

ecojustice

VICTORIES REPORT | 2020



Building the case for a better earth

Our Vision

A thriving environment,
stable climate,
and healthy communities
protected by effective,
well-enforced laws
throughout Canada.

Our Mission

Ecojustice uses the law
to defend nature,
combat climate change,
and fight for a healthy
environment for all.



Dear friend,

We send our heartfelt well wishes to you and your loved ones. We have all, in some way, felt the impact of COVID-19 on our lives and communities.

And while the coronavirus pandemic has required Ecojustice to adjust course, our mission remains unchanged and as relevant as ever.

Our work continues because it must. When we come through this pandemic — and we will — you can count on Ecojustice to be there. Critically, this means holding our elected leaders to account for their duty to protect the environment — especially as pressure mounts for governments to loosen environmental standards and kick-start the economy.

We have already seen this in action. In April, the Alberta and Ontario governments made sweeping moves to weaken environmental reporting and public participation.

Ecojustice envisions a brighter environmental future, one in which you and your community are protected by strong, well-enforced laws.

To that end, we will continue to take on tough courtroom battles and secure legal precedents and legislative gains that safeguard Canadians and the environment. The victories shared on the following pages — a testament to your impact — are evidence of that.

In the face of the climate and biodiversity crises, it is essential that long-running efforts to protect the environment continue — even while we're in the midst of a pandemic. This is how we ensure a safer, healthier future on the other side of all this.

Here's our promise to you. We will continue to adapt our strategies to account for coronavirus-related disruption. We will seize opportunities to influence what the post-pandemic recovery looks like while preparing to fight back against the possible onslaught of environmental deregulation. And we will be there to defend your interests when polluters and profits are prioritized over people.

At this unprecedented moment, **we are immensely grateful for your support.**

Thank you for all you do to build the case for a better earth.

Sincerely,



Devon Page | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lori Williams | BOARD CHAIR



Healthy Communities

The coronavirus pandemic has laid bare our interdependence, and taking care of each other has taken on new importance. In this moment of crisis, we have seen governments across Canada take sweeping action to protect our communities.

We welcome their decisive action to tackle COVID-19 head on. But this isn't the only public health threat that demands government intervention.

Thousands of Canadians are exposed to harmful levels of air pollution every day. And we are increasingly exposed to toxic chemicals in our food and the products we use daily. There is a direct connection between the strength and enforcement of our laws and the health of our environment.

With your support, Ecojustice is using the power of the law to safeguard our communities and fight for your right to a healthy environment. The victories shared below are **evidence of your impact.**

MAJOR MILESTONES



Thanks to your support, Ecojustice lawyers appeared at the Supreme Court of Canada to ensure Canadians **can speak up on environmental issues without fear of undue legal retribution.**

You also helped fuel a legal advocacy campaign that led the Commissioner of Competition to launch an inquiry into alleged misleading labelling of so-called 'flushable' wipes.

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS DEFENDED



You stood up for the environmental rights of Ontarians by supporting bold legal action.

Ecojustice's lawsuit, on behalf of Greenpeace Canada, led the Ontario Divisional Court to rule that Premier Ford's government acted illegally when it scrapped the cap and trade program — aimed at reducing the province's greenhouse gas emissions — without public consultation as required by Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR).

These environmental rights continue to come under attack. Premier Ford's government recently used the cover of the COVID-19 pandemic to pass a regulation that effectively suspends public consultation, as well as appeal rights and the consideration of environmental values under the EBR. With your continued support, the Ecojustice team will monitor the situation and recalibrate our strategy as needed.

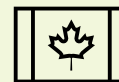
RECORD FINE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME



You are protecting the health of Canadians by making sure **polluters pay for their environmental crimes**.

Ecojustice's two lawsuits, on behalf of Environmental Defence, prevented the federal government from turning a blind eye on Volkswagen for its illegal emissions-cheating software that allowed some 128,000 diesel cars to pollute up to 35 times the legal limit of toxic nitrogen oxides.

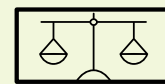
That Volkswagen was charged and fined \$196.5 million, the largest environmental payout in Canadian history, is thanks to the sustained legal campaign you made possible.



proudly
CANADIAN



30 years
OF SERVICE



31 active
COURT CASES

***“Holding major
polluters accountable for
their environmental crimes
in court is why we work
with Ecojustice.”***

- TIM GRAY, ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE



Nature

Humans are not separate from nature. A 2019 United Nations report by the world's leading scientists warned that one million plant and animal species are at risk of extinction worldwide due to human activity. At this scale, biodiversity loss will impact the health, wellbeing, and future of the Earth in ways that are incomprehensible.

Yet we are seeing governments in Canada relax environmental protections — before and under the cover of the global pandemic. When it comes time to rebuild our COVID-19-impacted economy, governments will be tempted to roll back laws and policies put in place to protect nature.

