



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Message from Chair & Executive Director



Dave Bennett, Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to recognize and celebrate the amazing work of all those that have contributed to the ISCBC over the past year. Through the ongoing efforts of directors, staff, partners, funders and advisors, the Council has grown to meet challenges within a changing landscape. The Council continues to be a leader in collaboration across industry, Indigenous groups, government and communities in BC. I look forward with great promise and anticipation to the year ahead.



Gail Wallin, Executive Director

Change is a chance for growth, opportunity and fresh ideas. This past year has been a challenging one for so many but has also been an opportunity for us, as a Council, to assess, build and innovate through new strategies, approaches and partnerships. Due to our strong network of Board, staff, advisors, funders, partners and more, we’re looking forward to continued growth and successes. Thank you to all for your continued support, dedication and trust.

Front cover image: ISCBC youth volunteer

VISION

Together, we envision a British Columbia that is comprised of healthy landscapes and communities free of invasive species.

MISSION

Through education and responsible practices, the Council, organizations, businesses, and individuals have joined efforts to take action to build healthy landscapes, including habitats and communities.

VALUES

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

SAFE

We are committed to providing our employees and volunteers a safe and inclusive work environment.

RESPECTFUL

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.

COLLABORATIVE

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

INTEGRITY

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

STRATEGIC

We strive for new and improved approaches to addressing emerging issues.

INSPIRING

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

INCLUSIVE

We are committed to providing our employees and volunteers a safe and respectful workplace in which to thrive and excel.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

We are excited to celebrate the projects and programs that we, as a Council, facilitated in 2020. The Council is guided by two key directions; **Inspiring British Columbians to Take Action on Invasive Species** and **Leading Through Partnerships**. Through alignment with these goals, we continue to ensure that we meet and exceed our objectives of healthier landscapes and communities for all British Columbians.

“Surely we have a responsibility to leave for future generations a planet that is healthy, inhabitable by all species.”

– Sir David Attenborough



KEY DIRECTION 1:

Inspiring British Columbians to Take Action on Invasive Species

Our Council is proud to inspire and motivate British Columbians to take action against invasive species. Through our programming and communications we develop and extend the necessary tools that help combat and prevent the establishment of invasive species province-wide. By supporting and inspiring British Columbians to protect our province’s biodiversity, we ensure that we all benefit from healthy habitats and communities.

f ↑2978

📷 ↑1259

🐦 ↑1691

Followers



Over 8000 citizens engaged through events, presentations, workshops and online



AQUATIC HABITAT CONSERVATION

The conservation of aquatic habitats has never been more important and as a Council we are proud to be an integral part of that. In 2020 we concluded the third and final year of the Clean Drain Dry Pilot Program designed to remind and encourage British Columbians to protect their province’s precious aquatic ecosystems against the threat of invasive species. The provincial Clean Drain Dry (CDD) messaging, programming and resources were shared with new partners across the province.



433+ signs and 75 new partners over 3 years



11 lakes monitored for mussels in the Cariboo region

INVASIVE-WISE TOURISM

Our Council is working with operators and experts in the tourism industry, a key invasive species pathway, to protect BC’s natural landscapes, wildlife and wild spaces. Through the Invasive-Wise Tourism program, we are developing and implementing best practices for invasive species management in the tourism sector to better support this vital industry and the biodiversity it relies on.

YOUTH TAKING ACTION

Through a virtual network of volunteers and in-person meetings when able, we have inspired over 350 youth to give back to their communities and local spaces through 90 on-the-ground and online activities and events.

By developing facilitation, leadership and invasive plant identification and removal skills and more, youth have been empowered to contribute to their communities and environment in a multitude of positive ways.



Himalayan blackberry
illustration, ISCBC youth volunteer

“This program couldn’t have come into my life at a better time for me, and it’s been such a privilege and a thrill to volunteer with the Council. It’s truly been an incredible experience and I am incredibly thankful for how much effort the Council has put into this volunteer program.”

– Matthew Syvenky, Volunteer

“We are thrilled with the work that the Kamloops volunteers did in our parks. They are a huge contribution to our Integrated Pest Management program, removing weeds and seed heads to prevent the spread of many different invasive weeds along sensitive areas. They are truly helping to make Kamloops shine.”

– Kirsten Wourms, City of Kamloops



150 bags of invasive
plants removed



8,000+
volunteer hours



350 youth
volunteers



58 community
sites improved

Youth volunteer, Edith Lake site assessment



Great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*)
feeding on invasive goldfish,
ISCBC youth volunteer

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

We strongly believe that knowledge is power and by providing industry, citizens, youth, stewardship groups and more with the necessary education, knowledge and tools we can stop the spread of invasive species. In 2020, we collaborated with partners including government and industry professionals to develop and deliver over forty new resource materials providing information on identification, reporting and management practices to help protect BC’s habitats.



