

The Fraser River Discovery Centre Society

Statement on Reconciliation and Commitment to Indigenous Communities

Who We Are – “The Voice of the Fraser”

The Fraser River Discovery Centre Society (the “Society”) is a not-for-profit organization that was established in 1989 with the vision to connect communities in the discovery and celebration of the living, working Fraser River. In 2001, the Society opened a 5,000 square foot preview centre and in 2009 after extensive renovations, it reopened and is now over 17,000 square feet (the “Centre”). It is prominently situated on New Westminster’s riverfront boardwalk between the River Market and the City of New Westminster’s Pier Park.

The Centre is an interpretive space that fulfils the vision of the Society and presents the stories of the living, working Fraser River and the contributions to the life, history, and future of British Columbia through exhibits, education programs, and special events. We connect people to the Fraser River with consideration for the river’s environment, socio-cultural and economic importance.

a. Our Vision

A living, working Fraser – with thriving peoples, ecosystems and livelihoods – from headwaters to the Salish Sea.

b. Our Mission

To bring together the many voices of the Fraser, to discover, celebrate, and inspire passionate stewards of the River.

Building Strong Relationships, Achieving Equitable Outcomes

The Society recognizes and respects the unique constitutional status and cultural diversity among Indigenous communities of British Columbia and Canada. The Society is committed to supporting the Indigenous right to self-determination by working inclusively with Indigenous communities linked to the Fraser River basin to support the achievement of equitable outcomes for Indigenous peoples within their communities and their day to day lives.

Recognize

The Society recognizes the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples provided by the Canadian Constitution and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and acknowledges that Indigenous peoples are the original inhabitants of Canada. The Society values the history and the meaningful contributions of Indigenous peoples within the vast 220,000-square-kilometre Fraser River basin. The Society recognizes and acknowledges the historic and contemporary injustices and racism inflicted upon Indigenous peoples which continue to have profound impacts on most, if not all, aspects of their lives.

The Society believes that it is essential that all Canadians participate in the reconciliation process called for in the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report. The Society’s mission is to bring together the many voices of the Fraser River and is committed to participating and promoting dialogue about these recommendations with respect to Indigenous issues. The Society will endeavor to create an understanding with all people who

visit and are engaged with the Centre on how these injustices have affected the conditions and perspectives of Indigenous peoples.

Listen, Learn, Share, Promote

The Society acknowledges that learning and understanding the Indigenous history, culture and stories of the Fraser River basin is an essential element in creating the foundation for a strong working relationship with Indigenous communities and in the collaborative development of programs and services offered by the Centre. Reflecting and celebrating Indigenous cultures and life are important elements in the Society's vision of reconciliation, inclusion, and collaboration.

The Society acknowledges that Indigenous approaches to healing, growth, and mutual understanding are often holistic in nature and that these approaches may differ from non-Indigenous methods. The Society is committed to learning how to listen differently and incorporating these approaches into its goals and operations at the Centre.

TOWARDS AN ACTION PLAN

The Society commits to the development of an Action Plan in partnership with Indigenous communities. The Society also commits to ensuring an accountability process is established in order to measure our success in implementing our Statement on Reconciliation and Commitment to Indigenous Communities in the programs and services offered at the Centre.