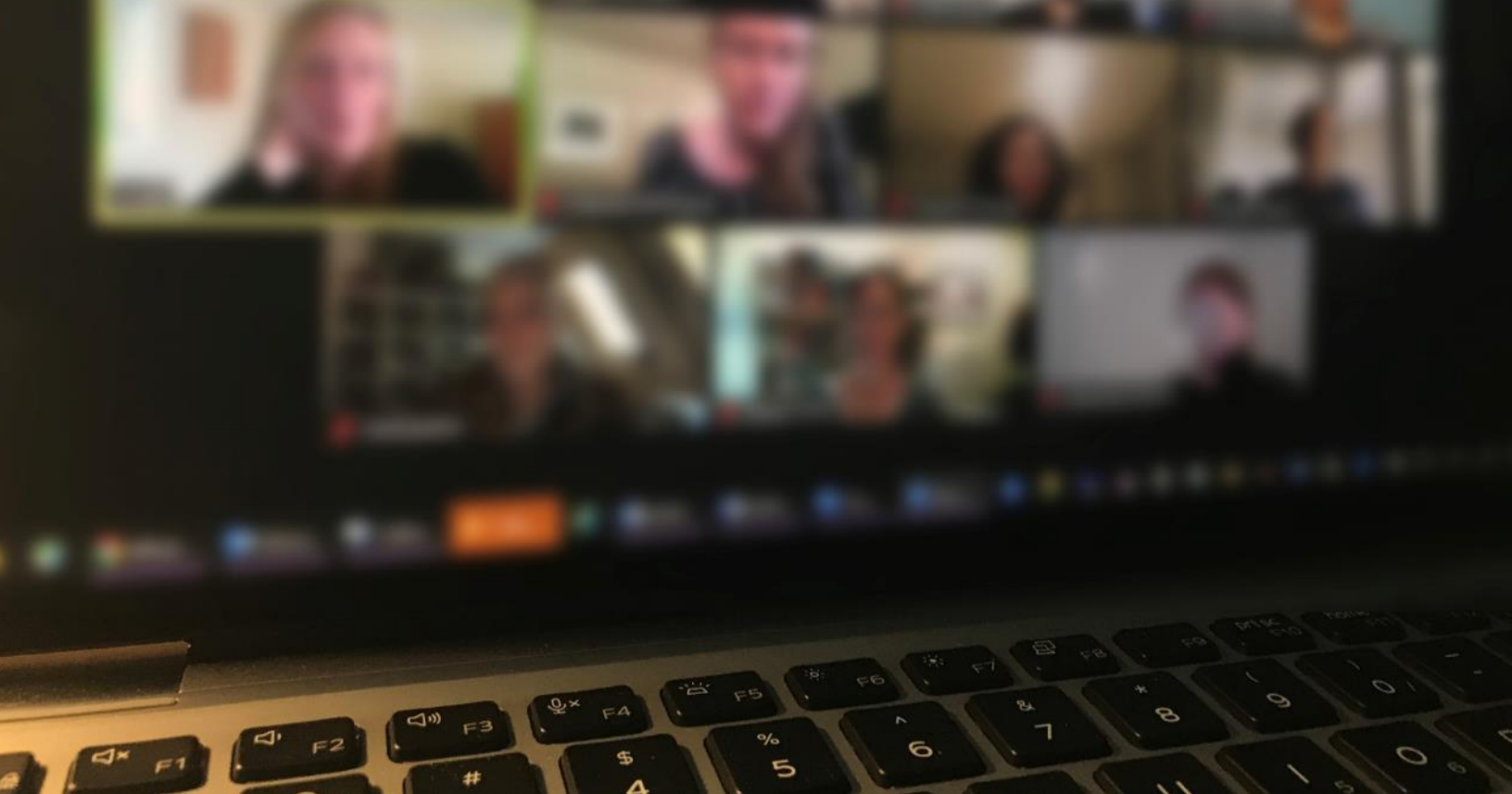




If it matters to BC's environment, we're on it



# **Annual Report 2020-21**



*Online classes, meetings and celebrations: familiar scenes for many people over the past year as we adapted to new online environments. (Holly Pattison)*

## 2020-21

The unplanned theme over this past year for many organizations and people was “adaptation,” and we certainly took many pointers from the natural world as we navigated delivering client services and student learning entirely online. At each new phase we reflected on how grateful we were that our ELC ecosystem – students, clients, board members and supporters – were even more engaged, needing our services, and stepping forward to ensure a thriving ELC. While the worldwide pandemic changed many things in the world, it fortunately had little effect on the ELC Clinic. During this difficult time globally, law students seemed especially grateful for the community experiences the Clinic offers and the opportunity to do meaningful client-centred work.

We are also grateful that after putting a number of funding pieces in place over the past few years this year we were able to set our sights on the ELC’s future. We are hiring new lawyers to join our small team as Legal Director Calvin Sandborn transitions into working on special projects over the next couple of years. We also optimistically started planning for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in late 2021.

