

Prepared for:  
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Prepared by:  
Denis & Muntenier Advertising Ltd.  
Aspen Communications Ltd.

**NECHAKO RIVER**  
*Cold Water*  
*Release Facility*  
**BASELINE RESEARCH REPORT**  
**2002 - 2003**



# baseline research report

## 1.0 Introduction

The Communications and Information Program for the Cold Water Release Facility Project included a significant task in 2002 - 2003 to establish baseline information on public and stakeholder awareness and attitudes toward the project.

The research task adopted a two-pronged approach that included both personal interviews with a number of key stakeholders as well as a survey of general population within the project area. The results of both activities are presented in this report.

The information gained in the baseline research will initially be used to assist the development of a strategic communications plan for the project. It will also be used for comparison to further research in subsequent years that will track changes in perceptions of the project.

## 2.0 Stakeholder Interviews

### 2.1 Overview and Methodology

A total of 25 stakeholders were interviewed over a three-week period in November-December 2002. One additional survey was completed and returned by mail. The interviews included closed questions in order to collect data that could be compared to the general population polling to be undertaken in February 2003, as well as open questions in order to identify and probe the issues in greater depth.

The sample is segmented as follows:

- Local Government Elected Officials: Eight interviews completed with mayors of communities from Prince George to Smithers and Bulkley-Nechako Regional District chairpersons (both the outgoing and incoming chair were interviewed.)
- First Nations Leaders: Six interviews with First Nations Chiefs and senior administrators in the watershed area as well as the Vice Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.
- Nechako Watershed Council members: Five interviews.
- Stakeholders, not members of the NWC: Seven interviews, including six with members or affiliates of the Nechako River Alliance and one non-affiliated stakeholder.

It must be stressed that the interview process was not designed to be exhaustive or to include every known stakeholder. Rather, a conscious effort was made to choose interview candidates who are representative of varied interests and backgrounds. This diversity goes beyond the primary affiliation or name of the organization. As is common in society, people in leadership positions frequently "wear more than one hat." For example although no representative of a Farmers Institute or Cattlemen's Association was interviewed, at least two of the elected officials and two of the stakeholders interviewed are actively involved in farming or ranching.

It is important that the results should be regarded as anecdotal, rather than statistically significant. This is due to the small sample size and further segmentation of the sample.

## 2.2 Highlights of Stakeholder Interviews

The following provides the highlights and key findings from the interviews. The complete aggregated responses from the stakeholder interviews are presented in Appendix A. This includes further breakdowns by four categories of stakeholders.

### Awareness of the CWRP project:

Awareness of the project is high, but not universal, with 23 of 26 participants indicating knowledge of the Cold Water Release Facility Project.

### Understanding of what the CWRP will do:

The participants were about equally divided with about half the participants indicating the CWRP will cool the Nechako River, and half indicating it will achieve a more natural flow pattern in the river.

### Awareness of Benefits of the CWRP:

#### Overall results:

Benefits to fish – all fish, not limited to salmon – was the most frequent response, identified by one-half of the participants, when asked to name project benefits; one-third cited a more natural flow pattern and three indicated the opportunity for rehabilitation of the Murray-Chestatta system as the primary benefit.

When participants were asked to name additional benefits, "fish other than salmon" received 10 mentions; "Murray-Chestatta" received 7 mentions; followed by wildlife, agriculture, electricity generation and recreation, all about equal.

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In the rating of importance of potential benefits, by all participants, cooler water for salmon topped the list, with opportunities for Murray-Chesatta second.

Agriculture, tourism, river recreation and employment opportunities followed, all about equal. Electricity generation and reservoir recreation were rated lowest of potential benefits.

Variations within the segments:  
Local government leaders placed electricity production as the second most important benefit while First Nations leaders placed this lowest in importance.

Opportunities for rehabilitation of the Murray Chesatta system rated second in importance to all but local government leaders.

Non-NWC affiliated stakeholders most often identified "more natural flows in the Nechako River" as the primary benefit, while it held second place (after benefits to fish) with First Nations leaders.

### Potential negative effects of the CWRP and issues that may arise in the planning and implementation of the CWRP:

Overall results:

One half of those interviewed indicated they are not aware of any possible negatives effects of the project.

Fish issues, financial and taxation issues were most frequently identified, followed closely by flow regime, communications and consultation.

Variations within segments:

Stakeholders who are not members of the NWC identified three times as many potential negative effects and issues than did NWC members. First Nations leaders also frequently identified possible issues.

Local government leaders most often identified communications as a potential issue.

### Other opportunities related to the CWRP project:

Tourism and economic development were most frequently identified by participants as other opportunities.



**Importance of the CWRP project and level of support for the project:**

Overall results:  
Twenty participants indicated the project is either very or somewhat important with 16 indicating very important.

Support for the project is very high. Twenty participants indicated strong or some support for the project with 15 indicating strong support.

**Variations within segments:**

Strongest support was from local government leaders, seven of eight who gave the project some or strong support; and from NWC members, who all gave some or strong support.

Three of six First Nations leaders gave strong support, while one respondent declined to give an answer.

Four of seven non-NWC stakeholders also gave strong support to the project while five respondents in this group indicated the level of support would be conditional on the volumes released for the river or a commitment of freed up flows to the river.

**Interest in further information about the CWRP project:**

Twenty-five out of twenty-six participants indicated they wanted to receive more information about the project.

**Reliability of sources for information about the CWRP project:**

**Overall results:**

The Province, Nechako Watershed Council and local and regional media rated the highest for reliability, with Alcan rated in the middle and the federal government rated lowest.

**Variations within segments:**

Local government leaders gave the highest ratings to Alcan and the Province equally.

First Nations leaders rated the Province and NWC highest, Alcan and the media lowest.

Nechako Watershed Council members rated NWC highest for reliability (although one member rated the NWC "not very reliable"); followed by equal ratings for Alcan, the Province and the media.

Non-Nechako Watershed Council stakeholders also gave NWC top rating followed by the federal government, with Alcan receiving lowest ratings from this segment.

#### Preferred methods of communication:

Overall results:  
Presentations rated highest overall, with most participants indicating a presentation to their group would be welcomed. Media reports, project newsletters and town hall meetings/open houses followed closely in that order. Newspaper supplements and an annual report received progressively lower ratings, with web site and fall fair/trade show displays receiving the lowest ratings overall.

Variations within segments:

Presentations received highest ratings from participants in all segments. Most other results followed a common pattern among the segments. Web site was the exception, as it rated quite high among NWC members and First Nations and lowest among local government leaders.

## 3.0 General Population Survey

### 3.1 Overview and Methodology

A general population survey was completed in February 2003. The survey was conducted by the Institute for Social Research and Evaluation at the University of Northern BC. Phone calls were made to residents of the affected areas. Call recipients were introduced to the goal of the study and permission for their participation was gathered. Participants were then asked a series of 11 questions and sub-questions regarding their awareness, understanding and support of the Cold Water Release Facility.

Areas included in the research were Vanderhoof, Engen, Fort Fraser, Fraser Lake, Endako, Burns Lake, Francois Lake, Grassy Plains, Decker Lake, Houston, Topley, Telkwa, Smithers, Southbank, Ootsa Lake, Tatalrose, and Noralee.

There were a total of 939 numbers phoned. Of these, 268 were a business or fax number, were not answered, or otherwise not successful, a further 528 were answered but declined to participate, many for the reason that they did not know enough about the project to be able to answer the questions. Finally, 143 people agreed to participate in the survey.

Conservatively, the percentage results reported may be considered statistically accurate to within +/- 10%.

### 3.2 Highlights of the General Population Survey

The following provides the highlights and key findings from the general population survey. The detailed results of this survey are presented in Appendix C which consists of the complete report provided by the Institute for Social Research and Evaluation.

#### **Awareness of the Project:**

Awareness of the project is quite low at 30% or lower among survey participants. Awareness in the general population could be substantially lower because of the large number declining participation, many who indicated lack of knowledge as the reason.

#### **Understanding of what the CWRP will do:**

Understanding of what the project will do is very low. Less than half (66 of 143) the participants attempted to describe what the project will do, of these, only one third (22 of 66) gave a correct description. i.e. 15% of survey participants gave a correct description, the others declined to attempt, or gave an incorrect description.

#### **Awareness of Benefits of the CWRP:**

Awareness of the project benefits is very low. Only 7.5% of participants (11 of 143) identified benefits of the project for their community, all others responded "don't know" or "no benefits". Fish, environment and recreation were the benefits identified.

However when prompted with a list of potential project benefits, the participants rated all of them quite high. (Participants were asked to rate the importance of a list of potential benefits using a scale where 1 is "not at all important", 2 is "not very important", 3 is "neither important nor unimportant", 4 is "somewhat important", and 5 is "very important".)

All potential benefits were rated quite high (over 50% somewhat or very important)





**MEAN RATING**

**POTENTIAL BENEFIT**

<p><b>Benefits rated highest</b> (over 70% said somewhat or very important):</p>	<p>Cooling flows, better survival for salmon Employment opportunities</p>	<p>4.30 4.25</p>
<p><b>Benefits rated mid range</b> (64% to 68% said somewhat or very important):</p>	<p>More natural flow cycle in Nechako River Increased tourism opportunities Benefits to agriculture</p>	<p>3.97 3.89 3.87</p>
<p><b>Benefits rated lowest</b> (52% to 56% said somewhat or very important):</p>	<p>Improved recreation in Reservoir Opportunities to rehab Murray-Chesatta Increased electricity production Improved recreation in Nechako River</p>	<p>3.54 3.51 3.47 3.44</p>

**Priority to Community and Level of Support for the Project:**  
Public support for the project is moderate to strong. Over 90% of participants responded to these questions. 52% rated the project somewhat or very important, 43% indicated some or strong support for the project

**Understanding of the Parties Involved in Funding and Building the Project:**  
Understanding is quite low, only 42% of participants ventured a response to this question. "Alcan" and "Provincial Government" were each mentioned by one third of those who responded, while "Federal Government" and "Government (unspecified level)" were each mentioned by one quarter of the participants. Only 15% of participants correctly identified the project proponents

**Interest in further information about the CWRP project:**  
Interest in communications is quite high with 62% of participants wanting to hear more about the project, the remainder do not or did not respond to this question.

**Reliability of sources for information about the CWRP project:**  
There was high participation in this question, 95% or over responded to each prompted question.

(Participants were asked to rate the reliability of a list of potential sources, using a scale where 1 is "not at all reliable", 2 is "not very reliable", 3 is "neither reliable nor unreliable", 4 is "somewhat reliable", and 5 is "very reliable".)

POTENTIAL SOURCES	MEAN RATING
Nechako Watershed Council: 64% said somewhat or very reliable	3.70
Local and regional media: 48% said somewhat or very reliable	3.32
Alcan: 31% said somewhat or very reliable	2.82
Federal Government 31% said somewhat or very reliable	2.72
Provincial Government: 29% said somewhat or very reliable	2.52

Preferred methods of communication:  
 High participation in this question, over 96% responded to each prompted question.

