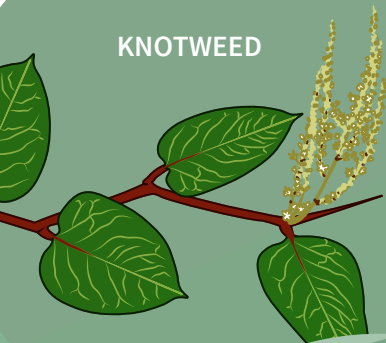


2023 ANNUAL REPORT

KNOTWEED



JAPANESE
BEETLE



ENGLISH
HOLLY



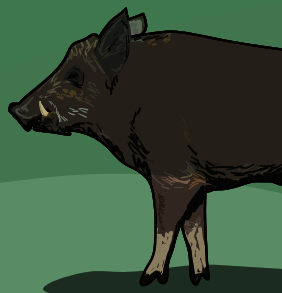
SPOTTED
KNAPWEED



SPONGY
MOTH



FERAL PIG



BURDOCK



ZEBRA &
QUAGGA
MUSSELS



GOLDFISH



EUROPEAN
GREEN CRAB





Unless noted, illustrations created by Tanya Gadsby of Fuselight Studio or Tambellini Design Studio.

Messages from the Chair & Executive Director



2023 was a year focused on bringing people, ideas and unique perspectives together. We brought back a high energy meeting of invasive species minds at the first in-person forum since 2020. And we spent a year taking input, carefully laying the

groundwork for the next five-year, Invasive Species Strategy for BC. Reviewing the contributions collected during workshops, info sessions and surveys, and collecting critical feedback, is a process rooted in a core Council value — collaboration. It has been my privilege to Chair ISCBC's Board of Directors for the 2023 calendar year, and to keep working alongside a diverse group of passionate and inspiring leaders. I look forward to a new year, a new Invasive Species Strategy, and to supporting a new Board committed to growing the Council's reputation as the largest invasive species organization in Canada.

- **Nadia Chan**, Chair, Board of Directors, ISCBC



In 2023 we celebrated some important new firsts. Our mobile invasive species classroom – the Play & Protect Trailer rolled out, engaging families and connecting our work with remote communities around BC. We launched a new national Youth

Program grounding leaders of tomorrow with the practical skills they need to make big differences in communities across the country. We debuted a suite of new educational tools, enhancing virtual classroom connections. Our message is resonating. Awareness is growing. From elementary school teachers to provincial government leaders, invasive species are 'trending' in the most impactful sense of the word. As we reflect on all that we accomplished in 2023, it is with sincere gratitude to our Board for their guidance and direction, and with genuine thanks to the tenacity and clear commitment of our staff, the support of our donors, and the enthusiasm of our volunteers that we can look ahead with optimism to another robust year and all the possibility it holds.

- **Gail Wallin**, Executive Director, ISCBC

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.





Breakout sessions,
INVASIVES 2023 Forum

Invasive Species Strategy 2023 – 2027

2023 was a year of listening, learning and taking input on the 2023-2027 Invasive Species Strategy. Guided by a diverse team of advisors, ISCBC staff drafted this collaborative document using content collected from an open survey, four virtual workshops and one in-person workshop at the 2023 ISCBC Forum. Feedback on the draft strategy was welcomed in December from anyone living in BC. Official release of the new strategy is expected in early 2024. At the same time, a Monitoring for Success report has been developed to look back, reflect on and evaluate the effectiveness of the 2018-2022 Invasive Species Strategy for BC.

INVASIVES 2023 Forum & AGM: In person, again!

The goal of the INVASIVES 2023 Forum was to empower participants with practical information, to inspire them with powerful examples of collaboration, and to remind them of the great difference their work is making.



229 registrations

61 speakers

New location at the
Anvil Centre in New Westminster

“

It is really wonderful to be here. What's important is that we all continue to invest in our own learning, in our own knowledge and skills, and capacity and relationships.

Paul Robitaille, Keynote Speaker
Founder & CEO, Advocate Strategies

”

“

My role with the Stanley Park Ecology Society is all about controlling invasives so I was hoping to get more connections in the field and hear about other peoples experience dealing with the same issues we deal with in Stanley Park.

Andy Ferguson, Speedy Session Presenter
Stanley Park Ecology Society

”

ENSURING INVASIVE SPECIES ARE PART OF THE CONVERSATION

ISCBC is ensuring invasive species management makes it into the strategies and frameworks being developed to protect biodiversity. In 2023, we provided submissions to the BC Coastal Marine Strategy, Canada's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, and gave input to Environment and Climate Change Canada to consider in their position paper on Invasive Alien Species for the 25th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-25).



