

ecojustice
formerly Sierra Legal Defence Fund



2008
Victories Report

A word from the executive director

Dear Friend of Ecojustice,

This has been a year of growth and conservation for Ecojustice as we, too, adapt to the country's unparalleled financial challenges.

We grew by launching a legal team in Alberta, where the environment is truly in need of a good lawyer. And we conserved by cutting organizational expenses while preserving people and programs – ensuring the environment doesn't pay the price for the world's economic downturn.

As you read on, you'll see how this cautious but determined approach secured a wave of victories across the country. From addressing mercury contamination in freshwater, to protecting half of Ontario's boreal forest, we've continued to be Canada's leading non-profit group of environmental lawyers and scientists.

Within this report, you'll learn about the passionate people behind Ecojustice and how your support allows each of us to fight for what we believe in: that all Canadians have the right to a healthy environment.

This time last year, we were celebrating the launch of our new website (ecojustice.ca). How rapidly technology changes! We now have collection of online media tools from Twitter to Facebook to the Ecojustice Blog all designed to help you access the latest information on our work. However you choose to keep in touch, we hope we've found a way to let you know that these precedent-setting victories result from your generous support. Thank you!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Devon Page".

DEVON PAGE
Executive Director



air and climate



Ecojustice champions sustainable energy solutions and fights global warming



FIRST VICTORY IN ALBERTA'S TAR SANDS

When greenhouse gases from a 200-square kilometre open-pit mine slipped past a joint federal-provincial Review Panel, Ecojustice lawyers went to court – and won. Although the victory over Imperial Oil's Kearl Tar Sands project was short-lived, as the federal government then quietly expedited the project's re-approval, the courtroom drama sparked a wave of awareness and media coverage about the impact of tar sands exploitation.

TIRE BURNING PROPOSAL GETS TRASHED

Residents of Bath, Ontario were breathing easier this winter after a landmark victory stopped a huge cement company from burning garbage and tires in a cement kiln in their community. The case against Lafarge Canada confirmed the public's right to participate in environmental decision-making and compels the provincial government to ensure that it considers cumulative impacts of projects and the precautionary principle before issuing future approvals.



WILL AMOS

Growing up in a home with conservationist parents, Ecojustice lawyer Will Amos' interest in environmental policy was ignited at an early age. When he is not working with the next generation of public interest lawyers in our new University of Ottawa–Ecojustice Environmental Law Clinic, Will works diligently to provide Canadians with the right to a healthy environment.

Thanks in part to his efforts before the Supreme Court of Canada, residents in a Quebec City suburb received compensation from a controversial St. Lawrence cement factory.





natural spaces

Ecojustice defends parks, natural spaces and wildlife

HUGE WIN IN THE BOREAL FOREST

The Ontario government announced this summer that it will protect half of the province's vast, pristine Boreal region from development. The announcement makes good on Ecojustice's long-standing demands that no new industrial development proceed until comprehensive conservation land use planning is completed for Ontario's north.

WHISKEY JACK FOREST SPARED

AbitibiBowater announced in June that it will give up its license to log the Whiskey Jack Forest in Northwestern Ontario. In 2002, members of the Grassy Narrows First Nation launched a blockade to stop clearcut logging in their traditional territory – now one of the longest running indigenous land protests in Canadian history. Throughout the legal battle, Ecojustice has provided legal support.

VICTORY ENSURES INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS FACE SCRUTINY

In northern BC, a proposed gold and copper mine is threatening to turn pristine lakes and creeks into a mine waste dump. Worse still, the public has been left out of the decision-making process since the federal government refused to do a comprehensive environmental assessment of the project. Ecojustice has led a long battle to correct this flawed assessment process. We are now taking the argument to Supreme Court of Canada – a significant milestone for environmentalists, as this is the first time the Supreme Court of Canada has given an environmental group leave to appeal.

