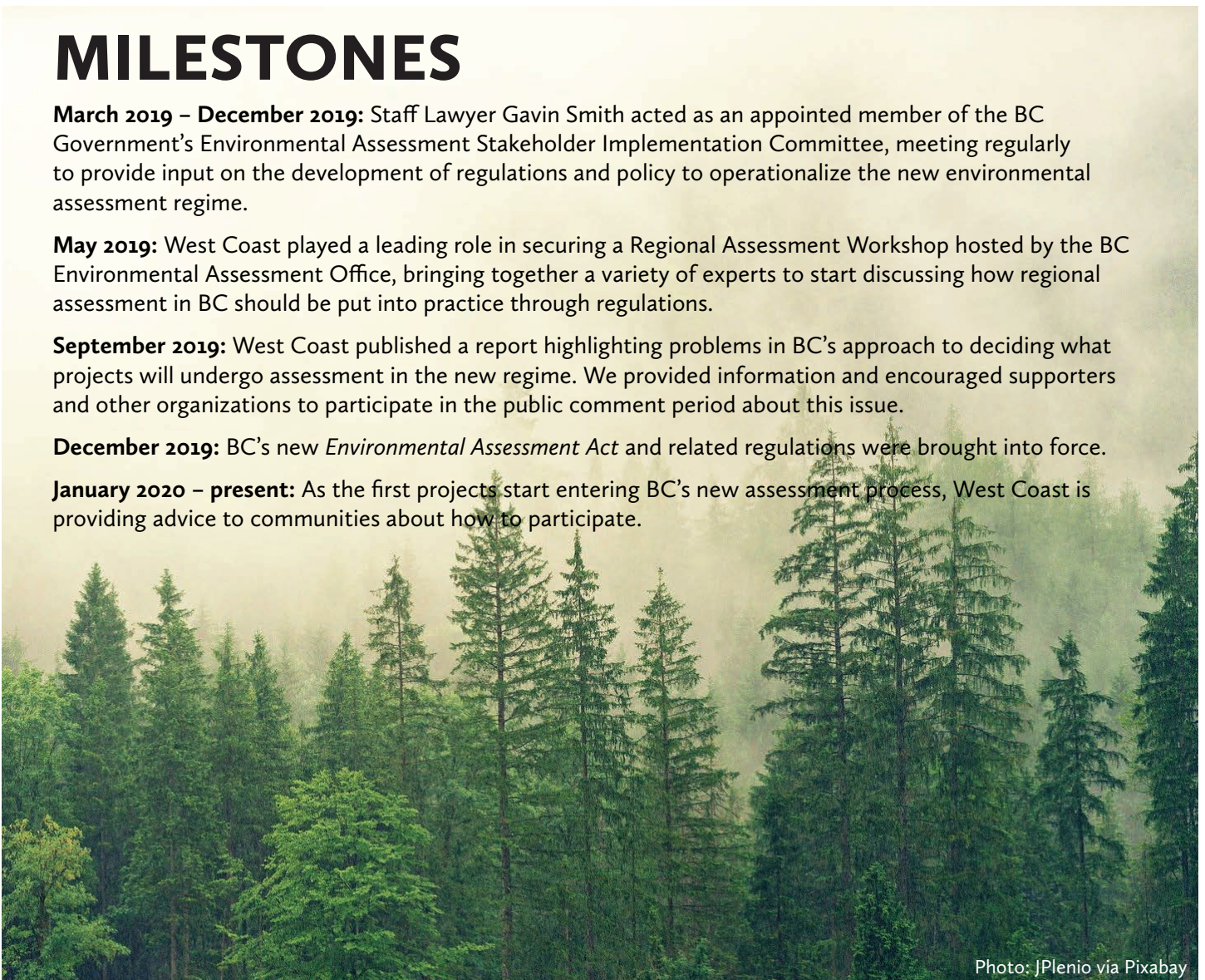
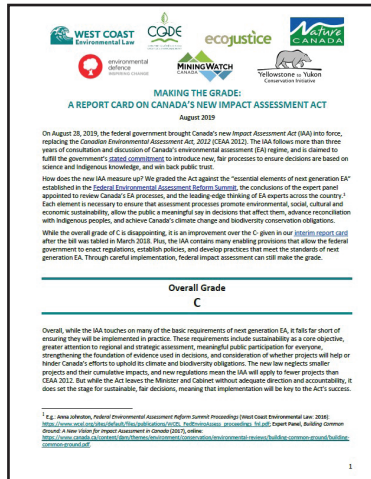


Photo: JPlenio via Pixabay

# SELECT PUBLICATIONS

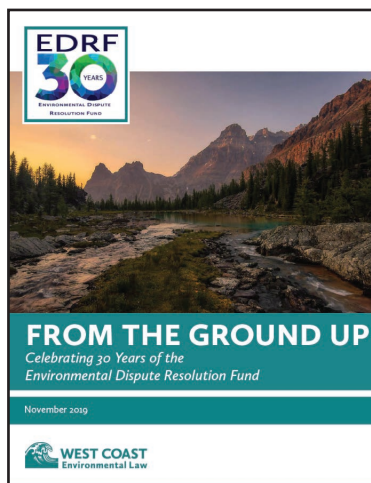
## WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION



### Making the Grade: A Report Card on Canada's New Impact Assessment Act

August 2019

How does Canada's new *Impact Assessment Act* measure up? This report card grades the Act against 13 essential criteria required for leading-edge environmental assessment – including an objective to ensure long-term sustainability, a climate test, meaningful public participation, and respect for the rights and authority of Indigenous peoples. The report card was co-authored by: West Coast Environmental Law Association, Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE), Ecojustice, Environmental Defence, MiningWatch Canada, Nature Canada and Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative.

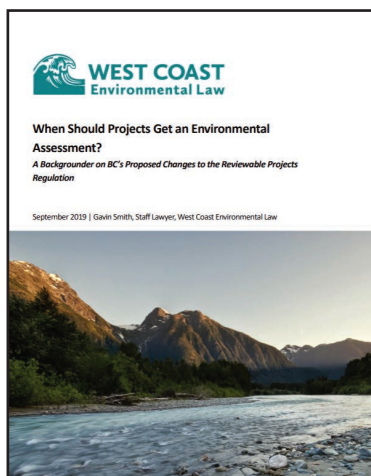


### From the Ground Up: Celebrating 30 Years of the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund

November 2019

Since 1989, the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF) has supported community efforts to defend the health of the environment and build a more sustainable British Columbia. Over the years the EDRF has provided support to numerous community members, grassroots groups, environmental organizations, and Indigenous nations – helping them understand their legal options, negotiate solutions, and advance environmental protection through law. Produced in honour of the EDRF's 30th anniversary, this report offers a glimpse into the incredible impact of the EDRF – past, present, and future.

## WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW RESEARCH FOUNDATION

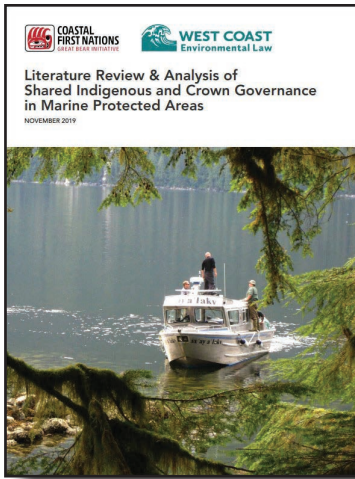


### When Should Projects Get an Environmental Assessment?

September 2019

In fall 2019, the BC government invited public input on what projects should be subject to environmental assessments under the new provincial *Environmental Assessment Act*. In response, West Coast produced this background document on BC's proposed changes to the Reviewable Projects Regulation (the regulation that determines which projects must be assessed). The background document includes multiple case studies demonstrating that BC's proposed reforms would not really alter the status quo, and recommends ways to strengthen BC's approach and require more assessments where they are needed.

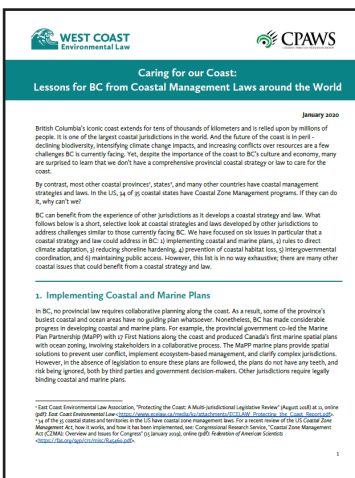




## Literature Review & Analysis of Shared Indigenous and Crown Governance in Marine Protected Areas

November 2019

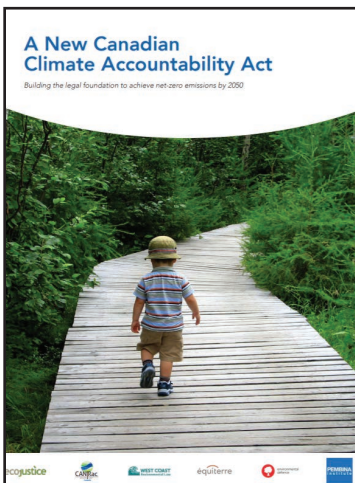
In the wake of BC's historic decision to enshrine the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into law, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative and West Coast Environmental Law teamed up to explore future possibilities in co-governance within a marine context. This final report describes how MPAs can be one important way of achieving true Nation-to-Nation or Inuit-to-Crown relationships, which uphold the Crown's constitutional obligations while creating space for healthy interaction between Canadian and Indigenous laws.



## Caring for our Coast: Lessons for BC from Coastal Management Laws around the World

January 2020

The coast of BC extends for tens of thousands of kilometres and is relied upon by millions of people. It is one of the largest coastal jurisdictions in the world, yet many are surprised to learn that we don't have a comprehensive provincial coastal strategy or law to care for the coast. This brief by West Coast and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-BC) looks at examples of coastal strategies and laws developed by other jurisdictions within and outside of Canada, providing valuable lessons for BC.



## A New Canadian Climate Accountability Act

June 2020

Canada needs a legal framework to ensure accountability and meet our obligations to address climate change. In partnership with Ecojustice, Climate Action Network Canada, Environmental Defence, Équiterre and the Pembina Institute, we have identified 5 pillars of a Canadian *Climate Accountability Act*. This detailed publication and 10-page policy brief outline how domestic climate accountability legislation is a key means to consolidate political support for climate agendas, provide the framework for implementation of the Paris Agreement and for assessing progress, and enable ratcheting-up of ambition going forward.

# PEOPLE OF WEST COAST



**From top left:** Rayanna Seymour-Hourie, Jessica Clogg, Gavin Smith, Anna Johnston, Maxine Matilpi, Eileen Stephens, Julia Kidder, Renee Eaton, Silvie Harder, Barbara Everdene, Michael Bissonnette, Alison Obrecht, Stephanie Hewson, Georgia Lloyd-Smith, Natalia Assis, Alexis Stoymenoff, Alan Chou, Eugene Kung, Deborah Carlson, Andrew Gage, Sunshine Waisman., Ceciline Goh.  
Absent: Shelby Lindley, Larry Reynolds.

## 2019-2020 LAW STUDENTS AND LEGAL VOLUNTEERS

Victoria Baylis	Jamil Hayward	Rebecca Park
Lia Bradley	Emily King	Julia Roe
Elise Broadfoot	Jenny Lu	Sunshine Waisman
Emelia Caliskan	Georgia Mason	

## 2019-2020 COMMUNITY OUTREACH INTERN

Angela Phan

## 2019-2020 EDRF LAWYERS

Each year, West Coast works with talented lawyers across BC who represent clients through the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF), working at partial pro-bono rates. We would like to acknowledge the following lawyers who worked on EDRF cases in 2019-2020, with special thanks to the 'starred' lawyers for their extensive contributions to the EDRF this year:

