

# **Lummi Indian Business Council Burial and Funeral Assistance Policy**



## **Policy and Procedures 2018**

## Table of Contents

Section I: Purpose.....	3
Section II: Application for Fund .....	3
Section III: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Funding .....	3
Section IV: Eligibility .....	4
A. Spouses of Enrolled Members .....	4
B. Deceased Child/Infant.....	4-5
C. Stillbirths.....	5
D. Other Funeral Policies .....	5
Section V: Burial Assistance Benefits .....	6
A. Care of Body .....	6
B. Incidental Costs.....	6
Section VI: Benefit Schedule .....	7
Section VII: Amendments.....	7

## **Section I: Purpose**

Resolution #94-15 of the Lummi Indian Business Council, hereafter referred to as the LIBC, appropriated funding for the funeral support and approved the funeral support policy. Since then, the funeral support policy and the amount of funding appropriated has been amended with the following LIBC Resolutions: #2000-54; #2002-128; #2007-022; #2010-023; and #2014-112.

The purpose of the funeral support fund is to minimize the burial and funeral service expenses for all Lummi enrolled tribal members and their families, hereafter referred to as enrolled members. This policy shall be known as the Burial and Funeral Assistance Policy; this program shall be known as the Burial and Funeral Assistance Program; and the position within this program shall be known as the Burial and Funeral Assistant Specialist.

## **Section II: Application for Fund**

In the event of a death, the application for the burial and funeral assistance fund shall be obtained from the Burial and Funeral Assistant Specialist. It is the responsibility of the next of kin to submit their request for funds to the Burial and Funeral Assistant Specialist. The next of kin shall be considered as one of the following: spouse, eldest child, eldest sibling, grandparent, power of attorney, or one (1) family member who has been delegated this authority. If the Burial and Funeral Assistant Specialist is unavailable to provide and or accept the application, the next of kin shall obtain and submit their application to the Director of Family Services or to the Administration Manager of Family Services. If the next of kin is unable to pick up the application, the Family Services Department shall ensure that the family receives the application or a relative may hand deliver the application to the next of kin. All requests for burial and funeral assistance are subject to the availability of funds.

## **Section III: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Funding**

In addition to this burial and funeral assistance program, the Lummi Nation is authorized to use the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Burial Assistance funding, when applicable, to assist with the burial expenses. To be eligible for the BIA funding, the deceased must have resided within the Lummi Nation service area and must be a member of any federally recognized tribe. When using the BIA funding, the Lummi Nation will pay up to \$2,500.00 directly to the funeral home per funeral, or the amount due to the funeral home if it less than the \$2,500.00.



## **Section IV: Eligibility**

All enrolled members of the Lummi Nation, who were residing within the boundaries of Whatcom County at the time of death and are being buried within Whatcom County, shall be eligible for the maximum contribution from this burial and funeral assistance fund. All enrolled members, who were residing outside of Whatcom County at the time of death and are being buried within Whatcom County, shall be eligible for the maximum contribution from this burial and funeral assistance fund. All enrolled members, who were residing outside of Whatcom County at the time of death and are being buried outside of Whatcom County shall be eligible for the care of body coverage, and are not eligible for the incidental costs.

In accordance with Section V: Benefit Schedule of this policy, the maximum contribution from this burial and funeral assistance fund for all enrolled members who are being buried within Whatcom County, shall not exceed \$3,250.00 per funeral if the deceased is eligible for the BIA funding or \$5,750.00 per funeral if the deceased is not eligible for the BIA funding.

### **A. Spouses of Enrolled Members**

When the enrolled member is married to a non-Lummi who passes away, the enrolled member shall be eligible for this burial and funeral assistance fund. The enrolled member must first ensure that all other financial resources have been exhausted for burial and funeral expenses; this burial and funeral assistance fund shall be the payer of last resort. In the event that the enrolled member was not married, but were in a committed intimate relationship, the spouse shall be eligible for the burial and funeral assistance fund. Evidence of a committed intimate relationship may include, but is not limited to the following: the duration of the relationship, purpose of relationship, whether or not the couple lived together, whether or not the relationship was stable and committed, whether or not the couple intended to act like a married couple, and whether or not the relationship was exclusive.

To be eligible, the enrolled member shall provide a copy of the marriage and death certificate, if they were married, or evidence that indicates a committed intimate relationship existed. The couple must have also resided within Whatcom County at the time of death of the non-Lummi spouse. In accordance with Section V: Benefit Schedule of this policy, the maximum contribution from this burial and funeral assistance fund for all enrolled members who lost their spouse (who is a non-Lummi) shall not exceed \$500.00 per funeral.

### **B. Deceased Child/Infant**

1. If a child is between one (1) and twelve (12) years of age, and is an enrolled member, the child shall be eligible for the burial and funeral assistance fund. In accordance with Section V: Benefit Schedule of this policy, the maximum contribution from this burial and funeral assistance fund for a child who is between one (1) and twelve (12) years of age, and is an enrolled member, shall not exceed \$1,350.00 per funeral if the deceased is eligible for the BIA funding or \$3,850.00 per funeral if the deceased is not eligible for the BIA funding.

