



2022 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.

Messages from the Chair and Executive Director



Eric Nijboer
Chair

Over 20 years ago, the seeds for the Invasive Species Council of BC (formerly the Invasive Plant Council of BC) were planted with a 'Weeds Know No Boundaries' workshop, calling for a new approach to invasive plant management for BC. The foundation for the first Invasive Plant Strategy of BC was laid, and today a new five-year Strategy is in development!

2022 turned out to be one of the largest program delivery years for ISCBC since the Council's inception. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board and our partners for their leadership, and for guiding the Council back to some of the in-person activities we know and love.

It has been an honour to lead the collaborative group of individuals who make up ISCBC's Board of Directors. I look forward to supporting the new Board and building on our reputation as invasive species management leaders in 2023.



Gail Wallin,
Executive Director

With change comes opportunity. 2022 will very much be remembered as a year of just that!

We moved into the final phases of many new programs, including Invasive-Wise Tourism, StrongerBC and our dynamic Youth network. Our staff grew to more than 77 people during field season, providing hands-on support to communities across BC. We also said farewell to some long-term staff and leaders who moved on to great, new opportunities. We remain grateful for their guidance.

Working beyond the borders of BC remains a high priority, from working with the Canadian Council on Invasive Species on issues we all face, like climate change, to working collaboratively across the Pacific Northwest on emerging concerns like feral pigs.

In the new year, we will support industry by enhancing resources for the forestry and agriculture sectors. And we are very excited about growing our reach and coverage in BC with new education tools. As we buckle up for another busy year, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the direction of our Board, and to acknowledge the persistence, charisma and commitment of our staff.



ISCBC Attends COP15

In December, ISCBC sent a group of delegates and observers to COP15 in Montreal, where invasive species were identified as one of 23 targets in the global effort to protect biodiversity. ISCBC was one of the very few provincial-level organizations to be included at this international meeting.

During the December event, **the BC government committed to protecting 30% of the province's land by 2030 in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.** As a registered charity that specializes in bringing partners together to build collaborative solutions and actions to protect our biodiversity, economy, and communities, we are ready to support the province and Canada in achieving biodiversity targets while ensuring healthy communities and reducing economic losses.

National Invasive Species and Climate Change Symposium

In June we co-hosted the first National Invasive Species and Climate Change (NISCC) symposium with Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS). The virtual symposium gathered policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to examine risks magnified by the interaction of climate change and invasive species.

This is leading to the establishment of a national initiative within Canada, that links to many regional initiatives and successes in the United States. Watch for how to be linked into this.

TARGET 6

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 percent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands.



199 attendees
from **3** countries



18 speakers

ACTION ON THE GROUND

StrongerBC

ISCBC is grateful to the StrongerBC funding from the Province of BC to support individuals in training and providing work for people whose jobs were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and to help protect BC's lands and waters from invasive species. Over 2 years, we employed 222 people in 17 regional districts in over 34 communities as part of this program. And in 2022, we accomplished:



9 teams
across BC

(Abbotsford, Campbell River, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Nelson, Quesnel, Salmon Arm and Surrey)

2,007
site visits
(2021-2022)



2,474 suspected
invasive species
reported (2021-2022);

1672 reported in 2022 alone, most of which were Brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*)

Metro Vancouver and Abbotsford **Action Teams** worked with **Squamish First Nations** assisting Elders in managing their invasive plants. As Elders had mobility issues, and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) plants were reducing access to their homes, it was rewarding for the teams to help and be warmly welcomed.

Quesnel Action Team responded to a public **report of a possible invasive mussel sighting**. The team visited the site alongside Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), conducting surveys, and taking samples, which tested negative for invasive mussels.

Gravel Pits

The major vectors and pathways for invasive plant spread are movement of equipment and removal of aggregate materials.

In 2015 the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure began a collaboration with ISCBC to identify and strategically manage noxious and invasive plant species in priority gravel pits in BC. The first year, ISCBC contractors performed management on 22 pits in 2 regional districts, surveying, manual and/or herbicide treatments, and monitoring for efficacy.

