



# findingsolutions

## David Suzuki Foundation

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SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE

[www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org)

## Serving up sustainable seafood



Chefs like Rob Feenie are supporting sustainable seafood

ROB KRUYT

Celebrity chefs and scientists joined environmentalists to serve up a powerful new tool to help keep our oceans healthy.

BY DON HAUKA

**THE** new national SeaChoice program, cooked up by a coalition of environmental organizations including the David Suzuki Foundation,

enables Canadian consumers, fishermen and businesses to make informed sustainable seafood choices.

SeaChoice was unveiled in September at simultaneous launches held in Vancouver, Toronto and Halifax. Comprehensive and made-in-Canada, it ranks seafood by sustainability and encourages people to eat products from fisheries that are well-managed and abundant. Consumption of species that are threatened or come from sources that cause significant harm to other sea life is discouraged.

"We're very pleased with the results of the launch," says Bill Wareham, the David Suzuki

Foundation's acting director for oceans and sustainable fishing. "SeaChoice will empower Canadians

to make the right seafood choices and ensure our oceans remain healthy for generations to come."

About 40 journalists, industry representatives, restaurateurs and supporters attended the launch at the Vancouver Art Gallery, which featured a panel discussion and sustainable seafood appetizers prepared by some of B.C.'s best-known chefs. Rob Feenie of Feenie's and Lumiere restaurants joined chef Rob Clark of C Restaurant in North Vancouver and Andrea Carlson of the Raincity Grill.

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**Barbara Keenan** has been a supporter of the David Suzuki Foundation since 1993. Now retired, she keeps busy with her husband Patrick, four children, and nine grandchildren. Finding Solutions caught up with her for a quick e-mail interview.



Barbara Keenan

**What's your favorite experience in nature?**

I am keenly aware of the beauty of four seasons that we experience in Canada. In our retirement years, we see many of our friends seek warmer climates in the winter, but I love the variety one year brings. Spring's bubbling stream becomes a flowing summer current, which, in turn, basks quietly under a sprinkling of autumn leaves, crumbling into a snowy coverlet, safekeeping the seeds of nature's rebirth.


**What inspired you to donate to the Foundation?**

David Suzuki's absolute dedication to his well-informed beliefs caused me, back in 1993, to make my first donation to his environmental causes.

**How has being a supporter changed your life?**

I walk to the grocery store instead of driving, I cook two vegetables in a double boiler, and I turn down heat and light when leaving my study.

**What is Canada's biggest environmental challenge?**

It's a real struggle to make people aware that the natural world needs our help. We must all respect and protect her patterns which create this beautiful planet we call home. 



**Help protect nature for future generations** Join the Suzuki Society – a group of special individuals who want to be part of the solution. Take action by leaving a gift to the Foundation in your will or arranging another type of future gift. You can leave a generous legacy without affecting your current income and these types of gifts can be eligible for tax benefits. For more information, contact Katie Loftus at 604-732-4228, 1-800-453-1533, ext. 277 or by e-mail at kloftus@davidsuzuki.org.

**memberswrite**

**KUDOS FROM A POLITICO**

As a federal politician committed to environmental sustainability, I read with delight your recent newsletter. I rely on the Pembina Institute and your Foundation for accurate, timely and comprehensive information about the environment. I am grateful that you and I see your research in the same way: as information on which to take action and base policy recommendations.

**Karen Graham**  
Simcoe North Federal Liberal Candidate

**WHAT ABOUT THE ANIMALS?**

I just watched a really good show on climate change. I have to ask you, all of you, is the sacrifice of animals losing habitat and going extinct truly worth the rewards we reap from this destruction?

**Cory Figura**  
Nanaimo, BC

**FIGHT PESTICIDES**

My reason for writing is to thank the Foundation for their outstanding work against pesticides and to encourage them to continue. The time for allowing the pesticide industry to regulate themselves is over and it is our combined voices that will force government in to action. Thank You, David Suzuki Foundation. Thank you!

**Patty Donovan**



# BECAUSE OF YOU!

## Your support helped save prime farmland

BY DAVE TAYLOR

A report released by the David Suzuki Foundation this spring has already led to significant changes in the way farmland is reviewed in British Columbia, saving two large farming areas from being paved over.

The report, *Forever Farmland*, looked at B.C.'s vaunted Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) system and found that while the ALR was one of the most successful processes to protect farmland in Canada, its effectiveness was gradually being eroded.

"Decisions were being made that allowed some of B.C.'s best farmland to become resorts and strip malls," says Ann Rowan, director of the Foundation's sustainability program. "There was an urgent need to reshape the system to reflect the provincial value of local farmland."