Impacts of invasive species on species at risk in BC

The 2021 report assessing the impacts of invasive species on species at risk prepared by ESSA Technologies for ISCBC was accepted for publication in Canada's first multidisciplinary open-access science journal, [FACETS](#), in 2023.

ACTION ON THE GROUND

Gravel Pits

The movement of equipment and removal of aggregate materials is one way invasive plants spread. Recognizing this, 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 ministry gravel pits across the province. The first year, ISCBC contractors worked on 22 pits in two regional districts, surveying, applying manual and/or herbicide treatments, and monitoring for efficacy. In 2023, 180 pits were listed for survey and management in nine regional districts.



Devick Pit access road after chemical treatment of knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax and Hoary alyssum (left) shows a return to healthy grassland (right), 2 years later



THANK YOU
to our project
partners!

*Eco Action program
students immersed
in outdoor learning
in the North Okanagan*

Building Community Capacity for Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems

With federal funding obtained in 2022 for Eco Action projects (action-based work creating positive effects on communities and the environment), our project focuses on building community capacity for restoration and protection of freshwater ecosystem health at one site in the Okanagan and one site in the Cariboo. In 2023, we conducted invasive and native species surveys, weed pulls, and workshops on water quality, reporting, and Yellow flag iris control. In 2023, this project engaged 266 people in-person and 11,484 people via virtual communication. This project will continue through 2025, engaging, building awareness, and developing skills among community members so they can sustain these activities in the future.

Play Clean Go

With funding from the Alpine Club of Canada's Environment Fund and in partnership with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, two permanent boot brush stations were designed, produced and installed at two popular trail systems in Revelstoke. The installation of these stations combined with tailored outreach to local interest groups will enhance regional adoption of Play Clean Go responsible practices.

COORDINATED MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

Northern giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*)

ISCBC's partnership with the Province continued with setting and monitoring traps along the BC-Washington border to help protect pollinators in BC. The Report Invasives App and the ISCBC website were the key digital tools used for public inquiries and suspected invasive hornet reports.



Zero NGH

detected in BC
or Washington

39

inquiries
fielded

16 traps set and monitored



*Setting up Northern giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) traps in the Lower Mainland along the Washington border*

Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*)

Together with dedicated partners, we are working toward becoming a province free of Japanese beetle (JB). For more than five years, ISCBC has coordinated and facilitated a collaborative eradication program, detecting 8,276 beetles in 2018. By 2019, the number of reported beetles dropped to 1,157, down to 214 in 2020, 79 in 2021, with 201 detected in 2022. This increase is attributed to the discovery of a new hotspot requiring treatment in Port Coquitlam. As a result, total beetle numbers rose to 643 in 2023. However, in 2023, no beetles were detected in Vancouver's original regulated area. This demonstrates the treatments and collaborative efforts are working to protect public green spaces, turfed private lands and industry in the Lower Mainland.

5,192 traps

set and checked
across the Lower
Mainland

100+ strategy
subcommittee
meetings

Most well-attended season wrap
up meeting to date with over
60 participants

14 information tables, and
3 presentations hosted across Vancouver,
Burnaby, and Port Coquitlam, including one
for all BC Safeway Floral Departments;
600 people engaged



ISCBC staff and
volunteers cozying
up with our friendly
Japanese beetle mascot

ISCBC's
JB mascot
debuted

Box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*)

For the third year in a row, ISCBC Insect Ambassadors have been working with the Province and the BC Landscape and Nursery Association, setting and monitoring traps at nurseries and growers around the Lower Mainland. Due to this important work and the result of zero detections over three years, USDA-APHIS now recognizes BC as pest-free in accordance with International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures. Restrictions on the import of *Buxus* spp. (i.e. boxwoods) to the US from BC have now been lifted.

110
traps set

Zero Box tree
moths detected

Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*)

ISCBC worked with the BC Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Canadian Forest Service on a Spongy moth high-density monitoring program for Salt Spring Island.

Supported the set up
and retrieval of

**600 pheromone-
baited moth traps**

Facilitated a June open
house to connect with
residents



14 Spongy moths
detected on Salt Spring
Island; another
395 moths detected
in other regions of BC

RESPECTING INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

ISCBC works with Indigenous communities across BC to identify, observe, report, and manage invasive species. The recommendations made by Indigenous partners are integral to invasive species management, resource development and training programs. Invasive species impact traditional practices and ISCBC remains committed to building on strong partnerships and taking counsel from Indigenous communities.

