



LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION #2021-060 OF THE LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

TITLE: ADOPTING A 'LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT' STATEMENT FOR OUR *LH'AQTEMISH* PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the Lummi Indian Business Council (LIBC) is the duly constituted governing body of the Lummi Nation by the authority of the Constitution and Bylaws, as amended, of the Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation, Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Lummi Indian Business Council has the responsibility and authority under Article VI, Section 1, of the Lummi Constitution to safeguard and promote peace, safety, general welfare and public health of the Lummi Reservtion; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the LIBC "*To Preserve, Promote and Protect our Sche Lang en*" (LIBC Resolution #2012-025); and

WHEREAS, the Lummi Nation desires to establish a "Land Acknowledgement" Statement derived from our worldview or cultural lens to become a written template to be utilized by a) school districts, b) government agencies, c) townships, d) organizations, and e) any other party(ies); and

WHEREAS, any Land Acknowledgements is a formal statement that outside communities use as a tool that **recognizes and respects our past, present, and future *Lh'aqTeMish* People as traditional stewards of this land** and the continuing relationship that exists between the *Xwlemi* (Lummi) and *Sq'elqx'en decendants* both a part of the *Lh'aqTeMish* who inhabited their respective traditional territories from time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the FINAL DRAFT "Land Acknowledgement" Statement is an important communications tool. The statement can facilitate and foster better relationships between our communities. A huge step for most and lesser for others. Regardless, it is designed to provide a pathway of communication to build and achieve a good-standing relationship and become successful at being good neighbors; and

WHEREAS, this proposed document has been brought forward to establish not only an 'acknowledgment' statement but a standing policy within our tribal government and its administration of a final Land Acknowledgement to be adopted by the Lummi Nation; and

WHEREAS, we have a proposed Discussion Draft Land Acknowledgement Statement of:

"We, the (Insert name of School, government agency, etc., e.g. Ferndale School District), acknowledge we are residing on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Lummi People. The Lummi People are the original inhabitants of Washington's northernmost coast and southern British Columbia. They lived in

villages throughout this territory and continue to have an ongoing relationship with these areas. Since Time Immemorial they have celebrated life on their land, water ways and on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of their People to perpetuate their way of life. Please join us in taking a moment of silence as we honor their ancestors and as we acknowledge the past, present and future Lummi People as the original inhabitants of this land.

WHEREAS, the Lummi Cultural Resources Preservation Commission during the regular monthly commission meeting held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, to review the Land Acknowledgement package for consideration. The Cultural Commission reviewed and approved the draft Land Acknowledgement package and recommended it be finalized by the appointed ad hoc committee and then presented to the Lummi Indian Business Council for their final review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Lummi Indian Business Council wishes to establish a governmental framework to address our *Xwlemi T'enexw-s* or Lummi's Traditional Territory being addressed within a traditional sense of land and our spirit of stewardship. A territory or land acknowledgment is a statement that recognizes the traditional landscape, waterscape, earth or ground, and airscapes of our *Lh'aqTeMish* peoples who have lived in a particular place since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, in order to advance our 'worldview' and add value to the culturally significant practice regarding 'relational' and what it means for us to connect to our land, water, earth, air which our *Lh'aqtemish* ancestors have always understood and practiced since time immemorial. Such an understanding has given us our cultural identity and our "*L'aolh*" or well-being and health. Therefore, we see the need to facilitate a statement that is important to our past, present and future tribal members, in a good way and manner; and

WHEREAS, Our *Ch'osen* (any *Lh'aqtemish* languages), our *Schelangen* (Our Way of Life), culture and oral-based and tribal traditions of our sovereign Nations involve all aspects of our lives. Inherent in the language are a connection, perspective and insight that teach us how to act and interact within our world. The protocol of our traditional cultures provides an understanding of our past, who we are as a people today, and who we are to be in the future. Our languages and cultures cover all aspects of our lives and strengthen our destiny; and

WHEREAS, our *Lh'aqTeMish* People or tribal groups are the spiritual caretakers of water and land based cultures. The saltwater, rivers, lakes and the land have spoken to our traditions, values, and our place since time immemorial. Our languages and cultures bring us closer to these places. Our languages and cultural values go hand in hand; they define one another and who we are as a people. We are connected to this land and waterways by generations of our ancestors who have gone before us; and

WHEREAS, our *Lh'aqTeMish* ancestors became resilient by standing straight and strong through federally mandated attempts to assimilate our people: the Dawes Act/Allotment Act, the boarding school era, the termination act and relocation era. Through our ancestors' strength powerful laws were created: the Indian Self-Determination Act, the Native American Languages Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Boldt Decision, the Honoring our Ancestors Act

and many more. Our *Lh'aqTeMish* elders stood for our land, waterways, language, culture and history; and

