

City of Burnaby 4949 Canada Way Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

January 6, 2015

Attention: Mayor Corrigan and Council:

Please support the 20th anniversary Fraser River Swim Relay taking place this September 2015. Your city is one of many Fraser River communities being invited to host a river-side community festival in conjunction with this exciting monthlong initiative.

Please consider our request for \$5,000 to assist with costs (e.g. tents, staging, promotions, etc.) associated with the river-side festival in your city, as well as all necessary permitting. Help us raise awareness of the importance of the Fraser River to all British Columbians.

In 1995, I swam the 1,400 km length of the Fraser River to bring awareness to the precarious state of the famed waterway, and to promote sustainable living.

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of that epic journey.

My "Friends of the Fraser" campaign has been formed to organize a multi-faceted program to mark this anniversary and to celebrate British Columbia's most important inland waterway by informing the public about the environmental, cultural, historical and commercial importance of the Fraser River.

The Rivershed Society of Britsh Columbia (<u>www.rivershed.com</u>) is the vehicle through which the organization will raise funds.

Consisting of 34 intricately linked and interdependent riversheds, the Fraser River Basin drains 21 million hectares (more than a quarter) of British Columbia. The river basin is the heart and soul of the province and is its economic engine with a current population of over 1.2 million people and a strong First Nations history going back thousands of years.

The Fraser River Basin is experiencing a rapidly growing population and rapidly declining ecosystem health - **the largest salmon river in the world is not healthy**. But not all is lost. Each of us is connected with our river, and the decisions we make can help make our river strong. The Fraser River anniversary celebration hopes to draw attention to this serious issue.

Sustainable Living Leadership Program alumni, Jacquie Lanthier, Amy Law and Keely Weget-Whitney, came up with the idea to put a women's swim team together and have joined forces with Skeena River swimmer Ali Howard and Sheena Miller with the goal of swimming the 1,400 km length of the Fraser River this September 2015; which also coincides with the 20th anniversary of the first time Fin Donnelly swam the Fraser.

The 2015 Fraser River Swim Relay and community celebrations aim to inspire action, raise awareness about environmental threats and solutions, and engage communities in public education and community outreach.

By swimming the 1,400 km length of the Fraser River, the goal is to inspire Canadians to protect and care for their local watersheds. The Society hopes to increase river stewardship by working with community groups and schools across BC and Canada, and engaging audiences in public education, curriculum and community outreach.

We need your help. Our goal is to raise \$380,000 to fund this initiative. We are approaching you because we know your community cares about the health of the Fraser River and its citizens and because the relay participants will be stopping in your community.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 778 960-4099 or fin@rivershed.com. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,

Fin Donnelly
Chair & Founder
Rivershed Society of BC

Charity # 88731 3237 RR0001

Legal name: RSBC Rivershed Society of British Columbia

Attachments:

- From Mountains to Sea: Fraser River Swim Relay promo document
- Fraser River Swim Relay Draft Itinerary
- Fraser River Swim Relay Community Festival Elements

FROM MOUNTAINS TO SEA: FRASER RIVER SWIM RELAY SEPTEMBER 2015



5 SWIMMERS, 20 COMMUNITIES, 1,400 KM, 34 DAYS

YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE FRASER RIVER SWIM RELAY BEGINS HERE

THE BACKGROUND: Three Rivershed Society of BC's Sustainable Living Leadership Program alumni, Jacquie Lanthier, Amy Law and Keely Weget-Whitney, are teaming up with Skeena River swimmer Ali Howard and Sheena Miller to form a dynamic women's swim team with the goal of swimming the 1,400km length of the Fraser River. This incredible project will take place in September of 2015, which coincides with the 20th anniversary of Fin Donnelly's first swim down the Fraser River.

PRESENTED BY RIVERSHED SOCIETY OF BC

info@rivershed.com 604.808.1515 www.rivershed.com/relay





THE OBJECTIVE: Our Swim Relay team aims to inspire action, raise awareness about environmental threats and solutions, and engage communities in public education and community outreach. By swimming the 1,400 km length of the Fraser River, we hope to:

- Inspire Canadians to protect and care for their local watersheds
- Increase river stewardship by working with community groups and schools across BC and Canada
- Engage audiences through public education, curriculum and community outreach

THE PROJECT TEAM: This project requires an immense amount of dedication and work, but is coming together through the dedication and passion of the swim team steering committee. However, we could still use your expertise with this project.

GET INVOLVED: Calling all volunteers... While this project is attracting incredible people and amazing supporters, we still need you!! We have many opportunities available for all kinds of support positions. If you think you're a fit for this project in any capacity, don't hesitate to reach out. If you would like to help the team by fundraising, donating, or becoming a sponsor, e-mail the team and ask for a copy of the Expression of Interest or our sponsorship agreement. Be in touch with info@rivershed.com.

WE'RE EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO CONNECTING WITH YOU.