

## ***Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society Board of Directors 2023***

### **Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society**

In 1997, a group of committed and talented people came together from across a broad spectrum of interests, including businesspeople, academics, environmentalists, First Nations, the sport and commercial fisheries, the marine industry, and all levels of government. Under the leadership of Rick Hansen, they formed the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society (FRSCS), contributing their expertise to ensure that the sturgeon population in the Fraser River is strong, healthy, and sustainable well into the future.

*FRSCS Vision is that: "White Sturgeon are wild, healthy, and naturally sustaining throughout the Fraser River watershed."*

By engaging the expertise and leadership of the team, the FRSCS set an aggressive course to gather and interpret information to accurately assess the current status of lower Fraser River White Sturgeon and potential threats to its viability and conduct research in support of a long-term stock recovery strategy. The FRSCS worked closely with the Provincial Government to initiate the development of a watershed-wide Fraser River White Sturgeon Conservation Plan that was subsequently reviewed by a multi-sector working group and implemented following extensive public consultation.

The results of FRSCS research are disseminated through annual, peer evaluated reports, and have led to increased public understanding of Fraser River sturgeon, and more effective use of resources in sturgeon conservation. By implementing a targeted public relations strategy, and delivering educational programs, seminars, and workshops, the FRSCS has consistently taken decisive action on issues critical to sturgeon survival. As a result of presentations delivered at both national and international conferences, the science and technical capability and credibility of the FRSCS has been established and acknowledged by many of the world's leading authorities in sturgeon science, population modelling, and management.

The FRSCS Board of Directors oversees the organizational operations, its budgets and provides guidance and direction to the Administration. The Directors represent a diverse range of sectors in the community that have a vested interest in the survival and long-term survival of sturgeon. Sectors include science, business, public figure, biology, Indigenous and First Nations, commercial and First Nations fishers, sport and recreational fishery as well as accounting and law.

### **Background: FRSCS Directors**

#### **Mr. Rick Hansen Founder, Honorary Chair**

Rick Hansen is the Founder of the Rick Hansen Foundation and a passionate supporter of people with disabilities in Canada. Rick is best known as the "Man In Motion" for his epic 26-month, 34 country, 40,000 km wheelchair trip around the world to make the world inclusive for people with disabilities and to find a cure for paralysis.

Since the end of the Man In Motion World Tour in 1987, Rick has dedicated his life to creating a world that is accessible and inclusive for all by removing barriers for people with disabilities through the Rick Hansen Foundation. Rick and his team at the Foundation are dedicated to raising awareness, changing attitudes, helping create accessible spaces, and liberating the amazing potential of people with disabilities.

Founding, and now returning Chair of the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society, Rick rejoins the Board of Directors to help accelerate the past of recovery for sturgeon and protect this species for future generations.

**Mr. Robert Reyerse**  
**Chair**

After graduating from the University of BC with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting & Management Information Systems, Robert began his career as a CA with Touche Ross in Vancouver, with the objective of joining a global management consulting firm. After nearly 10 years with Deloitte's Consulting in both Toronto and Vancouver he began several independent consulting engagements with the ABN AMRO Bank in Amsterdam.

Subsequently seeking a more relaxed lifestyle he moved his family to Harrison Hot Springs. In Harrison he has taken on a number of roles including President of the Chamber of Commerce, Chair of Economic Development and in 2011 Executive Director of Tourism Harrison. During this time Robert worked closely with a number of local angling guides and was eventually convinced to take on the part time position of Executive Director of the Fraser Valley Angling Guides association.

**Mr. Doug Mason**  
**Director**

Douglas is currently Chairman of the Board and C.E.O. of International Bethlehem Mining Corp., Magnum Goldcorp Inc. and Canadian International Pharma Corp.

From 2015 through 2019, Douglas served as a Director of Naturally Splendid Enterprises Ltd., a hemp processing and natural food manufacturer, and served as the Company's CEO for a 2-year period from 2017 through 2019.

