

## **Press Release**

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For Immediate Release

### **Sto:lo Tribal Council to Consider Next Steps**

Chilliwack: Following yesterday's Chinook fishery, the leaders of the Sto:lo Tribal Council say that they will meet today to consider next steps in their effort to get the Department of Fisheries & Oceans back to the negotiating table. Grand Chief Doug Kelly says that he is both puzzled and disappointed by the disconnect between the Prime Minister's commitments to First Nations only a few short weeks during a working retreat with Canada's Aboriginal leaders and the behavior of senior employees in Pacific Region of the Department of Fisheries.

Kelly says that even Fisheries Minister, Geoff Regan, told him on June 20, 2005, in Ottawa, that he liked the Sto:lo Tribal Council's approach to improving the working relationship with his department, the tribal council plans to build an independent fisheries society, the organizations interest in long-term agreements with DFO and plans to form partnerships with the salmon industry and find solutions to reducing tensions between the Sto:lo community and sport fishermen.

“Upon our return to BC, we discovered that his employees had an entirely different agenda than their Minister. They tabled a one year agreement with a take it or leave it attitude. It would be generous to describe the salmon allocation in the agreement as chintzy. On top of that, they refused to meet with us to negotiate fishery openings and then they promptly reneged on a rock solid promise to place program funding earmarked for our fishery in the hands of a responsible third party for 2005/2006. How do you negotiate people that feel free to ignore their own boss and the Prime Minister of Canada? I have called on DFO to appoint a senior negotiator to meet with us as soon as possible to resolve these matters”, stated Kelly.

Grand Chief Kelly says that the Sto:lo Tribal Council may authorize another Chinook fishery opening this week.

For More information, please call Grand Chief Doug Kelly at: 604-798 1436 or Ernie Crey at 604-798-4435.