



WEST COAST
Environmental Law

IMPACT REPORT

2018-2019





Photo: Stephanie Trimble

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Strengthening Canadian laws for land, air, water and communities

Law reform is our specialty at West Coast Environmental Law. We work at all levels of government to transform the legal landscape and strengthen the laws that affect land, air, water and the health of communities.

During 2018-2019, we've seen our efforts pay off with the passage of multiple federal bills that significantly strengthen Canada's environmental safety net, along with a new provincial *Environmental Assessment Act*. Through collaboration, advocacy and expert analysis, West Coast's legal team played a crucial role every step of the way, from catalyzing commitments for change to getting these important law reform initiatives to the finish line.

In 2012, we were on the front lines of the fight against the federal environmental law rollbacks that saw drastic reductions in legal protection for fish and water, citizens shut out of decisions that matter to them, and the fast-tracking of pipeline approvals. By tracking the effects of the rollbacks and making sure that politicians of all stripes heard loud and clear that Canadians want strong environmental laws, we helped secure commitments by the federal government to strengthen legal safeguards for the environment.

Now we can celebrate the passage of these environmental laws – which reflect countless hours of work by our entire team, partners across the country, and by so many concerned community members.

Working closely with our allies, friends and collaborators across the country, we helped secure a number of significant victories under new or amended federal environmental laws:

- The newly-passed *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* prohibits large tankers carrying crude oil or persistent oil products from docking, loading or unloading in the waters surrounding the Great Bear Rainforest – protecting this special region and its salmon, wildlife and sustainable local economies from the risk of major oil spills.
- The *Impact Assessment Act*, included in Bill C-69, will improve the way projects are reviewed with a new impact assessment process that focuses on sustainability. This bill also reforms key Canadian laws related to energy regulation and the protection of navigable waters.



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

Jessica Clogg
Executive Director and Senior Counsel



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

Lisa Mattheus
President

MENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- The *Fisheries Act*, amended through Bill C-68, will once again protect all fish and fish habitat across Canada from harmful alteration, disturbance and destruction, while introducing new measures for restoration of damaged habitat and rebuilding of fish stocks.
- Amendments to the *Oceans Act* in Bill C-55 will make marine protected area (MPA) designation faster and more effective, and will help the government reach its ambitious, strongly supported, and much-needed marine conservation targets.

These important federal laws will strengthen our environmental safety net, and we are proud to have played a lead role in securing their passage.

On the provincial front, West Coast's decades of work shining the light on problems with project assessment in BC – and developing law reform solutions – proved an essential foundation for an intense, successful law reform campaign in 2018-19 to secure a new provincial *Environmental Assessment Act*. Our advocacy on climate accountability also played decisive role in securing new provincial commitments in the Province's CleanBC plan.

These legal wins would not have been possible without the help of our donors, funders, supporters and allies. Thank you. Together, we've made great strides to strengthen legal protection for the environment this year, for the future of all of our grandchildren.

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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).*

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Through our access to justice programs, West Coast provides valued legal resources and support for British Columbians seeking to defend the people and places they love from environmental harm. We offer free legal advice and funding support to groups and individuals, and our helpful online resources keep the public in the know when it comes to new developments in environmental law. We also provide unique educational opportunities and hands-on experience for law students and legal volunteers, fostering the next generation of public interest environmental lawyers.

LEGAL SUPPORT FOR NATURE AND COMMUNITIES

Through our Environmental Legal Aid program, West Coast empowers individuals and communities to safeguard the environment through law. Our staff lawyers provide free legal advice to help British Columbians understand their environmental rights, and we also offer legal aid funding through our Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF). For 30 years, the EDRF has provided legal support for environmental defenders across the province, connecting clients with a network of private environmental lawyers who work at legal aid rates.

YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW WATCHDOG

West Coast's Environmental Law Alert provides the latest information and legal analysis about key environmental law issues in BC and Canada. We highlight new developments in environmental law, 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL AID

GENERATION SQUEEZE FIGHTS CLIMATE DISCRIMINATION IN COURT

In fall 2018, the federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* came into force, putting financial incentives in place to reduce our carbon emissions. The governments of Saskatchewan and Ontario challenged the new legislation as unconstitutional. When Canada's new price on carbon came under legal attack, Generation Squeeze stepped up to help defend it.

Generation Squeeze is a BC-based research, education and advocacy organization for young Canadians in politics and the market. They formed a new Intergenerational Climate Coalition and intervened in the reference cases launched by the two provinces, with the help of lawyers hired through the EDRF. Along with coalition partners specializing in public health and children's rights, Generation Squeeze and their lawyers advanced key arguments to defend the federal carbon tax and protect children and future generations.

In May 2019, the majority of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal ruled that the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* is constitutional. Generation Squeeze was delighted with the ruling.

"It's a win for intergenerational fairness and the health of Canadians," said Paul Kershaw, founder of the organization. The Court of Appeal also held that climate change has emerged as a major threat, not just to Canada, but to the planet itself, which is why it is important that our legal system allows both Parliament and provincial legislatures jurisdictional room to act in relation to the environment.

In June 2019, the Ontario Court of Appeal also upheld the constitutionality of pricing carbon pollution. In the 4-1 decision, the Court of Appeal held that it is constitutional for the federal government to price pollution in order to "limi[t] access to a scarce resource: the atmosphere's capacity to absorb greenhouse gases."

Pricing carbon pollution has been proven globally to be an efficient way to reduce emissions, drive innovation, and encourage people and businesses to pollute less. The EDRF was proud to support Generation Squeeze in contributing to this important case – and we'll continue to provide legal assistance and funding support for other groups and individuals across BC seeking to defend the climate through law.

"With generous support from West Coast Environmental Law, Generation Squeeze is proud to have led a coalition of six organizations into the Courts of Appeal in Saskatchewan and Ontario to defend the constitutionality of pricing pollution on the grounds it is required to promote population health and prevent discrimination against younger Canadians and future generations. We're now poised to bring these arguments to the Supreme Court of Canada, and couldn't have done any of our legal work without the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund. We are indebted to WCEL, and all who contribute to the EDRF, for making possible the cutting-edge legal intervention like that Generation Squeeze has pursued to help address the climate crisis."