WHEREAS, as *Lh'aqTemish* Strong, as a collective people we see it is our responsibility to pass on our ancestor's knowledge and wisdom to our future generations by educating our children utilizing our own Tribal languages, histories, cultures, values and traditions; and

WHEREAS, the appointed Ad Hoc Committee had determined that both the terms of "land" and "territory" are not necessarily interchangeable and use within a context that shall depend on where you are as well as to which *Lh'aqTeMish* Tribe or Group which is being acknowledged among the original 44 tribal groups or tribes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed ad hoc committee established and consisting of a) Juanita Jefferson, b) Ted Solomon, c) Al Johnnie, d) Heather Leighton, e) Terrance Adams, f) Jessie Deardorff, and g) Matt Warbus. These members have brought forth a final draft "Land Acknowledgement" Statement for LIBC final review and final approval; and

BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED, that we adopt the above Land Acknowledgement Statement as the final draft to be passed by the Lummi Indian Business Council to adopt as the official Land Acknowledgement statement approved recommended by commission and ad hoc committee to LIBC; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Chairman (or Vice Chair in his absence) is hereby authorized and directed to execute this resolution and any documents connected therewith, and the Secretary (or the Recording Secretary in her absence) is authorized and directed to execute the following certification.

LUMMI NATION



**Lawrence Solomon, Chairman
Lummi Indian Business Council**

CERTIFICATION

As Secretary of the Lummi Indian Business Council, I hereby certify that the above Resolution #2021-060 was adopted at a **Regular/Special** Meeting of the Council held on the **15th** day of **June**, 2021, at which time a quorum of **7** was present by a vote of **6** for, **0** against, and **0** abstention(s).



William Jones Jr., Secretary
Lummi Indian Business Council





Council Operations Action Form

Please turn in with resolution & attachments or with your agenda item, to Council Operations, the Wednesday prior to the Council meeting by 4:30 PM. **Late documents will not be accepted.** If you have questions contact TeresaB@lummi-nsn.gov or ext 2142

To be completed by Originator:

Clearances	Initial	Date	Comments	Resolution # 2021-060	Agenda Date: June 15, 2021		
Originator	ASJ Cm	04/29/21		Title: Final Draft "Land Acknowledgement" Statement and establishment of a Ad Hoc Committee to develop a final draft for council review and final approval			
ORA C. Cartwright	CC	ms 6/10/21		Name of Presenter: Sts'aStelQuy, Al Johnnie or Q'el'iweSet, Ted Solomon			
Department Director	N/A			Financial impact (if yes please attach Executive Summary):	Budgeted item: Y N	# of Pages Attached: 3 pages	
Cultural Department	See Above			Distribution (departments or individuals who will need a copy of the certified resolution Circle all that apply):			
CBC Chairperson	js			Planning	Economic Development	Natural Resources	Education
General Manager	N/A			Human Resources	Reservation Attorney's	CFO	Council Officers
Treasurer Only if a Financial Impact	N/A			General Manager	Other:		
Chair or Vice Chair	ms IS	6/10/21	See Attached Memo	Contact Information of Person Dropping Off at C.O. Al Scott Johnnie			

Please give a brief narrative of your agenda item: The Lummi Nation desires to establish a "Land Acknowledgment" Statement derived from our worldview or cultural lens to become a formal written statement to be utilized by a) school district(s), b) government agencies, c) townships, d) organizations, and e) any other party(ies).

By signing below, I have completed the Action form assuring that there is approval from all listed parties before submitting it to Council Operations also; "Sign here" tabs have also been placed in all areas in need of signature.

Signature of Department: ASJ

Date & Time April 29, 2021

Signature Received by: [Signature]

Date & Time 6/15/21

Resolution # 2021-060



LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

Office of the Chairman

2665 Kwina Road Bellingham, WA 98226

Phone: 360.312.2000 Ext: 2150

MEMORANDUM

TO: *STS'ASTELQUYD*, Al Johnnie, Interim Schelangen Director
Q'EL'WESSET, Ted, Solomon, Language Director

DATE: April 23, 2021

FROM: *SI'ALHELEQ*, Lawrence Solomon, Chairman *LS*

SUBJECT: Authorization(s) for the discussion draft of the land acknowledgement

Desired Outcome(s):

The Lummi Nation desires to establish a "Land Acknowledgement" derived from our worldview or cultural lens to become written template to be utilized by a) school districts, b) government agencies, c) townships, d) organizations, and e) any other party(ies).