COURT ORDERS LOGGING GIANT PAY FOR DESTRUCTION

After years of pressure from Ecojustice, the federal government finally took steps to enforce the Migratory Birds Convention Act against logging companies, which routinely destroy tens of thousands of birds nests each year. Logging giant J.D. Irving Ltd was charged for destroying a number of great blue heron nests in New Brunswick. Late last year the company lost its appeal challenging the validity of the Act and was subsequently penalized \$60,000, with \$50,000 going directly toward bird conservation programs.

LARA TESSARO

Growing up in a small resource-dependent community in Northern British Columbia gave Ecojustice lawyer Lara Tessaro an early appreciation for sustainable development.

Much of Lara's work is now focused on projects involving killer whales, mining and sewage. In BC, she has fought to make Victoria commit to updating its sewage treatment and is currently fighting a similar battle for Vancouver's sewage systems.





clean water

Ecojustice protects lakes, rivers, oceans, and drinking water

WATCHING OUT FOR MERCURY IN OUR WATERWAYS

When the province granted its approval for the large-scale DeBeers Victor Diamond Mine pit in Ontario's northern Boreal Forest, the public had no say in the matter. This spring, after Ecojustice launched litigation alleging the government had circumvented this crucial step, the government backtracked and opened the project for public comment. Ecojustice filed comments on behalf of an



environmental group and the government put extensive requirements to monitor and study mercury releases and impacts into the mine permits.

POLLUTION INVESTIGATION CROSSES BORDER

An Ecojustice complaint to NAFTA's environmental watchdog, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, resulted in the first ever full investigation of the US government by this body. The investigation will look at whether the US has failed to enforce its water pollution laws against American coal-fired power plants and thereby allowed lakes and rivers in Canada and the US to be contaminated with toxic mercury.



DR. ELAINE MACDONALD

As Ecojustice's Senior Scientist, Dr. Elaine MacDonald uses science to fight for environmental justice. Elaine has advocated at the national level for a ban of toxic fire retardants, and she is currently researching the need to modernize Ontario's 20 year old industrial wastewater regulations. Elaine has gained enormous credibility both in Canada and stateside for authoring the Great Lakes Sewage Report Card and co-authoring the follow up report Green Cities, Great Lakes, which can be downloaded from our website www.ecojustice.ca.





healthy
communities

Ecojustice advocates for healthy, sustainable communities

SUPREME COURT VICTORY Lawyers from the University of Ottawa–Ecojustice Environmental Law Clinic scored their first big victory this winter

in a Supreme Court of Canada decision that upheld the right of Quebec residents to launch class action lawsuits for environmental harm. The ruling established a “no-fault” regime where individuals do not have to prove they have been harmed before launching a lawsuit, thus putting the onus on polluters to clean up their act.



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DEFENDING CITIZENS' RIGHTS AT SHARBOT LAKE

University of Ottawa–Ecojustice Environmental Law Clinic lawyers successfully defended residents demonstrating against a controversial uranium mine at Sharbot Lake in eastern Ontario. The individuals were facing contempt of court charges, but the charges were dismissed when the company backed down just prior to the hearing.

It's been 17 years since Brenda McLuhan was welcomed into the Ecojustice fold as a law student by then-executive Director Greg McDade. Now an accomplished employment lawyer, she continues to shape the organization as chair of the board of directors. Brenda lives on Bowen Island, where a commitment to recycling has grown into a colourful hobby of collecting beach glass and hunting through garage sales for mid-century modern furniture and housewares.

BRENDA MCLUHAN



PUSHING FOR MORE ACTION ON PESTICIDES

Over the past decade, Ecojustice has been busy defending the right of communities to ban toxic pesticides; following up our Supreme Court victory in the landmark “Hudson” case by halting the pesticide industry’s challenge of Toronto’s pesticide bylaw. These cases not only affirmed the right of municipalities to defend the health of their communities, they spurred more than 125 communities to pass pesticide restriction bylaws. This spring, Ecojustice teamed up with health and environment organizations successfully demanding that Ontario take the next step by enacting provincial legislation banning the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides.



board + staff

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our thanks

Ecojustice extends our deepest gratitude to all our supporters. Your commitment to our work has made every challenge and victory we celebrate for the environment possible. Our Champions Circle recognizes those individuals whose donations of \$1,000 or more in the 2008 calendar year exemplifies tremendous generosity and dedication to Ecojustice.