(Participants were asked to rank each of these sources on a five-point scale, where 1 is "not at all", 2 is "possibly", 3 is "unsure", 4 is "likely", and 5 is "definitely".)

**POSSIBLE SOURCES**

MEAN RATING	
3.24	Newspaper supplements:
2.99	Fall fair or trade show displays:
2.88	Project newsletter:
2.62	Annual report:
2.26	Web site:
2.25	Town hall meetings or open houses:
2.09	Presentations to community organizations:

**Other Comments or Issues:**

Survey participants were asked if they had any other comments or issues regarding the Nechako River that they would like reported to the project proponents. Nineteen participants recorded comments:

- 5 indicated concern for impacts on community or residents
- 3 indicated concern for impacts on the environment
- 2 indicated concern for flooding
- Siltation, water levels in Chesatta Lake and question of Alcan's motives were also mentioned
- 3 indicated lack of information/knowledge

## 4.0 Conclusions and Implications for the Communications Program

The stakeholder and general population research program is helpful in establishing baseline information on awareness, understanding and support for the CWRF project. This information can be compared to research conducted in later years and used to track progress toward communication objectives.

The research results also provide guidance for the design of the initial project communications program. The following conclusions are relevant:

- Awareness of the project is high among stakeholders, but much lower among the general population. The communications program will need to introduce the general audiences to the project, but also needs to provide more in-depth information to those who are already familiar with the project.
- Stakeholders are generally well aware of the project benefits. The general population is less aware, but when prompted, they rate the importance of the potential benefits quite high. The project communications should emphasize the project benefits.

- Support for the project is quite strong among all segments surveyed. Support can be expected to increase with increasing awareness and understanding. Communication of the project benefits will enhance the support for the project.

- There is a wide range of issues that need to be addressed for a number of the stakeholders. These will not be addressed by one-way communications, but will require two-way communication and dialogue. Perhaps the most sensitive issue will be the allocation of "freed up flows." It will be important to communicate how decisions will be made on allocation of these flows.

- The stakeholders expressed a desire for face-to-face communications at a level that enables discussion of the issues and technical aspects in some depth. Targeted presentations will play a strong role in communications with stakeholder groups.

- The general public does not have the same desire for dialogue and two-way communications as some stakeholders, but they expressed high interest in further information about the project. Newspaper supplements, earned media reports, project newsletters and fall fair displays will be most effective in reaching the general public.

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- Understanding of who the project proponents are is quite weak among the general population. Therefore the project communi- cations should aim to raise the profile of the proponents. However the Nechako Watershed Council was rated high for reliability as a source of information about the project. Therefore it will be beneficial to involve the NWC in the communications delivery, e.g. continue the past NWC program of fall displays.

## Appendices Attached

- A. Stakeholder Interview Aggregate Results
  - All interviews
  - Elected officials
  - First Nations leaders
  - NWC members
  - Stakeholders, non NWC members
- B. List of those interviewed
- C. General Population Survey Results
- D. Stakeholder Interview Guide
- E. General Population Survey Script

# Baseline Research Report Nechako River Cold Water Release Facility

## APPENDICES

- A. Stakeholder Interview Aggregate Results
  - All interviews*
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# Appendix A Stakeholder Interview Aggregate Results

Aggregate Interview Summary  
Date: December 31, 2002

The following summarizes the responses received in all the interviews with 25 stakeholders, and one survey returned by mail, in November and December 2002.

*Note: A further breakdown of results by stakeholder category follows these aggregated results.*

Numbers in parentheses ( ) indicate number of similar responses.

1. Are you aware of the project to design and construct a Cold Water Release Facility at the Kenney Dam on the Nechako?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ 23  
NO \_\_\_\_\_ 3

2. What is your understanding of what the Cold Water Release Facility will do?

## COOLER FLOWS FOR FISH (10):

- It will take colder water from reservoir to re-water upper Nechako and cool Nechako River for spawning sockeye salmon
- To lower water temperature to better serve interests of salmon and other fish species and achieve a more natural annual flow cycle in the Nechako River
- It will help for survival of the fish by regulating river temperature for spawning
- Collect water from the bottom of the reservoir and pump it into the river to provide cooling flows for salmon
- Will allow release of colder water for cooling flows for migrating fish
- Will lower the summertime water temperature in the Nechako River and increase fish survival and will re-water the Nechako Canyon
- It will help moderate water temperature of the Nechako River to sustain fish and to stabilize river flow for needs of area residents

- It will provide greater flexibility in managing temperature and flow regimes downstream of Kenney Dam
- To get water temperatures down so we have more salmon
- It will create a control facility to allow releases of surface water and sub-surface water into the Nechako River

### MORE NATURAL OR EVEN FLOWS (11):

- It provides consistency with water flows in Nechako River so there is more constant flows
- Facilitate a more natural flow pattern in the Nechako River
- It will free up water that may be redistributed to enhance the Nechako River
- Stabilize Nechako River levels
- Control temperature of Nechako River water while maintaining a more consistent flow
- Re-water Nechako Canyon and level out water flows in Nechako River and enable enhancement of the Chestata system
- It will control output and temperature from the reservoir to restore natural flows in the Nechako River
- It will more efficiently regulate inflow in the Nechako River
- Even out flows in the river, prevent the summer freshet that now occurs
- Extract water from the reservoir at Kenney Dam and inject it into the Nechako Canyon
- Not really up to speed but it's probably to control water levels

### MORE NATURAL FLOWS AND ELECTRICITY GENERATION (2):

- It will help stabilize the Nechako River, may involve hydro generation
- Maintain flows on Nechako River in low water season and at a later date might generate electricity

### DON'T KNOW OR NOT AWARE (3)

3. What do you think the primary benefit of the Cold Water Release Facility would be?

(Twenty-eight primary benefits identified)

### BENEFITS TO FISH (13):

- Allows cooling flows in the Nechako River to help spawning sockeye salmon
- To benefit migrating salmon
- Better control of fish habitat
- Survival of the fish
- The environment and the fish stocks



- Enhancement of the health of the Nechako River

#### HEALTH OF THE RIVER (1):

- Will benefit the stakeholders who have been impacted and lost flows and will provide more flexibility to these user groups

#### BENEFITS TO STAKEHOLDERS (1):

- Reduces the amount of water needed to cool the river
- Allowing greater amounts of water to be used for other than cooling the river, ie released down the Nechako

#### BETTER USE OF WATER (2):

- Not using Murray-Chestatta as a spillway and enabling rehabilitation Nechako River
- Eliminate surges through the Chestatta system and end fluctuations on the mimic a natural river
- Stabilization of the Chestatta system, allowing a hydro graph that would

#### REHABILITATION OF MURRAY-CHESTATTA SYSTEM (3):

- May be able to reduce flows in July-August and redistribute to other times of the year
- Getting rid of the huge summer releases and achieving a more natural annual flow in the Nechako river.
- Hold back flood flows in Nechako
- Keep flow even in the Nechako River
- To facilitate a more suitable flow regime than it has had since construction of the dam
- To make a more natural flow in Nechako River
- A more natural flow pattern in the Nechako River
- Would not have the high and low extremes in Nechako River
- It would start towards returning the flows to a more natural level throughout the year

#### MORE NATURAL FLOWS OR MORE EVEN FLOWS IN THE NECHAKO RIVER (9):

- Improved fish survival
- Keep water cooler for salmon runs
- Will it help the fish and or vegetation?
- Maintain better fish habitat
- More salmon in the river
- Improved survival for fish
- Cooling flows for migrating fish
- Improve the Nechako fishery (salmon are priority but sturgeon are also important)

4. What other benefits do you think the Cold Water Release Facility would provide?

**BENEFITS TO FISH IN ADDITION TO SALMON (12):**

- Will be better for sturgeon
- Benefits to spawning salmon and resident fish as well
- cooler water for migrating salmon
- healthier habitat for all fish and aquatic life
- Recreational fishing
- Freed up water can be used for "downstream enhancement", eg. sturgeon recovery
- More healthy salmon industry in BC
- aid survival of salmon
- aid survival of sturgeon (2)
- re-watering of Nechako canyon and restoration of the trout fishery
- A more natural seasonal flow pattern will enhance resident fish population

**REHABILITATION OF MURRAY-CHESLATTA SYSTEM (7):**

- There is and opportunity for rehabilitation of Murray-Chehalatta system
- Ability to enhance Chehalatta River system
- Enable rehabilitation of Murray-Chehalatta system (2)
- Possibility to rebuild the Chehalatta system
- Would correct the problems caused by releasing water through the Chehalatta system
- Rehabilitation of the Chehalatta

**BENEFITS TO MANAGING THE RESERVOIR (4):**

- Allowing Alcan more flexibility for managing the reservoir – they may be able to release less volume in years of low snowpack
- The health of the reservoir
- Better able to manage the reservoir
- Alcan should be able to hold more water for reservoir

**WILDLIFE BENEFITS (3):**

- A more natural annual cycle will benefit semi-aquatic furbearers
- Re-watering of the Nechako Canyon would enhance habitat for furbearers
- Wildlife who use the area

**BENEFITS TO AGRICULTURE (3):**

- Easier to contain livestock
- Better for cattle containment and agriculture

- Better for irrigation and cattle containment

ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION (3):

- possible generation of electricity
- Would like to see power generation at Kenney Dam
- Will provide more power

ENHANCED RECREATION OR TOURISM (3):

- Recreation would be improved on the river
- Additional tourism benefits
- Enhance recreation

MORE NATURAL FLOWS IN THE NECHAKO RIVER (3):

- Will restore a more natural river flow year round
- Maintain more natural flow in Nechako River
- More stable flows in Nechako River

EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (2):

- work on the construction of the project
- It must provide local employment benefits

OTHER BENEFITS (10):

- Flood control will continue
- There is and opportunity to turn freed up water into money to pay for enhancement downstream
- Maintains value of land fronting on the river
- It will remove the myth that the river is sick and it will resolve the concerns and issues of Nechako Valley residents
- Meeting needs of communities and industry on the river for water
- Excellent public relations for Alcan (Alcan needs to be a good corporate citizen)
- BC will be demonstrating positive environmental initiatives to the international community
- It will do what nature couldn't do to provide a health environment in the River in late summer
- prevent erosion and siltation
- Re-watering of the Nechako Canyon

UNCERTAIN (1):

- This would depend on volumes and timing of flow releases

6. Are there potential dis-benefits or negative affects that may result from the Cold Water Release Facility, and what might they be?

