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Back in Court to Protect Bees and our Ecosystem

Three out of four of the world's food crops depend on pollinators, but a 2016 United Nations report warned that 40 per cent of pollinators face extinction. Such a massive collapse of pollinators would trigger huge loss in biodiversity and have devastating effects on ecosystems and human health.

That's why we're going back to court to protect bees and other pollinators from a dangerous neonicotinoid pesticide called Thiamethoxam, which has been linked to mass bee die-offs.

This pesticide is used on a wide range of fruits and vegetables that are intensively cultivated, such as cherry trees and legumes. It persists in the environment

for a long time and is systemic, meaning it's taken up through leaves or roots and spread throughout the plant. It cannot be washed or peeled off.

Here's the confusing part — even though Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has concluded Thiamethoxam is dangerous to bees and other pollinators and says risk mitigation measures are necessary, it will not implement those measures for at least another two years.

What the PMRA is calling a "phase-out" is really an unlawful delay in protecting pollinators. Bees need to be protected from neonicotinoids now, not in two years' time.

Thanks to your support, we're taking the PMRA to court.

The PMRA must be held to account when it fails to live up to its responsibilities as a regulator. The agency is meant to take a precautionary approach to pesticides: if they know that Thiamethoxam is dangerous to bees and other pollinators, they must restrict it immediately. There's no statutory reason to wait two years while even more Thiamethoxam accumulates in the environment, harming pollinators.

A win in this case would mean the immediate introduction of restrictions on the use of Thiamethoxam, and potentially any other products with a similar unlawful "phase-out" period.

Thank you for standing with us in this important fight.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This spring, another bombshell U.N. report spelled out the horrendous scale of the global biodiversity crisis. According to the world's leading biologists, one million species are at risk of extinction worldwide.

Canadian governments have been unable to mount an effective response to this crisis. B.C. has 1,807 species at risk of extinction, and, like many other provinces, does not have a standalone law dedicated to protecting and recovering endangered species. Meanwhile, Premier Doug Ford in Ontario has introduced the “pay to slay” Bill 108, which guts protections for the province’s most vulnerable species.

But thanks to donors like you, Ecojustice goes to court and

uses the power the law to defend nature — and we’re winning!

In 2018, Ecojustice lawyers successfully challenged the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans’ policy of allowing fish farm operators to transfer farmed salmon into open-net pens in the ocean without first testing for piscine orthoreovirus (PRV). Thanks to our victory, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is introducing interim measures to screen farmed salmon and hatchery fish for two strains of PRV before transferring them into net-pens in the ocean.

Early in 2019, we also launched a case to protect wild Atlantic salmon from fish farm expansions off the coast of Newfoundland. In B.C., we have called on the federal government to step in and take action to protect old-growth forests, home

to the endangered Spotted Owl — of which just six remain in the wild in Canada. And, as our front page notes, we have launched a new case to protect bees and other pollinators from dangerous neonicotinoid pesticides.

Without your support, these efforts to defend nature wouldn’t happen. In the face of the global biodiversity crisis and Canadian governments’ failure to protect at-risk species, you are making a critical difference.

An important fact to take away from the U.N. report on biodiversity is that it’s not too late to make a difference. Change must happen at every level, from local to global, and the law is a powerful tool to make that happen.

Every dollar you donate to Ecojustice is helping us achieve the law and policy reforms that are so urgently needed. Thank you.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THIS IS NOT A DRILL: HOW WE'RE TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The science, the courts, and now the federal government all agree:

CANADA IS FACING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY.

We know that climate change is already impacting Canadians' health, security, and well-being. Extreme weather, heatwaves, and wildfires put the health of vulnerable people — seniors, those without adequate housing, and those with chronic health problems — at risk. Today's youth will inherit an increasingly uncertain world that limits their ambitions for the future.

Your generous support has helped Ecojustice show the courts this harsh reality.

In May, Ecojustice represented the David Suzuki Foundation and argued that climate change is a national emergency —and we won.

The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal ruled that the federal government has the power to take national action to tackle climate change.

The court also found for the first time ever that "climate change is doubtless an emergency in the sense that it presents a genuine threat to Canada."

And now, the government has made it official. On June 17, Canada became the third country to formally declare that climate change is a national emergency.

The terrible irony is that less than 24 hours after the federal government declared a national climate emergency it re-approved the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion.

Declaring a climate emergency means getting Canada on track to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and hit zero emissions by 2050 — and passing strong, enforceable climate laws to get us there.

Unfortunately, there is a Trans-Mountain sized hole in Canada's current climate action plan.

Canada can't have it both ways. Supporting the Trans Mountain

**The court agreed
"climate change
is doubtless an
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project is incompatible with a commitment to tackle the climate emergency.

That's why, with your support, Ecojustice is committed to using the power of the law to secure a safe climate for future generations.

Up next we'll be calling on you, and all environmental defenders in our network, to pledge to go to the polls during the upcoming federal election and cast your vote with the climate — and climate accountability — in mind.

Canada's climate is warming faster than the rest of the world. Our laws need to catch up.



KYE MARSHALL

Ever since I can remember I have always felt more at home out in nature — hiking in a forest, canoeing on a river or walking on a dark road at night guided only by starlight.

Driven by my passion for protecting the natural world and the wildlife who inhabit it, I became a donor and advocate for Ecojustice over two decades ago. Since then, I've seen Ecojustice's victories help bring species like the endangered Sage Grouse back from the brink of extinction, and witnessed many other victories that have protected nature and defended Canadians' right to clean air, safe water, and a healthy planet.

As a composer and musician, I use my music to promote the cause I care most deeply for the environment. This November, I will be hosting a benefit jazz cello concert to raise funds and awareness for Ecojustice's legal work. One way that I know that I'm having a real impact in



Kye Marshall, Musician and Ecojustice Supporter



protecting the environment is by supporting Ecojustice. My hope for this concert is that it will make more people aware that the law is a powerful catalyst for the change that our planet really needs right now.

Ecojustice's legal action that holds government and polluters to account gives me hope that we can mitigate climate change. With our support, Ecojustice can strategically take on precedent-setting cases that have the potential to force policy shifts and strengthen Canada's environmental laws. Faced with the current climate catastrophe we must make change, support change and advocate for change.

*To learn more about how you can help raise awareness and funds for Ecojustice, please contact Ecojustice's Donor Relations Team at **1.800.926.7744 x295** or email **donor@ecojustice.ca**.*



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