



# Community Innovation Challenge Resource Brochure

take a  
**STAND**  
YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION

Contest Deadlines:  
Dec. 16 and April 30





Youth represent honest and passionate voices for social change in their communities. Become a steward of BC's forests, rivers, and oceans by entering the Community Innovation Challenge. We want your ideas and innovative solutions to educate the public, advocate for policy change, reduce waste, or create other positive impacts on this beautiful province and the people who call BC home.

Use any creative skills that you have to make an exciting pitch, using videos, photos, artworks, demonstrations and posters. Think outside of the box.

We invite you to pitch us these exciting and fresh ideas and we will help put them into action! Open to all students in grades 3-12. There are four themes:

- 1) Public Education and Positive Community Impacts,
- 2) Wildlife and Nature Preservation,
- 3) Reducing Climate Change,
- 4) Reducing Waste.

**Our collaborating community organizations could help you come up with new ideas/solutions to old problems so check out our website (under "Community") [www.takeastandforconservation.com](http://www.takeastandforconservation.com)**

Each theme will be judged separately and prizes will be awarded to the top 3 ideas in each theme. Your ideas will be judged by a panel of scientists, community leaders, and artists. Prizes will be awarded at a gala in late Fall.

**What do you love about nature?  
Show the world why it is worth protecting!**



Think of a fresh idea within one of the themes: Educating the Public, Wildlife and Nature (habitat) Preservation, Reducing Climate Change or Reducing Waste. Create your exciting pitch to convey your idea or action project using a video, photos, posters or some other artwork.

Use the Contest Entry Form supplied by your teacher, and fill out your idea or action project and the requested information. Organize your entry as noted on the next page of this resource. One entry per theme, per student or group. Students may work as individuals, in groups, or as an entire class.

Fill out the Contest Entry Form including teacher and parent permission, and email your entry form as an attachment to

**[kermode@sfu.ca](mailto:kermode@sfu.ca)**

before the contest deadline.



## Organize your contest entry

**Who:** Your name, school and grade

**What:** What is the environmental issue or community project?

**Where:** Where will your activity or project take place?

**Why:** Why do you care; why should others care?

**How:** How will you help? What are the elements of your pitch?

**When:** Contest Deadline

# Wildlife Preservation: Save B.C.'s Unique Wolves

## Who:

## What:

B.C.'s unique wolves - including our coastal and interior wolves are at-risk largely because they lack protection, their populations have declined, and there are no recovery plans for them in B.C. Wolves need to fulfill their roles as apex predators in healthy, functional ecosystems, and to live out their lives as highly intelligent, social animals.

## Where:

Our campaign is focused on protecting wolves of British Columbia. We will spread awareness globally.

## Why: (why I care and why you should care)

There is much to learn about our B.C. wolves - their regional vocalizations, genetic variation, complex family structures and nurturing qualities. In fulfilling their roles as apex predators, an interesting finding is that their vocalizations are unique to a given region, and B.C.'s interior wolves are genetically distinct from B.C.'s coastal wolves. More attention needs to be given to the fundamental problem of ongoing habitat destruction and displacement caused by human encroachment. There is much scientific evidence showing the beneficial effects of wolves on ecosystems, yet there are no recovery plans for wolves in regions of B.C. where their populations are declining.

*"We have doomed the wolf not for what it is, but for what we deliberately and mistakenly perceive it to be - the mythologized epitome of a savage, ruthless killer - which is, in reality no more than a reflected image of ourself."*

Farley Mowat, *Never Cry Wolf*



## How: How will I help?

### Write Letters and Send Petitions to:

- Honourable Premier John Horgan
- Honourable George Heyman
- Honourable Doug Donaldson
- Honourable Andrew Weaver

**Sign Pacific Wild's petition** to voice opposition to B.C.'s wolf kill program.

**Raise \$\$\$ for preservation** - bottle and clothing drives, auctions, plant-a-seed, save-a-wildlife

**Create artworks of B.C.'s beautiful wolves**

**Form a youth group and website**

**Interview a wolf biologist**

**Pitch: Short film - Vimeo and Password**

### Resources:

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

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

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

[ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2015/10/sea-wolves/mcgrath-text](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2015/10/sea-wolves/mcgrath-text)

# No Straws: A social movement to end single-use plastics, one straw at a time

## Who:

## What:

The world produces and consumes approximately 3.5 billion straws every single day. The U.S. alone uses some 500,000 million straws a day, enough to circle the planet 2.5 times. This amounts to a staggering amount of plastic waste - garbage to which the vast majority of us are wholly oblivious.

## Where:

Our campaign is focused in B.C. and Canada but we will spread awareness globally.

## Why: (why I care and why you should care)

Straws are on the top 10 list of garbage items found in the sea. Over the multitude of years (thousands of years) required for plastic straws to break down, they will release toxins and create microplastics (microscopic pieces of plastic). As a result, various wildlife, including shellfish will perish, and the accumulated toxins could poison entire ecosystems. If we say no to straws, on a global level, we can make a difference. If we draw global attention to the atrocity of straw consumption, we will start a larger conversation focused on our addiction to single use plastics. They are killing the planet. They will kill us. We have the power to say no.

***One trillion two hundred seventy-seven billion five hundred million straws a year...***

***3.6 billion every single day.***

***Think about that...***



## How: How will you help?

**By requesting a ban** on straws at my school and at restaurants in my neighbourhood.

**Change Policy:** I will get my friends together and develop a 2-minute argument to ban straws in my community. Our pitch will be presented before city council.

**By creating a video:** to generate awareness and educate the public about impacts of plastics on sealife

**Campaigns:** I will ask my friends to start their own campaigns against straws. This will increase my impact within the community.

**Create a wider network:** by connecting with other groups that are fighting for the banning of straws.

## Pitch: Short film - Vimeo and Password

### Resources:

<http://strawwars.org/>

<http://thelastplasticstraw.org/>

<http://www.vancouverbc.surfrider.org/straws-suck/>

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



# take a STAND

YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION

## Our Mission

*Our aim is to inspire, motivate and empower youth to protect and conserve the environment through art, film, and youth-driven actions. Youth represent honest and powerful voices for social change in their communities and are important advocates for better protection of plants, animals, and the natural communities they call home.*

## Our Team



**Norm Hann** is a professional stand up paddleboarder who spends his time training, exploring remote locations on his SUP, and continuing to pioneer the sport in Canada. He has worked in the Great Bear Rainforest for more than a decade as a guide, fisherman, teacher and expedition leader.



**Nicolas Teichrob** draws his inspiration from the natural world and beautiful moments in time that surround us. He is co-founder of the outdoor adventure film production company Dendrite Studios, and his photographs have been published in many international ski, bike, and surf magazines.



**Anthony Bonello** is an adventure filmmaker whose storytelling style transports viewers beyond geography to convey the feel of a place and its people. Anthony co-produced STAND and is now a producer with Switchback Entertainment where his work is focused on ski travel and exploration.



**Allison Kermode** is a Professor of Biological Sciences at SFU. Allison has a special connection to the Spirit bear and a passion for protecting the treasures of the natural environment of BC. She was inspired to develop this program along with her co-founders to galvanize youth through art and film and youth-driven 'tipping point' conservation actions in the community.

## Our Community

Taking action to engage with conservation issues in your own community is a powerful way to contribute to protecting the environment around you. Yet knowing where, when, and how to take action can seem like an insurmountable stumbling block. Our collaborating community organizations could help you come up with new ideas or new solutions to old problems - so check out our website [www.takeastandforconservation.com](http://www.takeastandforconservation.com) under "Community".