

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

For Information Contact:

Matthew Mattson

425.888.6551 x-123

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2008

SNOQUALMIE TRIBE'S STATEMENT TO OUR MEMBERSHIP AND GREATER COMMUNITY

We, the current members of the Snoqualmie Tribal Council, wish to inform our tribal community and members of the general public of the facts of current Snoqualmie Tribal events.

Our Tribal Council is the legal, ethical, and democratically-elected representative of the General Membership of the Snoqualmie Tribe. The Snoqualmie Tribal Government is and has been operating true to the Snoqualmie Tribe's Constitution and to our traditional practices. We wish to assure our tribal members and the general public that the Snoqualmie Tribe's affairs are in order, and we continue operating normally, delivering services to our tribal members and others. Furthermore, we looking forward optimistically to an on-time opening of the Snoqualmie Casino in November.

Indian tribal enrollment matters involve an unfortunately common issue in Indian Country, namely, blood-quantum. Blood-quantum is the term that describes the degree to which an individual can claim a cultural or heritage connection to an Indian tribe, and whether one can be a member of a particular tribe.

All except for one of the people who recently have been making accusatory and defamatory statements against the Snoqualmie Tribe, are individuals whose blood-quantum do not meet the one-eighth degree requirement as stated in the Snoqualmie Tribal Constitution. These individuals have been given an opportunity to request reconsideration of this determination by the Snoqualmie Tribal Council; they have been given an opportunity to verify their blood-quantum with the Snoqualmie Tribal Enrollment Department; and they have been given a similar opportunity by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Vice Chair, 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

However, these people have declined to act on their opportunities to appeal enrollment decisions. Their response, regrettably, has been to try to harm the very tribe they claim to want to protect.

The vast majority of these individuals have not and do not participate in Snoqualmie Tribal community events, fundraising or cultural activities. They are an insular, familial group that viewed the Snoqualmie Tribe with disdain until the economic opportunity of casino gaming became a reality for the Tribe. While some have had an historic affiliation with the Snoqualmie Tribe and were considered members of the Tribe, they have not helped to establish vital tribal programs that are providing important services, nor did they help in any way establish the gaming opportunity.

Yet now that the opportunity will soon become a reality, these people have made a power grab that has failed, and apparently they will stop at nothing in an attempt to damage the Snoqualmie Tribe.

They have 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. All of these efforts have failed.

We, the democratically-elected Tribal Council, need to inform the community that Bill T. Sweet is no longer the Chairman of the Snoqualmie Tribe. He was removed by Constitutionally valid actions of the Snoqualmie General Membership and the Snoqualmie Tribal Council. The Snoqualmie Tribe consists of over 600 enrolled members. Mr. Sweet and his small handful of supporters number less than 20 people, all from the same family.

So now, due to the disruptive, disrespectful and damaging actions by a small handful of individuals, the Snoqualmie Tribal Membership will soon consider full banishment and denial of benefits for several of these individuals who are participating in the illegal shadow government.

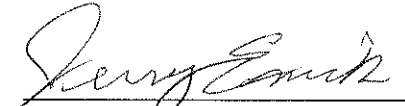
It is not heritage that these individuals are concerned about. It is about attempting to grab a hold of power to change the requirements of membership to enroll more individuals that do not meet the blood-quantum requirement to assert more control and influence over the Snoqualmie Tribe and future gaming revenues.

Matters of membership and self-governance are strictly internal, sovereign governmental matters. The Snoqualmie Tribe has chosen to explain these current events to prevent gross distortions of the truth by this small handful of disgruntled individuals.

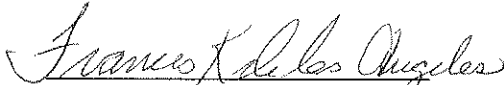
■ END –

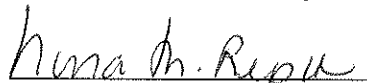
[Snoqualmie Tribal Council Signatures Follow.]

Snoqualmie Tribal Council
April 24, 2008

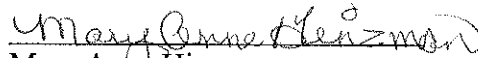

Jerry Enick, Head Chief


Nathan Patrick Barker, Chief

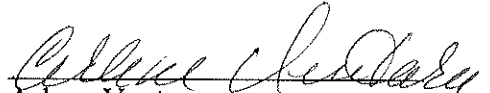

Frances de los Angeles

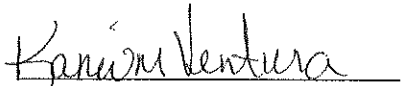

Nina Repin

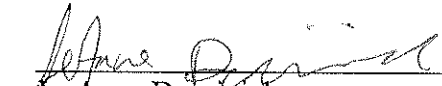

Kathy Barker, Lifetime

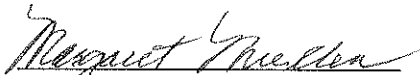

Mary Anne Hinzman


Robert Hinzman


Arlene Ventura


Kanium Ventura


Jo-Anne Dominick


Margaret Mullen


Staci Moses, Alternate