



**First Nations
Fisheries Council**
of British Columbia

SMOLTALK



AUGUST 2026 EDITION

ABOUT FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL OF B.C.

FNFC's work is driven by First Nations interests. We operate at the intersection of the political/policy and technical/operational levels. We connect First Nations, government, fish, fisheries, aquatic resources and habitat. The fisheries and aquatic resource management landscape is complex, with many overlapping interests, influences and decision-making authorities. FNFC ensures that First Nations' voices are central to fisheries management through an interconnected framework focused on:



Advancing environmental sustainability: Promoting sustainable fisheries and aquatic ecosystems through climate adaptation, habitat restoration, and enhanced resource management.



Strengthening internal FNFC capacity and decision-making: Building governance, transparency, and accountability to ensure sustainable and effective leadership.



Fostering reciprocal relationships and strong partnerships: Collaborating with First Nations, Crown agencies, and other stakeholders to advance shared priorities and uphold First Nations leadership in fisheries.

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Message from the Executive Director

I hope everyone has had a good summer.

I want to begin by sharing some sad news. On June 3, 2026, we lost Thomas Alexis, one of our original founding Directors and our longest-serving Fisheries Council Delegate for the Upper Fraser region, a role he held since 2007. His passing has left a profound absence across First Nations organizations throughout the province. So many of us were fortunate to work alongside him, to learn from his wisdom, and to be inspired by his resilience.

On behalf of everyone at FNFC, I want to honour him once again as a true salmon warrior, and offer our deepest, heartfelt condolences to Thomas' family and community during this difficult time. I had the privilege of attending his funeral and hearing so many people share what a remarkable leader and mentor he was. Thomas will be deeply missed, and his impact will not be forgotten. I invite you to read our tribute to Thomas on the next page of this Smoltalk.

Our biggest event of the year, the 2026 Fall Assembly, will be held on November 5 and 6, 2026, at the House of Ancestors “Uda Dune Baiyoh” Conference Center in Prince George. This annual gathering brings together First Nations leadership, fisheries staff, community members, and government partners to discuss fisheries priorities, governance, and the future of our aquatic ecosystems. Registration is now open. Please see page 5 for event details. I look forward to welcoming you this November!

On behalf of the First Nations Water Caucus, FNFC is also pleased to announce the release of *A Shared Path to Watershed Security: A Proposed Watershed Security Strategy for B.C.* I encourage you to learn more about the proposed Strategy on page 6 of this newsletter, share it with your networks, and consider how it can support watershed stewardship in your community, organization, or watershed. Together, we all have a role in securing healthy watersheds for present and future generations!

I remain grateful for your continued support of FNFC's work and look forward to our ongoing collaboration and engagement in the years ahead.

Hamiya (Thank You),

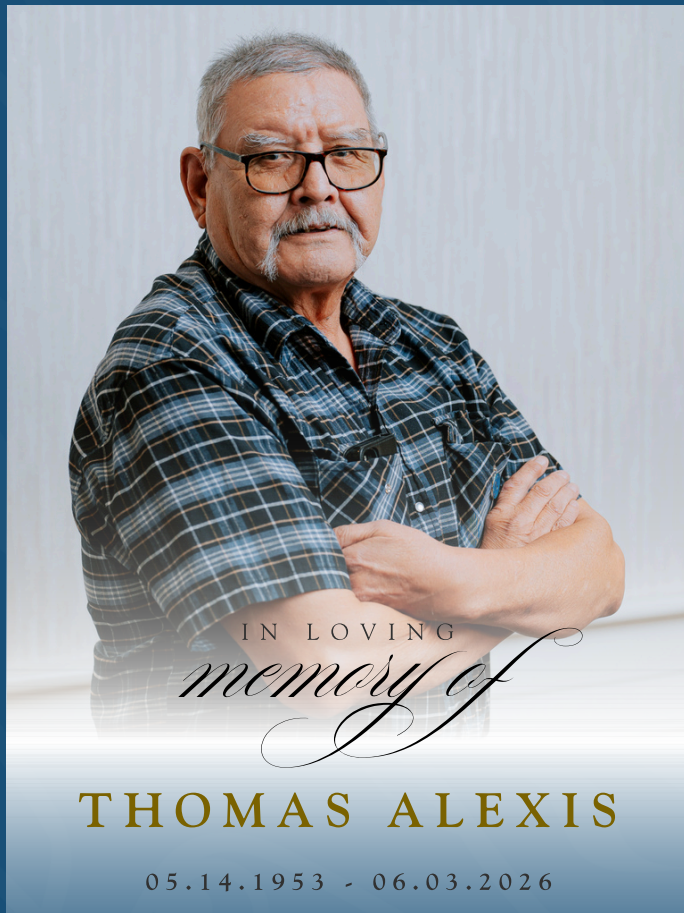
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stu Barnes'.

Stu Barnes (Kil Ts'ak)
Executive Director, FNFC

Remembering Thomas Alexis

It is with heavy hearts that we at the First Nations Fisheries Council of B.C. (FNFC) mourn the loss of a leader, **Thomas Alexis**. Thomas was one of our original founding Directors and our longest-serving Fisheries Council Delegate for the Upper Fraser region, a role he held since 2007. He also served for many years as President of the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA).

Over nearly two decades, Thomas was a steady and unwavering presence within the FNFC, helping to shape the organization into what it is today. His voice at the table was one of quiet but reassuring strength.



"When I first started as a very young delegate for the Upper Skeena region at FNFC over 14 years ago, still finding my voice, Thomas was the first one to say, 'I agree with Stu,' in a meeting. He then went on to explain his commonsense reasoning for his position, as he always did. Having someone like Thomas agree with me meant a lot at the time, and in that way, he empowered so many voices."

– Stu Barnes, FNFC Executive Director

"Remembering a true champion for wild salmon and the communities who depend on them – Thomas was honest, sincere, humble, and full of integrity and wisdom. I loved and appreciated Tommy very much. He was old school and refreshing, and often, just in his actions, was able to help us stay grounded and remind us of why we were doing our work."

– Jordan Point, former FNFC Executive Director

There was something about Thomas' smile and laugh. They could light up any room, and he shared them so generously with everyone around him. Thomas' warmth put people at ease, and his calm, steady presence grounded the room, even when discussions grew difficult. In those moments, people could look to him and know that, whatever challenges lay ahead, they would find a way to face them together.

"Thomas believed in the ability of First Nations to lead, in strong stewardship, in innovative approaches to management, and in restoring salmon for the benefit of all people and all living things," wrote the *Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance*. Those who had the privilege of working alongside him remember not only his dedication and leadership in fisheries, but also his deep love for his people and community.

Thomas' legacy will live on in the rivers and salmon he fought to protect, in the communities he served, and in every voice he helped find the courage to speak. He gave so much of himself to this work, not for recognition, but because he truly believed that the salmon, the land, and the people were worth fighting for.

He will always hold a special place in our hearts, and his memory will continue to guide us in the work we do. Thomas Alexis, may you rest peacefully in the arms of our ancestors.

FNFC 2026 Fall Assembly Coming to Prince George This November

The FNFC will host its 2026 Fall Assembly on **November 5 and 6** at the **House of Ancestors “Uda Dune Baiyoh” Conference Center** in **Prince George**.

Register today on [Eventbrite!](#)

Accommodations:

- For attendees' convenience, FNFC has arranged a discounted group rate at the **Courtyard by Marriott Prince George** (900 Brunswick Street, Prince George, BC V2L 0E3)
 - Rooms can be booked directly through this [link](#).
 - The rate is \$169.00 CAD per night, plus taxes and fees.
 - Underground parking is available for \$5.00 CAD per night.
 - The deadline to book is Sunday, October 4, 2026, on a first-come, first-served basis, as rooms at the group rate are limited.
 - Rates apply only to bookings for November 4-6, 2026.

Travel Subsidy:

- Travel and accommodation support is available for First Nations attending the Assembly. Those interested can request the application form and category limits by emailing **Tony Graydon** at [**antonio@fnfisheriescouncil.ca**](mailto:antonio@fnfisheriescouncil.ca). Funding is approved on a first-come, first-approved basis while funds are available, so please reach out early.

FNFC looks forward to welcoming you this November!



Photo from the FNFC 2025 Fall Assembly

A Shared Path to Watershed Security: A Proposed Watershed Security Strategy for B.C.