One of the most meaningful moments of the past year was the announcement of the [Janet Person Environmental Law Centre Endowment Fund](#). We were deeply moved when Janet’s family chose to create this wonderful legacy that creates an ongoing endowment in support of the ELC’s clinical program. In addition to being UVic Law’s much loved Admissions Officer for decades, Janet was a long-time monthly ELC donor, and she even brought us great projects (click [here](#) for more information about Janet and her legacy). Receiving support from initiatives such as the [Janet Person Environmental Law Centre Endowment Fund](#) and the [James H. C. Walker Memorial Award](#), which helps support ELC students who excel in their public interest environmental work, are good indicators that we are making a difference in people’s lives and for their environmental values.

This past year we mentored 25 Clinic students, who provided over 2,410 hours of legal services to clients across BC. In total, ELC staff, Articling Students, Coop students and Clinic students provided 6,472 hours of services to help resolve public interest environmental law issues that may not have otherwise received attention. Our 2020-21 Annual Report provides you with a snapshot of the past year through the lens of two major areas: supporting Indigenous authority, and protecting water and land from pollution. We also provide a sneak peek at some of the Good News Stories generated from this year's Research-a-thon, which is connected to celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We invite you to read on for summaries of activities and impacts under our five focus areas – healthy watersheds, sustainable communities, resilient coast, climate and energy and environmental justice.



Thanks to our student and community Board members, who help guide our governance, and to our Associates, who provide us with the opportunity to support, network and build the public interest environmental Bar across the province.

Thank you to all of our supporters – clients, donors, and advisors - for recognizing the value in our work and helping us in our mission to assist clients who would not otherwise receive assistance, to train law students, and to protect and defend the natural environment in BC and beyond.

*Sincerely, ELC Staff & Board*

## BOARD

### Community Board Members

- Kathy Chan, UVic Law Professor
- Lisa Fong, QC, Partner, Ng Ariss Fong
- Clare Frater, Director of Trust Area Services, Islands Trust
- Tim Leadem, QC, retired Lawyer
- Tara Marsden, Founder and Proprietor, Hlimoo Sustainable Solutions
- Devon Page, Executive Director, Ecojustice
- Supriya Routh, UVic Law Professor
- Nikki Skuce, Director, Northern Confluence Initiative

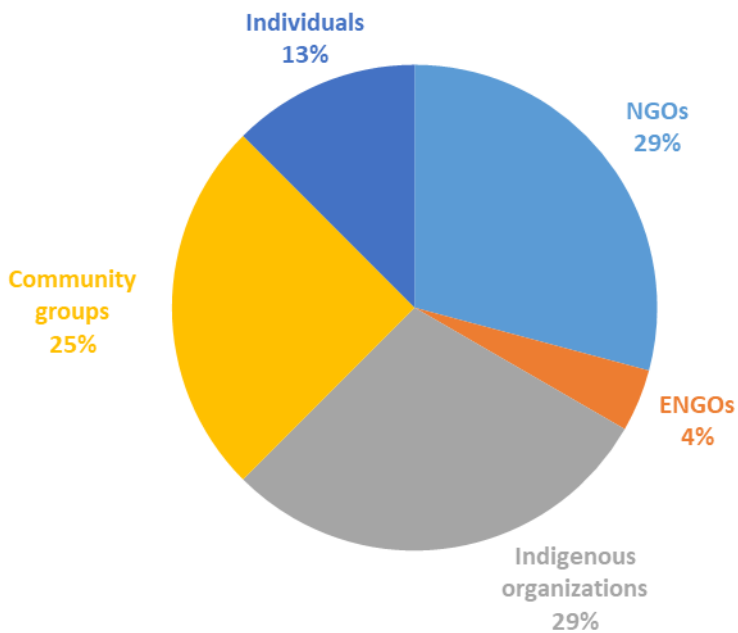
### Student Board Members 2020-21

- Medina Eve Abdelkader
- Russell Chiong (May to Dec 2020)
- Lisa Harris
- Jack Jones
- Victoria Kacer
- Frances Miltimore
- Alexa Powell (Sept 2020-May 2021)
- Shawna Smith
- Lydia Young

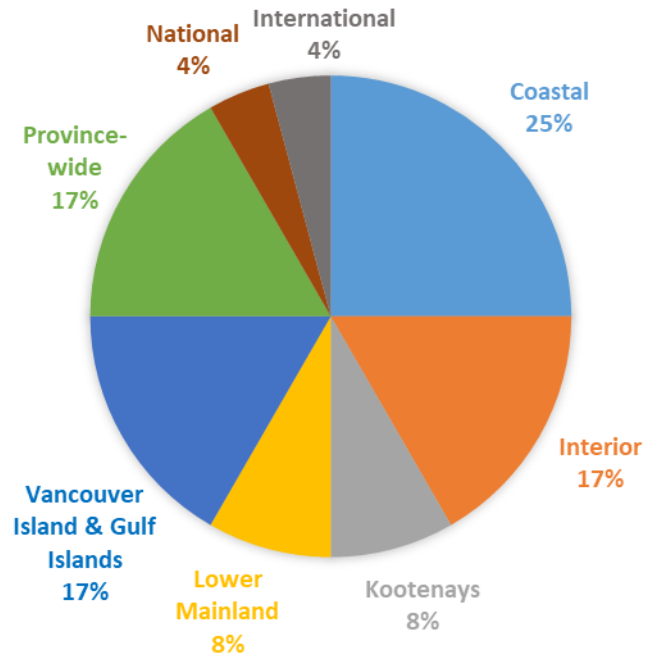
## STAFF

- [Deborah Curran](#), Executive Director
- [Holly Pattison](#), Director of Operations & Communications
- [Calvin Sandborn, QC](#), Legal Director

