



# Lands and People

FEBRUARY 2006, VOL.4, NUMBER 1

## Predictions for a New Political Era: Forecasting Trends for 2006

By Will Horter

As we enter the second half of the third millennium's first decade, Dogwood Initiative decided it would be useful to anticipate the trends we expect to gain momentum in 2006.

So after checking our sources, testing the prevailing winds and glancing at our tea leaves through a crystal ball we made these predictions ...

The Liberal government in Ottawa has been around for so long they are almost a part of our social fabric. A Conservative government will change that and the realigned federal political landscape will have profound impacts for British Columbia.

The provincial Liberals, despite having a different name, are philosophically closer to Stephen Harper's Conservatives than to the federal Liberals. Campbell's Liberals and Harper's Conservatives believe government can be reduced to an accounting exercise, and both share a near contempt for all things environmental. So

expect big changes, particularly on energy, democratic reform and Aboriginal issues. These changes will present challenges as well as opportunities. More on both below.

### Energy

#### *Tankers and offshore oil and gas*

The fish, wildlife and people living on BC's fragile coast may face the biggest challenge from a Conservative government. Expect Mr. Harper to try to withdraw the existing ban on offshore oil and gas development and tanker traffic. This ban has been in place since 1972 to protect BC's vulnerable coastline from oil spills, but is unlikely to last under the Conservatives.

Attempting to remove the moratorium will produce applause from Mr. Campbell's provincial Liberals, but boos from most British Columbians. Expect vigorous opposition from First Nations, fishers and environmentalists. A BC-wide poll, commissioned from Mustel Group by

...Forecasting continued on page 9



Foundering oil tanker - Stephen Harper's vision for BC's west coast?

Photo: with permission from www.darwinfoundation.org, cdrs

DOGWOOD INITIATIVE was founded by First Nations, environmentalists, and community and labour leaders.

Our mission is to help people in BC change the balance of power to create healthy, prosperous communities by promoting dialogue, facilitating collaborative action and creating leverage.

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

<b>in this issue</b>	President's report	2	Caldicott's win	6
	Investing in a better world	3	Strength in Community Festival	7
	Candis Graham memorial	3	Using your will to promote your values	8
	Community hero: Merve Wilkinson	4	Sudoku puzzle contest	8
	Shell's coalbed methane threat	5	Staff and volunteer update	12

# President's Report

By Cliff Stainsby



Winter is usually a time of rest in Canada. A time when animals and people nest, living off the bounty of past efforts and preparing for spring when growth begins again.

This cycle of rest was interrupted by the federal election. Change and renewal were the underlying themes of the federal election, with all the parties trying to convince voters that they are new, different and better. Only time will tell whether the rhetoric becomes reality, or remains just the latest spin.

At Dogwood Initiative, this winter was also a time for renewal. As part of our own continuing renaissance, we have added two dynamic young women to our board of directors, Natalie Southworth and Lisa Ambus.

The new energy, vision and skills Lisa and Natalie bring will help Dogwood Initiative continue to rejuvenate itself. They will greatly assist our efforts to help British Columbians do great things to promote healthy, prosperous communities.

Natalie is a former news reporter for the *Globe and Mail* in Toronto and communications director for Greenpeace. Today, she is an independent communications strategist, freelance journalist, writer and documentary film producer. She produced her first full-length documentary about the fish farm crisis in British Columbia, *Alexandra's Echo*, which aired last year on Global TV, and will air on PBS in Seattle and on the Knowledge Network.

After a long history as a volunteer with Dogwood Initiative, Lisa Ambus has joined our board. Based in Vancouver, Lisa is currently studying for a Master's in Forestry at UBC. Lisa has been involved with community forestry in BC and internationally—working with the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance at UVic as coordina-

tor of the International Network of Forests and Communities, and the BC Community Forestry Forum. She is also the Facilitator/Coordinator of the Global Caucus on Community-Based Forest Management, a unique coalition of international groups that share a common objective: to promote and support community-based forest management that is socially just, ecologically sound and economically viable.

Loss is also a part of renewal. After serving for five years, Garry Worth, former National President of the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada, has stepped off our board. Garry, a recently retired millwright at the Weyerhaeuser pulp mill in Kamloops, was a representative on the BC Labour Relations Board and an executive officer of the Confederation of Canadian Unions from 1983 to 1995, including six years as President. Garry's involvement will be missed.

2006 will be an exciting year. Many of the issues Dogwood Initiative has been working on—softwood lumber (*see page 10*), coalbed methane (*see page 5 & 11*), offshore tanker traffic (*see page 1*), Enbridge's Gateway pipeline (*see page 9*), and First Nations' land rights (*see page 5 & 11*)—will be hot button issues over the next twelve months.

Dogwood Initiative is small, but fierce. The active involvement of our board, advisors, partners and supporters is fundamental to our success and our ongoing renewal.

As a small organization with ambitious goals, we rely on our volunteer board—and supporters like you—to act as ambassadors for Dogwood Initiative, as active emissaries that help us engage British Columbians and catalyze collaborative action.