12,000+ resources
distributed to British
Columbians



40 new resource
materials developed

BEHAVIOR CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATION

Educating and inspiring British Columbians to change their behaviour to stop the spread of invasive species is vital to preventing further spread and introductions and is integral to the protection of BC’s biodiversity. We delivered on five key behaviour change programs across the province to inspire and inform citizens on the small but important changes they can make to stop invasive species. We worked in over 151 communities and expanded our reach over virtual channels including public service announcements and social media platforms to continue to foster change and create positive impacts in our wild spaces and communities.

151 communities
reached



5 key outreach
programs extended
provincially



KEY DIRECTION 2:

Leading Through Partnerships

Strong partnerships are the foundation of our success. Through our work with diverse partners including Indigenous communities, youth groups, schools, volunteers, professionals, industry groups, stewardship groups, governments and more, we are successful in building collaborative solutions, innovative approaches and common goals that stop and slow the spread of invasive species in BC.



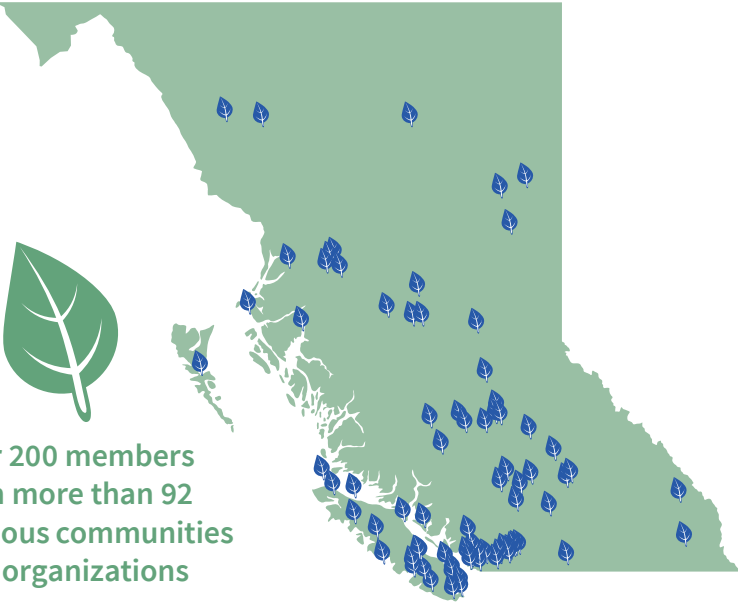
6112 kg of invasive plants removed from BC landscapes



Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), ISCBC youth volunteer

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS LANDS AND TRADITIONS

We are honoured to facilitate the Indigenous Invasive Species Network (IISN) of over 200 members from more than 92 Indigenous communities and organizations across the province. Through this network, we have collectively addressed key invasive species issues facing Indigenous communities, shared solutions and supported the development of key resources. We've collaborated with twelve communities on capacity building projects to provide support including training, community outreach, equipment and customized invasive plant management plans for treaty and traditional lands. We supported Indigenous education by delivering webinars and presentations to Bands, organizations and Indigenous youth field summer camps.



Over 200 members from more than 92 Indigenous communities and organizations



Collaborated on
an 82% reduction in
beetles in 2020



202 connections made
with landscaping
companies, suppliers and
plant retailers



Over 82 planning
& management
meetings facilitated



8 presentations to
stakeholders, reaching
400+ members of the
public with Japanese
beetle messaging

Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*), Troy Kimoto




D. Holden, CFIA

JAPANESE BEETLE: ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS TOWARDS ERADICATION AND CONNECTIVITY


We've facilitated and collaborated with partners throughout 2020 to stop the Japanese beetle in Vancouver and the results are paying off. Over the last year, we've collectively seen an 82% reduction of beetles since the previous year. We developed new resources to inspire and motivate individuals, businesses and organizations to take action to stop the spread of the beetle through shareable social media videos, vehicle and in-store signage and reporting tools and outreach for beetle traps and more. We provided education and outreach materials to retailers, landscape professionals and residents to prompt and promote continued on-the-ground action and diligence.

BUILDING CAPACITY AND CONNECTIVITY


Through strong communication and collaboration with over 100 partners, including eight affiliate organizations, we managed for and prevented the spread of invasive species throughout BC. We engaged with and facilitated professional networks and communications with members of the Indigenous and Local Government Invasive Species Networks through regular collaboration and input sessions and supported connectivity and education through sixteen invasive species-related webinars on a wide range of topics appealing to diverse audiences.



214 Indigenous Invasive Species Network members



16 webinars hosted



114 Local Government Invasive Species Network members

“So many attendees at the Research Symposium, so great to have the crossborder connections and such excellent info. Very inspiring for all of us to keep working together.”
– Jenny Eastman, Capital Regional District

ASIAN GIANT HORNET: A NEW THREAT

When a new and unwanted invasive species crossed boundaries and borders in late 2019, we were positioned to respond nimbly and effectively. We supported provincial entomologists in setting and monitoring 47 Asian giant hornet traps. We provided in-person and virtual education and identification and developed and shared key information and resources with the public to stop the movement and spread of Asian giant hornets.



