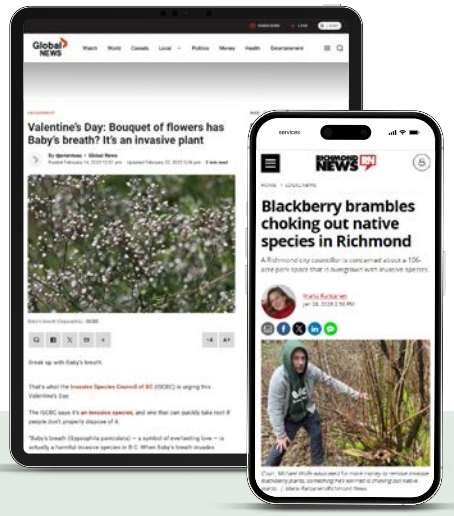
Invasive Species Council of BC | InvasiveWise NatureStrong

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CONNECTIONS, CELEBRATIONS AND COLLABORATIONS

It's hard to believe that two decades ago, there was little public awareness or understanding of the impacts of invasive species on the lands, waters and communities across B.C. The term itself was not even part of common language. Today, the media no longer asks for a definition of invasive species, and many parties are taking proactive action to stop their spread.

While some invasive species may grab the headlines, it is the silent, often beautiful species that pose serious threats to precious ecosystems and communities.







Expanding Knowledge

The fourth **Invasive Species Research Conference** brought international and Canadian researchers together to share emerging knowledge on topics ranging from post-fire impacts and diagnostic tools to emerging biocontrol tools to emerging biocontrol tools.

Working with the province and the BC Wildlife Federation, the **Invasive Pig Awareness and Planning Workshop** examined the risks and impacts of what is often considered one of the 'worst invasive species'.

The **Feral Pig Trapping Workshop**, held in Fort St. John, provided a hands-on look at pig handling and available trapping methods. Workshop leaders, from the U.S., shared their experiences on how to effectively attract and trap an entire 'sounder' or group of pigs.

HIGHLIGHTS

5800+ people participated in **80+** events held across urban, rural, and remote regions of B.C.

206+ gravel pits were treated across **10** regional districts.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

A robust panel on invasive species management at the **Union of BC Municipalities Convention**.

The annual forum, **Back to the Future**, featured speakers from across North America, plus special guest, Andrew Cox, from the Australia Invasive Species Council.

Agricultural workshops and webinars delivered to forage, fruit and vineyard producers.

Focus on Invasives events in Victoria shared information with government leaders on invasive species and their impacts.

Shuswap Watershed Council – Water Quality Grant Student weed pull; Invasives 2025







EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Growing the Knowledge

Providing tools and resources remains a foundational role of the Council. Working with tomorrow's leaders while they are at school, with volunteers adopting a community site, or by providing tools and information for those developing response plans are all ways to engage more people across B.C. Some highlights included:

- **Two new invasive species learning units** for Grades 4-9 were launched and made available to more than 10,000 educators.
- In ***Impacts of Invasive Species on First Nations Cultural Practices, Traditional Medicines and First Food***, Cody Thomas (Two Row Innovations) gathered stories from the Nlaka'pamux, Syilx, and others, sharing lived experiences that reflect changes being observed on their lands and waters.



McKergow Meadows weed pull Lara Philips

Many local events, weed pulls, training sessions:

60+ people removed **100kg** of invasive plants from Pioneer Park in Quesnel.

350+ people removed **600kg** of invasive plants from McKergow Meadows, a community park in the North Okanagan, over 5 events.

New resources added to the library for all ages:

32+ resources
from posters to fact sheets

- Agriculture posters in English, Spanish and Punjabi
- Feral pig fact sheets in English and French
- Stickleback Pair Species Board Game shared at the World Stickleback Conference



> *Your materials and the game were a HUGE hit! . . .The Bamfield community school is excited and thankful to have the game. Thanks again for this work!*
>
> **Rana El-Sabaawi,**
> *University of Victoria*

On the News

ISCBC is on speed dial for many reporters wanting the update on the newest invasive species issues.

- Over 40 media reports. Coverage included invasive pigs, Japanese beetle, and Russian olive trees in Kamloops
- Over 12 articles highlighting community initiatives to tackle invasives like Scotch broom, the expanded regulated area for emerald ash borer, and the importance of Buy Local Burn Local
- Social Media: 13,514 followers across all platforms

BC Invasive Species ACTION MONTH

Invasive Species Action Month (ISAM)

May is the annual kick-off for invasive species awareness and field work. Reaching gardeners, outdoor recreationists, and classes as they wrap up the school year is a key focus.

