

VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 6

COASTAL CONSERVATION



F E B R U A R Y

CARING FOR OUR COASTLINE

The month of February was the busiest month of the year for the department of Coastal Conservation and the Coastal Water Protectors.

Kicking off the month was the IMPAC5 conference - Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress at the Vancouver Convention Centre. IMPAC5 was a global forum that seen over 3000 ocean conservationists and high-level officials all under one roof to learn, network and discuss important concerns affecting our oceans. The Director of Coastal Conservation Angel Fisher, along with two Coastal Water Protectors; Zia Yazdani and Constance Louie attended the six day event. Youth representative Zia Yazdani gave a moving speech at the forum for a lightening panelist of youth highlighting their conservation efforts for the 30x30 movement at the IUCN pavilion. Following the conference the team headed to Science World to explore the 2000 square foot exhibition, Sacred Journey. Sacred Journey was produced by the Heiltsuk Tribal Council, SeaQuest Development and Greencoast Media.

The following week, Director of Coastal Conservation Angel Fisher made the trip to Vancouver Island and met with members of the Chemainus community and Coastal Water Protectors Brad Giroux and Kimberley Campbell to discuss a brand new and exciting initiative; the First Responder Initiative. The First Responder Initiative, spearheaded by Coastal Water Protector Brad Giroux aims to educate and give the necessary tools to members to respond to an oil spill that may occur on their own vessel. Email Director of Coastal Conservation Angel Fisher at a.fisher@bcmetis.com to add your name to the wait list to receive your spill kit.

The Coastal Conservation department delivered virtual updates and projected goals for 2023 | 2024 to members of BC Métis Federation's partner community MACO in Kelowna on February 18th.

In January the Coastal Water Protectors took part in a paint workshop 'Create Your Spirit Animal' with Métis artist Louise Lambert. The team enjoyed the workshop so much they wanted to share it with members of the Lower Mainland with a 'Create your Coastal Spirit Animal' that took place at the head office on February 21st.

The Director of Coastal Conservation Angel Fisher was joined by Coastal Water Protectors Tania Carriere, Earl Belcourt, Tanya Mellish, Zia Yazdani, Earl Storey, Kimberley Campbell and Nevada Lynn at this year's Oceans Protection Plan Dialogue Forum | Transport Canada that took place at the Pinnacle hotel in downtown Vancouver on February 22nd and 23rd. The forum focused on Strategy for Vessels of Concern, Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response, and Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping.

Coastal Water Protectors Cathy Sine, Tanya Mellish, Tracey Ragazzi, Gary Besse and Zia Yazdani all successfully received their Marine First Aid certification on February 25th, congratulations team!

KIMBERLEY CAMPBELL

"The protection and welfare of our coast and its waters is paramount to the health of our marine mammal populations and coastal wildlife."

- Kimberley Campbell



My name is Kim Campbell, and I live in the beautiful and unceded traditional territory of the Snaw-Naw-As people. Also known as Nanoose Bay, it is a small community tucked away between Parksville and Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Here, the coastal waters are never more than a few minutes drive away, and we are blessed with many small bays, swim holes and beaches.

I grew up in Winnipeg, the daughter of a Métis father and Ukrainian/Polish mother. My paternal grandfather, Tommy Campbell, spent his entire life fishing or working the traplines in and around Winnipegosis and Dauphin, Manitoba. My grandfather ended his working life as a Captain on the commercial fishing vessel "Myrtle M", which netted for Pickerel on Lake Winnipegosis.

I suppose it's fair to say that water has been part of my life since I was a child, swimming and angling with my own father in Lake Winnipegosis during summer vacations. Moving to Vancouver Island in 2015, I was captured by the beauty and moodiness of the ocean. Some days the water is mill-pond still, and others, it's angry and white-capped. To this day, the tides fascinate me, rising and falling, somehow synchronized to the pull and phase of the moon.

