

STRONGER TOGETHER

PARTNERSHIP ACCORD

Purpose:

B.C. First Nations acknowledge and understand that we are stronger when we work together to advance our common interests. The Partnership Accord is to acknowledge the relationship between the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) and your organization, and the intention to work collaboratively to advance First Nations in B.C.'s interests as it pertains to fisheries and natural resources. The most effective way to effect change to policy and legislation is to have a large group saying the same things, and agreement makes it easier for Government to accept recommended changes. Thus, we have more power to influence change by agreeing to common approaches.

The issues below are some key interests that FNFC has heard identified as common issues from First Nations in B.C., in the context of recognizing that FNFC does not have resources to work on every issue on our own. These areas below are common issues that pertain to all First Nations in B.C. that are more effectively advanced through collaboration at a provincial scale. (You may wish to further identify key issues of importance that are shared by other Nations, See Appendix B)

Strategic Plan to address *Status and Decline of Pacific Salmon*

- *threats, protection, policy, management decisions, allocation, rebuilding (PSSI)*

UNDRIP / Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People Act (DRIPA)

- *Implementation into ALL fisheries and environmental policy & legislation*

Partnerships and Intergovernmental Relations

- *Federal departments, Provincial Ministries, NGOs,*

Habitat and Environmental Protection

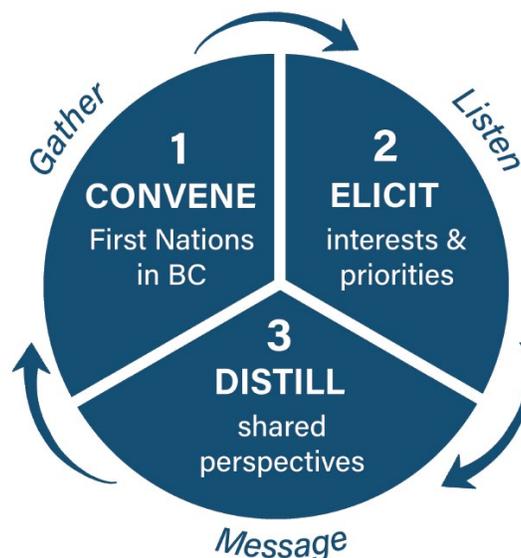
- *Water Sustainability Act, habitat protection, etc.*

Aquaculture

- *Aquaculture Act, and Aquaculture Transition Plan, Blue Economy*

The Partnership Accord is an inclusive good-faith agreement among the respective parties to promote enduring relationships and constructive dialogue. It serves as the foundation of a strong working relationship to advance common priority issues as identified in the *BC First Nations Fisheries Action Planⁱ*, which along with the *FNFC Strategic Plan* will guide the long-term vision of the FNFC.

FNFC Business Model:



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Agreement:

Through the agreement of the Partnership Accord, the parties agree to work together on, and within the scope of their respective mandate and existing obligations, areas of mutual concernⁱⁱ.

The Partnership Accord may be signed formally or by any means deemed appropriate by the groups according to their preferred governing process. The relationship between the FNFC and partner organization is unique, and clarity on the scope and specific considerations of each relationship may be further outlined in a Procedural Appendixⁱⁱⁱ.

[Optional] Signed this _____ day of _____, 20XX.

On behalf of the First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia:

Hugh Braker, President

On behalf of (partner organization):

Name, Position

ⁱ Endorsed by the First Nations Leadership Council, the *B.C. First Nations Fisheries Action Plan* (2006) is the result of broad dialogue amongst First Nations in B.C. about common fisheries issues. Subsequently in 2010, the All-Chiefs Task Force recommended that the FNFC coordinate with First Nations in B.C. to develop a unified voice to more effectively advance actions on increasing B.C. First Nations' share in the fishery and involvement in management and decision making. The FNFC cannot implement the *B.C. First Nations Fisheries Action Plan* in isolation. First Nations organizations and initiatives at various levels play an integral role in achieving collective goals.

ⁱⁱ Further documentations such as the First Nations Leadership Council's *Terms of Reference and Accountability Framework* (2011) establish standards for tools and procedures for seeking community direction, external reporting and communication, coordinated strategies and reciprocal accountabilities.

ⁱⁱⁱ This partnership accord is not a legal binding document, nor does it interfere with existing mandates, laws, agreements, treaties or policies. The parties recognize that the Crown's duty to consult applies to individual sovereign rights-holding Nations, and not with broader organizations like the FNFC. Further, it does not create, limit, define, prejudice, abrogate or derogate from any Aboriginal Title, Rights, Treaty Rights or interests of any First Nation, nor does it create financial obligations for either party, nor limit or affect the mandate or ability of any party to pursue their respective operational or political priorities.