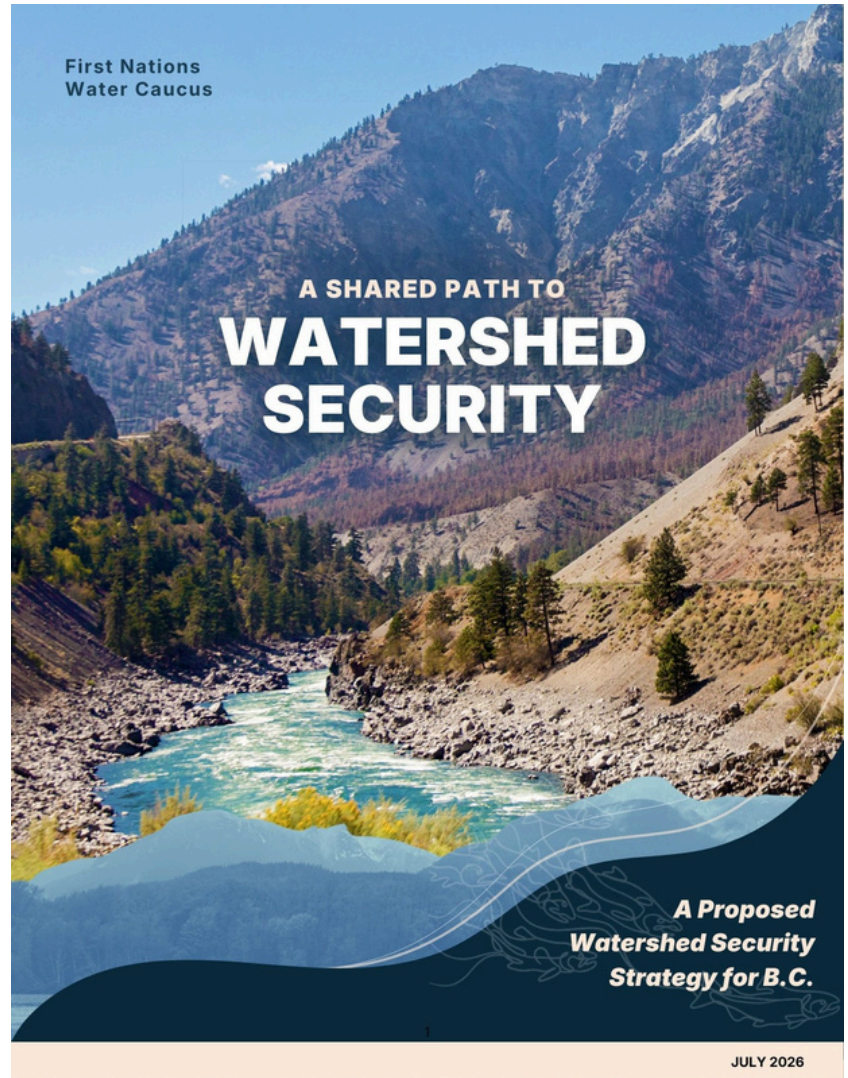
On behalf of the First Nations Water Caucus, FNFC is pleased to announce the release of ***'A Shared Path to Watershed Security: A Proposed Watershed Security Strategy for B.C.'***

Healthy watersheds support drinking water, fisheries, biodiversity, agriculture, recreation, local economies, cultural values, and climate resilience. Water and watersheds in B.C. are under immense pressure and are increasingly vulnerable to climate change and cumulative effects. Climate change is intensifying drought conditions, altering seasonal precipitation patterns, reducing snowpack accumulation, increasing temperatures, and accelerating watershed instability across the province. The threats facing water and watersheds have exposed the need for a collaborative and coordinated approach to govern and steward water and watersheds in B.C.

The Watershed Security Strategy (Strategy) was developed to establish a shared vision and a practical pathway toward long-term watershed security in B.C. It was originally co-developed by delegates from the First Nations Water Caucus (Water Caucus) and the Province of B.C. and was strongly informed by watershed and water stewardship initiatives across the province.

Given growing pressures to B.C.'s watersheds, there is a critical need for a whole-of-watershed strategy that creates a collaborative framework for working together in watersheds across the province. The Water Caucus has revised the Strategy and, with support from the First Nations Leadership Council, is sharing this version. The Strategy is being shared as a reference, tool, and framework that can be adapted and used by First Nations, governments, watershed organizations, stewardship groups, industry, agricultural interests, and communities across B.C.

This work is being shared in the spirit of collaboration, respect, responsibility and transparency. Watershed security is foundational to the exercise of First Nations' title and rights and requires recognition of First Nations governance, laws, knowledge systems, and decision-making authority in all matters relating to water stewardship, watershed planning, restoration, and protection. The hope is that sharing this revised Strategy can help facilitate collaboration, uplift a shared vision, and strengthen and expand watershed stewardship across B.C.



For more information about the Strategy, please refer to the **FNFC website** or contact **FNFC** at info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca.



International Wild Salmon Day 2026

On June 1, 2026, people around the world came together to celebrate **International Wild Salmon Day**, recognizing the cultural, ecological, and economic importance of wild salmon while raising awareness of the challenges they face.

The story of Wild Salmon Day began in 2019, when the Government of British Columbia established B.C. Wild Salmon Day to celebrate wild salmon and inspire action for their conservation. In 2025, the movement expanded internationally when the **Atlantic Salmon Trust**, **Atlantic Salmon Federation**, **Pacific Salmon Foundation** (PSF), and **First Nations Fisheries Council of B.C. (FNFC)** came together to build global momentum for salmon recovery.

This year, we marked the day with fry in our hands and our feet in the forest. The FNFC and the PSF gathered at the **Mossom Creek Hatchery & Education Centre** in Port Moody, B.C., alongside community salmon stewards, local hatchery operators, and government representatives to celebrate a shared commitment to protecting wild salmon.

The theme for this year's Wild Salmon Day was **"Restore Salmon Rivers,"** and Mossom Creek Hatchery has been living that mission since 1976. Nearly 50 years of community-led salmon stewardship have taken place here, a living example of what habitat restoration looks like when people show up, year after year.