If you or someone you know wants to join Dogwood Initiative's dynamic board or support our efforts, contact me at [cliff@dogwoodinitiative.org](mailto:cliff@dogwoodinitiative.org) to discuss your ideas. ☘



**www.workingdesign.net**  
FOR PRINT AND WEB / A UNION SHOP

- IDEAS
- GRAPHICS
- COMMUNICATIONS



# Investing in a better world - Matching your money to your values

By Moira Campbell

“Is ‘ethical investing’ an oxymoron?” That was the question in the mind of one of the people who attended the seminar we co-hosted with Stephen Whipp, certified financial planner of Berkshire Securities, on November 15.

Bob Walker of Ethical Funds spoke at the first in our series of free seminars about using your money to change the world and save tax. He shared insights into the progress of ethical investing, then held a lively question and answer session. It was tremendously informative.

“Many people feel powerless and don’t understand that they can use their investments to influence the way resource development takes place on public and aboriginal land in BC,” said Will Horter, Executive Director of Dogwood Initiative. “We plan to help people align their environmental, social, and human rights values with their investments. And create leverage for change while doing it.”

Shortly after the seminar Dogwood Initiative helped Ethical Funds draft a groundbreaking shareholder’s resolution requiring Enbridge and Encana to report on how their operations impact on biodiversity and ecosystems claimed by First Nations.

Michael Jantzi will be the featured speaker at our next

seminar, “*Who Says It’s Ethical?*” to be held on February 21 in Victoria and on March 28 in Vancouver. Michael Jantzi founded Michael Jantzi Research Associates Inc., which has established the Canadian Social Investment Database, the country’s first database that tracks the social, labour and environmental performance of Canadian Corporations.

Mr. Jantzi also launched the Jantzi Social Index™, the first socially responsible index of Canadian stocks. Michael will be talking about the criteria they use to determine whether an investment is “ethical”.

We expect this to be followed by an energetic debate, bearing in mind that companies like Shell Canada and Enbridge are listed in their index!

Come and learn how you can transform your finances and transform the world. ☒



Come join our discussion of *The Mainstreaming of Ethical Investing: Who Says It’s Ethical*, at a free seminar with Michael Jantzi on February 21 in Victoria and March 28 in Vancouver. Lunch provided. Pre-registration required. Call 250 370 9930 Ext. 25 or toll free 1-866-405-1988.

## Candis Graham 1949 - 2005



Candis Graham, Our former Office Manager, passed away peacefully on the evening of November 22, 2005 surrounded by friends and family. Candis had suffered a sudden brain aneurysm. Her wry self-deprecating humour and astute nature will be missed. Candis lived most of her life in Ottawa, but spent her last years in Victoria, BC where she was a familiar sight riding her moped on the streets of Fernwood. Candis was an accomplished writer and poet. Her published works include *Tea for Thirteen* (1990) and *Imperfect Moments* (1993). After leaving Dogwood Initiative in 2003, Candis created a greeting card company, *Inner Sea*, to which she brought the same wit and wisdom that infused the rest of her life. We will miss her greatly.

Donations in her memory may be made to The Candis Graham Writing Scholarship, Lambda Foundation Fund. Mail to: Fund Manager for Candis Graham Writing Scholarship, Lambda Foundation Fund, University of Victoria, Development Office, Box 3060, Victoria, BC, V8W 3R4 ☒

# Community hero: Merve Wilkinson

By Heather Rock

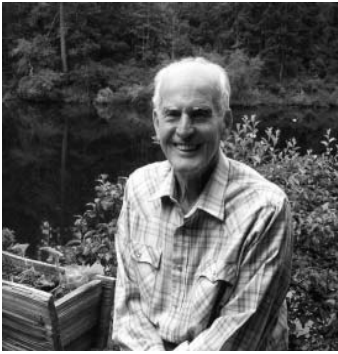


Photo: The Land Conservancy

*Merve Wilkinson is the 92 year old founder of Wildwood, a sustainably managed forest on Vancouver Island. The 140 acre property is now owned by The Land Conservancy so the work Merve started can continue. In 2001, Merve was inducted into both the Order of British Columbia and the Order of Canada. He has also been given the BC Citizen of the Year Award.*

**HR:** *How have your alternative logging practices turned out economically?*

**MW:** The land has produced 1.5 times the timber initially estimated at time of purchase. It also has 110% of the volume estimated in 1938.

**HR:** *How have your forest operations affected your community and their environment?*

**MW:** It provided a ... [g]ood living standard for one family ... . The wood harvested has provided material for houses, musical instruments and furniture. More employment has been generated from this land because, rather than one cut, there have been twelve selection cuts. Harvesting provides not only raw material for the district but indirect “spin-off benefits” such as labour for housing construction.

The sustainable operations affect the environment in that many other uses of the forest continue to be possible. I encourage visitors. Bird lovers find it very lovely to walk through ... .

**HR:** *What are some of the biggest challenges that you have encountered?*

**MW:** The biggest challenge was adverse governments, industry and labour ... . Rather than seeing my operations as an advantage, they viewed them as the enemy.

