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David Suzuki and Alexandra Cousteau receive 2016 Planet in Focus Eco-Hero Awards

The 17th annual Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival takes place October 18 to 23, 2016 in venues across Toronto.

PlanetinFocus.org

Toronto - The **Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival** 17th Edition announced today that David Suzuki and Alexandra Cousteau are the recipients of the Festival's 2016 Eco-Hero Awards. As a leader passionate about conservation and a water advocate, International Eco-Hero recipient Alexandra Cousteau continues the legacy of her renowned family, and there probably isn't a name that Canadian families associate more with environmentalism than Canadian Eco-Hero recipient David Suzuki.

Alexandra Cousteau will be presented her Award and will give an address with a Q&A during the 2016 Planet in Focus Closing Night Gala on October 23. There will be a screening of a special archival Jacques Cousteau film earlier in the day. David Suzuki will be presented his Award at a special event on October 18, which will include a keynote address with an audience Q&A session. Earlier that day, he will be meeting with a group of local environmental youth activists for an intimate roundtable discussion "Eco-Heroes: The next Generation". This event will be live streamed, details on how to watch will be available at planetinfocus.org.

"We are thrilled to present this year's awards to two tireless environmentalists whose names are internationally associated with using film and media to advocate for change," said Planet in Focus Executive Director Anne Mark. "The efforts by both David Suzuki and the Cousteau family have had a huge impact by bringing environmental stories into people's homes and changing the way we see the world."

"Alexandra Cousteau's passion and dedication to helping recover the world's oceans is as remarkable as her ability to use storytelling to inspire others to want to do the same, said Josh Laughren, Executive Director, Oceana Canada. "Oceana benefits tremendously from her expertise as a senior advisor, and we are so pleased to see her contributions recognized by Planet in Focus."

More on the 2016 Planet in Focus Eco-Heroes:

David Suzuki

Dr. David Suzuki is an award-winning scientist, environmentalist, broadcaster, and Canadian icon. Best known as the host of CBC Television's long-running documentary series *The Nature of Things*, he is renowned for his radio and television programs that explain the complexities of the natural world in a compelling, easily understood way. Dr. Suzuki has authored over 50 books and received more than two dozen honorary degrees from universities around the world. Elected to the Royal Society of Canada and a Companion of the Order of Canada, he is the recipient of UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for Science, the United Nations Environment Programme Medal, and the Right Livelihood Award - considered the Alternative Nobel Prize. Dr. Suzuki co-founded the David Suzuki Foundation in 1990 to design sustainable solutions for Canada's future.

Alexandra Cousteau

A filmmaker, explorer, and globally recognized water advocate, Alexandra Cousteau continues the storytelling legacy of her renowned grandfather Jacques-Yves Cousteau and her father Philippe Cousteau, Sr. She is dedicated to advocating the importance of conservation and sustainable management of water for a healthy planet. Alexandra was named one of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders and honoured as a National Geographic Emerging Explorer. In 2016, she received an honorary doctorate degree from Georgetown University, her alma mater. Alexandra is a Senior Advisor for Oceana and the founder of Blue Legacy International, telling stories about water issues around the world through film and media.

About Planet in Focus

Planet in Focus is a charitable organization whose mission is to promote environmental education by raising awareness of critical environmental issues through a variety of media-based initiatives including; the Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival, the Green School Tours, Eco-Film Lab, the Planet in Focus Student Film Festival and year 'round screenings that showcase the best environmental films from Canada and around the world. PlanetinFocus.org

The 2016 Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival line up will be announced on Monday September 19. Tickets on sale starting September 19.

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