



# LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

2665 KWINA ROAD • BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98226 • (360) 312-2000

December 9, 2020

Dear Honorable Governor Inslee and Members of the Washington State Legislature;

Lummi Indian Business Council (LIBC) leaders write in support of construction of a Coast Salish-style longhouse on the campus of Western Washington University. The university is located on the ancestral homelands of Lhaq'temish, Lummi Nation, and Nuxwsa'7aqm Nooksack Nation, as well as other Coast Salish nations.

Lummi recognizes and commends Westerns Washington University (WWU) Native American Student Union for their leadership and for their perseverance in fighting for a dedicated space for the Native students on the university campus. The Coast Salish longhouse will provide a sense of belonging for current and future Indigenous students of WWU. A longhouse is a place where community is developed and will support academic activities and events. Additionally, the Coast Salish style longhouse will honor the historic importance of place within the Lhaq'temish territory where WWU is currently situated and affirm the university's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for Indigenous students.

LIBC supports the proposed intention of the longhouse, to serve as a "house of healing" in acknowledgement of the past trauma and distress affecting Native peoples. Historic trauma that is impacted by grief and suffering caused by the current global pandemic, long standing racial injustices, and ensuing economic crisis. Coast Salish peoples have long understood the importance of collective healing in response to historical trauma and depend on the power of traditional and cultural practices to overcome hardship.

Lummi Nation looks forward to opportunities to work with the WWU Native Student Union and Laural Ballew, Executive Director of American Indian, Alaska Native, and First Nation Relations/Tribal Liaison to the President, in support of constructing a longhouse-style structure. We further look forward to the events and programming to be held for the benefit of indigenous students, faculty, staff, and the greater Bellingham community.

Hy'shqe,

Lawrence Solomon, Chairman



# Nooksack Indian Tribe

---

October 31, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee and Members of the Washington State Legislature,

We, the undersigned leaders of tribal nations across the Salish Sea basin, write in support of the construction of a Coast Salish-style longhouse on the campus of Western Washington University, which is situated on the ancestral homelands of Nooksack Indian Tribe, as well as other Coast Salish nations.

We recognize and commend the WWU Native American Student Union for their leadership and perseverance in fighting for a dedicated space for the Native students on WWU's campus. The Coast Salish longhouse will provide a sense of belonging for current and future Native students attending WWU, where they can build community and support their academic achievements and activities. The Coast Salish-style longhouse will also honor the historic importance of place within the Nooksack territory which WWU currently sits on and give acknowledgement of the University's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for Native students.

The proposed longhouse is intended to serve as a "house of healing" to acknowledge the past trauma and distress affecting Native peoples, as well as the current grief and suffering caused by the global pandemic, long-standing racial injustices, and ensuing economic crisis. Coast Salish peoples have long understood the importance of collective healing in response to historical trauma, as well as holding the power of traditional and cultural practices in order to overcome hardship.

We, and the people we represent, look forward to partnering with Native students at WWU as well as Laural Ballew, Executive Director of American Indian, Alaska Native, and First Nation Relations/Tribal Liaison to the President, on designing the longhouse-style structure and developing events and programming that it will house for the benefit of Western's Indigenous students, faculty and staff, its sovereign tribal neighbors, and the greater Bellingham community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ross Cline, Sr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ross Cline, Sr.  
Chairman



# Samish Indian Nation

OF WASHINGTON

December 14, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee and Members of the Washington State Legislature,

We, the undersigned leaders of tribal nations across the Salish Sea basin, write in support of the construction of a Coast Salish-style longhouse on the campus of Western Washington University, which is situated on the ancestral homelands of Lhaq'temish, Lummi Nation, and Nuxwsá7aq, Nooksack Nation, as well as other Coast Salish nations.