## CLIENTS SERVED



## REGIONS SERVED



*The ELC provided a desperately needed opportunity within legal education to potentially have a real, net-positive impact on our communities and discover opportunities within the law to work in the public interest and non-profit realm...*

ELC Clinic student 2020-21





*Fort Nelson First Nation Lands Director Lana Lowe. As noted in [The Case for a Guardian Network Initiative](#) submission mentioned below, Dene people have always used controlled burning to improve the health of forests, reduce the risk of wildfire and encourage the presence of food plants and animals in desired areas. Photo Credit: Dr. Sonja Leverkus, Shifting Mosaics Consulting.*

## SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS AUTHORITY

Over the past few years, Indigenous communities have increasingly asked for our assistance with developing collaborative governance arrangements and approaches that better express their rights to manage and protect their relationships with the environment in their territories.

One of our major projects this past year was acting for the First Nations Energy and Mining Council in producing [The Case for a Guardian Network Initiative](#). This submission, which calls on federal and provincial governments to support Guardians programs to enforce environmental laws, is a follow up to the 2011 [Environmental Laws: A Field Guide](#), which is widely used by Guardians on the Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii. The new submission includes a comprehensive survey of over 70 Guardian-type initiatives in Canada and around the world and makes the case for government law reform and funding for a national network of Indigenous Guardian groups.

We have heard from numerous Indigenous clients that Guardian activities provide good jobs on the land and water and help support First Nations to monitor and manage their own territories and resources. From harvesting herring spawn-on-kelp and revitalizing clam gardens, to instituting traditional burning methods, to preventatively control wildfires and encourage bison to return to their home range, many Indigenous communities are already doing this work. Our report documents the dramatic positive cost-benefit ratio for funding Guardians as well as the environmental stewardship and enforcement benefits Guardian programs achieve.

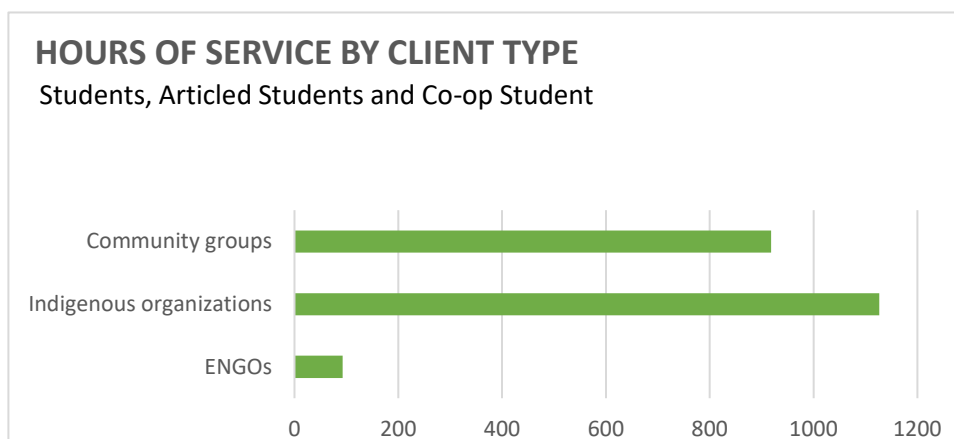
We have presented the *Guardian Network Initiative* submission at several conferences, including one for watershed health and another exploring the possibility of Trans-Pacific collaboration on Indigenous Guardians

initiatives. Shortly after our submission was released, the provincial government indicated that they are examining our recommendations. The new federal budget sets aside substantial funding for Guardian programs, and Canada recently launched the first [Indigenous-led Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary](#) in BC.

Indigenous communities are also increasingly asking us to present on legal tools and approaches for water co-governance and marine protected areas, and to respond to groundwater licence applications. ELC staff continue to play a unique role in providing capacity and advice to Indigenous and community organizations on watershed issues, and are currently advisors to the two water sustainability plan development processes in the province that are co-led by Indigenous communities and the provincial government. Our deep expertise in water law and watershed governance mean that we are regularly asked to provide strategic advice on a range of the *Water Sustainability Act* implementation and evaluation issues, which includes developing policies and other instruments for First Nations. We were privileged to contribute to two First Nations Fisheries Council publications over the past year: [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and Water Sustainability Act Reform](#), which sets out why water and the *Water Sustainability Act* should be a priority for legislative reform under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and [Environmental Flow Needs: A Primer for BC First Nations](#), which offers guidance on why and under what circumstances it may be valuable for First Nations to establish and implement environmental flow needs for critical waters in their territories.

In this past year, we also developed a comprehensive report for a First Nation on how to implement Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) using state law. While the report was in response to a specific need for an area previously threatened by a proposed development, it canvasses all potential federal and provincial laws that can contribute to the creation of IPCAs. We also provided legal research to a First Nation on the international, federal and Indigenous legal tools it could use to establish marine protected areas in its waters.

