

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking ahead to the next 50 years of transforming the legal landscape

In the summer of 1974, a dedicated group of law students launched the organization that is today West Coast Environmental Law. In fall 2024 we celebrated our "golden anniversary" alongside friends and allies at the Bill Reid Gallery. A highlight of the 50th anniversary event was acknowledging 50 years of changemakers for environmental justice with the Andrew Thompson Award.

The Andrew Thompson Award was established in 2002 by West Coast Environmental Law and the Thompson family as a legacy to Dr. Andrew Thompson, a groundbreaking BC environmental lawyer who was one of West Coast's first directors. In celebration of West Coast's 50th anniversary year (2024-25), the organization <u>presented</u> the award to a number of individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to environmental protection and sustainability in BC through the law.

As our 50th anniversary year draws to a close, we are looking ahead to the transformation of the legal landscape we hope to achieve in the years to come.

As part of this process, in spring 2025 we brought together two dozen youth changemakers for a facilitated dialogue session – Envisioning the Future of Environmental Law: The Next 50 Years – where they discussed their visions for how strong Canadian and Indigenous laws could contribute to ecological and community resilience in BC over the next 50 years. Powerful themes emerged from this dialogue, including revitalizing Indigenous law, legal pluralism (the co-existence of multiple legal orders within a territory), togetherness/intersectional justice, and the power of art in giving voice to those impacted by environmental harms and in expressing law, especially within Indigenous legal traditions.

In the face of enormous challenges confronting the environment, it gives us hope to be walking alongside youth who share West Coast's commitment to catalyzing the deeply systemic changes that are needed to begin to heal our relationship with the planet. In doing so, we also honour the elders who have guided us to the path we are on today.

We are so grateful to the donors, funders, supporters, volunteers, partners, clients and allies who are on this journey with us. Through our "ecosystem of action" across a range of programs, West Coast continues to shape innovative legal solutions, guided by our values, the communities we serve, and our commitment to environmental justice.



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JESSICA CLOGG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR& SENIOR COUNSEL



LISA MATTHALIS

BOARD PRESIDENT

WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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

TRANSFORMING THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE

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

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

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

We support the self-determination of Indigenous peoples and the revitalization of strong, living Indigenous laws, consistent with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and calls to action such as those of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This understanding is foundational to our mandate, and enriches and strengthens our shared legal landscape.

We believe that diverse communities must be involved in developing, applying and upholding the law in order for legal orders and human societies to thrive, and to protect the environment we rely on. We are committed to building community and individual capacity to engage with law and environmental decision-making to achieve shared environmental goals. Through deep community connections and mutual learning, we build more resilient solutions and become more effective legal practitioners.

This annual report is a joint publication of the West Coast Environmental Law Association, the West Coast Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund Society (EDRF) and the West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation.

OUR SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

West Coast Environmental Law is made up of three provincially incorporated societies: West Coast Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund Society, West Coast Environmental Law Association and West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FUND

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

ASSOCIATION

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

RESEARCH FOUNDATION

WCEL Research Foundation is a registered charity producing trusted, in-depth legal research to shape laws, regulations, standards and objectives that promote the maintenance of environmental quality. The Research Foundation educates the public about environmental law issues and advocates on behalf of individuals and communities to prevent legal violations and improve the effectiveness of environmental laws and regulations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

West Coast Environmental Law Association / EDRF Society

Gavrielle Tran Jonaki Bhattacharyya Lisa Matthaus Lorene Oikawa Tracy Wachmann

West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation

Amy Jeffrey-Uehara Andrew Ambers Gavrielle Tran June Bird Karenna Williams Kimbaya Carriere Lisa Fong Lisa Matthaus Lorene Oikawa Madeline Muzilh Kelson Nigel Baker-Grenier Sheri Walsh

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^{*} 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).



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE

Fifty years ago, a dedicated group of law students came together to kick off an innovative summer project: providing legal information and advice to residents concerned about environmental problems. Although envisioned as a temporary project, it quickly became clear that there was an ongoing need for legal services in support of environmental and community health in BC. This humble student-run law clinic soon became West Coast Environmental Law.

On November 21st, 2024 West Coast celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a reception at the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art – marking five action-packed decades of transforming the legal landscape in service of nature and communities.

