



***isc*** Invasive Species  
Council of BC

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



# Vision

Healthy landscapes and communities free of invasive species across British Columbia.

# Mission

To take action to build healthy landscapes, including habitats and communities, through education and responsible practices to prevent the spread of invasive species.

# Values

Wherever we work across British Columbia, we incorporate the following values:

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

ISCBC is committed to equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging in the workplace. We are committed to providing our employees and volunteers a safe and respectful workplace in which to thrive and excel.

## SAFETY

Whether working in the field or from home, we are committed to providing our employees and volunteers a safe and inclusive work environment.

## RESPECT

We are committed to respecting and protecting the communities in which we work, and the well-being of our staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers.

## COLLABORATION

We believe in fostering strong relationships and connections to ensure best possible outcomes between individuals and organizations.

## INTEGRITY

We meet the highest ethical standards of professionalism in all of our work, ensuring honesty, transparency, accountability and credibility.

## STRATEGY

As a leading-edge organization, we lean into change and leverage it. We are committed to evolving our approaches to address emerging issues.

## INSPIRATION

We seek to inspire people, businesses, and communities with the experiences, knowledge, and tools that enable them to take action.





# YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

Protecting and restoring BC's biodiversity is essential to our clean air and water, Indigenous culture and practices, sustainable natural resources and enjoyment of wild spaces. Throughout 2021, our Council collaborated, facilitated and led on initiatives to support and build capacity for increased biodiversity.

We expanded our connections through learning, engagement and on the ground action. Our efforts continued to reduce the impact of invasive species on BC's biodiversity.

All Council programs and initiatives are driven by passionate and knowledgeable people. Through constructive dialogue, continued learning, and effective collaboration we align our work in two key directions: inspiring people across BC to take action on invasive species and leading the industry through meaningful partnerships.



## Message from Chair & Executive Director



**Dave Bennett, Chair**

As the world continued working to adapt to a global crisis, at ISCBC we worked to deepen our collaborative experience. In 2021, our partnerships grew and evolved in perhaps the most meaningful and inclusive ways to date. This year we expanded our relationships with Tourism operators across BC and created strong partnerships to build and develop responsible practices and solutions for the Tourism industry. On the Japanese Beetle front, we worked closely with all levels of government and industry to heighten awareness of the destruction this invasive insect can cause. In 2021, we provided training to more than 60 different organizations. And with our Indigenous partners, we facilitated important training to help protect traditional knowledge through better understanding of the threat invasive species pose to traditional practices. We continue to depend on our strong network of Board, staff, advisors, partners and volunteers as we build on the Council's successes and advance our critical work. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible work of everyone who has pushed through challenge and change, and contributed to the ISCBC over the last year.



**Gail Wallin, Executive Director**

For so many of us, 2021 was again a year of change. For ISCBC, it came with exponential growth. This year asked us to lean in on one of our historic strengths – training and re-training people who lose jobs or find themselves out of work. This year we played an important economic role, offering a new path to people in British Columbia who lost jobs due to the pandemic or were seeking new directions, providing them with skill sets needed to 'work for the environment'. As a result of partnerships with the province, the federal government and others, the size of our staff exploded – empowering us to dramatically expand our reach, and to protect biodiversity by preventing the spread of invasive species. With a growing awareness of the role of invasive species in exacerbating the environmental impacts of extreme climate events like floods, fires and environmental degradation, there is much more work to do. Thank you for your continued support, dedication and trust.





# STRONGER TOGETHER

2021 forced us all to pivot in many ways. Like many organizations around the world, the Council reflected thoughtfully on how we communicate, how we educate and how we can connect in a more meaningful way. We are exceptionally proud of how we faced the challenges 2021 presented, and how we shifted and adapted to inspire and motivate people across British Columbia.



## Building a Community Science Network

Our network of passionate individuals dedicated to their communities and natural spaces keeps growing. Connections facilitated here support accessibility in conservation, bringing a strong sense of place within and between communities. Our goal is to grow a network of motivated individuals across BC who can identify invasive species, have the tools they need to report new invaders and who are empowered to take actions that protect the natural spaces where we live, work and play.