In this context, Ecojustice's work to defend wildlife and fragile ecosystems is more important than ever. As you will read below, **your support is making a difference.**

A WIN FOR FISH AND THEIR HABITAT



You helped restore legal protections for fish and the habitat they need to reproduce, grow and survive.

Because of your support, Ecojustice's multi-year law reform campaign resulted in a strengthened *Fisheries Act*. The new Act restores Harper-era rollbacks and **puts in place a framework to protect fish habitat while supporting local economies** that depend on healthy fisheries.

In the months and years ahead, this modernized law will be a valuable tool to safeguard Canada's fisheries and the lakes, rivers and oceans that sustain them.

QAT'MUK CONSERVED



Thanks to your steadfast support, Qat'muk is safe for generations to come. Qat'muk is the Ktunaxa name for the region of ecological, spiritual and cultural significance that includes the Jumbo Valley in British Columbia.

Ecojustice's legal victory, on behalf of Jumbo Creek Conservation Society and Wildsight, quashed a key permit for a proposed ski resort in the Jumbo Valley — home to threatened grizzly bears. This legal win helped clear the path for the Ktunaxa Nation to reach an agreement with the federal government **to create the Qat'muk Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area.**

PROTECTION FOR TEZTAN BINY



Mining and land development projects often put communities and the environment at great risk. You kept Teztan Biny (Fish Lake), a site of great importance to the T̓silhqot'in Nation, safe from a proposed copper-gold mine.

The Federal Court of Appeal sided with Ecojustice lawyers, who intervened on behalf of Mining Watch Canada, and upheld the federal government's decision not to approve the mine.

Along with **protecting the Fish Lake watershed, and affirming the T̓silhqot'in peoples' rights over their traditional lands**, this victory is a testament of what's possible when we work together.

IN DEFENCE OF WILDLIFE



Your impact extended to Atlantic Canada, where **you gave voice to some of the region's most iconic species** — including the mainland moose, monarch butterfly, and wild Atlantic salmon.

Ecojustice lawyers intervened in a case to hold the Nova Scotia government to account for its years-long failure to protect and recover endangered wildlife. In Newfoundland and Labrador, an Ecojustice lawsuit set a precedent that says aquaculture projects can't proceed without a robust environmental assessment.

“Ecojustice made it possible for us to go to court to protect the Jumbo Valley.

That victory was an important part of keeping Jumbo wild forever.”

- JOHN BERGENSKE, WILDSIGHT





Climate

COVID-19 is a tragedy. Our elected governments have rightfully prioritized responding to this public health emergency. At the same time, they must not lose sight of the climate crisis.

The science is clear: We must take urgent, decisive action to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid climate change's most catastrophic impacts on human health and security.

And by supporting Ecojustice, you're helping. For the record, **here's what we accomplished together.**

A STRONGER FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



You restored transparency and balance to Canada's environmental assessment process by helping shape and pass the new **Impact Assessment Act** (IAA).

This legislative victory is the culmination of three years of hard work by the Ecojustice community. Together, we made sure issues such as **climate change, Indigenous rights, and sustainable economic development are all factored into environmental assessments.**

But our work doesn't end here. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney has launched a constitutional challenge aimed at derailing the IAA. With your continued support, Ecojustice lawyers will be in court to defend what we, alongside thousands of like-minded Canadians, fought so hard to secure.

UNIFIED AND NATION-WIDE CLIMATE ACTION



When the Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta governments launched separate legal challenges aimed at derailing the federal government's ability to introduce and implement climate solutions, such as carbon pricing, Ecojustice got involved because the law is clear: Protecting the environment is a shared federal and provincial responsibility.

Thanks to your support, Ecojustice's successful interventions led to legal precedents in Ontario and Saskatchewan that confirmed the federal government's authority to step in when provinces fail to effectively tackle climate change.

Now, this high-stakes legal challenge is headed to the Supreme Court of Canada. And you can be sure that Ecojustice lawyers will be there to make the case that governments must take **unified, national action to safeguard the climate for current and future generations.**

OUR BIGGEST CLIMATE LAWSUIT (YET)



Your support powered the launch of a groundbreaking climate lawsuit — our most ambitious to date.

In November, Ecojustice helped seven extraordinary young people sue the Government of Ontario for weakening the province's greenhouse gas emissions targets. And they did so to protect every Ontarian's Charter rights to life, liberty, and security of the person.

As this case moves forward, we'll be counting on you to **stand with our courageous clients as they fight for their futures and a safe, livable climate for all.**

MORE LEGAL ACTIONS



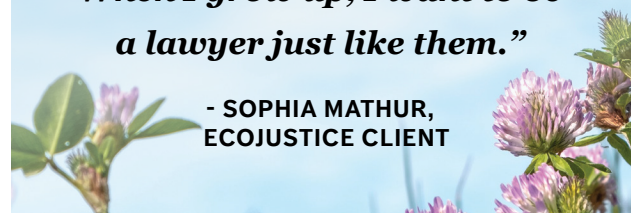
This year, you helped us launch a lawsuit against the Government of Ontario over the **protection of the Temagami, an ancient forest** that is both an ecological treasure and carbon sink.

