

A low-angle photograph of a dense forest. The trees are tall and thin, with their branches reaching towards the sky. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect. The ground is covered in green moss and ferns. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

**WEST COAST  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW  
2012 IMPACT REPORT**

# Message from Executive

**F**or close to 40 years, West Coast Environmental Law has worked to secure strong federal and provincial environmental laws and provided legal support to British Columbians to ensure their voices are heard on important environmental issues. Through our environmental legal aid services, citizens and community groups who could not otherwise afford it are able to participate meaningfully and democratically in decisions about resource development that have the potential to profoundly affect their lives.

In the face of growing opposition to tar sands megaprojects — like the Enbridge tankers and pipelines project — in 2012 the federal government introduced an omnibus budget bill (Bill C-38) that guts long-standing environmental laws and seeks to silence citizens and environmental groups in order to smooth the way for projects like Enbridge's. The legal changes weaken protection for fish and species at risk; gut environmental review processes; increase politicization of environmental decisions; and limit the participation of citizens in decisions to approve resource development that affect our families and communities. In a time of austerity, the budget bill set aside millions for the policing of Canadian charities, in an effort to weaken our important voice in the development of public policy.

West Coast has been at the forefront of responding to this unprecedented attack on nature and democracy through the Save Canada's Environmental Laws and Black Out Speak Out/Silence, On Parle initiatives. We have offered extensive analysis and commentary on the implications of Bill C-38, which puts at risk our land, water, climate and the voices of Canadians. Our call to defend nature and democracy was taken up across the country, and on June 4th, the Black Out Speak Out day of action, over 600 organisations, representing millions of citizens participated.

This groundswell reflects the deep anger and concern that Canadians feel about the direction our country is headed. It affirms the critical nature of West Coast's work to secure, defend and strengthen our safety



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

*Jessica Clogg, Executive Director and Senior Counsel*

# Director and President

net of environmental laws, and it leads us to reflect on what kind of legacy we want to leave for future generations. The threats posed to our current way of life from climate change are real and growing, and tar sands oil production, which will fill the Enbridge pipeline, is Canada's fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions. A major pipeline oil spill in one of BC's renowned salmon rivers or in our sensitive coastal waters could wipe out not only jobs and livelihoods in the fishing and tourism industries, but the very foundation of First Nations cultures, economies and governance structures.

It is time for a dialogue about how we create a 'greener economy' that creates and sustains jobs for Canadians without environmental destruction. But this dialogue won't happen if the corporate profits of big oil companies continue to be given priority over the things that Canadians really value.

We are at a profound moment in our nation's history. For those who hold dear this vast and beautiful land and the democracy that binds us together, silence is not an option. Our annual report offers highlights of our work in 2011-12, but West Coast Environmental Law will be speaking out for Canadians and our environment for as long as it takes.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'M' and 'U' followed by a horizontal line.

*Mark Underhill, President*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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# Access to Justice

*West Coast Environmental Law works to make the legal system available and accessible to all, so that when people need to use the law to protect our environment, they are able to. Through our access to justice programs we provide direct legal assistance to citizens, invest in the network of environmental lawyers in the province, and act as an environmental law watchdog.*

## **A HELPING LEGAL HAND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES**

Through direct legal advice and funding to hire lawyers at a legal aid rate – West Coast puts the power of the law in the hands of ordinary British Columbians who want to protect their environment through our environmental legal aid programs.

## **YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW WATCHDOG**

The Environmental Law Alert program serves as an environmental law watchdog; we provide legal information and analysis to the public on breaking environmental law stories and changes to BC's environmental laws, and share this analysis with decision-makers.

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

Building the Environmental Law Bar helps train tomorrow's great public interest environmental lawyers – through professional development webinars for lawyers, student internships and the world's first Twitter Moot for law students.

*“I know first-hand that we are not going to be able to protect this planet for future generations without the help of lawyers. Those of us on the grounds on the front line do not have money and so the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund is essential. Having a voice is the first step, but having a lawyer to back up your voice tremendously improves the chances of actually making progress and future generations are depending on us leave something for them.”*

*Alexandra Morton, EDRF grantee*

# Environmental Legal Aid



Pesticides and playgrounds don't mix. But a group of parents in Vernon had trouble convincing their School Board of that. After trying to persuade the Board to stop using a commercial pesticide, Par III, with a long list of health warnings, to control weeds on school yards, Parents for Healthy Playspaces turned to West Coast for environmental legal aid. A lawyer funded through our Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF) launched an appeal under the School Act – which is not generally thought of as an environmental statute – which finally convinced the School Board to sit down and talk. After many meetings, the Board adopted a policy banning cosmetic pesticide use on school yards.

