

# *Aboriginal Group Communication Plan 2022-2023 Annual Report*

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*Site C Clean Energy Project  
Reporting period: April 2022 to March 2023*

*March 31, 2023*

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## Table of Acronyms

<b>BRFN</b>	Blueberry River First Nations
<b>DFN</b>	Duncan's First Nation
<b>DRFN</b>	Doig River First Nation
<b>DTFN</b>	Dene Tha' First Nation
<b>FNFN</b>	Fort Nelson First Nation
<b>HLFN</b>	Horse Lake First Nation
<b>HRFN</b>	Halfway River First Nation
<b>KLMSS</b>	Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society
<b>MLIB</b>	McLeod Lake Indian Band
<b>MNBC</b>	Métis Nation British Columbia
<b>PRFN</b>	Prophet River First Nation
<b>SFN</b>	Saulteau First Nations
<b>WMFN</b>	West Moberly First Nations

# 1 Background

## 1.1 The Site C Clean Energy Project

The Site C Clean Energy Project (the Project) will be the third dam and generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. The Project will provide 1,100 megawatts of capacity and about 5,100 gigawatt hours of energy each year to the province's integrated electricity system. The Project will be a source of clean, reliable electricity for BC Hydro's customers for more than 100 years.

The key components of the Project are:

- an earthfill dam, approximately 1,050 metres long and 60 metres high above the riverbed;
- an 83 kilometre long reservoir that will be, on average, two to three times the width of the current river;
- a generating station with six 183 MW generating units;
- two new 500 kilovolt AC transmission lines that will connect the Project facilities to the Peace Canyon Substation, along an existing right-of-way;
- realignment of six segments of Highway 29 over a total distance of approximately 30 kilometers; and,
- construction of a berm at Hudson's Hope

The Project also includes the construction of temporary access roads, a temporary bridge across the Peace River, and worker accommodation at the dam site.

## 1.2 Description of Site Preparation and Construction Activities during the Reporting Period

As the busiest construction year since the Project began, considerable progress was made, and milestones reached both on and off the dam site in 2022.

BC Hydro remains on track to achieve the approved in-service date of December 2025.

BC Hydro and its contractors have agreed to contractual schedules that could result in reservoir filling in fall 2023 and first power earlier than planned without compromising safety, quality and commitments to the environment and First Nations. However, meeting this time frame remains subject to risks.

In late November 2022, the entire earthfill dam reached elevation 445 metres above sea level (final elevation will be 470 metres). As of December 31, 2022, the earthfill dam was 88% complete with 3.1 million cubic metres of dam material being placed in 2022.

The excavation of the approach channel, which is where the water approaches the intakes for the penstocks and the spillways, was substantially completed in 2022. The work to complete waterproofing the bottom of the channel, as part of the right bank foundation enhancements, began in April of 2022 and will continue through 2023. The waterproofing scope includes construction of reinforced concrete, installation of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) liners, and grouting of the underlying bedrock. Due to the wide variety of activities and interfaces between contractors and interdependent nature of the design, the work requires diligent coordination and close management of interfaces. Several of the construction activities are weather sensitive, reducing their ability to be completed during the winter months or periods of rainy weather. The work is being completed by a large skilled labour force which is working on multiple active work fronts at the same time.

A new aggregate supply located southwest of the dam site (Area E), began supplying the Project with dam material. Hauling began in July 2022 after the access road was upgraded.

Several new areas of fish habitat were built this year, part of a broader program to create 60 hectares of shoreline habitat in preparation for reservoir filling. The habitat areas provide nutrient-rich, sheltered environments to support a variety of fish and vegetation. These habitats include P6 Island (an island in the Peace River across from the community of Old Fort) and spawning shoals at Maurice Creek near the Peace Canyon Dam.

The construction of the penstocks, spillways and approach channel continued to advance and remain on-track for completion in 2023. Risk remains with the supply and installation of the upper penstock couplers and BC Hydro is working closely with contractors to complete this work. The radial spillway gates were fabricated in 2022, delivered to site, and are in the process of being installed. At the powerhouse itself, concrete placements are 90% complete. Inside the powerhouse, two of the six units have been handed over to the turbine manufacturer to begin assembly of the generating unit. Construction of the three 500-kilovolt transmission lines connecting the Site C powerhouse to the Site C substation progressed in 2022.

The contract for the balance of plant electrical components was awarded in September 2021, with the remaining balance of plant components for the powerhouse construction (e.g., heating, ventilation) awarded in 2022. The balance of plant contractors have mobilized to site and work is currently underway. Due to the outage of the powerhouse bridge cranes in August 2022, installation of cable trays and cables by one of the balance of plant contractors has been impacted and additional workers are required to recover the contractual schedule.

Away from the dam site, construction also progressed. The second 75-kilometre-long transmission line between Site C and the Peace Canyon generating station was completed and energized in March 2022, ahead of schedule. As of December 31, 2022, Highway 29 is 90% complete, with five of the six segments being opened to traffic. The final bridge at Halfway River

is expected to open in February 2023. The decommissioning and removal of the old sections of highway began in fall 2022. The Hudson's Hope berm, which protects the shoreline from erosion from the new reservoir, was completed in November 2022. Clearing for the entire reservoir area and waste wood removal will be completed in 2023.

