



Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance
#213 – 46693 Yale Road
Chilliwack, BC
V2P 7Z4

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change strategy
642 West Broadway, Vancouver

Dear Minister Heyman,

March 25, 2018

Last November 2017, you told the press that the province is working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and First Nations in the area to ensure everything possible is being done to protect wild salmon. British Columbians are asking why you did not ensure that the blood water pipes from fish processing plants were shut off as a precautionary measure, and then proceed with the investigation you announced into this situation that puts endangered wild salmon at further risk of disappearing forever. We deserve an update into this investigation into the blood water pouring into migration routes of wild salmon from fish processing plants.

We feel that the NDP government is keeping us in the dark for too long as to whether your government will end the tenures in the unceded territories of the Namgis, Mamalilikulla and Musgamagw people who have never given their consent for fish farms to be in their territory. In the meantime, we see this rogue industry pursue stocking fish farms in their territories. As a gesture of good faith, we urge you to announce that those fish farm tenures will not be renewed as you pursue your process of discussing fish farms based on free, prior and informed consent with Namgis, Musgamagw and Mamalilikulla Nations. This is the path towards manifesting your commitment to honour the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. This would also be a meaningful step on the road to reconciliation with the Indigenous Nations who are united in their quest to gain your collaboration in removing fish farms from their territorial waters.

Wild salmon are integral and essential to the cultural and spiritual life of Indigenous people, as well as to the eco-tourism industry, to the sports and commercial components of BC's economy. Wild salmon are a vital part of the ecosystems of the coast and river systems of BC.

By cooperating with Namgis, Musgamagw and Mamalilikulla Nations, you will be move in the direction that Alaska, Oregon, California and Washington who want BC to unite with them to achieve a Pacific Coast free of open net Atlantic salmon farms. There is a better way forward and that is to move fish farms onto land in containment, creating an essential barrier between fish aquaculture and wild salmon habitats.

We urge you to support ending the fish farm tenures in the Broughton Archipelago area. Please know British Columbians in massive numbers will have your backs if your governments makes this historic and necessary step to end fish farm tenures.

I look forward to your response soon as June is fast approaching at which time fish farm tenures are up for renewal.

Sincerely yours,

Eddie Gardner
Skwah First Nation Elder
President of Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance