

The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a river. In the foreground, several salmon are swimming, their bodies showing vibrant red and orange hues. The water is clear, revealing a rocky riverbed. In the background, there are tall evergreen trees under a blue sky with some clouds. A large, semi-transparent green circle is positioned on the left side of the cover, containing the title text.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

**BRINGING
THE SALMON
HOME**

**THE COLUMBIA RIVER SALMON REINTRODUCTION INITIATIVE
Syilx Okanagan Nation, Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc Nation,
Government of Canada, Government of British Columbia**



BRINGING *the* **SALMON** HOME

kʔ cʔəlkʔ stím iʔ ntytyix

ʔatʔ suʔkiniʔ swaǵmu

Tspelqʼentém re Sqlélten

The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative

OUR LOGO STORY

An artist from each Nation contributed an original salmon design to the unified logo for **Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative**. Our logo was launched with our new website at ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca on February 16, 2021.



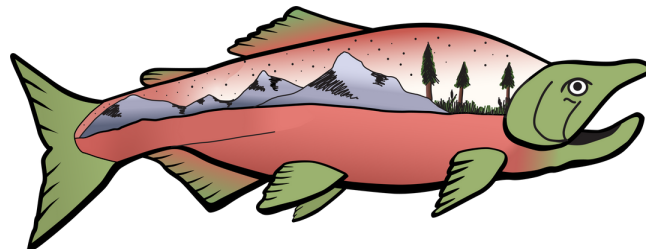
DARCY LUKE, KTUNAXA NATION

Darcy Luke is a Ktunaxa artist versatile in different mediums. Darcy created a chinook salmon whose design symbolizes the life-giving generational legacy of the salmon.



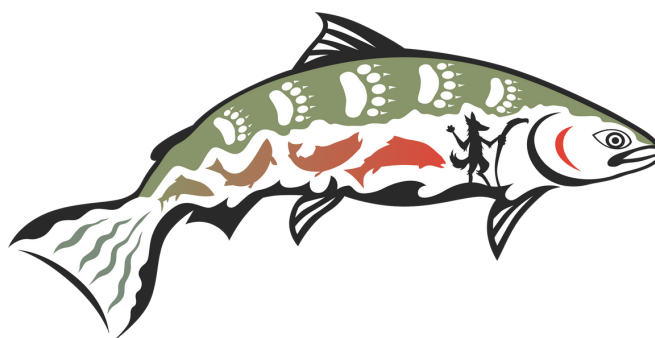
KELSEY JULES, SECWÉPEMC NATION

Kelsey Jules is a Secwépemc and Syilx artist, model, and teacher. She is a member of Tk'emlups te Secwepemc. Kelsey's sockeye salmon design embodies the vital relationship between salmon, land and water.



TUNKA CIKALA, SYILX OKANAGAN NATION

Tunka Cikala (Spirit Peoples) is a member of the Sinixt and Nespelem bands of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Spirit's chinook salmon design is inspired by Syilx *captikwł* teachings, illustrating the inseparable connections between salmon and culture. Here, *Sen'k'lip* (Coyote) with his Eagle staff brings salmon up the river to the people. Bear paw prints represent *Skəmixst* as well as the spots on the back of chinook salmon. The Syilx Okanagan *captikwł* How Food Was Given relates how the Four Food Chiefs – Chief *Skəmixst* (Black Bear), Chief *N'titxw* (Chinook Salmon), Chief *Sp'iłəm* (Bitter Root), and Chief *Siya?* (Saskatoon Berry), met the needs of the "People To Be".



YEAR TWO OF OUR JOURNEY

Five governments, one visionary agreement

Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative is the Indigenous-led collaboration of the Syilx Okanagan Nation, Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc Nation, Canada and British Columbia.

The Letter of Agreement was signed on July 29, 2019 in Castlegar, BC. This is a three-year renewable commitment to work together to look at the feasibility and options for reintroducing salmon into the Canadian side of the Columbia River. Salmon have been blocked from returning to this region for more than 80 years. The long-term vision is to return fish stocks for Indigenous food, social and ceremonial needs, and to benefit the region's residents and ecosystems as a whole.