## 2 Objective and Scope

### 2.1 Objective of the Aboriginal Group Communication Plan

The objective of the June 5, 2015 Aboriginal Group Communication Plan (AGCP) is to fulfill the requirements of Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) conditions 27 and 72, and federal Decision Statement (FDS) condition 14.2.

The AGCP establishes a communications program for informing Indigenous Nations and harvesters about construction activities related to the Project that may affect their harvesting opportunities for plants, fish and game, as well as access to those opportunities.

### 2.2 Scope and Reporting Period

This annual report describes BC Hydro's communications and engagement activities with Indigenous Nations through the implementation of the AGCP from April 2022 through March 2023. This is the sixth annual report of the AGCP.

## 3 Implementation of the Plan – April 2022 through March 2023

This report summarizes the implementation of the communication and consultation initiatives specific to Indigenous Nations that are described in [section 5.0 of the AGCP](#).

The bulleted list of communication activities shown at the beginning of section 5.0 is not specific to Indigenous Nations, but these materials are publicly available and it is expected that they are utilized by members of Indigenous communities. These activities are described in [section 3.2 of the Construction Communication Plan \(CCP\)](#) with more information available in the annual reports for the CCP, found on the Project website in the Site C Project Reports section of the [Environmental Management document library](#).

Communications specific to Indigenous Nations that were undertaken in the reporting period are described below.

Unless otherwise indicated, the communications summarized below were sent out to all Indigenous Nations named in the EAC and FDS: Saulteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, Prophet River First Nation, Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Halfway River First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Horse Lake First

Nation, Métis Nation British Columbia, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, Duncan's First Nation, and Dene Tha' First Nation. For purposes of brevity, acronyms for the above Indigenous Nations are used in this annual report. A list of acronyms is provided at the beginning of this report.

### 3.1 Notices of Construction Activities

These quarterly notices to Indigenous Nations address EAC condition 27 and FDS condition 14.2 requiring BC Hydro to provide information to Indigenous harvesters about construction activities that may affect their harvesting opportunities; they serve as the "Indigenous Harvesters Information Sheet" described in the AGCP.

The notices are in the form of a letter describing construction-related activities that are expected to commence, continue or be completed in the three-month period covered by the letter and are accompanied by a map (or maps) showing the location of the activities described in the letter. The notices also include information about other ways to find out more information about Project construction.

The current schedule seeks to send out the construction notices roughly 15-30 days prior to the start of the notification period. As required, updates to the notices are sent out to provide more information on construction works that are of particular interest to Indigenous communities or within closer proximity to Indigenous communities.

- On **March 02, 2022**, BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of April through June, 2022.
- June's Notification was not sent to the FNs, however construction updates were shared at the Site C Environmental Forums, sub-committee meetings and site visits, as well as at regular project update meetings.
- On **September 28, 2022**, BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of October through December, 2022.
- On **December 16, 2022**, BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of January through March, 2023.

The Notices of Construction Activities are sent to Indigenous Nations by email and are also posted for Indigenous Nations on the *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site (see section 3.6). A public version of the notice with confidential information removed (such as SharePoint log-in information or other sensitive material) is posted along with construction bulletins on the Project's public website at the following address: <https://www.sitecproject.com/construction-activities/construction-bulletins>



### 3.2 Biweekly Information Updates to Indigenous Nations

Biweekly information updates are distributed by email to provide regular updates on construction activities and field work.

The updates provide information on the following topics as they become available:

- news updates;
- regulatory and permitting updates;
- environmental management information;
- safety advisories;
- reminders of upcoming consultation and engagement activities;
- employment and training information; and
- procurement updates.

The emails also provide notice of new documents uploaded to the *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site such as Environmental Protection Plans and Environmental Completion Reports, monthly monitoring summary reports, interim and annual reports from the Project’s Heritage Program, and other Project mitigation and monitoring programs.

The emails are sent directly to members of each Indigenous Nation’s distribution list which often includes Chief and Council as well as other contacts requested by the Indigenous Nation. A copy of each biweekly information update is saved on the *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site.

A summary of the notifications or information shared in these updates is listed below. Recurring updates such as new Construction Bulletins, reminders of upcoming meetings, Indigenous employment statistics, new documents added to SharePoint, etc. are not described below to avoid repetition.

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
April 4, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19: shared an update on BC Hydro’s response to COVID-19 at Site C;</li> <li>• Public Advisory – Advised of Highway 29 night time closure at Farrell Creek</li> <li>• Public Advisory – Site C Till Conveyor Operation, advising that work could take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – dust, noise and vibration warning</li> </ul>

