



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

**For Immediate Release
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Former Councilmember Violet Boyd Passes Away

(Nespelem, WA) — Respected elder of the Colville Tribes Violet Boyd has passed away at age 92. She served on the Colville Business Council from 1986 through 1994. A rosary will be held on October 22 at 7 p.m. at Inchelium School. The funeral will occur on October 23 at 10 a.m. at Inchelium School, with burial to follow at Hall Creek.

Violet Boyd was Sinixt. Her time on the Colville Business Council occurred during a momentous event in Sinixt history, the 1989 blockade of a highway construction site set to cross the Slocan River in Vallican, British Columbia, Canada. A group of Sinixt stood with arms linked in front of bulldozers and trucks, both to protect 4,000-year-old burial grounds in the path of the construction and to confirm that they were not extinct, as the Canadian government had declared during the 1950s.

The highway was eventually built, but the burial ground was named an archaeological site and the highway was diverted around it. Ancient remains which had been sent to a provincial museum in Victoria were returned for burial. And the Sinixt ultimately prevailed in the *Desautel* case in the Canadian Supreme Court and were once again recognized as not extinct.

The Chairman of the Colville Confederated Tribes, Jarred-Michael Erickson, said, “It has been a brutal year of losses for the Tribes, and now we must grieve another leader with the passing of Violet Boyd. The work she did for her people, specifically the Sinixt, will long be remembered.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,234 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: ščəłámxəx^w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰ^wyǰiǰp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntǰyátk^wəx^w (grass in the water) or Entiat; snǰáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətx^wu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxcənəx^w (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem; uknaqin (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sənpǰ^wilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq^wáwsəx^w (people in between) or Wenatchi.