



# BTCEA Annual Report

**September 1st, 2018 -  
August 31st, 2019**



# Acknowledgements

Be the Change is grateful to have the opportunity to live, work, and play on the ancestral and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), selilwítlh (Tsleil Waututh), and skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) peoples.

As an organization we are blessed by the dedicated community that has accompanied our journey over the years. Whether it be through volunteering, donating, idea-sharing, promoting, collaborating, working with us, or energetically wishing us well, we count on the love we receive to carry on our mission. This report is dedicated to all the wonderful members of this community who have been there to support and guide the organization's growth over the past year, and the many foundational years before that.

Thank You.

We are honoured that much of our work and impact is carried by the financial and material support from a number of organizations who have helped us achieve our organizational and program goals. We would like to thank the following grantors who have funded our work this year:



United Nations Association in Canada  
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

*Van Tel/Safeway*

Credit Union Legacy Fund



Service  
Canada



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# BE THE CHANGE EARTH ALLIANCE

Be the Change Earth Alliance was registered as a national Canadian charitable organization in 2005 with a mandate “to empower an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on this planet.” Over the years, for different situations, that has morphed into empowering individual and collective change for an ecologically connected, resilient, just, and sustainable human presence on this planet.

It’s a big vision, and after 15 years we are still going and we’re still on track! Sometimes it’s hard to see if we’ve made any progress. But with steadfast commitment and soul-fed resilience we are contributing to the Great Turning - which is definitely in full swing now!

In BTCEA’s early years, we worked in community, offering Awaken and Change symposia, Be the Change Action Circles, What’s Your Tree Circles, and the Great Turning environmental forums.



This very rewarding work empowered concerned citizens to take real action for positive change. These programs reflected our philosophy for integral transformative change. We hear stories even today of their lasting impact, and of circles that remained active for many ensuing years. We still hear requests for more of this inspiring work, and this was foundational to the organization’s next stage of development.

In 2009 BTCEA responded to parental requests and stepped into the public education system with a series of school assemblies. We were immediately impressed by the passion of youth who want to know what is going on and how they can address global sustainability issues. We foresaw the strong influence the youth could have on family members, especially in new Canadian communities that we found difficult to reach.

At this point, BTCEA began to work collaboratively with teachers to develop learning resources that can empower youth to lead the way for sustainable living. Over the past ten years, BTCEA’s capacity to support sustainable worldviews and actions in the school system has grown exponentially.

BTCEA provides innovative curriculum materials and programs that bring students the information, life-sustaining worldviews, and critical thinking skills they need to take individual and collective action towards an environmentally and socially just world.

This has led us to explore a variety of different ways to empower students and teachers to embrace holistic and connected worldviews in order to participate in personal and systemic change. Ultimately, we hope our work will help transform school culture to be one that values people and planet over power and profit.



We are proud to constantly hear teachers, parents, and community members say things like “I wish this had been taught when I was in school” and “if only I had known about the issues and solutions you’re teaching when I was younger.” We also love hearing students reveal that our workshops and trainings have changed them and given them more hope for the future.

At BTCEA, we value empowerment, connection, and authenticity... and uphold those values in our workplace as well as our learning resources. Reframing one’s identity from independent and separate to one that is deeply connected in relationship to all beings is a lifelong learning and growing process, and we are excited to be on this path.

The Be the Change organization is dynamic, reflexive, responsive, and innovative. We acknowledge that we live, work and play on ancestral Indigenous land and actively seek ways to bring the Truth and Reconciliation process into our lives and work. We commend our members and colleagues to join us in this liberating process for personal decolonization.

## PRORAMS & PROJECTS

Sept. 2018 - August 2019

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE (SLC)

This flagship program of online learning resources covers a full spectrum of real-world issues associated with global sustainability, invites an integrated learning approach, and is organized around the values of:

- A. Health
- B. Conscious Consumption
- C. Conservation
- D. Connection
- E. Justice



Each of these modules contain teacher Lesson Plans and approximately 8 student Action Packs on specific issues that guide students through a process of online global research, local research activities, critical thinking dialogue and personal actions.

Since 2011, SLC has reached over 450 teachers and 22,000 students, who have collectively taken over 110,000 actions.





## SLC Creative Innovations and Additions:

### Rebranding

After years of consideration, we finally changed the name of SLS: Student Leadership for Sustainability to SLC: Student Leadership for Change.



Be the Change is deeply committed to helping people change their worldview, from one of 'Separation' to one of 'Interbeing,' from exploiting the Earth as a resource warehouse to restoring this living system to support a thriving biodiversity of life. Everything must change for this to be reflected in our institutions and social systems. So, we have updated and rebranded our materials to STUDENT LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE. SLS was deeply embedded in all of the learning resources, so this was a significant undertaking throughout the summer and continued into the fall!

Additionally, the Action Surveys in each of the Action Packs were updated to provide greater emphasis on civic action and political accountability. SLC continues to emphasize the powerful role that youth can play in transforming our communities and influencing society to address these issues.