“

Article series launched sharing some of the unique approaches and invaluable contributions of Indigenous communities impacted by invasive species.

Invasive species make me angry. Because they quietly and gently choke out Indigenous species. It's sneaky. Not something easy to put my finger on until it seems too late.

- Carrie Reid, also named Xwantumaat
Prevention worker and member of the Qualicum First Nation

Having our people out on the land and making sure the spread of invasive species is reduced gives me hope. Knowing our traditional medicines, foods and native plants can grow and prosper is a good feeling.

- Sage Flett Kruger
Manager, Trails Society of BC and member of the Penticton Indian Band

”

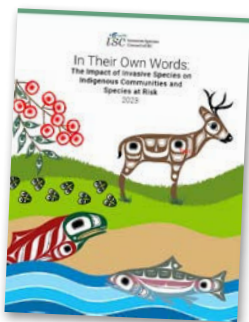


The Indigenous Invasive Species Network (IISN) has **209** members

15% of speakers at the INVASIVES 2023 Forum self-identified as Indigenous

Virtual Workshop,
Recognizing the Role of Indigenous Leadership in Invasive Species Management,
gathered input on the new Invasive Species Strategy for BC, attracting **134 attendees**

New Report: The impact of invasive species on Indigenous Communities and Species at Risk



Invasive species can have particularly devastating impacts on species at risk. They can also seriously affect Indigenous communities by impacting infrastructure, economy, health and cultural practices. Many species currently listed on national and provincial endangered species lists are culturally significant species to Indigenous groups in BC. This comprehensive report presents the perspectives, expertise, and traditional knowledge of members of several Indigenous communities, focusing on the impacts of invasive species on culturally important species at risk. It can be downloaded on our website.



Illustrations by Shawna Kiesman

YOUTH IN ACTION

The Invasive Species Youth Program went national in 2023! From remote towns to urban centres, youth are making positive and lasting impacts, building new connections and skills while raising awareness of invasive species and their impacts across Canada. We are thrilled to have such an enthusiastic and passionate community!

153 volunteers | **6,090** volunteer hours

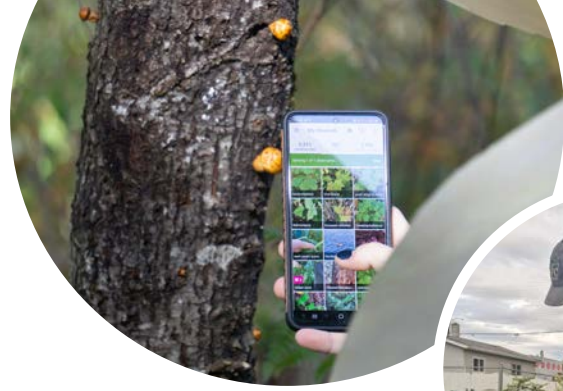


The Youth Art Contest winning design by volunteer Niklaus Sun



Healthy Habitats Youth in Action Micro-grants

The Healthy Habitats Community Service Grants Program, newly launched in 2023, empowers youth in Canada ages 15-30 to drive positive change in their communities. Fostering environmental and community stewardship, these micro-grants offer financial support, project management skills, and opportunities for personal growth. Applicants are encouraged to propose unconventional yet impactful solutions to environmental challenges. Microgrant projects are tailored to accommodate a wide range of initiatives aligning with the overarching goal of supporting youth-led, sustainable, and positive change.



100+ registrants gathered for the Provincial Youth Summit

30+ outreach and engagement events

1,000+ youth engaged in Canada-wide bioblitz, recording **1,236** observations

“

A lot of people my age deal with climate anxiety. Volunteering and taking action makes you feel better and puts a lot of that anxiety to rest. Even though your actions are only having a small, local impact you can help inspire people to have a global one...There's a lot of organizations out there to volunteer with but there is such a community in this one that just makes it feel really nice.

Taylor de Silva,
ISCBC Youth Volunteer

”

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Education on Wheels: The Play & Protect Mobile!



In 2023, the Play & Protect Mobile rolled into small towns and remote communities, spreading invasive species knowledge to people of all ages. This dynamic mobile invasive species classroom traveled around the Cariboo, Bulkley Valley/Smithers, and Okanagan/Shuswap regions, stopping at school events, summer programs, markets, and parades. Participants got up close and personal with real invasive species specimens, and engaged in informative activities, including the Play and Protect Challenge video game.

A console hosting the latest in our video game series spent the off season at the Tourism Discovery Centre in Williams Lake and the Big Little Science Centre Society (BLSCS) in Kamloops. It can also be played online!

