

GREYSTONE



October 10, 2007

Dear Member of Parliament:

As a Member of Parliament, you help make decisions with consequences that will reverberate throughout the lives of our children and our grandchildren. I thank you for taking on this enormous responsibility. But even as the environment has reemerged as an issue of great concern, we continue to ignore the root causes of our destructiveness and therefore fail to implement the kinds of solutions that can put Canada on the path to a sustainable future.

That is why I am sending you this copy of *The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature*, which I wrote ten years ago and which has now been expanded and updated.

It is a summation of my thoughts as an environmentalist over the past forty-five years, and it contains information that I believe should inform the decisions that you will make as a politician.

In all of the environmental battles I've been involved in--forestry, fisheries, energy, pollution and so on--people on each side of the issues are convinced that they are right and denigrate their opponents as evil, stupid, greedy or shortsighted. This approach ensures that when decisions are finally made, there will always be losers. But we must all be winners so that we can work together towards goals we agree upon.

In *The Sacred Balance*, I have tried to define the fundamental bottom line that must be protected to ensure that we lead rich, productive, happy lives. To achieve this goal, we must set aside the preconceptions and perceptual filters so often put in place by economics and politics and recognize that our basic needs are defined by:

- 1) our biological nature, which requires clean air, clean water, clean soil, clean energy and biodiversity;
- 2) our social makeup, which requires love that comes from strong families and communities that ensure full employment, justice, security, equity and freedom from violence, racism, terror and war; and
- 3) our spiritual needs, which are provided by a sense of belonging to the natural world from which we emerged and will return to upon death and that is filled with sacred places and other living creatures.

The book fleshes out the evidence for these propositions, and I am proud to say that it has been a best-seller in Canada and Australia. I have given speeches about it to thousands of people and have not had a single refutation or disagreement from scientists, businesspeople, politicians or the public.

In the decade since *The Sacred Balance* first appeared, new scientific research has corroborated and extended the basic message of the book. I believe that the issues it raises have to be at the very heart of our deliberations and decisions if we are to find a truly sustainable path into the future. I am sending a complimentary copy of the book to all Members of Parliament in the hope that you will find the time in your busy schedules to read and mull over its contents.

Thank you for hearing me out, and I hope you enjoy this gift.

Sincerely,

David Suzuki
Founder, The David Suzuki Foundation

A DIVISION OF DOUGLAS & McINTYRE LTD.

GREYSTONE

BOOKS

2323 Quebec Street, Suite 201

Vancouver, BC

Canada V5T 4S7

Tel. 604-254-7191

Fax. 604-254-9099

DOUGLAS &
McINTYRE
PUBLISHING
GROUP