Indigenous-led Governance

This Indigenous-led Initiative is supported by collaborative, consensus-based governance processes. Guiding this work are the Indigenous Nation-chaired Executive Working Group, Implementation Team, Technical Working Group, Indigenous Knowledge Guidance Committee, and a Communications Advisory Group. An Indigenous Nation hosts the Secretariat.

Finding Solutions Together

Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative offers new beginnings while acknowledging the past. This is vital work that calls on the inspiration and commitment of present and future generations, Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

This report provides a summary of our second year of activities in 2020-21. Work focused on further development and implementation of the Indigenous-led governance structure, policy, processes and Strategic Direction Framework work plans. This included scoping initial technical studies and setting up core communications channels. Community engagement was launched within the three First Nations. Priority outreach is well underway to US Tribal Nations, Canadian hydro utilities, local governments in the upper Columbia Basin, funders NGOs and other community interests.

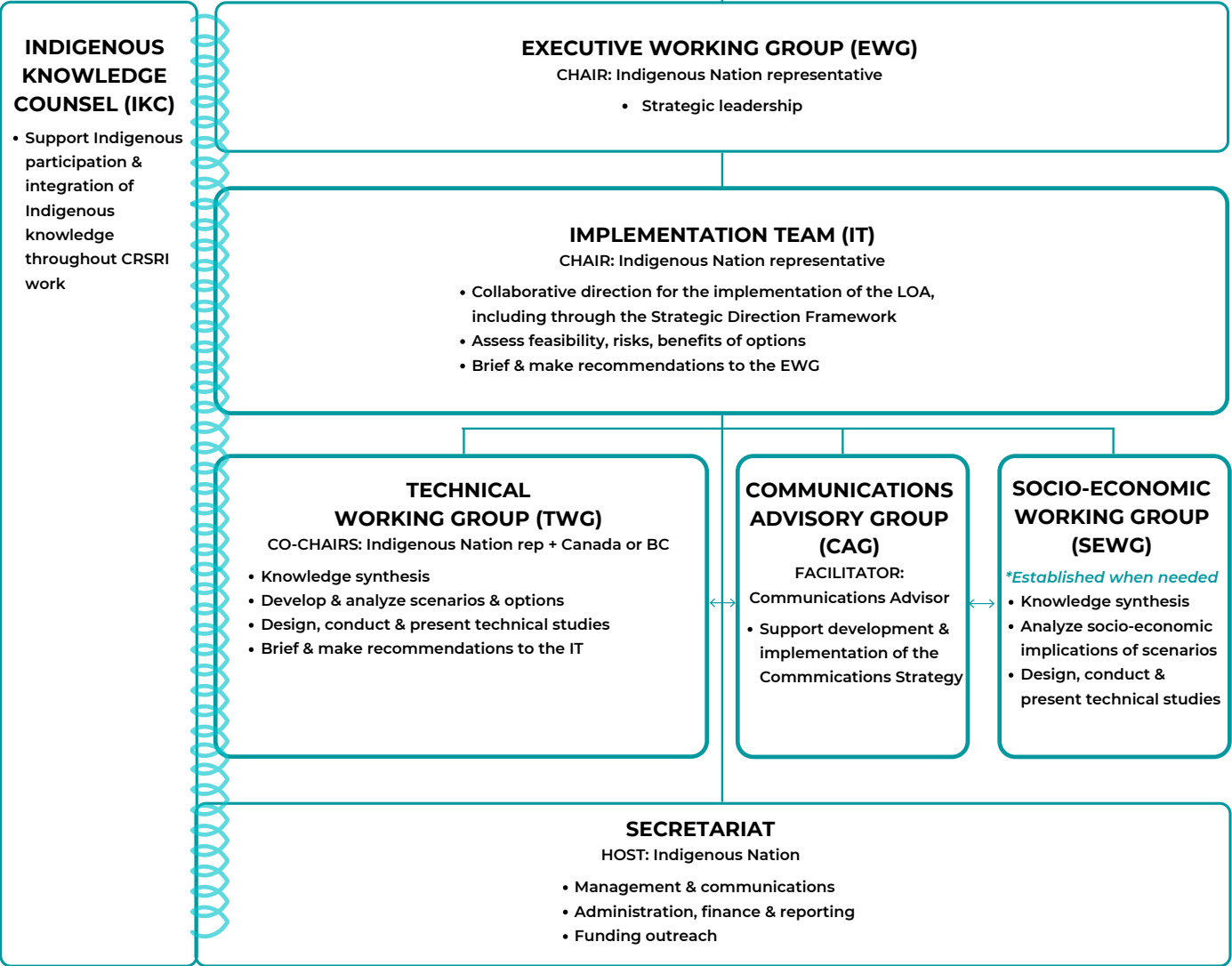
For PDF copies of our first and second year Annual Reports please visit ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca



INDIGENOUS-LED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



The five government signatories to the Letter of Agreement (July 29, 2019) are responsible for the overall delivery of the LOA and realization of the vision for a long term, sustainably funded salmon reintroduction program in the upper Columbia River.



EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG)

The CRSRI Executive Working Group met in July and December 2020. Consisting of senior executives representing the three Indigenous Nations and Canada and British Columbia, the EWG provides executive leadership to CRSRI including approving the annual work plan and budget. The EWG developed its Operating Procedures and approved the Strategic Direction Framework, the CRSRI Organization Chart, and the High Level Communications Strategy and Communications Protocol. It also provided guidance on a CRSRI Dispute Resolution Policy and a CRSRI Fund Development Strategy.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (IT)

The CRSRI Implementation Team continues to provide oversight of the implementation of the July 29, 2019 Letter of Agreement. Meeting monthly, the IT provides direction to the CRSRI Management Team. During 2020-2021, the IT established a Technical Working Group, appointed two Co-Chairs of the TWG and approved terms of reference for the TWG. The IT also established an Interim Indigenous Knowledge Guidance Committee and a Communications Advisory Group.

INTERIM INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE GUIDANCE COMMITTEE (IIKGC)

The IIKGC has met at regular three week intervals since its first meeting in October 2020 through March 2021 (with plans for its final meeting in April 2021). The primary focus of this interim group has been to contribute Indigenous knowledge policy perspectives and provide recommendations and guidance related to five deliverables:

1. Clarifying the role of Indigenous Knowledge and its supporting group in the Initiative's organizational structure.
2. Developing Terms of Reference for an ongoing Indigenous Knowledge Counsel (IKC) that would better contribute an Indigenous Knowledge perspective.
3. Providing feedback and guidance on how Indigenous Knowledge can be better integrated throughout CRSRI governance, policy and activities.
4. Identifying important Indigenous Knowledge studies to complete before the end of the term of the LoA.
5. Contributing a section on Indigenous Knowledge to the Strategic Direction Framework.



TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)

The TWG has met at regular three week intervals starting in September 2020:

- To familiarize TWG members with the CRSRI organizational structure and establish their processes and workflow for collaboration and coordination as a working group.
- To share information about the independent activities of each government as they relate to salmon reintroduction.
- To reach consensus agreement around technical studies that address some of the key knowledge gaps around salmon reintroduction and priorities of the governments.
- To develop statements of work for three technical studies that would begin in early 2021 and would be completed before the end of the term of the LoA.
- To identify and compile basic information about Salmon Planning Units (i.e., geographic units, species, and life history strategies) which would serve as the focus and scope of salmon reintroduction efforts and related technical studies.

Key accomplishments to date include:

- Reaching consensus agreement around Statements of Work for three technical studies related to:
 - A synthesis and standardization of knowledge around salmon habitat in the Canadian Columbia River,
 - A risk assessment for a multi-year salmon reintroduction, and
 - A learning design for a salmon reintroduction release into the Canadian Columbia River.
- Developing a Salmon Planning Unit structure and template for compiling information from technical activities, as well as scoping and guiding salmon reintroduction efforts.
- Identifying additional priority technical work to begin in 2021 related to:
 - Fish passage assessment summary and scoping,
 - A Columbia integrated salmon life cycle model, and
 - A Knowledge synthesis report.

COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

The Communications Advisory Group has been meeting monthly since September 2020. The communications representatives of the five governments guide and support CRSRI communications and engagement further to the Communications Strategy and annual work plan. The following has been accomplished in 2020-21 related to the priority objectives.

