



Highlights of Fraser Basin Council's work in the Fraser Valley

FBC's Realizing UNDRIP Initiative

FBC is pleased to announce its Realizing UNDRIP Initiative (RUI) is moving forward this month. The website is now live at www.realizingundrip.ca and FBC will host RUI's first two events in the coming weeks.

- The goal of the Realizing UNDRIP Initiative is to educate and inspire non-Indigenous people working in government and in the private and not-for-profit sectors to work together in a good way with Indigenous peoples, organizations and communities. These efforts are in line with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, signed into law by the provincial government in 2019.
- The FBC team receives guidance and advice on an ongoing basis from respected, dynamic Indigenous leaders who make up its Indigenous Advisory Council.
- RUI showcases examples of successful collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups that advance reconciliation and sustainability. These stories are highlighted at free RUI learning events and dialogues, and are featured on the RUI website, along with online resources.
- The first RUI event is **Í:xel Sq'eq'ó—Together We Paddle**, a webinar presentation on the inspirational and historic land agreement between Leq'á:mél, Matsqui and Semá:th First Nations and the City of Mission, held on March 29, from noon – 1:30 pm. The First Nations and municipal leadership involved in making this agreement will focus on the process, the challenges, and their keys to success.
- The second webinar entitled **Ethical Space 101** examines how creating 'safe spaces' for respectful dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is essential to build mutual understanding and positive relationships. Hosted in partnership with Gwen Bridge Consulting, this session is designed for local government leadership and staff seeking to learn the application of ethical spaces to advance reconciliation, sustainability and shared decision-making.
- Please see www.realizingundrip.ca/learning-events for details and to register for the online events.

Cultus Lake Stewards

- In the winter months, CLASS volunteers cut, prepared and delivered 264 wooden fish to Cultus Lake Community School. The cutouts include 4 salmon species and 20 pygmy sculpin (the small number of sculpin denote their endangered status). Up to 226 children in 10 divisions will paint the fish in March, to coincide with the release of salmon fry raised by the school. A Stó:lō artist will help with designs and colours. CLASS volunteers will help wire the painted fish to the school fence.
- CLASS volunteers resume will resume other activities this spring, including the Canada Goose count, lake water monitoring and invasive plant removal.
- FBC FV staff are helping DFO Cultus Lake researchers prepare a technical data-sharing spring seminar to examine the movement of phosphorus into Cultus Lake. FBC staff will be at the inaugural Chilliwack Rotary Climate Fair on April 15 and 16 at the Landing Sports Centre.

Flood Hazard Management Program

- Under FBC coordination, five regional Flood Mapping projects are underway with consultants, including the Lower Fraser and Coquihalla Rivers from Hope to Kent. Initial work included data collection, hydrological analysis and community discussion. A Lower Mainland scoping study is also set to begin this spring.