



West Coast
Environmental
Law

Annual
Report
2009-10

Message from the ED and the President

For over 35 years, West Coast Environmental Law has been 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.

When the public thinks of lawyers it is often with the courts in mind, but long experience has demonstrated that comprehensive and lasting change must ultimately be based on reforms to legislation (i.e., the laws passed by our elected officials and related regulations). West Coast has been and continues to be a leader in crafting and advancing legislative reform initiatives to protect and sustain our environment and communities in BC. There are few pieces of provincial or federal environmental legislation that do not have our mark on them.

Law reform work does not begin or end with academic or theoretical reports on environmental law issues. West Coast has a unique approach that uses hard-hitting and in-depth legal research and analysis to engage citizens, catalyze coalitions, mobilize allies, and influence decision-makers to implement environmental

law reform. We bring decades of experience around the complex legislative and regulatory regimes that form BC's environmental law framework, and a tried and true approach to achieving legislative reform through proactive, often multi-year initiatives that acknowledge the political, economic, social and legal realities of achieving progressive change in our society.

We believe in a just and sustainable society where people are empowered to protect the environment and where environmental protection is law.

Over the years we have developed nuanced reform platforms that propose solutions to root causes of environmental problems, whether that is changing the way we make environmental decisions (e.g., environmental assessment; land use planning; shared decision-making); reforming resource tenure



Jessica Clogg, Executive Director and Senior Counsel, with legal interns Emma Hume, Justin Basinger, and Servane Phillips

systems (e.g. the rights and responsibilities of forestry, mining, oil and gas companies); building liveable and sustainable communities; or climate change mitigation and adaptation. We proactively engage citizens in this process, integrating our outreach, public legal education and law reform work, as we continue to evolve and refine law reform proposals and respond to new issues. For example, we are currently working on defining how our land use laws and tenure systems need to evolve to address climate change and carbon markets.

Through strategic and annual planning we identify circumstances that present timely political opportunities to advance one or more elements of needed reforms, and work with allies to do so: this may occur in the context of a particularly innovative model or controversial project; a dynamic coalition effort; a shift in government priorities or public opinion; pressure from the marketplace or a recent judicial decision.

Comprehensive and lasting change must ultimately be based on reforms to legislation.

In our assessment, the constitutional imperative of Aboriginal Title and Rights recognition remains one of the most profound levers for progressive environmental

law reform in BC. Thus, working together with a large number of funders and partners, for approximately the past decade West Coast has been providing legal and strategic support to First Nations and First Nations political organizations in implementing legal strategies grounded in Indigenous law and Canada's constitutional protections for Aboriginal Title and rights to achieve shared conservation objectives.

Elsewhere in this annual report we detail West Coast's long-standing role in providing environmental legal aid to British Columbians through the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF) and summary advice, and serving as an environmental law watchdog (be sure to check out West Coast's Environmental Law Alert blog). Supporting environmental litigation through the EDRF and representation of specific individuals or groups with environmental law problems will always be central to our work to safeguard the environment through law. However, it is in the mark West Coast has made on BC and Canada's environmental legislation that our impact has been truly unique. This impact is sometimes, by necessity, focused on defending existing environmental laws, a task that we take no less seriously. (See for example: Save Canada's Environmental Laws on facebook). But whether it is putting in place new building blocks for environmental laws that are more sustainable, more democratic and more just, or defending past gains, West Coast has been there for the citizens of British Columbia for close to four decades and, with your support, will continue to be long into the future.



JESSICA CLOGG

Executive Director
and Senior Counsel



MARK UNDERHILL

President, Board of
Directors

Highlights from 2009-2010

ACHIEVING RESULTS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL AID

West Coast Environmental Law provides legal aid to British Columbians facing environmental problems in two ways: 1) by offering summary legal advice and information, and 2) through grants from our Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF). Both of these community resources achieved significant victories for the environment this year.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL AID

This past year was the 20th Anniversary of the EDRF. West Coast celebrated its countless accomplishments at events in various communities throughout BC and by producing a book called *On the Ground*, which highlights many of the legal issues and cases the fund has supported over the years. Since its inception, the EDRF has provided over \$4 million in grants to help resolve over 500 different environmental challenges. Throughout the year West Coast visited communities around the province to celebrate the many victories made possible through the EDRF and to raise public awareness about it so that more BC communities can become empowered to protect the environment.