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction update: April 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022</li> <li>• Sending out of Quarterly construction notification letter to Indigenous Nations, describing work planned for April 1 to June 30, 2022</li> </ul>
April 19, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Indigenous Environmental Technician Employment Opportunity – 6 months, full time at Site C</li> <li>• Advised of Methylmercury Indigenous Community Sampling Program – training planned for 1-2 members per community, planned dates for in-person training in Fort St. John are May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and potentially June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022</li> <li>• Provided the latest Construction Bulletin; April 2022</li> <li>• Shared upcoming Cultural Centre Working Group Meeting, to be held on April 28, 2022; and</li> <li>• Environmental Forum Meeting and Field Tour #24 to be held on May 18, 2022 (Permitting Discussion will be held during this meeting as well)</li> </ul>
May 16, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared with readers that the Northern Development approves more than \$400,000 for 19 projects through the BC hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund</li> <li>• Notified of training planned for Methylmercury Indigenous Community Sampling project – training planned for 1-2 members per community, planned dates for in-person training in Fort St. John are May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and potentially June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022</li> <li>• Provided the latest Construction Bulletin; May 14<sup>th</sup>-May 27<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Shared upcoming Cultural Centre Working Group Meeting, to be held on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022; and</li> <li>• The next ITUF Ungulate Enhancement Multi-Nation Project, HW 29 Meeting will be held May 19, 2022. Meeting will include a site visit to the Watson Slough Area and Peace View Pit Area as well as a discussion to contribute and plan the ITUF Ungulate Enhancement Multi-Nation Project.</li> </ul>
June 13, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advised of improved transportation infrastructure, and the measures now complete</li> <li>• Notified of BC Hydro filing reports with the BCUC on the Site C Project, includes information on construction progress, project milestones, project costs and financing and material project risks, provided link</li> <li>• Methylmercury Indigenous Community Sampling project – training was held in person in Fort St. John on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022</li> </ul>

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided latest construction bulletin; June 11<sup>th</sup>-June 24<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
June 27, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Advisory: Boaters urged to use caution near Maurice Creek spawning Shoal – work is underway to build a spawning shoal for rainbow trout and mountain whitefish near Peach Canyon Dam, known locally as the “Fingers”. Construction will occur from June to September 2022. Boaters should use caution while nearby</li> <li>• Two agricultural associations to receive \$1 million in grants through BC Hydro Peach Agricultural Compensation Fund: The Fort St. John Seed Cleaning Cooperative Association and South Peace Grain Cleaning Cooperative Association will receive \$746,000 and \$254,000, respectively. The Fort St. John Seed Cleaning Cooperative Association will use the funding to complete \$1.2 million of improvements to its seed cleaning plant. While the South Peace Grain Cleaning Cooperative Association will use their funding to purchase and install an optical sorting machine. These two projects bring sophisticated technology and equipment to the Peace Region, providing farmers and growers with local options to improve the quality of their product without having to travel long distances to other facilities</li> <li>• Provided the latest Construction Bulletin; June 25<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>• Next Environmental Meeting Forum#25 will be held on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – in person at the Ramada, Northern Grand Hotel</li> <li>• Seeking feedback on Site C, Area E Reclamation and Closure Plan for review – was sent out to Indigenous Nations on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – require feedback by July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022</li> <li>• Seeking feedback on Site C, Integrated Vegetation Management – Pesticide Use Permit Application – seeking comments on application that was sent out on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – let us know by July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022</li> </ul>
July 13, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided notice of improving transportation infrastructure – BCH is proposing a number of measures to improve transportation infrastructure in the Peace Region during construction, such as upgrades to roads and highways and pavement condition monitoring on project-related roads.</li> <li>• Methylmercury Indigenous Community Sampling Program – training planned – held in person on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022</li> <li>• Provided the latest Construction Bulletin; June 11<sup>th</sup>-June 24<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
July 26, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcement that BC Hydro and West Moberly First Nations Negotiate a settlement relating to the Site C Project</li> <li>• Provided the latest Construction Bulletin; July 23<sup>rd</sup>-August 5<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Cultural Centre Working Group Meeting will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9AM, virtually.</li> <li>• Next Site C Conservation Officer Working Group Meeting will be held on September 22, 2022 in Fort St. John. This meeting will be held in person at the Ramada Northern Grand hotel.</li> </ul>
August 8, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is progressing on the earthfill dam, provided a link to the video</li> <li>• Lowering levels in Watson Slough will begin in the fall – provided link to read more about this</li> <li>• June 2022 Employment statistics released, in June there were 5209 people working on the project, including 407 Indigenous people</li> <li>• Provided the latest Construction Bulletin; August 20<sup>th</sup>-September 2<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>• Next cultural centre working group meeting will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9AM – virtually</li> <li>• The next Site C Conservation Officer Working Group Meeting will be held on September 22, 2022 in Fort St. John – Ramada Northern Hotel</li> </ul>
August 22, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulleting; August 20<sup>th</sup>-September 2<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>• Water levels are lowering in Watson Slough in the fall, provided link to read more about it</li> <li>• Notice that construction begins on the Halfway River Boat Launch and intersection which will provide public access to the future Site C reservoir after it's filled – when complete the Halfway River Boat Launch will include a day use area, complete with parking, picnic area, and toilets</li> <li>• The first Cultural Centre Elders &amp; Chiefs Committee Meeting will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:30AM in person at the Ramada Northern Hotel</li> <li>• The next Site C Conservation Officer Working group meeting will be held on September 22, 2022 in Fort St John – in person</li> <li>• The next Environmental Forum field tour will be held on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9AM in Fort St. John – stops will include Wetland Restoration, ITUF Project Site, Creel Survey and methylmercury sampling including aquatic insects</li> </ul>
September 8, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notified readers about how we are building and restoring wetland habitat, to compensate for wetlands being lost as a result of the construction of Site C – the Golata wetlands near Clayhurst are a</li> </ul>