Together, we released coho fry into the creek and raised the flag for wild salmon, a powerful reminder of what is possible when communities care for salmon.

Wild salmon are resilient. So are the people who work every day to protect them.



We were honoured to begin the event with a cultural welcome from Robert George of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Remarks were shared by Kevin Ryan of Mossom Creek Hatchery, Mayor Meghan Lahti of the City of Port Moody, John Henderson of the FNFC, and Michael Meneer of the PSF, each highlighting the importance of collective action in restoring and protecting salmon habitat.





Wild Salmon Steering Committee Priorities

Update on the Trilateral Salmon Accord

Work on the Trilateral Salmon Accord continues to progress on two fronts: governance and the Joint Action Plan for salmon recovery. At the July 23 Wild Salmon Steering Committee (WSSC) meeting, First Nations delegates reviewed proposed amendments to the Tier 2 Collaborative Salmon Table Terms of Reference, and those edits carried into the August 5 Collaborative Salmon Table meeting, where all three parties (WSSC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS)) worked to align on the remaining language with the goal of formal approval. In parallel, a temporary working group is being established to refresh the Accord's governance schematic (last updated November 2025), with a revised draft targeted for an in-person meeting at the end of October.

The First Nations Wild Salmon Steering Committee has put forward six high-level themes for salmon recovery: stable long-term funding, stronger collaborative governance, an ecosystem-based management approach, better monitoring and data-sharing, habitat protection, and closer coordination among First Nations themselves. It's important to note that these reflect First Nations' priorities specifically, developed through the WSSC process - they aren't yet a shared trilateral list. Alignment exercises with WLRS and DFO will still be needed to reconcile these with provincial and federal priorities before arriving at a final set of shared salmon recovery priorities for the Joint Action Plan.

In the August 5 meeting, the Tier 2 Collaborative Salmon Table flagged key questions still to resolve for the Joint Action Plan, including its overall timeframe and how many actions it should contain. Overall, the Table is close to finalizing its governance foundation and is now shifting focus toward turning shared priorities into a concrete action plan. The Collaborative Salmon Table will meet in person at the end of October for a two-day session focused on identifying potential joint salmon recovery priorities for the Joint Action Plan.

Funding and Opportunities for First Nations in B.C.

Below is a selection of funding programs, opportunity hubs, and useful resources that may be relevant to First Nations in B.C. Program details and deadlines can change quickly, so it is always best to confirm the latest information on the funder's website before applying.

FNFC/ISF CLIMATE EMERGENCY GRANT PROGRAM

Accepting applications. Check the website for updates.



INDIGENOUS CLIMATE HUB

Supports First Nations-led climate adaptation projects south of the 60th parallel, including work related to flooding, wildfire, drought, water, fisheries, forestry, and cultural sites.



COAST FUNDS

Coast Funds has compiled a list of external grants and opportunities for First Nations projects in stewardship, sustainable energy, training, culture, and economic development.



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Funding for First Nations Guardians initiatives supports community-led stewardship and conservation, strengthening the care, monitoring, and management of lands, waters, and ice within their territories.



B.C. COMMUNITY CLIMATE FUNDING

An ongoing B.C. resource that compiles climate-related funding opportunities for Indigenous communities and local governments.



WATERSHED SECURITY FUND

The WSF Grants Program funds freshwater projects focusing on ecosystem health, reconciliation, climate resilience and sustainable economies. The next intake opens October 5 - November 10, 2026.



GREG WITZKY AND THE LONG WATCH OVER THE SALMON

Greg Witzky has spent his life following the same river. His story begins with trout that got away.

Fishing with his Sle7e (grandfather) in a tributary of Adams Lake, little Greg was given what seemed like a very easy task: clean the trout his grandfather had caught. Taking the instruction quite literally, Greg carefully washed the grass off each fish in the creek. The cool water rushing through their gills revived them, and one by one they slipped from his small hands and swam away.

When his grandfather turned around, there were no fish left. “*They’re clean now,*” Greg replied, pointing straight to the water. His grandfather laughed, kept on fishing, and later showed him the right way to do it.

Decades later, Greg still smiles when he tells the story.

It was more than a funny childhood memory. It was one of countless moments that taught Greg about the deep relationship among the Secwépemc people, the land, water, and fish. Those lessons did not come from textbooks or instruction manuals. They came through laughter, patience, quiet days spent casting nets and reading water currents, and the knowledge shared with him along the way. Long before Greg knew where his life in fisheries would take him, those days beside the water were already shaping the path ahead.

