

It is our sacred obligation to protect our Salish Sea homelands and our community, including the salmon and qwe 'lhol mechen (orcas).



Press Release

Netse Mot: One Mind for the Salish Sea

event on land and sea at border, Friday, September 27 @ 5pm

Blaine Fishing Pier and adjoining waters

PRESS RELEASE

Indigenous-led event at Canadian/US border draws crowd to protect Salish Sea

Tribal and First Nations led the call to protect and heal the Salish Sea at “Netse Mot: One Mind for Xw’ullemy,” an event held on both land and water at the Canadian/US border.

“The Salish Sea flows as one sea,” said Jeremiah (Jay) Julius, Chairman of the Lummi Nation. “The salmon, our qwe’lhol’mechen (orcas), our kinship ties, our traditional cultures and languages, do not recognize the line between Canada and the United States. We are all connected and must work together.”

Chairman Julius, as part of his remarks, read aloud the recently signed Proclamation declaring March 21, 2020 to be Netse Mot Xw’ullemy Day.

Speaking at the event along with Chairman Julius were Chief Tsilixw (Bill James) of Lummi Nation; Rueben George of Tsleil-Waututh Nation's Sacred Trust Initiative; and internationally renowned climate activist Tzeporah Berman. Raynell Morris, Director of Lummi Lummi Nation’s Sovereignty and Treaty Protection Office moderated. Prayer, music, a qwe’lhol’mechen (orca) commemorative walkway, a community mural, everybody wearing red, and unity circles on land and water were also part of the event.

Tzeporah Berman, of Stand.Earth who recently received the Climate Breakthrough Project Award, said, “The Salish Sea has become a hub for fossil fuel exports which threaten the coast and our climate. Protecting the Salish Sea from projects like the Trans Mountain Pipeline is the right thing to do for the place, and it’s also the right thing to do for the planet.”

“I’m honored to be a part of the work we’ve been doing for thousands of years, since time out of mind, explaining our law, how we work with spirit, how we have a relationship with all that’s part of nature.” said Rueben George. “We have a word in our language for how my relations to move forward with you: naut’sa mawt. One heart, one mind, one prayer.”

“Our work is to protect and heal,” said Raynell Morris. “We protect by protesting projects like the Trans Mountain Pipeline and Roberts Bank Terminal 2 up in Canada, and Navy testing and Tacoma LNG plant in the US. We heal by spiritually feeding qwe’lhol’mechen and working to make them whole, and by bringing our relation Sk’aliCh’elh-tenaut (the captive orca Tokitae/Lolita) home. We heal by fulfilling our xa xalh xechnging (sacred obligation).”

Representatives from Stand.earth, the Sierra Club, Earth Ministries, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 350 Seattle, the Mosquito Fleet, RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, and the Orca Network were formally honored and hy’shqe-d (thanked) for supporting Indigenous leadership and the event, and for embodying netse mot, showing how we may speak with many voices, but are of one mind and one heart when it comes to protecting our shared home.

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photos and video footage for press use will be uploaded during and after the event to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/podrnrov86ijrrp/AAD7qsgiazd1GIEvp9qwKlFza?dl=0>

livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/standearth/>

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*Proclamation of the Lummi Indian Business Council
to Declare March 21, 2020, as
Netse Mot Xw'ullemy*

WHEREAS, the Lummi Indian Business Council is the duly elected governing body of the Lummi Nation, Bellingham, Washington; and

WHEREAS, *Xwlemi' Kwe'lang'et Tse Xwlemi Elhtelnexw xw'chi'ts tse Xe'Xellh Snepenexw ets'e selexw-le-s etse Xwlemi St'lelep-si ts'e Xw'ullemy. Xe'chits tse sa'le'lexw-s Xe'xe'lh Snep'enevs-s et'se elh'tel'nexw chi'langelh ong'es-t etse si'si'lh tle, on'gest tse sle'qwen etse Swe'tan etse Lh'aTe'Mish-s teneve-s i onges-t tse sxw'olet-s*

"The Lummi people know the sacred teachings of the ancestors regarding our traditional territory, its ancient villages, and the *Xw'ullemy* (Salish Sea). We know and understand our sacred obligation given by our Creator who gave the breath to create our first ancestor and then gently placed our first ancestor back onto the earth and gave us the reef-net sites"; and

WHEREAS, this Proclamation speaks with One Mind (*Netse Mot*) for our sacred obligation (*Xa Xalh Xechnging*) to the Salish Sea (*Xw'ullemy*) and for the unity of the Creation known through the Lummi language as *Elhtel'nexw* that signifies the order of creation and the placement of our ancestors, as well as the Origin-time unity of everything in Creation; and

WHEREAS, through her children the *qwe'lhol mechen* (Blackfish), the salmon, the herring, and other lifeforms *Xw'ullemy* are calling out in a time of great peril, and that individuals from different walks of life and diverse cultural histories, beliefs, and backgrounds who call the *Xw'ullemy* home are *Netse Mot* (of One Mind) that it is our obligation to this precious and irreplaceable gift from the Creator that it be restored, preserved and passed on to future generations; and

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we declare March 21 *Netse Mot Xw'ullemy Day* to recognize the historical ties and cultural affinity of the peoples of *Xw'ullemy* to these sacred waters and do hereby, and on this day each year, bear witness to our resolve to stand by our sacred obligation to ensure *Xw'ullemy* is restored and protected.