ABOUT THE ANDREW THOMPSON AWARD

The Andrew Thompson Award (ATA) was established in 2002 by West Coast Environmental Law and the Thompson family as a legacy to Dr. Andrew Thompson, one of BC's foremost environmental lawyers and a pioneer in environmental and resource law. For our 50th anniversary, West Coast honoured "50 Years of Changemakers for Environmental Justice," recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to environmental protection and sustainability in BC though the law.

ATA YOUTH CHANGEMAKERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ATA Youth Changemakers for Environmental Justice recognized youth (ages 16-35) who have made important contributions to environmental justice in BC, and their vision for how strong Canadian and/or Indigenous laws could contribute to ecological and community resilience in BC over the next 50 years.

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West Coast Executive Director Jessica Clogg with ATA recipient Chief Na'Moks. Awards were presented by Gidzahl-Gudsllaay (Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson), K.C., Haida Nation / Photo: Jamie Poh/Hayf Photography



The West Coast Environmental Law Team

PEOPLE OF WEST COAST (2024-25)

WEST COAST STAFF

Jessica Clogg,

Executive Director & Sr. Counsel

LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL

Alida Morris Andrew Gage Anna Johnston Deborah Carlson

Erin Gray

Estella White - ḥinačačišt

Eugene Kung Fiona Koza

Georgia Lloyd-Smith Jessica Magonet Joanna El-Mikati Katłıà Lafferty Maria Lucas

Matthew Nefstead

Maxine Hayman Matilpi Michael Bissonnette

Navjot Jassar Peyvand Fralick

Rayanna Seymour-Hourie

Shawn Smith
Shelby Lindley
Stephanie Hewson

STUDENTS & INTERNS

Avishka Lakwijaya Benjamin Foucault Chantal Bacchus Hayden King Kai Fig Taddei Kristen Theriault Sophie Harrison Tra Mi Do Le

COMMUNICATIONS

Alexis Stoymenoff Alan Chou Ben Dodd Hanna Araza

DEVELOPMENT

Sambriddhi Nepal Georgia Beaty Sulagna Sarkar

OPERATIONS

Winnie Tam Ceciline Goh Lillian Qiao Tom Beggs

EDRF LAWYERS

Each year, West Coast works with talented lawyers across BC who represent clients through the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF), working at partial pro-bono rates. We would like to acknowledge the following lawyers who worked on EDRF cases in 2024-2025:

Alexia Mpidi Bita (Cadoret)
Angela McCue
Anne Muter
Anthony Ho
Benjamin Isitt
Carla Conkin
Chris Tollefson
Eric Pedersen
Ian Lawson

Ian Moore

Jason Gratl Jesse Langelier Joshua Lam Kate Gunn Krista Vaartnou (Isberg)

Lisa Fong Maryam Putris Matt Boulton Matthew Nefstead Michael Welsh Myron Barr Noah Ross Patrick Canning Rhys Volkenant Richard Pearce Ryan McCracken Sean Hern

Tim Howard

West Coast Environmental Law People of West Coast

OUR ECOSYSTEM OF ACTION

West Coast Environmental Law protects the environment through several areas of programmatic work

Access To Justice

We provide legal resources and assistance for those seeking to defend land, air, water and communities from environmental harm. We offer free legal advice to groups and individuals, and help fund the cost of lawyers and experts through our Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF).

RELAW

Revitalizing Indigenous law for land, air and water. Working alongside Indigenous nations revitalizing, articulating, and applying aspects of their laws in relation to environmental governance.



Strong Environmental Laws

Strengthening federal and provincial environmental laws that protect nature, the climate and communities.



Environmental Governance

Building solutions for environmental governance that braid Indigenous and Canadian law.



Climate & Energy

- Leveraging community support to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for costs associated with climate change impacts, through the Sue Big Oil campaign.
- Providing legal and strategic support for communities fighting the climate crisis, including revitalizing, applying and enforcing Indigenous law decisions about land and water stewardship.



Green Resilient Communities

Working with experts and decision-makers to develop nature-based climate solutions grounded in Indigenous and Canadian law.



Marine Protection

Using Canadian, Indigenous and international law to implement strategic marine plans and strengthen legal protection for the coast and ocean.