Other work supporting Indigenous authority In the past year included providing [recommendations for incorporating Indigenous laws and knowledge into the Water Sustainability Act decision-making process](#) in support of several government-to-government tables implicating the *Water Sustainability Act*, conducting research for an Indigenous Leadership Council on ways in which Indigenous laws could be integrated into local government bylaws and plans, and providing ongoing support to the First Nations engaged in the unique watershed co-governance processes in the Nicola Valley and Koksilah Watershed.







As noted in our report [Raising the Alarm: the Case for Better Flame Retardant Regulation in Canada](#) noted below, discarded furniture like the above couch can release toxic chemicals into the environment, including waterways (Holly Pattison)

## PROTECTING WATER AND LAND

Much of our ongoing work involves protecting and governing water and watersheds. Whether this occurs through improving regulations for plastics recycling, developing responses to protect public health from contaminated waterways, or providing assistance with advocacy to challenge questionable water-use choices, we are seeing growing demand for tools and ideas for managing water and to mitigate or prevent industrial impacts of resource and water extraction.

Over the past few years, the ELC has played a key role in bringing the regulation of plastic pollution to the centre of public debate and our contributions have generated action by both the federal and provincial governments. We continue to collaborate with communities to build on [our work to develop and coordinate strategic law reform for the production, use, recycling and disposal of plastics](#). In September 2020, the BC government acted to [approve local bans on single-use plastics](#) and committed to establishing a legal framework to provide for province-wide bans of single-use plastic items. Last May we requested the Ministry of Environment issue a Pollution Prevention Order to stop ongoing plastic pollution being discharged from a plastics supply company in Delta, BC.

At the federal level, the government announced [funding to clean up ghost fishing gear](#), which is a recommendation in one of our reports and was a topic of discussion when the ELC was invited to speak with government. In the last year, we worked with a community organization to develop a [report on how government can enhance plastics recycling standards through law reform recommendations](#) and how policy instruments could be used to boost demand for and incentivise recycled plastics. Our client submitted the report to the federal government as part of the consultation being done on the national plastics strategy and the federal commitment to ban selected single-use plastics. In late November, we provided [feedback](#) to the federal government on the [discussion paper](#) they released following the October [announcement](#) to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030.

Preventing or mitigating impacts on water and lands from industrial practices, particularly mining activities, has continued to be a pressing concern for many communities we have supported over the past year. In 2019, the ELC joined with organizations throughout the province to launch the [BC Mining Law Reform platform](#), which is intended to guide mining law reform in BC for the next decade. At the end June 2020, the [government announced](#) changes to the *Mines Act*. Members of the BC Mining Law Reform Network have noted government's statement to create "stronger order authorities to protect the environment" and, in particular, the ability of an inspector to order a mine closed or a suspension of work if they believed a delay in remedying a hazard would be dangerous to the environment. However, demand for implementation of the platform continues as Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities are continually asking for assistance to protect or clean up their water resources.

In the past year we also focused on protecting public health, marine life, and waterways through law reform regulating the use of fire retardants. [Raising the Alarm: the Case for Better Flame Retardant Regulation in Canada](#), a report we prepared for the Victoria Fire Fighters Association, addresses the proliferation of flame retardant chemicals applied to household items during manufacturing. While these chemicals make no significant difference in preventing house fires or increasing fire safety, when they burn, a fire's smoke becomes up to 10 times more toxic. Firefighters, who are facing drastically higher rates of cancer than the general population, are particularly at risk from these toxic substances when attending house fires. Chemical flame retardants are found in many household consumer products, including furniture, electronics, and children's toys. They accumulate in the environment and in the human body, where they can cause serious health problems such as cancer, endocrine disruption, immune disorders, reproductive problems, and low IQ in children. Escaping through stormwater from discarded furniture on the roadside and making their way into rivers and the ocean, flame retardant chemicals contaminate marine life and, through damage caused to reproduction capacity, threaten the survival of orcas. Our report makes recommendations to the federal government to improve the regulation of flame retardant chemicals, explains why new regulations are necessary, and gives examples of how other jurisdictions have changed laws to better protect the public.

*We train the next generation of public interest environmental lawyers*





*Making the Gorge Waterway swimmable was one of the 2021 Research-a-thon's Good News Stories. Pictured above is the swimming dock in VicWest that hosts the annual Gorge Swimfest. This success is thanks to the efforts of people like ELC client John Roe of the Veins of Life Watershed Society (insert photo). (Holly Pattison)*

## GOOD NEWS STORIES: CELEBRATING POSITIVE CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Research-a-thon 2021 had a simple goal: to share stories of positive change in public-interest environmental law. During this challenging year, the exercise of bringing together students with environmental leaders who had stories to share about public interest environmental successes was the positive lift that many people needed.

The Research-a-thon is a one-day event planned by law students in collaboration with the Law Library and the ELC. Student volunteers gather together for a short but intense period of time to generate high-quality research in support of a public interest environmental law issue in BC.

The third annual Research-a-thon, *Good Stories Movement: 25 Years of Public Interest Environmental Law in BC*, had students meeting virtually to interview community members and learn about their stories enacting positive change in environmental law. The topic was inspired in part by Filipino lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr., who recently spearheaded the [Good Stories Movement](#) with the intent of providing hope and inspiration to those who sometimes feel like environmental changes are not happening quickly enough (or at all.)

