

David Suzuki



Photo from [David Suzuki Foundation](#)

My original idea for this series was to stick to fiction writers. But I feel it would be absolutely wrong to leave out one of Canada's most famous native sons.

Born in 1936 in Vancouver, [David Suzuki](#) is a third generation Canadian who was just six years old when Canada declared war on Japan during WWII. With many others of Japanese ethnic origin, his father was detained and dispossessed. The family later settled in London, Ontario.

Suzuki got his BA from Amherst College in 1958 and earned his PhD in Zoology from the University of Chicago in 1961. Later he went to Berkeley to further his education. In the late sixties, he was a geneticist teaching at UBC, where I studied The Philosophy of Science with him.

Scientist, activist and [broadcaster](#), as well as a prolific author, Suzuki has been called by [CBC](#) "Canada's foremost environmental conscience." A couple of days ago, he weighed in on the D-word -- disposable, in his [blog](#) on the David Suzuki Foundation site. "Solutions are in our nature," says the sub-head.

His most recent book, *The Legacy: An Elder's Vision for our Sustainable Future* (D & M 2010) begins with a Foreword by [Margaret Atwood](#), herself a conservationist.