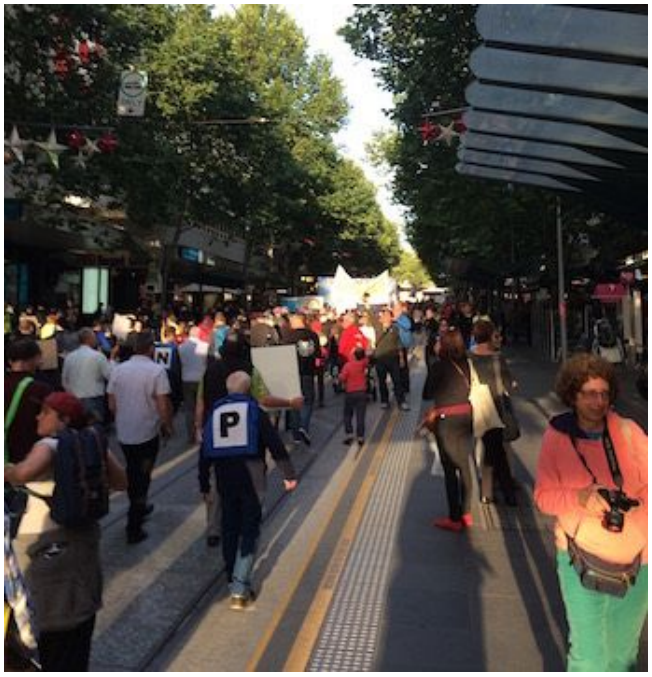
Our voices and actions bring hope for the year ahead

By David Suzuki

8 January 2016



It is clear, argues Dr David Suzuki, that during 2015, those who believed in standing up and speaking out to protect the planet and its people would be heard — and governments would respond.

LIKE ANY year, 2015 had its share of good and bad, tragedy and beauty, hope and despair. It's difficult not to get discouraged by events like the Syrian war and refugee crisis, violent outbreaks in Beirut, Paris, Burundi, the U.S. and so many other places, and the ongoing climate catastrophe.

But responses to these tragedies and disasters offer hope. It became clear during 2015 that when those who believe in protecting people and the planet, treating each other with fairness, respect and kindness and seeking solutions stand up, speak out and act for what is right and just, we will be heard.

As Syria descended deeper into chaos during 2015, people in many wealthy nations called for blocking refugees. But many more opened their hearts, homes and wallets and showed compassion. Governments responded by opening doors to people who have lost everything, including family and friends, to flee death and destruction.

> The biggest People's Climate March ever, and more highlights from last week #COP21 https://t.co/YDRCYdlhJy pic.twitter.com/sA0PTAI4o1
>
> — CoFED (@TheCoFED) December 9, 2015

Shooting [illegible] argument [illegible] continued [illegible] many people [illegible] rallied for [illegible] while the U.S. [illegible] remains [illegible] and a dangerous [illegible] climate [illegible] including [illegible] speaking out for [illegible] more aligned [illegible] professed values [illegible] here and elsewhere [illegible] based elections [illegible] promoted [illegible] climate-[illegible]

The fossil fuel [illegible] supporters [illegible] and confusion [illegible]

evidence for human-caused climate change and to rail against solutions, but many more people marched, signed [illegible] to friends a[illegible]on from poli[illegible] leaders, [illegible]ve and implementing [illegible] this small,

With to[illegible]ical and

The pub[illegible]ve approac[illegible] the Canada [illegible]ng global w[illegible] they make po[illegible]en Paris cli[illegible] December. The resu[illegible] emission[illegible] catastro[illegible]e significa[illegible] attempts[illegible]nts to impro[illegible]

irrationa[illegible] [illegible]3 People to the UN [illegible] Conference, More Than [illegible]nd #USA [illegible] progress arise from [illegible] that change might remove or diminish their privilege — real or imagined [illegible] or say anything to block it.

Unfortunately, those who benefit most from privilege or the statu[illegible]

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the sho[illegible]often stoke those fears and uncertainties, taking advantage of and manipulating the frightened and ignorant for political or economic gain.

David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Senior Editor Ian Hanington.

— Words & Sounds Newsreel (@WandS_Headlines) December 6, 2015

#Canada gives $2.65B compared to #Australia $1M to tackle #climatechange in developing countries. We can do better!