



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION & SINIXT (Sḡḡayḡckstx)
CONFEDERACY

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Contact: Neeka Somday
509-634-2213

Sḡḡayḡckstx (Sinixt) to Celebrate Historic Court Victory in Nelson, B.C.

(Nespelem, WA) — Andy Joseph Jr., Chairman of the Sḡḡayḡckstx (Sinixt) Confederacy and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, announced today that a long-awaited ceremony and celebration will be held on June 10, 2022 at Lakeside Park in Nelson British Columbia. The celebration is being held to honor the April 23, 2021 landmark decision from the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Desautel*, which affirmed that the Sḡḡayḡckstx are an Aboriginal Peoples of Canada with a constitutionally protected right to hunt in their traditional territory in Canada, erasing the infamous “extinction declaration” of 1956.

Chairman Joseph said that April 23, 2021 was a historic day for both the Sḡḡayḡckstx and other cross-border tribes across the continent, and welcomes everyone to this special celebration, which was regrettably delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic:

This is one of the biggest Indigenous law cases in recent history and I am proud of our people and our ancestors. The Desautel decision has profound implications for cross-border peoples around the entire continent and beyond, and will change the way we see the “invisible lines” of international borders and concepts of citizenship and identity.

We look forward and are excited to be on our homelands celebrating with our guests. This case is not about hunting; it is about healing. What happened to us and our territory wounded everyone. Now is the chance for everyone to heal.

The agenda for June 10 was announced to include the following:

- 11:00 a.m. Community Lunch at the Rotary Shelter in Lakeside Park
- 12:00 p.m. Ceremony and Celebration of the extinction reversal
- 5:00 p.m. Unveiling of mural at 685 Baker St by artist Ric Gendron
- 6:00 p.m. Community Dinner at the Prestige Lakeside Banquet Room, hosted by Touchstones Nelson Museum

- 7:30 p.m. Music by celebrated Sn̓áyckst artist Tony Louie at the Capitol Theatre
- 8:30 p.m. World premiere of “Older Than the Crown” by Sn̓áyckst filmmaker Derrick J. Lamere, followed by a Q & A session

Chairman Joseph said June 10 will be a memorable event for everyone in attendance:

A celebration like this, where communities can come together, is exactly what is required for truth and reconciliation, and is especially powerful as Nelson celebrates its 125th anniversary. This ceremony will lead us all forward to reflection, recognition and acknowledgment of the history of our territory and this city. As we recognize Rick’s fortitude in seeing this trailblazing decision through four levels of court, we embark down a new path of reconciliation and healing, away from our histories of colonization, dispossession and assimilation. We have survived each other, survived our histories since creation, even now we are surviving a pandemic together. Just like our ancestors, púti kʷu alá? (we are still here). We invite you to stand as witnesses as we honor this historic day - April 23, 2021.

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,354 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: ščəlám̓x̓ (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; s̓x̓yʔilp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntiyátk̓w̓x̓ (grass in the water) or Entiat; sn̓áyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; m̓tx̓w̓ (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáx̓č̓n̓x̓ (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; s̓np̓s̓w̓ilx̓ (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnp̓əšq̓áw̓s̓x̓ (people in between) or Wenatchi.

About the sn̓áyckstx (Sinixt) Confederacy: Formerly known as the Arrow Lakes Aboriginal Society, the Confederacy has been established to represent sn̓áyckstx people on both sides of the international border, regardless of tribal or band affiliation, in a manner consistent with Indigenous law and traditions.