Responded to over 1000 suspected Asian giant hornet reports



Asian giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*)




BC Invasive Species ACTION MONTH

INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION MONTH

In 2020, we were proud to lead on and share communications and planning for the delivery of Invasive Species Action Month that included record-breaking participation from communities and organizations around the province.

During this month, British Columbians were inspired to participate in our What’s in My Backyard Youth Photo Contest designed to encourage citizens to explore their backyards and local greenspaces and identify and share their photos of invasive species. We hosted and collaborated on targeted webinars, interactive workshops and engaging public quiz nights that spurred increased action against invasive species.



55,000+ reached on social media



389 entries to What’s In My Backyard



Stickseed (*Lappula* sp), JCP site visit, Williams Lake



JOB CREATION PARTNERSHIP

We empowered and educated aspiring environmental professionals through the Job Creation Partnership. These hardworking individuals learned valuable skills and worked in teams to remove priority invasive species and enhance natural areas in remote and urban landscapes in the Williams Lake, Ashcroft and Salmon Arm regions.



80% Job Creation Partnership employment rate



145 priority gravel pits treated and/or surveyed in BC's southern interior



90 hectares treated



308 site visits on public & crown land across BC



30 priority species surveyed and/or managed

INDUSTRY EDUCATION & TRAINING

In 2020 we developed and extended virtual and e-learning options to professionals, enabling delivery of training and best management practices to prevent the spread of invasive species in industry operations. We developed a suite of six training programs including in-person training for invasive plant management and several virtual training programs for forestry activities and more.



6 new training programs developed



188 forestry professionals involved in online training



Over 150 individuals received Pesticide Applicator and other training

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

– Training Attendee

Celebrating Excellence

We are proud to celebrate the many individuals, organizations, businesses and governments that work hard to educate others, research new and innovative techniques and methods, and volunteer their time to further the efforts of stopping invasive species spread and establishment in our beautiful province.



TOGETHER IN ACTION AWARDS

The Together in Action Innovation and Leadership awards (TIA) were established by the ISCBC in honour of our Executive Director Gail Wallin’s innovative leadership, provincially and nationally, in the area of invasive species. Through these awards, we are honoured to recognize and thank those that have contributed significant time and leadership to manage and prevent invasive species in BC. These exceptional leaders are ensuring that future generations will experience healthy habitats and communities throughout BC. In 2020, the Council presented awards to individuals in five different categories.

Dave Lock, Together in Action Leadership Award, presented posthumously. Dave was a dedicated volunteer, community leader, and

invasive species removal and ecological restoration innovator who volunteered for more than 25 years, beginning with the Mount Tolmie Conservancy Association and as Lead Steward with the District of Saanich’s Pulling Together Volunteer Program. He embodied the spirit of ‘together in action’ by ensuring that the next generation was connected to and valued nature.

Damien Assadi, Together in Action Student Leadership Award. Damien is a dedicated volunteer of the Council’s youth volunteer program. Committed to making a difference in his community, his project in Stanley Park not only benefits native habitat but inspires others to take action. Since joining the ISCBC youth volunteer team in May 2019, Damian has volunteered over 430 hours!

Nicci Bergunder, Together in Action Business Award. Nicci has been a passionate and long-time advocate for invasive species awareness, education

and management. Over the past eight years she has spent upwards of 20 hours a week volunteering with youth training programs, speaking to Indigenous communities and small businesses, and mentoring youth and community.

Lucy Stefanyk, Together in Action Government Award. Lucy is the Haida Gwaii Area Supervisor for BC Parks on Haida Gwaii and has been instrumental in invasive species management on the islands. Lucy is an advocate of the Haida Gwaii Youth Stewardship Program where she inspires students to pursue experience and education in natural resource management. Lucy’s dedication and commitment serves to protect one of Haida Gwaii’s, and Canada’s, most rare Coastal sand dune ecosystems from the threat of invasive species.

Ursula Viney, Hedy Dyck, Javier Maldonado, Albert Shames, Howard Normann and Sohpie Dessureault, Together in Action Partnership Award. The decision-making members of the Japanese Beetle Steering Committee sit on multiple committees, wearing many different hats through hundreds of meetings since Spring 2018 and most importantly have been the driving force behind the eradication program. Through their collaboration and dedication, the province is making great strides in the fight against the Japanese beetle.

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!



Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), ISCBC youth volunteer

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

- Harold Aljam**, *Governments, Indigenous (Coldwater Indian Band)*
- Nadia Chan**, *Secretary, Governments, Local (City of Surrey)*
- Dave Holden**, *Governments, Federal (Canadian Food Inspection Agency)*

- Jonathan Holmes**, *Governments, Indigenous (Shulus Forest Enterprises)*
- Val Miller**, *Governments, Provincial (Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development)*
- Ursula Viney**, *Governments, Provincial (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)*
- Crystal Chadburn**, *Business and Industry (Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development)*
- Douglas Fossen**, *Business & Industry, Agriculture (Fossen Air Ltd.)*
- Bill Grutzmacher**, *Treasurer, Business & Industry, Natural Resources (Forestry)*
- Eric Nijboer**, *Business & Industry, Natural Resources (Spectrum Resource Group Inc.)*
- Ken Schwaerzle**, *Business & Industry, Agriculture (Fraser Valley Invasive Plant Council)*
- Heike Stippler**, *Business & Industry, Trade and Retail (Heike Designs Inc.)*

COMMUNITY CHAMBER

- Kari Bondaroff**, *Community (Peace River Regional District)*
- Michael Boulet**, *Community, Environment & Conservation (Buckley Hogan Law Office)*
- Lesley Douglas**, *Vice-Chair, Community, Environment/Conservation (City of Port Moody)*
- Brian Heise**, *Past Chair, Community, Research & Education (Thompson Rivers University)*
- Alison McKay**, *Community, Tourism & Recreation (Destination British Columbia)*
- Ralph Nevill**, *Community (Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver)*

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY CHAMBER

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

HONOURARY MEMBERS

We are pleased to continue to recognize outstanding directors in our Honourary Members program. These individuals have contributed significant value, extensive volunteer time and expertise towards the Council’s development and evolution. A special thanks to our Honourary Members: **Duncan Barnett, David Borth, Barry Gibbs, Brian Heise, Kristy Palmantier and Tom Wells.**

OUR STAFF

As a provincial and inclusive organization, we are committed to staffing our Council with individuals that come together from different backgrounds and locations, bringing new information, skills and diverse perspectives. As such, our team is located throughout BC and delivers on Council goals from all corners of the province.

As of December 2020

ASHCROFT

Matt Burgess
Supervisor

BURNABY

Yonathan Uriel
Insect Ambassador

CHILLIWACK

Allison McCabe
PlantWise Coordinator

COURTENAY

Sue Staniforth
Manager, Outreach & Education

KAMLOOPS

Katelyn Bissat
Youth Facilitator

Dave Ralph
Manager, Operations

KELOWNA

Nadine McCosker
Education & eLearning Coordinator

LAKE COUNTRY

Lynn Lashuk
Manager, Programs

REVELSTOKE

Brittany Lowden
Communications Coordinator
& Youth Facilitator

SALMON ARM

Lara Phillips
Supervisor

SORRENTO

Jodi Romyn
Director, Operations & Finance

VANCOUVER

Serena Bonneville
Youth Program Coordinator

Corbin Manson

Youth Facilitator

Jennie McCaffrey

Training Coordinator

Nicholas Wong

Research & Projects Coordinator

VERNON

Danielle Toperczer
Director, Programs & Communications

WHISTLER

Lindsay Barnett
Fund Development

Anthony Mallinson

Tourism Resource Coordinator

WILLIAMS LAKE

Dixie Ballantyne
Manager, Finance & Administration

Tina Benard

Office Coordinator

Ksenia Kolodka

Outreach Coordinator

Gail Wallin

Executive Director

Brandon Wright

Supervisor

WYCLIFFE

Allyson Blake
Events & Communications Coordinator

THANK YOU TO
OUR FUNDERS

Our funders are an integral part of the work we do. 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, we delivered a wide variety of strategic programs intended to engage diverse audiences, including the public, industry, and governments, to build awareness and capacity to address issues related to invasive species. As we celebrate another successful year, we recognize the role of our funders in these successes and thank them with sincere appreciation.

2020 FUNDERS

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

BC Hydro

BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife
Compensation Program

BC Gaming Policy and
Enforcement Branch

Canadian Council on
Invasive Species

Cariboo Regional District

Corteva Agriscience

ECO Canada

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

Enbridge

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
(Pêches et Océans Canada)

Fortis BC

Habitat Conservation
Trust Foundation

Investment Agriculture
Foundation of BC

Ministry of Agriculture,
Province of BC

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural
Development, Province of BC

Ministry of Social Development
and Poverty Reduction,
Province of BC

Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure, Province of BC

Mosaic Forest Management

NATS Nursery

Naut’sa mawt Tribal Council

Pacific Coastal Airlines

Pacific Gateway Hotel

Premier Pacific Seeds

Project Learning Tree Canada

TD Friends of the Environment

Trans Mountain

Univar Solutions

WhiteStar

Williams Lake First Nation





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.

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 **Invasive Species
Council of BC**