

Preface

Land Acknowledgement

Whatcom County Government acknowledges that present day Whatcom County is located on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe, as well as other Coast Salish peoples who have lived in and stewarded this land since time immemorial. We honor their enduring connection to the lands and waters of this region — including the Salish Sea, rivers, forests, and mountains — and recognize their continued presence, sovereignty, and cultural traditions. We express our respect and gratitude for their stewardship of this place and commit to learning from and supporting Indigenous communities today. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We pay respect to the elders past and present. We take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today and seek to uncover such truths in all that we do.

Labor Acknowledgement

Whatcom County as we know it today was shaped by the generations of people who came before us, those who worked the land and water, built communities and infrastructure, raised families, operated businesses, served their neighbors, and contributed through labor, service, innovation, and care for others. We acknowledge that the county’s growth and prosperity were built through both opportunity and hardship, and that many people labored under difficult and unjust conditions throughout different periods of our history. We recognize the contributions of workers, families, farmers, tradespeople, laborers, caregivers, entrepreneurs, public servants, and community members whose efforts, often unseen or unrecognized, helped build and sustain our region. This acknowledgment is offered in a spirit of gratitude, stewardship, and shared responsibility as we work together to build a future that serves all residents of Whatcom County.