

VANCOUVER MEDIA ADVISORY



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Matriarchs and Mermaids to Launch 2018 Wild Salmon Caravan

COAST SALISH TERRITORIES - The Wild Salmon Caravan will launch its fourth annual journey from Vancouver on Saturday, Sept. 22. The journey will begin with a lively splash of creativity and cultural expressions of reverence for wild salmon as we follow and celebrate them as they migrate from the Salish Seas to the Adams River.

The Vancouver parade and ceremony will be led by Indigenous Matriarchs and traditional hand drummers and singers from diverse cultural groups. A full program of performances and speakers will follow with an exhibit of salmon leather making.



This year's theme of Water People, or Mermaids, was inspired by stories from cultures around the world attempting to 'explain the unexplainable' and highlight the mystery of life in the oceans and waterways where wild salmon migrate thousands of kilometers. The parade will highlight the beauty and splendor of Indigenous Grandmothers in full regalia as well as the Mermaids and Mermen of BC on multiple floats and related costumes, banners and flags. After the Vancouver launch, the Wild Salmon Caravan will continue with parades, ceremonies, community forums and cultural tours in Salish communities around Chilliwack, Lillooet, Merritt, Kamloops and Chase.

Caravan curator Dawn Morrison says, "The four-year life cycle and migration of wild Sockeye Salmon provides a powerful metaphor for social and ecological resiliency in Indigenous fishing communities which have some of the most sustainable strategies anywhere. Wild salmon need us now more than ever to celebrate and honour their amazing generosity as a keystone species and to show the world how important they are to our Indigenous land and food systems."

The celebration will start at 10 am with a festive parade from the 700 block of Granville Street to the Roundhouse Community Centre. Opening ceremonies will follow with Coast Salish acknowledgements

by Audrey Siegl, Ocean George and Senaqwila Wyss, and a Wild Salmon Ceremony with 13 Matriarchs and the Pacific Association of First Nations Women, as well as Indigenous youth singers Latisha and Isaiah Wadhams Pelkey.

Performances will fill the afternoon until 3:30 pm with creative combinations of words and sounds shared by storytellers and performing artists including The Melawmen Collective, Tawahum Justin Bige, Earle Peach, Kalilah Rampenen, Just and speakers Eddie Gardner of the Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance and Dawn Morrison of the Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty.

MORE INFORMATION: wildsalmoncaravan.ca or Wild Salmon Caravan on Facebook

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