



FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL of British Columbia

320-1200 West 73rd Ave. • Vancouver, BC • V6P 6G5

TEL: 778-379-6470 • FAX: 778-379-6469

info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca • www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca

September 6, 2016

To: BC First Nations and Regional First Nations Fisheries Organizations

Re: Call for Nominations – FNFC Executive Council Delegates for Three-Year Term

The First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) is seeking nominations for First Nation Delegates to our Executive Council. The current term for Delegates ends December 2016, and new or re-appointed Delegates will begin a new three-year term beginning in January 2017.

To promote an open, transparent, and inclusive coordination of nominations, the FNFC has developed the attached FNFC Executive Council Nomination Guidelines and Nomination Form, which provide guidance to BC First Nations and/or regional First Nations fisheries organizations on the nomination of qualified candidates to the FNFC Executive Council. The nomination guidelines document includes an overview of the role of the Council Delegates and guidelines on the eligibility and qualifications of prospective Council Delegates. The deadline to submit completed nomination forms is Monday, October 31, 2016.

BACKGROUND

In 2007, following broad dialogue among First Nations in BC, the First Nations Leadership Council, a collaborative political partnership and process between the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the First Nations Summit (FNS), published the *BC First Nations Fisheries Action Plan*. One of the priorities identified in the Action Plan was the establishment of the First Nations Fisheries Council, a province-wide organization that would:

- Implement the priorities and principles of the BC First Nations Fisheries Action Plan,
- Be supported by, accountable to, and have balanced representation of BC's First Nations, and
- Reflect the diversity in geography, expertise and perspectives of First Nations to advance collective interests.

In the fall of 2007, subsequent to discussions with communities about the composition of the First Nations Fisheries Council, the First Nations Leadership Council appointed six First Nations members that formed the interim First Nations Fisheries Council. The preliminary undertaking of the FNFC was to

initiate dialogue among First Nations in the interest of developing a long-term organizational plan for the Council, establishing a robust work plan based on the Action Plan, and responding to critical issues of importance for First Nations in British Columbia.

As the FNFC emerged and evolved, First Nations determined that the interim Council structure should be expanded to more appropriately reflect the diversity in geography, expertise, and perspectives of BC First Nations. In early 2009, a new Council structure consisting of 14 regional delegates, and the current Council mandate, were ratified at the FNFC Fisheries Assembly in Nanaimo and endorsed through resolution by the BCAFN, UBCIC and FNS. The fourteen geographic regions are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Northern Transboundary | 8. South Coast Vancouver Island & Mainland Inlets |
| 2. Upper Skeena | 9. Lower Mainland |
| 3. North Coast | 10. Fraser Valley |
| 4. Haida Gwaii | 11. Mid Fraser (1) |
| 5. Central Coast | 12. Mid Fraser (2) |
| 6. North Coast Vancouver Island & Mainland Inlets | 13. Upper Fraser |
| 7. West Coast Vancouver Island | 14. Transboundary Columbia |

FNFC MANDATE AND OPERATIONS

As affirmed by the participants at the 2009 Fall Fisheries Assembly in Nanaimo and endorsed through resolution by the BCAFN, UBCIC, and FNS, the mandate of the First Nations Fisheries Council is as follows:

The First Nations Fisheries Council works with and on behalf of BC First Nations to protect and reconcile First Nations rights and title as they relate to fisheries and the health and protection of aquatic resources. The Council will achieve the mandate by working to:

- *Advance and protect First Nations title and rights related to fisheries and aquatic resources, including priority access for food, social, cultural and economic purposes;*
- *Support First Nations to build and maintain capacity related to fishing, planning, policy, law, management, and decision-making at a variety of scales (local, regional, national and international); and*
- *Facilitate discussions related to the development of a province-wide First Nations-based collaborative management framework that recognizes and respects First Nations jurisdiction, management authority and responsibilities.*

The FNFC continues to affirm that title and rights are the strongest at the community level; the FNFC advocates for strong connections and reciprocal information sharing between the local, regional and BC-wide scales, but also recognizes the need for communities and regions to work collaboratively on issues of common concern. For First Nations to influence legislative, policy or management changes, we must strive to have a unified voice and consistent messaging in our dealings with government.



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

The FNFC is seeking to confirm 14 regional Executive Council Delegates. **The deadline for submitting nominations is Monday October 31, 2016.** Late or incomplete nomination packages may not be considered, and the FNFC may request additional information from regional First Nations. The following information and supporting documents are required, and may be shared publically in situations of contested nominations or to assist with the development of the FNFC's profile:

- Completed nomination form
- Cover letter
- Resume or written statement of qualifications
- Supporting letter(s)
- Photograph for the FNFC webpage
- Short biography for the FNFC webpage

The FNFC would like to confirm new and/or re-appointed Delegates at the 2016 Fall Assembly scheduled for November 8 - 9, 2016. The three-year term for Council Delegates will begin in January 2017.

For more information, questions, or to submit completed applications please contact Jordan Point, FNFC Executive Director at jordan@fnfisheriescouncil.ca or 778-379-6470 (tel).

The FNFC wishes to raise our hands to past and present Executive Council Delegates for their commitment and efforts on behalf of Pacific fisheries and aquatic resources, and for their leadership on fisheries policy and governance. We look forward to continuing this work with all new and re-appointed Council Delegates in the new year.

O'siem,



Jordan Point
Executive Director