- Paul Kershaw, Generation Squeeze, EDRF Client

MILESTONES

October 2018: Heiltsuk Nation – Nathan E. Stewart litigation

The EDRF is honoured to support the Heiltsuk Nation in holding government and industry accountable for a fuel spill in 2016 that devastated an important cultural site and traditional food resources and profoundly impacted their community. The Nathan E. Stewart, a tug hauling a tank barge, ran aground and sank, spilling 110,000 litres of diesel fuel and other pollutants into Heiltsuk marine waters. On October 13, 2018, the Heiltsuk filed a Notice of Civil Claim in the BC Supreme Court suing Kirby Corporation, BC, and Canada. The lawsuit seeks damages for losses incurred by the Heiltsuk, raising new legal questions about applying Aboriginal title to the seabed and foreshore, and how to quantify cultural losses. The case also raises questions about the national and provincial oil spill response framework, and Canada and BC's duties to Indigenous communities affected by spills.

December 2018: Nicola Valley Fish and Game Club – Victory for public access

The Nicola Valley Fish and Game Club, with leadership from Rick McGowan, would not back down when they were refused public access to fish Minnie and Stoney Lakes. Since 1990, the Douglas Lake Cattle Company blocked access to Stoney Lake Road, situated on the Company's large ranch near Merritt, BC. With support from the EDRF, the Club took the ranch owner to court. In December 2018, the Court ruled that the lakes were public, the road was public, and that wild fish cannot be privatized.

June 2019: Kathleen Ruff – Responsible disposal of hazardous waste

Human rights activist Kathleen Ruff was concerned about Canada's failure to properly implement and enforce the Basel Convention, an international treaty to prevent the transfer of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries. With support from the EDRF, Kathleen sought a legal opinion to determine whether Canada's refusal to bring back Canadian wastes exported to the Philippines violated international law. The legal opinion made international headlines by highlighting Canada's violation of the Basel Convention, and shortly afterwards, the trash was headed back home.



Photo: Kirby Corporation's criminal sentencing hearing regarding the Nathan E. Stewart spill, hosted by the Heiltsuk Nation in July 2019. (Georgia Lloyd-Smith).

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ALERT

Canadian and BC media don't always get the story right – or cover it at all – when it comes to environmental law issues. That's where our Environmental Law Alert (ELA) program comes in, ensuring that British Columbians have credible legal analysis to understand new legislation or media stories that miss the legal forest for the trees.

For instance, West Coast's legal analysis corrected misleading media stories that suggested that non-profits and charities would not be able to say anything about climate change during the 2019 federal election – described by one of our readers as a “reasonable perspective on this ridiculous freak out over election laws.”

In addition, through formal engagement with government, and tools which allow others to take informed actions, we are able to respond to key new initiatives and law reform proposals to help ensure that our environmental laws are as strong as possible.

MILESTONES

November 2018: BC enacted the *Professional Governance Act*, an important step in addressing ELA's ongoing warnings that over-reliance on industry professionals is undermining environmental protection in BC.

March 2019: BC enacted the *Protection of Public Participation Act*, to protect British Columbians who speak up from strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP suits). This is the culmination of a multi-year campaign by West Coast and allies.

April 2019: Our ELA joined groups across the province to encourage British Columbians to press BC to protect endangered mountain caribou.

July 2019: West Coast drafted a joint submission signed on to by more than 25 different organizations urging British Columbia amend its *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) to support ecological, cultural and community resiliency. The province has indicated an intention to amend the FRPA.

August 2019: Media reports that Elections Canada would view any mention of climate change during the election period as “partisan” led to anxiety on the part of charities and other non-profits. West Coast staff played a lead role in clarifying Election Canada's position and providing accurate information.

BUILDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW BAR

At West Coast, we always try to think long term, even as we work on some of the most urgent environmental challenges facing our communities. That includes supporting the development of the next generation of environmental lawyers.

In 2018-2019, 15 law students and visiting lawyers worked and volunteered with our staff. West Coast welcomes student interns from Pro Bono Students Canada (UBC and University of Victoria), Osgoode Hall, and Macquarie University in Australia. We also have our own summer law student program, and received well over a hundred applications for the summer 2019 positions.

While in our office students have an opportunity to research legal issues and improve their analytical and communication skills, as well as participate in internal meetings and external events. They add enhanced capacity and great energy to our organization. We send our gratitude to this past year's group, and wish them all the best for their careers.

West Coast is also in the fourth year of offering a workshop course in public interest environmental law at the Allard School of Law, UBC. Staff Lawyers Linda Nowlan and Deborah Carlson lead the course, and other West Coast lawyers participate as guest lecturers.



Photo: 2019 summer law students and legal volunteers (left to right) Whitney Vicente, Isabelle Lefroy, Jessie Schwarz, Christopher Mottershead and Justin Fishman.

“Overall the experience of working at West Coast Environmental Law this summer has been so fulfilling, and it has reinvigorated my passion for the law and has shown me how it can be used as a force for good in the world.”

- Whitney Vicente, University of Victoria, 2019 Summer Law Student



LAW REFORM & ADVOCACY

West Coast Environmental Law Association advocates for stronger environmental laws, better enforcement and more democratic decision-making in BC and across Canada. In 2018-2019, our lawyers played a central role in law reform initiatives that will transform environmental decision-making at both the federal and provincial level.

STANDING UP FOR STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

West Coast continues to act as a leader in efforts to strengthen Canada's environmental laws. Our experts have been front and centre throughout the federal government's sweeping overhaul of key legislation that was weakened in 2012, as well as new amendments to the *Oceans Act*. We have also been deeply involved in efforts to reform BC's provincial environmental assessment regime.

Our lawyers have made substantial contributions, both federally and provincially – submitting detailed briefs, testifying before committees, meeting with government officials and creating space for collaboration on solutions. We also offer educational resources and share opportunities for individuals to take action and demand stronger, fairer environmental laws.

KEEPING BC OIL SPILL-FREE

West Coast is committed to defending the coast and communities from the threat of oil spills. For almost half a century, we've advocated for a strong, legislated oil tanker ban on the Pacific north coast – and this year, our efforts finally paid off with the passing of the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*.

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

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REFORM

This year West Coast saw a number of successes on the federal environmental laws front. After years of tireless efforts to rebuild Canada's environmental safety net, we were thrilled to see the federal government pass Bills C-55, C-68 and C-69 in May and June 2019. Through these bills, Canada has now replaced weak environmental assessment rules with a stronger, sustainability-based impact assessment law, established a new national energy regulator, rebuilt legal safeguards for fish and fish habitat, strengthened marine protection, and added protection for our navigable waters.

