



PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: August 12, 2005

Re: Pacific Salmon Foundation Announces Squamish /
Cheakamus Watershed Recovery Plan

(Vancouver, B.C. Canada) — Pacific Salmon Foundation and its partners have produced and are implementing the comprehensive watershed recovery plan that provides the goals and the direction for the recovery of Pacific salmon populations in the Squamish River watershed, including the Cheakamus River.

“The sodium hydroxide spill on August 5th on the Cheakamus River is a tragic event, and we must work hard to ensure a complete recovery” said Edith Tobe, Recovery Plan Coordinator for the Squamish River Watershed Society. The immediate repair of the Cheakamus River continues and Pacific Salmon Foundation, Squamish First Nation and project delivery partners are actively engaged in the recovery of Pacific salmon in the entire watershed. Funds have already been provided for the Squamish River Watershed Salmon Recovery plan from the Provincial Living Rivers Trust and the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society.

“Pacific Salmon Foundation has the plan,” said PSF Executive Director Dr. Paul Kariya, “and with the dedication and timely support by the corporate community, the Squamish First Nation, the Squamish River Recovery Team as well as community partners, we all have the ability to recover Pacific Salmon in the Squamish River watershed and the Cheakamus River.” Kariya continued, “CN is acting responsibly to assist following the derailment incident, and they have committed to support the plan in the long term.”

The Squamish River watershed is a large, complex ecosystem that encompasses approximately 3,650 km². It is the largest watershed within the Strait of Georgia and entirely within the traditional territory of the Squamish First Nation. The area is vital habitat for fish species, marine and terrestrial mammals and birds, invertebrates and all six species of Pacific salmon, including steelhead.

The entire Squamish watershed is subject to intense land development and growth pressures; high levels of resource extraction, landfills, hydroelectric developments, water extraction licenses and an increasing demand for water-use through tourism and recreation. With these demands come the threat of significant habitat degradation and the subsequent threat of the loss of Pacific Salmon and all that depend upon them.

A media announcement/conference presenting the Squamish River Watershed Salmon Recovery Plan will take place at the North Vancouver Outdoor School on the Cheakamus River on Wednesday, August 17th at 1:00pm. More information to follow August 15th.

For further information contact: Pacific Salmon Foundation 604-664-7664 / www.psf.ca

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