## MILESTONES:

- April 2012: BC Timber Sales dramatically scales back logging in Jefferd Creek watershed on the Sunshine Coast, after a Drinking Water Protection Officer confirms that the proposed logging posed a health risk to local residents. Legal advice and a hydrologist's report funded by the EDRF contributed to this win.
- December 2011: The Tsilhqot'in National Government, with a grant from the EDRF, successfully obtained an injunction preventing Taseko Mines Ltd. from proceeding with exploratory work related to the proposed New Prosperity Mine.
- November 2011: Josette Wier successfully challenged Health Canada's refusal to re-examine the impact of pesticides containing Glyphosate on amphibians, in light of new scientific evidence. The case will make it easier for members of the public to request such "special reviews" in the future.
- October 2011: School District 22 agrees to ban cosmetic pesticide use from school yards.
- September 2011: The Capital Regional District rejects an application to allow a controversial resort immediately adjacent to the Juan De Fuca Marine Trail Provincial Park after a massive public outcry and an EDRF-funded legal opinion arguing that the zoning bylaw would be illegal as contrary to the Region's official community plan.
- July 2011: The Northwest Institute for BioRegional Research releases legal analysis, funded through the EDRF, examining why the federal and provincial environmental assessments of the controversial Prosperity Mine reached contradictory results.
- July 2011: The BC Supreme Court suspends an environmental assessment certificate that would allow pumping of the Aquifer below the Chemainus River on the grounds that the Halalt First Nation had not been adequately consulted. This decision is under appeal, but in October 2011, the BC Court of Appeal refused an application to allow pumping to go ahead until the appeal is heard in full.
- May 2011: The BC Court of Appeal confirmed that the province of BC had not adequately consulted the West Moberly First Nations when it approved coal mine exploration in the winter range of a threatened caribou herd. The Supreme Court of Canada has subsequently refused to hear an appeal of this decision.

# Environmental Law Alert



Noted fisheries biologist, Alexandra Morton, wrote that West Coast was “key to the freedom I now enjoy to pursue my work on viruses.”

Why? Because Bill 37, the Animal Health Act, would have made it illegal for Ms. Morton, along with other activists, scientists and journalists, to speak out about diseases on farms (including fish farms). Although the Minister of Agriculture insisted that this was not true, West Coast wrote to the Minister confirming that the Bill could silence those concerned about agricultural diseases, and suggested that a simple amendment would solve this problem. Within days the Minister publicly announced that such an amendment would be introduced, and days later the government decided not to pass the Bill at that time.

## MILESTONES:

- April-June 2012: Environmental Law Alert authors a series of Alerts on the impact of Bill C-38 on the environment and on the ability of Canadians to be heard in environmental decisions. These Alerts included analysis of the impacts of the Bill on Canada’s Fisheries Act, preferential treatment for the oil and gas industry, and a series of questions Canadians might want to ask their MPs about Bill C38.
- February 2012: West Coast Environmental Law was the lead author of a letter – signed onto by Greenpeace, David Suzuki Foundation, Forest Ethics, Wildsight, and Conservation Northwest – responding to the Ministry of Environment’s proposed new “Environmental Mitigation Policy” – a policy which could transform – for the better or worse – how environmental decisions are made in BC.
- February 2012: Environmental Law Alert responded to Environment Minister Peter Kent’s assurances that Canada has a post-Kyoto plan to address climate change, pointing out that the initiatives announced to date fall well short of meeting the Canadian government’s own targets for GHG emissions reductions.
- January 2012: Environmental Law Alert publicly defended Canadians who had signed up to make oral statements in the Enbridge Pipelines and Tankers Project Joint Review Panel against attacks by Ethical Oil.
- December 2011: West Coast Environmental Law made detailed comments on a proposed new provincial Natural Resources Road Act, pointing out how the Act could be strengthened to protect the environment.
- November 2011: West Coast Environmental Law was one of only a few environmental organizations invited to testify before the Legislature’s Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides. Working with the Canadian Cancer Society, the David Suzuki Foundation, Organizing for Change and others, West Coast encouraged members of the public to make their views known, resulting in the largest public response to a BC Legislative Committee’s public consultations ever.
- September 2011: A series of Environmental Law Alerts highlighted that the controversial New Prosperity Mine looked a whole lot like the old (and rejected) Prosperity Mine.
- September 2011: Environmental Law Alert pointed out that the Federal government’s decision to withdraw from the Pacific North Coast Integrated Marine Area Plan, which it had been developing with the Coastal First Nations and the government of BC, would actually decrease the changes of the Enbridge Pipeline being built.
- June 2011: Environmental Law Alert blew the whistle on BC government policies that subsidize ski resort development by making public lands available at bargain basement prices.