West Coast played a leading role in securing these victories – collaborating with allies across the country to engage Canadians in calling for stronger federal environmental laws; meeting with federal officials and allied industry to advocate for better laws to protect our land, air, water and democracy; and pushing back against intense lobbying by partisan interests and the oil and gas lobby to kill the bills.

When the Senate threatened to derail Bill C-69 with hundreds of proposed amendments that would have weakened – rather than strengthened – the law, we drew on the power of our supporters to send a message to the Senate that strong environmental laws matter to Canadians. As a result, nature and communities in Canada now enjoy:

- A new *Impact Assessment Act*, which fosters sustainability, enables all Canadians to have a say in decisions that affect them, requires project decisions to consider disproportionate impacts on gendered and other identity lines, and recognizes the need to advance reconciliation, implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and respect Indigenous knowledge.
- A new Canadian Energy Regulator, with improved accountability, an explicit requirement to consider sustainability and the climate impacts of pipeline projects, and a new mandate to allow all Canadians to have a say in energy transmission projects that affect them.
- A strengthened *Fisheries Act*, which protects all fish and fish habitat, restores “HADD” (the prohibition on harmful alteration, disturbance and destruction of fish habitat), and establishes a new requirement to rebuild fish stocks.
- An improved and newly-named *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*, with greater protections for navigable waters and more opportunities for Canadians to obtain the highest level of protection for the lakes and rivers they love.

In addition to these important legislative developments, West Coast was front and centre in efforts to modernize the *Oceans Act* – Canada's flagship ocean protection law. Amendments to the Act, introduced in Bill C-55, will make marine protected area designation faster and more effective, with complementary amendments to the *Canadian Petroleum Resources Act* to allow relinquishment of oil and gas interests in these special parts of the sea that we set aside for protection.





MILESTONES

April 2018: Staff Lawyer Linda Nowlan testified before the Parliamentary Committee on Fisheries and Oceans, supporting Bill C-68 – which contained critical amendments to the *Fisheries Act*.

November 2018: Staff Lawyer Linda Nowlan appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Fisheries and Oceans to speak in support of Bill C-55, the renewed *Oceans Act*.

February 2019: West Coast released an updated version of our Q&A on Canada's proposed new *Impact Assessment Act*, providing answers to common questions and dispelling some myths about the Act.

February 2019: Staff Lawyer Linda Nowlan appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans to speak in support of Bill C-55.

March 2019: Working with a coalition of 23 environmental organizations, West Coast produced a submission on Bill C-68 for the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. The submission focused on fundamental aspects of the bill required to sustain fish and fish habitat in Canada.

April 2019: Staff Lawyer Anna Johnston testified before the Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, supporting the passage of the new *Impact Assessment Act* contained in Bill C-69, and highlighting flaws that must be addressed to bring Canada's environmental reviews in line with international best practices in modern impact assessment.

May 2019: Bill C-55 was passed into law. Amendments to the Act will make marine protection in Canada faster and more effective.

June 2019: The Senate approved the passage of Bill C-68, putting Canada's *Fisheries Act* back on track to once again protect essential fish habitat across the country. Changes in the Act reflect years of advocacy by West Coast and our allies – including the establishment of a new public registry, requirements to rebuild fisheries, better recognition of Indigenous knowledge, and protection for environmental flows.

June 2019: Bill C-69 narrowly passed in the Senate, ushering in important improvements to Canada's laws pertaining to impact assessment, energy regulation and navigable waters.

KEEPING BC OIL SPILL-FREE

PROTECTING THE COAST FROM OIL TANKERS

We celebrated a hard-fought victory in June 2019 when the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* became law. The legislation prohibits large tankers carrying crude or persistent oil from entering any ports on the north coast of British Columbia, capping off decades of advocacy by West Coast and our allies to protect the unique and spectacular region from the risk of oil spills.

During 2018-2019, the proposed legislation (Bill C-48) became a subject of heightened political debate across the country, causing the Senate committee reviewing the bill to launch uncommon travelling hearings through northern BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan, in addition to hearings in Ottawa. After a tense period in which the committee recommended rejecting the bill, the Senate passed the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* by a mere three votes – highlighting the importance of the in-depth advocacy to support the legislation by West Coast and many others.

The passage of the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* comes almost half a century after the BC Legislature and the House of Commons each unanimously resolved, in 1971 and 1972 respectively, to oppose oil tanker traffic on the Pacific north coast. The long and ultimately successful journey to legislating the oil tanker ban represents an important milestone for protecting the Pacific north coast and all those who rely on it.

MILESTONES

May 2018: Bill C-48, the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*, passed the House of Commons.

February-May 2019: The Senate Transport Committee held hearings on Bill C-48 across western Canada and in Ottawa. Staff Lawyer Gavin Smith testified to provide evidence and historical information supporting a Pacific north coast oil tanker moratorium. West Coast's work on this issue was repeatedly referenced by witnesses and decision-makers during debate over Bill C-48.

April-June 2019: West Coast engaged our supporters and supported a coalition of organizations to call on the Senate to honour the government's commitment to enact a north Pacific coast oil tanker ban.

June 2019: After a series of debates, the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* passed the Senate by just three votes and became law.