- NONE THAT I AM AWARE OF (12):
- In 4 years of research the NWC has never found a negative to the CWRP.
  - None that are substantial
  - None that I am aware of (10)

- CONCERNS FOR FISH (3):
- Water from deep in reservoir may have gas levels harmful to fish
  - Cooler water may harm other fish species
  - We have not been satisfied that fresh water fish will not be impaired
- LESS WATER FOR THE NECHAKO (2):
- Would be dis-benefit is less water comes down Nechako River
  - If any additional water were to be diverted to Kemano

- OTHER CONCERNS (11)
- If our community (Kitimat) did not share in the benefits
  - There are still unknowns e.g. flushing out of Cheslatta fan

BENEFIT		RATING				
		Not at all important	Not very important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important
Cooler water, providing better survival for migrating salmon				1	2	23
Opportunity to rehabilitate the Murray-Cheslatta system	2		4		5	15
Employment opportunities with the construction of the facility	2	5	5		6	8
Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako Reservoir	6	2	9		5	4
Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako River	4	2	4		11	5
Opportunities for increased tourism development	1	5	5		9	6
Benefits to the agricultural community	2	1	7		9	7
Increased electricity production	8	2	3		7	6

5. The Cold Water Release Facility may provide a number of benefits to the environment and surrounding communities. Please rate the importance of each benefit to you and your community.

- We would like to see minimal disruption of the Chesatta fan
- Negative effects would depend on time of year of release – could cause flooding in winter
- Its hard to say, given how much irreparable harm already done by Alcan
- May be minimal disruption from the construction
- Taking water out of Murray-Chesatta would be a negative
- Further disruption on Chesatta Falls area
- Increased traffic on Kenney Dam road
- Scar for transmission line right of way, if generation is included
- Potential upstream flooding
- It is important that if Hydro generation is installed at the CWRP that it does not compromise the environmental benefits of the CWRP, ie the CWRP operation must be driven by environmental benefits, not power benefits
- Operation of the facility must balance use of water for cooling with other uses, cooling flows must be the priority
- I would be afraid that the CWRP is designed so that it does not address the health of the river and thereby failing to meet objectives

7. What issues may arise and need to be addressed in the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility Project?

FISH ISSUES (4):

- Juggling of flows to accommodate both sockeye and sturgeon will be a challenge
- How will it affect sturgeon recovery efforts
- Increased siltation which could harm fish
- Would not want to see all these efforts go into the Nechako and have salmon stocks negatively impacted by some project or industry far downstream i.e. On the Fraser River

FINANCIAL ISSUES (4):

- Costs and design considerations
- Who is going to pay for it
- Citizens here in Nechako Valley shouldn't be taxed to pay for this
- Where will tax dollars go from this facility? Should go to local communities on the river and reservoir

FLOW REGIME (3)

- There needs to be a careful look at the condition of the river and designing an annual flow regime that provide the greatest benefits to the river
- It will be important to design the flow regime to address enhancement of fish habitat and fish stocks, and the river environment

- How to manage flows for optimum downstream results

COMMUNICATION ISSUES (3):

- Important to keep the public well informed on progress of the project
- Will need to be really effectively sold to the public, benefits will need to be communicated
- Communication is important, making sure people get accurate information

CONSULTATION ISSUES (3):

- Must be local community input into the ongoing operating of the facility i.e. an advisory body
- NWC has been the slowest process possible and the access for stakeholders has been very poor (meetings scheduled during normal work hours)
- The whole consultation process will be extremely important to First Nations, First Nations will be skeptical

REWATERING NECHAKO CANYON (2):

- There is concern about re-watering the Nechako Canyon and causing sediment Downstream
- Re-watering of Nechako Canyon will need to be done carefully to avoid any environmental damage

ALLOCATION OF FREED UP FLOWS (3):

- Have not had assurance that "freed-up flows" are guaranteed to be used for the downstream river
- There has been no commitment to put the "saved water" back in the river
- All water "freed up" by the CWRF should be redistributed to the Nechako River

TAHTSA NARROWS ISSUE (2):

- Tahsa Narrows dredging is a big issue if it is tied to CWRF in any way
- Does this project relate to the proposal for dredging Tahsa Narrows?

CONCERN FOR ENVIRONMENT (3):

- Priority should be the environmental restoration, economic benefits should not out-weigh the environmental considerations
- It must meet environmental requirements with a high standard
- Potential negative environmental impacts

OTHER ISSUES:

- Differences in priorities for achieving benefits

- The federal government will need to be included in the planning and development of the project
- There has never been a public inquiry or expert panel to look at the condition of the river
- Archeology in Nechako Canyon
- Don't diminish the Chestata Falls, leave them in current state
- Potential erosion to river banks
- May be the whole issue of Alcan and their profit motive, ie. more power production and less aluminum production
- Redress for past injustices and irreparable harm done by the Kenney Dam and Kemano Project
- Would it affect stability of the dam?
- Getting it right so we achieve what we intend to achieve with the project
- Use of local or imported labour may be an issue
- Environmental effect of the construction
- What is Alcan's original contract and are they obliged to live by it (Alcan's ability to sell power or not)
- 170 cubic metres in Alcan's licence is more than comes into the reservoir in some years
- Inform the public that this CWRP is not fixing the problem of insufficient annual flows in Nechako River
- How to get water through the Chestata fan and avoid siltation, etc. (2)
- Reservoir considerations must be factored in, ie reducing annual fluctuations in the reservoir
- Whether or not to put electricity generation at the CWRP
- Access route for construction traffic and the route for any required power line, both could impact wildlife (power line should follow Holy Cross Road)
- That it should have been done years ago
- I've never been to Kenney Dam – don't know

8. Are there other opportunities you would expect from the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility project?

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND TOURISM (6):

- Opportunities in tourism and sport fishing (resorts and hospitality)
- Tourism opportunities in upper Nechako and Chestata Falls
- Other secondary industries or tourism development should result
- There may be other enhancements to habitat that will benefit wildlife, or that may provide opportunities for eco-tourism
- Should be additional recreation or other economic opportunities created by the project
- Economic development

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES (10):

- This is an opportunity to resolve old issues and at the same time enhance BC's reputation on environmental performance
- Would this add reasons to strengthen transportation infrastructure, roads and ferries, in the region
- To generate electricity for local use on reserves which don't have power now
- Historic trails on both sides of the Canyon and Chastata River should be restored
- They should work to provide the best benefits to the residents and the environment (fish and wildlife)
- Increased flows in Nechako could minimize erosion on Nautley River
- If the Watershed Council process works well everyone gains
- Rehabilitation of the Murray-Chastata system
- There should be a look at wider considerations, ie approach this from the angle of what is best for the river
- The incremental opportunity would be an enhanced resident fish population

OTHER RESPONSES (2):

- We don't have enough information at this point
- None that I am aware of

9. Overall, what priority to you and your own community would you place on the Cold Water Release Facility? Would you say that it is:

RATING	
Not at all important	1
Not very important	1
Neither important nor unimportant	3
Somewhat important	4
Very important	16

Comments:

- Not rated – it will depend if freed up flows come to the river
- Not rated - from somewhat to very important depending on the seasonal flow volumes that would be achieved



- We want to see the river there forever, the fish happy and the people happy
- Anything to increase tourism is beneficial
- Would need to discuss issues with our neighbouring communities
- Would not support export of electricity
- Would be disappointed if we did not get contracts on the construction
- Don't feel that aboriginal people would likely want to work on a project where in past they have always been opposed
- very strong support
- Support will be strong when residents understand and recognize the possibilities and benefits, it has to be sold to them
- We accept that CWRP is one of the primary tools to improve the Nechako River, however, we advocate taking a wider view to selecting enhancement options

OTHER COMMENTS (8):

- Support will depend on the design chosen, a design that causes other negative environmental effects would weaken the support
- Level of support is dependent on the final design attributes. This must be for the benefit of the river, fish, wildlife and residents, not just so Alcan can generate more power
- Strong support, provided "freed up" flows stay in the river
- From some to strong support depending on how the volume and seasonal flow is addressed
- Support would be high if the anticipated benefits can be demonstrated
- Level of support depends on design through the Chastatta fan

CONDITIONAL SUPPORT (5):

Comments:

- No answer, we are negotiating with Alcan
- Not rated – it will depend if freed up flows come to the river

DECLINED TO ANSWER (2)

RATING				
No support at all	1	Neither strong nor weak support	3	Strong support
				5
				15

10. What level of support would you give to the building of a Cold Water Release Facility? Would you give it:

COMMENTS RE NWC (2):

- NWC communication has lacked substance, just interminable meeting notes

COMMENTS RE ALCAN (3):

- If Alcan is behind this project, will be an audience bias to overcome, Alcan will have to earn credibility
- Alcan have been quite forthcoming with information
- Couldn't trust Alcan

RATING					
	Not at all reliable	Not very reliable	Neither reliable nor unreliable	Somewhat reliable	Very reliable
Federal government	5	7	5	6	3
Provincial government	2	3	7	10	4
Alcan	4	6	5	8	3
Nechako Watershed Council	1	3	7	9	6
local and regional media	1	3	10	10	2

13. What parties would you consider reliable sources for this information?

YES\_25\_\_ NO\_\_1\_\_

12. In the future, would you like to hear more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Alcan (24)
- Province of BC (22)
- Federal Government (8)
- Dept. of Fisheries (2)
- Federal Government should be but isn't (2)
- Possibly also the federal government
- BC Hydro or a power generator (3)
- Private sector partner (3)
- Ministry of Environment (1)
- Regional Districts (1)
- It seems like nobody, because all the players are playing poker hands
- Not known

11. Who do you think are the parties involved in the funding and building of the Cold Water Release Facility?

RATING				
Not at all	Possibly	Unsure	Likely	Definitely
	5	1	6	13
	1	2	8	12
	2	2	5	8
	2	2	8	8
	2	3	3	12
	1	1	6	16
	2	4	1	9
	5	4	5	3

14b.

RATING				
Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Sometimes	Often
	4	7	7	5

14a. Would you visit a web site

14. Given the following methods of communication, which would you be likely to use for receiving more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Regional district would be "somewhat reliable"
- project
- Cautions about media – they haven't spent time to understand the role of the
- If province is committed to the funding, their rating is high
- An independent source would be reliable e.g. David Suzuki
- CBC would be most reliable among media
- Meisner, talk show host
- Some of our media have shown bias against Alcan in the past, e.g. Ben

OTHER COMMENTS (6)

- NWC is not fully committed to giving priority to the environmental restoration, rating is low

Other comments on communication preferences or suggestions for project communications:

IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATIONS (5):

- Communication will be most important, it will be necessary to get groups like "The River Forever" on side
- General public needs to realize the benefits of the CWRP
- It is important to keep information in front of people
- There has been a dearth of information about the project and if the proponents want to foster cooperation they have to provide good communications
- There is a wide constituency of interest who have a large appetite for communications

QUALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS (6):

- Communications will have to be supported by people who can answer detailed questions about the project and its benefits
- Dialogue is important and must be at a level where we can discuss technical and environmental details
- Not interested in hearing more propaganda from Alcan, would rather hear more about health or river
- We want to hear action plans, not propaganda
- If is perceived as public relations for Alcan and government it won't have credibility, so it will have to be unbiased and present a variety of opinions
- Provide straight answers to deal with the naysayers

COMMUNICATIONS METHODS (10):

- I would expect this office needs to be kept well informed as the project moves forward, even an occasional e-mail update would be useful
- Presentations should address combined group of Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Skin Tyee Band, and Carrier Chestatta First Nation
- Radio talk shows would be effective for communication
- Local radio talk show can be effective
- Since we have only a radio phone, we don't have access to the Internet
- Consider getting a local person (Burns Lake area person) to facilitate the communications. The person should be well known and have credibility locally
- Focus on opinion leaders will be effective
- Need an e-mail newsletter to advise when web site is updated
- Opportunities for communication on more detailed specifics of the project are preferred, info aimed at the general public may not be adequate for our group

- You will need to peak the interest of the public to get them to pay attention to the communications
- 15. Any other comments regarding the CWRP project?
  - People need to know more about the project and what it will do before they can say they support it or not
  - Will Alcan continue to fight to exclude this particular asset from local and regional taxation?
  - There is not a lot of concern with re-watering Nechako Canyon, the project should not spend too much on this aspect
  - Initial charge of silt in the river should not be a problem, it's a fairly natural occurrence
  - A CWRP is the only way the Nechako River will have a more natural flow pattern.
  - The volume released to the river must not be compromised by the ability to provide cold water, water temperature is only part of what the river needs, the other part is volume.
  - Unless there is appropriate consultation with First Nations there is a high risk of litigation
  - We are waiting to sign contracts with Alcan
  - We need to know what sort of environmental assessment process will be used for this project
  - Beyond the exemplary work on CWRP, I have been concerned that the NWC business is being expanded in order to perpetuate their existence
  - The dam is for long term and so is the CWRP
  - The CWRP will eventually have to compete with health care and education for government funding
  - It's important to let people know what will be done with freed up Flows and this must be a firm commitment
  - Our group definitely wants to be kept well informed as the project planning moves forward
  - Need to look at the bigger picture and review Alcan's licence – is it appropriate?
  - The desired operating regime should be establish first and then the CWRP designed to enable it, not the other way around
  - We advocate a natural flow regime in the Nechako River
  - We will be glad to share our views on the project at any time

# Local Government Elected Officials Interview Summary December 18, 2002

The following summarizes the responses received in interviews with 8 mayors and regional district board chairs in November and December 2002.

Number in parentheses ( ) indicate number of similar responses.

1. Are you aware of the project to design and construct a Cold Water Release Facility at the Kenney Dam on the Nechako?

YES 6 NO 2

2. What is your understanding of what the Cold Water Release Facility will do?

MORE NATURAL OF EVEN FLOWS (3):

- Stabilize Nechako River levels
- Control temperature of Nechako River water while maintaining a more consistent flow
- Not really up to speed but it's probably to control water levels

MORE NATURAL FLOWS AND ELECTRICITY GENERATION (1):

- Maintain flows on Nechako River in low water season and at a later date might generate electricity

COOLER FLOWS FOR FISH (2):

- Collect water from the bottom of the reservoir and pump it into the river to provide cooling flows for salmon
- Will lower the summertime water temperature in the Nechako River and increase fish survival and will re-water the Nechako Canyon

DON'T KNOW OF NOT AWARE (2)

3. What do you think the primary benefit of the Cold Water Release Facility would be?

(Nine primary benefits identified)

BENEFITS TO FISH (5):

- Keep water cooler for salmon runs
- Maintain better fish habitat
- More salmon in the river
- Improved survival for fish
- Will it help the fish and or vegetation?

MORE NATURAL FLOWS OR MORE EVEN FLOWS IN THE NECHAKO RIVER (4):

- Keep flow even in the Nechako River
- Hold back flood flows in Nechako
- Would not have the high and low extremes in Nechako River
- Eliminate surges through the Cheshata system and end fluctuations on the Nechako River

4. What other benefits do you think the Cold Water Release Facility would provide?

- More healthy salmon industry in BC
- Ability to enhance Cheshata River system
- Alcan should be able to hold more water for reservoir
- Would like to see power generation at Kenney Dam
- Meeting needs of communities and industry on the river for water
- Excellent public relations for Alcan (Alcan needs to be a good corporate citizen)
- Additional tourism benefits
- BC will be demonstrating positive environmental initiatives to the international community
- It will do what nature couldn't do to provide a health environment in the River in late summer

- Would it affect stability of the dam?

OTHER ISSUES:

- Important to keep the public well informed on progress of the project
- Communication is important, making sure people get accurate information
- Must be local community input into the ongoing operating of the facility i.e. an advisory body

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION ISSUES (3):

7. What issues may arise and need to be addressed in the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility Project?

- May be minimal disruption from the construction
- Taking water out of Murray-Cheslatta would be a negative
- Potential upstream flooding

6. Are there potential dis-benefits or negative affects that may result from the Cold Water Release Facility, and what might they be?

BENEFIT		RATING				
		Not at all important	Not very important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important
Cooler water, providing better survival for migrating salmon						8
Opportunity to rehabilitate the Murray-Cheslatta system	2		1		3	2
Employment opportunities with the construction of the facility			1		4	3
Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako Reservoir	2		2		2	2
Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako River			2		4	2
Opportunities for increased tourism development	1		1		3	3
Benefits to the agricultural community			2		2	4
Increased electricity production					2	6

5. The Cold Water Release Facility may provide a number of benefits to the environment and surrounding communities. Please rate the importance of each benefit to you and your community.



- Getting it right so we achieve what we intend to achieve with the project
- Would not want to see all these efforts go into the Nechako and have salmon stocks negatively impacted by some project or industry far downstream i.e. On the Fraser River
- Does this project relate to the proposal for dredging Tahsta Narrows? Re-watering of Nechako Canyon will need to be done carefully to avoid any environmental damage
- I've never been to Kenney Dan – don't know

8. Are there other opportunities you would expect from the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility project?

- Would this add reasons to strengthen transportation infrastructure, roads and ferries, in the region
- There may be other enhancements to habitat that will benefit wildlife, or that may provide opportunities for eco-tourism
- This is an opportunity to resolve old issues and at the same time enhance BC's reputation on environmental performance

9. Overall, what priority to you and your own community would you place on the Cold Water Release Facility? Would you say that it is:

RATING				
Not at all	Not very	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important
1		1		6

10. What level of support would you give to the building of a Cold Water Release Facility? Would you give it:

RATING				
No support at all	Not much support	Neither strong nor weak support	Some support	Strong support
	1		2	5

Comments:

- We want to see the river there forever, the fish happy and the people happy
- Anything to increase tourism is beneficial

- Would need to discuss issues with our neighbouring communities
  - If Alcan is behind this project, will be an audience bias to overcome, Alcan will have to earn credibility
  - Some of our media have shown bias against Alcan in the past, e.g. Ben Weisner, talk show host
- Comments re above:

RATING					
	Not at all reliable	Not very reliable	Neither reliable nor unreliable	Somewhat reliable	Very reliable
Federal government	1	3	2	2	
Provincial government			2	4	2
Alcan		1	1	4	2
Nechako Watershed Council			3	4	1
local and regional media		2		6	

13. What parties would you consider reliable sources for this information?

YES\_7\_ NO\_1\_

12. In the future, would you like to hear more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Alcan (6)
- Province of BC (4)
- BC Hydro or a power generator (2)
- Private sector partner (2)
- Federal Government (1)
- Federal Government should be but isn't (1)
- Dept. of Fisheries (1)
- Ministry of Environment (1)
- Regional Districts (1)
- Not known

11. Who do you think are the parties involved in the funding and building of the Cold Water Release Facility?



15. Any other comments regarding the CWRF project?
- People need to know more about the project and what it will do before they can say they support it or not
  - Will Alcan continue to fight to exclude this particular asset from local and regional taxation?

# First Nations Leaders Interview Summary December 18, 2002

The following summarizes the responses received in interviews with 6 First Nations Chiefs and senior administrators in December 2002.

1. Are you aware of the project to design and construct a Cold Water Release Facility at the Kenney Dam on the Nechako?

YES 5 NO 1

Comments:

- yes, unfortunately

2. What is your understanding of what the Cold Water Release Facility will do?

COOLER FLOWS FOR FISH (4):

- To get water temperatures down so we have more salmon spawning
- It will help for survival of the fish by regulating river temperature for and to stabilize river flow for needs of area residents
- It will affect fish stocks if this is not done

MORE NATURAL OR EVEN FLOWS (2):

- Will help stabilize the Nechako River, may involve hydro generation
- More efficiently regulate inflow in the Nechako River

3. What do you think the primary benefit of the Cold Water Release Facility would be?

BENEFITS TO FISH (4):

- Survival of the fish
- The environment and the fish stocks
- Improve the Nechako fishery (salmon are priority but sturgeon are also important)
- Improved fish survival

4. What other benefits do you think the Cold Water Release Facility would provide?
- BENEFITS TO FISH IN ADDITION TO SALMON (2):**
- Benefits to spawning salmon and resident fish as well
  - Recreational fishing
- EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (2):**
- Work on the construction of the project
  - It must provide local employment benefits
- WILDLIFE BENEFITS (2):**
- Wildlife who use the area
  - Re-watering of the Nechako Canyon would enhance habitat for furbearers
- OTHER BENEFITS:**
- Better manage the reservoir
  - Maintain more natural flow in Nechako River
  - This would depend on volumes and timing of flow releases

- OTHER BENEFITS (2):**
- Stabilization of the Chestata system, allowing a hydro graph that would mimic a natural river
  - To facilitate a more suitable flow regime than it has had since construction of the dam

7. What issues may arise and need to be addressed in the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility Project?
- Where will tax dollars go from this facility? Should go to local communities on the river and reservoir
  - Archeology in Nechako Canyon
  - Don't diminish the Cheslatta Falls, leave them in current state
  - Priority should be the environmental restoration, economic benefits should not out-weigh the environmental considerations

6. Are there potential dis-benefits or negative affects that may result from the Cold Water Release Facility, and what might they be?
- We have not been satisfied that fresh water fish will not be impaired
  - We would like to see minimal disruption of the Cheslatta fan
  - Negative effects would depend on time of year of release – could cause flooding in winter
  - None that I have hear about
  - Its hard to say, given how much irreparable harm already done by Alcan

RATING		BENEFIT			
Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not very important	Not at all important	
					Cooler water, providing better survival for migrating salmon
		1			Opportunity to rehabilitate the Murray-Cheslatta system
	1	1	1		Employment opportunities with the construction of the facility
		1	1	2	Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako Reservoir
	1		1	1	Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako River
3				1	Opportunities for increased tourism development
	2	1		1	Benefits to the agricultural community
		1	1	4	Increased electricity production

5. The Cold Water Release Facility may provide a number of benefits to the environment and surrounding communities. Please rate the importance of each benefit to you and your community.

RATING				
Not at all important	Not very important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important
	1	1	1	3

8. Are there other opportunities you would expect from the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility project?
- Potential erosion to river banks
  - Increased siltation which could harm fish
  - That it should have been done years ago
  - It must meet environmental requirements with a high standard
  - The whole consultation process will be extremely important to First Nations, First Nations will be skeptical
  - Potential negative environmental impacts
  - May be the whole issue of Alcan and their profit motive, ie. more power production and less aluminum production
  - Redress for past injustices and irreparable harm done by the Kenney Dam and Kemano Project
  - It will be important to design the flow regime to address enhancement of fish habitat and fish stocks, and the river environment
9. Overall, what priority to you and your own community would you place on the Cold Water Release Facility?
- Opportunities in tourism and sport fishing (resorts and hospitality)
  - Tourism opportunities in upper Nechako and Cheslatta Falls
  - Historic trails on both sides of the Canyon and Cheslatta River should be restored
  - They should work to provide the best benefits to the residents and the environment (fish and wildlife)
  - Increased flows in Nechako could minimize erosion on Nautley River
  - To generate electricity for local use on reserves which don't have power now
  - We don't have enough information at the point



10. What level of support would you give to the building of a Cold Water Release Facility?

RATING	
No support at all	
Not much support	
Neither strong nor weak support	2
Some support	
Strong support	3

Note: One respondent declined to answer this question.

Comments:

- Would be disappointed if we did not get contracts on the construction
- Don't feel that aboriginal people would likely want to work on a project where in past they have always been opposed
- Support would be high if the anticipated benefits can be demonstrated
- Level of support depends on design through the Cheslatta fan
- Would not support export of electricity
- No answer, we are negotiating with Alcan

11. Who do you think are the parties involved in the funding and building of the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Alcan (6)
- Province of BC (6)
- Federal Government (4)
- Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans (1)
- BC Hydro (1)
- Perhaps other private sector partners (1)

12. In the future, would you like to hear more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

RATING					
	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Sometimes	Often
Would you visit a web site		1	2	2	1

14 a. Would you visit a web site

14. Given the following methods of communication, which would you be likely to use for receiving more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Couldn't trust Alcan
- An independent source would be reliable e.g. David Suzuki
- If province is committed to the funding, their rating is high
- NWC is not fully committed to giving priority to the environmental restoration, rating is low

Comments re above:

RATING					
	Not at all reliable	Not very reliable	Neither reliable nor unreliable	Somewhat reliable	Very reliable
Federal government	2		1	2	1
Provincial government	1	1		2	2
Alcan	2	2		1	1
Nechako Watershed Council		1	1	2	2
local and regional media	1	1	3		1

13. What parties would you consider reliable sources for this information?

**RATING**

	Not at all	Possibly	Unsure	Likely	Definitely
Would you read a project newsletter mailed to you home?		2		2	2
Would you read or listen to media reports on local or regional media outlets?	1		1	2	2
Would you read newspaper supplements in your community papers?	1	1	3		1
Would you read an annual report published about the project?	2	1		1	2
Would you attend presentations made to local government, clubs and community organizations (or to your group)?	1			2	3
Would you attend town hall meetings or open houses?	2			1	3
Would you attend fall fair or trade show displays?	2	1		2	1

**Other comments on communication preferences or suggestions for project communications:**

- Presentations should address combined group of Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Skin Tyee Band, and Carrier Cheshatta First Nation
- Radio talk shows would be effective for communication
- Consider getting a local person (Burns Lake area person) to facilitate the communications. The person should be well known and have credibility locally
- We want to hear action plans, not propaganda

**15. Any other comments regarding the CWRP project?**

- There is not a lot of concern with re-watering Nechako Canyon, the project should not spend too much on this aspect
- Initial charge of silt in the river should not be a problem, it's a fairly natural occurrence
- Unless there is appropriate consultation with First Nations there is a high risk of litigation
- We are waiting to sign contracts with Alcan

# Nechako Watershed Council Interview Summary December 18, 2002

The following summarizes the responses received in interviews with 5 members of the Nechako Watershed Council in December 2002.

1. Are you aware of the project to design and construct a Cold Water Release Facility at the Kenney Dam on the Nechako?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is your understanding of what the Cold Water Release Facility will do?

- It provides consistency with water flows in Nechako River so there is more constant flows
- It will control output and temperature from the reservoir to restore natural flows in the Nechako River
- To lower water temperature to better serve interests of salmon and other fish species and achieve a more natural annual flow cycle in the Nechako River
- It will create a control facility to allow releases of surface water and sub-surface water into the Nechako River
- Free up water that may be redistributed to enhance the Nechako River

3. What do you think the primary benefit of the Cold Water Release Facility would be?

### BENEFITS TO FISH (3):

- Allows cooling flows in the Nechako River to help spawning sockeye salmon
- To benefit migrating salmon
- Better control of fish habitat

### MORE NATURAL FLOWS IN THE NECHAKO RIVER (2):

- To make a more natural flow in Nechako River
- Re-establishing the annual flushing cycle

### OTHER BENEFITS:

- Will benefit the stakeholders who have been impacted and lost flows and will provide more flexibility to these user groups
- Reduces the amount of water needed to cool the river

4. What other benefits do you think the Cold Water Release Facility would provide?

BENEFITS TO FISH IN ADDITION TO SALMON (2):

- Will be better for sturgeon
- Freed up water can be used for "downstream enhancement", eg. sturgeon recovery

BENEFITS TO AGRICULTURE (2):

- Easier to contain livestock
- Better for cattle containment and agriculture

OTHER BENEFITS:

- Enhance recreation
- Will provide more power
- Will restore a more natural river flow year round
- Flood control will continue
- There is and opportunity to turn freed up water into money to pay for enhancement downstream
- There is and opportunity for rehabilitation of Murray-Chestlata system
- Maintains value of land fronting on the river
- A more natural annual cycle will benefit semi-aquatic furbearers
- Recreation would be improved on the river
- It will remove the myth that the river is sick and it will resolve the concerns and issues of Nechako Valley residents

- There is concern about re-watering the Nechako Canyon and causing sediment downstream
  - Differences in priorities for achieving benefits
  - Juggling of flows to accommodate both sockeye and sturgeon will be a challenge
  - The federal government will need to be included in the planning and development of the project
7. What issues may arise and need to be addressed in the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility Project?

- In 4 years of research the NWC has never found a negative to the CWRP.
  - If our community (Kitimat) did not share in the benefits
  - There are still unknowns e.g. flushing out of Cheslatta fan
  - None that are substantial
6. Are there potential dis-benefits or negative affects that may result from the Cold Water Release Facility, and what might they be?

BENEFIT		RATING			
	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not very important	Not at all important
Cooler water, providing better survival for migrating salmon	1				
Opportunity to rehabilitate the Murray-Cheslatta system	2	1			
Employment opportunities with the construction of the facility		2	1		2
Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako Reservoir		2	1		
Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako River	1	1	1		
Opportunities for increased tourism development		2	1		
Benefits to the agricultural community		1	2	1	
Increased electricity production		3	1	1	

- Please rate the importance of each benefit to you and your community.
5. The Cold Water Release Facility may provide a number of benefits to the environment and surrounding communities.

- Alcan (5)

11. Who do you think are the parties involved in the funding and building of the Cold Water Release Facility?

- very strong support
- Support will be strong when residents understand and recognize the possibilities and benefits, it has to be sold to them

Comments:

No support at all	Not much support	Neither strong nor weak support	Some support	Strong support
			2	3

10. What level of support would you give to the building of a Cold Water Release Facility? Would you give it:

Not at all important	Not very important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important
			2	3

9. Overall, what priority to you and your own community would you place on the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Economic development
- Other secondary industries or tourism development should result
- If the watershed council process works well everyone gains
- Rehabilitation of the Murray-Chestatta system

8. Are there other opportunities you would expect from the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility project?

- Tahitsa Narrows dredging is a big issue if it is tied to CWRP in any way
- Will need to be really effectively sold to the public, benefits will need to be communicated

<b>RATING</b>					
	Not at all	Rarely	Occasionally	Sometimes	Often
Would you visit a web site	1			4	

14 a. Would you visit a web site

14. Given the following methods of communication, which would you be likely to use for receiving more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Comments re above:
- Cautions about media – they haven't spent time to understand the role of the project

<b>RATING</b>					
	Not at all reliable	Not very reliable	Neither reliable nor unreliable	Somewhat reliable	Very reliable
Federal government	1	2	1		1
Provincial government		3	2		
Alcan			3	2	
Nechako Watershed Council		1		1	3
local and regional media					1

13. What parties would you consider reliable sources for this information?

YES 5 NO     

12. In the future, would you like to hear more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Province of BC (5)
- Federal Government



RATING		Not at all	Possibly	Unsure	Likely	Definitely
	Would you read a project newsletter mailed to you home?		1	1	1	2
	Would you read or listen to media reports on local or regional media outlets?		1		2	2
	Would you read newspaper supplements in your community papers?	1	1		1	2
	Would you read an annual report published about the project?		2		1	2
	Would you attend presentations made to local government, clubs and community organizations (or to your group)?		1		1	3
	Would you attend town hall meetings or open houses?		3		1	1
	Would you attend fall fair or trade show displays?	1	2			2

Other comments on communication preferences or suggestions for project communications:

- Focus on opinion leaders will be effective
- General public needs to realize the benefits of the CWRF
- Local radio talk show can be effective
- You will need to peak the interest of the public to get them to pay attention to the communications
- Communications will have to be supported by people who can answer detailed questions about the project and its benefits

15. Any other comments regarding the CWRF project?

- We need to know what sort of environmental assessment process will be used for this project
- Beyond the exemplary work on CWRF, I have been concerned that the NWC business is being expanded in order to perpetuate their existence
- The dam is for long term and so is the CWRF
- The CWRF will eventually have to compete with health care and education for government funding

**Stakeholder Interview Summary  
December 31, 2002**

**(Non-members of the Nechako Watershed Council)**

The following summarizes the responses received in interviews with 6 stakeholders and one survey returned by mail (non-NWC members) in December 2002.

