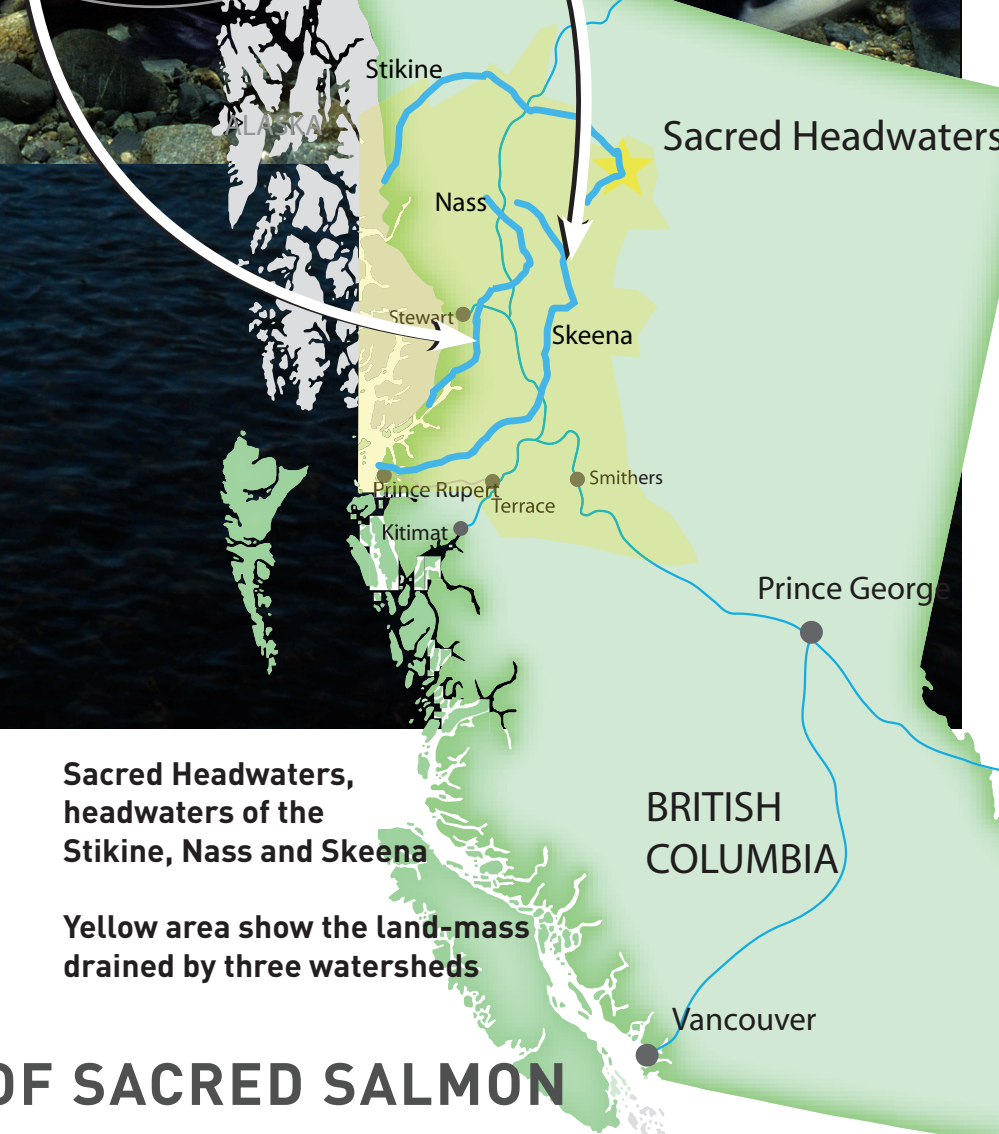


BRIAN HUNTINGTON



PHOTO BY PAUL NICKLEN

Salmon swim 610 KM from the mouth of the Skeena to the top – linking communities together.



