

A HEALTHY FUTURE NOW

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP FOR B.C.



David
Suzuki
Foundation

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE



Photo Credit: Vlad Kosta via Flickr

OUR EXTRAORDINARY
NATURAL HERITAGE
DEFINES US



Photo Credit: Mike Baird via Flickr

Invest in sustainable solutions through an effective, fair carbon tax

Increasing and reinvesting the carbon tax into areas such as energy-efficient homes, public transit and innovative community solutions will help us take action on climate change while improving the quality of life for B.C. families through cleaner air, less traffic and jobs that matter.

Keep B.C.'s coastal communities and ecosystems healthy by demonstrating bold leadership in marine planning and protection

Ensuring proper management and planning for the marine environment will safeguard the amazing diversity of our coastal ecosystems and communities.

Give B.C.'s endangered wildlife the protection it needs

The provincial government needs to join the majority of Canada's provinces and create a stand-alone law that protects B.C.'s endangered species and their habitats.

British Columbians are looking for leadership they can be proud of, for a government that protects our fundamental desire for safe and healthy homes, communities and families.

Our extraordinary natural heritage defines us. From the Rockies to the Pacific Ocean, from the boreal forest in the northeast to the rich soils of the Fraser Valley, our province is blessed with a natural wealth that has driven our economy. Yet our towns and cities are now on the front-lines of climate change. From wildfires fuelled by intense summer droughts to winter flooding, global warming — largely driven by our fossil fuel dependence — has cost our communities billions of dollars.

Today's leaders must ensure our rich natural legacy is passed on in better, not worse, condition to our children and grandchildren.

British Columbians are ready for real solutions, not band-aid fixes. They're looking for leadership that puts into action big picture strategies that keep ecosystems — and economies — healthy and productive.

The David Suzuki Foundation supports three policies that offer practical solutions for safe coastal waters, clean air and protected wildlife: policies that will make us proud, today and into the future.

Invest in sustainable solutions through an effective, fair carbon tax

- ▶ Increasing and reinvesting the carbon tax will help us take action on climate change while giving B.C. families cleaner air, less traffic and jobs that matter.
- ▶ We have the ability, and the means through a reformed carbon tax, to make our industries and businesses global leaders in energy efficiency and innovation.
- ▶ Projects that could make our communities greener and better places to live are being stalled, or worse, cut due to a lack of investment.

The David Suzuki Foundation launched a partnership with five leading organizations called Better Future B.C.. We want candidates to show strong leadership to meet our climate commitments while improving quality of life through a more effective and fair carbon tax.

Investing in low-carbon energy solutions keeps British Columbia economically competitive, drives innovation and provides thousands of new jobs; but now is the time to do more.

Progress will be eroded and our communities will be at risk if the next government prioritizes boom-and-bust carbon-intensive industries, such as fracking for shale gas.

There's a solution. The province could increase the carbon tax by \$5 per tonne of pollution on all fossil fuels, each year, over the next four years. At gas stations, that means an increase for consumers of just over a penny every year until 2016. Combined with closing the loophole that allows industrial polluters to avoid paying their fair share, this increase will generate up to \$1 billion each year in new revenue — revenue at the core of the Better Future Fund.

Join us: betterfuturefund.ca



Give B.C.'s endangered wildlife the protection it needs

- ▶ B.C.'s species and ecosystems are at risk and only a stand-alone law can protect them.
- ▶ British Columbia is fortunate to have the highest biodiversity in Canada, yet we also have the most species at risk.
- ▶ With only four species protected under our current provincial legislation, we're behind almost every other province in Canada.

Polls of our membership confirm that protecting wildlife is one of their top environmental priorities. There are 1900 individual species at risk in the province, according to scientists. With the federal Species at Risk Act only applying to federal lands, our outdated B.C. Wildlife Act doesn't give species the protection they need — and deserve. Species need legislative tools that not only protect them, but also promote recovery: only a stand-alone act can do this.

We're only one of two provinces that don't offer this stand-alone legal protection. A new act is long overdue. The David Suzuki Foundation is asking candidates in this provincial election to commit to legally protecting and recovering our endangered wildlife and the habitat they need to thrive.



Photo Credit: Robin Loznak/robinloznak.com



Photo Credit: Jacob Kirkland via Flickr



Photo Credit: US Fish & Wildlife Services

Keep our coastal waters healthy and productive

- ▶ Advocate for a network of marine protected areas that safeguard the economies they support and our rich ocean heritage.
- ▶ Commit to ongoing consultation with First Nations to develop marine-use plans.
- ▶ Protect coastal and foreshore habitat that has economic, cultural and ecological importance.

From the tide pools and beaches to the greatest ocean depths, from microscopic creatures to the world's biggest animals, our Pacific coastal waters support a truly spectacular abundance and diversity of life. With three million nesting seabirds, more than 400 species of fish, 29 species of marine mammals and recently discovered 10,000-year-old glass sponge colonies, it's easy to see why British Columbians love their ocean.

