



United League of Indigenous Nations

Interim Governing Board

U.S. Representative
The Honorable
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Lummi Indian Business
Committee
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Canadian Representative
The Honorable
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**New Zealand
Representative**
The Honorable Aroha Te
Pareaka Mead
Representative,
Ngati Awa Iwi, Aotearoa

Australian Representative
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August 10, 2007

The Honorable Joe Garcia, President
The National Congress of American Indians
Washington, DC USA

The Honorable Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief
The Assembly of First Nations
Ottawa, Ontario Canada

Dear President Garcia and Grand Chief Fontaine;

We are writing as the Interim Governing Board of the newly formed United League of Indigenous Nations to inform you of our recent actions as participants in the historic signing of a Treaty agreement among Indigenous Nations at the Lummi Indian Nation on August 1, 2007. Approximately forty Indigenous Nations accepted Lummi Nation Chair Evelyn Jefferson's invitation and sent delegates to attend the meeting. Of these, eleven Indigenous Nations, including representatives from the US, Canada, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia, announced that they had the authority from their governing bodies to proceed and commit their nation to the Treaty. Others expressed their full and strong support but did not come with authority to sign at this meeting. Consequently, although eleven nations signed the Treaty at Lummi in order to have it "come into force", the time for signing the treaty was extended to November 15, 2007 with the intention to convene in a Treaty Ratification meeting in Denver, Colorado in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the National Congress of American Indians.

The Treaty establishes an international political and economic alliance to advance our common interests regarding the impacts of climate change on their homelands, to promote trade and commerce among Indigenous Nations, to bring their cultural properties under the protection of the laws of Indigenous Nations, to protect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and to assert traditional rights to cross international borders. A copy of the Treaty, as modified and adopted by the signatory nations, is attached to this letter.

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As you are no doubt aware, the Treaty was developed and proposed by the National Congress of American Indian's Special Committee on Indigenous Nation Relationships following meetings with the Assembly of First Nations, Canada, the Mataatua Assembly of Maori Tribes of Aotearoa, (New Zealand) and the Ngarrindjeri Nations of South Australia. At the request of the NCAI Special Committee, the leadership of the Lummi Indian Nation agreed to host and convene the gathering of indigenous nation political leadership to discuss the Treaty. In developing the Treaty, the NCAI Special Committee determined that the laws of indigenous nations, not by the laws of former colonial nations, define relationships between indigenous nations. In our view, such colonial laws are not regarded as binding on the ability of Indigenous Nations to enter into nation-to-nation agreements with each other for their mutual interest and benefit.

As the original signatory Indigenous Nations, we met following the signing and immediately called for the establishment of a charter for the United League of Indigenous Nations to be created and authorized under the law of the Lummi Nation. The Charter will enable the League to establish a Treaty Governance Structure and to administer funds to support outreach out to all Indigenous Nations in North America and the South Pacific. Indigenous Nations located across the US, Canada, Australia and on the Islands of Aotearoa will be asked to join the Treaty and the League as equal members at the formal "Treaty Ratification Meeting" on November 15th, 2007, in Denver, Colorado. Invitations will then be extended to Indigenous Nations located in other parts of the indigenous world.

During our organizational meeting at Lummi on August 2, 2007, the eleven signatory nations agreed to create an Interim Governing Body to be comprised of four equal co-chairs to represent Indigenous Nations located in the four states, US, Canada, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia. The Interim Governing Body then asked the Lummi Nation leaders to continue to serve as "Custodian of the Treaty and Treaty Proceedings." They also requested NCAI Special Committee co-chair, Professor Alan Parker to serve as Acting Secretary to the Board and to prepare a Report on the Treaty. (See Attached) Professor Parker's eight page report memorializes the actions taken in adopting the Treaty and addresses important questions regarding the policies and principles of Indigenous Nation Sovereignty that were agreed upon by the delegates to the Treaty meeting. He also sets forth our plans to comply with the terms of the Treaty in organizing a "United League of Indigenous Nations Treaty Ratification Meeting."

As representatives of the original group of signatory nations, we write to express our profound gratitude to both of you for your leadership in supporting the work of Treaty Development and to request your continuing support in making this historic assertion

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of Indigenous Nation Sovereignty rights a reality. It has been our privilege to serve as representatives of our Indigenous People in giving birth to this new reality, an historic political alliance that aspires to unify our Indigenous Nations across international boundaries and to overcome centuries of historical oppression that would impose limits on our vision of ourselves and of each other. We are confident that with your support and the support of our two preeminent organizations in North America, the fledgling that was born at Lummi on August 1, 2007, will grow into a strong Eagle to serve our People throughout the Indigenous World.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Evelyn Jefferson, Chair
Lummi Indian Business Committee

The Honorable Jarret Cardinal, Chief
Sucker Creek First Nation (Cree)

The Honorable Aroha Te Pareaka Mead
Representative, Ngati Awa Iwi, Aotearoa

The Honorable Daryle Rigney, Representative
Ngarrindjeri Nation, South Australia

To view the Treaty and for further information on the Treaty signatories see: www.IndigenousNationsTreaty.org, or, contact: Alan Parker, Acting Secretary to the United League at (360) 867-6889: parkeral@evergreen.edu, or, Lummi Nation Policy Director, Mr. Jewell James at (360) 384-2337 or jewellj@lummi-nsn.gov