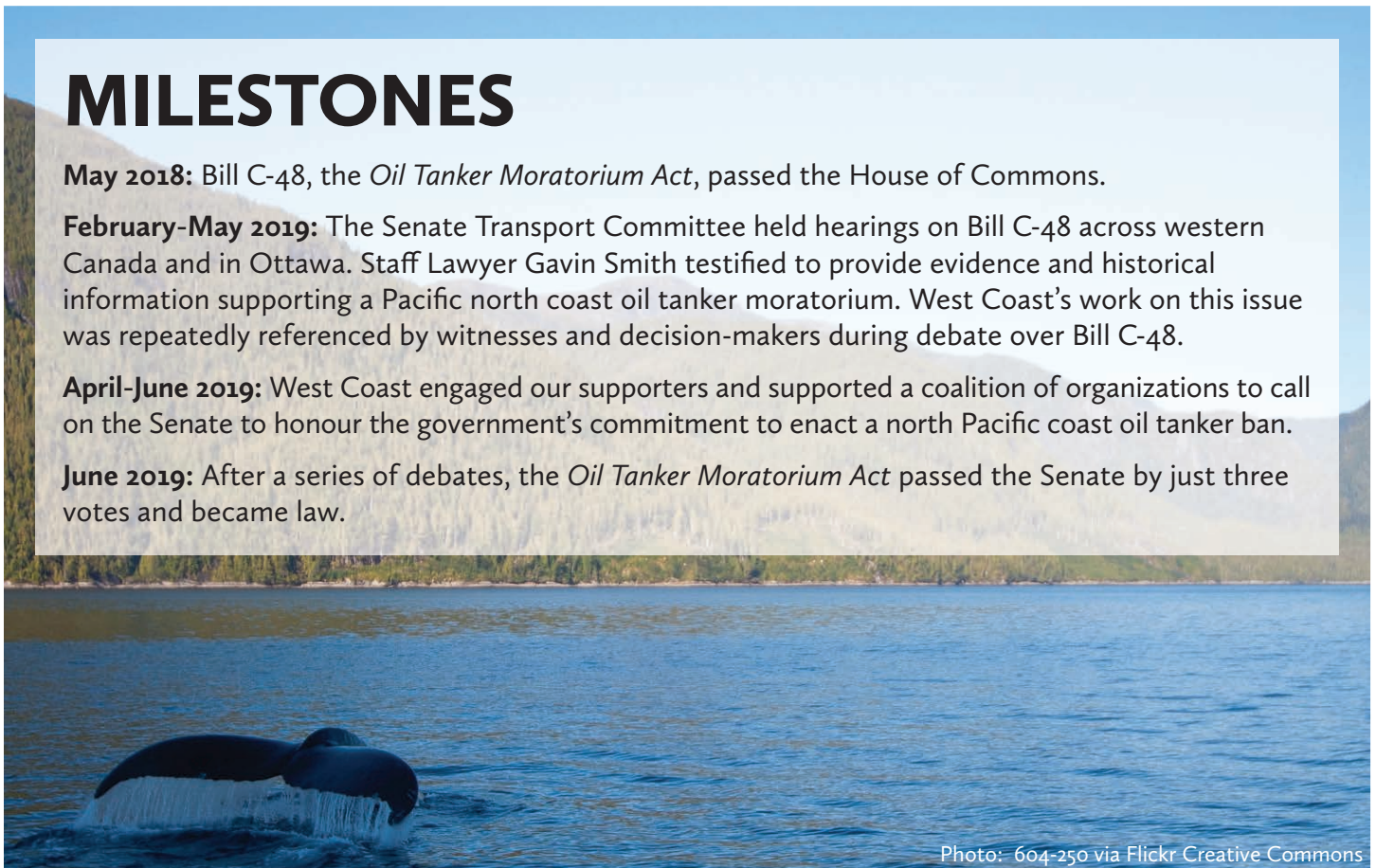


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STANDING TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE COAST

We continue to provide strategic support for a wide network of individuals, community groups, environmental organizations and others working to stop the Trans Mountain pipeline and tanker project. In particular, we provide legal and strategic support for First Nations as they return to the courts to protect their rights and territories from Trans Mountain.

This year, our frequent and timely analysis raised awareness about the project's legal and financial risks among investors, decision-makers, media and the public, and broadened Canadians' understanding of key issues surrounding the debate – including Indigenous rights, climate change, and the regulatory process.

Despite the legal victory that quashed the pipeline approval in August 2018, the federal cabinet re-approved the project in June 2019, after the National Energy Board completed a reconsideration process, and further Indigenous consultation occurred. In July, a new round of legal challenges was launched, aiming to overturn the approval once again. As legal counsel, West Coast is working closely with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, one of the leading applicants in the new round of legal challenges, to take this risky project off the table for good.

MILESTONES

August 2018: In a major victory for First Nations and the environment, the Federal Court of Appeal (FCA) quashed the federal approval of the Trans Mountain project and brought construction to a halt.

October 2018: The NEB launched a reconsideration process focusing on the project's marine shipping impacts. The federal government also announced more consultation with First Nations.

June 2019: Just one day after declaring a “climate emergency,” the federal government re-approved the Trans Mountain project.

July 2019: Twelve parties applied for leave to judicially review the new approval, including eight First Nations, two environmental groups, the City of Vancouver, and a collective of youth climate strikers.

August 2019: The FCA granted leave to six First Nations to pursue their judicial reviews of the June 2019 approval. If successful, these appeals will stop the project once again. West Coast continues to provide legal and strategic support for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, one of the leading parties in this round of legal challenges.



Photo: Keith JJ

TRANSFORMING ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING

West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation leverages legal research, analysis and dialogue to secure lasting gains for ecosystems, communities and the climate. We believe that environmental decision-making must be science-based, democratic and must uphold Indigenous rights and authority.

PROTECTING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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.

REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS LAW

Through our RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water) initiative, West Coast provides legal support and co-learning opportunities for Indigenous nations working to proactively address environmental challenges in their territories by articulating, revitalizing and applying their own laws.

SEEKING ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE FACE 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. We recognize that our governments need to be held accountable, too – that's why we're also 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 find solutions that will make ecosystems and communities more resilient. Bringing together law and policy with science, Indigenous knowledge and urban planning, we're providing valuable guidance for communities as they prepare for the reality of climate change.

TRANSFORMING PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

Through our Collaborative Environmental Governance program, we are working towards healing and sustaining healthy relationships with the natural world through strong Canadian and Indigenous laws. We seek to transform environmental-decision making in Canada 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

It has been an exceptionally active period for ocean protection law. Federally, we worked on revision and passage of numerous marine laws and policies. These include the laws outlined in the Association section of this report, as well as policies surrounding Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), marine protected area (MPA) standards, spill response measures, endangered whales and Indigenous protected areas. Throughout the year, we worked with collaborators to strengthen and publicize marine protection laws.

We celebrated a significant victory in April 2019 when the government committed to prohibit oil and gas development, mining, dumping and bottom trawling in MPAs. West Coast burned the midnight oil to secure stronger protection standards for MPAs, working to link science and law, and issuing repeated calls for reform.

We also made progress towards the goal of strengthening the provincial legal framework for coastal and marine habitat protection, and worked with our partners at the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) to prepare a strategy to obtain an announcement of a new provincial coastal and ocean strategy in the 2020 Speech from the Throne.

