

Joshua Olsen

PSA Cultural Liaison WCLS

(360)-296-1169 Olsenjr101@gmail.com

7098 Mission Rd Apt. 2 Everson WA 98247

Experience

Nooksack Cultural Liaison Public Service Assistant *Whatcom County Library System*

January 2020- Present

Provide for greater access and outreach for library services to Nooksack Indian Tribe and establish/maintain 2-way communication between Tribal Administration/Departments such as Cultural and Education and Whatcom County Library System, create and implement Culturally Relevant and Respectful library programs and advise on policies. Help to identify Tribal resources/contacts for outside organizations such as schools and non-profits. Organize meetings for multiple organizations to collaborate services and share ideas/resources. Identify Indigenous materials for WCLS catalog. Presentations at National and State Library Organization Conferences (Association of Rural and Small Libraries, Washington Library Association). Grant Management

Chairperson *Nooksack Indian Tribe Enrollment Committee*

September 2019-Present (Appointed by Tribal Council)

Organize and facilitate regular committee meetings following Robert's Rules of Order, review applications to tribal membership for accuracy. Advise Tribal Council to revise and amend tribal by-laws and ordinances, and in developing policies and procedures. Maintain and record meeting minutes. Genealogy Research

Secretary and Member A-B *Nooksack Fish Commission*

March 2009-2018 (Voted-in by Fish Committee)

Various roles within the fish Commission such as Secretary, Vice-Chair, Voting Member and Alternate Member. Organize and facilitate regular meetings, record and maintain meeting minutes, advise natural Resources Dept of policy and procedures, advise tribal council in budget proposals and spending initiatives, attend regional meeting of Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and North of Falcon Summit representing Nooksack Tribal Interests.

Skills

Program Management

De-Escalation Methods

Microsoft Word/Excel

Multiple Stakeholder Collaboration

Problem-solving

Communication

Presentation Skills

Dear Nooksack Tribal Community, My Friends and Relatives,

I am asking you for the opportunity to represent the interests of our community and future generations of Nooksack People. I am currently employed with the Whatcom County Library System in a role that does just that, an employee of the County Government who helps to provide services to the Nooksack Tribe Community in promoting access to literacy, thereby improving the quality of life for Indigenous People. I believe my experience in working within the Tribal government System as a Committee and Commission member will be an asset to the responsibilities of Tribal Council. I have served in Multiple seats on the Tribal Fish Commission over the course of the last 15 years. In 2019 I was appointed to be a member of the Nooksack Enrollment Committee, of which I serve as the Chairman, our goal is to revise and amend by-laws and ordinances and recommend policies and procedures to the Tribal Council and Administration. My life as a 4th generation commercial fisherman and passion for learning Lhéchelessem and preserving/practicing our fishing rights will help to preserve our economic and food sovereignty. My interest in this sort of responsibility began when I first picked up the book *"THE RIGHTS OF INDIANS AND TRIBES: The Authoritative ACLU Guide to Indian Tribes and Rights"* many years ago. I am also familiar with Water Law, Environmental Sciences and Civil Rights as they apply to Indian Tribes. I have spent a significant amount of time reading on these subjects as they are more of a personal fascination rather than a professional one.

The right to food sovereignty for Indigenous People is a fight for sustainability and independence, for the last three years I have been cultivating camas bulbs in my home garden and sharing the crops with other gardeners and working towards reintroducing this valuable food to local prairies where it was once most abundant.

The Nooksack People have a strong cultural heritage and identity, with a distinct language known as Nooksack, or Lhéchelessem. We face challenges in preserving and revitalizing our traditional language, which is endangered and sleeping. We have a history of internal conflicts and legal disputes over enrollment, leadership, and governance issues. I intend to address this with transparency and accountability through affirmative action. The tribe has limited financial resources and relies heavily on federal grants and contracts for funding. However, our membership of almost 2,000 people can be better enabled to increase our political and social influence and economic prosperity.

The Nooksack Indian Tribe can leverage its cultural and natural assets to attract tourism and generate revenue. The tribe can collaborate with other tribes, organizations, and agencies to enhance its capacity and access to resources. The tribe can explore new opportunities for economic development and diversification, such as renewable energy, agriculture, or technology. The tribe can invest in education and training programs to improve the skills and employability of its members and remove barriers to employment.

The Nooksack Indian Tribe faces external threats from environmental degradation, climate change, and natural disasters that affect its lands, waters, and resources. The tribe faces competition from other gaming and hospitality businesses in our region. We face potential legal and regulatory challenges from federal, state, and local authorities over our sovereignty, jurisdiction, and rights.

We face social and health issues such as poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, and chronic diseases among our relatives. I recognize these opportunities and challenges, and I am asking you, my friends and family to enable me to do something about it.

Sincerely,

Joshua Olsen