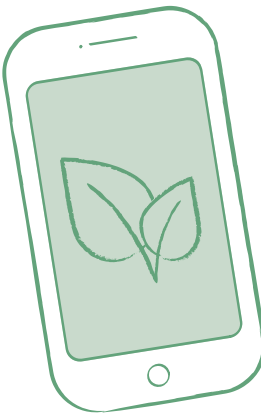
### Learn.

We launched one of our most exciting and engaging new educational tools in 2021. Our Community Science eLearning courses give people across the province knowledge on the impacts of invasive species through the lens of climate change and biodiversity decline, tools to observe and report nature around them and actions to support biodiversity protection through the adoption of responsible practices and new habits.



# Report.

Observing and reporting is critical to the protection of BC’s biodiversity. It establishes a baseline on which conservation efforts are built and helps locate new infestations of invasive species. Joining the national “I Spy and Identify” project on iNaturalist will ensure that all future observation data is added to our network, allowing us to track both invasive and vulnerable species populations across the province.



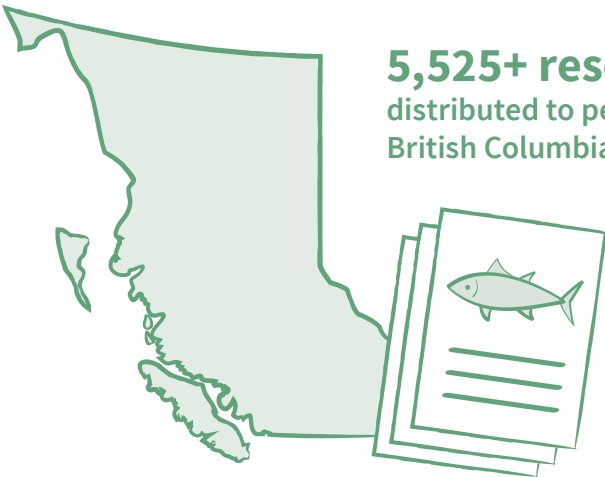
**102,927 observations and reports** made through ‘I Spy and Identify’ project on iNaturalist

**800 reports** through bcinvasives.ca and via phone

**2,885 reports** made through Report Invasives

# Take Action.

Members of our Community Science Network have access to a virtual community science kit that empowers them to protect biodiversity and prevent the spread of invasive species. The kit includes monthly e-newsletters, engagement opportunities via social media, online learning courses and webinars, activity sheets, invasive and native species reporting highlights and successes and hands-on event opportunities in their local communities.



**5,525+ resources** distributed to people in British Columbia







# EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Young people are the future, and we continue to invest in their stewardship of BC's wild places. With the support of our education programs, youth are empowered with the tools, skills and confidence they need to become positive changemakers in their communities.

Together with a talented, passionate group of teacher advisors from around the province, we developed multiple activities and resources for students and educators across BC.

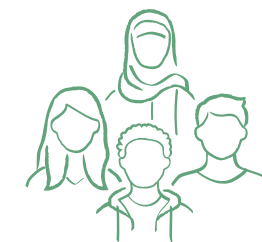
Through the creation of the Invasive-Wise Schools Program, a virtual classroom-supported program, we've been successful in:

- » Establishing clear and attainable actions that children can take to help build healthy habitats
- » Building connections between the environment, community and one another
- » Fostering awareness and a sense of responsibility



## Volunteer Youth Team

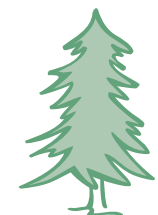
In 2021, ISCBC was nominated as a finalist for the Best Youth Engagement Organization (20+ Staff) Award, as part of the Charity Village Conference and Awards. The nomination recognizes our strong engagement and approach that resonates with youth and inspires them to take action. Since 2019, we've inspired over 486 youth across BC to give back to their communities and the environment.



**127 new youth  
volunteers**



**17 resources  
developed  
by volunteers**



**70 local sites  
improved by  
volunteers**



**11,808 hours  
contributed by  
volunteers**

*"Exploring new opportunities can lead to some incredibly rewarding experiences; you never know what seemingly small action can have a huge impact on your community or yourself."*

– Joshua Ralph, ISCBC youth volunteer





# Accessible & Trusted Learning

The launch of our specialized ISCBC Learning Centre in 2021 grew our network of people and organizations passionate about protecting biodiversity. We built on the success of our 2020 training programs, developing new courses and resources on a variety of invasive species topics, including Pesticide Applicator Certification, PlantWise, tourism and invasive species, and observing and reporting invasive species.