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<p>50-acre wetland complex that has been restored in partnership with Ducks Unlimited – provided a video update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; September 3<sup>rd</sup>-September 16<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Reminder that the next Environmental Forum field tour will be held on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9AM in Fort St. John</li> <li>• Reminder that the first Cultural Centre Elders and Chiefs Committee meeting will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM – in person at the Ramada Northern Grand Hotel in Fort St. John</li> <li>• Reminder that the next Site C Conservation Officer Working group meeting will be held on September 22, 2022 in Fort St John – in person</li> </ul>
September 26, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notified readers that since the temporary fishway was built in 2020, nearly 3000 fish of varying species have safely passed through the facility – video link included to show how fish in the Peace River are safely moving upstream</li> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; September 17<sup>th</sup>-September 30<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Notified readers that the first Cultural Centre Elders and Chiefs Committee Meeting was held on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM</li> </ul>
October 5, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notified readers that the first five transmission structures for the power lines on the dam site have been installed – they will carry three 500-kilovolt lines, connecting the generating station to the Site C substation and the bulk BC Hydro electric system. Provided link to read more about this in Energetic News</li> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; October 1<sup>st</sup>-October 14<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Public Advisory: BC Hydro will resume its burning program in Site C Project areas pending suitable venting and ground conditions. From October 2022 to March 2023, burning may take place in the following areas: Moberly River drainage, North and South bank of the Peace River between the Site C dam site and Halfway River, Halfway River drainage, Islands in the Peace River and North and South bank of the Peace River between Halfway River and Peace Canyon Dam</li> <li>• The next Environmental Forum field tour will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9 AM in Fort. St. John</li> </ul>
October 17, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided readers with a link to BC Hydro's latest drone video which shows construction progress on the Site C powerhouse, earthfill dam, shoreline protection, Highway 29 realignment and fish enhancement project</li> </ul>

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notified readers that when conditions allow we will resume burning of the wood debris in Site C project areas – link to read about it</li> <li>• Provided link to photo gallery of the new Halfway River Boat Launch, along the future Site C Reservoir</li> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; October 1<sup>st</sup>-October 28<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
October 31, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Advisor: Hunters advised to use caution in Site C Project Areas</li> <li>• Announcement of upcoming drainage repairs and improvements happening near Old Fort Road – the work is required by the Environmental Assessment Office to repair areas of erosion and improve drainage to prevent potential future erosion. The drainage repair and improvement work is currently scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2022.</li> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; October 29<sup>th</sup>-November 11<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
November 15, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notifying readers that BC hydro is reaching the end of construction for the new shoreline protection berm. Most of the construction activities were completed the first week of November and our contractor is demobilizing equipment from the area. This is anticipated to be complete by mid-November. Once all equipment has been removed, DA Thomas Road and the trail leading down to the berm will be reopened for foot traffic. Portions of the berm will remain open until construction of the recreation site begins next spring.</li> <li>• Latest job report shows that BC Hydro reached peak employment in September, with 5,420 total workers on Site C</li> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; November 12<sup>th</sup>-November 25<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Reminder that the next Site C Environmental forum virtual meeting will be held this week on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 9:30AM-12:30PM</li> </ul>
November 28, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification that we've completed construction of the Hudson's Hope berm, the 2.6-kilometre-long barrier will reinforce and protect the shoreline once the Site C reservoir is filled</li> <li>• Notification that the new Lynx Creek bridge has been opened to traffic. This is another milestone for the Highway 29 realignment that involves redesigning and building 30 kilometres of the highway</li> </ul>

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder that the next Site C Environmental Forum Virtual Meeting will be held on January 18, 2022 at 9:30am to 12:30pm (MST)</li> <li>• Reminder that on November 18, 2022, BC Hydro provided notification to Indigenous Nations of the Site C Clean Energy Project – Planned Removal of Bald Eagle Nests for the Winter 2022/2023 clearing season. The notification letter was shared in accordance Conditions 11 and 12 of Wildlife Act Permit FJ14-154018[1], issued on July 7, 2015; amended March 10, 2021 that requires BC Hydro to notify Treaty 8 Nations at least 30 days prior to the planned removal of a Bald Eagle nest. The project team has identified 3 nests that are planned to be removed during the 2022/2023 clearing season.</li> </ul>
December 12, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided readers with a link to the Site C Field Work Summary for 2023 – available on the Site C website</li> <li>• Notification that the new alignment, including the new 617-metre-long Cache Creek Bridge, has opened to traffic.</li> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; December 10<sup>th</sup>-December 23<sup>rd</sup></li> <li>• Reminder that the next Site C Environmental Forum Virtual Meeting will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:30AM-12:30PM</li> <li>• BC Hydro asking for review on proposed amendment by January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - On December 8, 2022, BC Hydro (BCH) shared a draft of its proposed amendment to Condition #4 of the Project's Environmental Assessment Certificate. This condition requires that BC Hydro manage harmful Project effects on fish and fish habitats during the construction and operation phases by implementing mitigation measures detailed in a Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan (FAHMP). The Condition stipulates that the Plan must include among its requirements that temporary structures are removed “as soon as they are no longer required.” The intent of this condition is to reduce the potential loss of fish habitat due to construction of the dam and generating station, Highway 29 realignment and Hudson’s Hope Shoreline Protection. As required by the EAC, BC Hydro incorporated the requirement to remove temporary structures as soon as they are no longer required into the FAHMP and the Project’s Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). As the Project schedule advances toward reservoir filling in 2023 or 2024, BCH has assessed several locations throughout the Project where the removal of temporary structures within the future reservoir may result in greater potential harm to fish and/or fish habitat than retaining them in place for reservoir filling. Therefore, BCH is requesting that EAC Condition #4 be amended to reflect that temporary structures be removed unless removing the structure is</li> </ul>