You also stood up for principles of fairness and Canadians' Charter-protected rights to freedom of expression and association by helping us launch a legal challenge of Premier Jason Kenney's controversial public inquiry into environmental organizations concerned about the climate crisis.

“Together with Ecojustice lawyers Danielle and Fraser, I’m going to court to fight for a safe climate future.

When I grow up, I want to be a lawyer just like them.”

**- SOPHIA MATHUR,
ECOJUSTICE CLIENT**



#GenClimateAction

Thanks to the support of people like you, Ecojustice is able to take the Government of Ontario to court for weakening its climate targets.

Meet our clients: Seven young people who are passionate about building the case for a better tomorrow.

IF I EVER BRING CHILDREN INTO THIS WORLD, I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SHARE HEALTHY AIR, LAND AND WATER, A SAFE CLIMATE, AND MY CULTURE.

SHAELYN WABEGIIG



SOPHIA MATHUR



ALEX NEUFELDT



BEZE GRAY



ZOE KEARY-MATZNER



MADISON DYCK

SHELBY GAGNON IS ANISHINAABE. SHE IS AN ARTIST AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER FOCUSING ON INDIGENOUS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO COMMUNITIES.



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“ OPEN FOR BUSINESS IS DOUG FORD'S FAVOURITE CATCH PHRASE. BUT IF HE REALLY CARED ABOUT PROTECTING THE ECONOMY FOR ENTREPRENEURS LIKE ME, HE WOULDN'T HAVE ROLLED BACK THE PROVINCE'S CLIMATE TARGETS. WE CAN HELP STOP CLIMATE CHANGE AND CREATE JOBS. BUT WE NEED THE POLITICAL WILL TO DO IT. ”

— ALEX NEUFELDT,
ECOJUSTICE CLIENT



Follow this case online at
ecojustice.ca/case/GenClimateAction



Financials

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Fiscal year ended October 31, 2019

REVENUE

	2019	2018
Donations	5,172,622	4,851,403
Grants	1,764,403	1,674,703
Bequests	333,366	722,455
Investment Income	307,349	7,338
Cost Awards and Recoveries	111,664	86,126
Contribution from University of Ottawa	100,000	100,000
	\$ 7,789,404	\$ 7,442,025

EXPENSES

Salaries and Compensation*	4,847,278	4,058,722
Facilities and Office Contracts	1,091,881	1,000,651
Litigation Program and Support	637,593	625,089
Fundraising Activities	407,850	367,887
Public Education	305,736	280,360
Contracts	296,657	404,463
Travel	168,477	185,553
Amortization of Property and Equipment	144,817	145,540
Human Resources	111,333	61,683
Science and Research	21,299	7,333
	\$ 8,032,921	\$ 7,137,281

(Deficiency) Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	(243,517)	304,744
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NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 5,028,747	\$ 4,724,003
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 4,785,230	\$ 5,028,747

* Remuneration of \$75,000 or more paid to the top ten employees and contractors for services totaled \$1,031,037 (2018 - \$925,944) for the year ended October 31, 2019. The Society did not pay any of its Directors remuneration for their services on the Board of Directors.

Ecojustice maintains internally restricted funds to safeguard the Society's ability to continue as a going concern and to ensure the completion of current cases. Our full audited financial statements are available on our website at ecojustice.ca.

Year in Review



Kept Teztan Biny safe from a proposed copper-gold mine.



Went to the Supreme Court of Canada to defend Canadians' right to protect our environment.



Went to court to defend Nova Scotia's endangered species.



Launched our biggest climate lawsuit to date.



Held Premier Ford to account for violating Ontarians' environmental rights.



Set a precedent in N.L. that says aquaculture projects require full environmental assessments.



Cleared the path for Qat'muk to be protected for generations to come.



Set legal precedents that confirm the federal carbon pollution law constitutional.



Launched a lawsuit to protect Temagami, an ancient forest and carbon sink.



Made sure Volkswagen paid for its emissions fraud.



Prompted an inquiry into alleged misleading labelling of so-called 'flushable' products.



Helped shape and pass the new Impact Assessment Act and modernize the Fisheries Act.



Challenged the Alberta government's unlawful inquiry into environmental groups.



Marked a milestone in the fight to protect the Northumberland Strait from industrial pollution.



Supported the Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation's fight to protect their traditional territory.

Printed on 100 per cent post-consumer recycled fibre

VANCOUVER
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TORONTO
OTTAWA
HALIFAX

**Thanks for fighting for
a safer, healthier future
by supporting Ecojustice!**

ecojustice.ca

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