In 2022, survey and management was completed on **175** pits in **9** regional districts



Mussel Monitoring in the Cariboo

With funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) for the fifth year in a row, ISCBC carried out Zebra and Quagga mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha* & *D. rostriformis bugensis*) monitoring in the Cariboo. ISCBC monitored 11 lakes, four times between June and September in the Cariboo Regional District. We are pleased to report no invasive mussels were found.



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

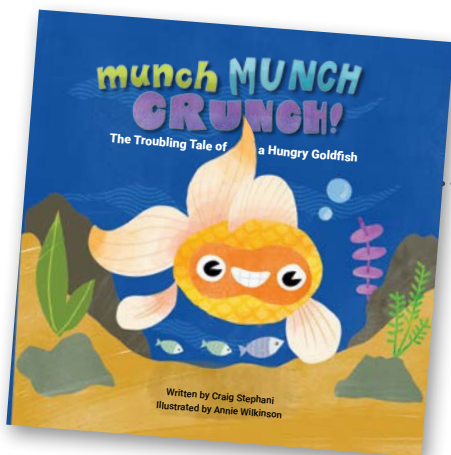
Using the Invasive Species Strategy for BC as our guide, we promote our behaviour change programs to close man-made pathways – such as the movement of species via tourism, recreation, horticulture and the pet and aquarium trade – to build awareness and shift actions that will help stop the spread of invasive species.

As a membership-based organization, we have developed a network of invasive species specialists, encourage partnerships amongst business, industry and funders, and we coordinate and share our research findings through conferences, forums and live webinars.

27 workshop
and outreach
events facilitated

New partners

such as Go Haida Gwaii, Apple Guy, Blackcomb Helicopters, Transboundary Feral Pig Working Group, Great River Fishing, BC Wildlife Federation and Quality Garden and Pet — to name a few



449 Clean
Drain Dry signs
installed (2019-2022)



Developed a children's book,
promoting the Don't
Let it Loose program

30 new
factsheets
created



**New
Recognized
Retailer
programs**
Ready for launch
spring 2023



**Our interactive mobile classroom
will be coming soon to a town or
city near you!**

Developed in 2022 with plans to launch early 2023, this trailer provides an interactive experience with real invasive species specimens, information and games. Participants will also have a chance to play a new, never-seen-before video game and take our Play and Protect Challenge and pledge!



Accessible Public Education

Training professionals and technical staff through in-person, hybrid and virtual sessions.



Learning Centre

1,042 new eLearning accounts created

8 free courses & **2** resources launched

18 webinars hosted



333 people

completed the European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) eLearning course

certifying users with a Section 52 Scientific Collection/Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control License. Created in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

Delivered virtual workshops '**Tools and Resources for Preventing the Spread in BC**' with the Secwepemc Nation Land Guardians and Spectrum Resource Group

Invasive-Wise Education

To reach classrooms across BC, a virtual network of resources was developed and implemented that includes virtual class presentations, webinars and events, some in French and English. Online resources have been developed and linked to the curriculum to ensure easy access for educators.

7 new BC curriculum-based lessons



142 educators

Wetland's Protection Toolkit Project launched

7 'How To' videos added to YouTube playlist

New partnerships created

Nature Kids BC, Take Me Outside and the Outdoor Learning Store

YOUTH MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to passionate and caring youth, there is now a network of over 700 youth who have contributed to awareness and actions on invasive species. From remote to urban communities, youth made positive and lasting impacts in their communities, built new skills and raised awareness of invasive species. In 2022, some highlights are:



157 new volunteers

42 local sites improved



Yilin Wang
ISCBC youth volunteer

“Volunteering is all about the people. The community, connections, and support is what makes a good organization. Everyone you meet will be positive and all are eager to be there. My love for the environment and the need for volunteering hours led me to start taking action, but the community of like-minded naturalists and a chance to make a difference is what made me stay.
”

35 outreach events reaching **2,355** people

RESPECTING INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Since time immemorial, Indigenous Peoples have had a respectful, grateful and protective connection to the land. And since the beginnings of the Council, we have recognized the importance of having Indigenous leadership as partners in our vision and mission. We continue to grow this recognition of their knowledge and expand on meaningful relationships with Indigenous partners to come together and help steward the land.

