

UPDATE FOR
KTUNAXA NATION
MEMBERS
FEBRUARY 2022



BRINGING *the* SALMON HOME
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Tspelq'entém re Sqlélten

BRINGING THE
SALMON HOME

The Columbia River Salmon
Reintroduction Initiative

Ktunaxa representatives:

Executive Working Group

Jason Andrew
Sandra Luke

Indigenous Knowledge Counsel

Marty Williams
Lance Thomas
Sandra Luke

Implementation Team

Lillian Rose
Sandra Luke

Technical Working Group

Misun Kang, TWG Co-Chair
Ben Meunier

Communications Advisory Group

Jesse Nicholas

Outreach & Engagement

Organizer

Troy Hunter

Standing together for salmon

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, Implementation Team

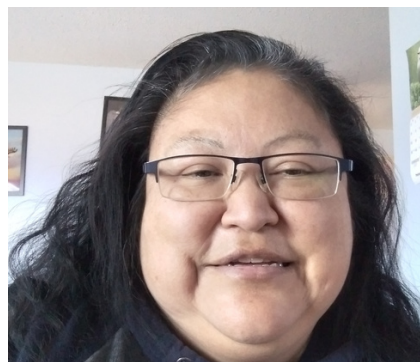


Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative (CRSRI) is the innovative Indigenous-led collaboration of the Syilx Okanagan Nation, Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc Nation, Canada and British Columbia. For more than 80 years, salmon have been blocked by dams from returning to the upper Columbia region.

Salmon are central to Syilx, Secwépemc, and Ktunaxa well-being, culture, spirituality, sustenance, and livelihoods. The loss of salmon in the upper Columbia River Basin has impacted and continues to affect the Aboriginal Rights and Title and interests of our Indigenous Nations.

Reintroducing salmon is a foundation of cultural strength and renewal. Our three Nations uphold our respective sacred responsibilities to reintroduce the salmon, continuing to work with Tribal relations in the USA and other stakeholders and allies along the river.

This work unites us in a shared vision and commitment to work together to bring the salmon home to the upper Columbia for the benefit of our people, the water, the land and all living beings.



I think salmon are creating that one voice on this river.

One river, one voice.

That's what the salmon are doing with bringing us all together.

~Sandra Luke, Indigenous Knowledge Counsel





For more info, please contact:

BRINGING THE SALMON HOME

Outreach & Engagement
Organizer, Ktunaxa Nation

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ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca



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The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative

Highlights of what we've accomplished together in the first several years of our Bringing the Salmon Home initiative:

Indigenous-Led Governance

- Developed Indigenous-led governance structures, policies and processes to support our ongoing collaborative work.
- Developed a Strategic Direction Framework and implemented workplans.

Indigenous Knowledge

- The Interim Indigenous Knowledge Guidance Committee met regularly to provide recommendations on the role of Indigenous Knowledge and its formal integration into the organizational structure, policies, and activities.
- The Indigenous Knowledge Counsel is established to provide regular guidance to all of the working groups.

Technical Studies

- Developed a multi-year research plan.
- Three technical studies launched, led by the three Indigenous Nations, designed to inform salmon reintroduction feasibility:
 - a. Synthesis and standardization of knowledge around salmon habitat in the Canadian Columbia River.
 - b. Risk assessment for a multi-year salmon reintroduction.
 - c. Learning design for a salmon reintroduction release into the Canadian Columbia River.

Communications and Engagement

- Ongoing outreach to strengthen working relationships with US Tribal Nations, hydro owners/operators, local governments, and other community interests and groups.
- Artists from each Indigenous Nation contributed to the unified design for the Bringing the Salmon Home logo.
- Youth from each of the three Nations were mentored in digital skills to help produce the website.
- Public engagement launched with the successful Bringing the Salmon Home Festival in May 2021; 3,000+ people registered for online events.
- Core communications channels developed including social media platforms and the ColumbiaRiverSalmon.ca website.
- Subscribers have grown rapidly over the past year, including:
 - 1,500 e-newsletter subscribers
 - 1,200 followers across social media channels
 - over 8,000 views of festival videos
 - 700+ people and 80 organizations have signed the online Bringing the Salmon Home Supporters list
- Outreach & Engagement Organizers with the three Indigenous Nations are rolling out coordinated activities.

~Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Team

Ki?su?k Kyukyit Óapiniski?,

As Ktunaxa, we are one of the lead Indigenous Nations in **Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Restoration Initiative**.

I invite Ktunaxa Nation members to join me and fellow Ktunaxa Bringing the Salmon Home representatives for a special:

**Salmon dinner Zoom gathering
on World Water Day
Tuesday March 22, 2022
5:30 - 7:30PM**



We will be offering meal-in-a-box kits along with a video link so that all participants will prepare their salmon dinners according to the recipe and we will share this meal together, online. This two-hour dinner gathering will include presentations about Ktunaxa traditional knowledge related to our historic salmon fisheries including:

- Red Osier Vessels (traditional Ktunaxa fish cooking kettles)
- Selective harvesting techniques using a variety of Fish Trap Techniques; and,
- What items to gather from the land, when to do it (i.e. Springtime), how to make baskets, traps, etc.

What a great way to kick start the Spring season with preparation and knowledge about our past and planning for the future.

"We won't be flinging the salmon, we will be slinging it."

Attendance is limited! Be sure to RSVP with me at troyd.hunter@ktunaxa.org

~ Troy Hunter, Outreach & Engagement Organizer



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