

COAST SALISH GATHERING NEWS RELEASE

Coast Salish Gathering Honoring Nations Award

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On November 16th, 2010 in Albuquerque, New Mexico the Coast Salish Gathering was awarded high honors by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development which honors contributions in the governance of American Indian Nations. Our Co Speakers, Chairman Brian Cladoosby, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Chief Gibby Jacob, Squamish Nation along with Chief Ian Campbell, Squamish Nation presented our story to the Harvard Board and Co Speaker, Chief Jacob, accepted the award of high honors on behalf of the Gathering.

Over 90 American Indian Tribes submitted their programs and at the end of the day there were 10 distinguished Tribes presenting to the Harvard Board of Governors. To be on among our fellow Tribes that have shown such courage in their efforts and projects was a great honor for our Coast Salish delegation.

"Success of Coast Salish Gathering is that our commitment is not based on a mandate, but rather we are committed together through our bloodlines, families, culture, ceremony, and dependence upon a shared Salish Sea", quoted Chief Jacob. He goes on further to say, "our greatest success is to reach into the past to make changes for our future."

Chief Campbell expressed how it "touched my heart to hear all the presentations today" and that it has taken generations to get to this place.

Along with Chairman Cladoosby, Chief Jacob, and Chief Ian highlighted the teachings of the Coast Salish people, the language, the culture, and the spirit that is contained within the watersheds of our territory from the white caps of the mountains to the white caps of the Salish Sea. The Coast Salish delegation ended their presentation with the traditional Coast Salish prayer song.

"Chet kwen mantumiwit", we are grateful for the recognition and want to thank the host Tribe and Pueblo, along with Harvard for hosting us in the beautiful territory of New Mexico. This wenaxws, honor, represents how chaw chaw stewy, together we can make a difference. It is not the individual effort that moves us forward but the work of each of us together that will create change for the Coast Salish and the Salish Sea. The Coast Salish Gathering brings our people together to represent who we are as a people and how we are Coast Salish in our hearts and minds.

Chairman Cladoosby quotes, "We must look forward with the support of our people to continue this good work, this governance structure that will create new policy based on the teachings of our past, the reality of our present, and the hope we have for our

children's future. This is what will bring the 10,000 years of knowing that is the teachings of our people and the scientific community, government, and policy together as one.”

"There is no victory until our children are safe", said Tom Sampson. The victory will happen when we come together to wənaxwəs and protect our future through language, culture, spirit, land and water. This honor has called back our ancestors and now that we have something back we must not give up, we must embrace each other with the courage of our ancestors, This is how we move forward.

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