



Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance
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March 27, 2018

Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture
104 – 20130 Lougheed Hwy
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2P7

Subject: Last Stand for Wild Salmon – End Fish Farm Tenures

Piscine Reovirus (PRV)-Laden Blood Water from Fish Processing Plants

Last November 2017 the press was told that the NDP government 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 the PRV-contaminated blood water from fish processing plants pipes were not shut off as a precautionary measure before proceeding with the investigation into the blood water pouring into migration routes of wild salmon. This situation puts endangered wild salmon at further risk of irreversible harm as scientific evidence shows it causes HSMI and its contagious.

Honoring Commitments to UNDRIP – End Fish Farm Tenures in Broughton Archipelago

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 your government pursues its 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 Nations 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. Please know British Columbians in massive numbers will have your backs if your government makes a historic, necessary decision to end fish farm tenures in defense of wild salmon.

Wild salmon are integral and essential to the culture and arts of Indigenous people, as well as of great significance to the tourist industry, all of which are part of your ministerial mandate. Therefore, please let us know whether you support ending the fish farm tenures in the Broughton Archipelago area. By cooperating with Namgis, Musgamagw and Mamalilikulla Nations, the BC NDP would unite with Alaska, Oregon, California and Washington who want a Pacific coast free of open net pen 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.

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
President of Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance

CC The Honorable George Heyman
Chief Don Svanvik, Namgis First Nation
Chief Willie Moon
Chief Bob Chamberlin