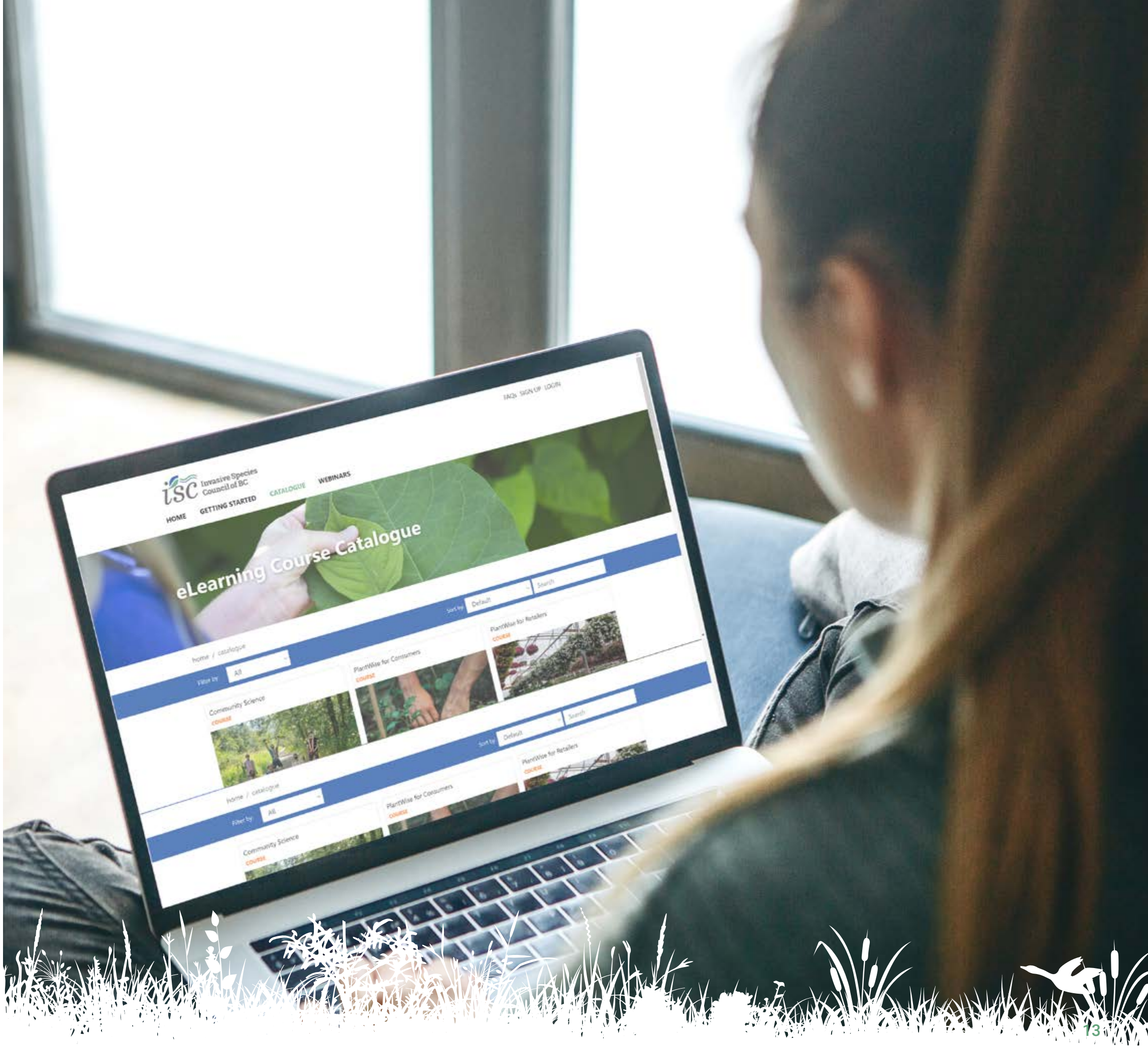
**870+ students**

**9 new courses  
and 2 resources**

**4 Continuing  
Education  
credit-based webinars**

*“Thank you! Very educational and informative, best Zoom training I have experienced.”*

– Training Attendee







## Fostering Positive Behaviours & Responsible Practices

Inspiring positive behaviours and actions is vital to managing and preventing the further spread of invasive species. We strengthened on-the-ground actions and encouraged shifts toward responsible practices through the delivery of key behaviour change programs.

