

August started with the devastating landslide on the T̓silhqox (Chilcotin River), sparking huge concerns for returning salmon. While this situation leaves us wondering what the future holds, we wanted to feature some inspiring First Nation-led stewardship stories that happened this month as well. Read on to learn more about First Nation-led stewardship across the Fraser Watershed, along with news, events and opportunities in your area!

First Nation Led Stewardship in the Spotlight

In response to the T̓silhqox (Chilcotin River) landslide, the T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG) is initiating an emergency salmon task force. [Read more here.](#)

The partnership between the Government of Canada and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation aims to enhance salmon populations in the Fraser River, showcasing the integration of traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices. [Read more.](#)

The joint flood mitigation program between the Kwikwetlem First Nation and the City of Coquitlam demonstrates how First Nation insights are being incorporated into urban flood management strategies. [Read more.](#)



Photos by Miki Eslake.

On August 10th, Rivershed took two canoes full of young paddlers out on the water where they explored the Nechako River's beauty, learned about its ecology and significance to Nations, and embraced the power of teamwork.

Rivershed would like to extend an especially big thank you to Kasandra Turbide and Rodney Teed from Saik'uz First Nation for making the day even more meaningful by sharing your stories and knowledge with us.



Photo by Khawlah Usmani

On August 9th, Rivershed participated in the vibrant Vancouver Mural Festival, where we engaged with the community. The event highlighted the intersection of art and environmental stewardship, with murals inspired by nature and culture.

“Are You Awake” is a powerful new mural by 2-Spirit artist Manuel Axel Strain, commissioned by the City of Vancouver for the Sea2City initiative. The mural, located near the historic site of False Creek, serves as a visual reminder of the presence and resilience of the Host Nations, while also confronting the ongoing impact of colonialism and climate change. With its striking imagery—a sleeping figure, a monumental stone, and reimagined pictographs—Strain’s work weaves together ancestral knowledge and contemporary expression, urging us to reflect on our connection to the land and our responsibilities to the future.

GIVEAWAY ALERT!



Photo by Fernando Lessa.

Experience the Fraser River like never before—paddle a Voyageur canoe with us! We’re bringing together our Watershed CPR Champions for a special day on the water, and we’ve reserved two exclusive seats just for you and a friend! Enter the contest to win and join us on Saturday, September 21st, as we journey from Mission to Fort Langley.

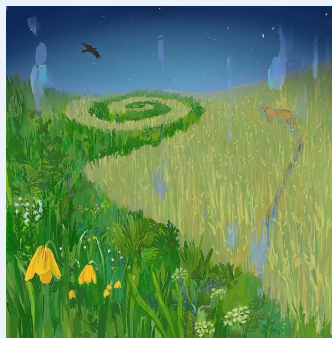
Simply [fill out this short form](#) for a chance to win.



Seven years ago, on August 6, 2017, Keely Weget-Whitney of St'at'imc & Gitksan Nations braved the cold, rushing waters of the Fraser River and swam, with on-the-water support from Rivershed, from Lillooet to Lytton to raise awareness of diminished salmon returns.

[Watch the entire short film 'For the Love of Salmon' on our website.](#)

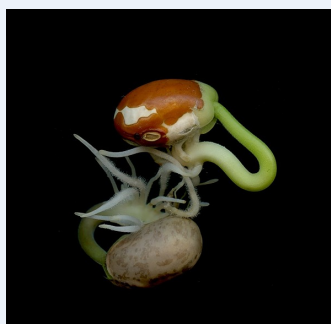
What We're Listening To



On Fire: Walking on Two Legs • Future Ecologies

Meet the Fire Watchers of Skeetchestn: the people keeping their community safe during nearby wildfires and working to bring good fire back to the land.

[Listen here.](#)



TEK is a verb: Activating Indigenous Ecologies at ESA • Native Seed Pod

Join Melissa Nelson as she interviews Native scientists Frank K. Lake and Lydia Jennings about how Indigenous ecologies and the principles of data sovereignty are being integrated into modern science at the 2023 Ecological Society of America conference. [Listen here.](#)

News from the Watershed

UNBC researchers reel in \$5 million to study impact of climate change on salmon

A team of University of Northern British Columbia researchers has received \$5 million in funding to study the impacts of climate change and human activity on salmon. [More.](#)

Fraser River debris trap catches over 30,000 cubic metres of Chilcotin landslide debris

The debris — which mainly consisted of logs — was successfully caught by the trap on Aug. 6 after water overflowed the dam, formed by the landslide, on Aug. 5. [Read more.](#)

Kwikwetlem First Nation & Coquitlam to establish joint flood mitigation program

Communities in the Lower Mainland are coming together to complete flood improvements along the confluence of the lower Coquitlam River and the Fraser River after a joint investment of more than \$19.9 million from the federal and provincial governments, Kwikwetlem First Nation, and Coquitlam. [News release.](#)

Resident decries landslide response in B.C.'s Nahatlatch Valley

The owner of a rafting resort on the Nahatlatch River near Boston Bar, B.C., is frustrated with the government response to a landslide that blocked and flooded some roads in the area over the weekend. [Get the story.](#)

Mediocre returns for Fraser sockeye, while Columbia River expects record numbers

According to the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), with BC in the fourth year of drought conditions, the Fraser sockeye run is expected to be relatively low compared to previous years. [More.](#)

Government of Canada and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation partner to support Fraser River salmon

The Honourable Diane LeBouthillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard announced the Government's intention to construct a new Pacific salmon hatchery in Prince George, British Columbia, to support conservation and rebuilding of Chinook and sockeye salmon. [News release.](#)

Esk'etemc First Nation celebrates \$147M federal settlement for broken water promises