Greg carries the family name **Spemulucw**, meaning “early riser,” a name rooted in his Secwépemc (Shuswap) Nation heritage. As a very young child, his grandmother also gave him a traditional name, **Lemecheep**, meaning “half-breed.” Growing up in Cstelnec’ (Adams Lake Indian Band), Greg learned the responsibilities of fishing, hunting, and gathering from his family and Elders, including his late mother, Cecelia George-Sampson, and his grandparents, Ann and Henry Sampson. They taught him that these practices were about more than providing for oneself. They carried a responsibility to the people and to the lands and waters that have sustained the Secwépemc for countless generations.

Today, that sense of responsibility has taken Greg far beyond the banks of the Adams River, to federal and provincial negotiating tables, international commission meetings and emergency response briefings. As Executive Director of the Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC), a Mid Fraser River Panel member on the Pacific Salmon Commission, and Indigenous Project Director on the Big Bar Landslide remediation response team, Greg’s work is not a departure from his roots. It is a way of bringing what he learned from his family and Elders into the rooms where decisions about the future of salmon are made. For Greg, those decisions should always begin with the people who have cared for the salmon for countless generations.



*The **First Peoples of Secwepemcúlecw** are the **primary caretakers and protectors of some of the largest salmon runs in the Fraser River**. For this reason, fishing decisions made downriver should involve engagement with all Nations impacted by salmon, with greater authority resting with the people of the spawning grounds.*



Did You Know?

Cstelnec’ was the last of the Lakes Secwépemc communities to have runners, young men who would sprint between First Nations communities carrying news. Just south of Chase sits a mountain the people call Pregnant Mountain, where runners once sat and watched for the return of the crimson sockeye salmon. When they saw the salmon coming home, they would run back to share the news with their communities.

Where It All Started - Adams Lake Band Fisheries Program (1998)

Throughout much of his younger years, Greg fished in St’át’imc territory near Lillooet alongside his in-laws and extended family. During times of abundance, Secwépemc families were welcomed to fish there. But by the mid to late 1990s, salmon numbers had declined dramatically, and many First Nations along the Fraser River were forced to limit fisheries to their own members.

As salmon numbers declined, Greg saw that if future generations were going to continue fishing at home, someone had to rebuild that opportunity. In 1998, Greg championed the creation of the Adams Lake Indian Band Fisheries Program, with a vision of revitalizing communal fishing in Cstelnec'. More than simply harvesting salmon, the program brought the community together to fish, process and share the catch. From the beginning, the program was built around a simple principle: the salmon should reach beyond those standing at the river.

The sharing extends beyond Cstelnec' as well. Some fishing days are set aside specifically for neighbouring communities to come and harvest salmon for their own people who are unable to participate. When returns are lower and there is not enough salmon to share as widely, however, Cstelnec' members are given priority.



Greg driving the Cstelnec' Communal Fishing Gill Net Boat he helped purchase for his Band in 2003



The Cstelnec' Communal Fishing Gill Net Boat



Traditional cooking of sockeye salmon at the Cstelnec' fish camp

Over the course of his 33-year career in fisheries, the achievement Greg speaks about most proudly is not that he helped establish the program, but that the community has continued to carry it forward long after he left.

"The Cstelnec' have carried on my legacy of communal fishing after my departure from working at the Band level almost 20 years ago, in 2007. Younger generations once mentored by me and other fishers in the community have stepped up to keep our communal fishery alive and thriving to this day. Those same youth proudly continue to share the bountiful harvest with other communities in need."

Through all the changes in Greg's fisheries work, his relationship and spiritual connection to the Adams River and surrounding streams have remained constant. *"I always respect our traditional laws and protocols to honour salmon for sustaining us in the past, present, and for seven generations to come."*

Greg also believes every legacy begins with someone willing to believe in another person. For him, that person was the late Dave Nordquist. Together with Councillor Joyce Kenoras, Dave hired Greg as Fisheries Manager in 1998, opening the door to a career that has now spanned more than three decades. Looking back, Greg says he would not be where he is today without that opportunity: *"Dave suddenly made his journey to the Spirit World this past November, at too early an age. His decision that one day in 1998 changed my life, and the salmon's lives, forever."*

Adams River Today - The 2026 Dominant Year

The Adams River hosts B.C.'s most iconic four-year sockeye dominant cycle, a spectacular natural migration that carries fish more than 1,200 kilometres from the Pacific Ocean upstream to interior spawning beds. Salmon swim the final 500 km from the Fraser River's mouth near Vancouver over roughly 18 days, arriving in the Adams River around mid-October each year.

“

We definitely still have a long way to go to recover and rebuild the Adams River stocks!

For 2026, the preseason forecast for Late Summer Sockeye returning to the lower Adams River and surrounding area is approximately 1.4 million fish. While 1.4 million may sound like a large number, Greg points out that it remains well below the long-term average of approximately 2.5 million during dominant cycles. For Greg, that gap is a reminder that a large return does not necessarily mean the stocks have fully recovered.

