



For immediate release:  
October 22, 2019

Contacts:

**Joseph Arvay**, co-counsel for plaintiffs, Arvay Finlay, 604-283-9018, [jarvay@arvayfinlay.ca](mailto:jarvay@arvayfinlay.ca)

**Chris Tollefson**, co-counsel for plaintiffs, Tollefson Law Corp, 604-888-6074, [chris@tolleffsonlaw.ca](mailto:chris@tolleffsonlaw.ca)

To set up **interviews with youth plaintiffs**, David Suzuki Foundation, or Our Children's Trust, contact:

**Caitlin Howard**, 503-314-7128, [caitlin@ourchildrenstrust.org](mailto:caitlin@ourchildrenstrust.org) or

**Brendan Glauser**, 604-356-8829, [bglauser@davidsuzuki.org](mailto:bglauser@davidsuzuki.org)

## **15 Canadian Youth to Sue Federal Government to Protect Their *Charter* and Public Trust Rights From Climate Change Harms**

*Case filed in Federal Court seeks to hold Canada accountable for contributing to dangerous climate change and discriminating against Youth*

**Vancouver, BC, Canada** — This Friday, 15 young Canadians from across the country, including well-known youth climate activist Sierra Robinson, will file a lawsuit against the federal government of Canada for contributing to high levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and dangerous climate change. The youth, each of whom have suffered specific, individualized injuries due to climate change, are taking their federal government to court for violating their rights to life, liberty and security of the person under section 7 of the *Charter* and for failing to protect essential public trust resources. The youth are also alleging that their government's conduct violates their right to equality under section 15 of the *Charter*, since youth are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change.

The youth, from 8 Canadian provinces and the Northwest Territories, are represented by the law firms of Arvay Finlay LLP and Tollefson Law Corporation, with partners the Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation (CELL) and the David Suzuki Foundation, and with technical support from Our Children's Trust. The lawsuit calls on Canada to cease its conduct that is violating the youth's *Charter* and public trust rights and prepare and implement a plan that reduces Canada's GHG emissions in a manner consistent with what best available science indicates is needed for the federal government to protect young Canadians, do its fair share to stabilize the climate system, and avert the catastrophic consequences of climate change.

**WHAT:** Canadian Youth File *Charter* Lawsuit against the federal government for contributing to dangerous climate change.

**WHO:** 15 Canadian youth, their parents, their attorneys, partner / supporter organizations, renowned climate activists (David Suzuki, Severn Cullis-Suzuki) and local leaders in the youth climate movement (The Sustainabiliteens).

**WHEN:** Friday, October 25, 2019; 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- 9:30 - 10 a.m. -- plaintiffs / spokespeople available for interviews (media tent and green room available)
- **10:15 - 11:30 a.m. -- news conference / litigation announcement**
- 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. -- march
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. -- rally

**WHERE:** Vancouver Art Gallery - main (north) steps, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2H7

**WHY:** The lawsuit is the latest in a series of legal actions filed by youth across the planet, supported by Our Children's Trust, demanding governments protect their fundamental rights and the climate system upon which their lives depend.

- 30 -

**Note:** To watch a **livestream of the news conference**, please visit [www.facebook.com/DavidSuzukiFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/DavidSuzukiFoundation) at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 25.

For access to documents related to the litigation available under embargo, please contact one of the media contacts listed above.

**About:**

*Counsel for Plaintiffs are Joseph J. Arvay Q.C. and Catherine Boies Parker Q.C. of Vancouver, BC, and Chris Tollefson and Anthony Ho of Victoria, BC.*

*The **David Suzuki Foundation (davidsuzuki.org)** is a leading Canadian environmental non-profit organization, collaborating with all people in Canada, including government and business, to conserve the environment and find solutions that will create a sustainable Canada through evidence-based research, public engagement and policy work. The Foundation operates in English and French, with offices in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal.*

***Our Children's Trust (ourchildrenstrust.org)** is a nonprofit organization, elevating the voice of youth, those with most to lose, to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate on behalf of present and future generations. We lead a coordinated global human rights and environmental justice campaign to implement enforceable science-based Climate Recovery Plans that will return atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration to below 350 ppm by the year 2100.*

***CELL (pacificcell.ca)** is a nonprofit society incorporated under the laws of British Columbia, and a federally registered charity. Its mission is to train and inspire Canada's next generation of public interest environmental litigators by providing junior lawyers and law students the opportunity to gain hands-on litigation experience working as part of a team on carefully selected and closely supervised public interest environmental cases.*