

SFU



take a
STAND
 YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION

Canadian Tree Fund-Jack Kimmel : Protecting BC's Natural
 Forests & Enhancing the Urban Forests of Greater Vancouver



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take a STAND

YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION

Our Mission

This program was developed to share and treasure the natural beauty of British Columbia with our youth, including our urban-nature areas, and our unique coastal wilderness, home to rich First Nations cultures, diverse and productive oceans, and an expansive intact temperate rainforest. Our aim is to inspire, motivate and empower youth to protect and conserve the environment through art, film, and youth-driven actions. Youth represent honest and powerful voices for social change in their communities and are important advocates for better protection of plants, animals, and the natural communities they call home.

Our Team



Norm Hann is a professional stand up paddleboarder who spends his time training, exploring remote locations on his SUP, and continuing to pioneer the sport in Canada. He has worked in the Great Bear Rainforest for more than a decade as a guide, fisherman, teacher and expedition leader.



Nicolas Teichrob draws his inspiration from the natural world and beautiful moments in time that surround us. He is co-founder of the outdoor adventure film production company Dendrite Studios, and his photographs have been published in many international ski, bike, and surf magazines.



Anthony Bonello is an adventure filmmaker whose storytelling style transports viewers beyond geography to convey the feel of a place and its people. Anthony co-produced STAND and is now a producer with Switch-back Entertainment where his work is focused on ski travel and exploration.



Allison Kermode is a Professor of Biological Sciences and Member of the Centre for Coastal Science and Management at SFU. Allison has a special connection to the Spirit bear and a passion for protecting the treasures of the natural environment of BC. She was inspired to develop this program along with her co-founders to galvanize youth through art and film and youth-driven 'tipping point' conservation actions in the community.



Our Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge funding from the Canadian Tree Fund in the form of a Jack Kimmel Research Grant. We also thank Hearthstone Investments and SFU's Centre for Coastal Science and Management for their support.



Our Community

The Jack Kimmel Research grant allowed us to provide a direct conduit for youth to conservation activities, by partnering with Community Conservation Organizations, especially those whose primary goal is to protect the endangered old-growth forests of BC. Toward this we have successfully partnered with several community organizations that conduct activities to protect our

urban forests and parks, and the endangered old-growth forests of BC, and/or the habitat that they support. Activities fostered include planting a community garden, and caring for our urban forests and streams. As well as playing a direct role in conservation, youth are becoming informed on the biology of conifers and other trees, as well as on issues surrounding sustainable forestry jobs and stewardship in the industry.



Our Vision for the Future

Our vision is to expand the Take a Stand program to more schools throughout BC and to attract youth nation-wide. We will strive to connect city youth with youth of Central and Northern BC, expand our partnering organizations and mentors, and pursue a “community innovation challenge”.

Here we ask youth to advance a groundbreaking idea or innovative solution to educate the public, advocate policy change, or lessen climate change. Preservation of our parks, urban trees, and native forests, and the establishment of tree seed banks to enhance biodiversity are major areas of focus.

take a STAND YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION Our Program

Take a Stand: Youth for Conservation is an innovative youth outreach program, which is specifically geared towards helping school educators meet environmentally-oriented prescribed learning objectives (PLOs) in science, social studies, and fine arts. This program showcases the natural beauty of British Columbia including our urban-nature areas, and our unique coastal wilderness that is home to rich First Nations cultures, diverse and productive oceans, and an expansive intact temperate rainforest. The Centre for Coastal Science & Management in the Faculties of Environment & Science at Simon

Fraser University has partnered with the creators of STAND, an award-winning documentary film that uses surfing and stand up paddleboarding to highlight the ecological, cultural, and aesthetic value of the West Coast. A tour of BC schools centered on screenings of the film, discussions with the filmmakers, and interactive activities, is used to foster environmental stewardship and leadership in youth from diverse social and economic backgrounds. SFU graduate students help mentor youth to become agents of effective social and environmental change in their local communities.

1. Film Screening of STAND Hosted by the Filmmakers

Features teacher & expedition leader of the Great Bear Rainforest Norm Hann - educating students on the rich interdependent biodiversity supported by BC's temperate rainforests. Film & Q & A follow.



2. Interactive Follow-Up Activities & Community Opportunities

Educators can also book follow-up visits featuring local community organization representatives. SFU graduate students present on research in forest biology and ecology & create a mini-conservation program for tree preservation.

