



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Cohen Commission accepting applications for standing**

**Vancouver** - The Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River announced today that it will accept applications for standing until 4 p.m. on March 3, 2010. Standing is necessary to participate in the commission's hearings, and represents one of the various opportunities that will be available for involvement in the commission's work.

Persons (individuals, groups, governments, agencies, institutions or other entities) who wish to apply for standing at the commission's hearings are invited to submit a written application demonstrating that they have a substantial and direct interest in the subject matter of the inquiry. Participants who are granted standing are eligible to apply for funding for legal counsel. Detailed guidelines for applying for standing and funding are available on the commission's website at [www.cohencommission.ca](http://www.cohencommission.ca). The commission encourages applications by email.

The Commissioner will determine standing and may recommend funding on the basis of written applications, unless he determines that oral hearings are necessary. If so, oral hearings will be held on March 10 and, if necessary, March 11, 2010, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Cohen Commission was established on November 5, 2009 with the appointment of the Honourable Bruce Cohen, Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, as Commissioner. Under its Terms of Reference, the commission will hold hearings to investigate and report on the decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River. Based on its findings, the commission will make recommendations for improving the sustainability of the sockeye salmon fishery in the Fraser River, including, as required, any changes to the policies, practices and procedures of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in relation to the management of the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery.

The Cohen Commission is committed to facilitating public discussion and input on the issues identified in its Terms of Reference. The commission's hearings will be open to the public, and applications for standing are not required for people interested in attending as observers.

For more information about applying for standing and funding or otherwise participating in the commission's work, visit the commission's website at [www.cohencommission.ca](http://www.cohencommission.ca)

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