Sacred Headwaters, headwaters of the Stikine, Nass and Skeena
Yellow area show the land-mass drained by three watersheds

three rivers one voice

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION STRATEGIES TO PROTECT THE FUTURE OF SACRED SALMON

The Place The Sacred Headwaters (Klappan) is a vast wilderness area in the North West of Canada, home to three great salmon river watersheds; Stikine, Skeena and the Nass. The Skeena, Nass and Stikine headwaters form a sensitive sub-alpine and alpine ecosystem that includes unique wetlands complexes. Coho, chinook, steelhead and sockeye salmon have been observed in its tributaries. The Skeena is home to one of the longest un-dammed rivers (610 km) in the world with relatively little industrial development. It supports Canada's second largest wild salmon fishery next to that of the Fraser River. A 2005 study by IBM Business Consulting found that Skeena salmon contribute some \$110 million to the region's annual economy. The area is critically important to the local indigenous people, the Tahltan.

The Challenge The 412,000 hectare Klappan tenure located in a place sometimes called the Serengeti of Canada could become the next site for Royal Dutch Shell to drill for coal bed methane (CBM) – one of the most destructive forms of resource extraction. Coalbed natural gas is so-named because it is found next to coal seams and often kept in place by water. Having coalbed methane flow to the surface means pumping

out the water which has raised fears that the water could be poisonous and a hazard to surface water (and therefore salmon) if released above ground. Such a development would see the landscape of the Sacred Headwaters turned into a maze of wellheads, roads and pipelines.

Catalyzing The BC Government announced a two-year moratorium on coalbed methane drilling in the Sacred Headwaters starting in January 2009. According to local activists the success of the campaign so far is due to a unique culture where a loose network of people worked together organically. This approach created unlikely allies. Locally, the common denominator is salmon. The salmon swim 610 KM from the mouth of the Skeena to the top – linking many communities together. Based on this common concern, people shared funding, shared information, built coalitions and fostered a culture of respect. The next challenge will be to call for the suspension of all coalbed methane drilling in the province until better policies are put in place and the risks about coalbed methane drilling are clearly understood.

PAT MOSS



2006: Northwest BC residents gather outside the BC Government building in Smithers to protest coalbed methane development.

1. Respect costs you nothing
 2. All relationships are important
 3. Know that you are going to win
- MERRAN SMITH FORESTETHICS

a risky experiment

FROM THE PEMBINA INSTITUTE'S "COALBED METHANE & SALMON"