It was not accepted to save trees to cut later. I was laughed at, ignored and threatened, but I was not dislodged. But that is in the past. Now First Nations groups and the World Wildlife Fund have identified Wildwood as a special place. Throughout its history Wildwood has been a host to a range of people from all over the world who are interested in forestry ... .

It is a wonderful knowledge exchange. Visitors share success stories. I make changes to the system here from what I learn from them ... .

**HR:** *What are some examples of things you have learned from other countries?*

**MW:** I have learned that you can never cut your best tree. It is for seed. If it died you would take it out because it would be a waste of valuable timber. On the other hand if it is a very good habitat tree for bird life and insects you would have to make a decision to cut or to leave it. These things are necessary for nature’s balance ... .

It is also important to avoid monocultures. Stands must be mixed ... . Here [in BC and North America] the dollar-making perspective dictates otherwise, and monocultures are the norm.

**HR:** *What is your biggest achievement?*

**MW:** My biggest achievement is to have influenced methods and to have been influenced by... [forests from other countries.]

Another great achievement is the wonderful lifestyle I have for myself... A million bucks is alright, you can buy happiness, booze, drugs and sex but you can not buy contentment ... . When I was twenty-one I decided I was going to be myself and do what I wanted, wealthy or not.

*This is an excerpt from an interview with Merve Wilkinson carried out by Dogwood Initiative volunteer Heather Rock on November 15, 2005. The full interview can be read on our website at [www.dogwoodinitiative.org](http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org) ☞*



Photo: The Land Conservancy

*Hills Foods Ltd.*

**Certified Organic Meats, game meats and specialty poultry**

Phone: (604) 472-1500

Fax: (604) 472-1501

E-Mail: [sales@hillsfoods.com](mailto:sales@hillsfoods.com)

# Shell renews coalbed methane threat to Tahltan's Sacred Headwaters

By Will Horter

An old slave spiritual reminds us that, “We who believe in freedom cannot rest.”

The Tahltan are learning the wisdom of these words as their battle to protect their Sacred Headwaters heats up again. Shell Canada is once again pressuring for coalbed methane drilling permits that will affect the fragile headwaters magnificent salmon rivers—Spatsizi, Nass, Klappan and Stikine. To the Tahltan, this area is known as the Sacred Headwaters.

Shell should expect broad opposition to its plans from the Tahltan, fishermen, downstream residents and environmental groups. To drill the coalbed, Shell will need to use a road that Elders and youth from Iskut and other Tahltan communities blockaded from July through September 2005 in an attempt to stop Fortune Minerals' plan for an open pit coal mine in this important cultural and wildlife area.

The Tahltan may take action again. Although 15 Tahltan elders and youth were arrested for blocking Fortune's drilling equipment, the Crown later dropped the charges, since neither Fortune Minerals, nor the provincial government wanted the bad publicity a trial would have caused.

Shell, Fortune Minerals and others who want to use this road to industrialise the Sacred Headwaters had another major setback on November 23, 2005, when the BC Supreme Court rejected Fortune Minerals' application to extend an injunction against protestors blocking access to the fragile area.

For the first time in the ongoing dispute, Tahltan protestors were represented by their own lawyer. It made a big difference. Dogwood Initiative helped the Tahltan engage lawyer Cameron Ward. His arguments led the court to reject the application, citing “insufficient evidence” to justify an extension. In a very unusual move, the court also awarded costs to the Tahltan defendants.

“Our people are being bombarded with mining and coalbed methane proposals,” said Bertha Nole (Louie), a Tahltan Central Council director, Iskut Elder and one of the arrestees. “Hopefully, Fortune Minerals, Shell Canada and others wanting to destroy the Sacred Headwaters will learn that we will never give up protecting our heritage.”

Resistance to proposed mining and coalbed methane is growing across the north. Over 400 northern First Nations from six nations gathered in Terrace on October 30 to declare their support for the Tahltan arrestees. Representatives from six nations issued a declaration calling for “free, prior and informed consent” before any new development occurs in the north. On November 1, dozens of Tahltan made their continued opposition known to Fortune Minerals' President Robin Goad at an open house meeting in Terrace.

## Origins of the conflict

The conflict over the Sacred Headwaters began in 2004 when the Crown didn't fulfill its obligations to deal fairly with the Tahltan before selling coalbed methane drilling rights in the Shell Canada for \$4.5 million. The government's granting of permits to Shell violated recent directions from the Supreme Court of Canada that the Crown must consult affected aboriginal groups making “allocations” of resources.

Tahltan opposition grew in 2004 when, with no prior notice, bulldozers blasted a new road turnoff from highway 37 to Ealue Lake Road. This turnoff, necessary to move Shell's drilling equipment into position, went through John Nole's traditional camp.

Opposition escalated early in 2005 when the Tahltan Elders declared a moratorium on all new resource development proposals until certain conditions were met. Last spring Shell had to abandon its coalbed methane drilling plans when the Iskut Band Council and Tahltan Elders asked them to leave the Sacred Headwaters.

