

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021~22

BRINGING THE  
SALMON HOME



The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative

BRINGING *the* SALMON HOME

kł cpəlk stím i? ntytyix

ʔatt su?kiniʔ swaǵmu

Tspelq'entém re Sqlélten



# YEAR THREE OF OUR JOURNEY

## **It takes a river of people to bring the salmon home**

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

For more than 80 years, dams have blocked salmon from returning to the upper Columbia region. This initiative continues multi-generational efforts to heal a complex salmon system impacted by hydro-electric dams, human development and habitat disruption the length of the Columbia River. This is urgent and long-term work. Major issues such as Indigenous Rights and Title, calls for reconciliation, cultural renewal, and addressing climate change demand committed investment and action.

Our work over the past year has continued to develop and support our Indigenous-led governance processes and working groups, and to design and launch priority technical studies and diverse communications channels and engagement activities.

The original three year renewable Letter of Agreement for this initiative is due to expire July 29, 2022. At the time of this report's publication, all five governments have agreed in principle to renew and extend support for this important work. This is welcome news in what has been a momentous year for reckoning the ongoing costs of colonialism.

The Secwépemc, Syilx Okanagan and Ktunaxa Nations are at the heart of recent revelations of the uncounted children who perished at residential schools. Our mourning is compounded by losses across the Indigenous Nations and local communities caused by the past year's temperature extremes, wildfires, floods and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In supporting each other, we find the strength to envision and work towards better futures. We are working collaboratively to find solutions for complex challenges. Our Indigenous-centred process supports cultural renewal, food sovereignty and security, and ecosystem health for the benefit of all. We look to the promise ahead.

# OUR TEAM

## EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG)

Mark Thomas, EWG Chair, Secwépemc Nation  
Chief Barb Cote, Secwépemc Nation  
Chief Keith Crow, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Chief Byron Louis, Syilx Okanagan Nation,  
Jason Andrew, Ktunaxa Nation  
Sandra Luke, Ktunaxa Nation  
Rebecca Reid, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Eddy Kennedy, 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

## INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE COUNSEL

Chad Eneas, IKC Chair, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Dixon Terbasket, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Fred Fortier, Secwépemc Nation  
Dave Nordquist, Secwépemc Nation  
Marty Williams, Ktunaxa Nation  
Lance Thomas, Ktunaxa Nation  
Sandra Luke, Ktunaxa Nation

## IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (IT)

Rosalie Yazzie, IT Chair, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Jay Johnson, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Murray Ross, Secwépemc Nation  
Adam Neil, Secwépemc Nation  
Lillian Rose, Ktunaxa Nation  
Sandra Luke, Ktunaxa Nation  
Eddy Kennedy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Dean Allan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Anjum Mutakabbir, 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)

Misun Kang, TWG Co-Chair, Ktunaxa Nation  
Ben Meunier, Ktunaxa Nation  
Howie Wright, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Herb Alex, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Adam Neil, Secwépemc Nation  
Braydi Rice, Secwépemc Nation  
Rhiannon Kirton, Secwépemc 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  
Howard Stiff, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Dean Watts, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

## COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

Tara Montgomery, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Marc Griebel, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Valerie Michel, 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 Okanagan Nation Alliance*  
Pauline Terbasket, Host Administrator  
David Marshall, Co-Facilitator  
Marc Nelitz, Co-Facilitator  
Teresa Marshall, Communications Advisor  
Carla Hunt, Administrative Coordinator

## OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT ORGANIZERS

Valerie Michel, Secwépemc Nation  
Troy Hunter, Ktunaxa Nation  
Carrie Terbasket, Syilx Okanagan Nation