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	likely to result in harm to fish and fish habitat and/or retaining the structure will provide a benefit to fish, as assessed by a Qualified Environmental Professional (emphasis added).
January 16, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latest job report notification, there were 5,238 people working on the Site C project in November, including 286 Indigenous people and 558 women.</li> <li>• Video provided to readers; to learn more about how the reservoir will be filled</li> <li>• Notification that the Hudson's Hope berm and Portage Trail will be closed to the public as the District of Hudson's Hope's contractor installs temporary water pumps and a supply line</li> <li>• Let readers know that BC Hydro is restarting work to finish a spawning shoal for rainbow trout and mountain whitefish near Peace Canyon Dam, known locally as the "Fingers." Construction is expected to finish by the end of January</li> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; January 14<sup>th</sup> – January 27<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Reminder that the next Environmental Forum will be held on January 24, 2023 at 8:30am PST/9:30am Fort St. John time. This meeting will be held virtually.</li> <li>• BC Hydro is constructing a Permanent Upstream Fish Passage Facility as part of the Site C Project and on January 9, 2023, we shared three draft documents for the Permanent Upstream Fish Passage Facility for review and comment. Requesting feedback on these documents by February 13, 2023.</li> <li>• Reminder that on December 8, 2022, BC Hydro shared with Indigenous Nations a draft proposal to amend Condition #4 of the Project's Environmental Assessment Certificate. BC Hydro is seeking feedback on this draft application by January 20, 2023 and it will be discussed at the January 24th Environmental Forum.</li> </ul>
January 30, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification to readers that the sixth and final turbine runner arrived at site on January 27, 2023. When the Site C dam is in operation, water will make the 165-tonne turbine runners spin, which will turn the generator to make electricity. Pictures can be seen in Site C's photo gallery.</li> <li>• Notification of controlled burning of wood debris that may take place over the coming months, pending favourable conditions.</li> <li>• Video provided to help readers find out more about the Farrell Creek segment of Highway 29; BC Hydro is realigning more than 30 kilometres of Highway 29 between Fort St. John to Hudson's</li> </ul>



Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<p>Hope, in preparation of reservoir filling, which could happen as early as fall 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 10<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• On January 27, we shared information about the Net Migration to Reserve Monitoring program. The monitoring program, as described in Environmental Assessment Certificate conditions 48 and 49, is focused on learning about community members who may be deciding to move on or off reserve. This information will help us better understand the demands for housing in the City of Fort St John, particularly changes in the rental apartment market. More comprehensive information will help enable us to implement appropriate mitigation measures.</li> </ul>
February 13, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder that final work is taking place at the Halfway River bridge, which is nearly ready to be opened to traffic. It will be the fifth and final new bridge to open as part of the Highway 29 realignment</li> <li>• Latest jobs numbers show there were 4,476 people working on the Site C Project in December, including 459 women.</li> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; February 11<sup>th</sup>-February 24<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Reminder that the next Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC) combined with the next Cultural Centre Working Group Meeting (#9) will be held on March 9, 2023. This meeting will be held virtually by video conference. The CHRC will focus on a report out on ongoing initiatives. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting will focus on review of site locations for the cultural center.</li> <li>• Reminder that the next Cultural Centre Working Group Meeting (#9) will be held on March 9, 2023 combined with the next Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC). The Project Team would like to review site locations for the cultural centre and validate the conceptual design.</li> <li>• Reminder that on January 27, we shared information about the Net Migration to Reserve Monitoring program.</li> <li>• Reminder that on February 6, we shared information about the proposed revision to the Construction Safety Management Plan (CSMP) – requesting review and feedback on proposed changes by March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023</li> </ul>
February 28, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification that we have placed the first turbine rotor into the generator pit inside the Site C powerhouse. The rotor weighs 600</li> </ul>

