

# Indigenous stories as evidence: Using Linda Tuhiwai-Smith's 25 Indigenous Projects as an analysis framework

**RQ1:** Was storytelling used, and to what extent, as part of the submissions by Indigenous individuals and groups to  
**the Cohen Commission on the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River?**

**RQ2:** If used, what forms of storytelling were included, and to what purpose?

**1st Coding** - Stó:lō story types: **Sqwelqwel**, oral narratives relating to personal history, and **Sxwôxwiyám**, oral histories that describe the distant past

**2nd Coding** – themes: a) the use and importance of salmon culturally, socially and as sustenance; b) values; c) territorial description d) environmental change e) oral histories proven by science; f) fishing/harvesting methods

28 + Councils, Bands  
and Organizations  
125 submissions.  
88 included stories by  
40 speakers



Fraser River view (2015). Fraser River Fishing Lodge

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## 3rd Coding – 25 Indigenous Projects

**5 Projects:** Testimonies, Story telling, Representing, Protecting and Negotiating (encompassed all the stories)

**11 Projects:** Claiming; Celebrating; Remembering; Indigenist processes; Intervening; Connecting; Envisioning; Reframing; Indigenist governance; Naming; and Discovering the beauty of indigenous knowledge



Photo by M. LaFever

## Future Directions

**RQ3:** What indications, if any, are there in the final report that First Nation storytelling had an impact on the final recommendations?

Comparison to Cohen Commission Final Recommendations Report



First Salmon Ceremony (28 June 2011). Stó:lō Nation Facebook photos.