Along with supporting our rich ocean heritage, we also want to safeguard economic opportunities. Ocean-based industries employ 10 per cent of people living in the North Coast directly, and another 20 per cent indirectly.

Currently, only one per cent of our coastal waters have any form of protection. A recent poll showed a strong majority of British Columbians want at least 30 per cent protected. It's time for leadership to reflect this overwhelming support.

The province has a big role to play. Safeguarding foreshore habitat, working with the federal government to create a network of marine protected areas and continuing the planning process underway with First Nations must be top priorities for the next provincial government.



Photo Credit: Wanli Ou

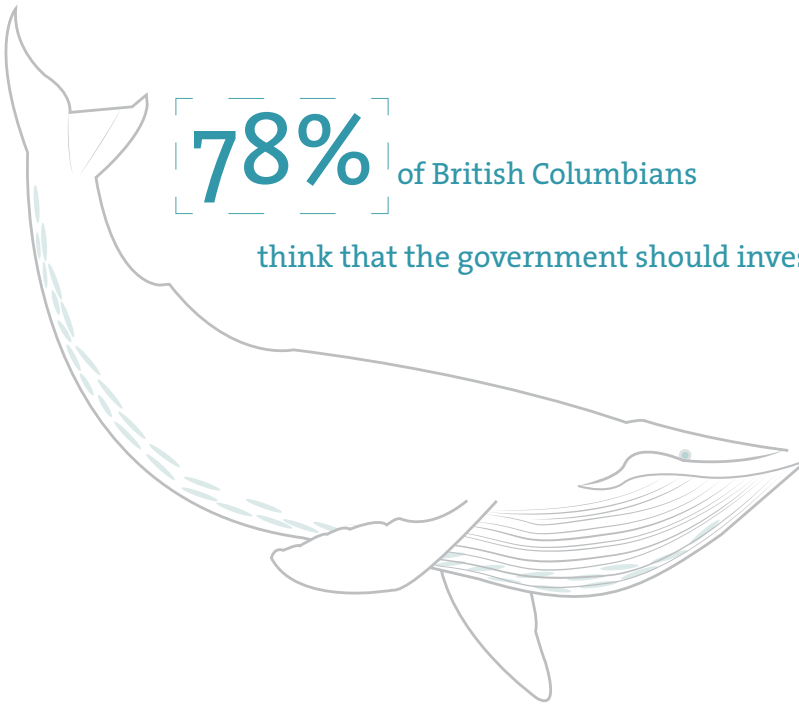


Photo Credit: Don Nunn via Flickr



Photo Credit: Jan Zeschky via Flickr

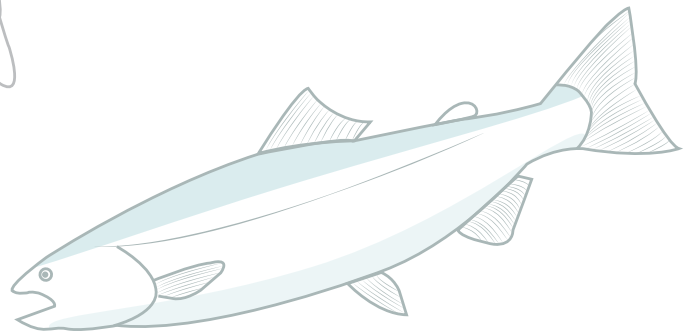
COMMUNITIES ACROSS B.C. SUPPORT COASTAL PROTECTION



78%

of British Columbians

think that the government should invest **more** to protect oceans.

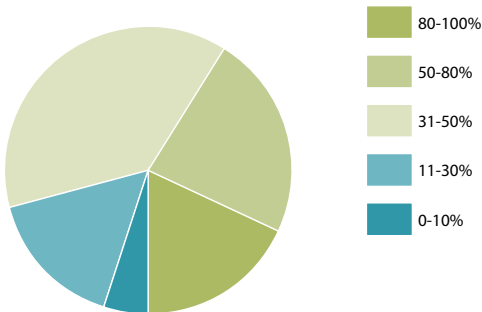


Most

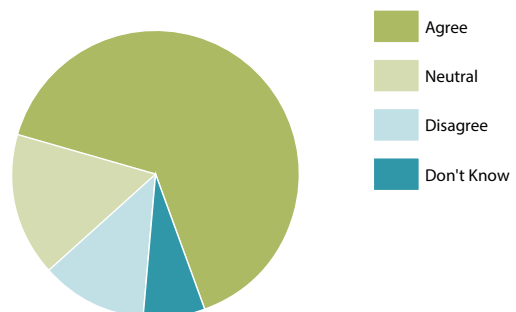
British Columbians


think that **more than 30%** of coastal ecosystems should be protected

What portion of B.C. Pacific coastal waters do you think should be protected?



Is the creation of a comprehensive marine use plan for B.C. a good use of government spending?





We are one brief generation
in the long march of time; the
future is not ours to erase.

So where knowledge is limited,
we will remember all those
who will walk after us, and err
on the side of caution.

*~The David Suzuki Foundation's Declaration of
Interdependence*

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