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<p>tonnes and it took two cranes four hours to complete the lift – photo gallery provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; February 25th-March 10<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Reminder that next Environmental Forum will be held virtually on March 8, 2023 at 8:30AM PST; the next culture and heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC) combined with the next Cultural Centre Working Group Meeting (#9) will be held on March 9, 2023; The next Cultural Centre Working Group Meeting (#9) will be held on March 9, 2023 combined with the next Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC)</li> <li>• Feedback requested by March 22, 2023 for Information packages that were sent to Indigenous Nations on February 22, 2023 about the annual Notice of Intent to Treat, describes the proposed treatment of noxious and invasive species within the Site C operational area for the coming year</li> <li>• Reminder that on February 6, we shared information about the proposed revision to the Construction Safety Management Plan (CSMP) – requesting review and feedback on proposed changes by March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023</li> </ul>
March 13, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification that Portage Mountain Quarry Reclamation Plan was shared with Indigenous Nations on March 9, 2023 for review and comment by April 9, 2023.</li> </ul>
March 27, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder to review the Portage Mountain Quarry Reclamation Plan was shared and asked for feedback by April 9, 2023.</li> <li>• Provided the latest construction bulletin; March 25 – April 7, 2023.</li> </ul>

### 3.3 Consultation Meetings

#### 3.3.1 Permitting Forums

These meetings allow for sharing and reviewing upcoming permit applications with Treaty 8 First Nations. Representatives from First Nations, the Ministry of Forests (MOF), federal agencies (Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Transport Canada) and BC Hydro meet to discuss draft permit applications and to address potential questions and requests for clarification before permit applications are finalized and referred to First Nations by permitting agencies for consultation and review.

BC Hydro initiated this process in 2016 in response to requests from First Nations for additional opportunities to consult on Project permits. BC Hydro held seven Permitting Forums between July 2016 and January 2018. In late January 2018, the Province and BC Hydro implemented an

updated coordinated consultation process in an effort to enhance Project permit consultation opportunities, find efficiencies, reduce the overall workload for First Nations, and better manage the consultation schedule.

Permitting Forums were incorporated into the coordinated consultation process and are a central component of the “pre-application” consultation on draft permit applications before they are finalized and submitted to MOF. The First Nations invited to attend the Permitting Forum are the same First Nations that the MOF consults with on provincial permit applications.

An overall reduction in the number of new permits requiring consultation, and looking for efficiencies, BC Hydro has incorporated the Permitting Forum into the Environmental Forum when required. As a standing agenda item at each Environmental Forum, the Permitting Discussion continues to provide a venue to meet and discuss permitting and regulatory items.

Summary of Permitting Forums, and Permitting Discussions at Environment Forums, held during the reporting period are described below.

- Permitting discussion on Highway 29 decommissioning permits (*Water Sustainability Act Sec. 11*) was held during Environmental Forum #24 (May 18, 2022) and was attended by representatives from BRFN, DFN, FNFN, HRFN, HLFN, KLMSS, PRFN, SFN, MNBC, MLIB and BC Hydro. BC Hydro discussed Highway 29 decommissioning
- Permitting discussion on EAC Amendment for retaining Temporary Structures in the Site C Reservoir was held during Environmental Forum #27 (November 16, 2022) and was attended by representatives from BRFN, DRFN, DFN, FNFN, HRFN, HLFN, KLMSS, SFN, MNBC, MLIB and BC Hydro. BC Hydro discussed EAC amendment: Reservoir area Temporary Structures.
- Permitting discussion on *EAC Amendment* for retaining Temporary Structures and *Wildlife Act* permit renewals was held during Environment Forum #28 (January 24, 2023) and was attended by representatives from BRFN, DRFN, DFN, DTFN, FNFN, HRFN, HLFN, KLMSS, MLIB, MNBC and BC Hydro discussed Wildlife Act permit renewals, and Permanent Upstream Fish Passage Facility: Conditional Water Licence.
- Permitting discussion on *Wildlife Act* Fish Collection permits was held during Environment Forum #29 (March 08, 2023) and was attended by representatives from BRFN, DRFN, DFN, SFN, FNFN, HRFN, HLFN, KLMSS, MLIB, MNBC, SFN and BC Hydro discussed Wildlife Act Fish Collection Permit for the Permanent Fish Passage Facility

BC Hydro uses the *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site described in section 3.6 to share meeting presentations, permit applications and spatial data, and summaries of discussion and requests for follow-up from the meetings.

### **3.3.2 Environmental Forums**

The Environmental Forum enables BC Hydro and Indigenous Nations to collaborate, share information, and seek input and participation opportunities related to key interests identified by Indigenous Nations related to the Project's environmental mitigation plans and monitoring programs. Topics addressed by the Environmental Forum relate to fish and fish habitat, wildlife, vegetation and heritage, and may be linked to conditions of the EAC, FDS, and permits or authorizations. A key initiative for the Environmental Forum membership is the rollout of the Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF), an \$13M fund to mitigate the impacts of the Project on the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes by Indigenous Nations.

Environmental Forums held during the reporting period are described below.