Meanwhile, we worked with Indigenous partners on the Pacific coast to advance marine protection initiatives rooted in Indigenous law. For instance, through our RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water) project, we provided legal support for the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation in producing a new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) management plan setting out rules to protect herring spawn in Kitasoo Bay. We are also working with the Heiltsuk Nation in developing an Oceans Act grounded in their laws, entitled the "Respecting and Taking Care of our Ocean Relatives Act."

Overall, West Coast has significantly contributed to strengthening the federal legal framework for coastal and marine habitat protection as a leading voice providing research, analysis for the ENGO sector, as well as some First Nations and scientists.



Photo: The shores of Kitasoo Bay, site of the new IPCA in Kitasoo/Xai'xais territory (Georgia Lloyd-Smith).



Photo: Participants inspect a sea urchin at a gathering of Coastal Guardian Watchmen in summer 2019 (Georgia Lloyd-Smith).

MILESTONES

May-July 2018: We testified and provided written briefs to the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards.

October 2018: The National Advisory Panel released its recommendations, calling for stronger and more consistent legal standards for MPAs as well as recognition of Indigenous Protected Areas. The Panel's recommendations aligned with West Coast's testimony and submissions on these issues.

February 2019: With CPAWS, we held briefings and meetings in Victoria on a coastal and marine protection law with elected officials, political staff, Indigenous leaders, and key bureaucrats. We produced a briefing note, and followed up with a proposal for a provincial in-house workshop, now in progress.

April 2019: The federal government announced that it would prohibit harmful activities such as oil and gas development, bottom trawl fishing, mining and dumping in all Canadian MPAs – following the recommendations of West Coast and the National Advisory Panel on MPA Standards.

May 2019: We attended and presented at a series of international meetings highlighting Indigenous conservation initiatives from around the world. This included the Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives (CICADA) meeting of Indigenous and research partners from Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand; the ICCA Consortium North America regional meeting; and the first North American Dialogue on Biocultural Diversity. We also hosted a workshop about granting legal personhood to orcas at an international conference on Rights of Nature.

Ongoing: West Coast continues to participate in a wide range of community events surrounding marine protection in BC. For example, this year we took part in multiple workshops on marine shipping, the Hornby Island Herring Festival, Baynes Sound Learning Exchange, the Haida Gwaii Oceans Forum (Gaaysiigang Sding) and a transboundary workshop discussing strategies to help endangered southern resident killer whales.

RELAW: REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS LAW FOR LAND, AIR & WATER

Long before Canadian laws were created, Indigenous peoples governed their territories according to their own laws – laws that are still living and evolving as we speak. Through our RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water) project, West Coast collaborates with Indigenous nations working to articulate and apply their own laws to the environmental challenges they face today.

Since the launch of RELAW in 2016, we've worked with over a dozen Indigenous partners on a variety of different projects grounded in their Indigenous laws, including on fisheries governance, impact assessment, water law, oceans law and management plans for Indigenous protected areas.

Using the methodology developed by the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) at the University of Victoria, we research stories to draw out legal principles and then facilitate community dialogue about how these principles should be applied to guide decision-making on the ground and collaboratively craft written laws.

In 2018-2019, we provided legal support and co-learning opportunities for both new and continuing partners, as well as a “Learning Cohort” of participants who engaged in the RELAW retreats. Our approach aims to build capacity and leadership with new partners learning from returning partners.

Our current Indigenous partners include the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, St'át'imc Chiefs Council, Heiltsuk Nation, Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, and the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs – in addition to representatives from Yukon First Nations who are part of the Learning Cohort.



Photo: Focus group with Coqualeetza Elders Group as part of the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance RELAW project.



Photo: Honouring the newest members of our RELAW team, Rayanna Seymour Hourie and Shelby Lindley.

MILESTONES

Ongoing: From Ch'i:yaqtel to Katzie, Kitasu Bay to Bella Bella, Xwísten to T'sek, and Atlin to Terrace, RELAW teams have had the privilege of engaging with stories and learning from Elders' wisdom this year in many gatherings, focus groups and planning meetings about identifying, applying and enforcing Indigenous law.

October 2018: We produced a short publication entitled *Revitalizing Haítzaqv Law for Land, Air and Water: Telling the RELAW Story*, describing the objectives, process and outcomes of our work with the Haítzaqv (Heiltsuk) Nation. The Haítzaqv RELAW project focused on developing an Oceans Act grounded in their ḡvılas (laws).

November 2018: We held a retreat at Sts'ailes Lhawathet Lalem (Sts'ailes Healing House), a unique facility owned and operated by the Sts'ailes First Nation. In addition to our new and continuing partners, we invited other interested First Nations who wanted to “audit” the program and benefit from our materials and training sessions. As a result, we were joined by 10 representatives from three First Nations from the Yukon. The November retreat introduced the ILRU methodology and developed a trauma-informed framework for facilitation and process design.

February 2019: West Coast released a short film called “Respecting and Taking Care of our Ocean Relatives: The Creation of the Haítzaqv Nation Oceans Act.” The film highlights the work done by our Haítzaqv partners to nurture their ḡvılas and develop this key piece of legislation to be enacted under the forthcoming Haítzaqv Constitution.

April 2019: We held our second retreat at Sts'ailes Lhawathet Lalem, which focused on deliberative democracy, community engagement and planning considerations. With the assistance of an archeologist and a community member, we also did some land-based learning at the site of an ancient pit-house near the retreat centre.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY

British Columbians increasingly talk of climate change as a crisis...but is it only talk? West Coast Environmental Law uses the law and public legal discussion to encourage decision-makers and others to recognize the crisis' real impacts and challenges.

Our Climate Law in our Hands initiative helps British Columbians and their governments start examining what climate change will cost their communities, and encourages them to challenge Chevron, Exxon and other fossil fuel giants to take cradle-to-grave responsibility for their products.

More than 20 local governments – representing almost 1/3 of BC's population – have taken action to ensure that global fossil fuel companies share some of the costs that their communities are seeing from climate change. These actions include tracking climate costs, sending letters to fossil fuel giants, and calling on the province to enact laws clarifying the legal responsibility of fossil fuel companies.

West Coast has provided legal and campaign support to a range of community partners throughout the province who are using our information and resource materials to call for their governments to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for climate costs.

Government accountability

We also think governments should be required to develop and implement strong plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Drawing on basic rules for financial budgeting as well as international best practices, West Coast Environmental Law and our allies have been educating BC and Canadian officials on the need for thorough and transparent climate planning. With BC incorporating many of our recommendations in its CleanBC plan, we're pressing for laws to ensure that future governments meet rigorous, science-based targets.

