



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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Colville Tribes Seats Recently-Elected Business Council, Elects Rodney Cawston as Chairman

(Nespelem, WA)—The Colville Business Council, in its annual reorganization meeting today, seated six newly-elected members and chose a new slate of officers, including Rodney Cawston from the Nespelem District as Chairman, Andy Joseph Jr. also from the Nespelem District as the Vice-Chairman, and Karen Condon of the Omak District as Secretary. Keller and Inchelium representation of the Executive Committee will be selected at the next Special Session.

The newly-elected CBC members and one incumbent member who won re-election will serve two-year terms. New members include Margie Hutchinson and Richard Moses from the Omak District; Janet Nicholson Wak Wak and Andrea George from the Nespelem District, and Richard Swan and Marvin Kheel from the Inchelium District. Joe Somday, from the Keller District, is the only returning CBC member.

“I am honored and humbled to be the Chairman of the Colville Tribes,” Rodney Cawston said today. “I look forward to a very productive year and to serving our membership, protecting and preserving our inherent tribal sovereignty, and to expanding economic development both on and outside our reservation. Our aboriginal territory is very vast and our Reservation is very diverse. We have twelve tribes each with unique legal and political histories, each with their own cultures and languages. Each of our tribes has their aboriginal homeland and those homelands are very sacred to us. Our people like to go back to those homelands, to gather, to bring our family and children, to exert our rights, protect our cultural and natural resources.”

Cawston succeeds outgoing Chairman Dr. Michael E. Marchand of Omak. Marchand has served the Tribes in various capacities since 1996 and has been CBC Chair for more than three terms, and has been an officer in the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians for several terms. He has been a pivotal leader in the Tribes’ effort to establish Colville Sinixt rights and land claims in British Columbia.

The CBC also elected committee chairs as follows: Richard Swan Sr., Law and Justice; Jack Ferguson, Management and Budget; Marvin Kheel, Tribal Government; Joe Somday, Natural Resources; Joel Boyd, Employment and Education; Andy Joseph Jr., Health and Human Services; Janet Nicholson Wak Wak, Community Development; Richard Moses,

Culture; Richard Swan Sr., Veterans. The Chair of Elections will be announced at a later time. The CBC Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and representatives from two districts other than the home districts of the three top officers.

The 14-member CBC holds elections annually for seven of its members.

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,540 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The tribes, commonly known by English and French names, are: the Colville, the Nespelem, the San Poil, the Arrow Lakes, the Palus, the Wenatchi (Wenatchee), the Chelan, the Entiat, the Methow, the southern Okanogan, the Moses Columbia and the Nez Perce of Chief Joseph's Bands.