- Environmental Forum#24 was held on May 18, 2022 in Fort St. John. During the in-person meeting the following topics were discussed: rollout of a new Conservation Officer position, Site C Reservoir Filling & Wildlife Mitigation, Highway 29 Decommissioning; Métis Nation BC and McLeod Lake Indian Band's – ITUF Project updates. A Dam Site tour was conducted in the afternoon including: Temporary In-River Fill Area; Temporary Fish Passage Facility and upstream fish release site; Earthfill Dam and Core Trench View Point; Powerhouse and Pemanent Fish Passage Facility.
- Environmental Forum #25 was held on July 6, 2022 in Fort St. John. During the field tour the following sites were visited and/or discussed: Cache Creek Highway Realignment (East & West); Halfway River viewpoint; new Lynx Creek Boat Launch; Métis Nation BC Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF) project site; Hudson Hope Shoreline Protection Berm; Gates Island overlook; Reservoir Shoreline Enhancement Site; and fish passage release site at the Halfway River boat launch. Additional topics included: Reservoir Filling; ITUF \$5M funding increase; ITUF Multi-Nation Project (Peace View Island) funding proposal; and the Indigenous led Beaver Harvest.
- Environmental Forum #26 was held on October 12, 2022 in Fort St. John. During the field tour the following sites were visited and topics discussed included: Wetland Restoration Site (Golata Creek Ranch); Methylmercury Baseline Fish Consumption Overview; Duncans First Nation Indigenous Traditional Use Fund project site; Reservoir Filling Update & Scenarios; Methylmercury Benthic Sampling and Site C Creel Survey (Peace River, Peace Island Park) .
- Environmental Forum#27 was held on November 16, 2022. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: Methylmercury Monitoring Plan; Reservoir Filling and scenarios; Headpond changes and mitigation; Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) Amendment; Indigenous Traditional Use Fund Project updates from Doig River First Nation; McLeod Lake Indian Band; Métis Nation BC; Horse Lake First Nation; ITUF Multi-Nation Project (Peace View Island); and Wildlife Tree Creation.
- Environmental Forum #28 was held on January 24, 2023. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: Reservoir filling (information page and video); Regulatory (EAC amendment and Wildlife Act Permits); Upstream Fish Passage (permanent fishway

and fish movement visualization tool); Fish Habitat Enhancement resources; and input on the overall Environmental Forum plan.

- Environmental Forum #29 was held on March 8, 2023. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: Reservoir Filling Information & Update; Wildlife Habitat, Structures and Off-Setting Programs; ITUF Multi-Nation Project: Peace View Island Enhancement & Reclamation; Wildlife Act Fish Collection Permit for the Permanent Fish Passage Facility; Methylmercury Monitoring Plan – 2022 update; Indigenous Led Beaver Harvest – update & reminder.

### 3.3.3 Environmental Forum Sub-Committees

To support key initiatives of the Environmental Forum four sub-committees / working groups have been formed. This includes the Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF) Working Group, the Methylmercury Sub-committee, the Reclamation Sub-committee, and the Site C Conservation Officer Working Group. The ITUF Working Group didn't meet over the reporting period, while the Methylmercury Sub-Committee met two times over the same period. The Reclamation Sub-committee held five meetings, one field tour, and site specific field visits with interested members over the reporting period.

### 3.3.4 Culture and Heritage Resources Committee

The Culture and Heritage Resources Committee (Committee) has been established with Indigenous Nations to advise BC Hydro on the management of Project effects on cultural resources. The Committee initially met on July 30, 2015 and meets as determined by the Committee members. The Committee provides opportunities for discussion and information exchange, as well as the development of mitigation measures related to cultural and heritage resources.

Below is a summary of the meetings held by the Committee within the reporting period of this annual report:

- March 9, 2023, (Meeting #34) the Committee met to review the status of ongoing projects/initiatives, receive an update on annual CRMP and Heritage reports, and discuss results of the BC Megafauna Project (Giant Animal Research by SFU Grad student, Laura Termes). The Committee meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Sauteau First Nations, Horse Lake First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Métis Nation BC and Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society.

In 2022, the Committee continued discussions on the potential development of a cultural centre. The Site C Cultural Centre Development Project (the "**Development Project**") is a proposed facility to commemorate, educate and celebrate the culture and heritage of the Indigenous Nations impacted by the Project. The Development Project includes the formation of several committees,

including the Cultural Centre Working Group, and decision-making processes to support the site selection, design, content and construction through to the opening of the Cultural Centre. The timeframe for this process is anticipated to be from Spring of 2021 to 2027.

Below is a summary of the meetings held by the Cultural Centre Working Group within the reporting period of this annual report:

- April 28, 2022 (Meeting #5) the project team presented the Design Brief to the Cultural Centre Working Group. The Design Brief described the key elements for the Cultural Centre conceptual design, developed through the Visioning Workshops and Nation one-on-one meetings. The Design Brief serves as a guide for the project as the design develops. The project team also presented the latest building design concept. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49), and representatives from Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Métis Nation BC, and Sauteau First Nations.
- May 30, 2022 (Meeting #6) the project team provided an update on the status of the Cultural Centre project. The Cultural Centre Working Group discussed nominating one member (and one alternate) from each community to the Elders and Chiefs Committee, the decision-making authority who would evaluate and approve recommendations made by the Working Group members about the project. The project team forecasted that the first Elders and Chiefs meeting would be scheduled in September 2022. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49), and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Prophet River First Nation, and Sauteau First Nations.
- June 27, 2022 (Meeting #7) the project team provided an update on the status of the project. Presentations on gathering content and coordination of information as well as an exhibit design proposal were provided. The Cultural Centre Working Group approved the exhibit design proposal work. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49), media and heritage consultants and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Métis Nation BC, and West Moberly First Nations.
- August 10, 2022 (Meeting #8) the project team provided a summary of the Cultural Centre meetings to date, from how the project began and the steps taken to get the project to where it was. The project team also shared a detailed schedule showing the upcoming milestones and major actions, including the approval of the conceptual design by the Elders' and Chiefs Committee. Updated visuals of the conceptual design were shared and discussed. The

Cultural Centre Working Group representatives endorsed the conceptual design for presentation and approval by the Elders' and Chiefs Committee in September 2022. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49), and representatives from Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Métis Nation BC, and Sauteau First Nations.

