



IMAGINE BC

Dialogues on the Future of British Columbia
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Leaders' Summit

Habitat
Livelihoods
Health

Big Ideas to Shape a Resilient Future

With special guests

David Suzuki and Thomas Homer-Dixon

Monday, February 23, 2009
8:30 am–4:30 pm (reception to follow)
Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue
580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC



Dialogue Programs,
Continuing Studies
Simon Fraser University

NORTH GROWTH
FOUNDATION



Welcome

On behalf of the Summit co-chairs and the Imagine BC Advisory Group, thank you for participating in this important leadership event. The purpose of this Summit is to build on the previous four years of Imagine BC's dialogues by bringing together creative minds, leaders and decision makers from across sectors to explore BIG IDEAS about health, habitat and livelihood that will shape BC's resilient future. We trust that you will enjoy this day, which we have designed as an opportunity for challenging, stimulating and respectful encounters with peers committed to creative collaborations around fresh ideas for positive change.

“ Resilience is the capacity to experience massive change and yet still maintain the integrity of the original. Resilience isn't about balancing change and stability. It isn't about reaching an equilibrium state. **Rather, it is about how massive change and stability paradoxically work together...** The Greek root word for “crisis” means “to sift.” Sifting suggests we are letting go of what is no longer necessary but retaining the essence. **Resilience represents this capacity to sift: to let go and hang on simultaneously. The challenge is knowing what and how to let go.**”

Frances Westley, Brenda Zimmerman and Michael Patton, 2006. *Getting to Maybe: How the World is Changed*. Random House.



Joanna Ashworth is the Director of Dialogue Programs at Simon Fraser University and the Director of the Imagine BC initiative.

Summit Co-Chairs



Dr. Nadine Caron is an Ojibway General Surgeon, and is an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia, Northern Medical Program.



David Helliwell is co-founder and CEO of the Small Energy Group.

Keynote Speakers

Dr. David Suzuki



David Suzuki, co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation, is an award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster. He is renowned for his radio and television programs that explain the complexities of the natural sciences in a compelling, easily understood way.

Dr. Suzuki is a geneticist. He graduated from Amherst College (Massachusetts) in 1958 with an Honours BA in Biology, followed by a PhD in Zoology from the University of Chicago. He is now Professor Emeritus of the University of British Columbia, Sustainable Development Research Institute. He has won numerous academic awards and holds 22 honorary degrees in Canada, the US and Australia. A member of the Royal Society of Canada and a Companion to the Order of Canada, Dr. Suzuki has written 42 books, including 17 for children.

Dr. Suzuki has received consistently high acclaim for his thirty years of award-winning work in radio and television broadcasting. He has won four Gemini Awards as best host of a Canadian television series for *The Nature of Things*. His eight part television series, *A Planet for the Taking*, won an award from the United Nations. His eight part PBS series, *The Secret of Life*, was praised internationally, as was his five part series *The Brain* for the Discovery Channel.

Dr. Suzuki is also recognized as a world leader in sustainable ecology. He is the recipient of UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for Science, the United Nations Environment Program Medal and the Global 500. He is a fellow of the American Association of the Advancement of Science. More info: www.davidsuzuki.org.

Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon



Thomas Homer-Dixon holds the Centre for International Governance Innovation Chair of Global Systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Canada, and is a Professor in the Centre for Environment and Business in the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo.

He was born in Victoria, British Columbia and received his BA in political science from Carleton University in 1980 and his PhD from MIT in international relations and defence and arms control policy in 1989. He then moved to the University of Toronto to lead several research projects studying the links between environmental stress and violence in developing countries. Recently, his research has focused on threats to global security in the 21st century and on how societies adapt to complex economic, ecological, and technological change.

His books include *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization* (Knopf, Island Press, 2006), which won the 2006 National Business Book Award and was listed as one of the *Financial Times* best books in politics and religion for 2007. He also authored *The Ingenuity Gap* (Knopf, 2000), which won the 2001 Governor General's Non-fiction Award, and *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence* (Princeton University Press, 1999), which won the Caldwell Prize of the American Political Science Association.

He lives in a small town in a rural area outside of Toronto, Canada, with his wife Sarah, son Benjamin and daughter Kate. He can be reached through www.homerdixon.com.

Program Agenda

“ Resilience is not about promoting growth or change for its own sake. It is about promoting the ability to absorb shocks and stresses and still maintain the functioning of society and the integrity of the ecological systems. However, resilience also requires communities and societies to have the ability to self-organize and to manage resources and make decisions in a manner that promotes stability. Most important of all, resilience requires societies to have the capacity to adapt to unforeseen circumstances and risks. These objectives give generic guidance on how to promote sustainability at different scales.”

Adger, Neil. 2003. *Building Resilience to Promote Sustainability*. International Human Dimensions Program on Global Environmental Change Newsletter.

- 8:30 am **Registration is open, and coffee and tea are available**
- 9:00 am **Opening** (AP Hall)
*First Nations Greeting:
Welcoming Remarks by Imagine BC director Joanna Ashworth and Summit co-chair David Helliwell.*
- 9:10 am **Keynote Address: Dr. David Suzuki “Sustainability in a Generation: What’s Holding Us Back?”**
Dr. Suzuki will lead off the day by challenging us to consider the current state of the environment and the trajectories that will create resilient habitat, health and livelihood systems.
- 10:00 am **Dialogue with Dr. David Suzuki**
Following Dr. Suzuki’s presentation we will engage with his provocations and ideas. At the conclusion of this morning session, delegates will be reminded as to the location of their chosen break out group, which will commence immediately following the break.
- 10:30 am **Morning Refreshment Break** (Atrium)
Coffee/tea and muffins will be served, and books by the two keynote speakers will be on sale courtesy of the SFU Bookstore. Dr. Suzuki will be available for book signing during the break.
- 11:00 am **Break Out Sessions — Stories and Ideas for the Future**
Delegates will go directly to clearly marked rooms/spaces where specific “Big Ideas” will be explored in smaller group dialogue format. Each group will have an “idea catalyst” who will lead the dialogue for that particular idea. The topics, idea catalysts and locations are listed on the back page. Each group will prepare one story illustrating the power of an idea to create change. These ideas will be shared in the plenary.
- 12:30 pm **Lunch** (Concourse Level)
A buffet lunch will be served in the concourse level of the Wosk Centre. Summit co-chair Dr. Nadine Caron will provide her vision of leadership that fosters resilience. Delegates will be encouraged to share insights and ideas inspired by the morning sessions.

- 1:30 pm **Stories and Ideas Reporting** (AP Hall)
For the benefit of all delegates, one person from each morning group will present an organizing story that captures the essence of the ideas explored in the group.
- 2:00 pm **Keynote Address: Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon “The Upside of Down”**
Drawing from his research and his observations of the Summit thus far, Dr. Homer-Dixon will challenge us to consider the benefit of thinking with “prospective minds” and what he sees as the basic requirements for a resilient future.
- 2:45 pm **Dialogue with Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon**
Following Dr. Homer-Dixon’s presentation we will engage with the ideas presented and consider the significance and implications of thinking and acting from a “prospective” and resilience-focused mental model.
- 3:15 pm **Afternoon Refreshment Break** (Atrium)
- 3:45 pm **A New Narrative for British Columbia** (Plenary in AP Hall)
Delegates are invited to make sense of what they have heard and experienced during the day, and reflect on the most significant stories, ideas and insights.
- 4:30 pm **Synopsis from Co-Chairs and Dr. Homer-Dixon**
After observing and participating in the day’s events, co-chairs David Helliwell and Nadine Caron, along with Dr. Homer-Dixon, will identify and highlight the critical elements that have emerged from the three thematic areas we are considering: habitat, health and livelihood.
- 4:45 pm **Reception in Atrium**
Please join us for refreshments in the Atrium to continue the conversation with informal networking and socializing. Delegates will find a drink ticket inside their name tag.
- 6:00 pm **Adjournment**

“ If we want to thrive, we need to move from a growth imperative to a resilience imperative. Some form of economic growth is absolutely essential for billions of people, but for the world as a whole, and even for individual societies, it must not be at the expense of the overarching principle of resilience, so needed for any coming transformation of human civilization.”

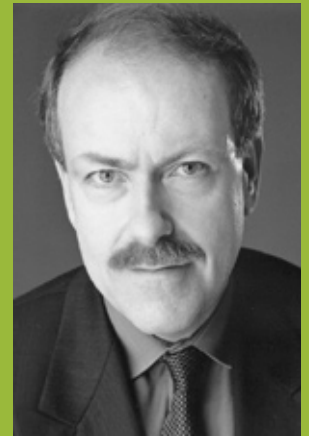
Homer-Dixon, Thomas, 2006. *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity and the Renewal of Civilization*. Alfred A. Knopf, Canada.

Bios for Idea Catalysts

Rob Butler is a scientist, author and naturalist with Bird Studies Canada and an Imagine BC delegate.



Jock Finlayson is the Executive Vice President of the Business Council of British Columbia.



Candis Callison is a doctoral candidate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and will join the faculty of UBC School of Journalism in July, 2009.



Nancy Hall is a homelessness and mental health services consultant who lives in Vancouver.

Dr. Nadine Caron is an Ojibway General Surgeon, and is an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia, Northern Medical Program.



David Helliwell is co-founder and CEO of the Small Energy Group. He has worked as the director of policy for a federal cabinet minister, a corporate strategy consultant, an exploration geophysicist and a professional windsurfing racer. David is an Action Canada Fellow, a recipient of *Business in Vancouver's* Top 40 Under 40, and a member of the Imagine BC Advisory Board.



Nadia Chaney is a poet, performer and educator. She was an Imagine BC delegate in 2007. Find out more about her and her social-artist colleagues at byanydreamsnecessary.com.



Mark Holland is a co-founder of HB Lanarc, one of Canada's leading sustainable community consultants.

Janine de la Salle is a food system planner and project manager with HB Lanarc and works with local government, health authorities, developers, and non-profit organizations to build sustainable food and agriculture systems in BC.



Lorene Oikawa is a vice president of the BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU), and a Yonsei — fourth generation British Columbian.



Janet Moore and **Duane Elverum** are currently co-teaching "Designing the Future" — A Semester in Dialogue at Simon Fraser University. Janet Moore is an Assistant Professor at SFU — Centre for Dialogue. Duane Elverum is an Assistant Professor at Emily Carr University of Art and Design.



Tony Penikett is a former Yukon health minister and the author of *Reconciliation: First Nations Treaty Making in British Columbia* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2006).

Art Sterritt is the executive director of the Coastal First Nation. He provides leadership in the Implementation of the Coastal First Nations vision for a sustainable coastal economy.



Donna Morton is an Ashoka fellow and co-founder of both the Centre for Integral Economics (an NGO with a mission to reconcile people, place and profits) and First Power (a venture that supports First Nation communities in realizing their visions of energy autonomy and access to green collar jobs).
www.integraleconomics.org
www.firstpowercanada.ca



Cynthia Whitaker is the executive director of Literacy BC, the independent, not-for-profit organization supporting and promoting literacy in British Columbia since 1990. For information on literacy in BC visit www.literacybc.ca.

Stories and Ideas for the Future

Themes for Break Out Groups

(including Idea Catalysts and location of conversation)

Group #	Location	Theme	Idea Catalyst
1	AP Hall #1	Natural Well Being	Rob Butler
2	AP Hall #2	Energy Conservation and Demand Side Management	David Helliwell
3	AP Hall #3	Land Tenure and Ecosystem-Based Management	Art Sterritt
4	AP Hall #4	Re-imagining Mental Health	Nancy Hall
5	AP Hall #5	New Media and Citizen Engagement	Candis Callison
6	AP Hall #6	The Power of Diversity	Lorene Oikawa
7	Room 320	Foregrounding Food	Mark Holland and Janine de la Salle
8	Room 380	Education and Global Sustainability	Janet Moore and Duane Elverum
9	Room 410	Community Learning and Literacy	Cynthia Whitaker
10	Room 470	Educating for Creativity	Nadia Chaney
11	Room 480	Empowerment and Health	Nadine Caron
12	Concourse Salon 10	Innovation	Jock Finlayson
13	Concourse Salon 30	Place-based Economics	Donna Morton

“ Resilience in our personal lives is about lasting, about making it through crises, about inner strength and strong physical constitution. Resilience is destroyed by fear, which causes us to panic, reduces our inner resolve, and eventually debilitates our bodies. Resilience is built on hope, which gives us confidence and strength. Hope is not blind to the possibility of everything getting worse, but it is a choice we make when faced with challenges. Hope brings health to our souls and bodies.

Resilience can be applied to cities. They too need to last, to respond to crises and adapt in a way that may cause them to change and grow differently; cities require an inner strength, a resolve, as well as a strong physical infrastructure and built environment.”

Peter Newman, Tim Beatley, and Heather Boyer, 2008.

Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change. Island Press

Thank You

Thanks to the students from Simon Fraser University's Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue for assisting us with documenting the small group dialogues, taking photographs, helping with registration and presenting their wonderful exhibition "Audacious Visions for BC". If you would like to see these images on line or learn about their upcoming event on March 20 stay tuned to their website: www.audaciousvancouver.com.

Thanks also to graphic recorder, the creative and talented Avril Orloff for her artistic interpretation of the ideas generated from the Summit. These images will be included in the final report of the Summit.

Many thanks to our sponsors Rudy North and Caroline North of North Growth Foundation for their steadfast encouragement and support of Imagine BC over the past five years and to the funders who have, throughout the years, made non-partisan dialogues on the future of BC possible, including the Province of British Columbia, Vancouver Foundation, Western

Economic Diversification and Simon Fraser University at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

Special thanks to Imagine BC's advisory committee: Ann Cowan, David Helliwell, Cheeying Ho, Tony Penikett, Mark Roseland, Peter Williams, Mark Winston; Special Summit planning: Marilyn Hamilton and Rob Butler.

Thanks also to Team Dialogue: Kate Power, Program Assistant; Jennifer De Roo, Program Coordinator; and Jamie Cowan, Imagine BC Program Analyst.