



We, the ƥawiiƥ of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, as the hereditary leaders of our Nation, have rights and responsibilities given to us by K<sup>w</sup>aaƥuuc (creator) to protect, steward and govern our hahuufii (territories) that we have upheld since time immemorial and never ceded or surrendered.

We govern our hahuufii with our nuučanuł legal order, which is grounded in the foundational laws of hišukƥiš čawaak, meaning ‘everything is one’, ƥiisaak, meaning ‘respect with caring’, ƥuuƥaałuk, meaning ‘taking care of’, and stalh, or ‘togetherness’.

For millennia, our relatives, the ƥaak and hinkuuƥas (ocean and river chum), suuƥa and sačup (ocean and freshwater Chinook), cuwit (coho), miƥaat and hissit (ocean and freshwater sockeye), and čaapī (pink) salmon, have swum in our waters. They are now declining, threatened, and in grave danger due to unsustainable extractive activities, decades of mismanagement of our hahuufii without our consent, and the exacerbating effects of climate change. We have a responsibility to care for our salmon relatives as we rely on them for sustenance and cultural continuity and we know that the health of our salmon relatives is intricately tied to the health of our entire hahuufii.

**The ƥawiiƥ of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation declare that all the lands, waters, skies and what is below the ground within the following watersheds: Burman River, Muchalat River including the Oktwanch River, Liener/Perry and Tahsis Rivers, Kendrick Creek and Marvinus Creek, Upper Gold River and Upper Conuma River, as shown on the attached map titled *Map of MMFN Salmon Parks*, are held up, protected and revered as *Salmon Parks* under Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation inherent law and authority.**

This Declaration is grounded in our inherent authority and jurisdiction to protect key watersheds within our hahuufii. *Salmon Parks* are protected to restore the abundance of our salmon relatives within our hahuufii, maintain our connection with and presence on our ancestral lands and waters, protect key heritage sites, and practice our culture, language, and laws, all of which are crucial for the thriving of the Mowachaht and Muchalaht people.

*Salmon Parks* are fundamentally connected to the core of Mowachaht/Muchalaht identity and way of life, including sites of our creation stories. *Salmon Parks* contain critical salmon habitat, including intact old growth forest ecosystems, and collectively represent the most resilient landscapes within our territories in the face of climate change.

We are establishing *Salmon Parks* under nuučanuł law as we continue to uphold our responsibilities and exercise our inherent and Aboriginal rights and title today. We envision *Salmon Parks* brought back to full health for all beings and generations to come under the stewardship and guidance of the ƥawiiƥ of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation.

We call upon all governments and their citizens to recognize *Salmon Parks* and to respect the authority and decisions of Mowachaht/Muchalaht decision-makers immediately and forever.

Passed, signed and enacted on this 13 day of November in Tsaxana, BC.

tayii hawif Mike Maquinna

tayii hawif Nathan George

hawif Dan Savey Sr.

hawif Patrick James

hawif Jerome Jack

# Map of MMFN Salmon Parks