For example, West Coast is proud that EDRF funding was instrumental in:

- Alexandra Morton's successful challenge of the legality of BC's fish farm laws in the BC Supreme Court in 2009
- Establishing the legal duty of local governments

to share environmental studies and other important information with the public before making rezoning decisions in a number of precedent-setting court wins (in 1995, 2000, 2009)

- Persuading the BC government to block Alcan's controversial Kemano Completion Project in 1995
- Helping conservation groups press for the creation of hundreds of thousands of hectares of parks through the Commission on Resources and Environment in the early 1990s

2009-2010 EDRF VICTORIES

This year the EDRF was proud to support the West Moberly First Nation in their landmark legal challenge to mining permits issued in the critical habitat of a threatened caribou herd. The BC Supreme Court rejected the position of the provincial government that Ministry of Energy and Mines staff could refuse to address West Moberly's

Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF): The Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund provides several grants each year (totalling approximately \$200,000 annually), to individuals, environmental & community organizations, and First Nations whose communities and natural places are challenged with environmental conflict(s). This program, unique in Canada, allows the grant recipients to hire private lawyers at a legal aid rate; because of the EDRF, BC has one of the most active communities of public interest environmental lawyers in the country. The EDRF is made possible through the generous support of The Law Foundation of BC.



concerns about the cumulative impacts of mining, hydroelectric dams, and other development on the caribou herd. The province was ordered to develop a recovery plan for the threatened herd – the first time that Aboriginal treaty rights have been used to advance the protection of a threatened species.

Another precedent-setting decision was released by the Residential Tenancy Branch – ordering a landlord to pay two rental families almost \$12,000 for illegally spraying pesticide in their apartment building, the first order of its type in British Columbia. West Coast first provided the families with legal advice and we went on to find and fund their lawyer. This decision builds on the legal analysis found in West Coast’s Pesticides in Your Home booklet (for tenants) which was released last year.

Finally, the Tsilhqot’in National Government and the Center for Science and Public Participation received EDRF grants to hire scientific experts and lawyers to participate in the federal environmental assessment of the proposed Prosperity Mine. The proposed mine would destroy the culturally and ecologically significant Fish Lake in the Chilcotin region to create a tailings pond. Those submissions and expert evidence were influential with the federal panel conducting the environmental assessment, which recently issued its report concluding that the mine would cause a series of significant adverse effects on fish, grizzly bears and on the culture of the Tsilhqot’in Nation.

West Coast is honoured to be able to help these and other EDRF recipients protect the environment through the law.

SUMMARY ADVICE AND INFORMATION

A little legal advice can go a long way. By providing start-up legal advice, West Coast lawyers help

British Columbians who are trying to protect their environment figure out what their legal rights are and steps they can take. In some cases, we will provide brief legal opinions or letters where doing so has the potential to achieve an important environmental result. Here are two such examples from the past year:

- West Coast lawyers advised the Friends of Bear Creek Park, in Surrey, in their opposition to a plan to build a road through the park, and across a fish bearing stream. Surrey City Council backed away from the plans after the Friends forwarded a copy of our legal opinion questioning the legality of the proposed road.
- Similarly, this year BC’s environmental assessment process rejected a request from the developer of the proposed Garibaldi at Squamish Resort (GAS) to delay providing key data about the project’s water use and environmental impacts until after the end of the environmental assessment. Instead GAS will be required to provide the data during an extended environmental assessment. West Coast had raised concerns about the legality of GAS’s proposed approach in a letter previously sent on behalf of Squamish residents.

In addition to achieving environmental wins, this type of initial advice also helps our staff identify strong legal cases that should be encouraged to apply for funding through the EDRF, including several of the victories mentioned above.



USING THE LAW TO KEEP THE COAST CLEAR FROM TAR SANDS CRUDE OIL

The north Pacific coast of BC is a spectacular place that teems with life - in the water, on the shores, and in the sky. As a recent study of forest cover and canopy height from NASA shows, it is home to some of the last most globally significant forests be found anywhere on Earth. The peoples of the region depend on the waters and the land for their sustenance, their livelihood and their cultures. All of this depends on clean water and a clean shoreline. And all of it is currently under threat from proposals to bring tar sands crude oil supertankers to the north coast, and twin oil pipelines across the entire breadth of northern BC.

