



WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER

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Progress Report: Fraser Salmon Management Council.

On March 25th, there will be a vote.

81 First Nations who've signed the Letter of Understanding with DFO (the "Signatories") will meet to:

- review the text of the final draft of the **Constitution and By-laws of the Fraser Salmon Management Council**; and
- vote on accepting the governance document as being suitable to take back to their communities for approval.

The FSMC will be the Tier 1 governance organization by which First Nations will negotiate with DFO on a management agreement over Fraser salmon. It's an important milestone after years of hard work in the Fraser Salmon Road Map Process, and months of research by our governance consultants Michele Guerin and Sheldon Tetreault.

How did we get to the final draft of the FSMC Constitution and By-laws?

At our January Assembly, Michele and Sheldon led First Nations representatives through a

clause-by-clause review of a draft governance document. Assembly participants asked questions and provided guidance and feedback. It was a very productive meeting with clear direction for some changes and follow-up.

Within a few days, a revised draft was sent to First Nations Signatories along with the request to submit comments in three weeks' time. In February, Michele and Sheldon, along with their associate at Ratcliffe and Co., reviewed all the comments and began writing the next draft.

On March 10th, Main Table representatives from the watershed and marine approach areas reviewed the new draft. Central to this work was a **Decision Table**: a spreadsheet that clearly tracks all comments received from First Nations, tabulates whether or not a comment was included in the final draft, and the reasoning why. On March 14th, the approved final draft and the Decision Table were sent to the First Nation Signatories.

This brings us to the Assembly on March 25th in Richmond when our governance consultants will do a final walk-through of the draft Constitution and By-laws. As it will be a formal vote that day, it's necessary for Signatories to send a political representative or proxy. See you there!

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*Irvine Johnson (Esketemc), Clarence Pennier (Stó:lō Tribal Council)
and Robert Leech (T'it'q'et) at the February Forum.*



The Fraser River.