WHY HOLD FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE?

If corporations make profits from polluting while the public pays for the resulting harm, they will keep polluting. Despite knowing of the risks of climate change since the 1960s, fossil fuel companies have assumed that the public will pay for the costs caused by their products and decided to invest in misinformation campaigns and lobbying against climate action. Global greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution has risen year after year.

Our communities have tools under Canadian law to put their climate costs onto the balance sheets of global fossil fuel companies. Just 20 companies are responsible for almost 30% of human-caused GHG emissions. When these companies are forced to pay a share of community climate costs, they will start recognizing the true costs of fossil fuels, changing business decisions throughout the fossil fuel economy.

Chevron and Saudi Aramco are already warning investors that they might be sued for contributing to climate change, while ExxonMobil supports a carbon tax campaign that would also protect it from future lawsuits.

Photo: Steven Godfrey.

MILESTONES

July 2018: We authored a letter, signed by over 50 BC organizations, calling on BC Premier John Horgan to enact laws clarifying the legal responsibilities of fossil fuel companies.

September 2018: We attended the Union of BC Municipalities conference, where 48% of local government officials voted in favour of sending a letter to global fossil fuel companies. While the motion was narrowly defeated, delegates discussed the importance of holding fossil fuel companies accountable.

December 2018: Following submissions by West Coast and our allies, the province's CleanBC climate plan committed to accountability mechanisms to ensure that current and future governments achieve the plan's targets.

July 2019: The Cities of Vancouver and Richmond, in the same week, voted to take action to hold global fossil fuel companies accountable for climate impacts. Staff Lawyer Andrew Gage made a compelling presentation to Vancouver councillors, explaining why local governments should demand climate accountability.



Photo: Staff Lawyer Andrew Gage with Anna Barford of Georgia Strait Alliance at UBCM 2018.

GREEN COMMUNITIES

This past year has seen our Green Communities program take a deeper dive into shoreline protection and management. Preparing coastal communities for sea level rise and storm surge is a big challenge that is engaging governments around the world, from Indonesia to British Columbia, and across all responsible governments – federal, First Nations, provincial and local. In BC, our existing laws tend to be siloed, and don't always promote the type of collaboration that will ensure healthy communities and sustainable ecosystems over the long term.

Over the last several years West Coast has used legal analysis to untangle jurisdictional complexity and support collaborative relationships across government agencies. We have also seeded conversations with new ideas about nature-based flood management by commissioning cutting-edge research. And we've advocated for new governance approaches that respect Indigenous laws and priorities, and Canada's commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In May 2019 it all came together on the ground (and in the water), with the Cities of Surrey and Delta receiving significant federal infrastructure funding for two "living dike" pilot projects in Boundary Bay. The funding application was supported by a range of government, Indigenous, and non-governmental organizations. These projects will explore how to reduce coastal flood risks by enhancing salt marsh habitat over the next 10 years.

Together with the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, West Coast is now facilitating a roundtable for government representatives that will allow information sharing and leveraging further resources to support implementation in a way that allows experimentation and learning. Currently nature-based flood management is the exception, not the rule. But we will be exploring recommendations to reform law and policy as well as funding mechanisms to make sure that these pilot projects are part of an exciting new wave that benefits coastal communities and ecosystems.



Photo: City of Surrey federal infrastructure funding announcement for the living dike pilot project (Tracy Holmes).



Photo: SFU researcher Maija Gailis steps through seagrass – an important source of blue carbon – in Mud Bay, BC (Maija Gailis).

MILESTONES

July 2018: West Coast released a revised brief exploring the engineering and design basis for the concept of a “living dike” – which involves restoring salt marshes to enhance coastal flood protection. The brief includes a cost comparison that concludes that living dike costs will be similar to costs of a conventional diking upgrade.

July 2018: Staff Lawyer Deborah Carlson presented at a Blue Carbon workshop organized by the City of Vancouver, which focused on the climate benefits of restoring coastal ecosystems, and shared new research about the carbon stored in salt marshes and sea grasses (aka “blue carbon”).

January 2019: More than 70 provincial and local staff and representatives from Indigenous organizations attended a site visit to the proposed living dike site area in Boundary Bay. The visit was part of a day-long coastal flood workshop organized by the Environmental Advisory Committee to the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (West Coast is a committee member). Shortly afterwards, the City of Delta came on board to undertake a pilot project.

January 2019: Together with SFU researcher Maija Gailis, West Coast convened a second workshop on blue carbon, bringing together researchers at SFU, UBC and the Hakai Institute with provincial, local and federal planners. A West Coast report on the workshop, as well as a related policy and technical brief on blue carbon for policymakers in BC, is forthcoming.

May 2019: Staff Lawyer Deborah Carlson presented at the Climate Resilient Coastal Natural Infrastructure conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, co-sponsored by St. Mary’s University and Natural Resources Canada, to an audience of federal, provincial and local policymakers and east coast researchers. Her presentation explained the collaborative process that led to the development of the living dike pilot projects for Boundary Bay.

May 2019: Through the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, the Cities of Surrey and Delta received approximately \$4 million to implement two living dike projects in Boundary Bay.

June 2019: With the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, West Coast convened the first living dike roundtable for government representatives to support information sharing and learning in a multi-jurisdictional setting.

PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

The past year was crucial for improving environmental assessment in British Columbia, with West Coast playing a lead role in securing the passage of a new *Environmental Assessment Act* in November 2018. The new Act is significantly stronger than its predecessor and it is worth celebrating.

As noted by staff lawyer Gavin Smith in the provincial government's press release announcing the new law:

“Environmental assessment has a critical role to play in ensuring decisions about development are driven by rigorous evidence and aligned with the needs of ecosystems, the vision of BC communities, and the rights and authority of Indigenous peoples. Today's bill introduces some significant improvements to the current environmental assessment process that move us toward that goal. We are encouraged that the Province acknowledges there is more work ahead and we look forward to contributing.”

West Coast continues to participate in ongoing work on the regulations that will implement BC's new *Environmental Assessment Act*.

MILESTONES

May 2018: West Coast led the development of a *Vision for Next-Generation Environmental Assessment in BC*, supported by 24 environmental, social justice and community groups across the province.

June-August 2018: We provided valuable resources and analysis to assist other organizations and BC residents in engaging in the government's public consultation on environmental assessment reform. West Coast made multiple submissions and encouraged our supporters to provide input as well.

