



WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER

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Nak'azdli and Nazko sign the Fraser Salmon LOU



On December 9th, Chiefs Fred Sam (Nak'azdli) and Shawn Patrick (Nazko) signed the Letter of Understanding with DFO. Upper Fraser rep Thomas Alexis witnesses.

40 First Nations Chiefs, Councilors and fisheries experts started their week at the Fraser Salmon Road Map Assembly. It was hard-working two days as people reviewed 21 research-based recommendations for Tier 1 governance presented by Guerin Tetreault Associates (GTA). There was much accomplished.

Firstly, it was our goal to have present, a quorum (60%) of First Nations who had signed the LOU; both days we topped 80%.

We also welcomed two new participants. Nak'azdli and Nazko, from the Upper Fraser, joined the process when Chiefs Fred Sam and Shawn Patrick, respectively, signed the Letter of Understanding with DFO. There are now 78 First Nations who've signed the LOU.

"We need to know that the decision-making is coming from the ground up. I'm glad to see the Chiefs here and I'm very proud to welcome them," said Thomas Alexis (Tz'atl'en).

First Nations completed a review of GTA's research and recommendations. While there was a high level of agreement with the large majority of recommendations, there remain a couple of important issues that require more discussion.

First Nations will have the opportunity to continue this work, in early January, when GTA will visit the regions for small group sessions.

A summary of this week's work will be sent out to the FRAFS email list before Christmas break. The next Assembly will be held on January 21-22 in Richmond.

The goal of the Road Map Process is to negotiate an agreement with DFO that will provide First Nations with an effective role in the management of Fraser River salmon.

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Winter on the River



Photo: Walter Quinlan