1. Are you aware of the project to design and construct a Cold Water Release Facility at the Kenney Dam on the Nechako?

YES 7 NO

2. What is your understanding of what the Cold Water Release Facility will do?

**COOLER FLOWS FOR FISH (3):**

- Will allow release of colder water for cooling flows for migrating fish (2)
- To take colder water from reservoir to re-water upper Nechako and cool Nechako River for spawning sockeye salmon

**OTHER RESPONSES:**

- Even out flows in the river, prevent the summer freshet that now occurs
- Facilitate a more natural flow pattern in the Nechako River
- Re-water Nechako Canyon and level out water flows in Nechako River and enable enhancement of the Chastata system
- It will provide greater flexibility in managing temperature and slow regimes downstream of Kenney Dam
- Extract water from the reservoir at Kenney Dam and inject it into the Nechako Canyon

3. What do you think the primary benefit of the Cold Water Release Facility would be?

**MORE NATURAL OF EVEN FLOWS (4):**

- Getting rid of the huge summer releases and achieving a more natural annual flow in the Nechako river.
- A more natural flow pattern in the Nechako River
- It would start towards returning the flows to a more natural level throughout the year
- May be able to reduce flows in July-August and redistribute to other times of the year

- OTHER RESPONSES:
- prevent erosion and siltation
  - possible generation of electricity
  - More stable flows in Nechako River
  - Better for irrigation and cattle containment
  - Allowing Alcan more flexibility for managing the reservoir – they may be able to release less volume in years of low snowpack
  - Re-watering of the Nechako Canyon
  - The health of the reservoir

- REHABILITATION OF MURRAY-CHESTATTA SYSTEM (5):
- Enable rehab of Murray-Chestatta system (2)
  - Would correct the problems caused by releasing water through the Chestatta system
  - Possibility to rebuild the Chestatta system
  - Rehabilitation of the Chestatta

- BENEFITS TO FISH IN ADDITION TO SALMON (7):
- cooler water for migrating salmon
  - healthier habitat for all fish and aquatic life
  - aid survival of salmon
  - aid survival of sturgeon (2)
  - re-watering of Nechako canyon and restoration of the trout fishery
  - A more natural seasonal flow pattern will enhance resident fish population

4. What other benefits do you think the Cold Water Release Facility would provide?

- OTHER RESPONSES:
- Not using Murray-Chestatta as a spillway and enabling rehabilitation
  - Cooling flows for migrating fish
  - Allowing greater amounts of water to be used for other than cooling the river, ie released down the Nechako
  - Enhancement of the health of the Nechako River

5. The Cold Water Release Facility may provide a number of benefits to the environment and surrounding communities.

Please rate the importance of each benefit to you and your community.

BENEFIT		RATING				
		Not at all important	Not very important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important
	Cooler water, providing better survival for migrating salmon			1	1	5
	Opportunity to rehabilitate the Murray-Chestatta system			1		6
	Employment opportunities with the construction of the facility	2	3	3	1	
	Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako Reservoir			4	3	
	Improved recreation opportunities on Nechako River	1		1	5	
	Opportunities for increased tourism development		2	2	3	
	Benefits to the agricultural community			2	4	1
	Increased electricity production	4			2	

6. Are there potential dis-benefits or negative affects that may result from the Cold Water Release Facility, and what might they be?

CONCERNS FOR FISH (2):

- Water from deep in reservoir may have gas levels harmful to fish
- Cooler water may harm other fish species

OTHER RESPONSES:

- Would be dis-benefit is less water comes down Nechako River
- If any additional water were to be diverted to Kemano
- It is important that if Hydro generation is installed at the CWRP that it does not compromise the environmental benefits of the CWRP, ie the CWRP operation must be driven by environmental benefits, not power benefits
- Further disruption on Cheslatta Falls area
- Increased traffic on Kenney Dam road
- Scar for transmission line right of way, if generation is included
- Operation of the facility must balance use of water for cooling with other uses, cooling flows must be the priority

- I would be afraid that the CWRF is designed so that it does not address the health of the river and thereby failing to meet objectives
- None that I am aware of

7. What issues may arise and need to be addressed in the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility Project?

FLOW REGIME (2):

- There needs to be a careful look at the condition of the river and designing an annual flow regime that provide the greatest benefits to the river
- How to manage flows for optimum downstream results

ALLOCATION OF FREED UP FLOWS (3):

- There has been no commitment to put the "saved water" back in the river
- Have not had assurance that "freed-up flows" are guaranteed to be used for the downstream river
- All water "freed up" by the CWRF should be redistributed to the Nechako River

FINANCIAL ISSUES (3):

- Costs and design considerations
- Who is going to pay for it
- Citizens here in Nechako Valley shouldn't be taxed to pay for this

OTHER RESPONSES:

- Use of local or imported labour may be an issue
- Environmental effect of the construction
- What is Alcan's original contract and are they obliged to live by it (Alcan's ability to sell power or not)
- NWC has been the slowest process possible and the access for stakeholders has been very poor (meetings scheduled during normal work hours)
- 170 cubic metres in Alcan's licence is more than comes in to the Reservoir in some years
- Inform the public that this CWRF is not fixing the problem of insufficient annual flows in Nechako River
- How to get water through the Cheslatta fan and avoid siltation, etc. (2)
- How will it affect sturgeon recovery efforts
- Reservoir considerations must be factored in, i.e. reducing annual fluctuations in the reservoir
- There has never been a public inquiry or expert panel to look at the condition of the river
- Whether or not to put electricity generation at the CWRF

- Not rated – it will depend if freed up flows come to the river

Comments:

<b>RATING</b>				
No support at all	Not much support	Neither strong nor weak support	Some support	Strong support
		1		4

10. What level of support would you give to the building of a Cold Water Release Facility? Would you give it:

- Not rated – it will depend if freed up flows come to the river
- Not rated - from somewhat to very important depending on the seasonal flow volumes that would be achieved

Comments:

<b>RATING</b>				
Not at all important	Not very important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important
		1		4

9. Overall, what priority to you and your own community would you place on the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Should be additional recreation or other economic opportunities created by the project
- There should be a look at wider considerations, ie approach this from the angle of what is best for the river
- The incremental opportunity would be an enhanced resident fish population
- None that I am aware of

8. Are there other opportunities you would expect from the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility project?

- Access route for construction traffic and the route for any required power line, both could impact wildlife (power line should follow Holy Cross Road)

Comments re above:  
 • Alcan have been quite forthcoming with information

RATING						
		Not at all reliable	Not very reliable	Neither reliable nor unreliable	Somewhat reliable	Very reliable
Federal government	1	2	1	2	1	1
Provincial government	1	2	2	2	2	2
Alcan	2	3	1	1	1	1
Nechako Watershed Council	1	1	3	3	2	2
local and regional media				6	1	1

13. What parties would you consider reliable sources for this information?

YES \_\_\_7\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

12. In the future, would you like to hear more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Alcan (7)
- Province of BC (7)
- Federal Government (2)
- Federal Government should be but isn't (1)
- It seems like nobody, because all the players are playing poker hands
- Possibly also the federal government

11. Who do you think are the parties involved in the funding and building of the Cold Water Release Facility?

- Not rated - from some support to strong support depending on how the volume and seasonal flow is addressed
- Strong support, provided "freed up" flows stay in the river
- Support will depend on the design chosen, a design that causes other negative environmental effects would weaken the support
- Level of support is dependent on the final design attributes. This must be for the benefit of the river, fish, wildlife and residents, not just so Alcan can generate more power
- We accept that CWRf is one of the primary tools to improve the Nechako River, however, we advocate taking a wider view to selecting enhancement options

- NWC communication has lacked substance, just interminable meeting notes
  - Regional district would be "somewhat reliable"
  - CBC would be most reliable among media
14. Given the following methods of communication, which would you be likely to use for receiving more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

RATING					
Often	Sometimes	Occasionally	Rarely	Not at all	Would you visit a web site
1	1	2	1	2	

14 a. Would you visit a web site

14 b.

RATING					
Definitely	Likely	Unsure	Possibly	Not at all	Would you read a project newsletter mailed to you home?
3	2		2		
3	3		1		Would you read or listen to media reports on local or regional media outlets?
2	4		1		Would you read newspaper supplements in your community papers?
5			2		Would you read an annual report published about the project?
3	3		1		Would you attend presentations made to local government, clubs and community organizations (or to your group)?
3	2		1		Would you attend town hall meetings or open houses?
	2	4		1	Would you attend fall fair or trade show displays?

Other comments on communication preferences or suggestions for project communications: **QUALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS (4):**

- Opportunities for communication on more detailed specifics of the project are preferred, info aimed at the general public may not be adequate for our group
- If is perceived as public relations for Alcan and government it won't have credibility, so it will have to be unbiased and present a variety of opinions
- Not interested in hearing more propaganda from Alcan, would rather hear more about health or river



- It's important to let people know what will be done with freed up lows and this must be a firm commitment
- A CWRP is the only way the Nechako River will have a more natural flow pattern.
- The volume released to the river must not be compromised by the ability to provide cold water, water temperature is only part of what the river needs, the other part is volume.
- Our group definitely wants to be kept well informed as the project planning moves forward
- Need to look at the bigger picture and review Alcan's licence – is it appropriate?
- The desired operating regime should be establish first and then the CWRP designed to enable it, not the other way around
- We advocate a natural flow regime in the Nechako River
- We will be glad to share our views on the project at any time

#### 15. Any other comments regarding the CWRP project?

- Need an e-mail newsletter to advise when web site is updated
- Since we have only a radio phone, we don't have access to the Internet

#### OTHER COMMENTS:

- It is important to keep information in front of people
- There has been a dearth of information about the project and if the proponents want to foster cooperation they have to provide good communications
- There is a wide constituency of interest who have a large appetite for communications

#### IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATIONS (3):

- Dialogue is important and must be at a level where we can discuss technical and environmental details

## Appendix B

### Cold Water Release Facility Baseline Research Task

### Stakeholder Interviews - List of Participants

#### Local Government elected officials

Jim Davidson	Mayor, Town of Smithers
Len Fox	Mayor, District of Vanderhoof
Harold Kerr	Chair(outgoing), Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Collin Kinsley	Mayor, City of Prince George
Bernice Magee	Mayor, Village of Burns Lake
Rosanne Murray	Chair(incoming), Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Sharon Smith	Mayor, District of Houston
Bob Thon	Mayor, Village of Fraser Lake

#### First Nations leaders

Lonnie Hindle	Executive Director, Nadeh Whuten Band
Maureen Luggi	Chief, Wet'suwet'en First Nation
Ray Morris	Chief, Nee Tahi Buhn Band
Jerry Nittel	Operations Manager, Saik'uz First Nation
Harold Prince	Vice Tribal Chief, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
Mike Robertson	Manager, Carrier Cheslatta Nation

**Nechako Watershed Council members**

Linda Bell	Terrace Chamber of Commerce
Michael Green	BC Trappers Association
Richard Krehbiel	Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
Jerry Peterson	Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, Area "F"
Linda Stevenson	Kitimat Chamber of Commerce

**Stakeholders – not NWC members**

Paul Collard	Vanderhoof Float Plane Users Group
Tony Hechenberger	BC Wildlife Federation
Janet Romain & Pam Sholty	A River Forever
Paul Sanborn	Nechako River Alliance
Richard Tarnoff	BC Steelhead Society
Denis Wood	Upper Nechako Property Owners
June Wood	Federation of BC Naturalists

# Appendix C General Population Survey Results

March 10, 2003

Dave Read  
Aspen Communications Ltd.  
423 Westview Road,  
Prince George, BC  
V2M 7C8

Dear Mr. Read,

Attached are the results of the recently completed Cold Water Release Facility. The data were obtained between February 1 and 26, 2003, via phone calls made to residents of the affected areas. Call recipients were introduced to the goal of the study and permission for their participation was gathered. Participants were then asked a series of 11 questions and sub-questions regarding their awareness and support of the Cold Water Release Facility.