19
communities
visited

5,700+ people
engaged with interactive
activities and games

Accessible Learning

ISCBC is committed to training professionals and technical staff in-person and virtually.

813 new
eLearning Centre
accounts

14 webinars hosted;
712 registrants



New!

Invasive-Wise
Seaplane
Operators course

240 registrants completed the
European green crab (*Carcinus
maenas*) **eLearning course** eligible
for certification with a section 52 Scientific
Collection/Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control License. Created in
partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)



Invasive-Wise Education

ISCBC's network of digital resources, virtual classroom presentations, webinars, and events served educators across BC and beyond in 2023.

New!

50 Invasive Species
Teaching Cards

Aquatic Invaders Activity
Package for Educators

with educational
tips, classroom
materials, and
outdoor hands-on
activities



2 new BC
curriculum-
based lessons

National Virtual
Educators
workshop
in partnership with
Outdoor Learning Store

Invasive-Wise
Education program:

225 educators reached,
↑ 63% from 2022

New 'Invasive-Wise' sticker by
Chantelle Trainor-Matties, an
artist from BC with Nisga'a
and Métis heritage.



68 virtual presentations in
English and French to students
across BC and one in Toronto

1,700+
students

100
educators

4 Professional
Development
workshops for
teachers

People Engaged at
Outreach Events

2,132

Hosted by the Regional District
of the North Okanagan Invasive
Species Ambassador Program

2,142

through the Cariboo Regional
District (CRD) Education and
Outreach Program

Resources

15 new or
updated factsheets

Aquatic Invasive Species
Field Guide
expanded to

88
pages



100 research papers
exploring the impact of
aquatic invasive species
collected by Aquatic
research hub

Housed on our website, this
collection helps make invasives
research readily accessible.

COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKS

ISCBC featured in **119** media reports in 2023, up from 68 in 2022

Invasive Species Network Membership:

Indigenous
209 members
↑ from 199 in 2022

Local Government
146 members
↑ from 102 in 2022

Social Media
13,476
followers
(across all channels)

2.4M+
people reached
(impressions)



We went viral on TikTok with **886K** views!
Even Google commented on the video!
(<https://www.tiktok.com/@bcinvasives/video/7249762082680212741>)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Science Network

Reports from community members help the scientific community identify and manage invasive species. Reporting through projects like 'I Spy and Identify' on iNaturalist — a project administered by ISCBC — helps build active communities and protects Canada's native species. Every report matters.

'I Spy and Identify' project on iNaturalist

291,871
observations;
98,623 from BC

1,185
members

400 reports
made through bcinvasives.ca
and by phone



1,997 reports
made through
Report Invasives app



ISCBC's
End-of-Summer Bioblitz
(Sep. 2–4, 2023)

697 observations
of **319** species

Reaching Local Businesses

We enlist the help of local businesses to spread the message about invasive species. Our programs promote informed plant purchasing, provide guidance around responsible pet practices, and more.

- » The PlantWise Retailer Program has officially launched. Retailers who commit to selling non-invasive plants receive Grow Me Instead brochures and wallet cards, and PlantWise rack cards, Recognized Retailer stickers, and posters to display in their businesses.
- » The Pet and Aquarium Recognized Retailer Program has successfully completed its pilot phase and has now officially launched nationwide. The program features an eLearning course along with print and digital resources designed to support retailers in educating pet, aquarium and terrarium owners about invasive species impacts and how they can prevent their spread.
- » 12 new Invasive-Wise Tourism Operators joined our program. Tourism operators have access to eLearning courses, webinars, and factsheets. Sharing best management practices helps stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.



Invasive Species Action Month

May 2023 was once again proclaimed Invasive Species Action Month by the Province of BC, a month dedicated to raising awareness and offering opportunity to take part in engaging activities all month long:

4 themed webinars;
viewed **890** times
on YouTube with audio
recordings offered
on Soundcloud



19 invasive
species education
workshops held
for educators



17 media
reports
featuring
ISCBC

82,820
website visitors

Together in Action Awards

Every year, ISCBC presents the 'Together in Action' awards, acknowledging outstanding work done in invasive species management and prevention.

Together in Action Student Leadership Award winner,
April Kornitsky, forest school
instructor and avid ISCBC
volunteer



"Growing up in Port Coquitlam, I was surrounded by the woods and land with my dad. I got to see the impacts of invasive species and watch how one new plant could decimate a part of the forest. I started learning the names of the plants and what I could do to help, and my passion for invasives bloomed."