### Climate Action Unit

The landmark IPCC report released in October 2018 indicates that we now have just 11 years to radically transform our economies and societies to move away from fossil fuels. In response, Be the Change compiled a new Climate Action Unit, comprised of 3 Lesson Plans and 13 Action Packs augmented to include the

most up to date online resources on climate change and climate justice.

A new '**Climate Justice**' Action Pack was created, recognizing that climate change negatively affects humans, as well as nature, and that those least responsible for climate change are often the ones most seriously impacted.

The **CLIMATE ACTION UNIT** includes 13 engaging Action Packs:

1. Acidic Oceans
2. Being Chill & Heating Up
3. Bright Energy
4. [Climate Justice](#)
5. Costly Trends
6. Nature Nurture
7. Nature's Rights
8. Oil
9. Organic Waste
10. Paper Cuts
11. Plastics
12. The Story of Meat
13. Transportation



## Highlighting & Respecting Indigenous Wisdom



Above: **Chief Phil Lane Jr.** address at *Climate Rise*

While updating the Library of Links for the 13 Action Packs in the Climate Action Unit, research was undertaken to ensure that BTCEA included more Indigenous articles and references in the Library of Links. These inclusions draw attention to how Indigenous peoples are often the hardest hit by environmental devastation and that they are also the most courageous in standing to protect the land. Additionally, a BTCEA summary document was written to highlight how the pedagogical approach of SLC resources closely correlate to an Indigenous Way of Learning, posted on the Ministry of Education website by FNEEC (First Nations Education Steering Committee).

## Simplifying Language

BTCEA worked with UBC Student Teachers to simplify some wording of the SLC Action Packs. As Executive Editor, **Maureen Jack-LaCroix** reviewed, modified and approved all changes to the templates, which were then incorporated in all 40+ Action Packs. This helps our resources be accessible to the increasing amount of ELL: English Language Learners in schools and accommodates the decreased attention span and vocabulary of many students in general.

## SLC Open Access Pilot

**IN JUNE 2019,  
SLC BECAME  
OPEN ACCESS**

Inspired by the courageous voice of **Greta Thunberg** (*right*) leading students worldwide to demand urgent change, BTCEA decided to remove any barriers that may impede the SLC inquiry-based resources from empowering every student to engage in life-changing actions to combat the Climate Emergency, Species Extinction Crisis, and related Social Justice issues of today.



Foregoing the annual \$100 licensing fee, the SLC Open Access pilot was successfully implemented over the winter and spring months, offering BC teachers **FREE ACCESS** to lesson plans, classroom activities, student Action Packs and an archived Library of Links in June of 2019.

This shift in policy required changes to the teacher registration process on the website and to the learning resources offered online. **Eugenia Serrano** researched and set up the process to archive the extensive Library of Links which was undertaken by Capilano University intern, **Gagandeep Kaur**. The new team hired in May, **Claire O'Manique**, **Megan Terpenning** and **George Radner** researched numerous new resource links to replace those that could not be archived and completed the new Climate Action Unit that was launched with the announcement of SLC going Open Access in June.

## SLC Open Access Outreach

BTCEA focused on 10 priority districts with the Open Access outreach campaign in June. In some districts, such as Surrey and Delta, we were able to engage the support of a district level administrator to send out emails to the teachers. We noticed teacher registrations were markedly greater in those districts. Before beginning our fall outreach BTCEA received 88 teacher registrations – which is a significant increase over previous years.

**WE REACHED  
200  
SIGNUPS BY  
DECEMBER  
2019**

We continued to develop strategic alliances to spread the word about our open access resources. By the end of the fall semester 2019, over 200 teachers had registered for SLC.

A complete list of school districts and schools where teachers have accessed SLS/SLC to augment their teaching resources since 2011 is compiled in the Appendix. This list indicates new schools that registered for SLC Open Access.

The SLC educational resource has been taught in courses such as Social Studies, Science, French Immersion, Alternative Studies and At-Risk programs, Planning/Career Education, Geography, and more. We are honoured by the feedback we have received from educators regarding SLC and the respect this program has earned for itself and Be the Change Earth Alliance as an organization.

## SLC Student Videos

For fourteen weeks during the summer of 2019, five UBC Arts interns volunteered to work at BTCEA on a creative project. Their job was to choose SLC Action Packs that they were interested in, complete the research, take the actions, blog about their experience and video tape their presentations. The results were

fabulous – providing 31 videos and 30 blogs to inspire school students taking SLC in their courses. These videos and blogs will be posted on the BTCEA website in the coming year.

## TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



BTCEA is proud to share that our board member **MICHAEL IACHETTA, B Ed, M Ed.** was a finalist in the **2018 B.C. Premiere's Awards of Excellence in Education** in the category of **Social Equity** and was honoured at a beautiful banquet in the Attorney General's house on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.



Over the years Michael (*left*) has initiated numerous student, staff and district environmental clubs and committees to advance change within the Delta school community. Michael has mentored outstanding student leadership and sponsored many environmental student conferences. It was wonderful to see him acknowledged for his groundbreaking work as an environmental change-maker.





