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Tulalip Tribes leaders, Reardon to sign landmark document

*County Executive and Tulalip Tribes leaders agree to support
social, cultural, economic, health and education initiatives*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and Tulalip Tribes Chairman Stanley G. Jones, Sr., today announced that their governments will sign a “memorandum of understanding” committing them to cooperate on a host of social, economic, health and educational issues.

The formal signing ceremony will take place Monday, May 17, at Muckl-te-oh, or Point Elliott, where the Treaty of Point Elliott creating the Tulalip Reservation was entered into in 1855. The ceremony will commence at noon at the Rosehill Community Center, 304 Lincoln Street, in Mukilteo. A monument on the center grounds marks the Treaty site.

Highlighting the ceremony will be performances by the Tulalip Tribes Salmon Ceremony Group and the Canoe Club. The Kamiak High School band from Mukilteo also will perform.

The memorandum’s goal is to commit Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes to an alliance fostering better communication and conflict resolution.

“It is appropriate that we shall sign the memorandum of understanding at the location where the Treaty of Point Elliott was signed almost 150 years ago,” Reardon said. “This memorandum is overdue. Over the past decade the relationship between Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes has grown stronger, but there are still those who prefer the old politics that seek to divide rather than unite.

“With the signing of this memorandum, we are leading in a new direction.”

Chairman Jones remarked, “For years the Tulalip Tribes have developed relationships that improve the cooperation and collaboration on many projects. These projects range from business opportunities to conservation and energy. All of these projects improve the quality of life for everyone in Snohomish County.”

The memorandum of understanding seeks to improve government to government communication, policy advisory support, technical support, legal support and to establish a dispute resolution process. The agreement also calls on Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes to:

- Secure a mutual relationship that builds trust and enhances governmental stability;
- Seek economic benefits both for the people of Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes;
- Provide education on the social and cultural aspects within the two communities; and,
- Promote the health of Snohomish County residents and Tulalip Tribes members.

The Tulalip Tribes is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe located on the Tulalip Reservation bordered on the east by Interstate 5 and the city of Marysville; on the south by the Snohomish River; on the north by the Fire Trail Road; and on the west by the waters of Puget Sound.

The Tulalip Reservation exterior boundaries enclose a land-base of 23,000 acres, over 60% of which is in federal trust status. The Tulalip Tribes is made up of a number of Coastal Salish tribes.

As of February 6, 2004, the Tribes has a total membership of 3,325, of which 1,942 live on the reservation. The Tribes provide many services to their members including preschool, higher education assistance, health and dental clinics, a pharmacy, a state-licensed chemical dependency recovery program, senior retirement home and cultural activities. In addition to two Marysville School District elementary schools, the Tribes collaborate with the Marysville schools in providing on-Reservation middle school and high school alternative programs. The Tulalip Tribes provides over-sight to the Tulalip Housing Authority, which provides nearly 300 housing units for Tribal members, and to the Tulalip Utilities District, the primary provider of water and sewer services.

Of the 2,000 employees working for Tulalip Tribes, more than two-thirds work in the Tribe's business enterprises: casino and bingo, land leasing, a cablevision company, marine moorage, a liquor store and the Quil Ceda Village Business Park.

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