Areas included in the research were Vanderhoof, Engen, Fort Fraser, Fraser Lake, Endako, Burns Lake, Francois Lake, Grassy Plains, Decker Lake, Houston, Topley, Telkwa, Smithers, Southbank, Ootsa Lake, Tatalrose, and Noralee. There were a total of 939 numbers phoned, out of which 143 people agreed to participate. Conservatively, the percentage results reported here may be considered statistically accurate to within +/- 10%.

We hope that the conclusions drawn from this research are of assistance to you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Alex C. Michalos, FRSC

Director, Institute for Social Research and Evaluation.

ACM/jao

## Cold Water Release Facility Survey Results

Total N=143

Abbreviations:

N = number of responses to questions  
M = Mean value of all responses

1. Are you aware of the Cold Water Release Facility at the Kennedy Dam on the Nechako River?

N=143  
1 Yes 33.6%  
2 No 66.4%

If they answer "no", you say:

The Cold Water Release Facility would take water from deep in the Nechako reservoir and release it to provide cooling flows in the Nechako River.  
Then skip to Q3.

If they answer "yes", go on to Q2.

2. What is your understanding of what the Cold Water Release Facility will physically do?

It takes water from deep in the Nechako reservoir and releases it to provide cooling flows in the Nechako River.

N=66

1 Correct 33.3%  
2 Incorrect 66.7%

If they answer correctly, you say:

4. The Cold Water Release Facility may provide a number of benefits to the environment and surrounding communities, which I will list for you. I would like you to rate what you feel would be the importance of each one. Imagine a five-point scale, where 1 is "not at all important", 2 is "not very important", 3 is "neither important nor unimportant", 4 is "somewhat important", and 5 is "very important".
- a) How would you rate the importance of cooling the water, providing better survival for migrating salmon? N=139, M=4.30
- 1. not at all important 3.6%
  - 2. not very important 2.9%
  - 3. neither important nor unimportant 10.8%
  - 4. somewhat important 25.2%
  - 5. very important 57.6%
- b) How would you rate the importance of the opportunity to rehabilitate the Murray-Chesatta system? N=127, M=3.51
- 1. not at all important 7.9%
  - 2. not very important 11.8%

Response	Frequency
No benefits for this community	21
Help fish	6
Healthier environment	3
Better fishing/recreation	2

N=32

3. What do you think the benefits of the Cold Water Release Facility would be for your community?

Actually, the Cold Water Release Facility would take water from deep in the Nechako reservoir and release it to provide cooling flows in the Nechako River.

If they answer incorrectly, you say:

Yes, that's right.

g) How would you rate the importance of the benefits to the agricultural community? N=134, M=3.87

- 1. not at all important 0.0%
- 2. not very important 8.5%
- 3. neither important nor unimportant 27.0%
- 4. somewhat important 31.2%
- 5. very important 33.3%

f) How would you rate the importance of having opportunities for increased tourism development? N=141, M=3.89

- 1. not at all important 7.9%
- 2. not very important 15.0%
- 3. neither important nor unimportant 24.3%
- 4. somewhat important 31.4%
- 5. very important 21.4%

e) How would you rate the importance of having improved recreation opportunities on the Nechako River? N=140, M=3.44

- 1. not at all important 7.1%
- 2. not very important 14.3%
- 3. neither important nor unimportant 22.9%
- 4. somewhat important 29.3%
- 5. very important 26.4%

d) How would you rate the importance of having improved recreation opportunities on the Nechako Reservoir? N=140, M=3.54

- 1. not at all important 6.3%
- 2. not very important 3.5%
- 3. neither important nor unimportant 9.9%
- 4. somewhat important 19.7%
- 5. very important 60.6%

c) How would you rate the importance of creating employment opportunities with the construction of the facility? N=142, M=4.25

- 3. neither important nor unimportant 27.6%
- 4. somewhat important 26.8%
- 5. very important 26.0%

6. What level of support would you give to the building of a Cold Water Release Facility?  $N=137, M=3.29$
1. no support at all 6.6%
  2. not much support 20.4%
  3. neither strong nor weak support 29.9%
  4. some support, or 23.4%
5. Overall, what priority to your community would you place on the Cold Water Release Facility?  $N=131, M=3.44$
1. not at all important 7.6%
  2. not very important 13.0%
  3. neither important nor unimportant 27.5%
  4. somewhat important, or 32.1%
  5. very important 19.8%
- i) How would you rate the importance of a more natural annual flow cycle in the Nechako River?  $N=135, M=3.97$
1. not at all important 3.0%
  2. not very important 5.0%
  3. neither important nor unimportant 23.0%
  4. somewhat important 27.4%
  5. very important 40.7%
- h) How would you rate the importance of increased electricity production?  $N=137, M=3.47$
1. not at all important 10.9%
  2. not very important 15.3%
  3. neither important nor unimportant 17.5%
  4. somewhat important 28.5%
  5. very important 27.7%
1. not at all important 4.5%
  2. not very important 6.0%
  3. neither important nor unimportant 22.4%
  4. somewhat important 32.8%
  5. very important 34.3%



9. What parties would you consider reliable sources for this information? Please rank each of these parties on a five-point scale, where 1 is "not at all reliable", 2 is "not very reliable", 3 is "neither reliable nor unreliable", 4 is "somewhat reliable", and 5 is "very reliable".
- a) The federal government N=140, M=2.72
- 1. not at all reliable 24.3%
  - 2. not very reliable 17.9%
  - 3. neither reliable nor unreliable 26.4%
  - 4. somewhat reliable 24.3%
  - 5. very reliable 7.1%
- b) The provincial government N=140, M=2.52
- 1. not at all reliable 27.9%

8. In the future, would you like to hear more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?
- N=139
- 1 Yes 63.3%
  - 2 No 36.7%

Response	Frequency
Alcan	21
Provincial Government	21
Federal Government	16
Government (unspecified level)	16
Taxpayers/community/public	4
BC Hydro	2
Other (local businesses, environmental agencies)	4

7. Who do you think are the parties involved in the funding and building of the Cold Water Release Facility?
- N=60 people, 84 responses
- 5. strong support 19.7%

10. Given the following methods of communication, which would you be likely to use for receiving more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility? Please rank each of these sources on a five-point scale, where 1 is "not at all", 2 is "possibly", 3 is "unsure", 4 is "likely", and 5 is "definitely".

a) Would you visit a web site? N=138, 2.26

- 1. not at all 39.1%
- 2. possibly 25.4%
- 3. unsure 15.9%
- 4. likely 9.4%

e) The local and regional media N=139, M=3.32

- 1. not at all reliable 7.9%
- 2. not very reliable 10.8%
- 3. neither reliable nor unreliable 33.1%
- 4. somewhat reliable 38.1%
- 5. very reliable 10.1%

d) The Nechako Watershed Council N=135, M=3.70

- 1. not at all reliable 7.4%
- 2. not very reliable 8.1%
- 3. neither reliable nor unreliable 20.0%
- 4. somewhat reliable 36.3%
- 5. very reliable 28.1%

c) Alcan N=140, M=2.82

- 1. not at all reliable 18.6%
- 2. not very reliable 21.4%
- 3. neither reliable nor unreliable 28.6%
- 4. somewhat reliable 22.1%
- 5. very reliable 9.3%

- 2. not very reliable 26.4%
- 3. neither reliable nor unreliable 16.4%
- 4. somewhat reliable 24.3%
- 5. very reliable 5.0%

5. definitely 10.1%

b) Would you read a project newsletter mailed to your home?  
N=139, M=2.88

1. not at all 20.1%

2. possibly 29.5%

3. unsure 8.6%

4. likely 25.9%

5. definitely 15.8%

c) Would you read newspaper supplements in your community papers?  
N=140, M=3.24

1. not at all 12.9%

2. possibly 21.4%

3. unsure 9.3%

4. likely 41.4%

5. definitely 15.0%

c) Would you read an annual report published about the project?  
N=138, M=2.62

1. not at all 27.5%

2. possibly 25.4%

3. unsure 13.0%

4. likely 25.4%

5. definitely 8.7%

e) Would you attend presentations made to clubs and community organizations?  
N=140, M=2.09

1. not at all 43.6%

2. possibly 22.9%

3. unsure 17.9%

4. likely 12.1%

5. definitely 3.6%

f) Would you attend town hall meetings or open houses?  
N=139, M=2.25

1. not at all 39.6%

2. possibly 23.0%

11. Are there any other issues or comments concerning the Nechako River that you would like us to report to our clients?

Wondering if Alcan came to ??? why getting involved. Laying more people and selling more electricity, why? When you sell power do they affect the community? Consider the community at large before thinking about the profits.

Such facilities end up destroying lots of fishery resources and the community in which it is built ends up with flooding.

Will question the whole process. Is it safe for the community. Need to provide as much information as possible to the people within that community and be honest about the impacts.

Flood her house because of releasing the water. Take care of people who live close to the Nechako River.

Increased tourism – contamination of river. Are there safeguards in place to protect the river and salmon and other organisms in the river? I think whoever is involved in building the CWRFF should take into consideration the impacts before taking any steps.

Need to watch the level of water. Should be done in May – Sept or all year round. Who is going to benefit? When they shut the water down, where does the water go?

I am concerned about the level of water to be raised and how this will affect the production of salmon. Also if it were to be used for recreation opportunities it will mean the river might be contaminated. This will not be good for any parties involved or the general public.

- g) Would you attend fall fair or trade show displays? N=140, M=2.99
- 1. not at all 22.9%
  - 2. possibly 20.7%
  - 3. unsure 13.6%
  - 4. likely 20.7%
  - 5. definitely 22.1%
- 3. unsure 15.8%
  - 4. likely 15.8%
  - 5. definitely 5.8%

The CWRP project should not be privatized. It should be made to benefit the community.

Hope there is a third party involved to prevent bias.

Don't know very much about it. Have a ??? ????. Certainly inclined to anything that will improve the environment.

Like to hear more about impacts it will have on the community.

I don't think it should be built because we already have lots of problems with the Nechako River.

Should not interfere with water flow system like the Nechako River. It can cause lots of problems for residents.

Don't know anything about this.

Stupid survey – don't know enough about it to answer the questions.