Environmental Law Alert

West Coast acts as a public interest environmental law "watchdog," sounding the alarm when weak laws threaten environmental protection, and ensuring that people hear all sides of the story when it comes to environmental legislation, issues and policies. Our expert analysis helps the public understand these complex issues and why they matter.

MILESTONES

MAY-JUNE 2024

Burnaby, Port Moody, Cumberland and Sechelt vote to join Sue Big Oil.

NOVEMBER 2024

- West Coast celebrates 50th
- Anniversary and presents
- Andrew Thompson Award.
- With the Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition, we convene rep from 13 First Nations and 18 loca governments to collaborate on flood protection.

OCTOBER 2024

RELAW team lead Rayanna Seymour-Hourie honoured for supporting the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance in expressing the laws of the peoples of the Lower Fraser, at a Blanketing Ceremony in Semá:th longhouse.

JANUARY 2025

Our client Gitxaała Nation argues in the BC Court of Appeal that BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) is legally enforceable.

APRIL 2025

EDRF grantees Ken and Norine McDonald go to court to affirm the common law riparian right to water quality in BC to hold upstream polluters accountable

West Coast provides non-partisan resources and tools for voters to engage with environmental law issues in the federal election.

Pemberton becomes the 10th BC community to join Sue Big Oil. Nelson joins soon after.

JUNE 2025

- After months of our advocacy,
 resources and supporter engagement on Canada's Ocean Noise
 Strategy, the federal government announces it will co-lead the High Ambition Coalition for a Quiet
- Our report, An Ounce of Prevention, shows how weak regulatory
 oversight can lead to environmental disasters and how strong laws
 can deliver better results.

MAY 2025

West Coast hosts a dialogue & reception honouring Andrew Thompson Award Youth Changemakers for Environmental Justice.

JULY 2025

EDRF grantees Concerned Citizens of Baynes Sound celebrate Province's decision to cancel the Crown lease of a polluting shipbreaking facility.



Top row (L-R): Sophie Harrison and Benjamin Foucault / Bottom row (L-R): Chantal Bacchus, Kai Fig Taddei and Avishka Lakwijaya

BUILDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW BAR

It's not that easy to find work as a young lawyer, in any type of practice, and it's especially challenging to find work in organizations like West Coast Environmental Law. We were really happy to have been able to welcome five amazing law students to our team in summer 2025: Sophie Harrison, Benjamin Foucault, Avishka Lakwijaya, Kai Fig Taddei and Chantal Bacchus. Summer placements at West Coast only last 14 weeks, but we hope the students have taken away some skills, experiences and connections that will be helpful throughout their careers. And we're happy to report that Sophie will be joining us next year as an Articled Student! Speaking of Articled Students, we recently had the wonderful experience of celebrating our talented colleague Joanna El-Mikati, who was sworn in as a lawyer after successfully completing her articles at West Coast during 2024-2025.

In addition to our summer law student placements, this year our Access to Justice team hosted two law students from the University of British Columbia for a once-weekly volunteer placement from September to March through Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC). We were thrilled that Ben Foucault, one of our PBSC students, won the Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award for their outstanding volunteer work at West Coast during their term.

Our legal experts have become familiar faces at UBC's Allard Law School as well, as adjuncts leading a seminar in Sustainable Development Law in the 2024-2025 academic year.

We're hopeful that the opportunities that students have with West Coast assist them in developing their professional careers, and we're also very grateful for the contributions they bring to us, with their passion and fresh insights.

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SPOTLIGHT: ADDRESSING SHIPBREAKING IN BAYNES SOUND

West Coast's **Access to Justice (A2J) program** supports individuals, grassroots community groups, and First Nations on the front lines of environmental justice issues in BC by offering Summary Legal Advice, funding through the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF), and connection to networks concerned about the same issues or to non-legal supports.

Often, the communities that face systemic barriers are hit hardest by environmental harm and climate change. We understand that social identities like race, gender, sexuality, disability, immigration status, income, rural location and age often magnify the ways in which people experience environmental harms, and that the environment includes anywhere people live, work and play.

This year, communities reached out to us for help with diverse issues including air and water quality in rental housing; concerns about the impacts of factories, logging, fracking and mining on forests, air and water quality and access; pesticide and herbicide use; and the lack of enforcement of environmental laws.