Our Indigenous Invasive Species Network is **200 members** strong

The knowledge of our Indigenous partners has been invaluable to the success of our virtual training opportunities, webinars, and workshops. Some highlights include:

- » Métis Nation BC Invasive Species Workshop
- » *Aquatic Invasive Species – An Indigenous Perspective* hosted by Dr. Nancy Turner
- » Indigenous Invasive Species Network Spring Workshop – *The Plants We Love* hosted by Dr. Nancy Turner and Dr. Luschiim Arvid Charlie
- » Impacts of Invasive Species on First Nations Traditional Medicine in partnership with 7 Generations Steward Society



DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The Invasive-Wise Tourism program continues to build on previous successes creating meaningful partnerships with tourism operators across the province. Resources like eLearning courses, webinars, and factsheets support tourism operators in adopting best management practices to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species and protect BC's rich biodiversity.

65 Invasive-Wise Tourism operators



4 new Invasive-Wise e-Learning courses released:

- » Priority Marine Invasive Species
- » Priority Freshwater Invasive Species
- » Invasive-Wise Marinas
- » Invasive-Wise Anglers

6,000+ people received key messaging and best practices for Invasive-Wise Tourism through webinars, newsletters and e-blasts



COORDINATED MANAGEMENT EFFORTS



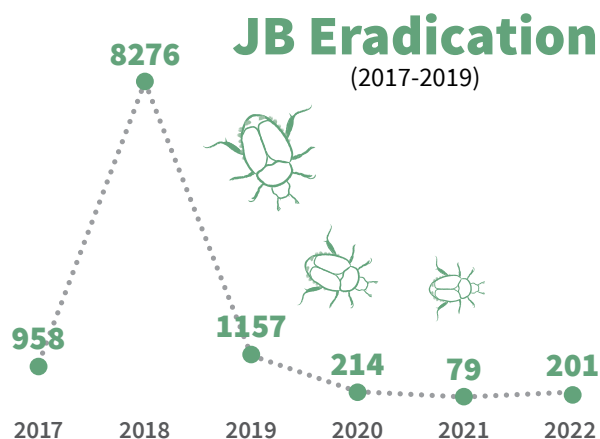
Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*)

Together with dedicated partners, we are working toward a province free of Japanese beetle (JB). Since 2018, ISCBC has provided coordination and facilitation of the collaborative efforts. The first year of the eradication program in 2018 detected 8276 beetles, while 2022 saw a greatly reduced total of 201 beetles. However, 2022 saw inclusion of a new jurisdiction, with Port Coquitlam treating for JB this year.

Huge increase in traps set:
2,790 (2021) **5,928** (2022)

100+ planning and strategy subcommittee meetings

6 presentations and events engaging over **300** participants



“

A sincere thank you to the ISCBC Japanese Beetle Ambassadors who worked alongside our inspectors setting and checking Japanese Beetle traps. With their help, CFIA was able to provide enhanced data on the presence and location of the Japanese Beetle to the Japanese Beetle Response team, allowing the Province to target eradication efforts more precisely. This has truly been a model of cooperation and collaboration.

