September 18, 2014

To Principals and Teachers:

After over a year of preparation the Nechako White Sturgeon Curriculum is now in every grade 4-7 school in School District 91. This curriculum is geared toward Grades 4–7 and covers sturgeon anatomy, habitat, threats, and life cycle, the importance of watersheds, and the fundamental role of riparian areas. There are suggested field trips as well as lots of fun and educational classroom activities. The curriculum has all the information teachers need to teach the material - no additional research should be necessary.

The Nechako White Sturgeon Curriculum was initiated by the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI, www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org). The Nechako white sturgeon population is currently ranked as Critically Imperiled in BC and as an Endangered Species in Canada. The goal of this project is to introduce the Nechako watershed and the Nechako white sturgeon to students so they develop a sense of place and ownership in our community and the environment. With the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Facility now operating in Vanderhoof there will be more focus on Nechako white sturgeon in the region in the coming years, and it is critical that students understand the importance of this species to the watershed.

The curriculum package comes with a map of the Nechako watershed, a fun poster for the classroom, a flash drive with digital presentations and activities, and a hard copy of the entire curriculum for easy reference and copying. Also available is a life-sized sturgeon stuffy!

Two curriculum packages are at every school in School District 91 that has Grades 4, 5, 6 or 7. Please contact your office to find out where to get the curriculum to start using it in your classroom! The curriculum will also be available as a download from the SD 91 website (by October 2014).

We hope you will include this curriculum as part of your science or social responsibility units this year. If you have any questions, please contact info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org.

*The NWSRI is a non-profit group that is ultimately responsible for identifying the reasons why white sturgeon are no longer successfully spawning and surviving in the Nechako watershed, and for the design and implementation of habitat protection, restoration and management options. More information about NWSRI is available at http://www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org.*