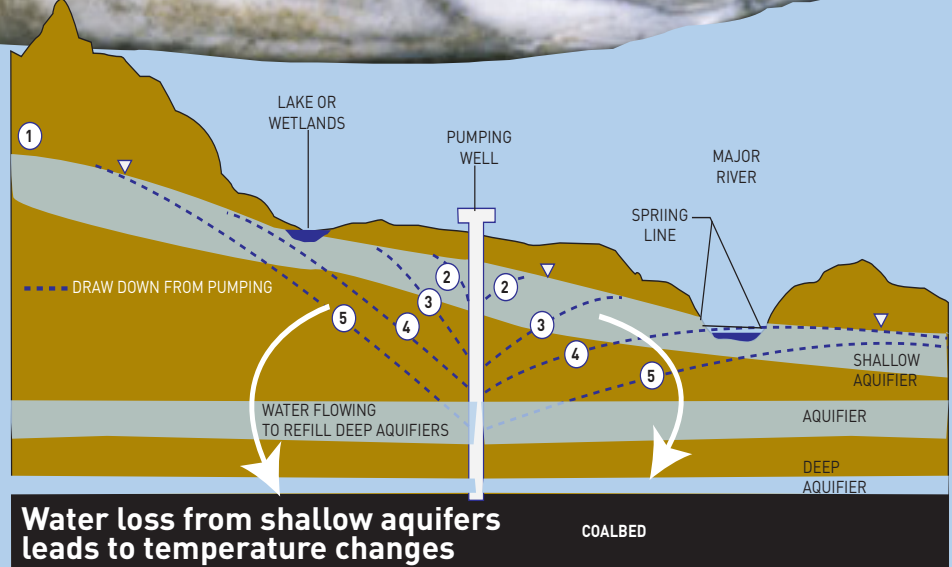
Muddy water could irritate gills

Eggs could be smothered or could freeze from exposure



GENNY ANDERSON

Coalbed methane (CBM) production has never before been attempted in salmon-bearing watersheds. According to the report, Coalbed Methane and Salmon: Assessing the Risks by the Pembina Institute a CBM project in the Headwaters would be a risky experiment.



CBM Threats to Salmon

Coalbed methane (CBM) extraction could negatively affect salmon in two ways:

1 A MUDDY FOOTPRINT Coalbed methane extraction typically has a large footprint on land – but waterways can be affected as well. When land is cleared for wells, roads and pipelines, the amount of runoff increases, and the variation between high and low runoff flows becomes more extreme. This increases erosion and the amount of sediment entering streams. Sediment can cover spawning beds, smother fish eggs and reduce the spawning area available to future generations. It can also "muddy" the water, irritating the gills of juvenile fish and making it more difficult for fish to find food.

2 UNDERGROUND CONNECTIONS Preliminary data suggests that wells drilled on the Klappan Tenure will need to remove groundwater before CBM can be extracted. Several Olympic-size swimming pools full of water could be drained from deep aquifers every day. This could cause water to flow out of aquifers near the surface to refill deeper ones underground. As a result, less groundwater would enter streams from aquifers near the surface. If this happens, the effects on salmon could be significant.

"Given the sensitivity of salmon to disturbance...it is fully possible that impacts [from CBM] cannot be adequately mitigated."

