



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890 Tel: 360-236-4030
711 Washington State Relay

November 20, 2024

The Honorable Amber Caldera
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
31912 Little Boston Road SE
Kingston, WA 98346

Re: Collaborative - Selection as the Health Equity Zone for Native Communities

Greetings Honorable Chairwoman Amber Caldera,

We are honored to announce the selection of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe by the Health Equity Zones Indigenous Advisory Panel as the first Health Equity Zone for Native Communities pilot study.

In alignment with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite you to meet with the Health Equity Zones Team to discuss roles and a collaborative vision for the Health Equity Zone for Native Communities. Please share your availability via this poll by December 5th: [Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe / HEZ Team Poll](#).

Regarding the selection, the Indigenous Advisory Panel shares:

We believe that the visionary work of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe has the potential to set a precedent here and across the country. We are excited to select a Tribe that is exercising their sovereignty and reclaiming connections to their homelands. This not only impacts relatives now, but also future generations as they assert their self-determination and self-governance.

For additional information, please contact Brianne Ramos, Health Equity Zones Manager, at brianne.amos@doh.wa.gov or 360-878-7892 or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

Lacy M. Fehrenbach
Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health

cc: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson–Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH
Kristopher Holiday, Chief, Office of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Elizabeth Perez, Chief, Office of Public Affairs and Equity, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, WA-DOH
Brianne Ramos, Manager, Health Equity Zones, WA-DOH
Michele Roberts, Assistant Secretary, Prevention and Community Health, WA-DOH
Katie Eilers, Director, Office of Family and Community Health Improvement, WA-DOH