We worked in over 151 communities and expanded our virtual reach through public service announcements and social media platforms. Our behaviour change programs continue to grow and expand, creating positive impacts in our natural spaces and communities.

5 behaviour change programs delivered to target key invasive species pathways:

- » PlantWise
- » Clean Drain Dry
- » Don't Let it Loose
- » Play Clean Go
- » Buy Local Burn Local



**151 communities reached**





## ON-THE-GROUND ACTION

British Columbia is known for its incredibly rich and diverse natural landscapes and wildlife. Conservation of terrestrial and aquatic habitats has never been more important.

*Vancouver Action Team surveying  
for invasive Common tansy*

## Building a Stronger BC

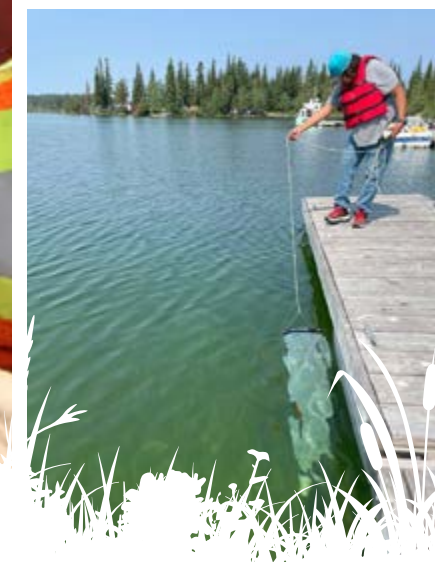
Supporting BC's economy, environment and society is a priority for us. In the 2021 field season, we completed monitoring and management of high priority lands and waters spanning all corners of the province.

Action Teams received training, support and field experience in surveying inventory, management and reporting of invasive species.



## Protection of Critical Aquatic Habitats

We sampled eleven Cariboo lakes for invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels, building on 2020's collaborative efforts. To date, no invasive Zebra or Quagga mussels have been detected in BC waterways.







# PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Collaborating with partners ensures that the work we do is effective and is making a difference. By working with diverse partners including Indigenous communities, youth groups, schools, volunteers, professionals, industry groups, stewardship groups, governments and more, we build and share solutions, innovative approaches, and achieve common goals that stop and slow the spread of invasive species in BC.

*Tour of the Community Lands  
with Penelakut Tribe*

## Prioritizing Indigenous Lands & Traditions

We are proud to be able to work with Indigenous communities and partners throughout the province. By facilitating the Indigenous Invasive Species Network (IISN), we collaborate with our First Nations partners and communities to address invasive species issues, share solutions, and learn how we, as a Council, can best support their communities.

Collectively, we've developed and delivered training, community outreach, equipment and customized invasive plant management plans. We've partnered with the Métis Nation of BC to offer training to nearly 40 youth, delivered a school outreach initiative and prioritized Indigenous Cultural Awareness training for all our staff, enabling continuous learning and growth.

We led three school outreach workshops – including two province-wide professional development workshops for educators, and one regional professional development day.

**92 communities  
and organizations**  
across BC

**200 members**

**14 Nations**



## Tourism For Tomorrow

We're working with tourism operators and experts throughout the province to protect BC's natural landscapes, wildlife and wild spaces by developing and implementing safe best practices to manage and prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.