1. INTERNAL

Design and implement communication systems and processes that enhance partnerships and raise awareness of and support for the Initiative across internal audiences

Communications structure, strategy & supporting resources established

- CRSRI Communications Protocol
- 2020-22 CRSRI High Level Communications Strategy
- 2020-21 Communications + Community Engagement Work Plan
- 2019-20 Annual Report
- Progress briefing made to BC Ministers
- CRSRI updates and PowerPoint presentations produced for CRSRI five partners' communications
- Conversation kit used for facilitated discussions in summer family camps

Capacity building

- Four mentees from the Syilx Okanagan, Ktunaxa and Secwepemc Nations employed in CRSRI website and digital skills training program

2. EXTERNAL

Promote the Initiative through information, education and community engagement

Unified Initiative identity

- The three Nations each selected an artist to contribute to the Bringing the Salmon Home logo design (see p. 3)

Communications channels

- Website launched February 16, 2021 at ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca
- E-newsletter sign up
- Twitter, Instagram, Facebook social media accounts launched

Priority outreach

- Contact database developed
- Targeted outreach launched, including to Native American Tribes, hydro operators, local governments, and environmental and other community groups

Community engagement

- Intro presentations to external audiences
- Communications Advisory Group designed program of events for the online Bringing the Salmon Home Festival scheduled for May 10-16, 2021

COLLABORATION IN ACTION

EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG)

Mark Thomas, EWG Chair, Secwépemc Nation
Chief Barb Cote, Secwépemc Nation
Chief Keith Crow, Syilx Okanagan Nation
Chief Chad Eneas, Syilx Okanagan Nation,
Ray Warden, Ktunaxa Nation
Jason Andrew, Ktunaxa Nation
Rebecca Reid, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Carmel Lowe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Jennifer Davis, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Trevor Rhodes, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

INTERIM INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE GUIDANCE COMMITTEE [*IIKGC to be replaced May 2021 by permanent INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE COUNSEL]

Nathan Matthew, IIKGC Chair, Secwepemc Nation
Brooke Barber, Secwépemc Nation
Braydi Rice, Secwépemc Nation
Alfred Joseph, Ktunaxa Nation
Nathalie Allard, Ktunaxa Nation
Bill Green, Ktunaxa Nation
Rosalie Yazzie, Syilx Okanagan Nation
Jay Johnson, Syilx Okanagan Nation

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (IT)

Bill Green, IT Chair, Ktunaxa Nation
Misun Kang, Ktunaxa Nation
Jay Johnson, Syilx Okanagan Nation
Rosalie Yazzie, Syilx Okanagan Nation
Murray Ross, Secwépemc Nation
Adam Neil, Secwépemc Nation
Eddy Kennedy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Dean Allan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Sukhraj Sihota, AAROM Support, Fisheries and
Oceans Canada
John Krebs, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development
Eva Schindler, Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)

Herb Alex, TWG Co-Chair, Syilx Okanagan Nation
Howie Wright, Syilx Okanagan Nation
Will Warnock, TWG Co-Chair, Ministry of Forests,
Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
Development
Tyler Weir, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development
Bill Green, Ktunaxa Nation
Misun Kang, Ktunaxa Nation
Adam Neil, Secwépemc Nation
Braydi Rice, Secwépemc Nation
Dean Watts, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Kim Hyatt, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Howard Stiff, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

Tara Montgomery, Syilx Okanagan Nation
Marc Griebel, Syilx Okanagan Nation
Valerie Michel, Secwépemc Nation
Murray Ross, Secwépemc Nation
Jesse Nicholas, Ktunaxa Nation
Jo Anne Walton, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Lauren Girdler, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
John Krebs, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development
Eva Schindler, Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

SECRETARIAT

*Hosted by Syilx Okanagan Nation Alliance

Pauline Terbasket, Host Administrator
David Marshall, Co-Facilitator
Marc Nelitz, Co-Facilitator
Teresa Marshall, Communications Advisor
Carla Hunt, Administrative Coordinator

FUNDING

This initiative is supported by a total of \$2.25 million over three years (2019-2022) contributed by the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia and Columbia Basin Trust.



PHOTO CREDITS

Front/back covers, pgs 3, 4, 6, 7:
BC sockeye & chinook by Eiko Jones

Pgs 5, 8:
Upper Columbia River scenes
by Chris Conway



The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative

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BRINGING *the* SALMON HOME
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ʔatʔ suʔkiniʔ swaqmu
Tspelqʔentém re Sqlélten