3. Video Contest & Conservation Activities

A video contest launched along with the presentation tour invites students to find their voice by creating a 30-second video on what they love and want to protect in nature.

Youth engagement activities within the local community - treekeeping and tree seed banks.

For more information, send an email to kermode@sfu.ca



The province of British Columbia has been placing a greater emphasis on the integration of environmental education into the mainstream high school curriculum. The Take A Stand program directly addresses a number of environmentally-oriented prescribed learning objectives (PLOs) defined by the BC Ministry of Education.

The funding from the Jack Kimmel Award allowed us to use our outreach program to educate youth on topics that are highly relevant to forest biology and ecology, and to the preservation of trees of urban- and old-growth forests (see list below).

Learning Goals Relevant to School Presentations

Subject Area

Forest Biology and Ecosystems

Temperate Rainforests

- Ways in which species interact within forests and interdependence for vitality & growth
- Functional inter-relationships of organisms within a forest ecosystem
- Components of forest and coastal ecosystems
- Temperate Rainforests referred to as "salmon forests"
- The cultural significance of trees and forests to First Nations communities

Urban & Old Growth Forests

- How forests improve the vitality of oceans, and our urban streams/rivers
- How trees create habitat space – the world above and the world below ground
- Management – sustainability & social, cultural, economic & political consequences
- Tremendous cultural value of native tree species – especially yellow-cedar & red cedar
- Tree-to-tree communication and the implications for harvest practices
- Positive impacts of trees on human health - from medicinals to calming volatiles

Forests & Climate

- How trees mitigate climate change by carbon sequestration and other processes
- Geographic information system (GIS) technologies to determine changes in canopy
- How trees clean the air from pollutants, aerosols, and noxious gases

take a STAND YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION Our Success

The inaugural year of the Take a Stand program has been a resounding success, with our team sharing their film and experiences with over 3000 students at 36 schools in 14 communities in 2015. Following a pilot program at Mulgrave Secondary in West Vancouver, we have reached students in Science, Social Studies, Arts, Film, Leadership, and Outdoor Education classrooms throughout the lower mainland and along the Sunshine Coast. Take a Stand has also been well received in several alternative programs that place an emphasis on non-traditional approaches to student engagement.



What Students are Saying

The Stand presentation was very eye opening to what is happening around the world environmentally and was very inspirational for me to take a stand in what is happening around the neighborhood and parks. – Razmig

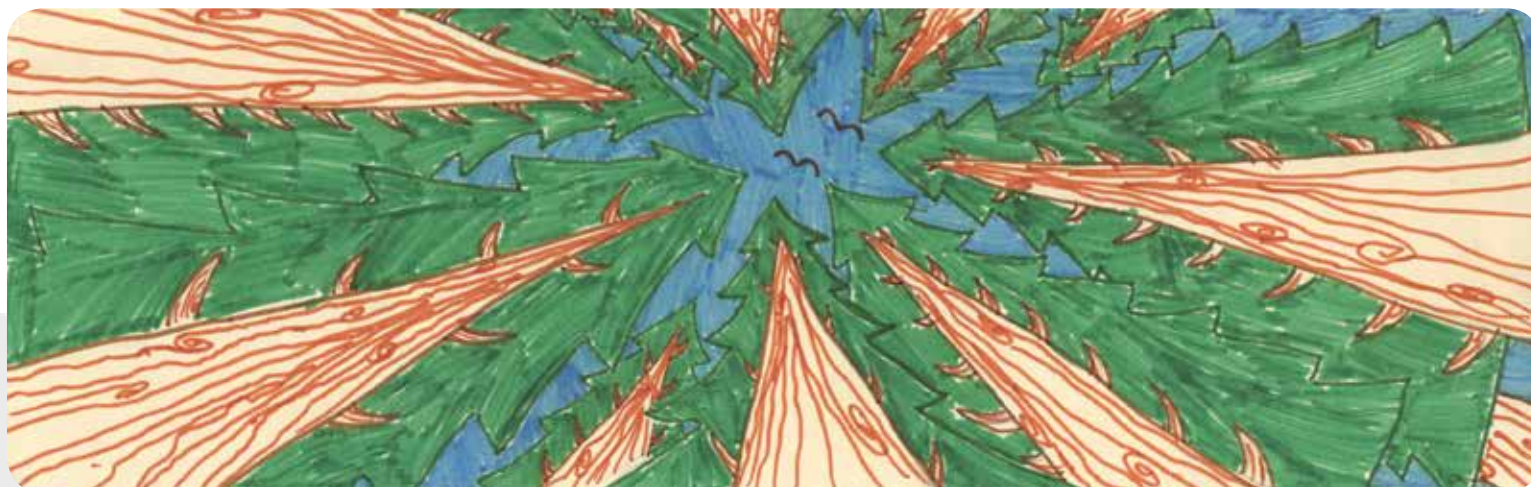
I have been going to assemblies for years that although important information-wise, didn't contain anything exciting that necessarily made them click. This one was different - the cinematography was excellent and helped us get immersed in the experience. The presenters really out did themselves! – Daniel