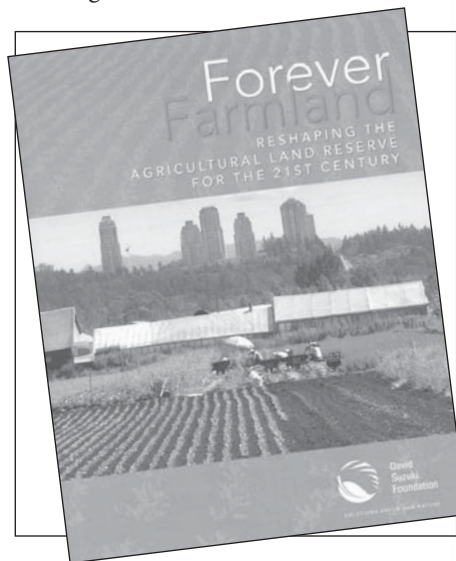
Partially funded by the Endswell Fund and the Footprints Fund at Tides Canada Foundation, *Forever Farmland* made process recommendations to strengthen the ALR. Those recommendations were followed during reviews of Barnston Island and the Richmond Garden City Lands near Vancouver. Both farming areas had been proposed to be taken out of the ALR for development. And both applications were rejected, keeping the farmland safe for the future.

"These decisions set an important precedent for B.C.," says Ms. Rowan. "When the agricultural commission is given the right resources and direction from the province, it can look at all the benefits

of preserving farmland – both for the local community and for the province as a whole."

Ms. Rowan points out that from New Brunswick to British Columbia, urban areas are encroaching on local farmland, pushing the need for ALR-type planning processes to the forefront across Canada.

"Protecting local farmland gives people access to fresh, healthy food," says Ms. Rowan. "It also reduces pollution from transporting foods long distances and protects biodiversity – which is all part of building a sustainable future."



Download your free copy of the ALR report at <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Publications.asp>

## briefs

### Will the real Suzuki please stand up?

The social networking website **MySpace.com** allows registered users



to become virtual friends with others who have posted online profiles.

**But there are problems—especially when a user pretends to be someone they're not.** This is exactly what happened when one user claimed to be Dr. David Suzuki. The Foundation has since replaced the fake profile with a real one. To see the real David Suzuki and become a virtual friend, visit: <http://www.myspace.com/davidsuzuki>.

### The importance of being sustainable

When Dr. Suzuki visited PEI as part of his book tour earlier this year, he inspired local playwright and musician Todd McLean to create "Jamestown Stronghold," a play about sustainability. **"The message of sustainability is intertwined with a comedic premise,"** says Mr. McLean, whose play premiered on Oct. 19 with a cast of 20 actors. "The best part of all is that we're donating all proceeds to the Foundation."

### Researching new ways to protect B.C.'s endangered species

The David Suzuki Foundation is set to unveil a ground-breaking scientific **analysis on the levels of animal and plant endangerment** in Canada's most biologically rich region. The Foundation's director of science, Dr. Faisal Moola, has discovered extremely high levels of endangerment among different wildlife groups in British Columbia, such as amphibians (frogs and salamanders), reptiles (turtles and lizards), and freshwater fish. The upcoming report outlines how implementation of strong endangered species legislation by the B.C. government can protect the province's rich natural heritage. The report will be co-authored with Devon Page of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund.



## SO WHAT'S SEACHOICE ANYWAY?



SeaChoice was developed by Sustainable Seafood Canada, a coalition of environmental organizations consisting of the David Suzuki Foundation, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Ecological Action Centre, Living Oceans Society and the Sierra Club of Canada. The successful launch of this campaign was made possible by the generous support of the R. Howard Webster Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and Eden Conservation Trust.

The program features:

- A wallet card ranking seafood by green, yellow or red choices;
- A website with a searchable seafood database that includes details about each fishery and ways it can improve to receive a better ranking; and
- A list of substitutes for fish that are red-ranked species.

SeaChoice is designed to give everyone involved in a seafood purchase a way to work towards sustainability. Chefs and consumers can use the wallet card to make sustainable choices at the store or when menu planning. Retailers and suppliers can find out where their fish comes from and how it's caught. The fishing industry gets an independent assessment of which fisheries are sustainable and which ones must improve.

For more information, check out the SeaChoice website at [www.seachoice.org](http://www.seachoice.org).



**Bill Wareham of the David Suzuki Foundation at the launch of SeaChoice.org.**

## SEAFOOD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The panel included Mr. Wareham, Dr. Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia, Mark Blouin of Albion Fisheries/Neptune Foods and Jennifer Lash, Executive Director, Living Oceans Society.

"Informed consumers and businesses can now make better choices and encourage the fishing industry to provide seafood

that comes from environmentally responsible fisheries and aquaculture operations," said Mr. Wareham.

Ms. Lash said the program is the first to use Canadian fisheries data and consumption preferences. "Having a made-in-Canada program means we're making good decisions for our oceans," she said.