With the support of the EDRF and lawyers Patrick Canning and Carla Conkin, **Concerned Citizens of Baynes Sound (CCOBS)** is advocating that the provincial and federal governments stop marine pollution from shipbreaking. Baynes Sound, an ecologically significant area for Pacific salmon and herring, marine birds and shellfish, is also the site of a shipbreaking facility that has drawn concern due to recorded deposits of toxic effluent into the ocean. The effluent contained levels of copper, zinc and lead that exceeded provincial water quality guidelines by up to 23,950%. These substances impact the growth, health and longevity of marine life.

In July 2025, the Province of BC announced the cancellation of the shipbreaking company's Crown lease, an important step towards stopping the pollution and protecting the environment and community health. CCOBS continues to raise their voice – alongside community members, K'ómoks First Nation, Tla'amin First Nation, Qualicum First Nation and the NGO Shipbreaking Platform – for stronger federal regulation of the shipbreaking industry and greater environmental protections.

Association • EDRF Society Impact Report 11



RELAW Team Members / Photo: Havf Photography

REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS LAW

REINVIGORATING RELAW

Indigenous law revitalization requires long-term visioning. For West Coast's RELAW team (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water), much of our work happens "behind the scenes" as it is the Nations who lead in standing up their laws and asserting their inherent jurisdiction.

In October 2024, we were honoured for our work supporting the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (LFFA) in expressing the laws of the peoples of the Lower Fraser. A Blanketing Ceremony took place in the Semá:th longhouse at the LFFA's celebration of 10+ years of Sq'eptset Syoyes Sth'o'th'eqwi - fishers working together. We are extremely honoured to have received this recognition, and we hold up the work that the LFFA has been doing, and continues to do, for their salmon people.

This year, the RELAW team has been deeply engaged in internal planning, with a major focus on strategic alignment and operational growth. The demand for RELAW is high, and capacity felt low. So, we put our brains and hearts together for strategic planning throughout the winter of 2024-25.

We collectively decided to redefine our RELAW management, and in spring and summer 2025, we added to our team: Katłià Lafferty joined as the new Co-Learning Manager, bringing an Indigenous legal lens and collaborative spirit, while Peyvand Fralick stepped into the role of RELAW Coordinator, supporting Indigenous law revitalization with deep commitment and strong logistical planning skills.

In preparation for RELAW's upcoming 10-year anniversary (2026), planning has begun to ensure the celebration reflects both our history and future direction. We intend to honour Nation partnerships and celebrate our shared achievements, continuing to move forward in the best way we can - upholding Indigenous law. With clear priorities, new team capacity and a focus on intentional planning, we are well positioned to deepen our impact and support Nations in their work, with reciprocal care and innovative strategies.



STRONG CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

DEFENDING AGAINST DEREGULATION

Recent years have seen a rise of misinformation about federal environmental laws. Designed to protect Canadians, laws like the *Impact Assessment Act* help ensure decisions are informed and do not put nature, climate or communities at risk.

Canadians care deeply about environmental protection, but concerns about affordability, tariffs and threats to our sovereignty are being used to support calls to dismantle our environmental safety net. This year, we doubled down on efforts to defend robust environmental decision-making by providing legal education and analysis about the importance of strong environmental laws. We also helped Canadians communicate to government officials their support for strong laws to protect the things they care about.

We created a non-partisan <u>election toolkit</u> with information, resources and tools for voters in the 2025 federal election, including information about where parties stood on environmental issues and how voters could use the ballot box to demand a resilient, sustainable and fair Canada. We also published a report, <u>An Ounce of Prevention: How Strong Environmental Laws Contribute to a Prosperous and Resilient Canada</u>, which highlights environmental disasters and significant cumulative effects that have happened in Canada as a result of weak, poorly implemented or badly enforced environmental laws, and examples of how impact assessments, strategic land use planning and collaborative governance have helped improve project design to avoid unacceptable risks and deliver better results for communities.

Most recently, we have been a leading voice calling for fixes to Bill C-5 – the federal government's new law meant to fast-track major projects – so it prioritizes renewable energy and transportation projects and ensures Canadians have a say in decisions that affect them.

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ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

ALIGNING BC LAW WITH THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

For over 150 years, miners have been able to acquire mineral rights almost anywhere in BC without consulting or even notifying the First Nations titleholders. This changed in March 2025 when a court order confirming that the Crown owes a constitutional duty to consult First Nations before granting mineral rights came into force. The court order was secured by our client, the Gitxaala Nation, in their legal challenge to this gold rush era system.