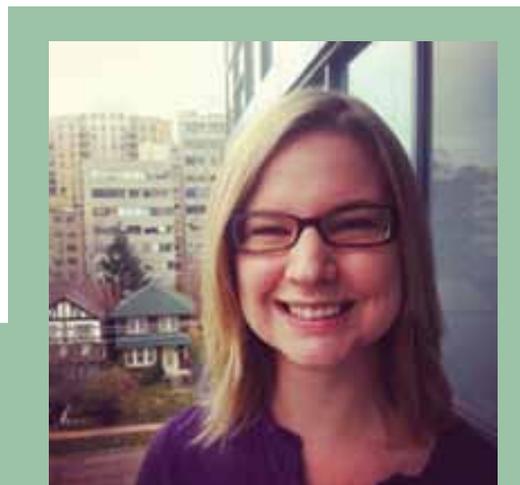
# Building the Environmental Law Bar

*"I had a great experience as a WCEL intern. One of the highlights of my experience was when I represented my law school in the World's First Twitter Moot. It was a fun challenge to have a legal competition using a social media platform like Twitter. The event helped me to form a network of likeminded law students from across the country, many of whom I have since met in person. The moot reached a really broad audience - I was surprised at how many people approached me on their own to talk about caribou and treaty rights.*

*The most memorable moments of my internship came during visits to communities. I met clients whose stories detailed personal and community impacts from mega projects like the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline. I was able to see for myself where the pipeline would go and what is at risk. The courage of these communities taught me that it is important to choose what I want my legal career to stand for.*

*The chance to be involved with the Northern Gateway review process, combined with the strong mentorship offered by the WCEL lawyers, made this internship an exceptionally valuable educational experience. I am very grateful to the lawyers and staff at WCEL for teaching me advocacy I never could have learned in a law school classroom."*

Nikki Petersen, 2012 legal intern at West Coast Environmental Law and participant in West Coast's first ever Twitter Moot



## MILESTONES:

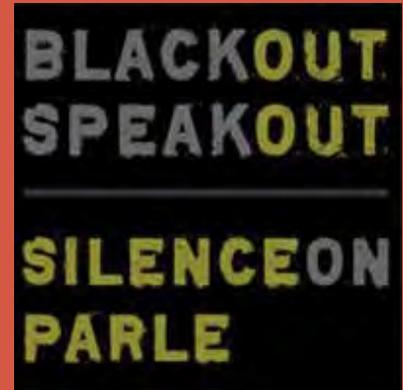
- April 2012: Some of BC's top Aboriginal Law lawyers present at our webinar on the relationship between Aboriginal and Environmental law. Thanks to Peter Grant, Greg McDade, Christopher Devlin and William Andrews for presenting.
- February 2012: West Coast Environmental Law hosts the world's first ever Twitter Moot – based on an EDRF-funded case about Aboriginal Treaty rights and an endangered Caribou Herd. For a while during the event it was the Trending (most talked about) Twitter topic in Canada.
- December 2011: A webinar on the professional and ethical issues faced by public interest lawyers, with speakers from (in addition to West Coast) Pivot and West Coast LEAF, is well attended.
- May-August 2011: Law students from across the country (as well as one Political Science Masters student, and 2 communications intern) fill our office to capacity, gaining first-hand experience working with West Coast's lawyers.
- June 2011: West Coast launches our environmental law webinar series– on the public right to fish, and its implications for mining projects.

# Law Reform Advocacy

*West Coast Environmental Law has had a hand in shaping virtually every major federal or provincial environmental law.*

## **SAVING CANADA'S ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS**

This year our Save Canada's Environmental Laws initiative – including our involvement in Black Out Speak Out and other coalition activities – sought to protect and strengthen the long term investment Canadians have made in strong environmental laws that safeguard nature and democracy.



If you tried to access our website on June 4th, 2012 you would have found a dark site, with an invitation to join us and over 600 organizations from across Canada in the Black Out Speak Out/Silence, On Parle campaign. With 11 other environmental non-profit organizations across the country, we set out to coordinate a call for action that would unite organizations and individuals across sectors and backgrounds in the face of the unprecedented attack on nature and democracy embodied in the massive federal omnibus budget bill – Bill C-38 – that was before Parliament in Spring 2012.

Bill C-38 weakened Canada's most important environmental laws and sought to silence Canadians who defend them. West Coast played a lead role in analyzing the implications of these changes (see featured publications in this report).

Our call to defend nature and democracy was taken up across the country, and on June 4th, the Black Out Speak Out day of action, over 600 organizations, representing millions of citizens, darkened our websites in a symbolic show of unity, while tens of thousands of Canadians tweeted, blogged, signed petitions and wrote their decision makers. Media events were held coast to coast, including a Vancouver event.

June 4th 2012 was the start of a sustained initiative that we anticipate will see an increasingly broad range of charities and groups from the business, public and not-for-profit sectors join in this protest and reaffirm our shared commitment to the core Canadian values of protecting nature and democracy.



*British Columbians believe we must have strong laws to protect our environment – history has proven that we cannot rely on industry to act in our best interest. With West Coast Environmental Law’s vast expertise in virtually all areas of municipal, provincial, and federal environmental law, no other organization is better positioned to safeguard our environment through law.*



*Thomas Berger QC, Honourary Board Member*

## **MILESTONES:**

- Ongoing: We continue to work on frameworks for model laws around environmental assessment, a fundamental legal tool to ensure environmental, cultural and economic impacts are considered in the planning and decision-making process.
- June 2012: Black Out Speak Out (Silence on parole!), a campaign that we began together with 11 other environmental organizations nationwide, secured over 600 partner groups to help us spread the message about the threats to nature and democracy in Canada.
  - Groups brought together by the initiative include:
    - major national and international environmental NGOs such as Greenpeace and Sierra Club
    - workers across Canada, including from the energy sector (PSAC, BCGEU, CUPE, Steelworkers, Communications Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Canadian Federation of Nurses Union, etc.)
    - four federal political parties
    - the Assembly of First Nations and the Union of BC Indian Chief
    - human rights giant Amnesty International
    - churches from four different denominations
    - approximately 80 businesses from across the country
    - cultural icons like Margaret Atwood and Bruce Cockburn
  - #blackoutspeakout trended on Twitter in Canada on our June 4th day of action.
  - 10,000 people joined the campaign on Facebook.
  - The Black Out Speak Out website received over 170,000 hits.
  - 32,000 emails were sent to members of Parliament opposing Budget Bill C-38.
  - Over 65,000 individuals signed the Black Out Speak Out/ Silence on parole! petition.
- June 2012: We analyzed federal environmental law rollbacks against our Principles for Strong Environmental Laws, issuing a failing grade to the federal budget bill.
- March 2012: We launched the “Stop the rollback of Canada’s Environmental Laws” petition on [envirolawsmatter.ca](http://envirolawsmatter.ca).
- February-March 2012: 58 diverse organizations endorsed our Principles for Strong Environmental Laws (see publications, below).

# Strengthening Environmental Laws

*West Coast Environmental Law invests in the long-term well-being of our environment by working for strong environmental laws that are based on rigorous scientific research, are the result of democratic processes, and that honourably address Aboriginal Title and Rights; by educating the public about environmental law issues; and by advocating on behalf of individuals and communities to protect the environment through law.*

## **KEEPING BC OIL SPILL FREE**

West Coast helps communities, First Nations, and individuals to understand and use their legal rights to protect their communities and the environment from the threat of tar sands supertankers and oil pipelines.

## **CLEAN, GREEN ENERGY FOR BC**

West Coast researches, develops and negotiates responsible law reform solutions to change the way we make decisions around energy, and to promote a sustainable energy future for the province.

## **PROTECTING OUR LAND AND WATER FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**

West Coast Environmental Law works on developing laws and policies aimed at enabling the long-term resilience of BC's environment and communities.

## **PREPARING COMMUNITIES FOR THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Liveable and Sustainable Communities program uses the law to strengthen local government environmental policies and practices while enhancing community resilience and liveability.

# Keeping BC Oil Spill Free



The Yinka Dene Alliance, a group of five First Nations in British Columbia, are among the inspiring leaders fighting against the expansion of oil pipelines and tankers. They have brought together a movement of First Nations using their own Indigenous laws to issue legal bans on oil pipelines through their lands and waters – in the Save the Fraser Declaration – and have sent their message loud and clear in British Columbia for several years. This year they decided to take their message on the road, or more specifically, the rails. The Freedom Train crossed the country carrying over 60 people ranging in age from 11 to 72 from communities that stand to be impacted from tar sands projects, including the Enbridge Northern Gateway oil pipelines and tankers project. The Freedom Train rolled its way from BC and gathered steam at events in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba before it finally arrived in Toronto. In Canada’s financial nerve-centre, chiefs from the Yinka Dene Alliance and allied Nations faced Enbridge executives at the company’s Annual Shareholders’ Meeting as hundreds of people gathered at a rally downtown to show their support.

The trip not only took the members of the Yinka Dene Alliance and many other First Nations directly to the decision-makers at Enbridge, but also allowed them to spread their message beyond British Columbia and add to the massive groundswell of public support for their opposition to projects which threaten their territories and way of life. West Coast Environmental Law was honoured to be invited to travel with the Freedom Train to witness the many events along the route and to provide legal assistance at Enbridge’s Annual Shareholders’ Meeting.<sup>1</sup>

## MILESTONES:

- May 2012: West Coast lawyer directly questions Enbridge CEO at company’s annual shareholders’ meeting.
- March 2012: West Coast travels to Parliament Hill as part of a delegation to lay out opposition to the Enbridge pipelines and tankers project.
- January 2012: West Coast and allies host series of free public webinars to help people understand the environmental review process for the Enbridge pipelines and tankers project.

<sup>1</sup> West Coast’s legal support to the YDA with respect to the Enbridge Annual Shareholders Meeting was only one contribution to this important event. The Freedom Train was made possible by the generous support of many individuals and organisations, with particular recognition to the YDA community members ‘back home’ who made financial and in-kind contributions that supported their youth, Elders and leaders in participating. The West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation was not responsible for the hard costs associated with the Freedom Train.

# Clean, Green Energy for BC



BC's renewable electricity plans have been in state of flux over the past year, with a provincial change of course away from a commitment to meeting the lion's share of BC's electricity needs through renewable sources. Where and how electricity should be generated in BC, and how much of it we really need, are critical questions that have yet to be properly addressed. West Coast has advocated for electricity planning in BC that considers our long term needs for energy – including for switching away from fossil-fuel sources – while ensuring that cumulative impacts of electricity development are minimized and responsibly managed. We have engaged in discussion with community groups, First Nations, industry and government to try to find a responsible path forward that protects First Nations rights, protects the environment, ensures community involvement and will help BC to contribute to the fight against climate change by reducing and shifting our energy consumption.



## Nature and Climate

BC forests store massive amounts of carbon, and keeping that carbon in the forest is an enormous climate benefit. However, until recently, there was no legal recognition of this important forest value. The new BC Forest Carbon Offset Protocol defines carbon accounting rules for projects that protect forests and their stored carbon through forest conservation and sustainable forest management practices. West Coast was a member of the Technical Working Group that advised the province on the initial draft of the protocol, and played a lead role when environmental organizations provided ongoing input in the months preceding the release of the final version. The protocol is a first step towards a new, sustainable stream of revenue for rural communities, particularly First Nations, and offers hope that there can be a fresh way of doing business in BC forests.

### MILESTONES:

- March 2012: Gitanyow Huwilp Recognition and Reconciliation Agreement ratified. Among other things, this agreement reached between the Province and the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs (with legal support from West Coast) provides for a new Conservancy in the Hanna Tintina watersheds, a network of thousands of hectares of new biodiversity areas set aside for values like old growth management, wildlife and water; a shared decision-making framework between the parties; and sharing of the carbon benefits arising from new conservation measures.
- August 2011: Forest Carbon Offset Protocol designated under the Emissions Offset Regulation.