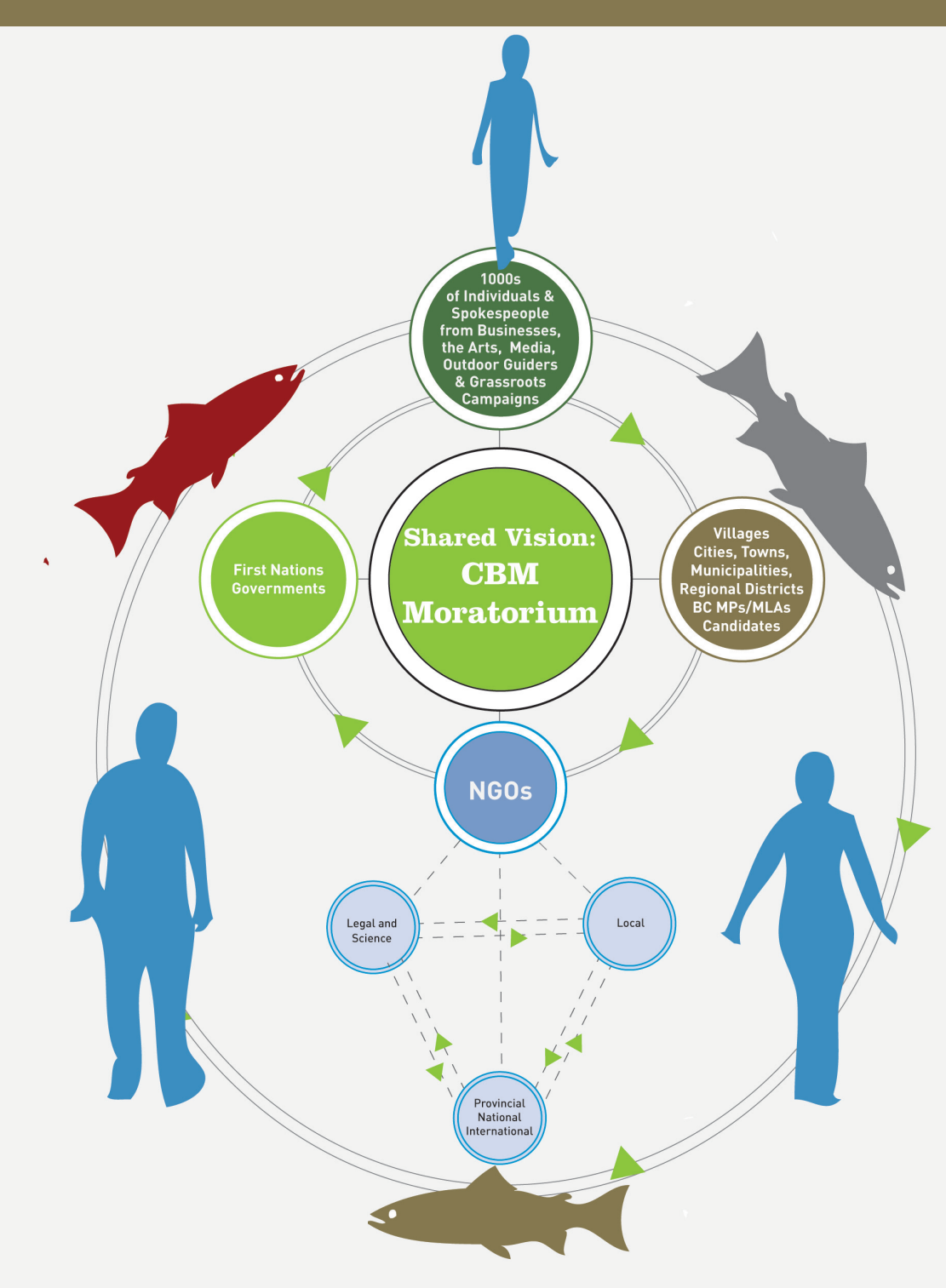
– PEMBINA INSTITUTE

Salmon and steelhead congregate year-round in areas where ground-water enters streams, in part because these areas are cooler in summer and warmer in winter. The phenomenon is known as *behavioural thermoregulation*. CBM extraction could lead to a reduction in groundwater-dependent habitat and cause changes in fish behaviour.

FIRST, a reduction in total stream flow could expose spawning grounds to air or cause them to disappear altogether. **SECOND**, because groundwater acts as a temperature buffer – keeping it cool in the summer and warm in the winter – less groundwater would mean more extreme changes in stream temperature. This could lead to more eggs freezing in winter, fry hatching too late to feed adequately, and lower winter survival for juvenile fish.

who is participating?

"THE REASON WE ARE SO SUCCESSFUL IS BECAUSE WE ALL WORK TOGETHER"
"WE COME TOGETHER WITH A COMMON CONCERN: SALMON"

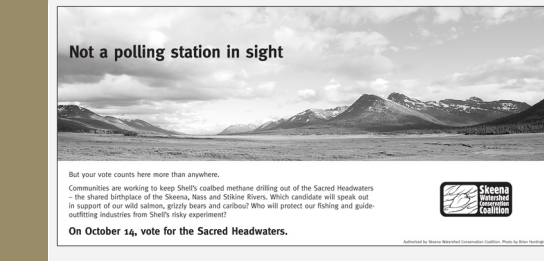


overview of events

- | Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 3 | Phase 4 |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BC government awarded Shell a 400,000-hectare tenure in 2004. Shell drilled three exploration wells in 2004, but cancelled the drilling planned for 2006 due to opposition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2007, elders of the Tahltan First Nation blocked Shell's road access to the Sacred Headwaters. The company hoped to drill 14 wells in the tenure area in winter of 2007-2008, including eight in the upper Skeena watershed. These plans were put on hold due to community opposition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In summer 2008, communities and First Nations from across Northwest BC signed a resolution opposing Shell's drilling plans. In August 2008, Shell announced it would pause its development plans at least until the end of 2008. In December 2008, the BC government announced a 2-year moratorium on Shell's proposed drilling in the Sacred Headwaters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's not over. Shell is clear that they will continue to make plans for coalbed methane mining now and in the future. A long-term principled approach is being created by the Citizens Concerned about Coalbed Methane to prevent CBM occurring province-wide. This all happened because of individuals, like you. Join the campaign at skeenawatershed.com |

