



## WATER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

### Process update

The Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative (WEI) continues to progress. The WEI was designed and remains an inclusive public process, where interests are shared to improve water management in the Nechako River. The process is led by independent facilitators and supported by technical specialists to identify opportunities to better address multiple interests related to Rio Tinto's operations.

Since June of 2019, approximately 40 individuals have been actively participating in the WEI, sharing a wide range of issues and concerns, identifying opportunities from Prince George to the Nechako Reservoir.

WEI participants have identified 68 distinct interests across three geographic areas (the Nechako Reservoir, Skins-Cheslatta-Murray Lake system, and the Nechako River). Some of the interests relate to:

- Fish (sturgeon, salmon, resident species, habitat availability and quality, tributary access, water temperature, water quality, entrainment, stranding)
- Wildlife and habitat (caribou, moose, osprey, waterfowl, beavers)
- Heritage and Culture (inundation or erosion of heritage sites and gravesites)
- Recreation (navigation, boat ramps, canoeing, hiking trails, safety)
- Flooding, erosion, and low water (ice jams, property damage, land loss, sedimentation)
- Human Health (water quality, methyl mercury, general health)
- Rio Tinto Operations (flexibility, cost, power supply, risk management, communication)
- General (healthy river, natural hydrograph, climate change, information sharing)

Like many other aspects of our lives, the WEI has been slowed by COVID, in part related to the inability to have in-person meetings. Regardless, WEI participants have continued to work together, meeting via videoconference.

The WEI will continue throughout this fall and winter. Efforts will be focused on developing, assessing, and recommending a preferred flow alternative for Rio Tinto Nechako operations.

The WEI process is meant to be a transparent process. Meeting agendas, background information, presentations, meeting summaries, and other materials are available at

[www.getinvolvednechako.ca/wei](http://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/wei).