Hui Hang, Inspection Manager
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

”

Northern giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*)

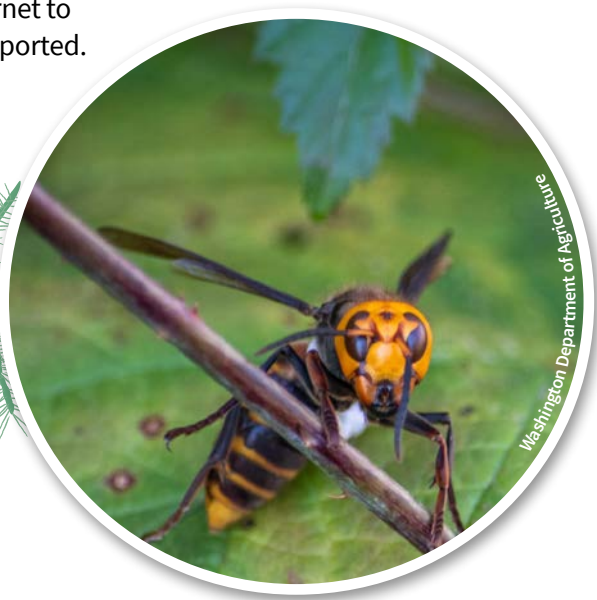
Vespa mandarinia's common name was amended from Asian giant hornet to Northern giant hornet (NGH), a naming convention ISCBC strongly supported.

Continuing our partnership with the province, traps were set and monitored along the BC-Washington border. Our website and the Report Invasives app were the key digital tools for public inquiries and invasive hornet reports.

Zero NGH detected in BC or Washington

78+ inquiries fielded

22 traps set and monitored





Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*)

Lymantria dispar dispar was renamed Spongy moth by the Entomological Society of America and Entomological Society of Canada's Better Common Names Project.

Providing ground support to the Ministry of Forests's aerial spray program, ISCBC's Science and Research Team assisted with weather monitoring, placing and updating lawn signs and managing spray deposit cards.

Supported operations
in **Burnaby, Surrey,
Langley, Chilliwack
& Mission**

15 treatment
events from May
through June

“

I sure enjoyed working with all of your crew which were diligent, hard-working and a pleasure to have on our Lymantria sprays.

Marnie Duthie-Holt
Provincial Forest Entomologist,
Ministry of Forests

”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Science Network

Community science observations help scientists track, watch and protect Canada's native species from unwanted impacts, including invasive species. Reporting through projects like 'I Spy and Identify' on iNaturalist — a project administered by ISCBC — helps build active communities and protects biodiversity.

“

*My favourite part from the weekend was learning about water spiders and the Six-spotted fishing spider (*Dolomedes triton*) comes to mind. Above all is the appreciation of help in identifying the many species we're sharing this planet with and my growing respect for the value of citizen science.*

Jim Lawrence

”

We encouraged Community Scientists to participate in BioBlitzes as ways to take action to protect BC's biodiversity:

'I Spy and Identify' project on iNaturalist

250,679
observations
and reports

900
members

1,176 reports
made through
bcinvasives.ca and
via phone



2,885+ reports
made through Report
Invasives app

1,200+ observations
made in ISCBC's first ever
Aquatic BioBlitz

to increase observing and reporting in aquatic ecosystems

Annual City Nature Challenge



60% of Canadian
observations logged
in BC

Invasive Species Action Month

May was once again proclaimed Invasive Species Action Month (ISAM) by the province of BC. ISCBC hosted the 'What's in My Backyard?' (WIMBY) photo contest encouraging individuals to post photos of local invasive species. And children living in BC were invited to participate in the first ever ISAM colouring contest!



72,648
website
visitors



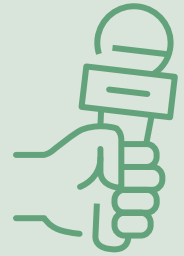
432 photos
submitted for
WIMBY contest



732,000
social media
impressions



4,765
social media
engagements



8 media
interviews

Together In Action Awards



Matthew Syvenky
Together in Action Student
Leadership Award

Matthew has volunteered 750 hours since starting with ISCBC! Matthew has been awarded the Certified Wildlife Friendly Habitat credential from the

Canadian Wildlife Federation. He is a member of the Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society's Board of Directors and is the youngest member of BC Nature's Climate Committee.



