

-Jo's Canoe Trip Journal-

Day 1

Well, let's just say this is not what I expected. At least it's only four days of my summer vacation. Today started off good, probably because I was in my bed at home, and then I said bye to my parents and got on the E-bus to leave. They took the morning off and because they own the railway museum here in Revelstoke they kind of just make their own schedule. The bus ride was fine, but I had to sit at the back. Let's just say these windy roads don't make me feel good. Anyway, we went to the starting point and got in our canoes, the boys in my canoe had never canoed and we tipped twice, it wasn't pretty. After paddling all day, we finally got to our first campsite. We set up tents and then ate supper. For supper we had salmon and my leader Charlie told us that her dad used to tell her stories about how when he was young, the salmon population was very low. Charlie said that this was because there were big hydropower dams preventing the salmon from spawning. But now, because the keystone species' population is back on track, the ecosystem is thriving. After supper, we had a campfire and everyone made smores. That was definitely my favorite part of the day! Now, everyone is just in their tents relaxing so I guess that's all for today!

Day 2

What a day! Today went by so much faster than yesterday and the boys in my canoe only tipped it once! For breakfast we had oatmeal and we packed up camp and handed out our dried crickets for snacks. Today we canoed by the Cariboo mountain range and we talked about the gold rush and how many Chinese immigrants moved to this area for the gold, my dad's family didn't come for the gold though. Then we canoed some more, and some more, and more, until we were finally at the second campsite. Just like yesterday, we set up our tents, ate supper, and had a campfire! But today, we had pasta for supper instead of salmon. At the campfire, we all sang songs and it was a lot of fun! Right now it's way past curfew and I'm probably the only one still awake. I keep

hearing trains go by since we were so close to the railway. These days everyone's been using trains and it's reminding me of my family so I can't stop thinking about them. My parents are super great and all my friends think so too. My mom is Secwepemc, and my dad's ancestors came from China to help build the railway. It was hard for my great-great grandfather to do that because of the head tax. Both my parents have such great stories that everyone loves to listen to. My mom tells me that when they first started dating it was pretty rare for people from those two cultures to be together but nowadays I think it's pretty normal. I'm just happy that they stayed together and didn't listen to people's opinions. I'm getting pretty tired so I think I'm gonna try and ignore those darn trains and finally go to sleep.

Day 3

I'm so tired. Everything is honestly a blur, but I'm having so much fun. Today was our last full day and we paddled over so many beaver dams. I asked why and Charlie said that the government brought in beavers to enhance the ecosystem because their beaver ponds help keep flooding under control, provide a safe habitat for salmon species, and help with the distribution of nutrients in streams. We had to have one person from each canoe get out and help hoist the canoe over top of the beaver dam, and my canoe chose me to do it. I personally did not love doing it but I mean it's something I won't ever forget! I had eaten all my crickets by noon so I was very hungry up until supper time so let's just say I ate as much as the whole group combined. I had 3 servings of vegetarian chili and I spent a long time in the washroom after that. We had our final campfire and everyone had smores per normal, and our leaders made curfew later since we don't have a full day of paddling tomorrow so everyone played cards for a while before bed. And right now, I'm just in my tent writing. I think it's pretty late though so I'm gonna go to bed. Let's just hope I can sleep tonight.

Day 4

I actually can't believe I'm at home in my own bed right now! This is the most comfortable I've ever felt in my whole life, I don't think I'll ever take my bed for granted again. Anyway, the day started off great, we had oatmeal

for breakfast again and then started paddling. We paddled for a while, and then around one we got back to the main site and met with the other groups. Then we had a giant lunch meal. It was pretty good but when I got home my parents had made an amazing meal for me and it was sooooo good! They had picked vegetables from our community garden on the roof of our apartment and fried them into a vegetable stir fry! We can grow almost all of our produce with the rooftop gardens, greenhouse and vertical farms. It felt so nice to eat a good home cooked meal, even though we had eaten a meal that was better than anything we'd had on the trip for lunch, it couldn't compare to this. Most people in Revelstoke are either Vegetarian or Vegan but my family is not. It's not like we eat meat every meal or anything but we definitely enjoy eating meat every once in a while. Well, I guess that's for my camp journal! See you all next year!