

For Immediate Release

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**Fraser River Discovery Centre Unveils Exhibit Concept and Preliminary Design Plan
for \$2.25 Million Working River Project**
“Choose-Your-Own” adventure designed to personalize the Fraser River for each visitor

New Westminster, B.C. – The Fraser River Discovery Centre today unveiled the Exhibit Concept and Preliminary Design Plan for its \$2.25 Million Working River Project. It is the culmination of FRDC’s work in Year 1 with the inaugural Working River partners – Chevron Canada, Fraser Surrey Docks, Kinder Morgan Canada, Port Metro Vancouver and Saam Smit Canada.

“We are excited to be able to share with everyone the Exhibit Concept and Preliminary Design Plan for the Working River project,” said Catherine Ouellet-Martin, Executive Director of the Fraser River Discovery Centre. “It outlines the possible high level themes and key concepts of the exhibit. The plan also identifies how the factual information of the exhibit will be organized to maximize key messages and accomplish the project’s educational goals.”

The Working River Exhibit is an immersive “Choose-Your-Own” adventure designed to personalize the Fraser River for each visitor. People will discover all the ways industry in the Lower Fraser appears in their daily life through a complex web of social, environmental and economic considerations. Visitors will be encouraged to think about how their personal choices impact the demand met by industry.

“Now that the Plan is out, I first want to thank our inaugural partners for all their support,” added Stephen Bruyneel, Chair, Board of Directors, Fraser River Discovery Centre. “Without their financial contributions and project input, we simply couldn’t have done this!”

But Bruyneel added that that work has really only begun, as they are working in earnest to ensure the Working River project moves on to Year 2.

“With the Plan now complete, we are using it to generate interest and funding for Year 2, during which we will be working with partners to “put the meat around the bones” of the exhibit so it can be ready to build in 2017,” he said. “But we have an aggressive goal and timeline to meet in order to do that. Before the end of this year, we need a 2016 commitment of ten partners and \$200,000 in order to allow us to proceed on Year 2 of the project.”

The FRDC is also working closely with the City of New Westminster to help move ahead the project and ensure the Centre continues to be a focal point on the waterfront.

“The City continues to be very supportive of both the FRDC and the Working River Project,” said Jonathan Cote, Mayor of New Westminster. “And we encourage businesses and organizations who believe in the importance of the Fraser River to join us in this important initiative.”

The \$2.25 million Working River Project is a world class, education-based exhibit that will promote a factual understanding of the crucial economic role of the Fraser River while considering its environmental and socio-cultural values. Set to open late 2017 and occupy the lower floor galleries of the 17,000 square foot facility, the exhibit will follow the Centre's current approach to education and be highly interactive, supported by programming and designed to meaningfully engage visitors in exploration and discovery of the theme.

The Exhibit Concept and Preliminary Design Plan can be viewed at <https://frdc.mymti.ca/PressRelease>
The Fraser River Discovery Centre Society operates the Fraser River Discovery Centre. Through interactive exhibits and engaging programming, the Discovery Centre showcases the Fraser River's role in shaping BC's ecological, cultural and economic diversity. Its mission is to be the Voice of the Fraser in presenting the stories of the Fraser River and their contribution to the life, history and future of British Columbia with the vision of connecting communities in discovery and celebration of the living, working Fraser River. The Discovery Centre is currently open Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Admission to the exhibit galleries is by donation.

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Working River Partner Quotes and Contact Information

Chevron Canada

“The educational benefits of the Working River Project will provide invaluable learning opportunities to the regional Vancouver community, and all British Columbians that interact with the Fraser River. Furthering community knowledge of the economic, environmental and social importance of the Fraser River is an initiative Chevron is proud to support.” - Adrien Byrne, Chevron Spokesperson

Fraser Surrey Docks

“Fraser Surrey Docks LP (FSD) is excited to support the Working River Project in order to elevate the communities awareness of the history, importance and economic significance of the Fraser River. FSD is committed to doing its part to support sustainable development along the Fraser River. FSD is proud to be the largest employer on the Fraser River waterfront, with more than 300 full-time employees, having contributed over 280 million dollars to BC communities over the last 5 years through salaries, wages, taxes and the buying of local goods and services.” - Jeff Scott, President and CEO, Fraser Surrey Docks

Kinder Morgan Canada

“We are pleased to see the Fraser River Discovery Centre’s Working River Project moving forward. For more than 60 years, Kinder Morgan Canada has always placed the greatest emphasis on safe operations of our pipeline and marine terminal assets. This important collaboration contributes to the ongoing dialogue about pipeline safety and emergency response.” - Michael Davies, Senior Director Marine Development, Kinder Morgan Canada

Port Metro Vancouver

“The Fraser River is as economically important to Canada as the St. Lawrence Seaway and is also critical to our environment and the habitat that lives in it. We share the goals of the Working River Project at the Fraser River Discovery Centre and are pleased to support initiatives to help ensure the river remains a sustainable economic engine and a source of enjoyment and pride.” - Duncan Wilson, Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility for Port Metro Vancouver

Saam Smit Canada

“Our company has inherited a long history of working on the Fraser River. We are very mindful of the different aspects that form a part of this ecological and economic ecosystem. The Working River Project aims to make that information accessible to the wider community and we believe this is an important step to ensure future prosperity for all who live and work on this beautiful river.” – Frans Tjallingii, President, Saam Smit Canada