



# United League of Indigenous Nations

## Interim Governing Board

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## **HISTORIC AGREEMENT ON UNITED LEAGUE OF INDIGENOUS NATIONS TREATY**

Eleven Indigenous Nations, including representatives from the US, Canada, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia, meeting on the homelands of the Lummi Indian Nation near Bellingham, Washington, concluded negotiations and reached agreement on an historic Treaty of Indigenous Nations on August 1, 2007.

The Treaty establishes an international political and economic alliance to advance their 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.

The original signatory Indigenous Nations immediately called for the establishment of a United League of Indigenous Nations to be chartered under the law of the Lummi Nation and for the League to reach 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 sign the Treaty and to join the League as equal members at a formal “Treaty Ratification Meeting” on November 15th, 2007, in Denver, Colorado.

The Treaty was developed and proposed by the National Congress of American Indians’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 relationships between indigenous nations are defined by the laws of indigenous nations, not by the laws of former colonial nations. Such colonial laws are not regarded as binding on the ability of Indigenous Nations to recognize and affirm their inherent rights of self determination and self governance by entering into nation-to-nation agreements with each other for their mutual interest and benefit.

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During their Treaty deliberations the Indigenous Nation delegates agreed:

- 1.) The Treaty will unify the voice of Indigenous Peoples, identify the impacts of climate change on our traditional homelands and seek independent representation of these concerns before international bodies.
- 2.) The Treaty will serve as a political alliance to assert the primacy of indigenous nation law regarding the definition of rights to the cultural properties, sacred objects and traditional knowledge base of each indigenous nation.
- 3.) The Treaty creates a structure to facilitate and regulate inter-tribal and inter-indigenous-nation trade and commerce, an economic alliance for mutual support and benefit in the pursuit of indigenous nation self-sufficiency and sustainability.
- 4.) The Treaty will unify the efforts of member nations regarding border-crossing rights and in the protection of human rights.

To view the Treaty and for further information on the Treaty signatories see:

[www.IndigenousNationsTreaty.org](http://www.IndigenousNationsTreaty.org), or, contact: Alan Parker, Acting Secretary to the United League at (360) 867-6889: [parkeral@evergreen.edu](mailto:parkeral@evergreen.edu), or, Lummi Nation Policy Director, Mr. Jewell James at (360) 384-2337 or [jewellj@lummi-nsn.gov](mailto:jewellj@lummi-nsn.gov)