West Coast continues our ongoing work to protect the coast, rivers, lands and communities of northern BC by pushing to achieve a legislated ban on crude oil tankers on the north coast. This year we moved closer than ever to achieving this goal, and momentum has moved clearly in favour of a ban on crude oil tankers. We met with many MPs and policy makers in various parties to put this issue on Ottawa's agenda in a non-partisan manner. In March the Coastal First Nations declared a ban on tar sands crude oil tankers in their waters, based in their own Indigenous laws and authority. Major opposition parties in Ottawa followed suit, pledging and reaffirming their commitment. Both of these were critical milestones for our work. The government, however, is not convinced of the need for a legislative tanker ban. Sadly, the tragedy of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill underlined the catastrophe that we could face if crude oil supertankers are allowed to travel through the dangerous waters of the north coast, and has heightened public awareness of the severe risks.

West Coast has worked to provide community groups in the north with legal support and advice on the regulatory process for the pipeline and tanker project that is the most imminent threat. We have also worked intensively with numerous First Nations from the coast, through the Skeena watershed to the Interior, and down the Fraser watershed, to provide them with legal support and advice as they consider their actions in relation to the impacts of tar sands crude oil infrastructure in their territories and waters. Our lawyers have spent a great deal of time this year travelling along the proposed Enbridge pipeline route, working directly for communities threatened by the pipeline and tanker projects. We will continue rigorously on this work until a legislative tanker ban is achieved, and the threat of devastation from tar sands crude oil transportation in BC's northern coastal waters is eliminated.



Solidarity of Nations Gathering in Kitamaat



A fishing boat in Prince Rupert Harbour

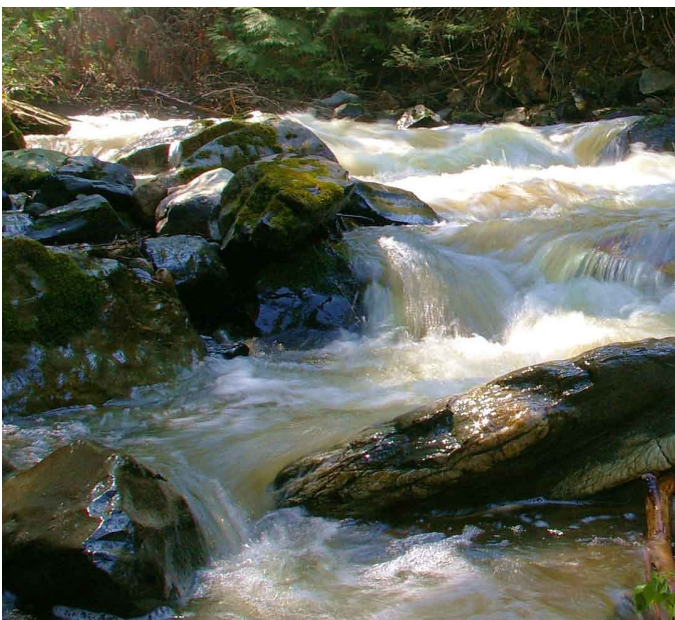
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: ADVOCATING FOR STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AT THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

In January the Supreme Court of Canada delivered its judgment in *MiningWatch Canada v. Canada*, holding that the Canadian government has for years been misusing its powers under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). West Coast Environmental Law staff acted as co-counsel for West Coast and 6 other environmental groups that intervened in the case in support of the appellant, MiningWatch.

The case concerned the ability of the federal government to avoid conducting a “comprehensive” environmental assessment by breaking large projects, which require such an assessment – (in this case the Red Chris mine - a copper-gold open pit mine in northeastern BC) – into small projects, which don’t. West Coast has for many years argued that this type of “project-splitting” is illegal. When MiningWatch lost its case at the BC Court of Appeal, West Coast provided funding, through the EDRF, to allow them to seek permission from the Supreme Court of Canada to appeal. When the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case, West Coast Environmental Law, with several other environmental organizations, applied for, and were granted, permission to appear and explain to the court the broader implications of the case for environmental assessment law.



Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa



The Supreme Court unanimously allowed the appeal, overturning several Federal Court of Appeal decisions and confirming that the Act (CEAA) does not allow for project splitting. Although we are disappointed that the court decided not to revoke the permissions previously given to the Red Chris mine, the decision is nonetheless precedent-setting, ensuring, at least for now, that a whole range of environmentally-risky projects across Canada will undergo a higher level of scrutiny before being allowed to proceed.

WEST COAST: AN EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW WATCHDOG FOR BC

For 35 years, West Coast Environmental Law has sounded the alarm when environmental laws are being weakened or threatened, and provided timely information to British Columbians about significant environmental law developments that affect everyone. In 2009 we launched our latest tool for alerting the public when the environment is at risk – our Environmental Law Alert (ELA) blog.

It was through the ELA blog that we broke one of our most important stories of the year – the virtual collapse of BC’s environmental enforcement. Updating analysis that West Coast undertook in 2007, we demonstrated that enforcement levels had improved only minimally since record-low years in 2004 and 2005, and that 2009 had the lowest level of environmental convictions in over 20 years.

The impact of our analysis was amplified by coverage from multiple print and TV outlets. In addition, our web statistics show that many of the readers of our blog posts were from the provincial government itself and we understand that it has resulted in significant discussions within government on how to improve enforcement levels.

In general, the ELA blog has increased West Coast’s



visibility and impact as BC’s environmental law watchdog, and we anticipate that the blog will remain an important part of West Coast’s Environmental Law Alert program.

DIALOGUES FOR LEGAL INNOVATION: ADVANCING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESPONSIBLE, CLEAN ELECTRICITY DEVELOPMENT IN BC

West Coast had a busy year in its work to promote law reform to address the possible increased development of renewable electricity in BC. There has been significant controversy over electricity generation projects like run-of-river and wind, in large measure because the growth of these projects into valleys and onto hilltops across BC has proceeded without any planning, without adequate public participation, without sufficiently rigorous environmental assessment, and, in many cases, without meaningful First Nations involvement in decision-making.

We spent much of 2009 researching and working with allies on a set of recommendations for renewable electricity planning and development. These were focused on a commitment to energy conservation and efficiency first, and ensuring that any development beyond that is as low impact as possible. We also recommended a revamped provincial process to plan for renewable electricity generation in a transparent and inclusive way, with both provincial-scale and

regional planning processes that involve the public in making decisions and that respect the authority of First Nations. The provincial process would examine overarching policy questions like how much electricity does BC really need, and should BC become a major electricity exporter, while the regional process would examine the cumulative impacts of these potential developments on ecological and social values in key areas of the province and make local determinations

about whether and where new generation might be acceptable.

These recommendations, co-authored with allies and signed onto by over 25 conservation groups province-wide, were released in December 2009, and were considered by the government's Green Energy Advisory Task Force. In January these recommendations were the focus of the first in West Coast's new *Dialogues for Legal Innovation* series. West Coast's *Dialogues for Legal Innovation* series engages thought-leaders and decision-makers in achieving law reform that protects the environment. Our goal for the dialogue series is to bring together diverse perspectives to help shape solutions to complex legal and policy issues that affect the well-being of British Columbians and our communities. Discussion at the January 11th standing room only event held at SFU's Wosk Centre for Dialogue strongly suggested that whatever people felt about the need for more electricity generation, greatly improved planning for electricity was needed to help BC make the right decisions. The BC government introduced its Clean Energy Act in the spring, which partly addresses our concerns, but which does not go far enough in creating a truly comprehensive and inclusive planning process, in ensuring the consideration of cumulative environmental impacts, and in involving First Nations as decision-makers



Standing room only at West Coast's inaugural Dialogue for Legal Innovation

in their own territories. Thus, we are continuing to advocate for legal solutions to these challenges through the emerging regulatory framework under the Clean Energy Act or otherwise.

A GREENER PLAN FOR METRO VANCOUVER LIQUID WASTE

West Coast Environmental Law is pleased to report a successful outcome from our multi-month participation on the Reference Panel advising Metro Vancouver on liquid waste policy. We are proud to have played a key role in pressing Metro to develop a precedent-setting Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan that will finally address the sewage, storm water and increasing complex array of toxics that the region discharges into the ocean with each day that passes.

The Reference Panel's recommendations underscored the need to upgrade both the Lions Gate and Iona Island sewage treatment plants by 2020, rather than one by 2020 and the other by 2030 as proposed. Both treatment plants have been in service for approximately 50 years, both are primary plants, and both have exceeded their useful lives. In the final plan, Metro committed to upgrading Lion's Gate

treatment plant by 2020 and Iona Island's plant as soon as possible after 2020. Metro has also stated it will be expecting and seeking senior government financing that reflects the senior governments' shared responsibility to keep BC's coastal waters unpolluted and sustainable for human and other populations.

INCENTIVES FOR RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: ACHIEVING OLYMPIC LEADERSHIP IN 'GOOD WOOD' USE

More than five years ago West Coast and allies set out to encourage decision-makers - from the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee (VANOC), to responsible municipalities, to developers and design teams - to use Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood products in Olympic venues. As the closing ceremonies drew to a close in March 2010, we issued a report highlighting the results of this collaborative work: not only did we exceed our target of achieving FSC wood use in at least 25% of venues, but we were pleased to issue "Good Wood" Awards to the South East False Creek Community Centre and the Whistler High Performance Centre for leadership in using FSC-certified wood, as well as two honourable mentions.

The sporting venues and athletes villages of the 21st Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are one of its most substantial legacies and remain in Vancouver and Whistler long after the visitors have left and the Olympic flame has been extinguished. One part of this legacy is the story these venues tell about BC's forests and forest products. During the Games, visitors to Vancouver and a global audience were invited to experience and understand more about our extraordinary natural heritage. Yet the imagery of billboards and advertisements was silent on the long history of unsustainable clear-cut logging that has scarred vast areas of the province, denuding valleys and mountainsides of their old growth forests, harming salmon habitat and community drinking water and leaving communities caught in the boom and bust cycle of the logging industry.

Green building projects like our 'Good Wood' award winners are part of the solution; they are a key element of the ever-increasing market for more responsibly produced, FSC-certified forest products. West Coast was one of the principal drafters of the FSC-BC Regional Standards, and is a long-time FSC member. In 2009 we were also appointed to serve on an international FSC working group responsible for making recommendations about how the FSC system should evolve to address carbon stewardship as an element of responsible forest management and emerging carbon markets.



GROWTH IN WEST COAST'S LEGAL INTERN AND VISITING LAWYER PROGRAM

In 2009, 14 volunteers (principally law students and lawyers) gave a substantial amount of their time (on average 2 months or more, and in many cases full time) to work on West Coast campaigns and programs, including background research to support lawyers in providing legal advice and representation. These individuals brought needed capacity and new ideas into our work, while learning about environmental law and the issues that we work on. This is in addition to the roster of approximately 80 lawyers who have agreed to work on a partial pro bono rate under the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund.

Of note this year, in addition to our 2009 summer student interns and student volunteer assistance we receive during the school year through Pro Bono Students Canada at UBC Law, we launched a new winter student program, in partnership with the environmental law department at Macquarie University Faculty of Law in Sydney, Australia. This past winter, we welcomed two upper year law students from Australia, sponsored generously by their university's fund for internships abroad. The students' time here was a great success and we're planning to do it again in 2011.

Particular recognition is in order for New Zealand lawyer Gaya Gnanalingam, who volunteered full time for six months in 2009-2010 to work on our climate change-related legal work. For summer 2010, we were swamped by student applications from around the world. We expanded our summer student legal intern program and picked 5 fantastic law students from schools in BC and Ontario. We're looking forward to continued growth of our student legal intern program which is critical in allowing us to achieve our mission.

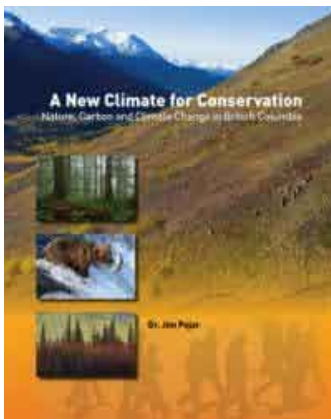
REACHING NEW AUDIENCES: WEBSITE LAUNCH AND SOCIAL MEDIA

This year West Coast launched a new and improved website to promote our organization and act as the central hub for all of our communications outreach initiatives. We have implemented a new communications strategy that cuts across multiple platforms, reaching audiences that have never been previously targeted by West Coast Environmental Law outreach programs. At the core of this strategy is the West Coast website, which has been designed to

integrate social media to instantly reach the network of people who utilize our resources and work to protect the environment in BC. In conjunction with the website, through enhanced efforts to target specific media outlets, further development of the media-specific section of our website, and the launch of the Environmental Law Alert blog, West Coast has further increased our profile as a preeminent source for timely, relevant, and important information on environmental legal issues that affect our province. West Coast has established a vibrant social media presence that has created communities of like-minded individuals on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. In addition, West Coast has created Legal e-Brief, a monthly e-newsletter that currently reaches over 4,000 individuals in British Columbia.

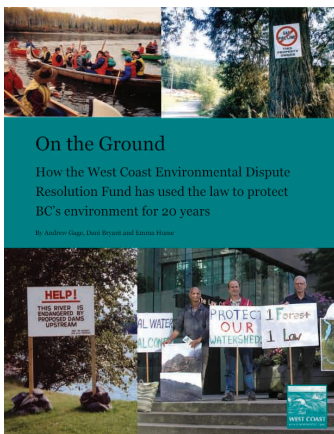


Publications



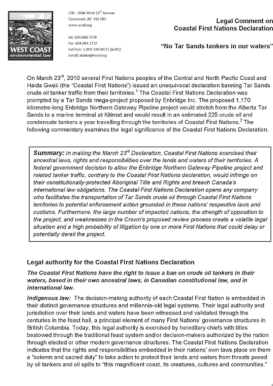
A New Climate for Conservation – Nature, Carbon and Climate Change in British Columbia

In January, West Coast and allies released a comprehensive report addressing the interconnected issues of climate change and biodiversity in BC. Authored by well-known forest ecologist Dr. Jim Pojar, the report examines in detail the scientific rationale for conserving natural ecosystems as a critical component of climate action in four areas: sequestering carbon, avoiding emissions, managing resilience and maximizing stocks and flows of ecosystem services. The report recommends an interconnected climate conservation network encompassing at least 50 percent of BC's land base to be managed for these values, stressing that integration of 'nature and climate' strategies will require a new way of structuring our environmental laws and land tenure system.



On the Ground: Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund 20th Anniversary Report

Over the past 20 years West Coast's Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF) has given more than \$4 million to British Columbians who needed environmental legal aid. *On the Ground* describes how the EDRF – a unique, versatile and effective legal aid fund – has helped communities in every corner of BC get the legal help they needed to protect their environment. *On the Ground* was written to celebrate the fund's 20th Anniversary and was launched at events held in communities throughout the province.



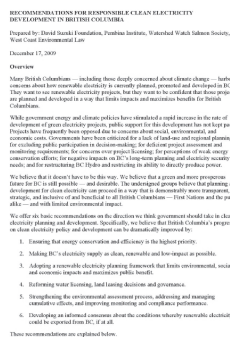
Legal Commentary on Coastal First Nations Oil Tanker Ban

On March 23, on the eve of the 21st anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the Coastal First Nations declared a ban on crude oil tankers in their territories. In making the declaration, aimed at protecting the ecosystems of the coast from potential oil spills, these nations exercised their ancestral laws, rights and responsibilities over their lands and waters. In this legal commentary West Coast confirms the strong basis for the Coastal First Nations declaration in Indigenous law, in Canadian constitutional law, and under International law. Tar sands tanker and pipeline projects that do not respect the decision of Coastal First Nations to protect the waters that are their lifeblood and “dinner table” will be subject to ongoing legal risk as a result.



Law and Policy and Topsoil Technical Primer Set

West Coast recently released a new sustainability tool for local governments, developers, and planners: the Topsoil Law and Policy and Topsoil Technical Primer Set. Conserving, improving or adding ‘topsoil’ to a site is a way to achieve water conservation. The primer set reveals how an absorbent topsoil layer is a fundamental building block for achieving water sustainability in green infrastructure initiatives at the local level. Once a community has made the decision to protect or restore an absorbent landscape, the Topsoil Primer Set provides guidance on how to make this happen.



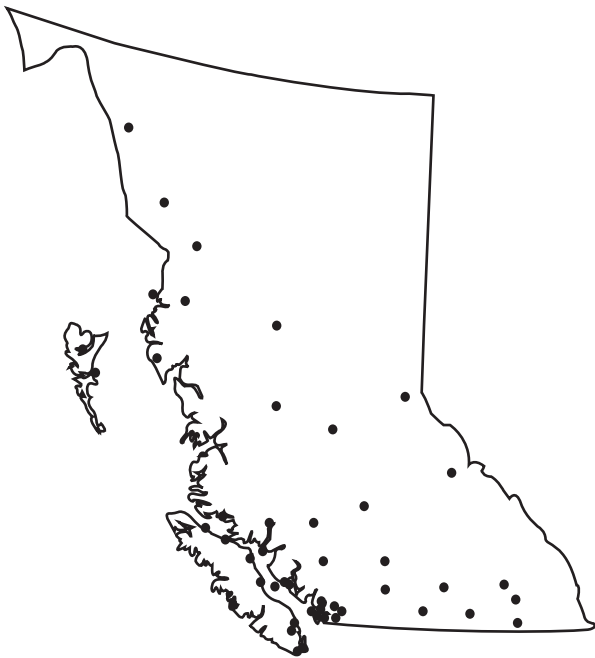
Recommendations for Responsible Clean Electricity Development in BC

Co-authored with Watershed Watch Salmon Society, David Suzuki Foundation, and the Pembina Institute, this publication sets out a vision for law reform in the renewable electricity sector in BC, and attracted the sign on of 27 organizations in total from across the province. Among our key recommendations: BC must pursue electricity conservation and efficiency as the first priority, and pursue only the lowest impact generation possible for new electricity supply if needed. We need a new way to plan for renewable electricity development, with an inclusive, transparent and comprehensive planning process at the provincial and regional levels to consider both high level policy questions (such as whether to become a major electricity exporter) and specific considerations such as maintaining ecosystem integrity in particular river basins. Wholesale changes to the way water and land licensing and environmental assessments are done for renewable electricity projects are also recommended.

Our Work

"West Coast Environmental Law embodies the best possible approach to environmental issues, working at a very local level, but with a particular professional expertise, on issues that affect everyone."

- West Coast Supporter



Making a Difference for all British Columbians

Legally binding measures to protect the environment are essential to ensure the health, safety and economic well-being of all British Columbians today, and for generations to come. British Columbia can and must do more to steward its rich legacy of pristine spaces, clean water and abundant wildlife. Left unchecked, rampant resource extraction and inadequate regulatory controls will mean a diminished quality of life for our children.

West Coast believes the best way to safeguard BC's environment is to have it protected by law, and we advocate for the creation and enforcement of progressive, stringent and protective environmental laws. Through law, British Columbia's species and eco-systems will be protected; communities will have a democratic voice in decisions that affect their environmental, social and economic well-being; and we will make the essential shift to greater sustainability.

West Coast has a unique and time-tested approach to identifying sustainable solutions to environmental threats and providing sound legal information, guidance and support to individuals, communities, organizations and governments seeking to protect their water, lands and air. West Coast works with communities on an individual basis to tackle local environmental problems; but in the bigger picture, each local issue informs our broader legal reform work and ultimately leads to our goal of environmental policies and legislation that protect all communities and ecosystems in BC.

West Coast is the trusted authority on environmental legislation, policy and regulation in British Columbia, and has a lengthy and successful history of influence on the environmental legislative reform front in British Columbia. Since 1974, West Coast has helped establish and shape many of BC's most significant environmental legislative initiatives.

This map demonstrates the scope of our reach throughout the province in the past year – we are truly here for all British Columbians.



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 role as BC's legal champion for the environment. We extend our deepest thanks to our many environmental champions and supporters.