Yet the law, and justice, require more. BC's new mineral claim consultation framework stops short of requiring the consent of Indigenous peoples, and mineral rights continue to be given priority over land use plans, environmental protection, community water supply and other values. The cost of compensating mineral claimholders remains one of the most significant barriers to implementing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in BC.

In January 2025, Gitxaała Nation, alongside the Ehattesaht First Nation and several intervenors, were in the BC Court of Appeal. They argued that BC's commitment to align its laws with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* is a legal duty, enforceable in court, and that the duty to consult now must meet the standard of free, prior and informed consent. We await the Court's decision.

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CLIMATE & ENERGY

SUE BIG OIL: A PEOPLE-POWERED MOVEMENT TO MAKE POLLUTERS PAY

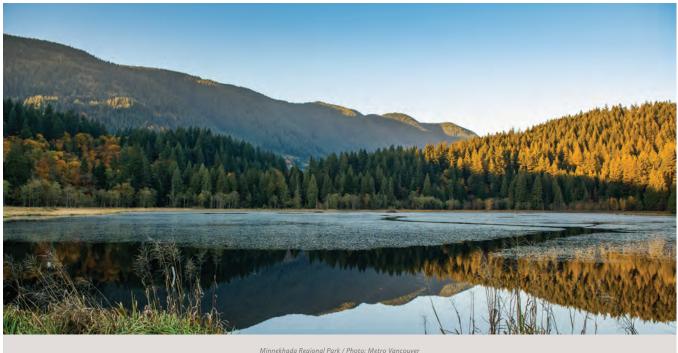
It's been a remarkable year for the Sue Big Oil campaign. Local governments representing over 390,000 British Columbians are now committed to a class action lawsuit to make the world's largest polluters pay their fair share for the climate costs piling up in our communities. What was once seen as bold is now becoming common sense. The proposed lawsuit, which would be the first of its kind in Canada, follows a global trend of holding polluters accountable, backed by new research showing companies like Chevron and Exxon are responsible for trillions in climate-related damages.

Sue Big Oil volunteer action teams have been the heart of this movement – building grassroots support and appealing to municipal councils across the province to join this legal effort. In the West Kootenays, a tenacious group of volunteers met with four local governments, facing setbacks and celebrating wins. After a narrow defeat in Rossland, the team achieved a surprise victory in Nelson in May 2025, demonstrating that persistence pays off!

In the Lower Mainland, following an impressive win in Port Moody, the Tri-Cities team has now set its sights on Coquitlam and is working hard to build support by hosting a town hall and film nights, and bringing a powerful youth-led delegation to Coquitlam council. New volunteer teams also sprang up in Richmond and Abbotsford this year. Highly vulnerable to climate impacts, we think these cities should definitely join Sue Big Oil to try to recover some of their sky-high climate costs from major polluters.

So far, 11 BC municipalities have joined Sue Big Oil: Burnaby, Cumberland, Gibsons, Nelson, Pemberton, Port Moody, Qualicum Beach, Sechelt, Slocan, Squamish and View Royal. This growing chorus is sending a clear message: the costs of climate change shouldn't fall entirely on communities. The momentum is building. Which community will be next?

Association • Research Foundation Impact Report



Minnekhada Regional Park / Photo: Metro Vancouve

GREEN COMMUNITIES

COLLABORATING ON FLOOD PROTECTION FOR GREEN, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

It's been four years since the November 2021 atmospheric river caused widespread flooding and disastrous impacts in the Lower Fraser region of BC. Economic impacts alone have been estimated to be between \$8.7 and \$14.2 billion. These are big numbers, but even they don't convey the dislocation and trauma to communities, or the environmental consequences.

The truth is there are no quick fixes for the 100-plus years of decision-making that led to the 2021 (and 2024) floods, and the region continues to be at risk. A researcher would probably call it a wicked problem.

At West Coast, it's our job to find solutions. We like to understand the root causes of environmental problems, particularly when it seems like the 'system' is sending us in the wrong directions. So in 2024-25 we readily dove into a law and policy review of flood management in the Lower Fraser. It's a tale of colonial ambition, blind spots and stark injustices for First Nations, rounded off with a startling disengagement by provincial and federal authorities.