- Four weeks with individual themes and calls to action
- Three webinars and over 77,000 website visits
- Media coverage across more than 12 platforms

PROTECTING NATURE

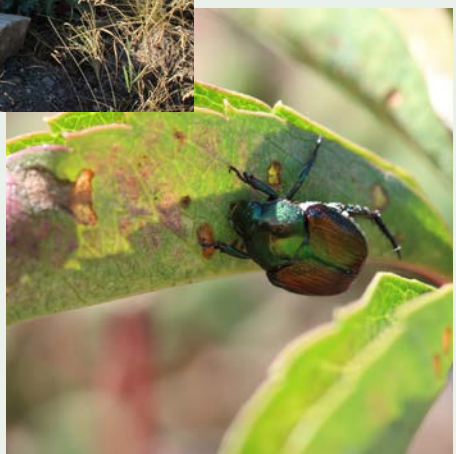
Building Skills and Knowledge

ISCBC provides training to help build practical skills for preventing the spread of invasives to new habitats.

- 9 Pesticide Applicator courses delivered in-person and virtually
- 6 multi-day training sessions for more than 10 different First Nations
- A webinar attended by 400+ forest professionals for continuing education credits
- Best Management Practices being updated for utility corridors (i.e. gas, energy)

Taking Action on the Ground





Inventory of Invasive Plants; Japanese Beetle, Exhibition Park, Kamloops
M. Blackmore

On the Ground!

Responding to invasive species on the ground is critical to reduce impacts and restore healthier ecosystems. Across the province, ISCBC has taken steps to make a difference:

- **Feral Pig Camera Network:** With more than 85 cameras and 12 partners, including First Nations and local community groups, there are more 'eyes on the ground' capturing initial images of feral pigs.
- **Invasive Species Plans** have been developed for key mining sites to ensure prevention and response measures are in place for high-priority species.
- **Conservation Lands:** Inventory and treatment of high-priority invasive plants were taken to restore biodiversity on critical sites.
- **Japanese Beetle Response:** Since 2018, a collaborative program involving more than 10 partners has met bi-weekly to contain and eradicate this destructive beetle. From over 8,000 beetles in Vancouver to just 3 in 2025, there are signs of success. New detections in Kamloops present an ongoing challenge, with another year of monitoring and treatment anticipated in 2026.

A ROLE FOR ALL

Celebrating the Leaders

The Together In Action annual awards celebrate leaders and innovators advancing invasive species prevention, management, and education. Congratulations to this year's recipients for the meaningful impact they are driving in their communities.



Student Impact
AWARD

Lauren Mckenna
Student Researcher/ Knotweed Lab Member, Trinity Western University



Rising Star
AWARD

Hunter Jarrett
Restoration Consultant, Kiki Nursery



Inspiring Educator
AWARD

Amelita Kucher
Teacher, Mount Douglas Secondary School



Leadership Excellence
AWARD

Carrie Reid
Prevention Worker, Qualicum First Nation



Indigenous Leadership
AWARD

Witwaak
Stewardship Officers, Ka:yu:'k't'h' / Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (KCFN)



Outstanding Organization
AWARD

Friends of Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park
Non-profit Charitable Society

Our Executive Director Gail Wallin was named the 2025 Garden Communicator of the Year by BC Landscape and Nursery Association, pictured here with Scott Pearce.



Thanks to the Board

We extend our sincere thanks to the ISCBC Board of Directors for their leadership and ongoing commitment to the Council's work. As volunteers, Board members contribute their time and expertise to guide the organization and keep the Council focused, accountable, and responsive as invasive species impacts grow. We are grateful for their dedication and for the role they play in advancing invasive species prevention and management today and into the next 25 years!

2025 BOARD MEMBERS

GOVERNMENT: Nadia Chan (Past Chair), Danielle Cuthbertson, Sophie Dessureault, Dave Ensing, Grahame Gielens, Jonathan Holmes, Javier Maldonado, Loren Muth, Jennifer Psyllakis

COMMUNITY: Jennie McCaffrey, Eamon O'Donaghue (Vice Chair), Sarah Nathan, Terry Peters, Joanne Sales



BUSINESS & INDUSTRY: Karen Brandt, Christine Gelowitz, Eric Nijboer, Scott Pearce (Secretary), Jennifer Robertson (Treasurer), Steve Thomson (Chair), Dan Tisseur

Thanks to our supporters

Thank you to the sponsors and partners who made this work possible in 2025 and beyond. Your support enabled education initiatives and on-the-ground action across B.C., helping protect our province from invasive species.

We look forward to strengthening these partnerships and advancing InvasiveWise, NatureStrong together.

DONATE TODAY

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