## Shell's (lack of) response

Over the last few months, instead of responding to Tahltan concerns, Shell has ignored numerous requests for detailed information about its plans for the Sacred Headwaters area. For example, Shell has refused to describe in writing the potential five options it is considering for pipeline routes to transport future coalbed methane into the continental gas pipeline network.

...Shell concludes on next page



Photo: Taylor Bacharach

Tahltan prepare for arrests

...Shell continued from previous page

It has also refused to put in writing the minimum number of potential wells that would be needed to make a project in the Sacred Headwaters commercially feasible. At a public meeting in Smithers, a Shell representative reluctantly admitted they were hoping for one to four wells per square mile. This may not seem like a lot at first, but it would mean between 1,500 and 6,000 wells in total—along with associated roads, compressors, power lines and pipelines—all within the headwaters of some of the world's most important salmon rivers.

The opposition to Shell's plans is growing across the north because commercial coalbed methane production is extremely destructive. It results in an intense footprint and frequently billions of gallons of often toxic "produced water."

## Upcoming Events

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) will soon visit Iskut to "consult" with the locals on Shell's application for new drilling permits. This meeting is likely to be a formality.

The OGC is unlikely to listen to local or First Nation's concerns. When challenged at a public meeting last spring, an OGC representative admitted that he could think of no applications that the OGC had not ultimately approved.

We'll see whether Shell and the OGC will listen or choose to face fierce opposition from First Nations, fishers, downstream residents and environmental groups. The Tahltan, Dogwood Initiative and our supporters aren't planning on resting any time soon. ☒

## Caldicott's win is a model for activists *By Michael Begg*



Arthur Caldicott wins

Some readers may have noticed former Dogwood Initiative staffer Arthur Caldicott in the *Globe and Mail* in December. The story detailed his successful struggle for compensation from Air Canada over its destruction of his laptop computer in June, 2004.

The win is an activists' case study, showing what a determined individual can do against a powerful institution.

Vindication took a year and a half, but thanks to Arthur's activist spirit and a federal arbitration board, Arthur forced Air Canada Jazz to pay for his new laptop.

The airline used the usual tactics to deter Arthur. Arthur filed a formal damaged baggage claim and wrote to the airline four times; the airline ignored him for two months. After complaints to the airline's (now disbanded) ombudsman and the federal Canadian Transportation Agency; the airline issued a curt dismissal of liability. Arthur persisted with the claim; the airline tried legal intimidation, declaring "Tariff regulations" protect it from liability.

These "regulations" were in fact a set of standard contractual terms which do not have the force of law. Arthur refused to be put off, and pursued the matter to arbitration.

And on December 4, 2005, the Transportation Agency's arbitration panel ruled the tariffs don't protect the airline—not, at least, without proper notice to customers.

We don't know how Air Canada will respond to Arthur's win. Arthur hopes the airline will communicate better with customers. But perhaps the greatest value of the case is the inspiration it offers. As Arthur says, "When you know you are in the right, you should never give up. Even when your opponent has vast resources." A good lesson for all. ☒

You can now support our work by advertising in our newsletter, *Lands & People*.

Rate: \$10 a line or  
3.25" by 1" box ad \$40  
3.25" by 2" box ad \$75

The newsletter is distributed quarterly by mail to over 1,200 of our progressive donors and supporters in British Columbia and seen by hundreds more people who download it from our website. To book space in our May edition call Zach Robertson 250 370 9930 local 21.

# Strength in Community Festival & Awards 2006

Annual photography, audio/video, writing and activist festival  
and awards celebrating the power of community in BC

As part of our ongoing effort to capture the spirit of British Columbians doing great things to promote healthy prosperous communities, Dogwood Initiative has launched the Strength in Community Awards.

Prizes will be given to entrants who capture the spirit of community power in BC in the following 4 categories: photography, non-fiction (1,000 words), audio (3 minutes) or video (3 minutes). We are seeking inspirational examples of how communities, First Nations, labour and/or environmentalists are working together to take back control of BC's majestic forests and breathtaking natural areas.

The awards will be announced at the second annual Strength in Community Festival, which will be held at St Ann's Academy in Victoria on Victoria Day, May 22 from noon until 6 PM.

In addition to the Awards, the Festival will be a family event, with local food, interactive displays, song, dance and film. Festival partners include Council of Canadians (Victoria Chapter), BCSEA (Victoria Chapter), Vancouver Island Chef's Collaborative and Open Cinema.

With the Strength in Community Awards and Festival, Dogwood Initiative hopes to recognize the tremendous achievements of BC's grassroots heroes.

"We need to tell the stories of the champions in our communities. In fact, we plan to shout them from the rooftops," said Will Horter, Dogwood Initiative's Executive Director.

The deadline for submissions to be considered for any of the award categories is Earth Day—Saturday 22 April 2006.

Prizes will include a week-long course at the famed Gulf Island Film and Video School on Galiano Island, stays at some of British Columbia's most beautiful retreat and vacations spots and a year's subscription to Canadian literary magazine, *The Malahat Review*.