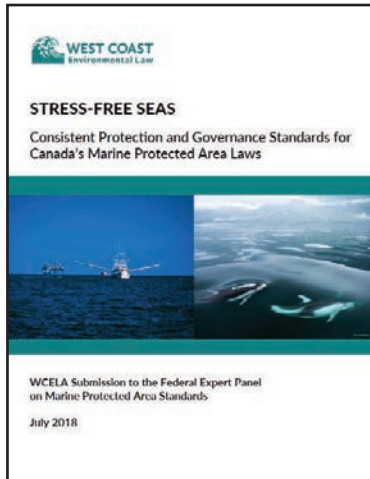
November 2018: Bill 51 was introduced in the BC Legislature, containing important improvements to provincial assessments under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The bill was passed within weeks. West Coast celebrated several positive aspects of the bill, while calling attention to outstanding concerns that must be addressed through regulation to protect the environment and build public confidence.

March 2019-present: Staff Lawyer Gavin Smith is appointed to BC's Environmental Assessment Stakeholder Implementation Committee, to provide input on the development of regulations that will operationalize the new environmental assessment regime.

Photo: Colby Stopa

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION



Stress-Free Seas: Consistent Protection and Governance Standards for Canada's Marine Protected Area Laws

July 2018

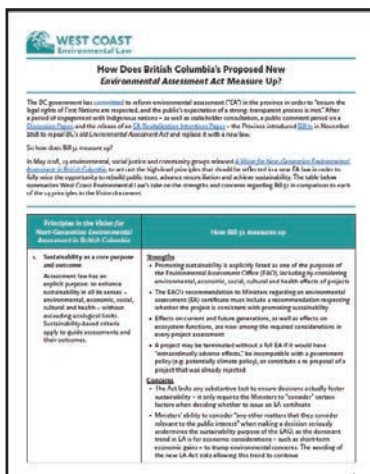
In 2018, a National Advisory Panel was tasked with gathering perspectives and offering recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard on protection standards for federal marine protected areas (MPAs). This publication, submitted to the National Advisory Panel, shows the inconsistency and incompleteness of Canada's MPA laws. It discusses how to improve these laws to provide basic protections, and better follow guidance from the world authority on protected areas, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



Caretakers of the Land and its People: Why Indigenous Trapline Holders' Legal Rights and Responsibilities Matter for Everyone

August 2018

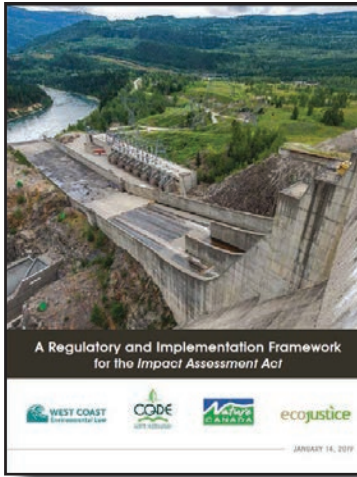
In response to repeated inquiries from Indigenous trapline holders seeking to protect their rights, West Coast conducted in-depth research on the laws pertaining to traplines in BC. This report shares Indigenous legal perspectives on trapline governance, and outlines a series of legal tools in Canadian law for protecting trapline holders' rights and responsibilities. It also lists recommendations for governments to help address the problems – including recognizing Indigenous law regarding traplines, conducting “big picture” assessments to manage cumulative effects, and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



How Does BC's Proposed New Environmental Assessment Act Measure Up?

November 2018

During BC's environmental assessment revitalization process, 24 environmental, social justice and community groups released *A Vision for Next-Generation Environmental Assessment in British Columbia* to set out the high-level principles that should be reflected in a new EA law in order to fully seize the opportunity to rebuild public trust, advance reconciliation and achieve sustainability. This publication summarizes West Coast Environmental Law's take on the strengths and concerns regarding BC's proposed EA law introduced in Bill 51, in comparison to our *Vision for Next Generation EA in BC*.



A Regulatory and Implementation Framework for the Impact Assessment Act

January 2019

In preparation for the passage of Canada's new *Impact Assessment Act*, West Coast and our allies developed a comprehensive set of recommendations on two key regulations that will support the implementation of this new law. This document outlines our expert proposals for ensuring rigorous environmental assessments, meaningful public participation, and decision-making that respects ecological integrity and Indigenous rights. The publication was developed in collaboration with Nature Canada, Ecojustice, and the Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE).

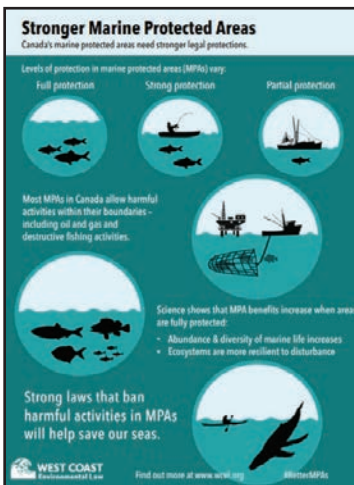


Ocean Law Developments in Canada 2015-2019

August 2019

In 2015, ministerial mandate letters charged three federal Ministers with responsibility for reforms on fisheries, protected areas, shipping, and wildlife protection. These commitments, along with the Oceans Protection Plan announced a year later, have resulted in tremendous change in the laws and policies affecting the marine environment. This report charts progress on Canadian marine law reform in four areas: ocean governance, ocean protection, marine spills, and marine wildlife. The report was written by West Coast Staff Lawyer Stephanie Hewson for SeaBlue Canada – an alliance of environmental NGOs that are cooperating in advocating for a better protected ocean.

WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Infographics: Marine Protected Areas & Stronger Marine Protected Areas

May 2018

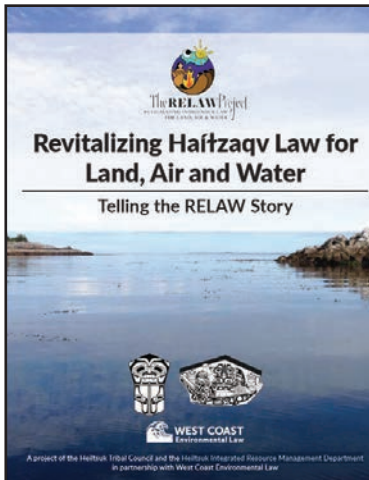
Human activities like fishing, shipping and oil exploration increasingly put pressure on our oceans and marine life. This two-part infographic highlights the benefits of marine protected areas in Canada, demonstrating how strong legal protections in MPAs can help save the seas. The first infographic introduces the purpose and value of MPAs for ecosystems and wildlife. The second infographic looks at the varying legal protections given to MPAs in Canada, and explains the need for strong, consistent, and updated standards to regulate human activities within MPAs.