A vivid blend of beautiful pictures and cinematography, featuring clear seas, mystic forests, both adorable and fierce wildlife, and strong communities, in the Great Bear Rainforest. Stand really caught my attention with the fantastic imagery and moving stories, which inspired me to become more aware of our beautiful environment. – Katarina

Since this presentation I've changed how I consume our worlds resources. Where I used to take a car to get somewhere, now I take a bike or longboard, instead of throwing waste food away I put it into the compost. These are only small things, but if they continue to do this at other schools, it's a start on a broad impact on youth in Canada. – Marley

take a STAND YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION Our Success

We aim to expand our program to reach a broader group including younger learners and First Nations. As a first step towards this goal, we have initiated pilot programs at three elementary schools in Richmond, North Vancouver, and Squamish, as well as the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Community Center in North Vancouver. Our program inspired these students to create some beautiful art!



Artwork by young school students

take a STAND YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION Our Contest

Youth represent honest and passionate voices for social change in their communities. To showcase these voices, we have invited students to participate in the Take a Stand province-wide, open video contest. Contestants will submit a short video portraying what they love about nature and what they want to protect.

Our panel of distinguished judges includes some of the brightest young filmmakers in B.C. These judges select the top 3 videos in each category.

In our 2015 video contest, some of the youth videos highlighted the value of both natural forests and urban trees, and included entries such as *Preserve our earth, Save the trees, Power of parks, Protect what you love, A day outside, Appreciate, A walk in the woods, My backyard, and Nature film.*

- 25% originality and creativity
- 25% technical ability
- 25% message concept & clarity
- 25% overall impression

Prize Categories

Best Overall

Best in Theme

Gr 8-9 | Gr 10-12

Wildlife

Nature

Action Sports

City Meets Nature

Best in Execution

Gr 8-9 | Gr 10-12

Concept Creativity

Technical Skill

Grand Prize

Stand Up Paddleboard Lessons

Wilderness Books

Outdoor Gear

Outdoor Store Gift Cards





Summary & Impact on Aboriculture & Urban Forestry

The Take a Stand program launched in 2015 with a tour of BC schools that reached over 3,000 students at 36 schools in 14 communities. The testimonials that we have received from teachers and students has given us great confidence in the measurable outcomes of this project.

We are helping school educators meet several environmentally oriented PLOs; in broader terms our aim is to engage students and foster a greater recognition of the values surrounding protection of the environment, and to understand its vicarious and complex nature, particularly in these times of global climate change, increased economic demands, and habitat loss as a result of resource development such as excessive logging and other activities.

An interesting and exciting aspect of our program is that we facilitate downstream extracurricular engagement activities that include youth contests. Here the school students spearhead positive social change by creating short videos, engaging in conservation activities, and/or competing in a 'community innovation challenge'.

We are inspiring youth to become 'keepers' of the lands and oceans, so that they will preserve and protect the vitality of our oceans, coastlines, and forests, and steward them for future generations.

Through the SFU Graduate student (BISC 869) mentors, school youth are developing science literacy, and an appreciation for numerous aspects of forest biology, ecology and dynamics.

To encourage an understanding of food sustainability and the value of maintaining biodiversity of our native trees, a key continuing focus is on implementing a joint EYA-Take a Stand venture that will support youth-created seed banks for various trees (food-bearing nut trees, hardwoods and conifers) of the Greater Vancouver urban forests. This combined with the EYA-hosted youth opportunities for treekeeping and leadership in the community will make a significant impact on urban forestry.