Every year BTCEA staff provide Professional Development (ProD) workshops to teachers, outlining 21st century pedagogical approaches to deliver socio-ecological sustainability education. In 2018-19, BTCEA facilitated ProD workshops at three BC Provincial Specialty Association Teacher Conferences: for Social Studies, for Intermediate Teachers and for French teachers (thanks to Sam, our bi-lingual volunteer!). We hosted booths at each of these conferences and with the workshops reached approximately 600 teachers

Additionally Maureen Jack-LaCroix presented SLC's pedagogical approaches and our leading-edge learning resources to post-secondary eco-education teachers at the following conferences:

- 15<sup>th</sup> International Sustainability Conference: Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social at UBC Robson Square, Jan 17-19, 2019.
- EECOM National Environmental Education and Communication Conference, University of Saskatoon, May 11, 2019.

## CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE

Executive Director, **Erin Leckie** led this major BTCEA initiative that built upon the 'Climate Action Champions' youth empowerment program and was sponsored by Coast Capital Savings, TD Friends of the Environment and Van/Tel/Safeway Credit Union Legacy Fund.



The 'Citizens of the Future' program delivered empowering 'climate change' education that was customized for two specific demographics: at-risk youth and emerging student leaders as well as reaching general public- school students and concerned community members. This resulted in over 3,800 climate actions, reducing the participants' environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions by over 179 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq!

BTCEA has honed the craft of providing knowledge of climate change, what is at stake, and effective solutions in a way that is motivating and engaging versus disempowering and frightening. When youth realize they can contribute solutions that impact their communities, they are activated with new purpose and hope, resulting in actions that inspire others. BTCEA strongly believes that youth can lead change in their homes, schools, and communities.

We measured the quantitative success of Citizens of the Future by tracking output and our qualitative success through surveys and interviews:

## Quantitative Success

- BTCEA engaged 1511 youth from 42 schools in Metro Vancouver and Abbotsford districts and 2,000 community members through assemblies, workshops & trainings.
- Over 2,500 community members and students committed to taking over 3,800 Climate Actions collectively, reducing over 179,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents GHG emissions
- 12 Schools received an in-class workshop or assembly
- 6 schools and 14 youth received in-depth leadership training with in-person trainings, online webinars and coaching – see our top fellows [here](#).
- 125 youth leaders from 28 schools in Maple Ridge participated in a day-long workshop.

OVER 2,500 COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS & OVER 1,500  
STUDENTS TOOK ACTIONS



TAKING OVER 3,800  
CLIMATE ACTIONS  
COLLECTIVELY

## Qualitative Success

- 82% of CotF students reported they deepened their understanding of climate change and its importance.
- 67% of CotF students reported they felt engaged and motivated to take action
- 6 CotF workshops to At-Risk students resulted in:
  - 71% felt engaged and motivated to take environmental action
  - 79% deepened their understanding of climate change and its importance
  - 68% learned about new opportunities that they can pursue
- 100% of teachers surveyed felt empowered to support students in taking environmental actions
- The 14 'Climate Fellowship Training' youth leaders average response to survey question, "Do you feel more prepared to take on informed leadership" was 84%!



179 TONNES

CO<sub>2</sub>  
EQUIVILENTS  
REDUCED



*Above, Maureen Jack-LaCroix at Maple Ridge Conference*

## Citizens of the Future Testimonials



### Fellowship Training Students

"This experience [...] helped me dive deeper into the causes of climate change. Unlike any other organization or class, we focused on the preventions as well. We brainstormed a bunch of ideas to improve the health of the earth. With the help and clarification of this fellowship, I am mentally prepared and influenced to make a difference."

- **Mahum Chaudhry**, Climate Action Fellow, Rick Hansen Secondary, Abbotsford

"The guidance that Erin and the others provided made the project seem less daunting. [...] I learned about different strategies about managing and story-telling, [and] it was nice staying in contact with other fellows. This experience has been so eye opening for me. Instead of viewing things like climate change as something I can't do anything about, it changed my view. [...] Our future is in our hands."

- **Saloni Sharma**, Climate Action Fellow, Rick Hansen Secondary, Abbotsford

"This workshop... felt so great because large scale issues, although very serious, were presented to us in a way that made me feel that I could take action and make a difference. I was inspired by the positivity of everyone at Be the Change and this motivated me to take further action within the green club at my school."

- **Abeera Irfan**, Climate Action Fellow, Seaquam Secondary, Delta

### Teachers of Alternative Education

"I think it is valuable to have community collaboration on topics such as climate change, and for the students to hear expanded messages about their part in this issue. I will revisit this later in the year; I so appreciate the materials the presenter left!"

- **Karen Jones**, Station Stretch (Youth-at-Risk Teacher)

"These are all great reminders and I think having students know that they can follow their passions is important. This workshop created a starting point for deeper discussion about climate change and I liked the stance that climate change is not up for debate. Overall, the presentation was very organized, had great content, and the students were actively engaged."