We recognize and commend the WWU Native American Student Union for their leadership and perseverance in fighting for a dedicated space for the Native students on WWU's campus. The Coast Salish longhouse will provide a sense of belonging for current and future Native students attending WWU, where they can build community and support their academic achievements and activities. The Coast Salish style longhouse will also honor the historic importance of place within the Lummi territory which WWU currently sits on and give acknowledgement of the University's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for Native students.

The proposed longhouse is intended to serve as a "house of healing" to acknowledge the past trauma and distress affecting Native peoples, as well as the current grief and suffering caused by the global pandemic, long-standing racial injustices, and ensuing economic crisis. Coast Salish peoples have long understood the importance of collective healing in response to historical trauma, as well as holding the power of traditional and cultural practices in order to overcome hardship.

We, and the people we represent, look forward to partnering with Native students at WWU as well as Laural Ballew, Executive Director of American Indian, Alaska Native, and First Nation Relations/Tribal Liaison to the President, on designing the longhouse-style structure and developing events and programming that it will house for the benefit of Western's Indigenous students, faculty and staff, its sovereign tribal neighbors, and the greater Bellingham community.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Wooten  
Tribal Chairman  
Samish Indian Nation

**MAILING ADDRESS** P.O. Box 217 · Anacortes, Washington 98221

**LOCATION** 2918 Commercial Avenue · Anacortes, Washington 98221

**PHONE** 360-293-6404 **FAX** 360-299-0790 **WEB** [www.samishtribe.nsn.us](http://www.samishtribe.nsn.us)





December 2, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

**Re: Support for WWU Campus Longhouse Project**

Dear Governor Inslee,

On behalf of our Tribal Council, I write in support of the construction of a Coast Salish-style longhouse on the campus of Western Washington University (WWU), which is situated on the ancestral homelands of Lhaq'temish, Lummi Nation, and Nuxwsá7aq, Nooksack Nation, as well as other Coast Salish nations. Washington State has been a leader amongst the states in honoring tribal sovereignty and history, supporting three longhouses on college campuses thus far: University of Washington's wəłəbʔaltxʷ: Intellectual House, The Evergreen State College's s'gwi gwi ʔ altxʷ: House of Welcome, and Peninsula College's ʔaʔkʷustəŋáwtxʷ: House of Learning.

Jamestown commends the WWU Native American Student Union for their leadership and perseverance in fighting for a dedicated space for the Native students on WWU's campus. We personally understand the significance of having a longhouse on a college campus that sits on our ancestral lands. Peninsula College worked diligently with the three S'Klallam/Klallam Nations to honor our history, our present, and our future. The presence of a longhouse brings a sense of pride, place, and comfort to Indigenous students who come from all over the world. While Indigenous students are studying Western knowledge and systems to benefit their own communities, the longhouse provides a positive reminder that the land and people they are spiritually connected to are waiting for them to return. We fully support WWU in obtaining these very desires and benefits. Moreover, we agree with the intended goal of providing a house of healing to acknowledge the past trauma and distress affecting Indigenous peoples, as well as the current grief and suffering caused by the global pandemic, long-standing racial injustices, and ensuing economic crisis.

Jamestown looks forward to partnering with Native students at WWU as well as Laural Ballew, Executive Director of American Indian, Alaska Native, and First Nation Relations/Tribal Liaison to the President, on designing the longhouse-style structure. We know the developing events and programming that it will house for the benefit of WWU's Indigenous students, faculty and staff, its sovereign tribal neighbors, as well as the greater Bellingham community.

Sincerely,

W. Ron Allen, Chair/CEO

Cc: Representative Laurie Jinkins, Speaker, Democratic Caucus  
Representative J.T. Wilcox, Minority Leader, Republican Caucus  
Representative Mike Chapman, 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Representative Steve Tharinger, 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Senator Andy Billig, Majority Leader, Democratic Caucus  
Senator Randi Becker, Chair, Senate Republican Caucus  
Senator Kevin Van De Wege, 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



## Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

PO Box 277 . 3322 236<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Arlington, WA 98223

December 18, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee and Members of the Washington State Legislature,

We, the undersigned leaders of tribal nations across the Salish Sea basin, write in support of the construction of a Coast Salish-style longhouse on the campus of Western Washington University, which is situated on the ancestral homelands of Lhaq'temish, Lummi Nation, and Nuxwsá7aq, Nooksack Nation, as well as other Coast Salish nations.