In Greg's view, the future of those stocks is also tied to who gets to make decisions about the salmon. He would like to see First Nations farther upriver take a greater role in deciding how many salmon are harvested and how many are allowed to continue their journey home to spawn. He envisions inland Nations becoming commercial harvesters themselves, with fewer salmon harvested in marine and lower river commercial fisheries, allowing more fish to reach the interior spawning grounds.

A greater First Nations role, Greg believes, would also bring traditional knowledge more directly into how returning salmon are monitored. He points to knowledge passed down through generations by salmon runners, including the ability to count returning salmon in real time as they move through the clearer waters of Secwépemc territory.

But the significance of a strong salmon return extends beyond management and the number of fish entering the river. It is also about what that abundance makes possible for First Nations families and communities. Greg hopes the 2026 return will provide enough salmon for Nations throughout the Fraser River watershed and marine approach area to put away for the winter, while also creating economic opportunities for some communities.

With abundance also comes the responsibility to share, a principle Greg has carried with him for decades. Around 2002, he began bringing salmon harvested in his area to another Secwépemc community in the Ktunaxa (Kootenay) area, trading salmon for opportunities to hunt elk. With salmon blocked from the Columbia River for generations by hydroelectric dams, the exchange created a way for communities to share what their respective territories could provide. Over time, Greg says these working relationships grew into lasting friendships, and the practice of trading salmon for elk hunting in Ktunaxa territory continues today.



Greg and Murray Ned, Executive Director of the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, bartering salmon and elk.



Greg exchanging salmon for access to elk with ʔaḡam First Nation Land Code Advisor Erian Scott-Everton in 2025.

“It’s so great to see the old ways of bartering, with no cash being exchanged, still practiced today, just like our ancestors used to do it,” Greg notes.

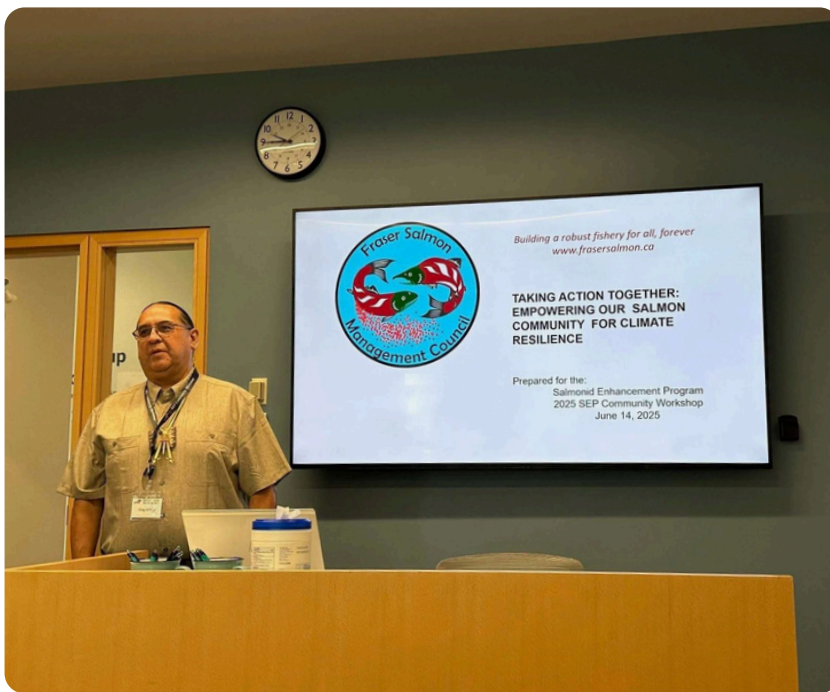
Just as important as sharing the salmon is passing on the knowledge and traditions that surround them. Cstelnec' has always made it a priority to involve youth in fishing and salmon processing. Students from the local Secwepemctsin language school regularly participate, and the school has helped fund improvements to the communal fishing camp so young people can more easily observe, learn and take part. With fishing activities beginning in mid-August and continuing into early October, youth have regular opportunities to learn their fishing traditions alongside their community.

Did You Know?

Each year, Cstelnec' holds a **First Fish Ceremony**, where the first salmon is prepared and shared among everyone who takes part. A man and a woman sing the salmon song with hand drumming, recognizing the importance of both male and female salmon. After the salmon is shared, nothing is discarded. The bones, guts and any leftovers are placed on cedar boughs and returned to the water with a tobacco offering. An Elder or Knowledge Holder then offers a blessing and joins those gathered in praying for the salmon to continue returning in good numbers for seven generations to come.

Fraser Salmon Management Council

Greg's work in fisheries eventually took him from the community level to a much larger table. In 2017, he joined the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) as Operations Manager. As FRAFS transitioned into the Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) by 2020, Greg continued with the organization.