# Liveable, Sustainable Communities

## MILESTONES:

- May 2012: Planning Institute of BC Annual Conference – West Coast Environmental Law meets with local government planners at adaptation workshop and introduces new resource.
- March 2012: West Coast Environmental Law meets with newly elected local government officials at the Progressive Governance Forum hosted by the Columbia Institute and presents latest findings regarding climate change adaptation strategies.
- November 2011: Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium hosts workshop on developing Regional Climate Services, West Coast Environmental Law is a participant.



Travelling around the province for workshops and meetings gives West Coast staff an opportunity to hear community concerns directly. Changing weather patterns (or “wacky weather” as one local put it) and related impacts are a frequent topic of conversation. Science from respected organizations like the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium based at the University of Victoria confirms local observations: the climate is changing in BC. Local governments, responsible for land use decisions, infrastructure, and emergency planning in their communities, are on the frontlines when it comes to adapting. From 2010-2012 West Coast worked with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and the Climate Action Secretariat to develop a new resource to assist in implementing climate change adaptation strategies at the local level. While some impacts, like sea level rise or increased wildfire risk may trigger specific responses, we found that building overall community resilience is also key to adapting to an uncertain future. Low impact development, green infrastructure, efficiencies in operations and the use of resources, and finding ways to cooperate and collaborate with neighbouring communities can all contribute to community resilience. The new resource will be released in late summer 2012, as a project of the BC Regional Adaptation Collaborative.

“

*Thank you for advocating for people, animals and nature – we are all interconnected. Using the law is a powerful approach to bring lasting change in a socially recognizable way. Thank you for doing what you do!*

”

*West Coast Supporter*

# Select Publications

## West Coast Environmental Law Association



### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LAW FOR A HEALTHY, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE CANADA: A CHECKLIST FOR STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS**

*Environmental Assessment Law for a Healthy, Secure and Sustainable Canada: A Checklist for Strong Environmental Laws* outlines a blueprint of what strong environmental assessment legislation must include, at a minimum, to protect core Canadian values related to nature, democracy, and responsible development and ensure wise decisions are made about proposed development through an effective, efficient, inclusive and robust decision making process. We offer ten principles as a non-exhaustive checklist against which legislative proposals on this issue may be evaluated. A simplified list of the ten principles for strong environmental laws has been endorsed by 58 organizations across Canada.



### **MYTHS & REALITIES: THE 2012 FEDERAL BUDGET AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS**

The federal government's budget announcement in late March 2012 and the budget bill (C-38) that followed in April 2012 were accompanied by statements from the government on the intent of environmental law rollbacks. West Coast Environmental Law lays bare some of the 'myths' about the 2012 federal budget and environmental laws to present the reality: the 2012 budget bill gutted Canada's long-standing environmental laws and put Canadians health, safety, and environment at risk to serve the financial interests of big oil and mining companies.



### **WHAT BILL C-38 MEANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

*(Also in French Ce que signifie le projet de loi C-38 pour l'environnement; published in partnership with Ecojustice Canada)*

This publication is an explanation of the top 10 items of environmental concern in the 2012 budget bill. The changes amount to: weakened protection for fish and species at risk; an entirely new — and less comprehensive — environmental assessment law; broad decision making powers for Cabinet and Ministers; and less accountability and fewer opportunities for public participation.



West Coast Environmental Law is one of the best environmental sources on the web... [S]o thrilled to know that West Coast Environmental Law exists, we so need you all. Thank you.



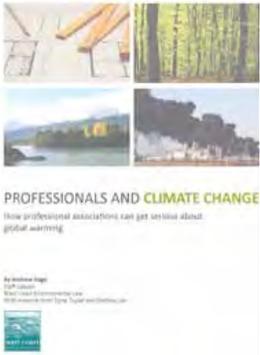
West Coast Environmental Law Facebook fan



### STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS REPORT CARD ON BILL C-38

In our *Strong Environmental Laws Report Card on Bill C-38* (Report Card and Legal Analysis Backgrounder), we asked: does the federal omnibus budget bill make the grade on environmental assessment? We based our analysis on ten foundational criteria required for an effective and principled approach to environmental assessment of resource projects. The ten principles were endorsed by 58 Canadian organizations representing scientists, physicians, lawyers, advocates for democracy and citizen groups. The result: failing or incomplete grades on all accounts, and a blow to the future health, security and sustainability of our nation.