- **Take A Hike** (Youth-at-Risk Teacher)



## Sustainability Conference Organizer

“Many people never take action on something because they believe they can’t make a difference. Small changes can add up to big results... what students heard [from Be the change] will encourage them to take action on climate change and sustainability.”

- **Alexandra Tudose**, Sustainability Manager, Maple Ridge SD 42

## SALMON & THE SALISH SEA



This project was sponsored by the Inter-Spiritual Centre and Multiculturalism BC. Working in close collaboration with **Chief Phil Lane** and his son **Tiger Lane**, this project focused on developing an aboriginal youth empowerment program for the benefit of the *Earl Marriott Secondary School Aboriginal students*. Tiger was a senior student at Earl Marriott Secondary School, and leader of the Aboriginal student club.

BTCEA gained valuable experience regarding the cultural sensitivities and protocols that are important to understand and respect in a

collaboration with indigenous peoples. The Semiahmoo band council had direct input into the educational approach to offer to aboriginal students at Earl Marriott Secondary. Due to his long-standing relationships within the indigenous community in the region, Chief Phil Lane was able to invite other native elders to come and speak with the students regarding their traditional cultural relationship with the salmon and the Salish Sea. Chief Phil Lane also personally lectured the students in the Indigenous Wisdom classes at Earl Marriot Secondary.

BTCEA compiled a comprehensive collection of materials and experiential activities that were presented to Earl Marriot teachers to support their students’ continued studies of the salmon, an invaluable keystone species in the Salish Sea, and the increasing threats to its well-being.

## WISDOM CIRCLES



In a never-ending quest to explore social innovation approaches for bringing eco-education into the mainstream education system, Maureen Jack-LaCroix once again convened a series of Wisdom Circles in the spring of 2019. On April 18, May 2, May 30, veteran eco-educators came in from Richmond, Delta, Burnaby and Vancouver (many had met in the Social Innovation Lab of 2017) along with BTCEA Board members **Bryna Kopelow**, **Aaron Leung** and **Michael Iachetta**. New participants included George Radner and **Rebecca Hamilton**. (George is now the E.D. of BTCEA and Rebecca is one of the lead organizers of the Metro-Vancouver Sustainabiliteens).



On the first session, they revisited the challenges and opportunities to bringing eco-education into the system, updating their 2017 research, and everyone left inspired by the emergent thoughts arising from the 'Listening circle' facilitated by BTCEA member **Kate Sutherland**.

During the second session former board member **Tyee Bridge** helped participants clarify a BIG HAIRY AUDACIOUS GOAL (BHAG) that represented their highest desire:

To create an empowering eco-social culture within the education system that nurtures citizen leadership and highly values the wellness of people and the planet; by providing an intersectional environmental, economic and social justice education experience/program accessible to all students, that develops resilient, skilled change makers willing to address climate change and eco-social degradation; in order to shift the existing social system of power and profit that perpetuates inequities and the story of separation from each other and the natural world.

During the third session **Lori York** presented an emergent project she is co-creating with teachers at *Lord Byng Secondary* called LEAF, which brings aspects of Leadership, Environment, Action and First People's Principles of Learning into an integrated learning program and provides students with certificates upon completion of a qualifying Capstone Project. BTCEA continued to explore ways to support LEAF in the months ahead.

## RISE OF CLIMATE



On September 8, BTCEA took part in the RISE OF CLIMATE global actions at two events. Collaborating with Multifaith Action Society, Maureen facilitated group dialogues at a gathering of 100 concerned citizens at the Vancouver Unitarian Centre. This event featured talks by Chief Phil Lane, **Rabbi Laura Kaplan** and Maureen Jack-LaCroix.



Meanwhile, Erin Leckie set up a BTCEA table at the Art Gallery plaza to support the public rally led by youth and indigenous leaders. Maureen and **Derek LaCroix** joined in the public rally immediately following the Multifaith event.

## LUSH takes on company wide BE THE CHANGE CHALLENGE



Following an inspiring workshop Maureen delivered to staff at LUSH Cosmetics in the spring, BTCEA was asked to develop a training for the 78 team leaders in the Vancouver and Toronto manufacturing plants that focused on PLASTICS. This was delivered on Oct 4, 2019 and included the devastating impact of plastics on our oceans, the health impact of the toxic leaching of chemicals in plastics into our bodies and why we should avoid using plastic, especially disposables. The LUSH team leads then launched a company wide campaign engaging over 3,000 employees.



BTCEA was able to track their actions and provide the company with the impressive impact of their campaign. 538 employees recorded their actions on the BTCEA Action Tracker, indicated over 3,000 actions were taken and 248 tonnes of CO2 equivalent GHGs were diverted from the atmosphere. This offering generated some 'social enterprise' revenue for BTCEA and opened the possibility for providing more employee engagement workshops to companies in the future.