Syilx Okanagan Nation broodstock collection crew, Okanagan River, 2021 - CRSRI

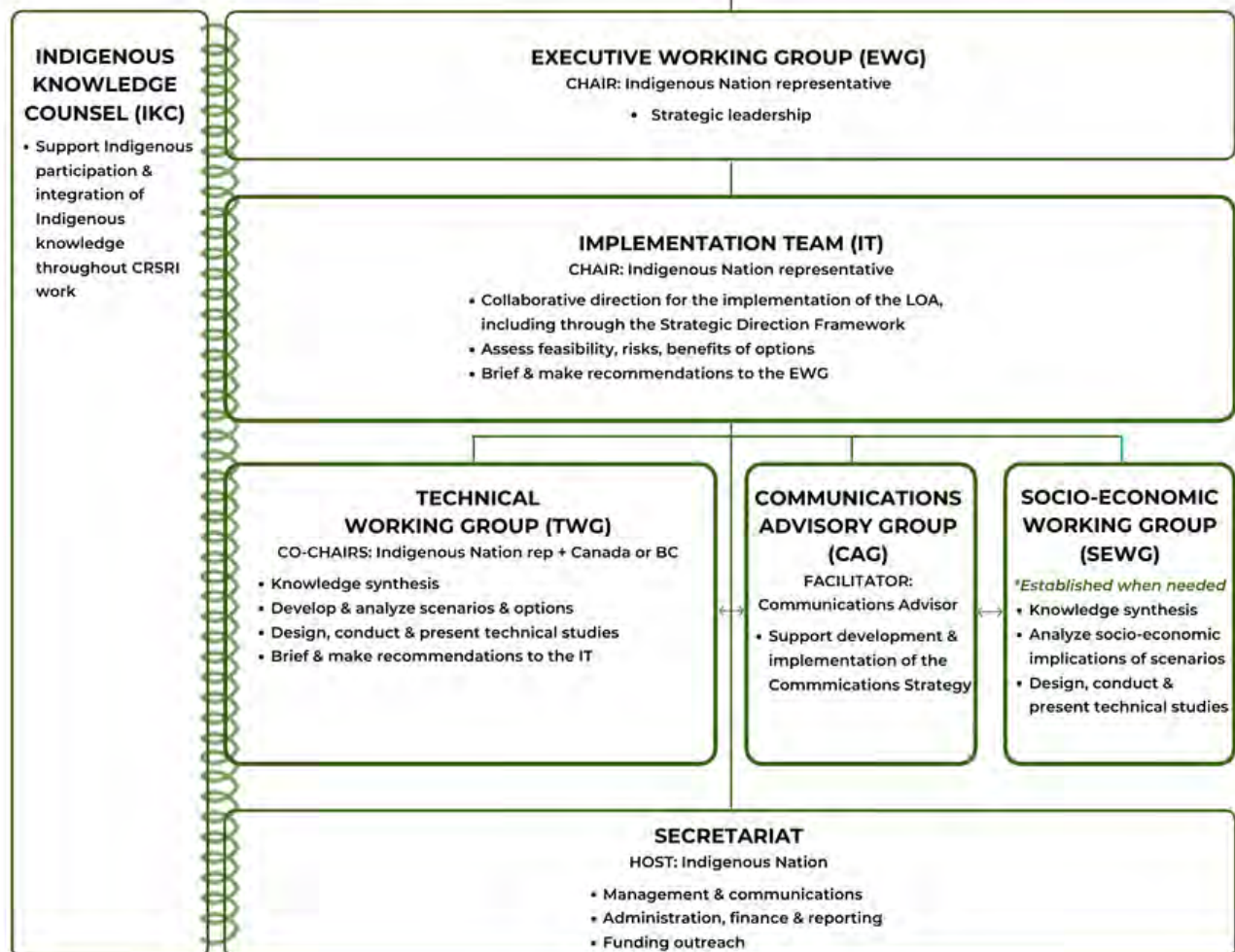


# INDIGENOUS-LED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

## The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative



The five government signatories to the Letter of Agreement (29 July 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.





# NATION- BASED OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT ORGANIZERS

We are pleased to introduce our new Bringing the Salmon Home Nation-based Outreach & Engagement Organizer team. We warmly welcome aboard Valerie Michel, Secwépemc Nation, iitsakitsapoyaki (Carrie Terbasket), Syilx Okanagan Nation, and Troy Hunter, Ktunaxa Nation.

The Outreach and Engagement Organizers play important roles in this Indigenous-led Initiative, strengthening circles of communication within and across their Nations, collaborating with CRSRI partners, and raising awareness across non-Indigenous communities.





## EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG)

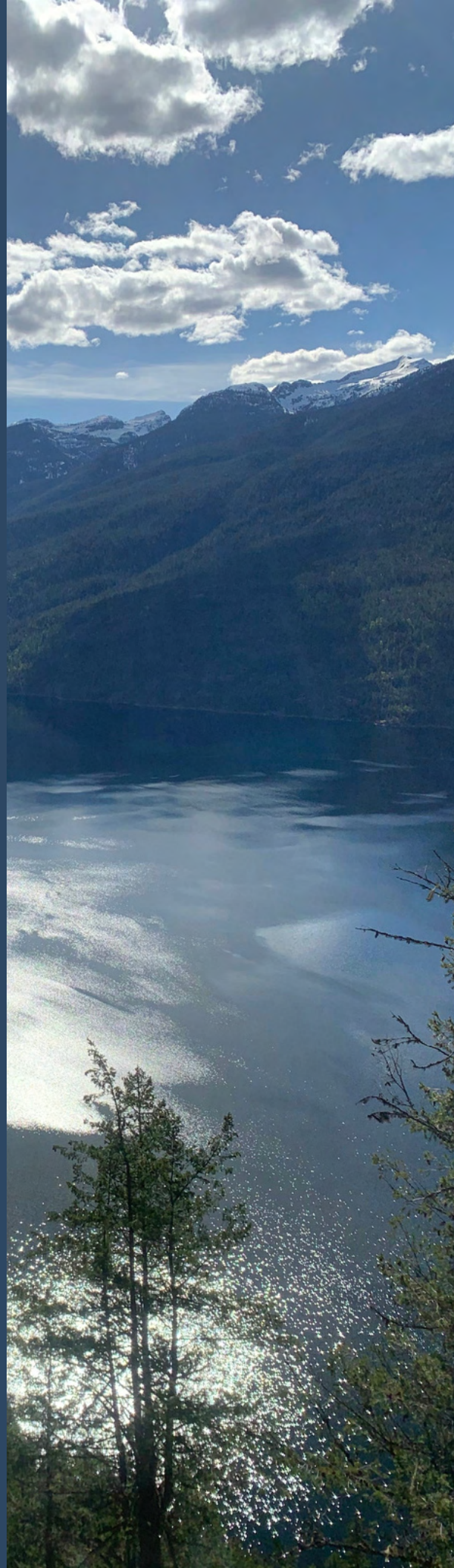
The Executive Working Group met in May and October 2021. The EWG approved the annual budget, terms of reference for the Indigenous Knowledge Counsel, and met with BC Hydro representatives to explore a possible working relationship. EWG Chair Mark Thomas hosted two online CRSRI Internal Forums to strengthen working group connections and explore trends and strategies: *River of Change*, June 29-30, 2021 and *Rights of Rivers/ Rights of Nature*, February 15, 2022.

## IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (IT)

The 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 and Technical Working Group. During 2021-2022, the IT Chair and Ktunuxa representative on the IT, Bill Green was succeeded by Syilx Okanagan Nation IT representative Rosalie Yazzie. The IT established the Indigenous Knowledge Counsel and confirmed the appointment of Syilx Okanagan representative Chad Eneas to serve as IKC Chair. As part of the IT's approval-in-principle to support the extension and renewal of CRSRI for an additional three years, the IT prepared a comprehensive Case for Continued Support for CRSRI that the three Indigenous members of the EWG forwarded to the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the provincial Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, for action.

## INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE COUNSEL (IKC)

The Interim Indigenous Knowledge Guidance Committee (IIKGC) completed its work and gave its recommendations to the IT and EWG for approval and adoption. These recommendations provide the foundation for how Indigenous Knowledge will inform and guide CRSRI through the newly formed Indigenous Knowledge Counsel (IKC). Each Nation has formally appointed its representatives to the IKC; the Counsel has convened its first series of meetings and appointed its Chair. The new Counsel members have oriented themselves with CRSRI, and the IKC has met with the Technical Working Group to explore cultural questions and opportunities for integrating Indigenous Knowledge with the science to better understand feasibility and options around salmon reintroduction.







## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)

The Technical Working Group met monthly over the past year with the following objectives:

- To share information about the independent and shared activities of each government as they relate to salmon reintroduction.
- To provide input and guidance for technical work and clarify priorities for addressing key knowledge gaps around feasibility and options to support salmon reintroduction.
- To guide technical coordination with others (e.g., IKC, Introductions and Transfer Committee, US partners, dam owners/operators).