In Toronto, Jay Ritchlin of the David Suzuki Foundation and Sabine Jessen of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society hosted the event. Chef Jamie Kennedy, owner of Jamie Kennedy Kitchens, provided the appetizers while Dr. Mart R. Gross of the University of Toronto provided the scientific perspective at the Argonaut Rowing Club.

The Halifax launch at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic featured Mark Butler of the Ecology Action Centre, fisherman Wayne Eddy, Dr. Boris Worm of Dalhousie University and sustainable seafood appetizers created by local restaurants Chives and the Wooden Monkey. 🐟

## Protecting B.C.'s salmon stocks Report recommends urgent action to DFO

BY DON HAUKA

Wild Pacific salmon are revered as a priceless Canadian icon, yet we spend very little money preserving their habitat. The federal and provincial governments appear to have lost the will to protect this keystone species, crucial to both B.C.'s economy and ecosystems. How can we reverse the trend of habitat destruction and ensure we have salmon in the future?

*The Will to Protect: Preserving B.C.'s Wild Salmon Habitat* is a new report by the David Suzuki Foundation that identifies the threats facing salmon and the mismanagement of the habitat protection system. The report offers a suite of solutions, including: reforming regulations that control how industry and developers operate in or near salmon habitat and ensuring governments increase their efforts and capacity for habitat monitoring and enforcement.

The report urges the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to improve habitat protection policies and regulations, promote workable initiatives and "get out of the office and into the field" to enforce the law.

The report was written by a trio from the Foundation's oceans and sustainable fishing team: aquatic biologist Jeffery Young, salmon conservation biologist John Werring, and the program's acting director, Bill Wareham, with funding from the R. Howard Webster Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

"If we want abundant runs of salmon 50 years from now then government is going to have to get their act together and get serious about protecting habitat," says Mr. Wareham.

Designed to kickstart a discussion on ways to preserve our wild salmon habitat, the report is part of a multi-pronged approach to engage policymakers, industry and the public in finding solutions to the challenges facing these magnificent fish.

The report is available online at the Oceans section of our website at [www.davidsuzuki.org/Oceans](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Oceans). 🐟



# STILL ALL OVER THE MAP

## New report ranks provincial climate plans

BY JUSTIN SMALLBRIDGE

For the second year in a row, the David Suzuki Foundation takes a hard look at what Canada's individual provinces and territories are doing to fight global warming.

What researchers detail in the second edition of *All Over The Map* is cause for concern. Most provinces have only a vague plan

for cutting greenhouse gas emissions with no thought about how to implement it, or no plan at all.

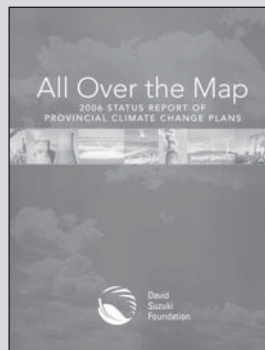
The reasons for the inaction are varied and complex.

"It's not at all straightforward," says report author Dale Marshall. "A lack of political will, trying to reconcile people who want real change with those who want no change at all, an inability to say no to big polluters, as well as a political system that allows both the provinces and the federal government to claim this is the other's responsibility while doing nothing."

Growth in greenhouse gas emissions is greatest in Alberta, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. It's lowest and slowest in Ontario, Manitoba, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The biggest change since last year — and, arguably, the biggest and most encouraging story this time around — is Quebec.

"Quebec released a reasonably strong climate change plan that tackles transportation emissions and reiterates a commitment to wind power that's unmatched in the country," says Mr. Marshall.

Quebec and Ontario are both pushing for energy-efficient building codes, and Quebec is planning to adopt California's limits on auto emissions. The province boasts some of the lowest emissions of greenhouse gases. They dropped 1.3 per cent in 2004, and remain 6.1 per cent above the 1990 mark. Perhaps even more



Dale Marshall

remarkably, so far Quebec's plan for industrial polluters is voluntary, although much of the rest of it is mandatory.

Unfortunately, these changes will not be enough to offset the rise in greenhouse gas emissions in provinces such as Alberta and Saskatchewan, where it appears almost nothing is being done, and where rising emissions more than outweigh the reductions resulting from other provincial plans.

Alberta's greenhouse gas emissions are the highest of all the provinces, and its current global warming plans allow them to increase 33 per cent above 1990 levels by 2020. The Atlantic provinces are a mixed bag: some, like Prince Edward Island, are taking concrete steps to let fewer greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, while others, such as New Brunswick, continue lagging and don't seem prepared to tackle global warming.

And then there's the federal government's role in all this. It could be providing the necessary coordination and regulatory framework to get all the provinces working together and making sure every jurisdiction is on the same page and moving in the right direction. Ottawa could also help provinces without plans to combat global warming explore and adapt ideas from the leading plans, such as Quebec's.

The original *All Over the Map* report and this sequel have been partially funded by The Stephen R. Bronfman Foundation.

Download the full report from <http://www.davidsuzuki.org>.