More info necessary, this is not enough. I'm a well informed person and don't know enough about it.

Would be a blessing to see it improve; will it?

Concerned about silt buildup.

Concerned about fluctuations of water level in Cheslatta Lake. If there is a release facility, what would happen to the dam that is already there?

# Appendix D Stakeholder Interview Guide

Stakeholder Interview Guide  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Following introduction, proceed with the following questions. Explain that responses will be aggregated and will have limited distribution within the project, but individual responses will not be attributed to individuals:

1. Are you aware of the project to design and construct a Cold Water Release Facility at the Kenney Dam on the Nechako?

YES \_\_\_\_\_  
NO \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is your understanding of what the Cold Water Release Facility will do?

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(if correct given, acknowledge: "Yes, that's right.")

If incorrect, "Actually, the Cold Water Release Facility would take water from deep in the Nechako reservoir and release it to provide cooling flows in the Nechako River.

3. What do you think the primary benefit of the Cold Water Release Facility would be?

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4. What other benefits do you think the Cold Water Release Facility would provide?

5. The Cold Water Release Facility may provide a number of benefits to the environment and surrounding communities.

Please rate the importance of each benefit to you and your community.

Rate them using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = not all important, 2 = not very important, 3 = neither important nor unimportant, 4 = somewhat important, and 5 = very important?

*Benefit: Rating (1 to 5)*

a) cooler water, providing better survival for migrating salmon,

b) opportunity to rehabilitate the Murray-Chestata system

c) employment opportunities with the construction of the facility

d) improved recreation opportunities on Nechako Reservoir

e) improved recreation opportunities on Nechako River

f) opportunities for increased tourism development

g) benefits to the agricultural community

h) increased electricity production

6. Are there potential disbenefits or negative affects that may result from the Cold Water Release Facility, and what might they be?

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7. What issues may arise and need to be addressed in the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility Project?

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8. Are there other opportunities you would expect from the planning and implementation of the Cold Water Release Facility project?

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9. Overall, what priority to you and your own community would you place on the Cold Water Release Facility? Would you say that it is:

Rating (1 to 5) \_\_\_\_\_  
not at all important, not very important, neither important nor unimportant, somewhat important, or very important?

10. What level of support would you give to the building of a Cold Water Release Facility? Would you give it:

no support at all, not much support, neither strong nor weak support, some support, or strong support?

11. Who do you think are the parties involved in the funding and building of the Cold Water Release Facility?

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12. In the future, would you like to hear more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_



14. Given the following methods of communication, which would you be likely to use for receiving more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?
- a) Would you visit a web site  
not at all, rarely, occasionally, sometimes, or often?
  - b) Would you read a project newsletter mailed to your home?  
not at all, possibly, unsure, likely, or definitely
  - c) Would you read or listen to media reports on local or regional media outlets?  
not at all, possibly, unsure, likely, or definitely
  - d) Would you read newspaper supplements in your community papers?  
not at all, possibly, unsure, likely, or definitely

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Comments re above:

- a) Would you consider the Nechako Watershed Council to be :  
not at all reliable, not very reliable, neither reliable nor unreliable, somewhat reliable, or very reliable?
- b) Would you consider Alcan to be  
not at all reliable, not very reliable, neither reliable nor unreliable, somewhat reliable, or very reliable?
- c) Would you consider the provincial government to be  
not at all reliable, not very reliable, neither reliable nor unreliable, somewhat reliable, or very reliable?
- d) Would you consider the federal government to be  
not at all reliable, not very reliable, neither reliable nor unreliable, somewhat reliable, or very reliable?
- e) Would you consider the local and regional media to be:  
not at all reliable, not very reliable, neither reliable nor unreliable, somewhat reliable, or very reliable?

13. What parties would you consider reliable sources for this information?

e) Would you read an annual report published about the project?  
not at all, possibly, unsure, likely, or definitely

f) Would you attend presentations made to local government, clubs and community organizations (or to your group)?  
not at all, possibly, unsure, likely, or definitely

g) Would you attend town hall meetings or open houses?  
not at all, possibly, unsure, likely, or definitely

h) Would you attend fall fair or trade show displays?  
Not at all, possibly, unsure, likely, definitely

Other comments on communication preferences or suggestions for project communications:

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16. Any other comments regarding the CWRP project?

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Verify contact information for stakeholders list. Record separate from interview responses.

Close the interview by thanking the participant for their time and input.

# Appendix E General Population Survey Script

## Cold Water Release Facility Survey Script

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm with the Institute for Social Research and Evaluation. We're currently conducting a survey regarding community awareness of the Cold Water Release Facility. We're not trying to sell you anything, and this survey should only take about 5 - 10 minutes of your time. Would you be willing to help us out this evening?

*If they say "no", you say:*

Alright, thank you for your time. Good night.

*If they say "yes", you say:*

Thank you very much.

Continue with questions.

1. Are you aware of the Cold Water Release Facility at the Kennedy Dam on the Nechako River?

Circle response:

1 Yes

2 No

*If they answer "no", you say:*

The Cold Water Release Facility would take water from deep in the Nechako reservoir and release it to provide cooling flows in the Nechako River. *Then skip to Q3.*

*If they answer "yes", go on to Q2.*

2. What is your understanding of what the Cold Water Release Facility will physically do?

*It takes water from deep in the Nechako reservoir and releases it to provide cooling flows in the Nechako River.*

Circle response:

1 Correct

2 Incorrect

*If they answer correctly, you say:*

*Yes, that's right.*

*If they answer incorrectly, you say:*

Actually, the Cold Water Release Facility would take water from deep in the Nechako reservoir and release it to provide cooling flows in the Nechako River.

3. What do you think the benefits of the Cold Water Release Facility would be for your community?

*Enter response. If "don't know", leave blank.*

4. The Cold Water Release Facility may provide a number of benefits to the environment and surrounding communities, which I will list for you. I would like you to rate what you feel would be the importance of each one. Imagine a five-point scale, where 1 is "not at all important", 2 is "not very important", 3 is "neither important nor unimportant", 4 is "somewhat important", and 5 is "very important".

*Prompt with the 5 choices if they hesitate or seem uncertain of their choices. Circle response.*

a) How would you rate the importance of cooling the water, providing better survival for migrating salmon?

1. not at all important

2. not very important

3. neither important nor unimportant

4. somewhat important  
5. very important

b) How would you rate the importance of the opportunity to rehabilitate the Murray-Cheslatta system?

1. not at all important

2. not very important

3. neither important nor unimportant

4. somewhat important

5. very important

c) How would you rate the importance of creating employment opportunities with the construction of the facility?

1. not at all important

2. not very important

3. neither important nor unimportant

4. somewhat important

5. very important

d) How would you rate the importance of having improved recreation opportunities on the Nechako Reservoir?

1. not at all important

2. not very important

3. neither important nor unimportant

4. somewhat important

5. very important

e) How would you rate the importance of having improved recreation opportunities on the Nechako River?

1. not at all important

2. not very important

3. neither important nor unimportant

4. somewhat important

5. very important

f) How would you rate the importance of having opportunities for increased tourism development?

1. not at all important

5. Overall, what priority to your community would you place on the Cold Water Release Facility? Would you say that it is

1. not at all important
2. not very important
3. neither important nor unimportant
4. somewhat important, or
5. very important

i) How would you rate the importance of a more natural annual flow cycle in the Nechako River?

1. not at all important
2. not very important
3. neither important nor unimportant
4. somewhat important
5. very important

h) How would you rate the importance of increased electricity production?

1. not at all important
2. not very important
3. neither important nor unimportant
4. somewhat important
5. very important

g) How would you rate the importance of the benefits to the agricultural community?

1. not at all important
2. not very important
3. neither important nor unimportant
4. somewhat important
5. very important

6. What level of support would you give to the building of a Cold Water Release Facility? Would you give it

- 1. no support at all
- 2. not much support
- 3. neither strong nor weak support
- 4. some support, or
- 5. strong support?

7. Who do you think are the parties involved in the funding and building of the Cold Water Release Facility?

Enter response. If "don't know", leave blank.

8. In the future, would you like to hear more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility?

Circle response:

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

If they answer "no", say this before the next question:

If you did receive more information,

9. What parties would you consider reliable sources for this information? Please rank each of these parties on a five-point scale, where 1 is "not at all reliable", 2 is "not very reliable", 3 is "neither reliable nor unreliable", 4 is "somewhat reliable", and 5 is "very reliable".

Prompt with the 5 choices if they hesitate or seem uncertain of their choices. Circle response.

a) The federal government

- 1. not at all reliable
- 2. not very reliable
- 3. neither reliable nor unreliable
- 4. somewhat reliable

10. Given the following methods of communication, which would you be likely to use for receiving more information regarding the Cold Water Release Facility? Please rank each of these sources on a five-point scale, where 1 is "not at all", 2 is "possibly", 3 is "unsure", 4 is "likely", and 5 is "definitely".

- b) The provincial government
1. not at all reliable
  2. not very reliable
  3. neither reliable nor unreliable
  4. somewhat reliable
  5. very reliable
- c) Alcan
1. not at all reliable
  2. not very reliable
  3. neither reliable nor unreliable
  4. somewhat reliable
  5. very reliable
- d) The Nechako Watershed Council
1. not at all reliable
  2. not very reliable
  3. neither reliable nor unreliable
  4. somewhat reliable
  5. very reliable
- e) The local and regional media
1. not at all reliable
  2. not very reliable
  3. neither reliable nor unreliable
  4. somewhat reliable
  5. very reliable



Prompt with the 5 choices if they hesitate or seem uncertain of their choices.  
Circle response.

a) Would you visit a web site?

- 1. not at all
- 2. possibly
- 3. unsure
- 4. likely
- 5. definitely

b) Would you read a project newsletter mailed to your home?

- 1. not at all
- 2. possibly
- 3. unsure
- 4. likely
- 5. definitely

c) Would you read newspaper supplements in your community papers?

- 1. not at all
- 2. possibly
- 3. unsure
- 4. likely
- 5. definitely

d) Would you read an annual report published about the project?

- 1. not at all
- 2. possibly
- 3. unsure
- 4. likely
- 5. definitely

e) Would you attend presentations made to clubs and community organizations?

- 1. not at all
- 2. possibly
- 3. unsure
- 4. likely
- 5. definitely

f) Would you attend town hall meetings or open houses?

- 1. not at all
- 2. possibly
- 3. unsure
- 4. likely
- 5. definitely

g) Would you attend fall fair or trade show displays?

- 1. not at all
- 2. possibly
- 3. unsure
- 4. likely
- 5. definitely

11. Are there any other issues or comments concerning the Nechako River that you would like us to report to our clients?

That's all the questions we have for you tonight. Do you have any questions? See instruction sheet for answers to possible questions they may have.

Thank you very much for your time, and I hope you have a good evening.