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Barbara Vengshoel

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John and Barbara Warren and
The Shooting Star Foundation

Robert and Audrey Wild

Ted Williams

Ed Wolf

financials

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS | Fiscal year ended October 31, 2008

	2008	2007
REVENUES		
Foundation grants	\$1,245,972	922,248
Contributions from other community groups	51,700	52,000
Cost awards and recoveries	131,768	82,267
Recoveries – University of Ottawa law clinic	249,497	183,507
Donations		
– Public appeals	1,843,213	1,909,293
– Other donations and bequests	1,000,486	833,548
Investment income	47,494	66,072
	<u>4,570,130</u>	<u>4,048,935</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and compensation	2,403,356	2,158,386
Public education	422,399	490,354
Facilities and office	429,384	420,508
Litigation and program support	562,481	211,493
Fundraising	259,464	254,433
Travel	80,936	101,457
Human resources	105,001	104,641
Science and research	13,521	10,141
Amortization	29,571	35,422
	<u>4,306,113</u>	<u>3,786,835</u>
OTHER INCOME		
* Gain on sale of long term investments	-	85,000
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES		
	<u>\$ 264,017</u>	<u>\$ 347,100</u>

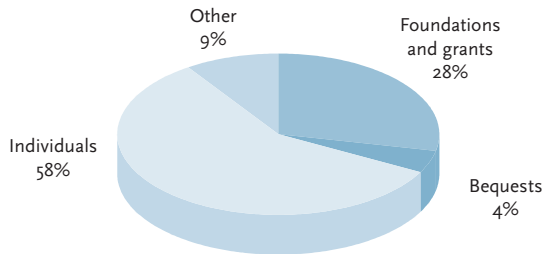
This statement has not been specifically reported by our auditors and should be read in conjunction with our audited financial statements. Download the full 2008 audited financial statements at www.ecojustice.ca or call 1-800-926-7744 X 230 to request them by mail.

ETHICAL FUNDRAISING

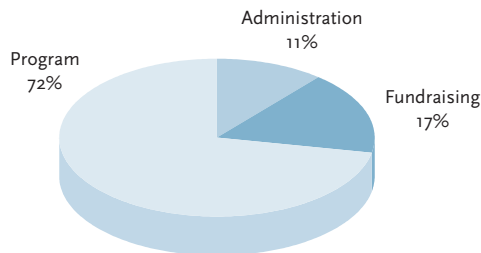
Where our donations come from and where your donations go

Ecojustice is always mindful of our ethical responsibility to spend donor dollars wisely. Our strict accountability and transparency policies ensure that our operations are efficient and effective, and that each and every dollar we raise is directed toward fulfilling our mandate. The figures below provide a snapshot of where our funding comes from and where your money goes in support of our programs. Thank you.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT



ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURES



Note: Allocation of Expenditures figure is based on data submitted to Revenue Canada Agency on our T30-10 Registered Charity Information Return; fiscal year ended October 31, 2008.

Our complete audited financial statements are available on line at www.ecojustice.ca.

Charitable Business Number: BN 13474 8474 RR0001.

Help win future cases

- Sign up online for email updates – Hear about our work while helping keep administrative cost low.
- Join the Defenders Club – Choosing to give monthly is the most effective way to support our ongoing case work.
- Leave your legacy – Choose to remember Ecojustice in your Will.



ILLUSTRATION BY KATIE SANTOS

Ecojustice is committed to the use of environmentally responsible papers. By choosing 100 per cent post-consumer recycled fiber instead of virgin paper for this printed material the following savings to our natural resources will be realized this year.

Trees saved: 41

Wood reduced: 10,698 kgs

Water reduced: 131,312 litres

Landfill reduced: 1,668 kgs

Net Greenhouse emissions: 3,236 kgs

Energy reduced: 46,948,000 Btu

SOURCE: WWW.UNISOURCE.CA



ecojustice.ca

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