## ALL OVER THE MAP



Climate change plans rankings by province

### WORST

Saskatchewan

### POOR

British Columbia  
Alberta  
New Brunswick  
Nova Scotia

### FAIR

Newfoundland  
Yukon  
Northwest Territories  
Nunavut

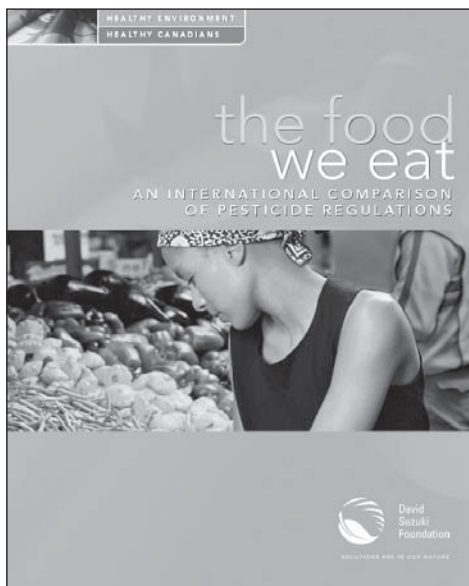
### BEST

Manitoba  
Ontario  
Prince Edward Island  
Quebec

# Healthy Environment, Healthy Canadians

BY JASON CURRAN

## Next time you bite into an apple,



Download your free copy of *The Food We Eat* at <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Publications.asp>

take a sip from a fountain, and fill your nostrils with some fresh Canadian air, ask yourself one question: “Is my environment making me sick?” The David Suzuki Foundation examines this subject closely with *Healthy Environment, Health Canadians* – a series of reports on how preventative approaches to pollution would make us healthier.

As an environmental lawyer and adjunct professor of environmental management at Simon Fraser University, David Boyd endorses the notion that a healthy environment gives us the best chance at a healthy well-being.

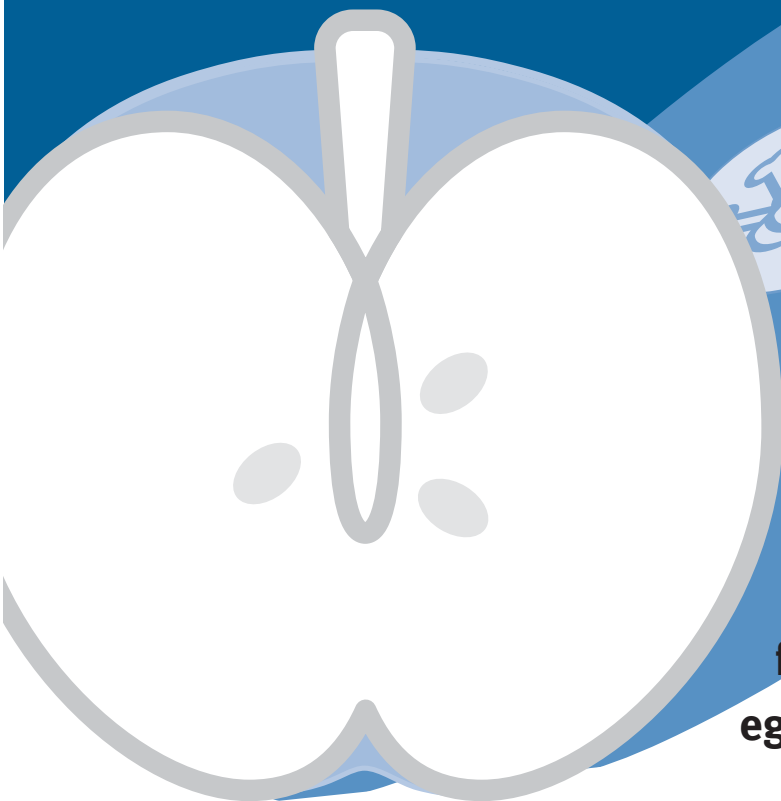
“In many cases, Canada is really light years behind other industrialized nations in addressing the health threats posed by environmental contaminants, such as pesticides and air pollution,” says Mr. Boyd, commissioned by the Foundation to pen the series of reports.

**Canada is really light years behind other industrialized nations in addressing the health threats posed by environmental contaminants**

In the *Food We Eat*, Mr. Boyd highlights 60 active ingredients that are banned by other western industrialized nations but still commonly used in 1,130 pesticide products in Canada.

The reality is that environmental contaminants – in our air, food and water – affect our health. Based on information from provincial poison control centres, thousands of Canadians, mostly children, are severely poisoned by pesticides annually. In Canada, pesticides are found on almost everything, from strawberries to eggs to spinach (Popeye would not be impressed with Canadian limits for imidacloprid, a pesticide used on spinach. Limits in Canada are 400 times weaker than those in Europe).

