



# WATERSHED TALK

## NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat

June 30, 2015

Volume XII, Issue 4

### **FSMC:** ***Building by Consensus.***

"It was a good day today. I learned a lot," said **Chief Harvey McLeod (Okanagan Nation Alliance)** at the June 18<sup>th</sup> Fraser Salmon Management Council Assembly. "I'm happy that I committed to coming here today."

Among the day's accomplishments:

#### **1) Consensus decision-making**

A 77% quorum passed two key motions by consensus.

Firstly, it was agreed to develop an additional Council Resolution template so that a band Council can recognize the authority of hereditary leaders or tribal governments. This was done in the effort to balance the needs of the FSMC to confirm who is representing a First Nation as Member Delegate, while respecting the rights of First Nations to organize and represent themselves as they see fit.

Secondly, all agreed that it was important to provide more support to Member Delegates as they carry out their responsibility to keep their respective Councils informed when it comes time to develop a negotiation mandate.

#### **2) Observers**

For the first time Observers were invited to a FSMC Assembly. "We want First Nations who might be interested in the FSMC to see how we do business," said **Darren Haskell (FSMC Chairperson)**. Among those attending as Observers were: Chief Harry O'Donaghey (N'Quatqua); William Mole (Saik'uz); Pearl Hewitt (Cook's Ferry); Desmond Peters Jr. (Ts'kw'aylaxw); and Randy James (Tsalalh).

Desmond Peters Jr. shared some insight drawn from his 30 years in political life. And he noted: "It's good seeing a group get together to fight on some of the issues that we fight daily."

#### **3) Preparing to Negotiate**

FSMC is taking steps to with the goal of beginning negotiations in March, 2016.

Discussions between DFO on the Framework to Guide Negotiations (ie; the rules) continue. "I think that we'll have a draft for the Main Table to review in two months," said **Neil Todd (FSMC Operations Manager)**.

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### **FSMC: Preparing to Negotiate (continued)**

In addition, a Selection Committee has started work to search for and hire a Lead Negotiator this summer as well.

As the meeting drew to a close, **Thomas Alexis (Tl'azt'en)** said that it was “a worthwhile trip” to Kamloops. He was glad to see the governance process developing. **Carl Edgar Jr. (Ditidaht)** agreed: “Good things take time and we are moving forward.”



*The FSMC logo was created by Jennifer Pighin (Lheidli T'enneh) in collaboration with the FSMC Main Table.*

*There are two fish on the logo because this is what brings us together: the salmon. We included both the male and female because there are benefits for all in bringing back to life the salmon and all they connect to. The logo also works well with our new slogan:*

***“Building a robust fishery for all, forever.”***

### **Lita Gomez**



**FRAFS Operations Manager.**

- **What do you enjoy about working with First Nations?**

“I’ve had the pleasure of working with St’át’imc over the past year. Fisheries are inseparably connected to First Nations way of life and culture. That’s what drew me to want to get involved.”

- **What attracted you to the FRAFS job?**

“It’s a great opportunity to integrate everything I’ve learned over the years.”

- **What challenges do you see ahead?**

“I know there’s a lot more to learn and I want to be involved in finding solutions. It’s going to take working together and it’s going to take time.”

Welcome Aboard, Lita.