



A First Nations Shipping, Marine Safety, and Ocean Protection Reconciliation Table with Canada



A World-Leading Model for Waterway Management

For years, First Nations have watched shipping increase along the central and north Pacific coast, with little consideration for the health and safety of our communities and marine territories.

Few areas in Canada have greater cultural and ecological sensitivity than the First Nations Traditional Territories of the Great Bear Rainforest. Our communities have concerns about the growing and cumulative impacts from existing shipping traffic in our waters. They pose a threat to First Nations cultures, economies and coastal ecosystems.

Events such as the near-grounding of the *Simushir* cargo ship, and the sinking of the *Nathan E. Stewart* tug and *Queen of the North* ferry demonstrate that First Nations are the first responders for the coast – and that government emergency response measures are inadequate.

It's time for a better approach to managing regional shipping traffic. First Nations want a new shipping plan and a greater say in how shipping traffic and emergency response are managed in our waters.

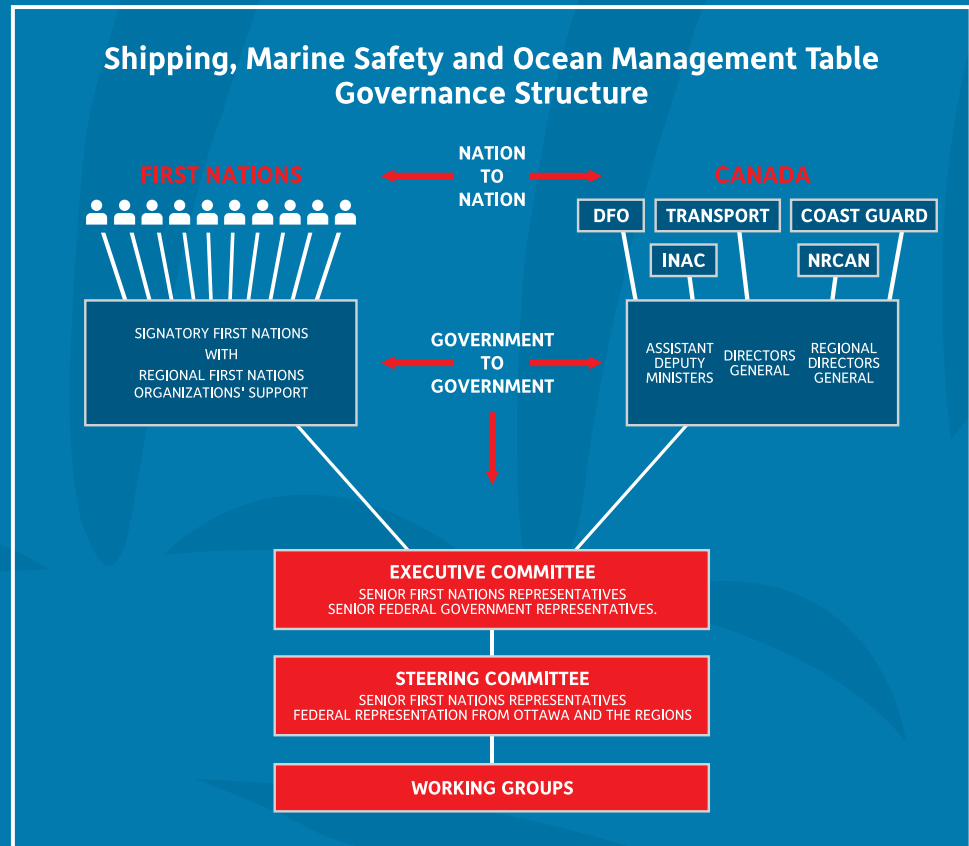
The Reconciliation Process

Canada has made clear its commitment to a nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations, based on recognition of Aboriginal Rights and Title, respect, co-operation, and partnership. In November 2016, Canada announced an Oceans Protection Plan to be designed and delivered in partnership with First Nations.

First Nations are working together to establish a Shipping, Marine Safety, and Ocean Protection Reconciliation Table that will put First Nations on a government-to-government basis with Canada in collaborative decision-making on regional shipping management.



How Will A Shipping, Marine Safety and Ocean Management Table Work?



- First Nation organizations will work with their membership on planning initiatives and products.
- Regional First Nations organizations together with CFN will play a coordinating role, developing strategic position papers and an overall communication plan for the process.
- As mandated by their communities, First Nations organizations will continue to work with the Province of BC to implement stronger ocean management.
- First Nations and Canada will engage BC provincial agencies as needed to advance the work.
- Individual Nations may participate where appropriate and necessary.



What Do We Hope to Achieve?

Develop a Nation-to-Nation relationship – Between First Nations and Canada for regional shipping governance and management to ensure First Nations:

- Play a meaningful role in managing and overseeing commercial shipping traffic in our territories.
- Are at the table as governments in regional shipping management and emergency planning.
- Have representation on the Incident Command team when marine accidents happen and receive real-time information as emergencies unfold.

Develop a Regional Shipping Management Plan – That is aligned with First Nations marine use plans to:

- Promote safety and sustainability for communities.
- Identify the best shipping routes and anchorages in our waters, and set out areas to be avoided.

Strengthen Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity – Increase marine safety and emergency response capacity in communities, and strengthen First Nations' role in managing emergencies.

- Create community jobs and training in emergency response.
- Ensure First Nations have a greater say when accidents or spills happen.
- Station a large rescue tug and other vessels in the region.
- Establish more emergency response centres and equipment.
- Ensure meaningful community involvement in emergency response planning.

Safeguard First Nations cultural and ecological values – Ensure the long-term health of marine ecosystems and protect important First Nations cultural, economic and community values.

- Bring together traditional knowledge and science to manage our waters.
- Seek better compensation if spills damage cultural and natural resources.
- Reduce pollution from vessels.
- Protect whales and other marine life.





Timelines

Preparatory Phase I – June 20, 2017

- Secure initial budget including new subregional capacity
- First Nations organizations arrange discussions with communities (CFN can provide materials and attend meetings)
- First Nations organizations secure community mandates to finalize Framework Agreement
- Scope detailed work plan and budget for Phase 2
- Scope tripartite Geographic Response Plan pilot project

Phase 2 – To December 2019

- Ratify Framework Agreement
- Execute work plan and bring products to decision-makers for approval

Phase 3 – Ongoing

- Implement agreements as directed by decision-makers

To view the Shipping, Marine Safety and Ocean Protection Video, visit:

www.coastalfirstnations.ca

Photo Credits: Doug Neasloss | Tavish Campbell | Jo Anne Walton

Illustrations by: KC Hall