



SIERRA
CLUB
BC

Sierra Report

ONE EARTH. ONE CHANCE.

FALL/WINTER 2014

Find out where we're working in B.C.

MESSAGE FROM BOB PEART, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In October, standing on the shore of Teztan Biny (Fish Lake), deep in the heart of Tsilhqot'in territory, I breathed a sigh of gratitude and relief. Thanks to the hard work and commitment of the Tsilhqot'in people, along with their partners, Friends of Nemaiah Valley, and many others, this culturally-important lake and surrounding watershed will not be destroyed by mining.

I was in Tsilhqot'in territory to celebrate the dedication of Dasiqox Tribal Park by the Tsilhqot'in people and to honour their recent success in the Supreme Court of Canada.

While the full ramifications of the Tsilhqot'in decision and Dasiqox Tribal Park are still unknown, I am hopeful these initiatives signal a major shift in how British Columbia approaches First Nations' title and rights, resource development and conservation.

Historically, Sierra Club BC has worked with First Nations communities on numerous campaigns, including the Great Bear Rainforest, Clayoquot Sound, Flathead River Valley and most recently, in collaboration with Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs (RAVEN) Trust on Pull Together.

Having just celebrated my one-year anniversary with Sierra Club BC, I am inspired by the dedication of our staff, board and many supporters as we continue the hard work needed to shift B.C. to a low-carbon economy.

PULLING TOGETHER TO STOP ENBRIDGE

When the federal government approved Northern Gateway, with conditions, Sierra Club BC immediately launched Pull Together, a campaign to raise funds for First Nations' legal challenges against Enbridge's pipeline and tankers project.

Our campaigning, communications and community-organizing expertise got Pull Together off the ground. In partnership with RAVEN Trust, we are already nearing our goal of \$300,000 for the Gixaala, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, Nak'azdli, Heiltsuk, Nadleh Whut'en and Haida nations.

Thanks to the ongoing financial support of our members Sierra Club BC continues to find innovative approaches to collaborating and connecting with communities across the province as we work to stop projects that are harmful to our health, our communities and our climate.



Pull-Together.ca

MEET HELEN COLE



Congratulations to Helen Cole who celebrates her 100th birthday this year. Helen's respect and love for the land stems from growing up on a farm, and

her desire to create a safe place for the "planet's critters" has fueled her generous support of Sierra Club BC. Our staff and board of directors applaud Helen's long life of service and wish her the best for this centenary year.

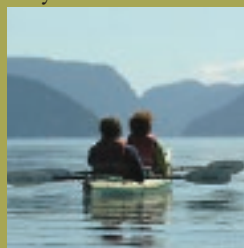
MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES

We are very proud of our local groups' accomplishments this year.

In April, Sierra Quadra celebrated the creation of a new park in their backyard, after 17 years of committed campaigning, culminating in a marathon fundraiser to enable BC Parks to purchase the land.

Sierra Victoria organized the Tar Sands Solidarity and Healing Walk in June in the capital city, bringing together citizens of all faiths to walk in solidarity with First Nations impacted by the expansion of Alberta's tar sands.

In Powell River, Sierra Malaspina teamed up with the Myrtle Creek Stewards and Powell River Sea Cadets to install a fish ladder to help Coho salmon return to their ancestral spawning grounds. The restoration project wrapped up with a successful community celebration featuring storytellers from Sliammon First Nation.



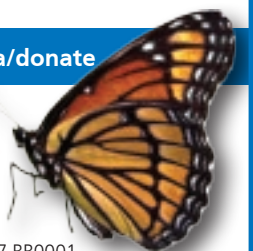
Carmanah Valley
Clayoquot Sound
Great Bear Rainforest
You've been with us every step of the way. Thank you.

Sierra Club of BC Foundation is a trusted friend and B.C.'s oldest environmental group. Please support our work by leaving a bequest to Sierra Club of BC Foundation in your will. Your legacy will keep B.C.'s wilderness wild and safeguard it for generations to come.

www.sierraclub.bc.ca/donate

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OUR WORK AROUND THE PROVINCE



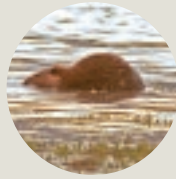
GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

We are in the homestretch to finalize the last steps of the landmark 2006 Great Bear Rainforest Agreements. In January **we presented a proposal**, jointly with the forestry industry, to the BC government and First Nations, to set aside another 500,000 hectares of rainforest in this area. With leadership from the province the proposal can be implemented in the coming weeks.



FRACKING

In March we **launched a court case** against the BC government for repeatedly granting energy companies short-term water use approvals for fracking. Changes to the Water Sustainability Act made just days before the hearing legalized industry's irresponsible practice and unfortunately we lost the case. We continue to campaign for a moratorium on all new fracking in B.C.



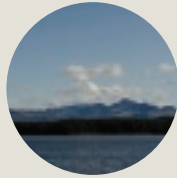
SITE C

Though Site C passed environmental assessment, the \$8 billion mega-project is far from a done deal. With the financial feasibility decision still pending, Sierra Club BC will be hard at work over the next few months, continuing to **educate and mobilize** the public and supporting Treaty 8 First Nations' legal challenges.



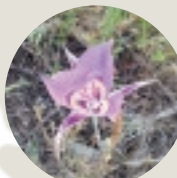
SPECIES AT RISK

We celebrated a big court **win for species at risk** in February. The lawsuit challenged the federal government's multi-year delays in producing recovery strategies for the Pacific humpback whale, Nechako White Sturgeon, marbled murrelet and Southern Mountain caribou.



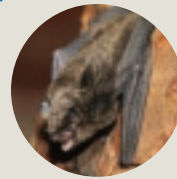
FISH LAKE

The Canadian government **rejected Taseko's** second bid to build an open-pit gold and copper mine at Fish Lake. Sierra Club BC was a major player in increasing the profile of this issue. Thank you to our supporters who sent over 7,000 action letters through our website!



KINDER MORGAN - PARKS

We helped **collect and deliver over 25,000 letters** of comment to the provincial government regarding Kinder Morgan's application to adjust boundaries of four parks to make way for their Trans Mountain pipeline proposal.

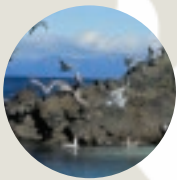


FLATHEAD

We joined 15 bat researchers for the third annual Flathead bioblitz, **researching bats** and their habitat, an especially important task as White Nose Syndrome makes its way west.

NANAIMO INCINERATOR

Over **4,500 people signed** Sierra Nanaimo's petition to stop Metro Vancouver's garbage from ending up in Nanaimo. Nanaimo city council formally rejected the polluting project in April.



ENBRIDGE

Over **2,000 people marched** for an oil-free coast in May, culminating in a lively rally at the B.C. Legislature.

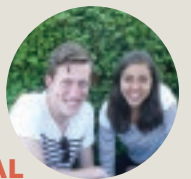


EDUCATION

Our environmental educators **reached over 1,200 students** in 2013/2014, and delivered 150 programs to schools across the province.

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (YELP)

23 youth gained valuable leadership and civic engagement skills in YELP's inaugural year. YELP participants tackled restoration projects, media workshops, school presentations and outdoor learning.



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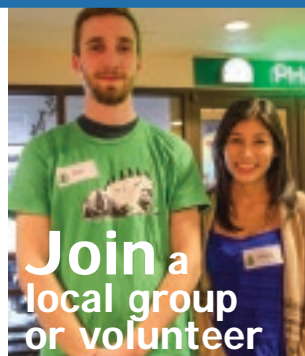
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