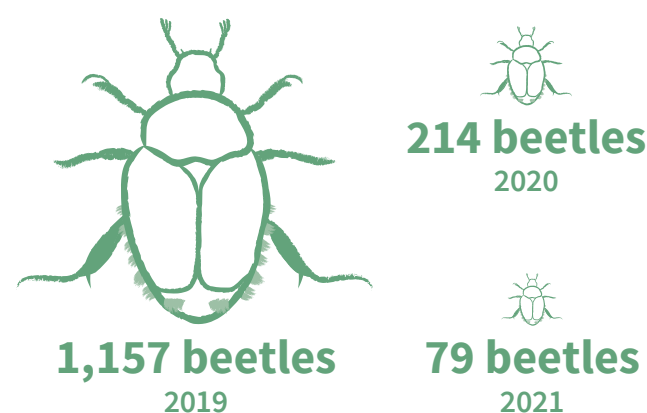




# Collaborate To Eradicate

## JAPANESE BEETLE

Working together to eradicate Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) in BC takes strong partnerships and great coordination. With the help and dedication of our partners, our collective work has resulted in a 63% reduction of beetles over 2020, and an overall reduction in beetles since program inception in 2019 by a total of 93%.



90+ planning & management meetings

1,500+ people engaged at 19 presentations and events



## ASIAN GIANT HORNET

Building on the importance and need to have public ‘watching and reporting’, we supported provincial work to increase engagement and support monitoring of Asian giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) traps along the Washington-BC border. Our website and the Report Invasives app were the key digital tools used for public inquiries and to log suspected reports. We provided education on this new invasive through outreach and sharing of new information and resources.

26 Asian giant hornet traps set and monitored

1 Asian giant hornet caught in BC



280+ inquiries for Asian giant hornet







# DEVELOPING CAPACITY & CONNECTIVITY

We do our best work when we collaborate with strong partners. We coordinate and facilitate professional networks and communications with members of the Indigenous and Local Government Invasive Species Networks. This enables us to truly connect to what is needed and provides clear understanding on how we can best support through resources, education and more.



ISCBC youth volunteer at native-plant reseedling event



**19 webinars hosted**



**205 Indigenous  
114 Local Government**  
listserv members



**8 Affiliate partners**



Team Invasive Crunchers

*"We learned a lot about how many different types of species were invasive and how many there were and the effect it had on the local ecosystem. It was very interesting and kept us looking around for more and more! Definitely won't be forgetting the knowledge we gathered!"*

– Rachel Ediger, Team Shrediger

## INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION MONTH

Whether by egg, seedling, rhizome or otherwise, new life is emerging across the province and the planet everyday. And it's no different for invasive species. By provincial proclamation, the month of May was declared 'Invasive Species Action Month', a perfect time to get people and communities inspired, educated and engaged in taking action.

Families, clubs and friends across BC participated in our "What's in My Backyard" Youth Photo Contest, designed to encourage people to explore their local greenspaces and identify and share their photos of invasive species.



**1,037 photos**  
shared in the  
What's In My  
Backyard youth  
photo contest



**500,000+  
people engaged**  
on social media



**26,500+  
new visitors**  
to BCinvasives.ca





# MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

*"Last summer I helped with invasive plant management and it awakened the passion I have about educating others to stop the spread and care about our environment. Many people are unaware of invasive species and don't understand the impact they have. I want to spread common knowledge to my friends, family, coworkers and community."*

– Natasha Corbo-Quanstrom, ISCBC youth volunteer



**2,614 bags**  
of invasive plants removed  
from BC landscapes



**3,816 people engaged**  
at events, presentations  
and workshops



**7672 social media  
followers**



**692 youth  
participants**  
in education events and  
programming



**30 priority  
invasive species**  
surveyed and/or managed





## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

We are honoured to celebrate the many individuals, organizations, businesses and governments dedicated to educating others, researching innovative strategies and volunteering their time to further the efforts of stopping the spread of invasive species.

## Together in Action Awards

The Together in Action Innovation and Leadership awards (TIA) were developed by the ISCBC in honour of our Executive Director Gail Wallin's innovative leadership, provincially and nationally, in the area of invasive species. This year ISCBC was delighted to recognize two individuals who went above and beyond by contributing their time and leadership for the prevention and management of invasive species in BC.

### **John Kang, Together in Action Student Leadership Award.**

John is a student at the University of Victoria where he has coordinated several weed pulls and secured funding for the protection of Garry Oak Meadows. John started volunteering with ISCBC in 2020. At the time of his award, John had dedicated 320 hours of community service to local invasive species removal and habitat improvement.