actions leading to moratorium

clips from ad campaigns



2005-2007

- Hosted BC's first CBM forum in Smithers: (Panel members: Oil & Gas Commission, Ministry of Energy & Mines, Shell Canada, Dogwood Initiative & Wildsight)
- Distributed copies of "The Big Prize" around the region - a CBC National documentary about coalbed methane coming to Alberta
- 14 International and ENGO's sign letter to the government and Shell asking for pull out
- "When Gas Explodes" published - a report by OneSky on Shell's activities in Nigeria and what that could mean for the Tahltan
- Tahltan blockade Shell
- Shell files for injunction and tries to sue Tahltan Elders, Elders make their case, Shell adjourns injunction hearing
- Rallies in Smithers and Vancouver coincide with injunction court case (600+ people take to the streets)
- Amnesty International writes letter to Shell & BC Government
- Shell Saturday - supporters from across Canada help to educate people about Shell's plans in the Klappan by hosting information pickets at 34 Canadian Shell station locations
- Placed ad in London Financial Times
- Nigeria North YouTube video produced – viewed more the 100,000 times and voted in as top 100 political videos
- Sacred Headwaters placed in top five endangered rivers list
- BCTV's First Story does a documentary on the Tahltan and their struggles with shell - aired Nov 24, 2007
- Rachelle VanZanten musical fundraiser

2008

- SWCC does 3 month roadshow in the region giving technical presentations about coalbed methane - 4 presentations per week average to municipalities, band councils, Chiefs, chamber of commerce, interest groups, schools, etc.
- SWCC CBM information mail out to region
- Mining Conference in Smithers - put up large roadside about CBM for Premier
- ROAR - fundraising event in Terrace
- Pembina releases primer on CBM impacts on salmon
- Nathan Cullen (MP) conducts poll in region on CBM
- Dogwood Initiative goes to Shell International's ADM in the Hague and puts up our Sacred Headwaters Banner and gets to ask a question at the meeting
- Sacred Headwaters Summit hosted in Hazelton by Friends of Wild Salmon, SWCC and the Gitanmaax Band Council - standing room only, was the first point at which all First Nations, Municipalities, communities, NGOs and interest groups (Rod and Gun Clubs, Guide Outfitters, Business owners, etc.) in attendance and opposing development. Presenters include Pembina Institute, Jack Stanford - hydrologist, etc.
- CEEA awards (sponsored by Shell) protest, Maude Bartlow wins lifetime achievement award and donates her award to the Sacred Headwaters and her disapproval of Shell's CBM project in Klappan.
- Prince Rupert rally - while Premier Campbell visited
- All municipalities sign resolution against CBM
- Terrace Rally during Shell's community open houses
- SWCC delivers over 1700 letters to Shell executives visiting from the Hague during a Shell open house
- Place ad in Vancouver Sun
- Tahltan sue Shell for Defamation for a video Shell produced depicting anti-Shell activists as CBM supporters
- Tahltan Elders declare Sacred Headwaters moratorium
- Shell announces pause until 2009
- Nisga'a host summit similar to Hazelton Summit
- BC Wildlife Federation writes on behalf of 30,000 members to stop CBM in Sacred Headwaters
- UBCM pass resolution against CBM in Sacred Headwaters
- First Nations Summit pass resolution for 10 year moratorium on CBM in BC
- All 5 Federal Election candidates in North campaign on a NO CBM platform
- Municipal Elections held with "I VOTE SALMON" events in each community of the region
- ForestEthics represented SWCC, FoWS and others in dialogues with Shell, which helped secure the moratorium.



Delivering 1730 letters to Shell.