Purpose and Intent:

The attached DISCUSSION DRAFT "Land Acknowledgement" between Lummi Nation and the Ferndale School district, dated April 12, 2021 is an important document. The document can facilitate and foster better relationships between our communities. A huge step for most and lesser for others. Regardless, it is designed to provide a pathway of communication to build and achieve a good-standing relationship and become successful at being good neighbors.

This proposed document has been brought forward to establish not only an 'acknowledgment' statement but a plan to establish an 'ad hoc' committee within our tribal government and its administration to further develop the intent and meaning of a final Land Acknowledgement to be adopted by the Lummi Nation.

Authorization(s):

To advance our cultural significant practice regarding 'relational' and what it means for us to connect to our land, water, earth, air which our *Lh'aqtemish* ancestors have always understood and practiced since time immemorial. Such an understanding has given us our cultural identity and our "*L'aolh*" or well-being and health. Therefore, we see the need to facilitate a statement that is important to our past, present and future tribal members. Therefore, I would provide two (2) authorization(s) to facilitate this important undertaking, they are as follow(s):

1. I authorize the *Schelangen* Division staff members Al Johnnie and Ted Solomon to coordinate an ad hoc committee for further review, discussion, and to develop a final draft to be brought forward into a Tribal Resolution. Emphasis will be for the ad hoc committee to bring the DRAFT Land Acknowledge Statement for internal review with key parties for their review, discussions and recommendations to finalize the draft to be presented to council. All and necessary internal review process and administrative process will be utilized while bringing this statement forward for final decision by our LIBC.
2. On an interim basis this developed draft Land Acknowledgement Statement can become a test module for an upcoming event to be held by the Ferndale School District. The FSD who will be conducting a groundbreaking ceremony on April 27, 2021. The statement can be utilized during that event to determine its effectiveness in our relationship building effort between the Ferndale School District and Lummi Nation and its tribal citizens.

Land Acknowledgement - DRAFT
Lummi Nation and FSD

*We, the Ferndale School District, acknowledge we
 are residing on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the
 Lummi People*

*The Lummi People are the original inhabitants of Washington's northernmost coast and southern British
 Columbia. They lived in villages throughout this territory and continue to have an ongoing relationship with
 these areas*

*Since Time Immemorial they have celebrated life on their land, water ways and on the traditional, ancestral
 and unceded lands of their People to perpetuate their way of life*

*Please join us in taking a moment of silence as we honor their ancestors and as we acknowledge the past,
 present and future Lummi People as the original inhabitants of this land*

To Complete:	Timeline and Person Responsible	Success Criteria
Identify an AdHoc committee that will develop a DRAFT Land Acknowledgement for use (L.A. Adhoc Committee)	Heather L., Al Scott, Qe'li'weset, Jessie D. Smak'iya Juanita Jefferson LNEB Terrance Adams LIBC	Define members from FSD and Lummi Nation
Develop DRAFT - Land Acknowledgement Statement for internal review and approval	Date: 4/1/21	
LIBC Schelangen Division – Internal review Title 40	AdHoc Committee Culture/Language Dept. Date: 4/12/21	Complete draft Develop proposed budget between Lummi Nation and FSD
DRAFT brought to Culture Commission for approval	AdHoc Committee Date: 4/21/21	Internal review and form complete
DRAFT brought to LIBC for approval LIBC Agenda checklist	AdHoc Committee Date: 4/22/21	Approved by Culture Commission
	AdHoc Committee Date: 6/8/21	Approved by LIBC via Resolution

<p>FINAL brought to Te'tisen Board for adoption and implementation</p> <p>Education Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferndale School District Students, Staff and Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a Land Acknowledgement? • Difference - Land Acknowledge vs Welcoming • Why is it important to the FSD? • Lummi Nation Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a Land Acknowledgement? • Difference - Land Acknowledge vs Welcoming • Why is it important to the Lummi Nation <p>Te'tisen – Professional Development/Lesson Development</p> <p>Te'tisen – District use - Land Acknowledgement Statement</p> <p>Ceremony - Raising of the Lummi Nation Flag acknowledging the traditional territory of the Lhaqtemish People</p>	<p>AdHoc Committee Date: 6/29/21</p> <p>AdHoc Committee Children of Setting Sun Lhaqtemish Foundation Dr. Quinn Dr. Tom</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>AdHoc FSD T&L Dr. Tom</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>District Office</p> <p>FSD Staff/Board Lummi Nation Reps AdHoc Comm.</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p>Approved by Te'tisen School Board for use in Ferndale School District</p> <p>Curriculum – Create Educational video for use</p> <p>Proclamation issued and delivered by the Lummi Nation</p> <p>Use curriculum education video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development • K-12 lessons for Te'tisen use </p> <p>Share Land Acknowledgement Statement with all district staff</p> <p>Share Educational video with district staff</p> <p>Ceremony complete</p>
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