



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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September 23, 2024

Sent via email:

The Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
premier@gov.bc.ca

Minister of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship and Minister Responsible for Fisheries
Nathan Cullen
WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for the Columbia River Treaty
Katrine Conroy
FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Murray Rankin
IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier and Ministers:

Re: Sustainable Funding Support for Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative

At the September 12, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSR) Board of Directors passed the following motion:

THAT: the Board support and send letters to BC Provincial and Federal governments requesting a funding commitment for the Bringing the Salmon Home Initiative.

The CSR Board respectfully calls on your government to fulfill its commitment to provide sustainable core funding for Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative before the current agreement runs out March 31, 2025.

Since 2019, this Initiative led by the Syilx Okanagan, Secwépemc, and Ktunaxa Nations has made significant progress towards returning salmon to the upper Columbia River. This collaboration is a model of success for Indigenous-led ecosystem stewardship and reconciliation.

The Columbia River, with nearly 40% of its length in Canada, is crucial for transboundary salmon reintroduction success, especially in this time of climate change. The US government recently committed \$1.2 billion USD over 20 years to Tribal-led salmon reintroduction on its end of the river. It is time for Canada and the province of BC to contribute their share here.

ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C EAGLE BAY-WHITE LAKE-TAPPEN
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM
G BLIND BAY-SORRENTO-NOTCH HILL

MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM
SICAMOUS

We call on the governments of BC and Canada to provide the Bringing the Salmon Home Initiative with sustaining core funding for the necessary Indigenous-led reintroduction work that will ensure adequate salmon stocks return to the Canadian portion of the Columbia River system. This will further ensure the Bringing the Salmon Home Initiative's mandate for ongoing Indigenous-led salmon reintroduction is reinforced under modernized Columbia River Treaty commitments and will ensure work in parallel with US Tribal-led salmon reintroduction programs.

A phased core funding model is proposed, starting with a transitional three-year minimum commitment of \$1 million per year each from Canada and BC to enable the Initiative to continue to evolve and build capacity as a sustainable fully Indigenous-led organization.

This is linked to the three Nations' proposal made to the BC and federal governments to negotiate a minimum 20-year agreement with a target of \$50 million in annual core funding for the first ten years. Supporting the Bringing the Salmon Home Initiative aligns with Canada's United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's (UNDRIP) commitments and 2030 Nature Strategy, and BC's UNDRIP Act and Watershed Security Strategy.

Your government's investment in this Initiative will provide improved food security, social, cultural, and economic benefits, benefiting the entire Pacific salmon ecosystem and communities.

We look forward to receiving your immediate response and specific commitment to providing the sustainable core funding the Bringing the Salmon Home Initiative requires for long-term success.

Yours truly,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:



Kevin Flynn
Board Chair

cc: admin@columbiariversalmon.ca