From 1988 through 2005, Douglas served as President & Chief Executive Officer and as a director of Clearly Canadian Beverage Corporation, a producer of premium beverage products. During his 20 years in the beverage industry, Douglas built a reputation for innovation and has been credited as being one of the pioneers of the New Age Beverage category.

Douglas is past Deputy chair of the Collingwood School Board of Trustees and a past Chair of the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame and Museum and of the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame Foundation, and remains an active member of the Foundation. He is also an active supporter and recruiter of participants for fund raising events for the Rick Hansen Institute.

Douglas graduated from North Vancouver Senior Secondary and has been a North Shore resident for all of his life. He and his wife, Carla, reside in West Vancouver with their son Lucas.

**Mr. Kane Fraser**  
**Director**

Kane Fraser is a long-term supporter of the outdoors and White Sturgeon. Accounting and finance strength are core to Kane, and he is also very visionary in business opportunities- including racing high performance cars, new startups and a huge passion for making a difference.

His scope of this network is North America wide and wants to bring more support to sturgeon.

**Mr. Sead Hamzagic**

**Director**

Sead Hamzagic is a chartered professional accountant with 37 years of public practice and financial management experience. He is well versed in reporting requirements for public companies, private companies, and charities. He has and continues to serve as CFO for several TSX Venture Exchange, Canadian Securities Exchange (CSE), and private companies and a board member and treasurer for the British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum Foundation since September 2009.

**Mr. Ryan Jones**

**Director**

Ryan Jones is a Maple Ridge, BC born and raised local. He and his wife, Michelle are proud parents of two wonderful humans: Tyler 17 and Maverick 1. Mr. Jones is a passionate outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hunting and angling. His love for the outdoors has taught him the importance of speaking up for those that don't have a voice and sees the study and practice of conservation as the vehicle to accomplish an ethical and sustainable practice of wildlife and fisheries management. Speaking of vehicles, Mr. Jones is a 3rd generation auto dealer with his family at Marv Jones Honda. These experiences have provided valuable experience in managing teams, building long term mutually beneficial relationships, and insights into government relations and politics through work on various industry associations and boards.

**Ms. Caroline Roberts****Director**

Caroline Roberts is an associate lawyer at a well-known Vancouver law firm Callison& Hanna, who specialize exclusively in Indigenous Law. Her law practice focus is on strategic consultation and accommodation processes, resolving historic grievances through the federal Specific Claims Process including negotiated settlement, hearings and appeals and implementing treaty related measures. Caroline graduated with a specialization in Aboriginal Law from the Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia (“UBC”).

Prior to law school, she earned a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Indigenous Studies from UBC. Caroline contributed to *LexisNexis’* most recent legal textbook entitled “Legal Issues on Indigenous Economic Development” by researching and writing various chapters on the topics of financing and taxation. Caroline has delivered guest lectures at UBC’s Allard Hall on Indigenous Economic Development and at the Pacific Business and Law Institute on Specific Claims.

Caroline is thrilled to have the opportunity to apply her education and experience to work with First Nations in matters of governance, economic development, and the evaluation and negotiations of various matters. Caroline brings a unique perspective to her work, which includes respect and appreciation for the diversity of Indigenous peoples and cultures throughout British Columbia, Canada and the world.

Caroline is a member of the Wei WaiKum First Nation near Campbell River, BC.

**Ms. Mary Sue Atkinson****Director**

Mary Sue has been on the Board since 1999 and remains the longest standing Director on the Board currently. She is a long time conservationist and is very active with our board helping with our media opportunities, finding new granting and funding opportunities and is also a long time donor of the Society. She is active in issues related to both sturgeon and salmon and recently won the Queen’s Jubilee Award for Volunteerism.

**Mr. John Rissling****Director**

John has been a volunteer tagger for almost 20 years, and a member of our Board of Directors for the last six years. John has an extensive background in business having spent 40 years in the construction sector, as owner of Rissling Services. He is the chair of our Fundraising committee and leads the FRSCS Sturgeon Conservation Challenge Event and Gala Awards Dinner. John is a long time donor to the FRSCS.

*The Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wild Fraser River white sturgeon.*

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