Fortunately, that's not the end of the story. In communities across the region there are all kinds of projects underway to repair our relationships with each other and with water. West Coast is working with the Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition to support and hold up this work by advocating for provincial and federal law reform and funding, catalyzing on-the-ground projects and technical analysis, and bringing together leadership and staff from local governments and First Nations. In November 2024, representatives from 13 First Nations and 18 local governments came together to share their work to understand flood risk and nature-based measures. In November 2025 we'll help to host another full-day forum, making the case to the federal and provincial governments that our region is ready for investments in long-term flood resilience.



MARINE PROTECTION

KEEPING THE OCEAN SAFE FROM EMERGING INDUSTRIES

Industrial uses of the ocean continue to grow, from increased commercial shipping, to the development of offshore renewable energy and the emergence of risky ocean activities like deep sea mining and geoengineering. This year, West Coast's Marine Team worked hard advocating for smart and sustainable legal frameworks to address these threats and protect the health of the ocean for generations to come.

For example, based on a report we released last year on the shortcomings of Canada's Ocean Noise Strategy, we hosted a webinar and mobilized supporters to call on Canada to take bolder action on ocean noise. In spring 2025, Canada announced it will co-lead the High Ambition Coalition for a Quiet Ocean, a global initiative committed to reducing ocean noise.

We also made submissions to the Senate calling for thoughtful and balanced oversight of marine geoengineering projects, and joined global coalitions of organizations and scientists working to do the same worldwide. Marine geoengineering is an emerging field of technologies that aim to sequester carbon in the ocean. These technologies have <u>little scientific evidence</u> to support them and risk causing <u>unforeseen and far-reaching negative consequences</u> to the ocean, climate and food security. Despite this, geoengineering projects are currently moving ahead in Canada (there are even projects proposed next to downtown Vancouver) with little to no regulatory oversight.

Our marine law experts recognize the importance of responding to new ocean threats, while remaining focused on one of our key priorities – continuing to support strong marine protected areas in Canada, led or co-governed by Indigenous nations, where nature can thrive free from industrial impacts.

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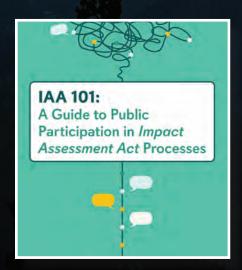
SELECT PUBLICATIONS



ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: OUTCOMES FROM THE YOUTH-LED DIALOGUE (OCTOBER 2025)

On May 12th, 2025, the Andrew Thompson Award Youth Changemakers for Environmental Justice were honoured during a ceremony and reception at the Polygon Gallery in North Vancouver.

They participated in a facilitated dialogue session – Envisioning the Future of Environmental Law: The Next 50 Years – where they discussed their visions for how strong Canadian and Indigenous laws could contribute to ecological and community resilience in BC over the next 50 years. This report summarizes highlights of those discussions.



IAA 101: A GUIDE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACT PROCESSES (MAY 2025)

<u>This guide</u> to public participation in impact assessments is a must-read for anyone considering participating in an assessment under Canada's *Impact Assessment Act*. It describes what impact assessment is, outlines key reasons to participate, explains the difference between public participation and Indigenous engagement and consultation, and talks about key players in the assessment process.

The guide explains different types of assessments, as well as the various steps and stages of assessment processes. Throughout, it offers tips and resources for how to maximize your participation.



AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION: HOW STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS CONTRIBUTE TO A PROSPEROUS AND RESILIENT CANADA (JUNE 2025)

This report highlights 10 environmental disasters and significant cumulative effects that have happened in Canada because of weak, poorly implemented or badly enforced environmental laws. It also provides examples of how environmental impact assessments, strategic land use planning and collaborative governance have helped improve project design to avoid major risks and deliver better results for communities. Co-authored by West Coast Staff Lawyer Anna Johnston and former law student Kristen Theriault, the report illustrates the economic, environmental and human costs that could result from proposals to fast-track and exempt major projects from environmental regulation and assessment processes.



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. Funding from the Law Foundation enables us to provide environmental legal support for BC communities in every corner of the province. This funding helps us achieve success in our Access to Justice programs and allows us to leverage additional funds from other granting agencies, companies and individuals.

