SHARING OUR GRATITUDE

2020

GREENPEACE
Dear Green Guardian,

Here we are, at the end of 2020. A rough year, to say the least.

But thanks to you, despite a pandemic, seemingly unending global uncertainty, battles for racial, social and political change, and accelerating biodiversity loss and climate change impacts, we here at Greenpeace have a lot to be grateful for.

Your loyal support this year helped to solidify our understanding that together we are stronger, more resilient, and better equipped to take action for the planet. There is no peace without justice and we’re feeling energized to stand at the intersections of so many critical issues and push with our allies for a brighter future for all.

Your winter holiday will likely be enjoyed a bit differently this year. Whatever you decide to do we hope you’ll find a few quiet moments to read this Gratitude Report – it’s been prepared for you to give you a sense of the positive impacts your support has helped propel this year.

Like many organizations, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Greenpeace’s work. Our teams quickly pivoted to prioritize staff and volunteer safety, and we made the tough decision to suspend our street and door canvassing across the country for most of the year, an important source of fundraising for the organization. But with the help of our supporters and volunteers, we also responded to opportunities produced by the pandemic and found new creative ways to call on governments to implement a Green and Just Recovery.

As the year comes to a close, our eyes are on the future. 2021 marks Greenpeace’s 50th anniversary, and our mission has never been more important. We’ve got big plans and we’re so grateful that you’re here with us to help support and guide the way.

Wishing you a green & peaceful holiday season!

Jackie & Tristan

A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU

Thank you for being a valued member of our Green Guardian community. As a token of our appreciation, we would like to offer you a free gift – a beautiful 2021 Greenpeace Wall Calendar.

If you would like to receive a calendar, please notify our Supporter Care team by emailing supporter.ca@greenpeace.org or by calling 1-800-320-7183 (toll-free). We will send calendars out in two batches, the first mailed in mid-December and the next mailed the second week of January. Please get your request in early if you would like to receive yours before the end of the year.

Thank you!
2020 - A Year for the History Books

This year, you took action with Greenpeace, even in the hardest of times. Alongside other dedicated supporters, you:

- Raised your voice to demand that the government bailout people and not oil companies.
- Sent messages of support to frontline workers who put their own safety at risk.
- Made personal protective equipment with recycled Greenpeace banners.
- Helped bring medical supplies to remote Indigenous communities in Brazil.
- Lent your voice and spoke out against police violence and white supremacy, because there is no justice without peace.
- Convinced the government to make climate action a cornerstone of its pandemic recovery plan.
- Joined the global movement to defend the Amazon rainforest from predatory industry and land grabbers.
- Helped stop what would have been the largest tar sands mine EVER built.
- Secured a ban on some of the most polluting single-use plastics in Canada.
- Convinced the largest association of credit unions in North America to divest its green fund from fossil fuels.
- Stopped Total from drilling the Amazon Reef.
- Protected one of the world’s most important whale breeding grounds from Equinor’s drilling plans in the Great Australian Bight.

You did all of this, because you know that every single action makes a difference. Because you are a Green Guardian. And you are the heart of Greenpeace.

Thank you.

Reflections on Grassroots Activism Amid a Pandemic

SARAH BARTHEL
Toronto Local Group

“This year was particularly hard — for everyone around the world. Being able to still volunteer for Greenpeace gave me some hope though. Given the tough circumstances, I feel we were still able to accomplish some pretty cool things — physically distanced of course. Our work around the Green and Just Recovery was particularly important to me. Our posters, our banner drops, our bird dogging did make a difference, I believe.

And of course, we continue to fight for a Green and Just recovery. It’s now or never.”

ERIC GOULD
Halifax Local Group

“While 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, Greenpeace Halifax is proud of the actions and campaigns undertaken during this unprecedented time. Though large gatherings have been restricted and the provincial legislature has shut down, we have managed to do what we do best, and what must be done: adapt. We have met with local MPs to discuss a Green and Just Recovery. We have postered around the city. We have dropped a banner at the iconic Town Clock demanding climate action. We have participated in shoreline cleanups. We have continued to support the youth-led climate strikes (while socially distancing). We have participated in virtual panel discussions and volunteer meetings. Most importantly, though, we have remained optimistic. There is still much work to be done, but we are harnessing our momentum, and look forward to having another successful year in 2021.”

CHELSEA WEBSTER
Vancouver Local Group

“The challenges of 2020 have been tough, particularly on the mental health of organizers, some of whom are already working through climate anxiety. The uncertainty made it hard to plan actions and shorter campaigns, with cancellations and much adaptation to how we operate. The Green and Just Recovery campaign, because of its long-term nature, provided some mental clarity and a solidified focal point for the future. At times it has felt like a light at the end of the tunnel.”