Kimberley Campbell





Having always had a soft spot for whales and porpoises, I feel so fortunate to now live in a part of the world that affords me the occasional opportunity to see them out on the water. Last summer, at Telegraph Cove, our family was lucky enough to have a Killer Whale swim right under our boat. In the video we took, two whales can be seen coming towards our boat (engine off, of course!). I can hear one whale blow, before its black fin disappears into the darkness of the water. A few seconds later, the whale is swimming from port to starboard, its white markings visible as it appears from underneath the boat. I can hear myself quietly, emotionally saying to my 13 year old's that "this is why we have to do all that we can to protect these creatures". I remember fighting back tears. How lucky were we at that moment? I felt so humbled, so small. Later that evening, as I marveled still about that thrilling encounter, I wondered what it was I could do to protect these waterways and these giants. How could I make a difference?

Enter Angel Fisher, Director of Coastal Conservation with BC Métis Federation, and her invitation to BC Métis members on Vancouver Island to join an initiative she has been spearheading. I signed on to become a Coastal Water Protector, a program Angel founded nearly 5 years ago, in the hope that perhaps this was my vehicle for making that difference.

The protection and welfare of our coast and its waters is paramount to the health of our marine mammal populations and coastal wildlife. Coastal Water Protectors are dedicated to making a difference by learning how to be the difference. I am honored to be a part of this group of caring, interested and active men and women who volunteer their time and efforts to the benefit of something much bigger than themselves. I am excited about the initiatives Coastal Water Protectors are pursuing, and I encourage all members to support us and join us in our important efforts. So watch this space!

Kimberley Campbell

A ONE MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH ZIA YAZDANI

You spoke on a panelist alongside other youth involved in marine conservation at the recent IMPAC5 conference. Can you explain why youth involvement is so important to the advancement of 30x30?

"I believe youth is the future. They need to be involved about the decisions that impact them and how they are going to live after this generation is gone. Conservation is a collective concern and youth need to be at the table when decisions are being made."



" It was refreshing visiting the Sacred Journey exhibit at Science World. I enjoyed reading about the history of the tribal canoes and listening to the paddlers from the Pacific North West Coast experiences with the tribal journeys."

- Constance Louie
Coastal Water Protector, Vancouver Island

" The Coastal Spirit Animal painting class was a beautiful opportunity to connect with the ocean, it's creatures and my daughter. Our instructor was patient and brought out the best of my skills. A great evening with our wonderful Métis family. Thank you Angel for organizing and for the invitation."


- Marcy Shein
BC Métis Federation member



FIRST RESPONDER INITIATIVE

Are you a member with BC Métis Federation?

Do you own a boat?

A white sailboat with a single mast and sail is sailing on a calm body of water. The background features a dense forest of evergreen trees along the shoreline, with some rocky outcrops visible. The sky is clear and blue.

EDUCATION IS THE FIRST DEFENSE IN THE EVENT OF AN
UNSUSPECTED INCIDENT. BE INFORMED AND EQUIPPED TO PROTECT
YOURSELF AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE EVENT OF AN OIL SPILL.
REGISTER TODAY TO BE ADDED TO THE WAIT LIST TO BE ONE OF THE
FIRST TO RECEIVE YOUR VERY OWN SPILL KIT, COMPLETELY FREE!

REGISTER HERE



ROC - M

RESTRICTED OPERATOR CERTIFICATE - MARITIME

Get ready for Spring by taking a free ROC - M (Restricted Operator Certificate - Maritime) course! ROC-M is a one-day course for operators and crew on pleasure or commercial vessels operating within Canadian waters.

MONDAY MARCH 20TH, 2023

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22ND, 2023

Email Angel Fisher at a.fisher@bcmetis.com to reserve your course spot. Space is limited.

BECOME A COASTAL AMBASSADOR!

Do you have a passion for marine conservation? Join the Coastal Water Protectors in their conservation efforts by becoming a Coastal Ambassador today!

WHO YOU ARE

- You have a desire to make a lasting impact on the environment
- You care about the ocean and the things that impact it
- You want to be more involved in your community

WHAT YOU GET

- Be one of the first to be notified of free training and courses
- Be one of the first to be notified of coastal events in BC
- Make a meaningful and lasting impact in your community
- Take part in virtual meetings with the Coastal Water Protectors

