



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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Omak Clinic Moves to Final Application Phase of the Joint Venture Construction Program

(Nespelem, WA)- The Chairman of the of the Colville Business Council announced today that Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are on the FY 2020 Joint Venture Final Application List. The evaluation process is expected to be completed in February 2020. The entire four part process is expected to wrap-up in the summer of 2020.

“The commitment from both the Indian Health Service’s Portland Area Office and our Washington Congressional Delegation in moving our application forward is much appreciated,” said Colville Business Council Chairman Rodney Cawston. “The Joint Venture Construction Program is the only answer to addressing the historically low staffing ratios at Colville Tribes and to meeting the needs of the IHS eligible patients in the Omak area.”

Under the Joint Venture Construction Program, the Colville Tribes would construct the Omak Clinic Health Facility using non-IHS funds. In exchange, IHS would agree to enter into a 20 year lease for the facility and request annual appropriations for the operation and maintenance of the facility during the lease period.

The Tribes received support for their application from members of both political parties and both chambers of Congress. Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA) led the effort with a letter to the Indian Health Service. The letter was co-signed by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Representative McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Representative Kim Schrier (D-WA), and Representative Denny Heck (D-WA).

“The new health providers, specialized staff, and technology that the facility would bring will benefit all of North Central Washington by creating greater access to resources and an increased capacity to serve,” Cawston said.

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,537 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^w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰw’y?iłp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntíyátk^wəx^w (grass in the water) or Entiat; snšáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətx^wu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənəx^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; sənpʕwɪlx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšqʷáwsəxʷ (people in between) or Wenatchi.