



## SNOQUALMIE TRIBE

8130 Railroad Ave. Ste. 103  
PO Box 969

Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Phone: 425-888-6551

Fax: 425-888-6727

E-Mail: [Snoqualmie1855@snoqualmienation.com](mailto:Snoqualmie1855@snoqualmienation.com)

**For Information Contact:**

**Mary Anne Hinzman,  
Chairwoman**

**425.471.3190**

**Nathan Patrick Barker  
Councilmember, Chief**

**425.471.1709**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 28, 2008**

### **SNOQUALMIE TRIBE'S SECOND STATEMENT TO OUR MEMBERSHIP AND GREATER COMMUNITY**

Regrettably, for the second time in less than a week, we, the current members of the Snoqualmie Tribal Council, wish to inform our tribal community and members of the public about the facts surrounding the current internal tribal dispute.

We must preface our remarks by emphasizing yet again that the current dispute is strictly an internal matter and it is with great reluctance that we discuss these matters with the public. However, the Snoqualmie Tribe is choosing to respond to prevent gross distortions of the truth by this small handful of individuals.

At a meeting of the Snoqualmie Tribal Membership on April 27, 2008 in Issaquah, WA, nine (9) individuals were fully banished. These individuals are no longer considered members of the Tribe. No other members were dis-enrolled.

This matter concerns Snoqualmie Tribal Enrollment and the 1/8<sup>th</sup> blood-quantum requirement for membership in the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe. Blood-quantum is a measure of ancestry that describes the degree to which an individual can claim a cultural or heritage connection to an Indian Tribe.

Given the high-profile nature of the new Snoqualmie Casino and the prospects of economic opportunity that its opening in November presents, many individuals began approaching the Tribe seeking to become members. As a result, the Snoqualmie Tribal Council directed the Snoqualmie Tribal Enrollment Department in December 2007 to conduct an enrollment audit of current records so that the Council could refresh its

Tribal Chairman, Maryanne Hinzman,; Secretary, Arlene Ventura; Treasurer, Margaret Mullen; Honorable Lifetime, Katherine M. Barker; Council: Frances De Los Angeles, Robert Hinzman, Nina Repin, Kanium Ventura Jo-Anne Dominick ; Chief, Jerry Enick, Sub-Chief, Nathan (Pat) Barker, Alternates: Staci Moses

understanding of family trees and blood lines to be prepared to evaluate new applications for membership. During the course of that audit, the Tribal Enrollment Department determined that forty three (43) individuals on the current tribal membership roll did not meet the 1/8<sup>th</sup> blood quantum requirement for membership in the Tribe. Bill T. Sweet was not one of these individuals, but many of his relatives were revealed to not meet the 1/8<sup>th</sup> blood-quantum requirement for membership.

Since these individuals have been historically affiliated with the Tribe, and many have been active participants in the Tribe, the Tribal Council decided to offer these individuals benefits, including health and housing benefits, but determined that they could not vote in Tribal Elections or hold elected office like other adopted members of the Tribe that have their rights determined at the time of adoption. This is a fairly common limitation of rights for individuals adopted into Tribes that have some lineal descent, but do not meet a minimum blood-quantum requirement for membership in a particular Tribe. These individuals were notified of this determination and were offered an opportunity to appeal to the Tribal Council if they had information that suggested that the blood-quantum calculation was in error.

We also note that Tribal Representatives have reviewed Bureau of Indian Affairs records regarding these individuals and the federal records match current tribal enrollment records.

Some individuals that have been subject to the enrollment action that clarified status have filed appeals and are going through the internal process. Some individuals have indicated that they accept the enrollment decisions. Some have yet to respond.

In response to these enrollment decisions, however, Bill T. Sweet and a small group of followers from his family formed a shadow government to avoid having to respond to the enrollment decisions. Instead of facing the facts, they attempted to harm the very Tribe they claim to want to protect. They tried to shut down our tribal government, shut down health and social programs, fire the entire staff, and illegally gain control of Snoqualmie Tribal bank accounts.

So, due to these outrageous, disruptive, disrespectful and damaging actions, the Snoqualmie Tribal Council recommended banishment of these individuals to the membership.

These individuals were notified of the proposed discipline and the scheduled meeting in Issaquah, WA on April 27, 2008 from 10am to 4pm.

Bill T. Sweet and his followers showed up to the meeting on April 27, 2008 wearing emotion on their sleeves. Verbal confrontations with tribal members that were coming to the meeting occurred in the Parking Lot of the meeting location. The individuals facing banishment were not permitted to come into the April 27, 2008 General Membership meeting as it was assembling and were asked to stand to the side outside of the hotel so as not to disturb other guests of the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, but were notified by Security

and Tribal Members that they would be given an opportunity to speak on their own behalf and to face the charges leveled against them in front of the Tribal Membership. Instead, after speaking to the media, they elected to leave the premises.

These individuals do not want to face the members of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and do not want forgiveness. They want control so that they can bury the facts and change the requirements for membership and take control of future gaming proceeds.

The membership discussed the proposed discipline and voted in favor of fully banishing nine individuals. These individuals, and these individuals alone, are no longer considered members of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

Again, matters of membership and self-governance are strictly internal, sovereign governmental matters and we are regrettably and reluctantly explaining these matters to the public.

**\*END\***

**SNOQUALMIE TRIBAL COUNCIL**

**/s/**

**Mary Anne Hinzman  
Nathan Patrick Barker  
Jerry Enick  
Jo-Anne Dominick  
Nina Repin  
Katherine Barker**

**Margaret Mullen  
Arlene Ventura  
Staci Moses  
Robert Hinzman  
Frances de los Angeles  
Kanium Ventura**

**SEE ATTACHED PHOTO OF TRIBAL COUNCIL FROM APRIL 27, 2008  
SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**