FOUNDATION FUNDING

West Coast is honoured by the longstanding and diverse partnerships of our foundation funders. Program support from private, community, and family foundations is a crucial component of West Coast's overall funding. In 2024-2025, we were supported by the following foundations from across Canada and beyond:

Research Foundation:

- 444S Foundation
- Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- Environment Funders Canada
- Gencon Foundation
- McLean Foundation

- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- North Family Foundation
- The Notary Foundation
- Sitka Foundation

- Patagonia (Makeway Foundation)
- Trottier Foundation
- Vancouver Foundation
- Wilburforce Foundation

The Research Foundation also received funds for legal and related work conducted through collaborations with Gitxaala Nation, Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, World Wildlife Fund, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and University of British Columbia School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

Association:

- · Energy Transition Fund
- WestWind Foundation
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Canada Summer Jobs

The Association also received funds for legal and related work conducted through collaborations with Oceans North Conservation Society, Emergency Planning Secretariat, Canadian Environmental Network, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

Our Supporters Impact Report 19

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

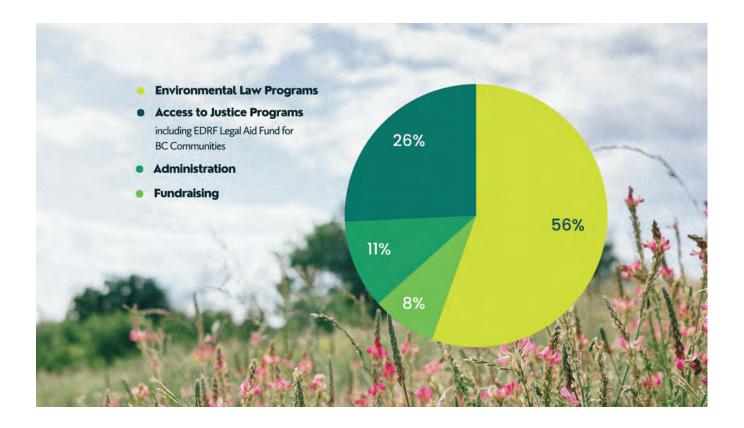
REVENUES

		FOR YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024			
	Association	Foundation	EDRF	Total	Total
Law Foundation of BC	544,111	-	-	544,111	543,111
Allocation to EDRF	(204,732)	-	204,732	-	-
Donations	1,782	319,006	-	320,788	294,122
Grants & Contracts Earned	788,742	1,991,163	-	2,779,905	2,661,603
Other Income	313,011	146,556	1	459,568	437,325
Total Revenue	1,442,914	2,456,725	204,733	4,104,372	3,936,161

GRANTS AND EXPENSES

		FOR YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024			
	Association	Foundation	EDRF	Total	Total
Personnel Related	1,082,628	1,604,381	-	2,687,009	2,629,644
Professional Services	9,642	11,165	-	20,807	19,905
Rent and Office Expenses	232,264	170,055	-	402,319	410,046
Amortization	25,523	13,195	-	38,718	36,834
EDRF Grants	-	-	204,732	204,732	176,987
Program Expenses	96,242	355,716	-	451,958	339,937
Fundraising	-	12,846	-	12,846	23,157
Administration Fee	-	306,522	1	306,523	290,575
Total Grants and Expenses	1,446,299	2,473,880	204,733	4,124,912	3,927,085
Excess revenue (expenses) for the year	(3,385)	(17,155)	-	(20,540)	9,076

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.



WHERE YOUR DONATION GOES

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 Wavemaker:** Monthly donors are the backbone of our organization. This way of giving provides consistent, reliable support to West Coast's programs with minimal effort. Even \$10 a month makes a big impact.
- An Environmental Legacy Yours to Give: Protect the environment through law, for generations. 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.
- **Tribute or Memorial Gifts:** Make a gift on behalf of someone special, in celebration of a special occasion, or in memory of a family member, friend or colleague.
- **Gifts of Stocks or Securities:** Gifts of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) enable you to make a big difference in ensuring that environmental protection is enshrined in law while realizing great tax savings.

CHARITY LEGAL NAME:

West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation

ADDRESS:

#585 - 1111 W Hastings Street, Vancouver BC V6E 2J3

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: #11929 2451 RR0001

Donations can be made online at wcel.org/donate. Call 604-601-2509 for more information and other giving options.