Together in Action Innovation and Leadership Award winner,
Mary Rose Argonza-Oberhoffner,
Western Area Communications
Advisor, CFIA; member of the
provincial Japanese Beetle
program



"Japanese beetle poses a serious threat to BC's landscape and Canada's plant resources. We all play a part in helping to prevent the spread and introduction of pests; the actions we take individually and collectively, to report pests (like Japanese beetle or other species) and follow plant health guidelines and restrictions, help protect the environment, along with the horticultural and agricultural sectors."

CONGRATULATIONS

to ISCBC Executive Director Gail Wallin!

On November 16th in Ottawa, Gail Wallin, ISCBC Executive Director, was presented with the 2023 'Nature Inspiration Award', in the adult category.

Gail says: "This is an award for the team. Success doesn't depend on one person. It requires a team of people working together to make a positive change. ISCBC is honoured to attract and grow an amazing team. I am honoured to represent the Council, the staff, the Board and many volunteers who have made a difference, raising awareness around the urgent topic of invasive species."

This is the 10th anniversary for the Canadian Museum of Nature's national program, celebrating the leadership of adults, youth, not-for-profits, and businesses connecting Canadians with nature and setting examples for a sustainable future.



ISCBC Board field tour with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nanaimo (right) and with Mosaic Forestry, Nanaimo (bottom right)



OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

Resilient ecosystems depend on invasive species management. Our Board of Directors volunteer their time and expertise and provide keen insight into the direction of invasive species management and prevention. Thank you for guiding and driving our work forward, creating new opportunities for the Council, and setting us up for success in years to come.

GOVERNMENT CHAMBER

INDIGENOUS

Jonathan Holmes
Shulus Forest Enterprises

LOCAL

Nadia Chan, Chair
City of Surrey

Sophie Dessureault
Vancouver Park Board

PROVINCIAL

Eamon O'Donoghue
Ministry of Forests

Shauna-Lee Chai
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Val Miller
Ministry of Forests

FEDERAL

Dave Holden
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

COMMUNITY CHAMBER

AGRICULTURE

Harold Aljam
First Nations Agriculture Council

Steve Thomson, Treasurer
Farmer, volunteer, agriculture leader

COMMUNITY

Sarah Nathan, Vice Chair
Ducks Unlimited Canada

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Alec Dale
Volunteer, conservation leader

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY CHAMBER

NATURAL RESOURCES

Eric Nijboer, Past Chair
Spectrum Resource Group Inc.

TRADE & RETAIL

Scott Pearce
GardenWorks

TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES

Dan Tisseur
Enbridge

Dave Bennett, Past Chair
Fortis BC

Jennifer Robertson
Fortis BC

Nicci Bergunder
Defence Construction Canada

Our Valued Staff

We couldn't do the work we do without the dedication of our incredible staff. Each employee contributes to our strong, positive team with fresh ideas, skills and unique perspectives driving our work forward.

In 2023, we had staff working in **14 communities in BC**, and two team members outside of BC, residing in Alberta and Ontario

THANK YOU!

We would not be able to make the difference we do without the grounding support of our donors, sponsors, funders, and other contributors. Thanks to their support, we can deliver a wide variety of strategic programs to a diverse range of audiences, engaging people across BC.

And a special thanks to the multitude of volunteers who join us in our work! From the passion of our youth network to the wisdom and experience of project advisors and organizational partners, the work of the Council is enriched by your generosity. Thank you for your contributions to our successes in 2023!

2023 Funders

Abbotsford Community Foundation
BC Hydro
Canadian Council on Invasive Species
Canadian Heritage (Patrimoine canadien)
Cariboo Regional District
Clean Foundation
Corteva Agriscience
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)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Pêches et Océans Canada)
FortisBC
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
Heartland Toyota

Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Province of B.C.
Ministry of Forests, Province of B.C.
Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Province of B.C.
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Province of B.C.
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Province of B.C.
Mosaic Forest Management
NATS Nursery
Pacific Salmon Foundation
Premier Pacific Seeds Ltd
Project Learning Tree Canada
RBC Tech
Regional District of North Okanagan
Royal Bank of Canada
Southern Irrigation
Spectrum Resource Group
Teck Resources Limited
Williams Lake Community Forest
Vancouver International Airport (YVR)

We invite you to consider joining our community of supporters to help make invasive species education and ecological stewardship programming accessible across BC. Visit our website to learn more.



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BCINVASIVES.CA
info@bcinvasives.ca
1-888-933-3722

Charitable Registration: 856131578RR0001