FSMC is a Tier 1, First Nations-only governance body created to bring First Nations together in the management of Fraser River salmon. A major milestone came in 2019 with the signing of the Fraser Salmon Management Agreement between FSMC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The historic agreement established a collaborative process and structure intended to bring First Nations directly to the decision-making table alongside DFO in the management of Fraser salmon.

As the organization continued to grow, the Executive Director position became available, and the Board of Directors offered Greg the opportunity to step into the role.

"I immediately said yes, and I've been at the helm ever since," Greg says with a laugh.

Today, FSMC represents 81 of the 156 First Nations in the Fraser Basin and Marine Approach that rely upon Fraser salmon. For Greg, carrying the voices and priorities of so many Nations is both a responsibility and a privilege. Balancing those different community perspectives means understanding the key priorities of four distinct regions. Those priorities are brought forward through the First Nations Main Table Board of Directors, 81 Member Delegates, and First Nations representatives on the Fraser Salmon Management Board and Joint Technical Committee. Together, these different voices help shape the priorities Greg carries into his work as Executive Director.

The agreement has created a place for First Nations at the decision-making table, but building a different relationship with DFO is a much longer process. Greg recognizes that changing a relationship shaped by generations of history will take time.

"I feel that 150 years of built-in systemic racism may take years to overcome, but at least the FSMC's unique Fraser Salmon Management Agreement provides a collaborative starting point," Greg reflects.

Listen to the Salmon

Turning that starting point into meaningful change has not been easy. For Greg, one of the greatest challenges has been building the trust needed for First Nations to take a greater role in shaping the future of Fraser salmon. He believes DFO's mismanagement of salmon can change for the better, but only if First Nations are trusted to help lead that work.

For Greg, changing the relationship also means government decision-makers listening differently. He wants them to understand that when First Nations speak about the future of salmon, their perspectives are rooted in generations of connection to the salmon, land and water.

“

I would tell the governments to listen more closely to the cries of the salmon, the land, and the water, but really hear our voice speaking for them, because they have no voice.

Greg's message does not stop with government. He also calls on First Nations to put their differences aside and come together around salmon. Salmon are the foundation of First Peoples' traditions and culture, and Greg believes they should be a unifying force among Nations. He is especially concerned about the impact that continued division is having on youth. For Greg, we are always stronger together: *“Salmon is, and should be, the main reason why we unify our voices and stand up to the powers that be.”*

The Long Watch Continues

After 33 years in fisheries, Greg has seen his work take him places he could not have imagined when he first began. Yet he does not measure that work only by what has been accomplished during his own career. His thoughts are also with what will remain after his time at the table is over, and whether the decisions made today will allow future generations to know the same connection to salmon that has shaped his own life.

“I wish to see the future of Fraser salmon in the lead hands of the First Peoples who have since time out of mind decided for ourselves how to properly manage and sustain salmon for seven generations to come.”

In many ways, Greg's story has come full circle. The little boy who once stood beside his grandfather became the fisher who taught others, the leader who helped rebuild a communal fishery, and eventually a voice for First Nations in rooms far from the riverbank. What was once passed down to him became knowledge he would carry with him throughout his life, and in time, pass on to others.

And perhaps that is what the long watch over the salmon really means for Greg: learning from those who came before, caring for the salmon and carrying that responsibility while it is his turn. When his turn is over, he hopes to leave behind not only the work he has done, but others who are ready to carry it forward.



Greg at the Big Bar Landslide as Incident Commander



Indigenous
Stewardship
Fund

Preserving the Environment and Empowering Indigenous Stewardship.

ISF Videos

We are pleased to share two new videos that showcase the work of the Indigenous Stewardship Fund (ISF) and our partnership with the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC). Together, these videos answer two of the questions we hear most often:

1

How do ISF and FNFC work together, and how do our organizational roles complement one another?

2

What impact have ISF and FNFC achieved to date in supporting Indigenous-led stewardship across British Columbia through ISF Grant Programs?

Click below to watch:



ISF AND FNFC VIDEO



ISF PROGRAMS AND
GRANTEE TESTIMONIALS

Climate Emergency Grant Program

As wildfires and severe drought continue to impact communities across British Columbia, ISF is closely monitoring the situation and remains committed to supporting First Nations through our Climate Emergency Grant Program.

Delivered in partnership with FNFC, the program provides rapid-response funding for Indigenous-led projects addressing climate emergencies such as wildfire recovery, drought response, flooding, landslides and other active climate-related events.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY GRANT PROGRAM](#)

NEED HELP APPLYING?

We are committed to keeping our grant programs accessible and minimizing administrative burden for First Nations. If your Nation or First Nation organization has limited capacity during this time, our team is happy to assist with the application process.

Please reach out to **Becca Shen** for support at becca@isfund.ca



Indigenous
Stewardship
Fund

Preserving the Environment and Empowering Indigenous Stewardship.