## West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation



### PROFESSIONALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Our ground-breaking report, *Professionals and Climate Change*, examines the role of professional associations – the organizations that govern biologists, engineers, foresters and other professions – in responding to climate change. Citing examples of leadership in several different Canadian professional organizations, the report makes the case that climate change raises professional and ethical issues that no profession can choose to ignore. We are delighted to see some of BC’s professional associations, such as the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists and the Association of BC Forest Professionals, exploring leadership on climate in ways that’s consistent with the report.



### ENBRIDGE BACKGROUNDERS

West Coast continues to release a series of short publications to help community members understand and participate in the government’s process to consider the Enbridge pipelines and tankers project. In addition to written materials, West Coast also co-hosted a series of online seminars to help people understand the environmental review process, and released video recordings of the seminars through our Youtube channel.

# West Coast People

West Coast is extremely fortunate to have expert, dedicated staff and board members; we are also incredibly fortunate to have these qualities in the indispensable volunteers, student interns, allies, and professionals in the broader legal community who are involved in our work. Their collaboration is crucial to achieve West Coast's longstanding role in protecting the environment through law. We extend our deepest thanks to our many environmental champions and supporters.

## STAFF TEAM

Back row left to right: Todd Monge, EDRF Coordinator and Communications Manager; Andrew Gage, Staff Counsel; Deborah Carlson, Staff Counsel; Josh Paterson, Staff Counsel.

Front row left to right: Jeanette Ageson, Communications and Donor Relations Officer; Ceciline Goh, Office Administrator; Jessica Clogg, Executive Director and Senior Counsel; Lucy Hough, Director of Development; Rachel Forbes, Staff Counsel.



## INTERNS

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Hannah Askew  
Nicole Bakker  
Afshana Dhanji  
Chris Evans

Rita Farkas  
Nicholas Guindon  
Taylor Hunt  
Meaghan Lowe  
Amanda Macdonald

Jessica MacDonald  
Elizabeth Makin  
Julia Martignoni  
Celine Lee  
Maia McEachern

Anna Novachek  
Nicole Petersen  
Kris Statnyk  
Shohei Suzuki  
Aurora Zhou

Passionate and knowledgeable lawyers representing equally passionate clients are the backbone of the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF). These dedicated advocates work for partial pro-bono fees on behalf of clients throughout the province, to stop environmental injustices and to give citizens a voice in protecting their communities and wild places. West Coast salutes the consummate professionals who worked on EDRF cases in 2011-2012:

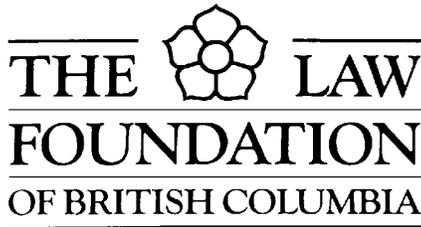
David Aaron  
Bill Andrews  
Glen Bell  
Scott Bernstein  
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Murray Browne  
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Christopher Devlin  
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Tim Thielmann  
Mark Underhill

# Our Supporters



## SUSTAINING PARTNER:

### THE LAW FOUNDATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Law Foundation of BC has been West Coast Environmental Law’s Sustaining Partner since 1974. The Law Foundation’s funding enables us to work on our priority objectives, helps us to achieve success in all program areas, and most 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 long-standing and diverse partnerships of our foundation funders. This past year, we were supported by foundations from across Canada and the United States.

Ashoka  
At the Kitchen Table Foundation  
Doreen and Bernard Crook Fund  
Eden Conservation Trust  
Gencon Foundation  
glasswaters foundation  
Greater St. Louis Community Foundation

The McLean Foundation  
New Venture Fund  
North Growth Foundation  
Oak Foundation  
The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia  
Schein Foundation  
Stewart Fund

Swift Foundation  
Tides Canada Initiatives Society  
Vancity enviroFund  
Vancouver Foundation  
WestWind Foundation  
Wilburforce Foundation  
The Willow Grove Foundation

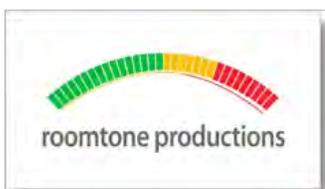
## COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CNC Repair & Sales Inc.      Mountain Equipment Cooperative      Patagonia Environmental Grants Fund

## 1% FOR THE PLANET CONTRIBUTORS



West Coast Environmental Law is a 1% For the Planet recipient, a program through which environmentally-conscious companies pledge 1% of their sales to environmental initiatives. Thanks to the companies who have pledged their support for the environment by donating to West Coast through the 1% For the Planet program:



*“Our business is dependent on a healthy and intact ecosystem, so West Coast Environmental Law helps protect and defend the environment in various ways, and in turn they’re protecting our business.”*

*Spirit of the West Adventures, 1% for the Planet member*

# Financials

## EXCERPTS FROM THE COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUE, GRANTS AND EXPENSES

### REVENUES

	For year ended April 30, 2012				For year ended April 30, 2011
	Association	Foundation	EDRF	Total	Total
Law Foundation Grants	518,209	59,791	–	578,000	357,803
Allocation to EDRF	(200,000)	–	200,000	–	200,000
Donations	–	146,487	–	146,487	202,532
Grants & Contracts Earned	32,400	400,007	–	432,407	374,926
Other Income	26,195	23,508	22	49,725	30,294
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>376,804</b>	<b>629,793</b>	<b>200,022</b>	<b>1,206,619</b>	<b>1,165,635</b>

### GRANTS AND EXPENSES

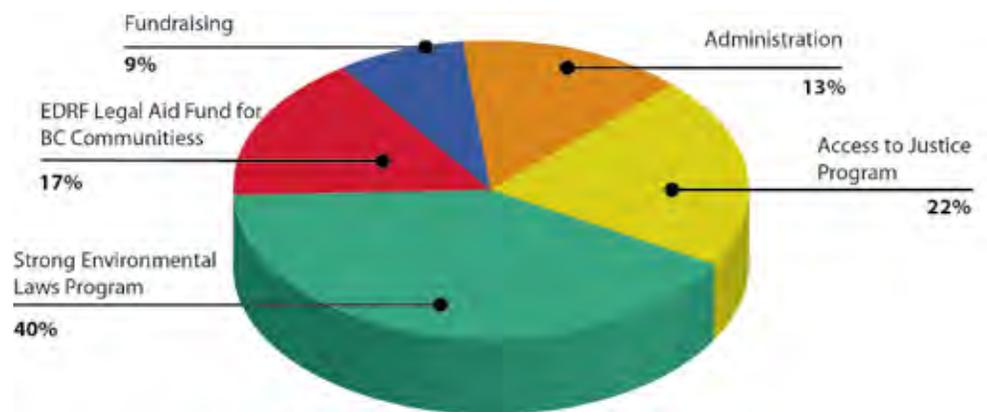
Personnel Related	298,062	347,522	–	645,584	565,895
Professional Services	14,153	8,692	–	22,845	21,086
Office Expenses	86,763	69,898	22	156,683	148,264
Amortization	15,643	5,703	–	21,346	22,067
EDRF Grants	–	–	200,000	200,000	200,000
Program Expenses	31,174	105,148	–	136,322	74,840
Fundraising	–	18,153	–	18,153	4,606
Thompson Award Costs	–	–	–	–	4,775
Administration Fee	(67,915)	67,915	–	–	–
<b>Total Grants and Expenses</b>	<b>377,880</b>	<b>623,031</b>	<b>200,022</b>	<b>1,200,933</b>	<b>1,041,533</b>
<b>Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year</b>	<b>(1,076)</b>	<b>6,762</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>5,686</b>	<b>124,102</b>

Excerpt from the combined 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:

79% to programs  
13% to administration  
9% 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 because of our strong community of support – because one donor at a time has made a commitment to be part of the solution.

We are not funded by government, which means your individual donation really does make a fundamental difference in allowing West Coast to provide British Columbians with environmental legal aid, 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.
- **Leave a Legacy.** By leaving a gift to West Coast Environmental Law 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-west-coast-environmental-law>. Or, call 604-601-2511 for more information and other giving options.

West Coast Environmental Law is a non-profit group of environmental law strategists and analysts dedicated to safeguarding the environment through law. We believe in a just and sustainable society where people are empowered to protect the environment and where environmental protection is law. For almost 40 years we have played a role in shaping BC and Canada's most significant environmental laws, and have provided legal support to citizens, First Nations, and communities on practically every environmental issue imaginable.



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