Oil & Marine Protection Don't Mix: Inconsistent Regulation Across Canada

July 2018

Until recently, there was no consistent legal standard to ban oil and gas activities from marine protected areas in Canada. In fact, the majority of Canada's MPAs have allowed extractive uses within their boundaries, with no prohibitions on damaging industrial activities like oil and gas. This infographic map shows the inconsistent regulation of oil and gas activities across Canada's coasts and MPAs, illustrating the need for strong marine protection standards that prohibit harmful industrial activity in all MPAs. In 2019, after many submissions by West Coast and allies, the federal government announced it would no longer allow oil and gas activities in MPAs.



Revitalizing Haítzaqv Law for Land, Air and Water: Telling the RELAW Story

October 2018

In September 2017 the Haítzaqv began working on a RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water) project with the goal to create legislation that will be enacted under the forthcoming Haítzaqv Constitution. Given the importance of the ocean in Haítzaqv society, leadership identified the need to have an Oceans Act rooted in their own ḡvilas/laws. This publication summarizes the Haítzaqv RELAW journey over the course of one year, describing the intensive research and community engagement about upholding Haítzaqv ḡvilas (law) in their marine jurisdiction and governance practices.



Suing Fossil Fuel Giants: An Introduction for Local Governments

April 2019

In January 2017, over 50 BC-based environmental groups asked the province's local governments to consider a class action lawsuit to recover a share of their climate-related costs from global fossil fuel companies. Since then a number of local governments in the U.S. have launched such lawsuits, and in BC there is growing interest in potential legal avenues to pay for rising costs of climate change. This backgrounder explains why climate lawsuits matter for our communities, and addresses common questions and concerns about proposed actions that local governments can take to recover local climate costs from the fossil fuel industry.

PEOPLE OF WEST COAST



WEST COAST STAFF

Back row, left to right:

Linda Nowlan, Alan Chou, Stephanie Hewson, Andrew Gage, Julia Kidder, Rayanna Seymour-Hourie, Barbara Everdene, Dr. Larry Reynolds, Eugene Kung, Natalia Assis.

Front row, left to right:

Alexis Stoymenoff, Maxine Hayman Matilpi, Georgia Lloyd-Smith, Deborah Carlson, Jessica Clogg, Lucy Hough, Eileen Stephens, Ceciline Goh.

(Absent: Anna Johnston, Gavin Smith.)

2018-2019 LAW STUDENTS AND LEGAL VOLUNTEERS

Jobe Chan	Justin Fishman	Christopher Mottershead	Laura Sharp
Dan Cheater	Benjy Katzeff	Ally Neale	Amanda Spitzig
Tunç Dogan	Isabelle Lefroy	Kyle Schille	Whitney Vicente
Alexandre Dumais	Christie McLeod	Jessie Schwarz	

2018-2019 RESEARCH & COMMUNICATIONS INTERNS

Maija Gailis	Munir Dossa
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2018-2019 EDRF LAWYERS

Each year, West Coast works with a network of talented lawyers who represent clients across BC 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 that were active in 2018-2019, with special thanks to the 'starred' lawyers below for their extensive contributions to the EDRF this year:

Robert Anderson QC	Robin Gage	Bertha Joseph	Michael Ng
Bill Andrews*	Jason Gratl*	Ethan Krindle	Dominique Nouvet
Arden Beddoes	Erin Gray*	Robert Lesperance	Richard Overstall
Morgan Blakley	Alan Hanna	Lilina Lysenko*	Daniel Reid
Matt Boulton	Chris Harvey QC	Angela McCue*	Larry Reynolds*
Karen Campbell	Sean Hern	Greg McDade QC	Michael Lee Ross
Patrick Canning*	Emma Hume	Bruce Mclvor	James Tate
Neil Chantler	Nathan Hume	Sonya Morgan	Michael Welsh QC
Lisa Fong*	Grace Jackson	Matthew Nefstead*	

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 work on our priority environmental law objectives, helps us to achieve success in all program areas, and importantly, allows us to leverage additional funds from other granting agencies, organizations 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 funders from across Canada and beyond:

RESEARCH FOUNDATION:

- 444S Foundation
- Bullitt Foundation
- Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- Gencon Foundation
- glasswaters foundation
- Global Greengrants Fund (Swift Foundation)
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- New Venture Fund
- North Growth Foundation
- Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions
- Sitka Foundation
- Tides Canada
- Tides Foundation
- Vancouver Foundation
- White Rock Surrey Naturalists Society

ASSOCIATION:

- Oak Foundation
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- WestWind Foundation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REVENUES

	For year ended April 30, 2019				For year ended
	Association	Foundation	EDRF	Total	April 30, 2018
Law Foundation Grant	470,000	-	-	470,000	425,000
Allocation to EDRF	(120,000)	-	120,000	-	-
Donations	3,177	372,377	-	375,554	289,420
Grants & Contracts Earned	631,303	1,169,203	-	1,800,506	2,026,327
Other Income	191,900	25,812	48	217,760	481,902
Total Revenue	1,176,380	1,567,392	120,048	2,863,820	3,222,649

GRANTS AND EXPENSES

Personnel Related	704,905	884,073	-	1,588,978	1,653,098
Professional Services	10,287	9,117	-	19,404	21,269
Rent & Office Expenses	172,792	101,167	-	273,959	271,211
Amortization	5,747	1,794	-	7,541	15,705
EDRF Grants	-	-	120,000	120,000	100,000
Program Expenses	251,855	293,255	48	545,158	798,217
Fundraising	-	43,722	-	43,722	94,247
Administration Fee	-	177,300	-	177,300	211,632
Total Grants and Expenses	1,145,586	1,510,428	120,048	2,776,062	3,165,379
Excess of revenue for the year	30,794	56,964	-	87,758	57,270

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:

- 83% to programs
- 9% to administration
- 8% to fundraising



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 organizations. 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: 200 – 2006 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2B3.
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 to ensuring that environmental protection is enshrined in law; at the same time, you will realize 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.

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Cover photo: Stephanie Trimble

