

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Significant Return of Salmon to Local Urban Streams in Greater Victoria This Fall**

*Victoria, BC – December 17, 2024* – This fall season has seen a significant return of salmon to several urban streams across Greater Victoria, with some local watersheds exceeding long-term averages. Watersheds such as Colquitz, Craigflower, Millstream, and Goldstream have shown impressive numbers, signaling cautious optimism for these urban streams after disappointing returns last year.

This increase in salmon returns is welcome news for community stewardship groups, including local First Nations, who have worked tirelessly to restore and maintain instream and riparian habitats. Collaborative efforts in stream restoration, habitat enhancement, watershed best practices and education are essential in ensuring the survival of these returning fish.

"The return of these salmon is not just a win for salmon and the many species that depend on them, but for the large community of people advocating for their survival and recovery," said Kyle Armstrong, Executive Director of Peninsula Streams Society. "These results highlight the importance of ongoing stewardship and education in protecting our natural environments. It's a reflection of the ecosystem resilience against climate change and urbanization as well as the dedication of many individuals and organizations who have invested years of work into protecting these ecosystems."

Peninsula Streams Society is encouraging all community members to remain vigilant and to be mindful of their connection to these ecosystems. Actions such as avoiding pouring substances down drains and supporting Green Stormwater Infrastructure initiatives like rain gardens can make a significant difference in maintaining clean and healthy waterways.

"By continuing to adopt best management practices, we can ensure that these salmon returns remain strong for future generations," Armstrong added. "It's vital that we all take responsibility for the health of our environment, from urban spaces to the natural streams and shorelines we share."

This season's salmon returns are a reminder of the power of collective effort and a hopeful sign that with continued stewardship and respect for our natural resources, the future of our urban watersheds is bright.

For more information on how to get involved in community stewardship and Green Stormwater Infrastructure initiatives, please visit the Peninsula Streams Society website at [www.peninsulastreams.ca](http://www.peninsulastreams.ca).

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