## Strength in Community Awards Panel

The panel evaluating submissions and deciding on awards includes:

- Noba Anderson—executive Director of Cortes Ecoforestry Society, community forest activist, writer and board member of the British Columbia Community Forest Association.
- Jacob Beaton—president of CopperMoon, a media firm specializing in communications for aboriginal initiatives and a board member of the Young Entrepreneurs Association.
- Murray Dobbin—freelance journalist, broadcaster and author, leading activist in the movement against corporate globalization and board member of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.
- Alisa Gordaneer—editor of Monday Magazine, Victoria's alternative entertainment and news weekly.
- John Gould—author and lecturer.
- Jo-Ann Roberts—host of All Points West, CBC Radio One's BC afternoon show.

So if you or someone you know has an inspiring story to tell about British Columbians doing great things, send us your story, video, audio clip or photo.

Call (250) 370-9930 ext. 21 to receive an application pack or look online at [www.dogwoodinitiative.org](http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org). ☒

**Victoria's first all Hemp clothing store**  
*The joy of shopping with a green conscience*

**H&C**

- affordable
- colourful
- stylish
- eco-friendly

547 Johnson St 383-4367	5748 Johnson St 385-7443
----------------------------	-----------------------------

 We're all about cooler, trendier, funkier clothes that will sustain our planet — hemp, organics, reconstructed and locally made.

[www.hempandcompany.com](http://www.hempandcompany.com)

# Using Your Will to Promote Your Values *By Moira Campbell*

Are you one of the 50 percent of Canadians who doesn't have a will?

Perhaps, like many others, you are finding it hard to face this thorny task. Or do you think there is nothing for you to gain—except the privilege of paying a lawyer's fee?

But there is—you will gain great peace of mind knowing that you have looked after the people, organizations and issues important to you.

If you die without a will, your assets are distributed according to the priorities set by the legislature. You will have missed the chance to make your wishes known and to make the appropriate arrangements for those you love. Your family will be faced with the difficult, time-

consuming and often costly task of sorting out your estate.

When making your will, consider leaving a legacy to Dogwood Initiative and perhaps other organizations whose work reflects your values.

As well as the pleasure you will receive from making a gift, you

*Join us on March 2, 2006 for a free seminar in Victoria with estate planners Mark Horne (RN) and John Coupar. Space is limited to 10 persons, so pre-register now on 250 370 9930 Ext. 25.*

are quite likely to save taxes by including a bequest to a registered charity in your estate planning.

*(Tides Foundation or The Institute for New Economics will issue a tax receipt for bequests made to Dogwood Initiative.)*

By engaging a qualified professional to help, you will ensure that your family won't have to face delays or legal costs down the line. Review your will regularly to make sure it continues to be in line with your values, your resources, and the needs



**Make provision for the people and causes you care about**

of your beneficiaries.

Unquestionably, you gain something when you make a will. The peace of mind of knowing how the people and causes important to you will be looked after is invaluable, as is the knowledge you've saved taxes and maximized your gifts.

*Please see the enclosed leaflet for further information about making a gift in your will to Dogwood Initiative. For more information, please contact Moira Campbell on 250 370 9930 ext. 24. ☒*

## Sudoku Puzzle Contest *By Zach Robertson*

	2				5		9	6
3			2			5		
	7				9	2	1	
			9	6		8		
		1		5	8			
	6	7	5				2	
		2			7			8
9	8		3				4	

Due to the surprising response rate of the last Sudoku puzzle we are offering it again.

The goal of Sudoku is simple. Fill in the empty squares, one number in each, so that each column, row, and region (3 x 3 grid) contains the numbers 1–9 exactly once.

It get a bit more complicated after that, requiring patience and reasoning to solve the puzzle.

Part of what makes Sudoku so elegant and addicting is that each puzzle has only one solution. The first person to mail or fax in the correct answer will be awarded the coveted Dogwood Initiative t-shirt (*available in green and red*). The solution and the name of the winner will be announced on our website after March 15th. ☒



...forecasting trends continued from page 1

Dogwood Initiative and others confirmed that three in four (75%) of British Columbians oppose tankers in BC's inland coastal waters. Opposition was highest on the South Coast and Vancouver Island (83.5%).

With a little help from Dogwood Initiative and our partners, the various candidates' positions on tankers and offshore oil and gas became a wedge issue in some ridings and most candidates supportive of oil tanker traffic lost. Expect heightened controversy on tanker issues in the coming year.

#### *Pipelines, tar sands and mega-projects*

The debate about tankers is linked with Enbridge's proposed Gateway pipelines from Alberta to Kitimat. Enbridge wants to build two pipelines, one of which will move up to a million barrels of tar sands crude each day across this 1,200 km span, to be loaded onto tankers bound for fuel-addicted California, China and India.

Investors are enthusiastic, but affected First Nations have privately indicated their objections to the Gateway pipelines. These Nations are likely to voice those objections during one of the many political-regulatory hurdles Enbridge's project faces. The company is vulnerable, because it is competing for financing and crude oil supply with three other tar sands pipelines. Delaying the projects' timeline could scuttle Enbridge's plans.

In 2006, a growing number of legal, financial and political fights will focus on the undesirable consequences of the unchecked tar sands growth. A new alliance of North American non-profits has recently formed to co-ordinate these efforts. The Enbridge pipeline will likely be the first salvo in the new campaign to catalyze debate, and Dogwood Initiative will be at the centre.

#### *Climate Change and Kyoto*

Canada's leadership on climate change and Kyoto are likely to be torpedoed by the Conservatives. This puts Mr. Harper's government at odds with the vast majority of Canadians, 74% of whom support Kyoto.

Despite vigorously critiquing Mr. Martin's Kyoto efforts, Mr. Harper has failed to identify his plan for addressing climate change. Instead, like George W. Bush's administration down south, the Conservatives have played a shell game, trying to convince Canadians that addressing pollution is a better strategy.

The good news is Mr. Harper's commitment to a new Clean Air Act that would require reductions in smog-causing pollutants such as Nitrogen Oxides, (NOx), Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter. New pollution restrictions are important.

The bad news is reducing these pollutants will do nothing to address the biggest issue facing our nation and civilization—the growing climate crisis. Instead of moving forward, the Conservatives want to move sideways and implement a stand-alone, “*Made-in-Canada*” plan. This fossil fuel industry led approach continues with the status quo, but creates incentives for new technologies to reduce emissions.

New technology to reduce emissions can help, but it won't be enough if Canada continues to base its energy strategy on fossil fuel projects that contribute vastly to the climate change problem, such as the tar sands, offshore drilling on both coasts, and the Mackenzie Valley gas and pipeline projects.

The Conservatives, and both the federal and the provincial Liberals, are out of step with British Columbians' priorities on energy. The Mustel Group poll we commissioned also showed that over 8 in 10 (86%) of BC residents say that when it comes to energy policy, Canada's top priority should be alternatives like solar and wind power (57% support) and energy efficient technologies that conserve power (30%), rather than new sources of oil (8%).

Yet only the Greens and NDP make these alternatives and conservation a priority. This trend will probably begin to change in the next few years, as the hard facts and the opinion polls start to influence the other parties.

#### *NAFTA and the lack of a Canadian Energy Policy*

Canada had no energy plan, the lack of a coherent, sustainable and secure plan for Canada's future energy needs is a political omission with potentially disastrous consequences. A recent op-ed article in the Globe and Mail pointed out that Canada is the only NAFTA signatory without an energy security strategy.

Expect the debate to get more attention in 2006, as more human and natural crises interrupt supplies, cause spikes in prices at the pump and foment the debate about the effects of “peak oil.”

Some little known facts may drive the issue:

- Canadian fossil fuel consumption is going up. Canadian use of gas has increased by 11% and oil by 13% since 1997.
- Production of Canadian fossil fuels is dropping. Canada has surpassed peak on gas production and is within a few years of peaking in oil output even with the tar sands.
- The proportionality rules in NAFTA Article 605 have locked Canada into exporting current levels of oil and gas to the US even if we face domestic shortages. Few Canadians are aware of these facts, so instead of

...forecasting continues on next page

...continued from previous page

protecting Canadians' long-term interests, our political leaders have been ... well ... doing nothing.

The parties would rather take windfall revenues from fossil fuels and avoid alienating Alberta by risking comparisons to Trudeau's reviled National Energy Strategy. Even the NDP is silent on energy security, talking only of using oil as leverage in the softwood lumber dispute and promoting renewables

Political inaction and NAFTA's rules leave Canada susceptible to supply crunches—especially if a disruption limits global supply.

With the abandonment of Canada's Kyoto commitments, and a move towards a so-called "*Made-in-Canada*" emissions strategy, expect the beginning of a vigorous debate on a national energy strategy. Cracks will likely form in the Alberta-led, fossil fuel-dominated approach, as the consequences of decreasing domestic supplies of oil and gas finally hit the political radar of Canadians in 2006. Energy security is the elephant in the room that we had better start talking about, before we face a crisis.

## Forests

### *Softwood*

Expect little progress on softwood. Perhaps a cozier relationship with the Bush White House will ease some tension, but until Canadian provinces accept a quote or implement policies that get rid of the subsidies conferred by low stumpage prices, the conflict will continue.

How can BC claim there is no subsidy when 36% of the wood logged since 2001 only produced 25 cents per cubic metre in stumpage?

That means companies are paying a quarter for each telephone-pole-sized tree they log. In seven forest districts, over 50% of the wood was sold for a quarter. On the North Coast, home of the Great Bear Rainforest, almost 85% of the wood was sold at the 25 cent rate. And in Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands), 56% of the wood was sold at the minimum rate. The truth of subsidies is obvious from these facts. And the beetle problem is not the reason for the low rates: there is no beetle problem on the coast or on Haida Gwaii.

The ongoing softwood dispute won't go away until the stumpage subsidy is dealt with. Even if the U.S. is forced to acquiesce on the current softwood litigation, expect them to turn around and launch another dumping and countervailing duties challenge for the years 2003 to present.

### *Undoing deregulation*

The provincial government's attempts to turn almost all important decision-making over to logging companies will continue to unravel in 2006. The trend of First Nations' lawsuits chipping away at the rights handed over to logging corporations will continue.

This will be an interesting year, as some Tree Farm Licences and Forest Licences get closer to the deadline for replacement. In 2003, after the Haida won their consultation case at the Court of Appeal, Mr. Campbell's government extended all licences by five years, to protect them from challenges. Three years have now passed, and uncertainty about the validity of these licences is growing. You can expect some maneuvering this year as First Nations begin flexing muscle.

Another topic likely to become hot is forest practices. The massive deregulation that occurred in 2003 is starting to hit the ground. In addition to lawsuits, expect First Nations to demand Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification of all logging. The FSC standards provide much better environmental protection than current laws. And FSC Principle 3 requires Aboriginal consent before logging practices can be certified. By forcing all logging to be FSC-certified, First Nations can improve forest practices and create opportunities for co-management. As more and more First Nations demand this, it will create incentives to re-regulate forest practices to level the playing held. These efforts should begin in 2006.

### **First Nations**

The federal Liberals were not groundbreakers on Native issues, but expect an initial giant step backwards from Mr. Harper's Conservatives. Conservative leaders are well known for their anti-native sentiments. Their expected "get tough on natives" talk will cause yet another slow-down in treaty negotiations and other matters that involve a federal role.

However, you can expect an about face similar to the one we've seen from the BC Liberals, as the Conservatives recognize they can't ignore Aboriginal peoples' increased power over resource issues, particularly in the west.

If the Conservatives appear unsupportive, First Nations are likely to de-prioritize negotiations and ratchet up aggressive tactics. In response, the Conservatives will have to balance the votes their rhetoric



Will the Conservatives bring more protest to BC?

...continued from previous page

gains against the economic uncertainty it creates for resource companies.

We expect hotspots to develop around coalbed methane, the offshore oil and gas moratorium, tanker traffic on BC's northern coast, the Enbridge pipeline, the explosion of new mining claims (and projects) and softwood lumber. Watch for First Nations to claim a portion of the \$5 billion (and counting) softwood tariffs the US has collected.

## Community

We expect a continuation of the growing trend of communities standing up to unsustainable projects. The well-worn, but false, "jobs-versus-environment" dichotomy is no longer defining the debate. Hotspots will develop around new dams, roads, ski resorts, pipelines, power plants, power lines, mines and coalbed methane projects, as communities throughout BC continue to protect their long-term interests.

### *Coalbed methane and coal-fired power*

Coalbed methane will be joined by coal-fired power as a hot button issue this year. Over the last few years, residents of Fernie, Princeton, Cumberland, Courtenay, Hat Creek, Iskut, Telegraph Creek and Princeton have all raised strong objections to coalbed methane proposals near their communities. With our help, the Union of BC Municipalities (the associations of municipal governments) even passed a resolution opposing coalbed methane development until certain conditions were met.

Opposition to coalbed methane will once again be high-profile in the coming year, with the hotspots being the East Kootenays, Telkwa and Smithers in the northern interior, and the Sacred Headwaters of the Stikine, Skeena and Nass in Tahltan territory.

BC, unlike every other Canadian province, is considering new coal-fired power plants. Compliance Energy is proposing to construct and operate a coal-fired thermal electric power plant near Princeton. Dogwood Initiative has called for an environmental assessment even though the proposal squeaks under the 50 megawatt threshold. Coal-fired power is likely to become an issue in the East Kootenays if, Elk Valley Coal (among the highest donors to the BC Liberals) moves forward with its 150 megawatt coal-fired proposals.

### *Community forests*

The profile of community forests usually doesn't rise until just before a provincial election, when the government of the day hands out a few licences as pork.

Although the election is three years away, there is some hope that this may prove to be for progress in leveling the playing field for community forests. The *BC Community Forest Association* is currently in negotiations with the government to address some of the more unjust policies. With luck, the Association may make some progress. But it may take more aggressive political action to create the political imperative needed.

## Democracy

Stephen Harper's commitment to improving government accountability is the best outcome of the Conservative victory. Increased transparency in Ottawa is an important step forward, but by itself will not level the playing field between monied interests and everyone else's. True accountability requires integrated reforms in accountability (governance), campaign finance and the system we use to elect our representatives.

### *Campaign finance reform*

Banning all corporate and union donations, as the Conservatives propose in their *Federal Accountability Act*, is a big step forward. It is the best outcome from the Conservative victory. Federal action to clean up financing of the political process will spill over to BC, which has the weakest finance laws in Canada.

Dogwood Initiative will be trying to jumpstart a major multi-group finance reform campaign in BC later in 2006.

We will be seeking provincial legislation that bans political donations for non-voters (corporations, unions) and caps donations from individuals at \$1,000.

### *Electoral reform*

Electoral reform will also get more attention in 2006. Provincially, the clock is ticking towards the second referendum on Single-Transferable Voting, in November, 2008. And federally, the NDP has set electoral reform as the price of a political alliance.

Lower voter turnout, popular dissatisfaction with the prospect of yet another federal election in the near future, and the Conservatives' plan for Senate reform should all jump-start pressure for electoral change. But it is up to us to make it happen.

Next January we will look back and evaluate how accurate our sources, the prevailing winds, tea leaves and crystal ball were. Regardless, 2006 should be an exciting year. Stay tuned! ☘

Dogwood Initiative has been compiling a database of all non-voters' political contributions since 1996, as well as all individual donors who gave more than 1,000. We are seeking funds to put this database on our website. Do you, or someone you know want to contribute?

Thank you for your generous support:

Bullitt Foundation • Endswell • EnviroPOD  
Institute for New Economics • Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation • Lazar Foundation •  
Law Foundation of BC • McLean Foundation • Mountain Equipment Co-op • Patagonia •  
ONE/Northwest • Sage Centre • Tides Canada Foundation-Wild Salmon Fund •  
Tides Foundation • Tides Foundation-Leocha Fund • Training Resources for the Environmental  
Community • Underdog Foundation • Vancouver Foundation-Stewart Fund •  
• Winky Foundation • and all our individual supporters

#### Board of Directors

LISA AMBUS  
Community Forest Facilitator;  
Researcher; Policy Analyst; &  
Artist

ANDREW GEORGE  
Hereditary Chief, Gitdumdem;  
Wet'suwet'en Nation

HILDA JANZEN  
Accountant

MIKE RETASKET  
Chief, Bonaparte Indian Band

CLIFF STAINSBY  
Researcher, BC Government &  
Service Employees' Union

NATALIE SOUTHWORTH  
Communications Strategist,  
Journalist

ALAN YOUNG  
Director, Materials Efficiency  
Research Group

#### Advisory Roundtable

DAVID BOYD  
Environmental Lawyer; Writer;  
former Executive Director,  
Sierra Legal Defence Fund

ANITA BURKE  
Former energy executive

JESSICA CLOGG  
Staff Lawyer, West Coast  
Environmental Law

MURRAY DOBBIN  
Journalist; Author; Policy Ana-  
lyst, Council of Canadians

HELGA KNOTE  
Labour &  
Environmental Activist

ANNE LEVESQUE  
Former Executive, East Koot-  
enay Environmental Society

JAMES MCKINNON  
Writer; former Senior Editor,  
Adbusters

MICHAEL M'GONIGLE  
Eco-Research Chair, UVic  
Environmental Law  
& Policy; Founder, Greenpeace  
International

#### Staff

WILL HORTER  
Executive Director

MICHAEL BEGG  
Communications Contractor

MOIRA CAMPBELL  
Capacity Director

ZACH ROBERTSON  
Office Manager

## Staff and Volunteer Update

As 2006 gets into full swing we have been busy recruiting a new Office Manager. Zach Robertson is moving over to the new position of Communications Coordinator.

Over the winter we have welcomed Helena Mahoney as a volunteer assistant to the Executive Director. Helena has helped enormously by writing numerous bulletins, contacting our supporters about upcoming events and setting up the 2006 Strength in Community Awards. In between tree planting contracts, Helena likes hanging out in funky Fernwood and plans on taking an activist film course at the Gulf Islands Film & Television School this spring.

We are also welcoming Sean Daley, a UVic Geography graduate, as a volunteer this month. Sean will be working on research projects for Dogwood Initiative.

UBC student Heather Rock carried out Community Hero interviews with Merve Wilkinson (*see page 4*) and Judith Sayers (*next issue*) as part of her course work. Devon McLeay has joined as our volunteer Strength in Community Festival Coordinator.

As well, we have Applied Communication students Catriona McDiarmid and Libby Young contributing their design and media talents to help with the Strength in Community Festival. We love to work with students, so do contact us if you think we can help each other out.

We are still collecting stories and interviews from people around the province

engaged in community activism for our Communities Heroes features. Please let us know if there are champions in your community that you'd like to see featured on our website or in our newsletter.

Hope Campbell, Denise Stocco, Tim Lindsay and his partner Jen have all contributed to mailing out our appeals and newsletters. We are always so grateful for help with this. Thank you so much to all our volunteers!

We're always looking for volunteers to work on our website, carry out research or attend festivals and events for us. If any of these projects interests you, or you have particular skills to offer, then please do get in touch. *You can check out a list of volunteer opportunities on our website under "Get Involved".*

Remember we told you about SPUD's organic food delivery service in our last newsletter? If you quote promo code NFP5-210442 when you sign up they'll give you a 20% saving on your first 4 deliveries and donate the equivalent to Dogwood Initiative (*Visit [www.spud.ca](http://www.spud.ca) to see if they deliver in your area.*)

Lastly, the Soap Exchange on Hillside in Victoria is a great source of green cleaning products. They'll give us a donation worth 10% of the value of your purchase if you mention our name, under their *Clean Up Club* program. ☘