Board Of Directors

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Stuart Rush (EDRF Management Committee)

Heather Raven (EDRF Management Committee)

Wendy Baker (to September 2009)

James Hoggan (to September 2009)

Pat Moss (to September 2009)

Don Ryan (to September 2009)

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Darryl Walker



Staff

Back row L to R: Todd Monge, EDRF Coordinator and Communications Manager; Josh Paterson, Staff Counsel; Dani Bryant, Legal Intern (summer 2009); Anna Beard, Donor Relations Officer (to August 2010); Andrew Gage, Staff Counsel; Simone Tielesh, Legal Intern (summer 2009); Allison Grose, Executive Assistant and Project Manager (to May 2010); Ingrid Molloy, Systems Administrator (to August 2009)

Kneeling at front L to R: Jessica Clogg, Executive Director and Senior Counsel; Ceciline Goh, Office Administrator; Lucy Pearson, Director of Development; Susan Rutherford, Staff Counsel (to February 2010)

Absent: Patricia Chew, Executive Director (to July 2009), Deborah Carlson, Staff Counsel (from June 2010), Jeanette Ageson, Communications and Donor Relations Officer (from August 2010)

EDRF Lawyers

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 2009-2010:

David Aaron	Mitchell Couling	Mark Haddock	Richard Overstall
Bill Andrews	Jo-Anna Cowen	Thomas Johnston	Michael Pereya
Wendy Baker	Deborah Curran	Judith Lee	David Perry
Glen Bell	Christopher Devlin	Jamie MacArthur	Krista Robertson
Jenny Biem	Irene Faulkner	Ronald MacIassac	Margaret Sasges
Alyssa Bradley	Lisa Fong	Stacey McCausland	Nicole Schabus
Waldemar Braul	Robin Gage	Heather Mahony	James Straith
Rebeka Breder	Lani Gibson	Jennifer P. Millbank	Tim Thielmann
Thomas Buri	Lesley Giroday	Jay Nelson	Ben van Drimmelen
Gary Campo	Peter R.A. Grant	Sean Nixon	Michael Welsh
Carly Chunick	Jason Gratl	Linda Nowlan	

Students and Interns

Law students and legal interns are provided with a unique learning opportunity at West Coast, being introduced to the environmental side of public interest law. At the same time, these students and interns bring talent, energy and a new and fresh perspective to our work. In 2009-2010 we welcomed:

- Lawyers: Gaya Gnanalingam
- Legal interns: Dani Bryant, Melissa Lee, Simone Tielesh, Joanna Zhou
- Pro bono students: Grace Brunger, Jonathan Boersma, Sarah Harper, Lauren Whyte, Julia Winters

Volunteers

Volunteers help with a variety of tasks, from office administration to fundraising to research. Our thanks go out to our dedicated volunteers in 2009-2010:

- Emma Hume, Chandra Langill, Katherine Parker



Thank You

Sustaining Partner:
The Law Foundation of British Columbia

The Law Foundation of British Columbia 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 across Canada and the United States.

- Ashoka
- Bullitt Foundation
- Eden Conservation Trust
- glasswaters foundation
- McLean Foundation
- North Growth Foundation
- Stewart Fund
- The Notary Foundation
- The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia
- Tar Sands Group
- Wilburforce Foundation
- Wosk Centre for Dialogue (Welch Fund)

Companies and Organisations

As we seek to diversify our funding, West Coast is increasingly looking towards socially and environmentally responsible companies and organizations to partner with us. This year we thank the following for their support:

- British Columbia Government Employees Union
- Mountain Equipment Cooperative
- Patagonia Environmental Grants
- CNC Sales & Repair Inc

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Financials

Revenues

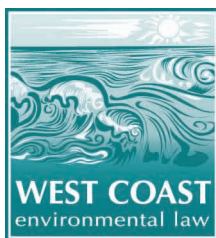
	2009 – 2010	2008 – 2009
Law Foundation Grants	553,385	566,932
Law Foundation EDRF Grants	202,212	192,000
Donations	112,419	65,533
Grants & Contracts Earned	362,364	380,147
Honorariums	2,000	3,510
Miscellaneous	20,662	49,302
Total	1,253,042	1,257,424

Expenses

Personnel Related	725,969	791,136
Accounting & Professional Services	48,759	79,750
Office Expenses	144,820	147,742
Amortization	25,209	26,078
EDRF Grants	202,212	192,000
Program Expenses	86,247	78,142
Fundraising	5,832	21,513
General	7,657	38,796
Total	1,246,705	1,375,157
	6,337	(117,733)

Excerpt from audited financial statement. Full audited financial statements available upon request.

For over 35 years, West Coast Environmental Law has been 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.



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