## THE TRUTH ON TMX

With the Federal Court ruling in favor of the Tsleil Waututh and Squamish legal suit against the Trans-Mountain Extension project, Maureen completed a series of blog posts researching the many contentious concerns regarding the viability of the TMX pipeline. This blog series was researched with the brilliant assistance of **Emma Renaerts**, Masters' Journalism student of UBC. Sadly the battle is not over and the issues remain valid. The blogs are on Facebook @livinginTheGreatTurning/posts.



# ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIONS

BTCEA continued to strengthen relationships with BC Hydro Energy & Sustainability Managers by making presentations at their district wide gatherings. These Managers are strategically positioned at the District level throughout Metro Vancouver and can provide excellent support to connecting with teachers in their districts.

Special thanks to:

- **Ron MacDonald** the Sustainability Manager of VSB who supported the delivery of Climate Action Champions/ Citizens of the Future in the Vancouver School District.
- **Alexandra Tudose**, Sustainability Manager of Maple Ridge who brought BTCEA in for a featured presentation at their student leadership conference.
- **Julianne Pickrell**, Sustainability Manager of Abbotsford school district for her support and connections with Abbotsford teachers.

Maureen Jack-LaCroix consulted with Sea Smart E.D. **Elaine Leung** and supported the successful grant application of Sea Smart to Dept. of Fisheries. Elaine reciprocated by alerting BTCEA of the UNAC wage subsidy program which was a great boon later in 2019

George Radner, who had participated on the Wisdom Circles and worked at BTCEA for the summer, introduced Maureen to **Grace Nosek** and the student-led Climate Hub organization at UBC. This evolved into a strong collaboration in the following year.

## GRANTS

As a registered charity, BTCEA receives grants from various funders to carry out the programs and projects we design to fulfill our mandate. Through the intensive process of receiving approval of grant applications based on the organization's activities and programs, BTCEA plans out the expanse and depth of its program offerings every year.

There are often several months between preparing and submitting a grant, receiving its approval and fulfilling its expected goals. These often span over two fiscal years. In the 2018/2019 fiscal year BTCEA's activities and success were supported by:

### Company Foundations:

- Boeing
- Lush
- Coast Capital
- TD Friends of the Environment

### Private Foundations:

- Hamber Foundation
- Telus/Safeway Legacy Fund
- Inter-Spiritual Centre

### Government:

- BC Gaming & Community
- Eco-Action Canada
- Services Canada Wage Subsidy
- United Nations Wage Subsidy

In this time period BTCEA wrote many grants that set the direction and creative approach to extending our work in the future. The following grants were approved for the ensuing year:

- Telus: Youth Voices 4 Climate Action
- Vancity: Youth Voices 4 Climate Action
- UBC CUES: Climate Ambassadors Workshops

## PRIVATE DONORS

At BTCEA we could not continue our work without the love and support provided by our community. Whether that support comes in the form of financial contributions, volunteering, our Wisdom Circle, our Board, or well-wishers who promote our work, we are grateful for it all.

BTCEA's public fundraising drive which usually takes place in November couldn't happen until new staff were onboard in June 2019. Featuring personal stories from each of the staff members, our campaign helped fuel our work to bring SLC Open Access to reach more students and to empower the leadership, critical thinking, and action of the next generation. Through this campaign, we were able to raise \$15,000 to support the work of the organization.

Sincere thanks to everyone that donated in our 2018/2019 year:

- Aeron Jansen
- Andrew Davidson
- Anodea Judith
- Arie Vander Reyden
- Barbra Murphy-Bridge
- Bena Stock
- Bruce Batchelor
- Bryna Kopelow
- Christopher Toon
- Christy Gombay
- Colleen O'Manique
- Corrie Clutche
- David Pel
- Derek LaCroix
- Edy Kizaki
- Eleanor Boyle
- Erin Leckie
- Erin O'Manique
- Feyzi Baban
- Florence Lockhart
- George Radner
- Gillian Hartz
- Heather Kennedy-MacNeill
- James Vilvang
- James Vollett
- Jill Schroder
- Joan Arnott
- John Hooge
- Julie Johnston
- Kahu Naturals Inc.
- Kate Sutherland
- Keely Bays-Egri
- Kim and Stuart Smith
- Lorne Goldman
- Malcolm Seymour
- Marcus Harvey
- Mark Achbar
- Mark Seasons
- Matthew Edwards
- Maureen Jack-LaCroix
- Michael Iachetta
- Murray Campbell
- Nadine Changfoot
- Nora Batchelor
- Paul Shaffer
- Peter Hartley
- Peter Ladner
- Philip Lane
- Rosemary Cornell
- Sandra Nomoto
- Satomi Hirano
- Scott Walker
- Susan Barois
- Susan Burak
- Susan DuMoulin
- Tine Rossing
- Toni Pieroni
- Xiangdong Chi



## THE BTCEA TEAM

While our organization is small, our impact is felt far and wide. The success of our organization's work is due to the wonderful individuals who continue to show up week after week to make sure culture change is happening in our schools and beyond.

