



# PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Former Councilmember Frank LaFontaine Passes Away**

(Nespelem, WA) — Respected elder of the Colville Tribes Frank LaFontaine has passed away at age 76. He served on the Colville Business Council for the Nespelem District from 1980 through 1984. Frank’s remains were cremated and a celebration of his life will be held on June 1, 2024. He had 6 siblings. Frank was preceded in death by his daughter, Amy.

Frank graduated *magna cum laude* from Seattle Pacific College in 1970. He earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Washington School of Law and became an attorney. In addition to his service on Tribal Council, Frank also served his community as a lawyer. He spent years working in Colville Tribal Court at various times as a prosecutor, a public defender, and an Associate Judge. Frank also served as a judge for 12 tribes in western Washington and did a stint as a criminal investigator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Division of Law Enforcement.

Frank was also a man of letters. In 2005 he wrote *The Omak Lake Monster*, which recounted the tales of monster sightings in Omak Lake. He followed in 2006 with *Sasquatch Returns: A Story of an American Indian Legend*. Frank served as President of the Grand Coulee Lions Club in 1984 and as Junior Governor of the Grand Coulee Moose Lodge in 1984.

The Chairman of the Colville Confederated Tribes, Jarred-Michael Erickson, said, “We always grieve the loss of an elder, and today we mourn Frank LaFontaine as he walks on. But the stories Frank left behind, and the work he did to help his people and advance the causes of law and justice, will be long remembered.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,217 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The twelve tribes which compose the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation include: ščəlámxəx<sup>w</sup> (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰ<sup>w</sup>yʔilp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntiyátk<sup>wəx</sup> (grass in the water) or Entiat; snʃáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes;

mətx<sup>w</sup>u (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənəx<sup>w</sup> (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nspelem; uknaqin (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sənpɫ<sup>w</sup>ilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq<sup>w</sup>áwsəx<sup>w</sup> (people in between) or Wenatchi.