We recognize and commend the WWU Native American Student Union for their leadership and perseverance in fighting for a dedicated space for the Native students on WWU's campus. The Coast Salish longhouse will provide a sense of belonging for current and future Native students attending WWU, where they can build community and support their academic achievements and activities. The Coast Salish style longhouse will also honor the historic importance of place within the indigenous territory which WWU currently sits on and give acknowledgement of the University's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for Native students.

The proposed longhouse is intended to serve as a "house of healing" to acknowledge the past trauma and distress affecting Native peoples, as well as the current grief and suffering caused by the global pandemic, long-standing racial injustices, and ensuing economic crisis. Coast Salish peoples have long understood the importance of collective healing in response to historical trauma, as well as holding the power of traditional and cultural practices in order to overcome hardship.

We, and the people we represent, look forward to partnering with Native students at WWU as well as Laural Ballew, Executive Director of American Indian, Alaska Native, and First Nation Relations/Tribal Liaison to the President, on designing the longhouse-style structure and developing events and programming that it will house for the benefit of Western's Indigenous students, faculty and staff, its sovereign tribal neighbors, and the greater Bellingham community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shawn Yanity', is written over a white background.

Shawn Yanity  
Chairman, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians



# THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

---

Post Office Box 498  
Suquamish, WA 98392-0498  
Phone (360) 598-3311  
Fax (360) 394-3686

November 30, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee and Members of the Washington State Legislature:

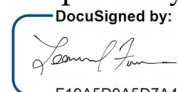
The Suquamish Tribe takes the opportunity to express its support for the construction of a Coast Salish-style longhouse on the campus of Western Washington University, which is situated on the ancestral homelands of Lhaq'temish, Lummi Nation, and Nuxwsá7aq, Nooksack Nation, as well as other Coast and Puget Salish nations.

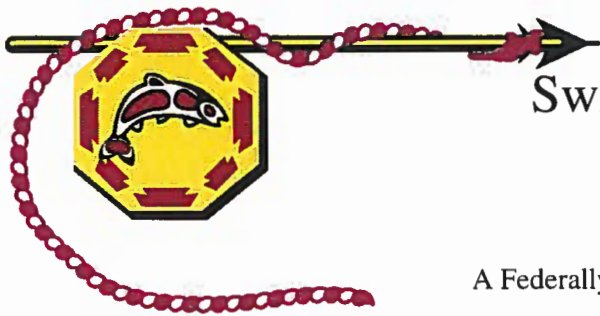
We recognize and commend the WWU Native American Student Union for their perseverance in fighting for a dedicated space for the Native students on WWU's campus. The Coast Salish longhouse will provide a sense of belonging for Native students attending WWU, where they can build community and support their academic achievements and activities. The Suquamish Tribe has had a number our tribal citizens attend WWU that are now prominent members of our tribal community. The Coast Salish style longhouse will honor the cultural and historic importance of place within the Lummi territory which WWU currently sits on and give acknowledgement of the University's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for Native students.

The proposed longhouse is intended to serve as a "house of healing" to acknowledge the past, and present, trauma affecting Native peoples. Coast Salish peoples understand the importance of collective healing in response to historical trauma, as well as holding the power of traditional practices in order to overcome hardship.

