OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
JUNE 1ST TO JUNE 2ND, 2011
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2011-26

RE: Support for the Designation of Wild Pacific Salmon as an Official Symbol of B.C.

WHEREAS under the provincial *Symbols and Honours Act*, the government of British Columba has official emblems including the Pacific Dogwood, Steller's Jay, Kermode (Spirit) Bear, Western Red Cedar, Jade and the BC Tartan;

WHEREAS official designation of wild Pacific salmon as one of the symbols of the province would recognize the longstanding truth that our wild Pacific salmon are vital to all ecological, economic and cultural life in BC;

WHEREAS the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* sets out in Article 15(1) that "Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information";

WHEREAS the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) and the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) have efforts underway to ask the province to designate wild salmon (including Chinook, sockeye, coho, chum and pink salmon, as well as steelhead trout and cutthroat trout) as an official provincial symbol under the Provincial *Honours and Symbols Act;*

WHEREAS wild Pacific salmon are integral to the culture, well being, and livelihood of BC First Nations people, and First Nations support is critical to this initiative being successful.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the efforts of the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Fraser Basin Council to have wild Pacific salmon designated as an official symbol of BC;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with the other organizations of the Leadership Council (the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit) to communicate support for this initiative to the Premier of BC

Moved: **Debbie Abbott, Proxy, Oregon Jack Creek Indian Band**
Seconded: **Chief Jonathan Kruger, Penticton Indian Band**
Disposition: **Carried**
Date: **June 2nd, 2011**

First Nations Fisheries Council

Briefing Note

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FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL

(Decision required)

- The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) and the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) have contacted the FNFC about their efforts to ask the Province of B.C. to designate wild salmon (including Chinook, sockeye, coho, chum and pink salmon, as well as steelhead trout and cutthroat trout) as an official provincial symbol under the *Provincial Honours and Symbols Act*.
- First Nations support is critical to this initiative being successful.
- The FNFC has drafted a resolution to have this initiative fully supported by the three organizations of the First Nations Leadership Council.

Issue

The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) and the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) contacted the FNFC about their efforts to ask the province to designate wild Pacific salmon as an official provincial symbol. The purpose of the proposal to designate wild salmon as an official provincial symbol is to raise awareness of the importance of wild Pacific salmon and deepen public commitments to the sustainability of salmon. Although the PSF and FBC plan to submit a report to the provincial government highlighting public support for the proposal, it was deemed necessary to seek First Nations support for the proposal as well. This Briefing Note provides background on a resolution for consideration by the BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC on designating wild Pacific salmon as a Provincial symbol.

Background

In July 2010, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, Fraser Basin Council and Living Rivers – Georgia Basin/Vancouver Island invited the public to express their views on a proposal to designate wild Pacific salmon (including Chinook, sockeye, coho, chum and pink salmon, as well as steelhead trout and cutthroat trout) as an official provincial symbol under the province *Symbols and Honours Act*. The organizers of the proposal plan to deliver a synopsis of public comments and the public survey results to the Minister of Environment in the coming months to highlight overwhelming public support for the proposal. As wild Pacific salmon are integral to the culture, health and livelihood of First Nations across British Columbia, First Nations support is critical to this initiative being successful. The organizers of the proposal recently approached the First Nations Fisheries Council about supporting this initiative. The council members of the First Nations Fisheries Council recommended that a resolution be presented to the Chiefs in Assembly of all three Leadership Council Organizations seeking support for the campaign to designate wild Pacific salmon as an official provincial symbol.

Campaign to Designate Pacific Salmon a Provincial Symbol

Analysis / advice

As wild Pacific salmon are integral to the culture, health and livelihood of First Nations across British Columbia, First Nations support is critical to this initiative being successful. The resolution directs the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Executive and staff to work with the other organizations of the First Nations Leadership Council (the BC Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit) to communicate support for this initiative to the Premier of BC.

Actions required

The First Nations Fisheries Council requires permission from the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Executive to share the resolution with the organizers of the proposal and communicate that the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs formally supports the proposal.