### Key accomplishments include:

- Launching three technical studies, each led by one of the Indigenous Nations:
  - A synthesis and standardization of knowledge around salmon habitat in the Canadian Columbia River;
  - A risk assessment for a multi-year salmon reintroduction; and,
  - An initial learning design for a salmon reintroduction release into the Canadian portion of the Columbia River.
- Establishing sub-committees and regular meetings to support each of the five governments to more deeply engage and contribute to these technical studies.
- Providing presentations and engaging with others for technical activity coordination:
  - Indigenous Knowledge Counsel
  - Introductions and Transfer Committee
  - US Tribes
- Working with the Implementation Team to develop a set of priority feasibility questions that need to be answered through the technical work.
- Developing a Knowledge Synthesis Report.
- Identifying priority technical activities for the future phases of CRSRI:
  - Hatchery production; donor stock options
  - Fish passage feasibility and options
  - Initial salmon reintroduction
  - Salmon habitat assessment
  - Upper Columbia River life cycle model
  - Climate change impacts and vulnerability
  - Salmon flow scenarios and feasibility
  - A longer term research and action plan



# Bringing the Salmon Home *Festival*

**May 10-16, 2021**

**ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca**

- 15 events in 7 days
- 100 guests
- 3,000+ audience registrations
- 8,000+ festival video views





## COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

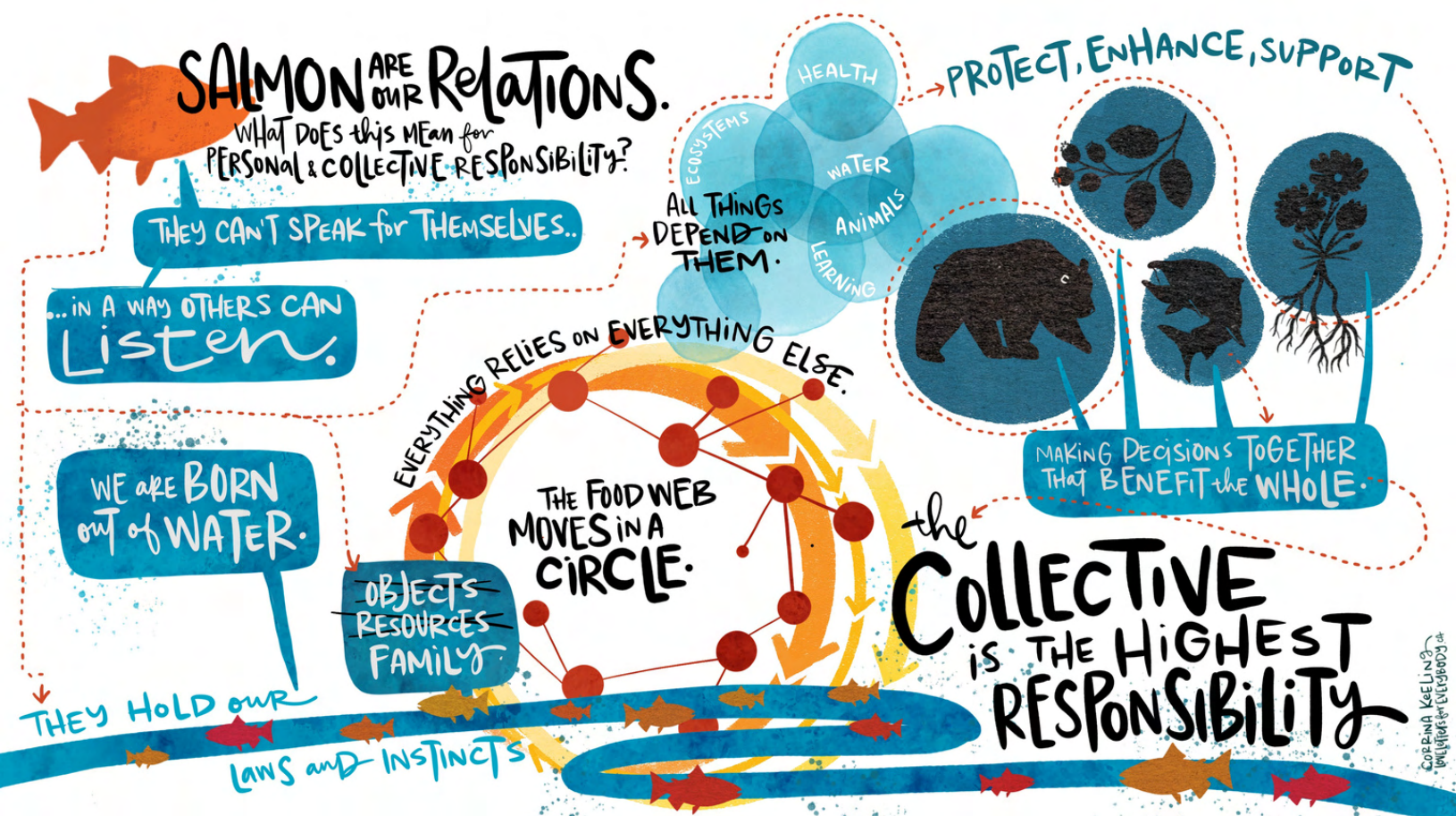
The Communications Advisory Group meets monthly and provides ongoing strategic guidance.

### Key achievements include:

- Public engagement launched with the successful **Bringing the Salmon Home Festival** held May 10-16, 2021.
- Core communications channels launched including our website at [ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca](http://ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca)
- Subscribers have grown rapidly over the past year, from zero to:
  - 1600+ e-newsletter subscribers
  - 1,200+ social media followers
  - 700+ people and 80+ organizations have signed our online Bringing the Salmon Home Supporters list
- Filming and post-production in process for a documentary overview.
- Outreach & Engagement Organizers with the three Indigenous Nations are rolling out coordinated activities.
- Produced two internal forums to promote team connections and provide insight to new trends.
- Issued statements to mark National Indigenous People's Day, World Rivers Day, first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Numerous outreach presentations and webinars, including with: US Tribes; One River, Ethics Matter; Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee; Wildsight; Living Lakes; Rotary Club Nelson and more.



PHOTOS: 1. Secwépemc crew, Bringing the Salmon Home Festival  
 2. Syilx Okanagan Nation elder ʃann' (Anna Mae Tanner) documentary interview with Tara Montgomery 3. Social media supporter  
 4. Sturgeon-nose canoe model made by Ellison Elementary student, Traditional Fishing Technology festival workshop



Graphic illustration of team input - River of Change Internal Forum June 2021  
 More than half of all our working group members participated in  
 this two-day online creative visioning and team building forum.

**Salmon connect us.**  
**They connect us to our ancestors.**  
**They connect us to our culture and our traditional foods.**  
**They connect us to the land and they connect us to each other.**

**~Taylor Baptiste, Syilx Okanagan Nation**  
*Bringing the Salmon Home Festival guest speaker*





Graphic illustration of team input - River of Change Internal Forum June 2021

The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative is incredible in the way that it allows Indigenous groups to come together to work together for a common cause, which is a benefit to to all of us and to all of our cultures.

We are in the upper reaches of the Columbia River System. So we may not be physically at Kettle Falls, but the tables that we sit at – whether it's the cultural working group or the Implementation Team – that is the modern day version of getting together to manage the fisheries and to reintroduce salmon into the upper Columbia.

~Lillian Rose, Ktunaxa Nation  
Implementation Team





Graphic illustration of team input - River of Change Internal Forum June 2021

**I believe that my grandchildren and future generations will be able to fish the salmon once again in the Columbia River. This was the essence of our culture and life that kept us healthy not only physically but was the bond of our communities. Today we have a duty to make sure the waters are healthy so when the salmon return they will be able to reproduce and give us the sustenance that is crucial to our future generations.**

**~ Chief Barb Cote, Secwépemc Nation**  
Executive Working Group





Graphic illustration of team input - River of Change Internal Forum June 2021

The one thing that I've personally noticed through working on this Columbia River salmon restoration is the unity of the Nations. We're working together, we're supporting each other for one common goal and that is the salmon and bringing them back up the Columbia.

~ *Kal'Nupaqn*

Chief Keith Crow, Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Executive Working Group





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PHOTO CREDITS

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