We, and the people we represent, look forward to partnering with Native students at WWU as well as Laural Ballew, Executive Director of American Indian, Alaska Native, and First Nation Relations/Tribal Liaison to the President, on designing the longhouse-style structure and developing events and programming that it will house for the benefit of Western's Indigenous students, faculty and staff, its sovereign tribal neighbors, and the greater Bellingham community.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:  
  
F19A5D9A5D7A4A4...  
Leonard Forsman  
Chairman



# Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

11404 Moorage Way, La Conner, WA 98257  
P: 360.466.3163 F: 360.466.5309

A Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Organized Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 5123

November 12, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee and Members of the Washington State Legislature:

We, the undersigned leaders of tribal nations across the Salish Sea basin, write in support of the construction of a Coast Salish-style longhouse on the campus of Western Washington University, which is situated on the ancestral homelands of Lhaq'temish, Lummi Nation, and Nuxwsá7aq, Nooksack Nation, as well as other Coast Salish nations.

We recognize and commend the WWU Native American Student Union for their leadership and perseverance in fighting for a dedicated space for the Native students on WWU's campus. The Coast Salish longhouse will provide a sense of belonging for current and future Native students attending WWU, where they can build community and support their academic achievements and activities. The Coast Salish style longhouse will also honor the historic importance of place within the Lummi territory which WWU currently sits on and give acknowledgement of the University's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for Native students.

The proposed longhouse is intended to serve as a "house of healing" to acknowledge the past trauma and distress affecting Native peoples, as well as the current grief and suffering caused by the global pandemic, long-standing racial injustices, and ensuing economic crisis. Coast Salish peoples have long understood the importance of collective healing in response to historical trauma, as well as holding the power of traditional and cultural practices in order to overcome hardship.

We, and the people we represent, look forward to partnering with Native students at WWU as well as Laural Ballew, Executive Director of American Indian, Alaska Native, and First Nation Relations/Tribal Liaison to the President, on designing the longhouse-style structure and developing events and programming that it will house for the benefit of Western's Indigenous students, faculty and staff, its sovereign tribal neighbors, and the greater Bellingham community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Edwards".

Steve Edwards, Chairman





**Office of Mayor Seth Fleetwood**  
**City of Bellingham**

November 20, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee and Members of the Washington State Legislature,

As Mayor of the City of Bellingham, I write to you in support of the construction of a Coast Salish-style longhouse in the Sehome Hill Arboretum, which is situated on the ancestral homelands of Lhaq'temish, Lummi Nation, and Nuxwsá7aq, Nooksack Nation, as well as other Coast Salish nations.

The Sehome Hill Arboretum is a 175-acre park located on the south side of Bellingham which borders Western Washington University's campus. The Bellingham Parks & Recreation Department, WWU, and the Sehome Arboretum Board of Governors jointly developed a Sehome Hill Arboretum Master Plan in 1978, and since that time we have partnered on the protection and preservation of this native forest land and its six miles of trails. WWU classes are often taught here taking advantage of the natural habitat, and the Arboretum also borders Sehome High School.

The plot of land we have chosen for the longhouse provides access to both campus and city residents, making it an ideal location that will benefit Western's Indigenous students, faculty and staff, our sovereign tribal neighbors, and the greater Bellingham community.

The WWU Native American Student Union has long fought for a dedicated space for Native students on WWU's campus. The proposed longhouse is intended to serve as a "house of healing" to acknowledge the past trauma and distress affecting Native peoples of our region. And now, there has never been a more urgent time to create a beautiful space that can also promote collective healing in response to the suffering caused by the global pandemic and its economic aftermath, and the long-standing racial injustices that our communities are coming together to solve.

The Coast Salish longhouse will encourage a sense of belonging for current and future Indigenous students attending WWU, where they can build community and support their academic achievements and activities. The longhouse will also honor the historic importance of place within the Lummi territory which WWU and much of the City of Bellingham currently sits on and acknowledge the City's and the University's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for Native and non-Native community members alike.

I hope that you, too, will support this important community healing project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Seth Fleetwood".

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor  
City of Bellingham

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicole Oliver".

Nicole Oliver, Director  
Bellingham Parks & Recreation