Throughout the day, interviewers and interviewees – all with a connection to the ELC through current or previous project work – joined the main virtual space until they were matched up and sent to breakout rooms for individual interviews. Rejoining the main space afterwards, it was easy to see how the sharing of good stories had inspired and uplifted everyone involved.

The stories will contribute to the creation of a publicly available positive story database that will be shared by the ELC as part of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration later in the year. In the meantime, here are a few teasers to give you a taste:

- Melinda Skeels, now a Partner at Ratcliff LLP, spoke about her work as an articulated student at the ELC to help launch a BC Auditor General investigation into the provincial government's release of privately held Tree Farm Licences, which ultimately led to the creation of new parks at Jordan River, Sandcut Beach and Sooke Pot Holes;
- Sunny LeBourdais shared the inspiring story of Stk'emlupsemc Te Secwepemc Nation's dedication to preserving and honouring the culturally significant site Pípsell through upholding Secwepemc Law and legal processes and their approach of Walking on Two Legs;
- Tim Thielmann, founder of Sage Law and also a former ELC articulated student, was interviewed about his work with the West Moberly First Nations to save caribou populations in their territory;
- Shannon Doll from Raincoast Conservation Foundation shared how, with the help of the ELC, there has been significant progress made in the fight to preserve crucial forest ecosystems in the Gulf Islands;
- John Roe shared tales of his efforts through Veins of Life Watershed Society to clean up the Gorge Waterway, which went from being one of the most polluted harbours in North America in the 1990s to being swimmable by 2000;
- Ken Ashley spoke about his role in negotiating between the BC government and BC Hydro in the early 1990s in order to preserve fish habitat;
- Margaret McCullough from Kids for a Plastic Free Canada spoke about the efforts she and her students put towards advocating for the goal of banning single-use plastics in BC;
- John Snyder of CoalWatch Comox Valley shared the success story of his community's struggle with opposing a proposed coal mine that threatened their drinking water and local ecosystems;
- Terrance Day of Friends of Gable Beach spoke about saving a local beach that was slated to be sold by the municipality for development;
- Ross Wilson, Stewardship Manager for the Metlakatla First Nation, spoke about our collaborative work on supporting stewardship programs;
- Ian Bruce of Peninsula Streams Society and Jacklyn Barr of the World Wildlife Fund talked about shoreline management and protection and their work to restore forage fish habitat.

We are grateful to everyone who participated and supported the event, and we look forward to sharing the good news in more detail over the coming months.

*Your support helps us develop and support strong laws that protect air, land and water*





Fraser River Delta (Holly Pattison)

## ELC's 5 focus areas

### 1. Healthy Watersheds

The foundation of strong economies, societies and watersheds is healthy land, water, and air. The ELC assists our clients in supporting long-term plans for managing natural resources use, stopping pollution, and creating better laws. This year, our Healthy Watersheds work focused on protecting public health, watershed management, environmental flows, and flood control:

- This spring, after assisting an Indigenous community in opposing a proposed water bottling plant proposed for an arid area of the province, and hearing from communities around BC about concerns regarding bottled water, we started to investigate comprehensive law reform for water bottling in BC;
- Concerns about water extractions in the Coquitlam River led to our [\*Reducing Water Extraction And Increasing Environmental Flows In The Coquitlam River\*](#) report prepared for the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable and Watershed Watch Salmon Society, who [\*called on readers\*](#) to ask their local municipal and provincial politicians to commit to the actions identified in the ELC report to change water use and development behaviour in the watershed to leave more water in the River for salmon;
- Work we began over five years ago to [\*address a public health emergency arising from deteriorating water quality and other ecological conditions at Elk and Beaver Lake\*](#) triggered a comprehensive response from local governments and a recent [\*provincial government announcement to provide significant funds for cleanup\*](#);
- Through the hard work of Watershed Watch Salmon Society, the Union of BC Municipalities [\*passed an important resolution\*](#) for wild salmon and for lower Fraser communities, which reflects, in part, our 2017 recommendations in [\*Legal Review of Flood Management and Fish Habitat in British Columbia\*](#);



- Other watershed management work included investigating legal avenues for restoring old logging culverts that threaten a salmon-bearing creek, exploring options for an Indigenous community to collaboratively own and manage an essential storage and conservation water licence for a local river in order to protect salmon and the well-being of the community from extremely low summer water flows.

## 2. Sustainable Communities

The ELC works with community organizations to engage in better planning, educate elected leaders on best practices, and provide innovative solutions for supporting efficient communities where energy, water and natural resource conservation thrives. In addition to our work on [reducing plastic pollution](#) and [enhancing plastic recycling in Canada](#), our work on Sustainable Communities continues to focus on developing legal analyses and law reform recommendations to protect communities and ecosystems:

- This past year, after our client presented the report [Legal Measures to Protect the Gulf Islands Coastal Douglas-fir Zone](#) that we prepared on their behalf to the Islands Trust in September 2020, the Trust voted to seek enhanced powers to regulate tree-cutting and voted to review and consider our other policy recommendations to better protect coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems;
- Officials within the provincial Conservation Officer Service are considering the recommendations from our report [Reform Proposals for Managing Human-Wildlife Conflict in British Columbia](#), and are drafting an accountability regime for Conservation Officers. We submitted our report to the Special Parliamentary Committee on reforming the *Police Act*, focusing on the need for independent review of citizen complaints regarding Conservation Officer actions;
- We investigated options for a local municipality to [prevent environmental impacts of industrial expansion](#) into environmentally sensitive ecosystems and habitat corridors, and provided law reform recommendations to reduce the impacts of BC's roads and railways on wildlife;
- We identified ways to reduce wildfire risk by encouraging thinning of forests surrounding rural communities, are working on law reform to better accommodate wildlife along transportation corridors, and we are documenting evidence of harm to birds caused by overhead powerlines.

## 3. Resilient Coast

The ELC works with our clients to challenge threats to BC's unique coastal ecosystem, which is governed by complex regulatory relationships. We provide legal capacity by developing tools to advance marine-use planning, assessing and improving enforcement, and keeping industrial activities accountable to the public. This year our Resilient Coast work continued to build on collaborative opportunities and examine ways to protect BC's shoreline and waters from pollution arising from marine shipping:

- We continue to work in partnership with several public interest environmental law organizations to develop a *Coastal Protection Act* for British Columbia. After we supported West Coast Environmental Law Association with a 2019 event to raise awareness with MLAs about the need for a Coastal Protection Strategy, in November 2020, the new provincial government's mandate letters to five ministries gave high priority to a [coastal strategy](#). The letters commit to developing "a new provincial coastal strategy to better protect coastal habitat while growing coastal economies";
- The Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists (CSEB) feted our report [Saving Orcas by Protecting Fish Spawning Beaches](#) in a recent [webinar](#). Following the presentation, the CSEB committed to sending letters to the provincial government supporting arguments for the creation of a provincial *Shoreline Protection Act*;
- We are preparing recommendations to address air and water pollution produced from maritime shipping through supporting the burning of cleaner fuel, and we assisted an Indigenous organization in assessing cumulative effects in marine shipping;

- We examined options to deal with contamination from current and closed mining operations that is affecting water quality in a major river, and looked at the potential for using existing federal and provincial environmental regulations to permanently protect critical fish and wildlife habitat within the gravel reach of a major river.

#### 4. Climate & Energy

The ELC provides legal capacity to community organizations to advocate for the consideration of climate impacts in all regulatory decision making, and when necessary, challenge energy infrastructure, natural resource extraction, transportation, and export proposals. Our work on Climate & Energy this year included helping communities respond to ongoing or proposed impacts from mining and industrial development:

- We assisted with a community's Judicial Review before the Court of Appeal challenging a permit for a proposed quarry operation and supported another community with their Environmental Appeal Board hearing regarding a permit to discharge contaminated effluent from a mine into a lake;
- We also assisted a First Nation with an Environmental Appeal Board hearing that is challenging the provincial government decision to allow mining waste to be discharged into a river;
- To help protect fish from mining pollution, we examined enforcement under the *Fisheries Act*, and also developed recommendations to restore salmon to a river, assessing a utility company's liability;
- We prepared an amicus or "friends of the court" brief on Canadian experiences with Indigenous community-based watershed management and governance for an Indigenous women's group in Peru who are seeking to protect a river in their territory from oil pollution and establish their ability to co-govern it;
- Looking at the impact of urban commuting, we examined how [reducing commuter trips could help BC reduce its GHG emissions.](#)

#### 5. Environmental Justice

The ELC advocates for the rights of participation, transparency, fair treatment, and meaningful involvement by Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the development and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies, and for law reform to support access to information and equitable treatment under environmental laws. In our focus area of Environmental Justice this year, we worked with a number of Indigenous communities to promote government-to-government decision making and governance and to protect their natural and cultural resources. We also continued to support work on supporting public access rights and recognized the impact of our ongoing work on keeping government accountable on the release of public information:

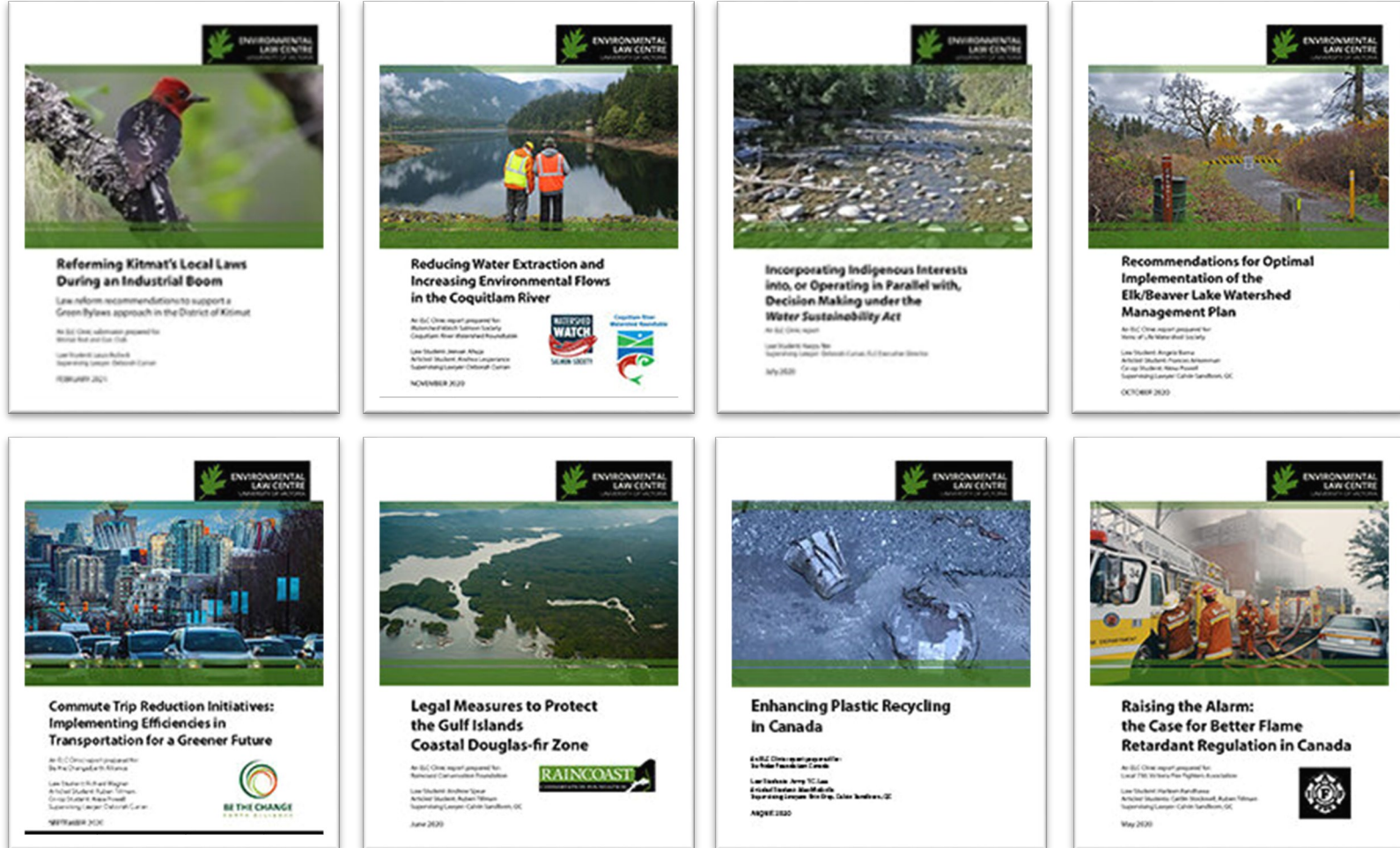
- We produced information to assist a First Nations organization in discussions with local governments in their territories. We also researched the issue of government's consultation requirements when negotiating an international treaty such as the Columbia River treaty, and we assisted a First Nation with issues surrounding a transportation company's failure to adequately engage on increased rail activities in the territory;
- We are working with an Indigenous organization to better assess and monitor contaminants of concern in food harvested in their territory. We also provided legal information to a First Nation to assist in cleaning up a major river system, and assisted another First Nation that wants to preserve, protect and maintain cultural heritage resources;
- In Jan 2020, the ELC supported counsel in preparing Court of Appeal submissions supporting public access rights, and we are still working on a guide for those who want to prove that the public has a right to access particular wilderness areas that comprehensively summarizes the many ways of proving that public access was historically established;

- In 2012, the [ELC had recommended proactive release of public documents to the Information Commissioner](#) who accepted that recommendation and broadened the interpretation of s. 25 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to oblige government to proactively release documents whenever their release is “in the public interest.” Building on this work, upon learning this change was not routinely happening in practice, we [asked BC Information Commissioner to examine systemic issues within government regarding the proactive release of public documents](#) in 2017. In June 2020, BC’s Information and Privacy Commissioner concluded in their report, [Section 71: Categories of records available without a request](#) there were uneven and inconsistent approaches towards compliance, different interpretations of the section and acknowledgment from some public bodies that they were not in compliance.

*The ELC clinic provided much needed hands-on learning experiences unique in the law school curriculum.*

ELC Clinic student 2020-21





## PUBLICATIONS

Work that we can share publicly is available on our website under [Publications](#). Below is a list of all the reports we publicly released in 2020-21.

1. [Reforming Kitimat's Local Laws During an Industrial Boom](#)
2. [Reducing Water Extraction and Increasing Environmental Flows in the Coquitlam River](#)
3. [Submission: Proposed Integrated Management Approach to Plastics](#)
4. [Improving Catch-and-Release Regulations in BC](#)
5. [Incorporating Indigenous Interests into, or Operating in Parallel with, Decision Making under the Water Sustainability Act](#)
6. [Recommendations for Optimal Implementation of the Elk/Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan](#)
7. [Commute Trip Reduction Initiatives: Implementing Efficiencies in Transportation for a Greener Future](#)
8. [Legal Measures to Protect the Gulf Islands Coastal Douglas-fir Zone](#)
9. [Enhancing Plastic Recycling in Canada](#)
10. [The Case for a Guardian Network Initiative](#)
11. [Raising the Alarm: the Case for Better Flame Retardant Regulation in Canada](#)



ELC Executive Director Deborah Curran during an interview in April 2021 for a [CBC National story about public access to public lands](#). (CBC News screenshot)