This was a year of transition for the BTCEA team, with both Eugenia Serrano and Jillian Treadwell leaving the non-profit world with think budgets for government jobs with all the benefits. This created a lot of pressure for E.D. Erin Leckie who kindly gave the board four months' notice and heroically completed all of the outstanding projects before leaving her leadership post at the end of February.



*From left to right: Erin Leckie, Samantha Dadd, Eugenia Serrano, and Gagandeep Kaur.*

Erin was supported in the report writing by founder Maureen Jack-LaCroix who then agreed to step into the role of Interim E.D. for three months, until a new team could be recruited and on-boarded. Alas - this ended up being a 9-month commitment for Maureen, and that story carries on into next year's annual report!

With the hiring of Masters' graduates Claire O'Manique and Meghan Terpenning and summer student George Radner, the spring and summer months were full of hard work and laughter. Every quarter was a new adventure for the young team with veteran E.D. Maureen mapping

out the challenges and goals that each season brought.

From exploring Nation Builder to editing Action Packs to drafting endless grant applications, the learning never stopped.



*From left to right: Claire O'Manique, Meghan Terpenning, George Radner, Maureen Jack-LaCroix*

In this section of the report, we would like to thank and highlight the wonderful individuals who kept Be the Change creatively alive and thriving in the 2018/2019 year.

## STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

(in order of appearance)

**Erin Leckie, BA**, joined BTCEA in 2011 and passionately served the organization as an outstanding facilitator and Program Manager for years, as the Program Director for almost 3 years and finally as the Executive Director for 2½ years. As E.D. Erin led BTCEA into a phase of student leadership programs that position the organization strongly where it is today. We are forever grateful for Erin's deep alignment with BTCEA's purpose, her dedicated service and for all the crystals and stones that continue to bless every workstation!

**Eugenia Serrano, BA**, began at BTCEA as a volunteer through the Arts Internship Program in the Summer of 2015. Having completed a Political Science degree at UBC focused on social justice in global affairs, she stayed with BTCEA as a Program Assistant until October 2016. Two years later she returned to BTCEA as the

Operations Coordinator for a year before landing a government job in the spring of 2019. Eugenia was an outstanding asset to the organization managing Nation Builder, attending to website development and the many multifaceted responsibilities of her position.

**Gagandeep Kaur**, joined BTCEA as Administrative Intern in January 2019 while completing her North American Business Management Applied Post Baccalaureate Diploma at Capilano University. Gagandeep brought a Master's in Physics, and a B.Ed with a year of teaching experience from India. Assisting with key revisions of our Student Leadership in Change program inspired her to pursue a teaching career in Canada.

**Salomé Sané** volunteered as BTCEA's French Facilitator and Translator from September 2018 – August 2019, while completing her Geography degree at UBC. She is now continuing her schooling at the London School of Economics. Salomé took on a variety of creative tasks and was invaluable in updating the website and marketing materials for LEDD, the French translation of the SLC learning resources.

**Maureen Jack-LaCroix, MA, PhD (cand.)** Maureen founded BTCEA in 2005, was a volunteer E.D. for several years and gradually took a salary after 2010. Maureen developed the outstanding community and school programs before transitioning onto the Board in September 2016. Maureen 'held the fort' during this year, created financial stability, mentored a new team and solidified a creative direction for youth empowerment both within the organization and in the educational programs. While remaining in service as the Creative Director of BTCEA, Maureen looks forward to resuming her doctoral research in Eco-Education focusing on the transformative impact of SLC when combined with Macy-inspired experiential processes.

**George Radner, BA**, joined BTCEA in May 2019 as a Program Coordinator while completing his BA in Economics at U.B.C. During his tenure at UBC George had led several environmental student organizations and founded the UBC Climate Hub to coalesce the students' desire for change. George was pivotal in creating the collaboration between UBC Climate Hub and BTCEA. George brings his outstanding writing and strategic thinking skills to BTCEA and showed gracious leadership skills while coordinating production of the new Climate Action Unit. George leads the grant writing team.

**Meghan Terpenning, MMM**, started at BTCEA as the Communications Coordinator in May 2019, fresh from graduating with a Master of Marine Management from Dalhousie U. Throughout her graduate degree, Meghan worked as a teaching assistant for a variety of sustainability courses and loves working on the program revisions and student workshops for SLC. Meghan brings a 'can-do' willingness with her that fully supports the team and she has steadfastly tamed the unruly tagging system tangled up in Nation Builder's mane!

**Claire O'Manique, MEd** joined BTCEA in May 2019 as a Program Coordinator after completing a Master of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria. Claire first learned of climate change in Grade 9 Geography and has been working for transformative social change and climate justice ever since. Claire's research focus on the degrowth movement brings a depth of understanding to the development of the new 'Climate Justice' Action Pack and the updating of resources in the SLC Library of Links. Claire's keen eye is updating the website, her friendly voice supports teachers registering for SLC and together with Meghan she creatively meets every new challenge at hand.

