

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NICLAICI ETTED

NEWSLETTER

Whatcom Family YMCA

NOVEMBER, 2020

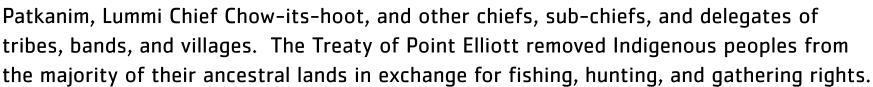
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

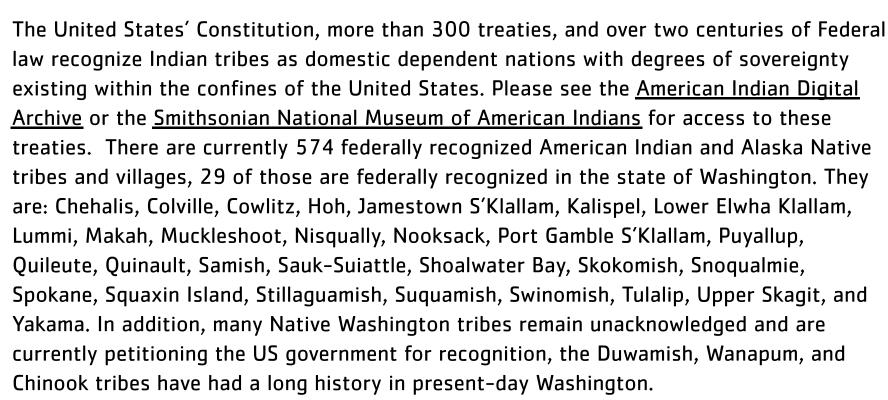
What does that mean, exactly?

November is Native American Heritage Month, established as a full month in 1990. During November (and throughout the year) we honor and acknowledge the contributions, wisdom, and experiences of Indigenous peoples, historically and today.

Before this land was "discovered" by European colonizers, Whatcom County was home to Northwest Coast Salish Native Americans, the Lummi, Nooksack, Samish and Semiahmoo Tribes. Living descendants of these First Americans consider these lands their ancestral homelands.

The Treaty of Point Elliott was signed on Jan. 22, 1855, by Isaac Stevens (1818-1862), Governor of the Washington Territory, and by Duwamish Chief Seattle, Snoqualmie Chief





Indigenous peoples are frequently classified as a racial minority. However, it is important to understand that "Native American" or "American Indian" are not strictly racial categories. Being a member of a tribal nation provides a membership status. Because of tribes' status as sovereign nations, Indigenous peoples/tribes are **political entities**. Whether an individual is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe depends on the membership rules of each individual tribe.



One stop on the path to being more more culturally conscious of Indigenous ancestral homelands is acknowledging the land that you occupy, visit and love.

"A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories."

-Native American & Indigenous Peoples Steering Group

The Whatcom Family YMCA serves Whatcom County on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Nuxwsa'7aq (Nooksack) Coast Salish peoples. In addition, the Whatcom Family Y acknowledges the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of our close neighbors, the Lhaq'temish (Lummi), Nuwhaha, Skaqit, and Xws7ámeshqen (Samish) peoples.

To celebrate National Native American Heritage month, we encourage you to take time to acknowledge and educate yourselves the land that you, your ancestors, and/or family reside upon. This can be done by going to native-land.ca.



RESOURCES:

If you would like to learn more, the following books are recommended.

"Where the Salmon Run: The Life and Legacy of Billy Frank Jr."

by Trova Heffernan

"Power and Place: Indian Education in America"

by Vine Deloria

"Making Space for Indigenous Feminism"

by Joyce Green