Lorna Shuter
Together in Action Innovation
and Leadership Award

Lorna manages the Shulus Community and Medicine Garden for the Lower Nicola Indian Band near Merritt, BC, where she empowers community members to grow

their own food, sharing her knowledge of invasive species. Over the years Lorna has enlisted the help of 'Joe's Goats,' a crew of four-legged helpers who thoroughly enjoy munching on invasives!

COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKS

ISCBC was featured in more than 50 media reports, including live interviews, web stories, TV, and radio reports. This expansive coverage directly reflects a growing awareness of our important work, and the Council's reputation as a leading resource in the invasive species world.

1,076 Brown
marmorated stink bug
reports from the public
in just a few days
This set a new ISCBC reporting record

Social media

10,081
followers
(across all channels)

1M+
people
reached
(impressions)

100,000+
engagements
with our posts
(link clicks, comments, shares, likes)

OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

Thank you to our Board of Directors, a dedicated group volunteering their time and expertise to guide and drive our work forward. Each member has been instrumental in providing keen insight into the direction of invasive species management and prevention, creating new opportunities for the Council and setting us up for success in years to come.



GOVERNMENT CHAMBER

Dave Holden

FEDERAL

(Canadian Food Inspection Agency)

Eamon O'Donoghue

PROVINCIAL (Ministry of Forests)

Jonathan Holmes, Treasurer

INDIGENOUS

(Shulus Forest Enterprises)

Nadia Chan, Vice-Chair

LOCAL (City of Surrey)

Sauna-Lee Chai

PROVINCIAL

(Ministry of Agriculture and Food)

Sophie Dessureault

LOCAL (Vancouver Park Board)

Val Miller

PROVINCIAL (Ministry of Forests)

COMMUNITY CHAMBER

Alec Dale

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

(Volunteer, conservation leader)

Alison MacKay, Secretary

RECREATION & TOURISM

(Destination British Columbia)

Michael Boulet

RECREATION & TOURISM

(Buckley Hogan Law Office)

Sarah Nathan

COMMUNITY & TRANSPORT

(Ducks Unlimited Canada)

Steve Thomson

AGRICULTURE (Farmer, volunteer,

agriculture leader)

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY CHAMBER

Dan Tisseur

TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES (Enbridge)

Dave Bennett, Past Chair

TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES (Fortis BC)

Eric Nijboer, Chair

NATURAL RESOURCES

(Spectrum Resource Group Inc.)

Harold Aljam

AGRICULTURE

(First Nations Agriculture Council)

Nicci Bergunder

TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES

(Matcon Civil Constructors Inc.)

Scott Pearce

TRADE & RETAIL (GardenWorks)

Our Valued Staff

ISCBC staff are the heart of our organization. Located around the province, each employee brings a unique perspective, skills, and experience to the group.

our team was
spread across **16**
communities in BC

77 team
members in July
(highest number of team members)



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

It is because of our funders that we are able to do the work we do at ISCBC. With their support, we can deliver a wide variety of strategic programs to a diverse range of audiences, roll out more initiatives and help more communities. We thank our funders for their trust and support in 2022, as we continued to find new ways to lead in invasive species management.

2022 Funders

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
(Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada)
Alpine Club of Canada
BC Hydro
BC Gaming, Province of B.C.
Canadian Council on Invasive Species
Cariboo Regional District
Carleton Landscaping
City of Richmond
ECO Canada
Employment and Social Development Canada (Emploi et Développement social Canada)
Enbridge

Environment and Climate Change Canada (Environnement et Changement climatique Canada)
Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Pêches et Océans Canada)
Fortis BC
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Province of B.C.
Ministry of Forests, Province of B.C.
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Province of B.C.
NATS Nursery
Pacific Salmon Foundation
Project Learning Tree Canada
Regional District of North Okanagan
Royal Bank of Canada
Setetkwe Environmental
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Trans Mountain
Williams Lake Community Forest