William Andrews*	Erin Gray*	Daniel McNamee
Matt Boulton	Christopher Harvey, Q.C.	Ian Moore
Rebeka Breder	Sean Hern	Matthew Nefstead
Karen Campbell	Anthony Ho*	Michael Ng
Patrick Canning*	Emma Hume	Michael Lee Ross
Neil Chantler	Nathan Hume	Erica Stahl
Joseph Deuling	Lilina Lysenko	Maya Stano
Lisa Fong, Q.C.*	Alanna Mackenzie	
Jason Gratl	Angela McCue*	



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## **SUSTAINING PARTNER: THE LAW FOUNDATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

The Law Foundation of BC has been West Coast Environmental Law Association's Sustaining Partner since 1974. The Law Foundation's funding enables us to provide environmental legal support for BC communities in every corner of the province. It helps us to achieve success in our Access to Justice programs, and importantly, allows us to leverage additional funds from other granting agencies, companies and individuals.

### **FOUNDATIONS**

Program support from private, community and family foundations remains a crucial component of our overall funding. West Coast is honoured by the longstanding and diverse partnerships of our foundation funders.

This past year, we were supported by the following foundations and partners from across Canada and beyond:

#### **RESEARCH FOUNDATION:**

- 444S Foundation
- Bullitt Foundation
- Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- Environment Funders Canada
- Gencon Foundation
- Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs
- glasswaters foundation
- Global Greengrants Fund
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Great Bear Initiative
- MakeWay (formerly Tides Canada)
- New Venture Fund
- North Growth Foundation
- Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
- Sitka Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Thomas Winkler Donation
- Vancouver Foundation
- WWF Canada

#### **ASSOCIATION:**

- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Vancity enviroFund
- WestWind Foundation

The Association also received funds through collaborations such as the Environmental Law Reform Group, SeaBlue Canada and Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network Oceans Collaborative.

## **TRANSFORMING THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE DEPENDS ON SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU**

We are one of Canada’s legal champions for the environment, and we could not do our work without you. Thank you! We are grateful for our many supporters, volunteers and donors.

Your support helps us to build and strengthen laws to protect the environment, which is vital for the well-being of all people in British Columbia and Canada. Your support of our work defends clean water, protects the air that we breathe and the lands we share.

By acting as a watchdog, we help ensure that corporations and governments are held accountable for their actions and abide by legislation. And when it’s time for the laws to change, we come to the table with expert analysis, innovative solutions and clear recommendations for reform.

West Coast Environmental Law works hard to represent the interests of nature and the environment, to make sure that these interests are considered in legislative decisions. Whether it is our innovative RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air & Water) program, our work developing legal tools to protect marine areas, or re-thinking laws and policies to support green infrastructure in our communities. The West Coast team is working to make sure that, in this unprecedented time, BC and the federal government work to build our economy back better, fairer and greener.

Our lawyers are effective, in large part, because of their experience and dedication. Some have worked at West Coast for well over a decade. They work exceedingly hard – putting their legal skills to work to protect nature and make sure that we have healthy communities. They are bold. They are fierce in their passion. And they rely on the support of people like you.

There will always be powerful interests seeking to weaken or exploit Canada’s environmental laws. Supporting West Coast Environmental Law helps to “even the scales,” giving community members a stronger voice in the decisions that affect the land, air and water we rely on.

West Coast receives funding from foundations that are dedicated to protecting the environment and from generous individual donors who give to us monthly or once per year. We rely upon donations to do the work we do. These gifts provide West Coast with the flexibility that enables our team to pivot and redeploy resources when an emergency strikes.

Our mission is to make sure that the environment is in better condition for the next generation. We reaffirm that commitment to you – and because of your support, we’ll continue to stay on top of our legal programs and work together toward a healthier planet.