### **Conway Lum, Together in Action Innovation and Leadership Award.**

Conway, of GardenWorks, has been passionate for years in the fight against invasive species, including European fire ant, Chafer beetle and Japanese beetle. He is a strong advocate for the horticulture industry and proactive in public outreach to help create awareness and stop the spread of invasive species. Most recently, as a resident in the Japanese Beetle Regulated Area, Conway has taken on the responsibility of monitoring and reporting the status of beetle traps to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and others.



**Thank you to all Together in Action Award recipients for an amazing year of dedication and commitment to invasive species management and prevention. Your hard work is noticed and appreciated!**





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our work as a Council would not be possible without our dedicated team of directors. They have all played instrumental roles in guiding our mission with their insights and unique expertise. Thank you to each of these dedicated volunteers for their service and commitment to invasive species management and prevention in BC.



## GOVERNMENT CHAMBER

**Nadia Chan, Secretary**  
*Local (City of Surrey)*

**Dave Holden**  
*Federal (Canadian Food Inspection Agency)*

**Jonathan Holmes**  
*Indigenous (Shulus Forest Enterprises)*

**Val Miller**  
*Provincial (Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development)*

**Eamon O'Donoghue**  
*Provincial (Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development)*

**Ursula Viney**  
*Provincial (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)*

## COMMUNITY CHAMBER

**Michael Boulet**  
*Community (Buckley Hogan Law Office)*

**Alison McKay**  
*Recreation & Tourism (Destination British Columbia)*

**Sarah Nathan**  
*Environment/Conservation (Ducks Unlimited Canada)*

**Ken Schwaerzle**  
*Community (Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society)*

## BUSINESS & INDUSTRY CHAMBER

**Dave Bennett, Chair**  
*Transportation & Utilities (Fortis BC)*

**Douglas Fossen**  
*Agriculture (Bar 7 Ranch Owner/Operator)*

**Eric Nijboer**  
*Natural Resources (Spectrum Resource Group Inc.)*

**Scott Pearce**  
*Retail & Trade (GardenWorks)*

**Steve Thomson**  
*Environmental Conservation*

**Dan Tisseur**  
*Transportation & Utilities (Enbridge)*



## OUR STAFF

We've been fortunate to grow our staff team significantly throughout 2021, offering new and exciting roles for talented individuals. As a provincial organization, we strongly believe in hiring staff from varied backgrounds, with unique perspectives and skills, adding to an already diverse and competent team. Our team is located throughout BC and continues to build on Council goals from all corners of the province.

## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Our funders are an integral part of the work we do at ISCBC. We are deeply grateful for their support and their trust in the Council's collaborative approach to coordinating effective and efficient responses to invasive species in BC. In partnership with our funders, the Council delivers a wide variety of strategic programs to engage diverse audiences, including the public, industry, and governments. As we celebrate another successful year, we recognize the role of our funders in these successes and thank them with sincere appreciation.

### 2021 Funders

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
(Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada)

Canadian Agricultural Partnership,  
Governments of Canada and the  
Province of B.C.

Canadian Council on Invasive Species  
Cariboo Regional District

Corteva Agriscience

CropLife Canada

ECO Canada

Employment and Social Development  
Canada (Emploi et Développement  
social Canada)

Enbridge

Envirogreen Technologies Ltd.

Environment and Climate Change  
Canada (Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada)

ESSA Technologies Ltd.

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Pêches  
et Océans Canada)

Fortis BC

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

Hemmera

Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C.  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries,  
Province of B.C.

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource  
Development and Rural Operations,  
Province of B.C.

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty  
Reduction, Province of B.C.

Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport,  
Province of B.C.

Ministry of Transportation and  
Infrastructure, Province of B.C.

Morrow BioScience Ltd.

Mosaic Forest Management

NATS Nursery

Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council

Pacific Salmon Foundation

Premier Pacific Seeds

Project Learning Tree Canada

Regional District of North Okanagan

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Teck Resources Ltd.

Trans Mountain





# A FUTURE FREE OF INVASIVE SPECIES

We strive for a future free of invasive species and one that enables the protection of British Columbia's biodiversity, but we need your help. Together, we can take action to protect our communities, landscapes, and habitats for generations to come. Make a donation, join us as a member and make a meaningful difference in your community.