



Welcome and Introduction to the HSBC Fraser River Sturgeon Education Program

Dear Principal, Teacher Librarian and Teacher,

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the HSBC Fraser River Sturgeon Education Program.

Twenty award-winning books entitled **Tale of a Great White Fish – a sturgeon story**, authored by Maggie De Vries, and illustrated by Renee Benoit are available without cost and are used in conjunction with the Program DVD. The DVD contains all lesson materials and related documents referred to in this letter. The DVD content can also be downloaded from www.frasersturgeon.com. The Program lessons are available in both English and French.

The Sturgeon Education Program is intended to deliver tools to assist in developing environmental stewardship and social responsibility for children and adults living near the Fraser River and in other regions of Canada. The educational and environmental focus is the aquatic ecosystem of the lower Fraser River and its marine estuary, but the lessons learned are applicable to environmental settings in other regions of Canada.

The Program uses the “sturgeon story” to communicate and educate our target audiences – elementary school children, middle-school children and First Nations communities. The focal “character” used to teach and illustrate the rationale for environmental responsibility and ecological conservation is the white sturgeon. This species, that has outlived the dinosaur and survived two ice ages, is the largest freshwater fish in North America. White sturgeon have the ability to capture the attention and imagination of children of all ages. Biologically, white sturgeon are at the top of the Fraser River food web, and are one of the few year-round resident species of fish in the lower Fraser River. Our key messages will focus on a clear understanding of this shared “backyard” environment, the biological richness and eco-relationships that exist there, the human threats to its continued survival, and the pathways toward environmental sustainability through learned best practices.

Experienced teachers have developed seven teacher-ready lesson plans, student activities, pictures, and web-based communications to deliver information to elementary and middle school students and First Nations communities in grades 4 to 7. The lesson materials are closely linked to Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum documents in Science and Technology (Understanding Life Systems: Habitats and Communities) Social Studies (Ways in which human activity can affect resource sustainability and the health of the environment).

On behalf of The Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society and HSBC Bank Canada, we are pleased to make these exceptional learning resources available to you and invite you to participate in the HSBC Fraser River Sturgeon Education Program. Please send us your feedback on these lessons.

Sincerely,

Don Lintott, Project Manager
HSBC Fraser River Sturgeon Education Program
Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society
Office: 604-241-9971; don.lintott@shaw.ca