2. If the infant is less than 12 months old and is an enrolled member, the infant shall be eligible for the burial and funeral assistance fund. If the infant is less than 12 months old, but qualifies to be an enrolled member in accordance with Article II of the Lummi Constitution as amended, the infant shall be eligible for the burial and funeral assistance fund. In accordance with Section V: Benefit Schedule of this policy, the maximum contribution from this burial and funeral assistance fund for an infant who is less than twelve (12) months of age shall not exceed \$750.00 per funeral if the deceased is eligible for the BIA funding or \$3,250.00 per funeral if the deceased is not eligible for the BIA funding. If the infant is older than twelve (12) months and was not an enrolled member at the time of death, the infant shall not be eligible for the burial and funeral assistance fund.

### **C. Stillbirths**

When the enrolled member has an unborn child die during the pregnancy, 20 weeks or more at gestational age, the stillbirth child shall be eligible for the burial and funeral assistance fund. Miscarriages or fetuses, 20 weeks or less at gestational age, shall not be eligible for the burial and funeral assistance fund. In accordance with Section V: Benefit Schedule of this policy, the maximum contribution from this burial and funeral assistance fund for a stillbirth, 20 weeks or more at gestational age, shall not exceed \$3,250.00 per funeral. Stillbirth deaths are not eligible for the BIA funding.

### **D. Other Funeral Policies**

When the enrolled member is younger than 21 years of age, and they are insured through another funeral policy (i.e. Purple Cross and or other funeral policies), they shall not be eligible for the burial and funeral assistance fund. If the enrolled member is older than 21 years of age, and they are insured through another funeral policy, they shall be eligible for the burial and funeral assistance fund in accordance with Section V: Benefit Schedule of this Policy.



## **Section V: Burial Assistance Benefits**

The burial and funeral assistance fund shall only cover expenses related to the care of body and incidental costs.

### **A. Care of Body**

The care of body is a direct cost related to the burial and funeral home expenses. In accordance with Section V: Benefit Schedule of this policy, the LIBC shall not be responsible for body care expenses that exceed the benefit schedule for any given death.

### **B. Incidental Costs**

The incidental cost is a cost other than the burial and funeral home expenses. In accordance with Section VI: Benefit Schedule of this policy, the LIBC shall not be responsible for incidental costs that exceed the benefit schedule for any give death. The incidental costs include:

1. Clothing for the deceased only;
2. Floral arrangements (floral spray for the casket); and
3. Travel (airfare, bus ticket, lodging, or gas reimbursement) not to exceed \$500.00 per funeral;
  - a) Only the direct family shall be eligible for this assistance. A direct family shall mean: spouse, parent(s), grandparent(s), child(ren), grandchild(ren), or siblings;
    1. Airfare bus ticket, or lodging purchases shall be allowed through a Purchase Order and or reimbursed with original receipts if the funeral is outside of Whatcom County, or if the family is traveling from outside of Whatcom County into Whatcom County; and
    2. Gas shall only be reimbursed with original receipts and shall not exceed \$150.00 per funeral. Each family member is not eligible for the \$150.00 reimbursement.

**\*\*If travel assistance is utilized, the travel request plus other approved incidental costs shall not exceed the approved amount for any given death. See Section VI: Benefit Schedule**

The burial and funeral assistance fund shall not cover police protection or release costs of those imprisoned or in a local jail facility. Cash or checks shall not be given to anyone from the burial and funeral assistance fund, unless the check is processed through Accounting for reimbursement purposes.

## Section VI: Benefit Schedule

The following shall be a benefit schedule for those eligible to receive the burial and funeral assistance fund. The burial and funeral assistance fund shall not exceed the following amounts for any given death:

Deceased	BIA Funding	Care of Body	Incidental Costs	Total
13 years of age and older (enrolled and living within our service area)	\$2,500.00	\$1,900.00	\$1,350.00	\$5,750.00
13 years of age and older (enrolled and living outside our service area)	\$0.00	\$4,400.00	\$1,350.00	\$5,750.00
Child 1 – 12 years of age (enrolled and living within our service area)	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,350.00	\$3,850.00
Child 1 – 12 years of age (enrolled and living outside our service area)	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,350.00	\$3,850.00
Infant less than 12 months (enrolled and living within our service area)	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$3,250.00
Infant less than 12 months (enrolled living outside our service area)	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$750.00	\$3,250.00
Stillbirth	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$750.00	\$3,250.00
Spouse of enrolled members	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00

\*\*\* If the spouse of the enrolled member passes away while residing within our service area and is a member of any federally recognized tribe, the spouse is eligible for \$2,500.00. The spouse is not eligible for this BIA if the spouse passes away while living outside our service area. \*\*\*

## Section VII: Amendments

The policy and procedures for the burial and funeral assistance fund may be altered and or amended when approved by the Health & Family Services Commission prior to being approved by a LIBC resolution.