But before you go outside to clear your head, consider that between 5,900 and 16,000 people, predominantly senior citizens, die prematurely because of air pollution each year.



**In Canada,  
pesticides  
are found on  
almost everything,  
from strawberries to  
eggs to spinach**

And wash that down – or don't – with Canadian government statistics that show contaminated drinking water causes an estimated 90 deaths and 90,000 cases of illness annually.

“The intent of these reports is not to scare the public but to illustrate how Canada can lead the way in proactively protecting our health and environment,” says Ann Rowan, sustainability program director for the Foundation.

Each report in the series offers recommendations for reducing the toll of air pollution, toughening pesticide regulations, and improving drinking water. *The Air We Breathe*, for example, calls for national, enforceable standards for ambient air quality and a national tax on polluters. This report, as well as

the Foundation's previously released *Drive Green – Company Car Tax Shift* policy proposal, were funded by the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Foundation.

Canadians should enjoy a level of protection from environmental threats that is equal to or better than the highest standard enjoyed by the citizens of other industrialized nations, says Ms. Rowan.

“As Canadians we have a right to live in a healthy environment. The Supreme Court of Canada says so,” notes Ms. Rowan. “And a healthy environment that includes clean air, clean water, and healthy food is the foundation of a sustainable future.” 🍏

## Meet David Boyd

### GOING THE DISTANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

David Boyd has a resume that makes other over-achievers green with envy. On top of being an environmental lawyer, a Trudeau Scholar, an adjunct professor at Simon Fraser University, a marathon runner and Terry Fox Run organizer, Mr. Boyd regularly authors reports on sustainability for the David Suzuki Foundation.

The former executive director of Sierra Legal Defence Fund recently began

work on a series of reports on how our environment affects human health in Canada.

“I love working for the Foundation because it passionately articulates and promotes a fabulous vision for Canada and the world,” says Mr. Boyd. “Besides, it was David Suzuki who inspired me to put my law degree to work on behalf of Mother Nature and a sustainable future.”



**David Boyd has written several of the Foundation's sustainability reports.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU FOUNDATION



# ADDRESSING THE COURT

## Showing Supreme Court staffers where the law and environment intersect

BY JUSTIN SMALLBRIDGE

On October 25th, the David Suzuki Foundation's climate change policy analyst Dale Marshall went to court. But instead of fighting a case, he was there to explain the intersection of the law and the environment to the employees of the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Court regularly holds briefings for its employees — clerks, support staff and people other than the Justices themselves — on a range of policy issues.

“It’s aimed at giving the Court’s employees a better understanding of an issue with a particular focus on the legal elements,” Mr. Marshall explains. “All the employees have to help interpret and explain the Court’s decisions, so it helps them to have this kind of understanding.”

The address frames the main environmental issues, compares the challenges with government solutions, and looks at



the legal aspects of how best to address these problems. It covers climate change, biodiversity, ecosystems and toxic waste. Mr. Marshall outlines the main legislative and legal situation for each, offering informed prescriptions on the best way to deal with the issues.

“We concentrate on the legal prescriptions,” Mr. Marshall explains. “We can

strengthen existing laws, we can apply existing laws more rigorously, and there’s also the option of creating new law through legislation.”

Mr. Marshall’s research shows that federal environmental policy has not been strong or thorough enough to adequately protect the environment. A fuller explanation of how the law affects the environment could improve that, especially when the audience is the people who explain and enforce the laws of the land.

# Battling climate change with savoir faire



Quebec Environment minister Claude B  chard, the Foundation's Ian Bruce, and the BC Sustainable Energy Association's Peter Ronald spoke at the press conference.

B  chard met with twelve environmental groups immediately before the news conference.

The plan calls for Quebec to cut its emissions 1.5 per cent below 1990 levels. Some of the measures outlined in the document include: creating a new building code by 2008 to improve energy efficiency by up to 25 per cent; regulating vehicle fuel efficiency to California standards; and generating funds for public transit and projects to cut greenhouse gases by creating a levy on bulk sales of oil which works like a tax to discourage carbon pollution.

“We are pleased with Quebec’s leadership in addressing climate change,” said Ian Bruce, climate change specialist at the David Suzuki Foundation. “Quebec’s action on climate change can serve as a readymade solution for other provinces to follow.”

## Quebec leads Canada’s climate change plans

On September 22, the David Suzuki Foundation held a news conference with Quebec Environment minister Claude B  chard. Quebec currently has the most comprehensive, thorough climate change plan in the country. The climate change plan commits the province to meeting the Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing

greenhouses gases and could serve as a model for provincial governments across Canada.

“If a handful of Canadian provinces and American states can work together to achieve ambitious goals, imagine what we can accomplish if we all join forces in Canada,” said Minister Claude B  chard. Mr.



# You ought to be in pictures

## The Nature Challenge borrows from film classics

BY DOMINIC ALI

When the David Suzuki Foundation had an opportunity to have a booth at the Vancouver Home Show, the offer was too good to pass up.



Randi Kruse

“With so many new homeowners out there looking for ways to make environmentally friendly changes that save money, it seemed like a logical step”, says Nature Challenge outreach specialist Randi Kruse.

More than 50,000 people attended the event. To encourage show-goers to take the Nature Challenge, we created posters based on classic movie titles. The humorous results are reflected in the Foundation’s movie titles: “Car Wars”, “Beauty and the Feast”, and “The Good, The Bad, and the Uglier.” We also held a draw for

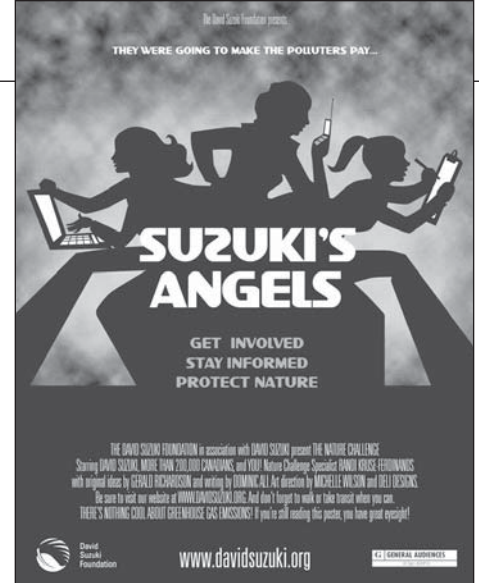
an Energy Star washer and dryer with an estimated value of \$3,000.



Download the entire set of movie posters from [www.davidsuzuki.org/NatureChallenge/Posters.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/NatureChallenge/Posters.asp)

The Foundation received free advertising from DMG world media, donated Energy Star appliances from Coast Wholesale Appliances, and sustainable carpet tile flooring from Interface Inc. (The founder of Interface, Ray Anderson, is a Foundation boardmember.)

To download the entire collection of Nature Challenge movie posters, visit [www.davidsuzuki.org/NatureChallenge/Posters.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/NatureChallenge/Posters.asp)



## Try this at home

Save money and reduce energy:

- 1 • **Purchase Energy Star approved appliances.** These are the most energy efficient products on the market. Energy Star-approved washers use a third less energy than conventional machines!
- 2 • **Properly insulate your home** to prevent energy from escaping. Up to 40% of heat escapes through the walls, doors, and windows of the typical home.
- 3 • **Install compact fluorescent lights in all your fixtures.** These bulbs use a fraction of the energy and last longer than conventional lightbulbs.

# EXTREME MAKEOVER

## Foundation’s new website will keep you better informed

BY DOMINIC ALI

Starting in the new year, you’ll have even more reasons to make the David Suzuki Foundation website your homepage. In the coming months the Foundation will launch a new website at [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org) with a new look and features that promise to keep visitors coming back for more.

“We went right to our users and asked what they liked and what they didn’t like about our current website,” says David Taylor, communications director for the David Suzuki Foundation. “We heard over and over that the research was great, but people wanted more up-to-date news and

more multimedia content.”

Web specialist Gerald Richardson took the challenge to Marqui, the Foundation’s content management service, and has been working with them to develop a state-of-the-art site.

“Our website has been growing steadily in popularity over the past five years, but we haven’t been taking advantage of the full potential of the Internet,” he says. “We really wanted to be able to provide the best possible experience for the more than one million unique visitors who come to our site every year.”

So, when the new website launches,



Suzuki Foundation Web specialist Gerald Richardson

visitors will be treated to a daily science blog that will highlight important environmental and science news, as well as podcasts (often described as “online radio broadcasts”) where visitors can hear from the Foundation’s researchers and analysts.

“These new features will make the David Suzuki Foundation’s site much more useful and interesting to our visitors,” Mr. Taylor says. “We’re building an exciting online community that people will want to visit on a daily basis, rather than just occasionally.”

## ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

# Why can't we all be Energy Stars?

Scene from the recent Home Show:

**Me (in my best huckster voice):** Step right up and learn about your Energy-Star appliances here! Check 'em out – using one-third less energy than standard models, these babies really perform. And they help save the planet at the same time!

**Visitor:** Ahh, I see. So you own one?

**Me:** Um, well, I...(starting to sweat)...no.

**Visitor:** Why not?

**Me:** It's just that...(breaking down)...it didn't fit! (sobbing, wailing, pounding the floor) It didn't fit!

Okay, so maybe the last bit is a touch of an exaggeration, but the guilt did wash over me like the “power rinse” cycle on my new dishwasher – which is, incidentally, an Energy Star. But there I was trying to tout the benefits of these efficient appliances and I had recently bought one that wasn't. Oh the hypocrisy!

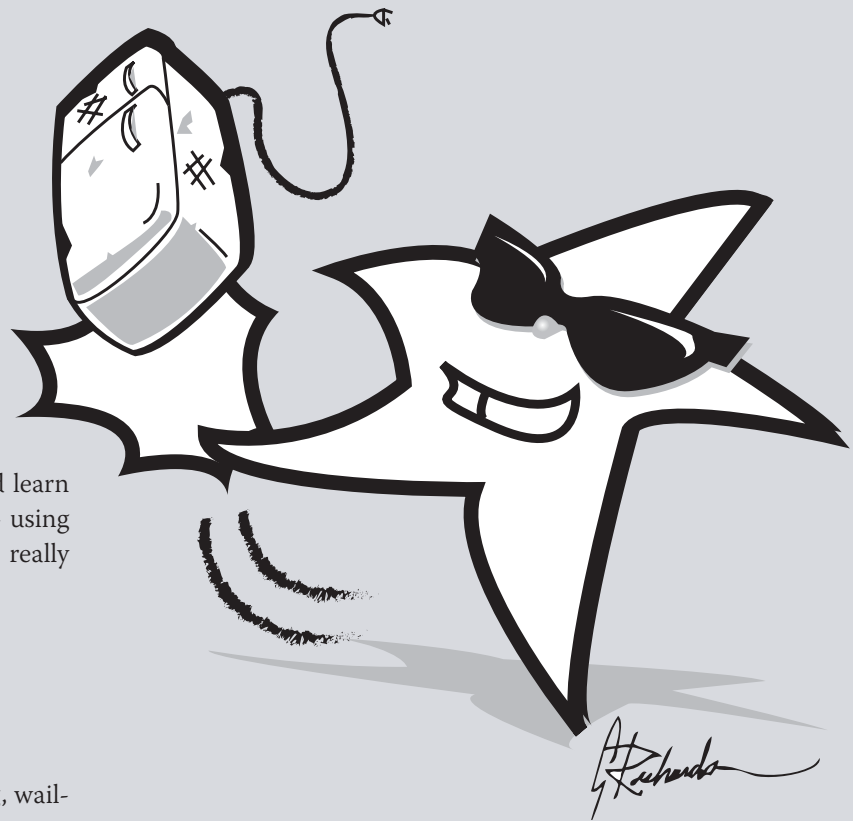
Perhaps I should start from the beginning: It was a good summer, a fine summer. Birds, sun, grass, all that. Then my appliances started dying.

First was my dishwasher, a beast of a thing that had begun rocking, swaying and growling like a cornered politician during question period. It terrified my toddler and sent my otherwise territorial cat running for cover. Then, after a pronounced pack-a-day coughing and wheezing fit, it sputtered to a halt. Not resting – dead. RIP.

Really, I should have pulled the plug on the thing years ago. But it came with the house and it still worked, so who was I to hasten its demise? My wife, who looks on expensive disasters as opportunities, pointed out that we could now replace them with Energy Star models that look the same and often cost the same as standard dishwashers, but use less energy.

“What do you mean, ‘them’?” I asked. My wife just looked at me, clearly unable to hear the question over the ominous grinding noise coming from our fridge.

So, off we went to the appliance store, where salespeople were happy to spin elaborate yarns about the importance of colour, brand, adjustability of racks, and the absolute necessity of clippy



GERALD RICHARDSON ILLUSTRATION

things and other doo-dads, but didn't seem to have a clue about Energy Star – even though they were clearly labeled.

In spite of the clueless salespeople, finding an efficient dishwasher was a breeze. We got one with all those goodies and an Energy Star label to boot. But the fridge was another story. I couldn't find an Energy Star model to fit the space in my cabinets. Every fridge was either way too big or way too small. Since I wasn't about to tear apart my kitchen, I bit the bullet and bought a non-Energy Star model.

It's a nice fridge, but I get mad every time I open the thing. All I wanted was a more efficient refrigerator and I couldn't get

**Why aren't all appliances Energy Stars? If these units can be sold for virtually the same price as standard models, why not just make Energy Star the standard?**

one. Why aren't all appliances Energy Stars? If these units can be sold for virtually the same price as standard models, why not just make Energy Star the standard?

That's a question for our federal representatives. They set the standard, and right now it's pretty low – making

our power plants work harder, putting more strain on our already-taxed electrical grids, and increasing air pollution and global warming.

All this I explained to the Home Show visitor, who listened patiently, then slowly backed away. I'm sure he just needed a latte or something. Another convert to the cause. Another Energy Star is born! 🌊





## findingsolutions

A publication of the David Suzuki Foundation, a registered Canadian charity working through science and education to protect the diversity of nature and our quality of life, now and for future generations.

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### idealbite.com

If you're a fan of the David Suzuki Foundation's monthly Nature Challenge newsletter and want to get more simple tips that protect nature, idealbite.com is a must-read. The site operates like this: enter your e-mail address and receive an e-mail each weekday with advice on making sustainable choices in your daily life. And if you're looking for eco-friendly tips on topics such as cosmetics or recycling your old cell phone, there's a handy tip library.

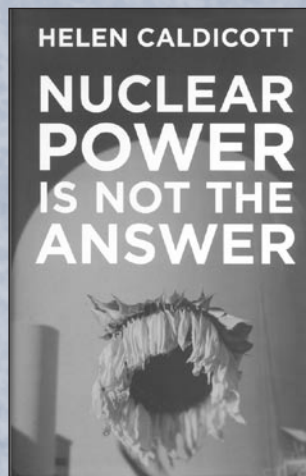
Idealbite's green info is easy to swallow.



### DesmogBlog.com

Scientists know it, most world leaders know it, millions of citizens know it: the world is getting warmer, and that has to stop. A few

holdouts resist the idea of global warming, usually for short-term economic reasons. And some people and organizations eager for the short-term gain that comes from pushing that short-sighted agenda are assisting them. Jim Hoggan knows who they are, what they're doing and who's paying them to do it. A p.r. professional and lawyer, Mr. Hoggan has set up www.desmogblog.com to track the p.r. efforts and perpetrators trying to stall action on global warming. It's a bracing and galvanizing source of information.



### Nuclear Power Is Not The Answer

by Helen Caldicott  
(The New Press)

After a couple of decades of low-profile quiet following the disasters at Chernobyl (1986) and Three Mile Island (1979), the nuclear power industry

## recommended

is heating up again. There are now proposals for additional nuclear power plants, and a lot of the p.r. behind that push positions nuclear power as "clean and green." Not so, argues physician and anti-nuke campaigner Helen Caldicott. Her book methodically details the drawbacks of nuclear power, delineates why it's actually dirty and dangerous for scientific, health, and environmental reasons.



### Change the World for Ten Bucks

(New Society Publishers)

This Canadian edition of a popular British book contains 50 actions to change the world and make you feel good. Suggestions range from recycling old books and turning the thermostat down to save energy, to smiling more and writing to someone who inspired you. The book's eye-popping visuals and brief optimistic text will charm even the most jaded and inspire readers of all ages to make their world a better place.



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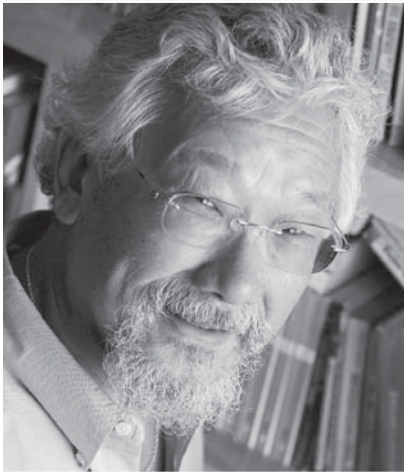
## DAVID SUZUKI'S SCHEDULE

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## IS CANADA AFRAID OF COMMITMENT?



KENT KALLBERG

I WRITE THIS THREE WEEKS into a two-month book tour of Australia. Since first visiting in 1988, I have returned almost every year and have come to love the people and the country.

Since I've been here, news reports have announced faster global warming than anticipated. Being away from Canada has made me consider Canada's role in the international battle against climate change.

I just missed an Australian friend, Tim Flannery, whose latest book, *The Weathermakers* makes the most accessible and compelling case for human-induced climate change. A couple of days after my arrival, former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, came to promote the opening of his powerful film, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

But there's only so much the public can

do. All countries have a duty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Including Canada.

Ever since Lester Pearson's Nobel Peace Prize winning work in the United Nations, Canadians have seen ourselves as responsible members of a community of nations. Playing fair, taking responsibility, and doing our share are bedrock values in Canadian society.

But are we?

When Canada agreed to Kyoto, we committed to meeting internationally-negotiated targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is a responsibility that should not be dismissed. If sending troops to Afghanistan is part of our international commitment, surely the same should apply to our compliance with Kyoto.

Meanwhile, as American state and local politicians, like governors and mayors, ignore their President and take steps to meet the Kyoto targets, some Canadian politicians at the provincial and municipal levels are taking action to reduce their emissions.

Here in Australia, there is a similar contradiction. Prime Minister John Howard has rejected the Kyoto protocol even though Australia is so vulnerable to the ravages of a warmer world.

Ironically, it was here in 1988, that Australian scientists convinced me that global warming was not a distant crisis but something we had to act on right away, yet their prime minister resists their urgent pleas for action.

Canadians and Australians share more than a British colonial past. We are both especially vulnerable to the consequences of climate change and we take pride in being responsible members of the global community.

Accepting Kyoto is in our own self-interest as well as an international obligation. To do any less would be un-Canadian.

All countries  
have a duty  
to reduce  
greenhouse  
gas emissions.

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