- September 20, 2022 (Meeting #1 – Elders' and Chiefs Committee) the project team presented an overview of the project and meetings to date: how the project was initiated by the CHRC, the development of the Terms of Reference, the Visioning Workshops, the Concept and budget development, and the evolution of the conceptual design. The Elders' and Chiefs Committee voted to proceed with the current design concept. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49), and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Métis Nation BC, and Sauteau First Nations.

March 9, 2023 (Meeting #9) the project team provided an overview and project update, as well as discussing next steps for the Cultural Centre Working Group representatives, mainly the selection of the location/site of the Cultural Centre. The Cultural Centre Working Group also confirmed how they would like to use the Cultural Centre. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49), and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Métis Nation BC, Prophet River First Nation, and Sauteau First Nations. More information on the Committee can be found in the [Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan](#) (CRMP), available on the Project website in the [Environmental Management document library](#). The CRMP 2022-2023 Annual Report detailing activities undertaken during this reporting period is available in the *Site C Project Reports* section of this document library.

### **3.4 Sauteau First Nations Registered Trapline Holders**

BC Hydro remains engaged with SFN registered trapline holders whose tenure areas are affected by project construction and operations. BC Hydro contacts registered trapline holders in advance of any project investigations or construction activities planned to take place within their respective trapline areas.

### 3.5 Ground Truthing and other Field Activities

BC Hydro maintains a standing invitation to Indigenous Nations to meet and discuss issues or concerns regarding the Project as construction proceeds. This may include other field activities like site visits in the project activity zone with interested groups and boat tours of the Peace River. BC Hydro has hosted ground truthing and other field activities in the dam site area, Highway 29 realignment segments, along the transmission line, at and through access to Area E, and within the future reservoir.

The [Aboriginal Plant Use Mitigation Plan](#) (APUMP) and the [CRMP](#) describe ground truthing as it pertains to plants of traditional Indigenous value and cultural resources, respectively. Ground truthing and other field activities conducted by or with Indigenous Nations are described in annual reports for these plans that are available on the Project website in the Site C Project Reports section of the [Document Library](#) and the Site C Information for Indigenous Nations SharePoint Site.

### 3.6 Site C Information for Indigenous Nations SharePoint Site

The *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site is a central repository for documents and information shared with Indigenous Nations. It is password protected and not accessible to the public.

On February 22, 2019 BC Hydro launched a new and improved SharePoint site based on Indigenous Nations' feedback. The new and improved layout is designed to make it easier to find information on the Project. Project page categories include:

- *Project Construction* information such as Biweekly Updates and the quarterly Notices of Construction Activities;
- *Spatial files* related to project designs, archaeological sites, cadastral data, maps and environmental features;
- *Environment* documents such as Environmental Protection Plans, Environmental Completion Reports, and Monthly Environmental Monitoring Summary Reports, Geotechnical Investigations and Fish, aquatics, vegetation and wildlife;
- *Heritage Reports* such as interim and annual reports from the heritage program;
- *Regulatory and Compliance* information such as draft mitigation and monitoring plans and select annual reports, federal approval applications, Water Licence Leaves to Commence Construction, and environmental assessment documents; and,
- *Meeting materials* from forums and other meetings.



- Information about the SharePoint site along with sign-in information is provided to Indigenous Nations in communications described above in sections 3.1 through 3.3 of this report.

### **3.7 External Project Website**

The Site C Clean Energy Project website ([sitecproject.com](http://sitecproject.com)) provides additional information including:

- Mitigation and Monitoring Plans and Annual Reports
- Employment and business opportunities
- Federal authorizations and provincial permits
- Construction activities
- Indigenous relations
- Environmental Management Plans and Reports
- Permits and Authorizations
- Environmental Assessment Reports
- Project Planning and Evaluation Reports
- Consultation and Engagement Reports
- Environment and Socio-Economic Reports
- Engineering and Technical Reports
- Historical Site C Reports
- Quarterly Progress Reports to the BCUC
- Employment Statistics
- Construction Contracts
- Reservoir Filling
- Project Videos and Photos

### **3.8 Environment Programs**

BC Hydro's goal is to protect the environment and reduce the environmental impacts of Site C. The programs focus on monitoring to see what effects (if any) the project has on wildlife, fish, vegetation, air, water, the aquatic environment, as well as heritage and archaeology and how well our mitigation is working to protect these features. For each program results are shared through the Site C Project website in the [Document Library](#). Annual reports are made available on the project website as they are finalized. A brief overview of the programs can be found on project website, [Site C Environmental Programs](#).