



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hon. Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations, and
Rural Development,
Parliament Buildings, Room 248
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Cc:

Hon. Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings, Room 325

Hon. George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Parliament Buildings, Room 112

Hon. Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Parliament Buildings, Room 323

MINISTER'S OFFICE - RECEIVED			
MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS & RECONCILIATION			
42947 OCT 31 2017			
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<input type="checkbox"/> cc _____			
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Adam Olsen MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

Dear Minister Donaldson,

As you are likely well aware, the Thompson River steelhead are in crisis. With a return this year of 254 fish, I am gravely concerned about the future of the interior Fraser steelhead stocks. I would like to learn more about the jurisdictional boundaries and overlapping responsibilities on this file so I can better engage with the work being done.

As I understand it, in addition to DFO federally, provincially the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy should all play a role in addressing this crisis.

Can you please clarify what is currently being done within the B.C. government to address this urgent issue and where the responsibilities lie between the ministries listed above?

With kind regards,

Adam Olsen
MLA Saanich North and the Islands

Constituency Office

215-2506 Beacon Ave
Sydney BC V8L 1X7
Adam.Olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca

Legislative Office

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Adam.Olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca

Bowles, Cynthia IRR:EX

From: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Olsen.MLA, Adam LASS:EX
Cc: Minister, IRR IRR:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Thompson River Steelhead (Ref: 234824)
Attachments: 233824 - response.pdf; Olsen Letter to FLNRO MOE MA MIRR.PDF

Dear Adam Olsen:

Attached is the response to your email addressed to Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Please note, a hardcopy will not follow in the mail.

Thank you.

MINISTER'S OFFICE - RECEIVED			
MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS & RECONCILIATION			
43775			
JAN 31 2018			
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Reference: 233824

January 31, 2018

VIA EMAIL: Adam.Olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca

Adam Olsen, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

Dear Adam Olsen:

Thank you for your letter of October 31, 2017, requesting an update on the status of steelhead in the Thompson River watershed.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is working closely with other provincial ministries, as well as Fisheries and Oceans Canada and local First Nations, to address the historical lows in estimated spawning abundance of these iconic fish in the Thompson/Chilcotin watersheds. Please review the below details regarding the current management situation of the Interior Fraser steelhead stocks.

The Interior Fraser steelhead population has been near or within conservation concern for most of the past decade, currently at record lows, and are in the process of being assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Threats to the health of steelhead include interception by salmon fisheries managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and losses to freshwater habitat.

The province, federal and First Nation governments have a role in managing steelhead. Currently, accountabilities for fisheries and ocean-related issues and initiatives are distributed across the provincial government. Several provincial agencies play lead roles in delivering key aspects of this work, including the ministries of:

- Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, for example: integrated marine planning, issuance of coastal tenures, freshwater fisheries regulations and fish habitat protection decisions under the federal *Fisheries Act*, and the provincial suite of tools including the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*, and the *Water Sustainability Act*;
- Agriculture, for example: seafood sector development, aquaculture policy;

Page 1 of 2

- Environment and Climate Change Strategy, for example: fisheries science, aquatic invasive species science and policy expertise, species at risk (science, legislation, regulation and policy development), compliance and enforcement of the federal *Fisheries Act*, *Water Sustainability Act* (legislation, regulation and policy development); and,
- Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, for example: First Nation engagement and treaty negotiations;
- And other ministries, such as Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, also have interests in fisheries and ocean-related work.

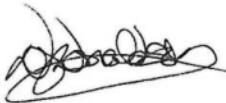
In terms of provincial action, the recreational freshwater fishery is already limited to a short time window and is catch and release. Furthermore, additional conservation measures are being considered by the province, and proposals for Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds and Temperature Sensitive Streams are currently being developed in the Interior as part of habitat protection measures. Such habitat protection and restoration measures can influence the productive capacity of freshwater habitats to produce juvenile steelhead where habitat is limited, degraded or fragmented.

Ultimately, significant mortality factors that strongly influence steelhead numbers are not under provincial management authority; they reside within areas of federal jurisdictional authority and influence.

I will be reaching out to Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the integrated fisheries management plan and the necessary discussion for the proactive management for the survival of steelhead.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Doug Donaldson
Minister

pc: Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture



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With kind regards,

Adam Olsen
MLA Saanich North and the Islands

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Phillips, Alana V IRR:EX

From: Ernest Alexander Alfred s.22
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 12:02 AM
To: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca
Cc: fin.donnelly@parl.gc.ca; jodi.wilson-raybould.c1@parl.gc.ca; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca; Weaver.MLA, Andrew LASS:EX; Bob Chamberlin; Olsen, Adam; Trevena.MLA, Claire F LASS:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; President@ubcic.bc.ca; Minister, IRR IRR:EX
Subject: 43899 - Nanaimo Town Hall Walk Out
Attachments: Trudeau Open Letter Fish Farms Out Now.pdf; 43899 - Re: Nanaimo Town Hall Walk Out
Categories: FOR NECESSARY ACTION

Phillips, Alana V IRR:EX

From: Olsen, Adam <A.Olsen@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 9:37 AM
To: Ernest Alexander Alfred; justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca
Cc: fin.donnelly@parl.gc.ca; jodi.wilson-raybould.c1@parl.gc.ca; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca; Weaver.MLA, Andrew LASS:EX; Bob Chamberlin; Trevena.MLA, Claire F LASS:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; President@ubcic.bc.ca; Minister, IRR IRR:EX
Subject: 43899 - Re: Nanaimo Town Hall Walk Out
Categories: ADD TO EXISTING LOG, FOR NECESSARY ACTION

Hello Chief,

Thank you for sharing this message with me. As you are aware I am very concerned with the events over the past 30 years but also the most recent events in Nanaimo. We will be working on this issue in the upcoming session.

I look forward to reconnecting in the near future.

--

Adam Olsen

*Member of the Legislative Assembly
Saanich North and the Islands*

Email: Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Web: <http://www.adamolsen.ca/>

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Olsen4MLA/>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/adamphillipolsen/>

From: Ernest Alexander Alfred

Date: Friday, February 9, 2018 at 12:02 AM

To: "justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca"

Cc: "fin.donnelly@parl.gc.ca", "jodi.wilson-raybould.c1@parl.gc.ca", "premier@gov.bc.ca", "Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX", "elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca", "Weaver.MLA, Andrew", "Bob Chamberlin", "Olsen, Adam", "Trevena.MLA, Claire", "Minister, ENV ENV:EX", "President@ubcic.bc.ca", "Minister, IRR IRR:EX"

Subject: Nanaimo Town Hall Walk Out

Wednesday, February 8, 2018

Open letter to the Government of Canada

Dear Mr. Trudeau,

I've been asked to provide an explanation as to why our People walked out of the Town Hall in Nanaimo. Important statements needed to be made to your Government, and on behalf of our People, I'd like to strongly express our total frustration for not getting the chance to address our serious concerns.

Representatives of numerous First Nations can be clearly seen seated in front of the giant Canadian flag. I am dressed in a Peace Dance headdress. One that we use to show our peaceful welcome, and resolve. I am also wearing a woven cedar bark tunic used in war. My peace headdress was quickly removed after we left the building. A symbolic act to show the total lack of respect being shown to our Nations. In our territorial waters of the Broughton Archipelago, war has been declared against us, and the livelihoods of all coastal People.

168 days ago, we started Occupations on the fish farms in our territories. Our mission has been to peacefully record, report and protest the illegal practices in our waters. This mission is not a new one. Our People have been demanding the removal of these feedlots for over 30 years. Until now, we have never had an investigation into fish farm operations in this manner before. This self-regulated industry cannot be trusted with such important information. To be very frank, we have become more than frustrated and impatient. During the last 168 days, we've seen Fisheries Officers only twice. There is no problem with Piscine Reovirus, and that is because the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has been trying to hide it. Minister LeBlanc has teamed up with Marine Harvest and is fighting us in Court. It seems to me that the Government of Canada is attempting to reconcile with Norway but using our territory to do it. That is wrong! Our waters have never been surrendered, neither has our lands and our hereditary rights to over see them.

The very status of fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago have come into serious question. A Norwegian Invasion has taken place in our waters and we have been forced to act to defend our investments in wild salmon. Eviction notices have been given, heavy RCMP involvement, arrests, B.C. Supreme Court proceedings, lost aquaculture industry status and reputation, Government reviews and investigations have had little, or no influence on the reckless practices of the aquaculture industry, within our territories. In fact, the companies have restocked almost all the fish farms in our waters, against numerous warnings of serious consequences. We have had enough!

First Nations People, environmental groups, ecotourism organizations, and countless wild salmon economy contributors, from one end of the Province to the other, have shown us their

full support and solidarity. Emails of support continue to pour in from all over the world. It seems as if British Columbia's fish farm industry has the worlds' attention. Meanwhile, I find it troubling, sad and embarrassing that we do not have the attention of the Federal Government of Canada. We are all saying the same thing.

Our wild salmon economy must be protected. The jobs that fish farms provide will still be there when the farms are moved to shore using closed containment technology. The economy that is so important to your government will return along the west coast. Fish farms do not create jobs - Fish farms have killed jobs along the coast!

The Federal Government must remove the open net fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago that have remained in the territories of 6 allied Nations without the consent or consultation for over 30 years. Immediate action is required if the Federal Government has any hopes of reconciliation in our territories.

With all due respect, stand with us!

Sincerely,

Kwakwabalas

Ernest Alfred

Chief Ernest Alfred

Swanson Island Occupation – 'Namgis First Nation