Esk'etemc First Nation is celebrating a victory more than two decades in the making, after receiving a \$147-million settlement from "Canada" for the loss of water rights in Tsqewt more than a century ago. [Learn more.](#)

Report shows salmon numbers have slowed after B.C. landslide

According to an update from the Pacific Salmon Commission on Friday, more than 500 sockeye have been spotted upstream of the slide — less than one-fifth of the approximately 2,664 sockeye researchers expected to arrive under normal migration conditions at this point in the run. [Read more.](#)

Community's resilience celebrated 1 year after B.C. wildfire

The First Nation is completing three subdivisions to replace the homes that were lost, he said. About 70 per cent of the Skwl̓x̌ te Secwépemcú̓lecw First Nation is returning and Tomma expects to go back in December when the last subdivision is complete. [More.](#)

B.C. landslide: First Nations initiating emergency salmon task force

B.C. First Nations are initiating an emergency salmon task force to investigate the impact on the sockeye salmon due to last week's Chilcotin River landslide. [Watch.](#)

More than 90% of B.C. remains under some level of drought

Recent rains have dampened wildfires in some parts of the province, but government says it hasn't been near enough to ease drought conditions that plague almost all regions of B.C. [Article here.](#)

B.C. wildfire costs reach about \$387M so far this year, wildfire service says

British Columbia has already spent about \$387 million battling fires so far this year. Cliff Chapman told a news conference that the price tag marks about a 17 per cent decrease from the amount spent by this time last year. [Read more.](#)

Events

Semá:th Xó:t̓sa: Great Gramma's Lake (Abbotsford, Lower Fraser)

Until Sept. 2. Learn the history of the Stó:lō people and Semá:th Xó:t̓sa (Sumas Lake). The Reach Gallery Museum installed a view of Great Gramma's Lake, and a puppet show that portrays the story. [Details.](#)

Speaking Our Truth Competition Pow Wow (Williams Lake, Mid Fraser)

Sept 6-8. Pow Wow at the Chief William Arbor in T'exelc. [Event details.](#)

Day at the Farm (Delta, Lower Fraser)

Sept 7. A family-friendly event that invites community members to learn and experience first-hand the challenges and rewards of growing quality food in the Fraser River Delta. Visitors can learn more about how farmland supports an abundance of local wildlife and helps to make the Fraser River Delta such a special place. [Learn more.](#)

Prince George Fall Fruit Fest (Prince George, Headwaters)

Sept 6-8. Help gather 50,000 lbs of ripe fruit to reduce human-bear conflicts and support bear safety as they prepare for winter. Join the community in collecting apples, plums, and cherries to keep bears wild and our environment safe. [More info.](#)

Streamkeeper Training (Maple Ridge, Lower Fraser)

Sept 7-8. Are you interested in caring for your local streams and creeks, and would like to learn how to map and monitor their health? Do you have local knowledge about fish, wildlife, or plants you would like to share with other volunteers? [More.](#)

Small Scale Vegetable Production Workshop (Langley, Lower Fraser)

Sept 10. Discover how to maximize your small backyard space for vegetable gardening with Marcel Sachse from Pinsch of Soil Farm. Learn essential techniques for productive small-scale vegetable gardening and get hands-on tips for successful cultivation. [View the poster.](#)

World Rivers Day Guided Paddle (Hope, Fraser Canyon)

Sept 22. A 40km paddle from Hope to Agassiz put on by the Hope Mountain Centre for outdoor learning. Take in knowledge from river scientists, indigenous culture guides and historian's while enjoying the importance of the Fraser River. [Event details.](#)

Stalew Pow Wow (Langley, Lower Fraser)

Sept 13-15. Immerse yourself in this 3 day cultural event at the Langley Events Centre to celebrate rich Indigenous traditions and build important and lasting connections. [More.](#)

River Fest (New Westminster, Lower Fraser)

Sept 28-29. A free family-friendly festival. On Saturday, stroll down the boardwalk to enjoy live performances, the exhibitor expo and market, and the Lucille Johnstone Workboat Parade. Sunday features guided walks in different locations along the river. [Details.](#)

Fall Native Plant Sale (Abbotsford, Lower Fraser)

Orders open until Sept. 29. The Fraser Valley Conservancy's annual plant sale features a wide collection of native trees and shrubs that are perfect for planting at this time of year. [More information.](#)

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Opportunities

B.C. Wildlife Federation is looking for a [Conservation Stewardship Coordinator.](#)

Simpco is hiring an [Environmental Assessment Lead.](#)

The Fraser River Discovery Centre has [Volunteer Opportunities.](#)

Environmental Youth Alliance is looking for [Volunteer Environmental Leaders.](#)

Tsay Keh Dene is hiring an [Environmental Monitoring Technician.](#)

Splatsin Development Corporation is hiring a [Wildlife Biologist.](#)

Potato House Project is looking for an [Executive Director.](#)

The **Pacific Salmon Foundation's Stewardship Community Bursary Program** has [opportunities for students](#) interested in salmon conservation and restoration.

Do you have any Fraser Watershed news, events or opportunities you'd like to share across the watershed? [Send me a message!](#)



Peyton Bradley
Regional Engagement Manager
Rivershed Society of BC



If you found interest in topics covered in this newsletter, please forward it to a friend or family member. The more people we can connect with who are interested in the health and resiliency of the Fraser, the greater our collective impact to protect and restore the watershed will be.



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Rivershed acknowledges our position as a settler-led organization on Indigenous, and often unceded, untreated land in what is today called British Columbia, Canada. Our organization works to understand the responsibilities of this privilege, and we aim to engage, promote, and support Indigenous-led work to connect, protect, and restore (Watershed CPR) the Watershed.

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