People Power: Activists across the country send a clear message to the government – There’s No More Time to Waste

On October 17th, we saw a big moment of unity as 50 activists across the country came together to deliver a powerful message to the government – there’s no more time to waste to turn promises into policies for a Green and Just Recovery. Socially-distanced banner drops were organized by Greenpeace and allied local groups in Canada’s biggest cities – Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Halifax. This is just one of the ways Greenpeace volunteers have taken action in support of a months-long campaign – one that has truly shifted what we consider possible when it comes to government measures on climate and justice.
A vision for a more just and more sustainable future

We spoke with Farrah Khan, Deputy Director, leading on strategic planning, legal work, and diversity, equity and inclusion here at Greenpeace Canada to get a sneak-peak at our strategic vision for the next three years, as well as her thoughts on the critical intersections of racial, social and environmental justice.

Q: Congratulations, you’re almost finished preparing Greenpeace Canada’s next three-year strategic plan (2021-2023). How do you feel? What has the process been like?

A: I feel energized and motivated to build on our successes, learn from our mistakes, and prioritize some new areas of work for Greenpeace Canada in the next three years. Our strategic planning process has been truly collaborative with input provided by our staff, board members, colleagues within the global Greenpeace community, and a review of supporter insights shared through various surveys.

Q: As the final touches of the plan are made can you share highlights from our vision for the next three years?

A: Our vision for the next three years has been influenced by a few key areas of focus, including intersectional justice, staff wellbeing, and drawing on creativity and innovation as we build a more financially resilient Greenpeace Canada. In the coming years, we hope to focus on our strengths as we continue to learn, grow, and have impact as a campaigning organization. Those strengths include our financial independence from government and corporate funding, our expertise in actions and investigations, our communications savvy, and more. I’d like to see us define our place in the ever-growing movement for justice to do what we do best, while we share space with more voices to lead us towards a green and peaceful future for all.

Q: Will supporters have a chance to see the plan in greater detail and have the opportunity to provide their feedback on our future work?

A: Yes! Details of the plan will be shared in next year’s Impact Report. We are always interested to hear from our supporters and the strategic plan is a great opportunity to share thoughts on the direction of our work. Next year, we will also be celebrating Greenpeace’s 50th anniversary and will be reaching out to supporters for their reflections and ideas for the future.

Q: A primary function of your role at Greenpeace Canada is to help guide us to take radical action to advance diversity and equity objectives internally and externally as we seek to ensure justice, safety, and diversity throughout the organization, and to encourage the environmental sector in Canada to embrace those same values. What’s the road you see ahead of us and what gives you hope for a more just and sustainable future?

A: I’ve spent the majority of my career working in non-profit and environmental organizations and we have not done enough as a sector to centre the voices and experiences of those who are pushed to the margins. We are in the process of doing some deep thinking at Greenpeace Canada about our personal and professional responsibilities to tackle white supremacy, along with climate and biodiversity crises, so that our internal culture fosters belonging for all, and our external work reflects the diversity of people who live across this country. I feel that our staff and supporters are ready to see meaningful change in this area. It’s up to us to take those radical steps needed so we see action and results towards a more inclusive Greenpeace Canada.
Irving and Dorothy Stowe's children honour their legacy with a very special gift on the anniversary of the Amchitka concert

This year, on October 16th, we received a pledged gift of $17,164 from Bob and Barbara Stowe, the children of two of Greenpeace’s founders: the late Irving and Dorothy Stowe. This incredible gift is important in more ways than one. Fifty years ago on that date, 10,000 people packed the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver, waiting to see Phil Ochs, Chilliwack, James Taylor and Joni Mitchell perform. The concert had been organized by the Don’t Make a Wave Committee, a small group founded by Irving and Dorothy Stowe and Jim and Marie Bohlen, to finance what would become Greenpeace’s first action — sending a dozen activists on a fishing trawler to Amchitka, an island in southwest Alaska, in an effort to stop a nuclear weapons test. They raised $17,164 that night — and helped launch a movement that would change the world.

In Bob and Barbara’s words, “This gift is in recognition of the legacy our parents and other Greenpeace founders have left behind, which is beautifully exemplified today by the dedicated and principled, creative, inspired, and absolutely critical work Greenpeace staff, volunteers and supporters are doing to promote environmental protection, peace, and climate justice.”

We are so grateful to Bob and Barbara for their deep commitment to Greenpeace and our work, and for generously honouring our roots and continuing the intentions and purpose of those early days now and into the future with such a meaningful gift.
THANK YOU FOR BEING A GREEN GUARDIAN

Green Guardians are an international community of Greenpeace supporters who have gone above and beyond to ensure the planet is protected.

Our deepest thanks to you for being one of them! We couldn’t do it without you.