**Alison Obrecht**  
Director of Development





# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## REVENUES

	For year ended April 30, 2020				For year ended
	Association	Foundation	EDRF	Total	April 30, 2019
Law Foundation Grants	470,000	-	-	470,000	470,000
Allocation to EDRF	(150,000)	-	150,000	-	-
Donations	2,265	300,914	-	303,179	375,554
Grants & Contracts Earned	455,696	1,279,964	-	1,735,660	1,800,506
Other Income	279,455	73,112	42	352,609	217,760
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,057,416</b>	<b>1,653,990</b>	<b>150,042</b>	<b>2,861,448</b>	<b>2,863,820</b>

## GRANTS AND EXPENSES

Personnel Related	736,488	957,095	-	1,693,583	1,588,978
Professional Services	10,164	9,351	-	19,515	19,404
Rent & Office Expenses	147,295	106,357	-	253,652	273,959
Amortization	8,543	1,793	-	10,336	7,541
EDRF Grants	-	-	150,000	150,000	120,000
Program Expenses	157,409	284,284	42	441,735	545,158
Fundraising	-	12,867	-	12,867	43,722
Administration Fee	-	210,716	-	210,716	177,300
<b>Total Grants and Expenses</b>	<b>1,059,899</b>	<b>1,582,463</b>	<b>150,042</b>	<b>2,792,404</b>	<b>2,776,062</b>
<b>Excess of revenue for the year</b>	<b>(2,483)</b>	<b>71,527</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,044</b>	<b>87,758</b>

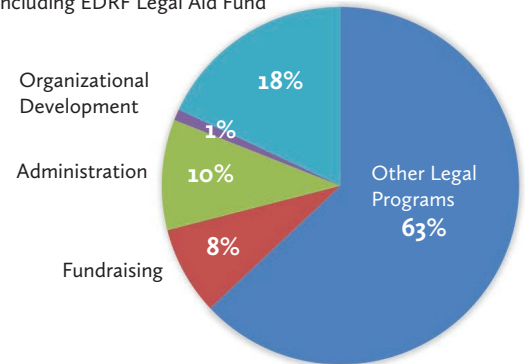
*Excerpt from the audited financial statements of West Coast Environmental Law Association, West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation, and West Coast Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund Society. Full audited financial statements available upon request.*

# YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

## WHERE YOUR DONATION GOES:

- 81% to programs
- 11% to administration
- 8% to fundraising

Access to Justice Program  
including EDRF Legal Aid Fund



## SUPPORT NATURE AND DEMOCRACY

Every single individual donation to West Coast Environmental Law makes a world of difference. We achieve victories for British Columbians and Canadians because of our strong community of support – because one donor at a time has made a commitment to be part of the solution.

Your individual donation makes a fundamental difference in allowing West Coast to provide people with environmental legal aid, environmental law research, representation and education services to promote protection of the environment and public participation in environmental decision-making.

At West Coast Environmental Law, your gift today, or in the future, is a significant source of support for our critical work, and is fundamental to preserving the environment now and in years to come. There are a number of ways you can support West Coast, and in so doing, make a lasting commitment to the environment and your community:

- **Become a West Coast Protector:** Monthly donors are the backbone of our organization. This way of giving provides consistent, reliable support to West Coast’s programs with minimal effort. Even \$10 a month makes a big impact.
- **An Environmental Legacy – Yours to Give:** Protect the environment through the law ... for generations. By leaving a gift to West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation in your will, you are making a significant contribution to the future sustainability of an organization working to protect what you value most.

Legal Name: West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation  
Address: 700 – 509 Richards Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 2Z6  
Registered Charity #11929 2415 RR0001

- **Tribute or Memorial Gifts:** Make a gift on behalf of someone special, or in celebration of a special occasion, or in memory of a family member, friend or colleague.
- **Gifts of Stocks or Securities:** Gifts of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) enable you to make a big difference in ensuring that environmental protection is enshrined in law – while realizing great tax savings.

Donations can be made online at <https://wcel.org/donate>.

Call 604-601-2509 for more information and other giving options.





West Coast Environmental Law harnesses the power of law to solve complex environmental challenges. We are transforming environmental decision-making and strengthening legal protection for the environment through collaborative legal strategies that bridge Indigenous and Canadian law. By putting the law in the hands of communities and creating legal risk for those who would harm our land, air and water, we are building the collective power to achieve a more just and sustainable future for all.

West Coast Environmental Law  
#700 – 509 Richards Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 2Z6

x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) &  
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Web: [www.wcel.org](http://www.wcel.org)

Charitable Registration #11929 2415 RR0001

**Cover photo:** Robert Postma

