



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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New child care center to open in Keller, Washington

CBC will house Head start and new Child Care services under one roof.

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For Immediate Release

NESPELEM, WA – The Colville Business Council (CBC) has set a plan in motion to open a child care program in Keller, WA, a community that has lacked these essential services until now.

“We are pleased that Keller community members will soon have these child care services available,” Rodney Cawston, Chairman of the Colville Tribes said today. “It is essential that parents and families have access to quality child care, particularly in rural communities which are largely unserved.”

Cawston said that Jeanie Kent, the Tribes Head Start program manager, will free up the use of 600 square feet of space in its Keller facility to provide a place for a childcare program. He said that renovation costs for this project are estimated at \$63,500. Furnishing the space will cost an additional \$17,000, while staffing and operations will be approximately \$178,500. The CBC approved the plan and its funding at its meeting on April 18.

“It’s good for our families and children to have easily accessible, quality child care in all Reservation communities, no matter how small or remote,” Cawston said. “Until now, in Keller, it just wasn’t there.”

Keller District Councilmember Jack Ferguson said the need for child care services has been a topic of consideration at the Keller District Meetings for a time.

“This project has been 4 or 5 years in the making,” Ferguson said today. “A lot of our community members, even those whose children are older, continue to recognize the need for this program and to support it.”

Cawston said that quality, comprehensive care will help improve school readiness for the children it serves, and help them to succeed in the future.

“This is an investment in our tribal children which will pay for itself many times over,” Ferguson said. “For a lot of good reasons, it’s the right thing to do.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,520 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.