**Jill Scott, BSW**, is our long-standing bookkeeper and supports the organization through accounting, financial tracking, and bookkeeping. Jill worked in the child protection field in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside for 25 years, many of those as an Executive Director, before switching gears and becoming a bookkeeper. Jill holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Victoria, and accounting training from the British Columbia Institute of Technology. We appreciate Jill's continued support, flexibility, cheerful spirit and enduring patience in our evolving financial systems. She has been a wonderful, consistent asset to the organization!



## UBC Interns



This bright, dynamic, creative, responsible and cheerful group of interns descended upon the BTCEA office twice a week to dive into the SLC Action Packs, reflect upon their personal experience of change and record videos and blogs extolling their commitment to action. It was so gratifying to see their enthusiastic response to working on the Action Packs. Special thanks to:

- **Cynthia Wu**
- **Anita Lin**
- **Isobel Thiele**
- **Tiffany Au**
- **Anjali Mishra**

## BOARD MEMBERS



The Board of Directors ensures that Be the Change Earth Alliance (BTCEA) is living its purpose and vision, oversees and supports the Executive Director, and ensures financial accountability of the organization.

### **Derek LaCroix, Q.C.** – President

As one of the founding members of the organization, the long-standing President, and the most generous of donors, Derek's support of BTCEA has been steadfast and true over the past fifteen years. Derek is a remarkable combination of head, heart and soul – lawyer, counsellor, and spiritual seeker. He is widely respected as the Executive Director of the Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP), serves on a number of community boards, and loves the BTCEA vision for social justice, environmental sustainability, and spiritual fulfillment.

### **Maureen Jack-LaCroix, MA, PhD (cand.)** –

Founding Director (Sept. 2016 – Feb. 2019)

Prior to co-founding BTCEA, Maureen was a social entrepreneur and CEO of Jack of Hearts

Productions. She created annual civic events Slam City Jam North American skateboard championships and Music West Festival & Conference; produced numerous TV specials and was E.D. of 'Tears Are Not Enough' for African hunger relief. Maureen created BTCEA in service to Gaia.

**David Pel, CGA, CPA – Treasurer**

David joined the BTCEA Board in 2013 and has contributed greatly to fundraising, upgrading BTCEA's financial budgeting approach and providing financial expertise as needed. David has owned his own accounting firm, David Pel Company Inc. since 1991 servicing over 500 clients annually. In addition to being an avid golfer and cyclist, David serves on a number of boards generously bringing his compassion and expertise to service communities.

**Aaron Leung - Secretary**

Aaron first discovered BTCEA in Grade 9 when leading the Green Team at Killarney Secondary. Aaron is studying Global Environmental Systems at S.F.U. and brings his brilliant strategic thinking to leadership positions in various social and environmental action organizations throughout Metro Vancouver. Aaron brought his dedication and great energy to the BTCEA Board in March 2018.

**Murray Campbell, LLP - Director**

Murray is a partner with the Lawson Lundell Vancouver law office where he has practiced since 1990. Murray is concerned about environmental sustainability and is drawn to

BTCEA's key messages and approaches to bringing forth change. He joined the BTCEA Board in 2015 and we appreciate the thoughtful feedback, critical and clear thinking he brings to board meetings.

**Michael Iachetta, B.Ed, MA - Director**

Michael invited BTCEA to work with the student Green Club at Seaquam Secondary shortly after using SLC in his classroom. We then embarked on larger School District Initiatives together. Michael joined the board in 2018 after participating on BTCEA's Educators' Advisory Committee and Social Innovation project. Michael is a leading force for environmental sustainability in Delta, where he has taught Socials Studies for 11 years and led numerous student, staff and district sustainability initiatives.

**Bryna Kopelow, BPHE, MPE – Director**

Bryna knows how to scale education programming in the BC Education system, due to her outstanding accomplishments with Action Schools! BC. She currently co-leads JW Sporta, a Health, Physical Activity, and Sport Education consultancy and is a nationally respected leader and advocate for gender equity. Bryna brought her strategic and clear mind to the BTCEA Board in March of 2018, advising on scaling strategies, HR, outreach and education strategies. Bryna also teaches at UBC and sits on a number of Boards and Committees.



# APPENDIX

## WHERE IS SLC BEING TAUGHT?

We are pleased to report that since 2011 teachers from the following school districts and schools across BC have accessed SLS/SLC to augment their teaching, many also received SLS/SLC professional development workshops. Teachers from the indicated schools registered in June 2019, responding to the Open Access invitation.