## MEDIA SNAPSHOT

For more ELC media, see: <http://www.elc.uvic.ca/about-us/elc-in-the-media/>

### Water and Watershed Management and Protection

- [Comment: Citizen efforts can restore Elk Lake](#) (2021 Mar 27) *Times Colonist*
- [Comox Valley Nature hosting series of online lectures addressing herring fishery](#) (2021 Feb 16) *Comox Valley Record*
- [Shellfish industry get funds to clean up Baynes Sound and beyond](#) (2020 Jul 11) *Comox Valley Record*
- [Common fire retardants killing firefighters, UVic report says](#) (2020 May 15) *Vancouver Sun*
- [BC Court dismisses complaint over environmental assessment exemption for fracking dams](#) (2020 May 6) *Lawyer's Daily*

### Indigenous Authority

- [Support for Indigenous Guardians can be the key to meaningful reconciliation](#) (2020 Sep 26) *Globe and Mail*
- [Wanted and needed: Guardians in every watershed](#) (2020 Sep 29) *Focus On Victoria Magazine*

### Mining and Energy Law Reform

- [Mining giant's historic penalty prompts environmentalists to call for stricter coal-mining rules](#) (2021 Mar 28) *The Globe and Mail*
- [Efforts underway to breathe life back into Kamloops's Ajax mine](#) (2020 Dec 3) *Kamloops News*



- [BC voters support mining reforms that protect the environment, make polluter pay: poll](#) (2020 Oct 22) *Narwhal*
- [British Columbians want more parks, even if it means less mining and logging: survey](#) (2020 Oct 21) *Revelstoke Review*
- [Delayed carbon price hike leaves BC's climate reputation in need of rescue](#) (2020 Sep 11) *Vancouver Sun*
- [BC holds only \\$1 million security for up to \\$100-million cleanup of Tulsequah Chief mine](#) (2020 Aug 21) *Province*
- [Lessons from the pandemic - an approach to climate change](#) (2020 Aug 6) *Province*

#### **Solutions to Plastics Pollution**

- [Canada's plastic advancement is viewed a win for the West Coast](#) (2020 Oct 16) *Tofino-Ucluelet Westerly News*
- [BC moves on single-use plastic bans](#) (2020 Sep 17) *Lawyer's Daily*
- [BC oks bylaw bans on single-use plastics; deposits coming for milk cartons](#) (2020 Sep 13) *Times Colonist*
- [BC approves civic bylaws banning single-use plastics, provincewide bans on the way](#) (2020 Sep 12) *CBC News*

#### **Species and Habitat Protection**

- [Stronger forest protection policy needed on the Gulf Islands](#) (2020 Nov 21) *Times Colonist*
- [Islands Trust pursuing greater ability to protect trees](#) (2020 Oct 15) *Star Vancouver*
- [Coalition calls for public input on environmental framework for Saanich Peninsula](#) (2020 Jul 28) *Victoria News*

#### **Public Access**

- [Fight over lakes prime example of need for public access legislation in B.C.: legal expert](#) (2021 Mar 16) *The Lawyer's Daily*
- [Fish and game club plans to take Douglas Lake dispute to Supreme Court of Canada](#) (2021 Mar 11) *Kamloops News*
- [Douglas Todd: Pressure on B.C. government to fix trespassing laws that favour U.S. billionaire and other landowners](#) (2021 Mar 11) *Vancouver Sun*
- [The right to roam? Not in B.C. you don't](#) (2021 Mar 12) *Vernon News*

#### **Other**

- [#HumansofELAW](#) (2021 Winter) *ELAW Advocate*
- [Deborah Curran - In the spotlight](#) (2020 Sep) Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia





*An ELC staff hike at East Sooke Park in the beforetimes (Holly Pattison)*

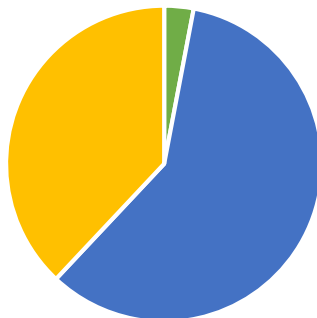
## MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

As we always say, many hands sustain the ELC. In addition to our staff, we receive support from students, clients, the Law Faculty, Board members, lawyers, foundations and our individual donors. Special thanks for all your hard work and happy engagement with the ELC.

We are privileged to have ongoing and core support from a variety of foundation and individual donors. Thanks to the Law Foundation of British Columbia, North Growth Foundation, Oasis Foundation, Sitka Foundation, MakeWay Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation, and the *Janet Person Environmental Law Centre Endowment Fund*.

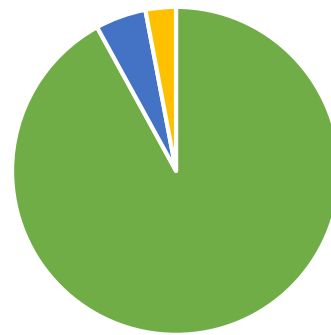
In addition to the continuing steadfast support we receive, we are also steadily diversifying our revenues through private donations. We hope to see this trend continue as we move towards the next stages of organizational sustainability. Our individual donors are small but mighty – thank you!

- Donations and other revenue (3%)
- Law Foundation of BC (59%)
- Other Foundations (38%)



**Revenues**

- Program Salaries and Benefits (92%)
- Program Activities (5%)
- Development and Program Administration (3%)



**Expenditures**