



PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS



From Puyallup Tribal Council

July 14, 2020

haʔt sləx̌il txʷəl gʷəlapu, gʷəlapu dʔiišəd, dsyayayəʔ. Good day to you all, our friends, our relatives, our people.

The Puyallup Tribal Council would like to express our support and condolences to the Black community and formally voice our support and solidarity during this time of crisis, but also at all times. We acknowledge the injustices and inhumane treatment inflicted upon the Black community, not only in government institutions, systems, and businesses, but in the hearts of many Americans.

Our Tribe, as well as all tribes across the United States, knows firsthand what this struggle feels like. We have walked a parallel path with our Black brothers and sisters for centuries and we have many, many shared narratives and have worked together for justice many times. From the late Dick Gregory sacrificing his body for our fishing rights in 1968 by getting arrested and going on a 39-day hunger strike, to our recent collaboration on fighting state-sponsored violence by police which both communities suffer from, we know each other. We share forced removal from our homelands, being torn away from our families, and having our languages and cultures stripped away from us. The government has forced assimilation on our people for centuries. These are pains and experiences that we understand.

Yet, we as Indian people have work to do to support our Black community members and our Black Tribal members. We must acknowledge the internal racism that exists within Native communities, but also our own Native community. This lateral discrimination must be called out, and we have to do better.

Our Black and Puyallup Tribal members have expressed the hurt they feel when being discriminated against, called names, shunned, and not feeling supported and valued. Off the reservation, our Black members have to deal with systemic and institutional racism and have a higher rate of losing their lives at the hands of those who have sworn to protect all.

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians would like to acknowledge the greater Black community, the local Black community, our Black Puyallup Tribal members, our Black community Tribal members, and our Black employees. Black lives matter. We stand with you in solidarity, and we will do better.

luudubuʔəd čəʔ. We are listening to you.

ʔuʔušəbitubuʔəd čəʔ. We love you.

ʔəsʔilčbitubuʔəd čəʔ. We stand with you.

ʔəsq'ič ti səshəliʔ ʔə ti sq'ix̌ʷ. Your lives are valuable.

Sincerely,

The Puyallup Tribal Council: Chairman David Z. Bean, Vice Chairman Bill Sterud,
Councilmembers Sylvia Miller, Tim Reynon, Annette Bryan, James Rideout and Anna Bean