- Existing school
- New Open Access school

### Vancouver - School District 39

- Britannia Secondary
- Charles Dickens Elementary
- Chief Maquinna Elementary
- David Livingstone Elementary
- David Thompson Secondary
- Gladstone Secondary
- Ideal Mini School
- John Oliver Secondary
- Killarney Secondary
- King George Secondary
- Lord Beaconsfield Elementary
- Lord Byng Secondary
- Lord Roberts Elementary
- Lord Tennyson Elementary
- MacCorkindale Elementary
- Maple Grove Elementary
- Norma Rose Point
- Oppenheimer Elementary
- Point Grey Secondary
- Prince of Wales Secondary
- Simon Fraser Elementary
- Sir Charles Tupper Secondary
- Sir William Van Horne Elementary
- Sir Winston Churchill Secondary
- Templeton Secondary
- Vancouver Technical Secondary
- Windermere Secondary

### Delta - School District 37

- Cougar Creek Elementary
- Brooks Elementary
- Burnsvie Secondary
- Chalmers Elementary
- Cougar Canyon Elementary
- Delta Manor Education Centre
- Delta Secondary
- Ecole South Park elementary
- English Bluff Elementary
- Hawthorne Elementary
- Helling Elementary
- Holly Elementary
- Ladner Elementary
- Neilson Grove Elementary
- North Delta Secondary
- Pebble Hill Elementary
- Port Guichon Elementary
- Sands Secondary
- Seaquam Secondary

### Surrey - School District 36

- Clayton Heights Secondary
- Cloverdale Learning Centre
- Chantrell Creek Elementary
- Coyote Creek Elementary
- Elgin Park Secondary
- Frank Hurt Secondary
- Fraser Heights Secondary
- Johnston Heights Secondary
- Katzie Elementary
- Kwantlen Park Secondary
- L A Matheson Secondary
- Newton Elementary
- Panorama Ridge Secondary
- New Open Access school
- Sullivan Heights Secondary
- Tamanawis Secondary
- Woodland Park Elementary
- Woodward Hill Elementary
- White Rock Elementary

### Burnaby - School District 41

- Alpha Secondary
- Burnaby Mountain Secondary
- Burnaby North Secondary
- Cariboo Hill Secondary
- Heritage Woods Secondary
- Marlborough Elementary
- Moscrop Secondary

### Richmond - School District 38

- James Thompson Elementary
- Kathleen McNeely Elementary

- Matthew McNair Secondary
- RA McMath Secondary
- RC Palmer Secondary
- Richmond Secondary
- RJ Tait Elementary
- WD Ferris Elementary

### Coquitlam - School District 43

- Dr Charles Best Secondary
- Riverside Secondary
- Summit Middle School

### Mission - School District 75

- Centennial Secondary
- Christine Morrison Elementary
- Heritage Park Middle School
- Mission Central Elementary

### Victoria - School District 21

- Colquitz Middle School
- Mount Douglas Secondary
- Oak Bay Secondary
- Reynolds Secondary School School

### Districts with 1 or 2 SLC schools

- Abbotsford Traditional Middle School - SD 34 Abbotsford
- Argyle Secondary- SD 44 North Vancouver
- Aspengrove School - SD 68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith
- Brooks Secondary - SD 47 Powell River
- Cache Creek Elementary - SD 74 Gold Trail
- Claremont Secondary - SD 63 Saanich
- Ecole Ballenas Senior Secondary - SD 69 Qualicum
- Fernie Secondary School - SD 5 Southeast Kootenay
- Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary - SD 91 Nechako Lakes
- Golden Ears Elementary- SD 42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
- GW Graham - SD 33 Chilliwack
- Howe Sound Secondary - SD 48 Sea to Sky
- Heartwood Learning Community- SD 71 Comox Valley

- Meadowridge School - SD 42 Pitt Meadows
- New Westminster Secondary - SD 40 New Westminster
- Oceanside Elementary - SD 69 Qualicum
- Pemberton Secondary - SD 48 Sea to Sky
- Queen Elizabeth Elementary- SD 40 New Westminster
- R E Mountain Secondary - SD 35 Langley
- Sentinel Secondary School - SD 45 West Vancouver
- Seycove Secondary - SD 44 North Vancouver
- Spencer Middle School- SD 62 Sooke
- Stanley Humphries Secondary- SD 02 Kootenays
- Thomas HaneySecondary- SD 42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
- Valley View Secondary - SD 73 Kamloops/Thompson

- Vedder Middle School - SD 33 Chilliwack
- Vernon Secondary School - SD 22 Vernon
- Walnut Grove Secondary SD 35 Langley
- Wellington Secondary- SD 68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith

**Independent Schools or Specialized Programs:**

- Collaborative Education Alternative Program (CEAP) - SD 69 Qualicum
- Corpus Christi School - Vancouver, BC
- De La Salle North – Portland, OR
- Mountainview Montessori Elementary – Surrey, BC
- Queen Margaret's School - Duncan, BC Saint Georges Secondary - Vancouver, BC

- St Patrick Regional Secondary - Vancouver, BC
- St Thomas More Collegiate - Burnaby, BC
- Stratford Hall - Vancouver, BC
- Spectrum Program, Killarney Secondary - SD 39 Vancouver
- Station Stretch Alternative School - SD 38 Richmond
- Take a Hike Program, John Oliver Secondary - SD 39 Vancouver
- TAPS-Center for Learning Alternatives - SD 57 Prince George
- TREK Program, Prince of Wales - SD 39 Vancouver
- Vancouver College - Vancouver, BC
- Vancouver Learning Network - Distributed Learning - SD 39 Vancouver
- WestShore Center for Learning - SD 62 Sooke
- York House School