Salmon Resiliency Grant Program 2026: Grantees Announced

ISF and FNFC have completed the selection process for the 2026 Salmon Resiliency Grant Program. This year, 13 Indigenous-led restoration projects are being supported across British Columbia, advancing innovative approaches to salmon and watershed stewardship.

Over the coming months, we will be sharing Impact Stories that highlight each project. We invite you to visit the ISF website to learn more about this year's funded initiatives.

[VISIT THE ISF WEBSITE HERE](#)

ISF Save Our Salmon Golf Tournament 2026



Jordan Point, ISF Executive Director, with Katie Yu, Vice President of RBC, the ISF Save Our Salmon Golf Tournament's multi-year presenting sponsor.

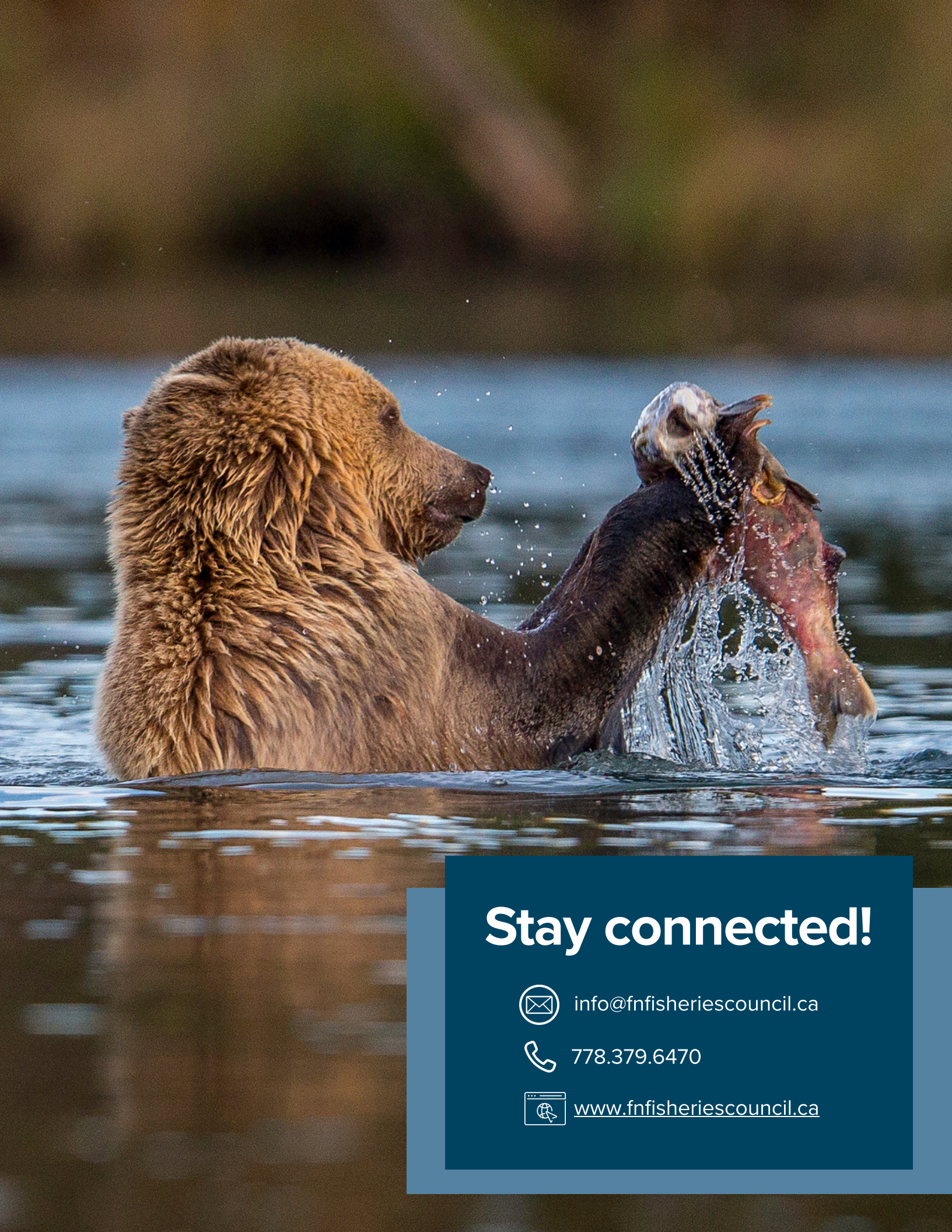


180 attendees, including First Nations, sponsors, partners, and environmental leaders, came together for a day dedicated to supporting salmon conservation.

In July, ISF proudly hosted another successful Save Our Salmon Golf Tournament, bringing together partners, supporters and First Nations leaders from across British Columbia who share a commitment to advancing Indigenous-led salmon restoration.

Follow ISF on social media to see highlights from the 2026 Save Our Salmon Golf Tournament:





Stay connected!



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www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca