



# Application to become a member of The Association of Suzuki Elders

*The Suzuki Elders are a voluntary association of self-identified elders working with and through the David Suzuki foundation. We bring our voices, experiences and memories to mentor, motivate and support other elders and younger generations in dialogue and action on environmental issues. Suzuki Elders listen, learn, share and act through educating, communicating, connecting, and non-partisan advocacy.*

- The Purpose Statement of the Suzuki Elders

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

In making this application, I agree to support the Suzuki Elders values and visions, the Declaration of Interdependence of the David Suzuki Foundation and the goals, work, mission and vision of the David Suzuki Foundation. I understand that as a Suzuki Elder I do not speak for the Foundation. For more information about us and our work, please visit: <http://www.suzukielders.org/>

### The Elders' Values

- A harmony of personal ethics, lifestyles, ecological values and spiritual values.
- A sense of community and a shared responsibility for the Earth, its natural systems and life-forms including future generations.
- Long-range creative thinking and the application of such thinking to find fulfilling yet sustainable choices.
- Open and respectful dialogue and discussion to stimulate action by all in regard to the Earth, its natural systems and life-forms.

### The Elders' Vision

- A universal understanding of and respect for the Earth, its natural systems and life-forms, and an appropriate place occupied by the human population and its future generations.
- A broad, interfaith, gender-inclusive and generation-inclusive coalition to speak out for ecological and spiritual values.
- An open and respectful dialogue, discussion, dissemination, constructive engagement and other action in regard to any issue including, without limitation, any issue or resolution presented by the Declaration of Interdependence of the David Suzuki Foundation (**see over**).

My talents are: \_\_\_\_\_

I have experience in the following areas(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

We welcome you to the Suzuki Elders. We hope that you will enjoy the association with like-minded people striving to improve our environment and that you will find an outlet for your enthusiasm and your talents.

**Please mail to: Suzuki Elders, c/o David Suzuki Foundation, Suite 219, 2211 West 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6K 4S2. You may also scan and email to [info@suzukielders.org](mailto:info@suzukielders.org) or fill in the membership form on our website (<http://www.suzukielders.org/home/membership-application/>).**

# Declaration of Interdependence

The Declaration of Interdependence expresses our values as an organization. It was written for the 1992 UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

## **This we know**

We are the earth, through the plants and animals that nourish us.

We are the rains and the oceans that flow through our veins.

We are the breath of the forests of the land, and the plants of the sea.

We are human animals, related to all other life as descendants of the firstborn cell.

We share with these kin a common history, written in our genes.

We share a common present, filled with uncertainty.

And we share a common future, as yet untold.

We humans are but one of thirty million species weaving the thin layer of life enveloping the world.

The stability of communities of living things depends upon this diversity.

Linked in that web, we are interconnected — using, cleansing, sharing and replenishing the fundamental elements of life.

Our home, planet Earth, is finite; all life shares its resources and the energy from the sun, and therefore has limits to growth.

For the first time, we have touched those limits.

When we compromise the air, the water, the soil and the variety of life, we steal from the endless future to serve the fleeting present.

## **This we believe**

Humans have become so numerous and our tools so powerful that we have driven fellow creatures to extinction, dammed the great rivers, torn down ancient forests, poisoned the earth, rain and wind, and ripped holes in the sky.

Our science has brought pain as well as joy; our comfort is paid for by the suffering of millions.

We are learning from our mistakes, we are mourning our vanished kin, and we now build a new politics of hope.

We respect and uphold the absolute need for clean air, water and soil.

We see that economic activities that benefit the few while shrinking the inheritance of many are wrong.

And since environmental degradation erodes biological capital forever, full ecological and social cost must enter all equations of development.

We are one brief generation in the long march of time; the future is not ours to erase.

So where knowledge is limited, we will remember all those who will walk after us, and err on the side of caution.

## **This we resolve**

All this that we know and believe must now become the foundation of the way we live.

At this turning point in our relationship with Earth, we work for an evolution: from dominance to partnership; from fragmentation to connection; from insecurity, to interdependence.