

## SNOQUALMIE TRIBE

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### OPEN LETTER TO SNOQUALMIE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

As you are all now aware, there will be an election on April 12, 2010 to re-do the May 9, 2009 election. The Tribal Council would like to explain how the Tribe got to this point and directed me, as the Tribal Chairman to write a letter of explanation to the Tribal Membership.

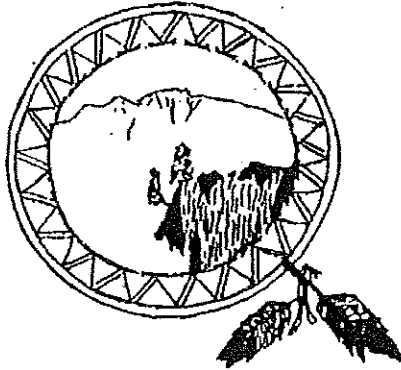
First, it is important to remind the membership that the Tribal Council is responsible for developing and adopting election procedures. It is a very clear mandate and delegated responsibility in the Tribal Constitution. The Tribe is organized as a representative democracy and the authority and responsibility to develop and implement election procedures is assigned to the Tribal Council. As a practical governance matter, this makes a lot of sense and is standard in Indian Country. The Tribal Council has in fact consulted with other Tribal Leaders and reviewed other Tribal Constitutions in the Northwest to verify this point.

In advance of the May 2008 Tribal Elections after previously disputed elections in 2007 that were run by tradition and custom (and it is not lost on me that all of these disputed elections were post casino ground breaking), the Tribal Council developed and adopted an election law and procedure pursuant to its responsibility in the Tribal Constitution and mailed a copy to every member. The election law and procedure was used in May of 2008 and an election was conducted and certified without any challenges and the winners of that election were seated.

In advance of the May 9, 2009 election, the Tribal Secretary was unable to send out the list of eligible candidates for each office up for election with the Notice of the meeting and election because of delays in obtaining background information of prospective candidates. There were a number of candidates and the Tribal Secretary was trying to coordinate with the Tribal Police department and there were delays. The Tribal Council became aware of this error on May 6, 2009, three days before the scheduled election, and convened a special meeting to consider what to do to rectify the error. The Tribal Council decided that it would be a lot of trouble and outrage and consternation to cancel the meeting and election and decided to pass a Resolution indicating that the Tribal Council felt that the error was harmless error and to recommend to the General Membership to ratify the Resolution and concur with the determination that the error was harmless error. At the meeting on May 9, 2009 the Tribal Administrator read the Resolution and the General Membership ratified the Tribal Council resolution indicating that the error in not including the list of eligible candidates was harmless error and proceeded with conducting the election.

Tribal tradition and custom that is codified in the Tribal Election Law provides that a Tribal Member that participates in an election that does not feel the election was conducted fairly or appropriately in compliance with Tribal Election Procedures may challenge that election within seventy-two (72) hours. A number of Tribal Members challenged the May 9, 2009 election within the seventy-two





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(72) hour period. The Tribal Council received those challenges and could not decide if those challenges were legitimate or not and voted unanimously to send the dispute to Tribal Court.

In addition to those challenges, certain Tribal Members retained independent legal counsel and sued to enjoin the individuals that won the election from being seated because of the error in the validly adopted and approved election procedure.

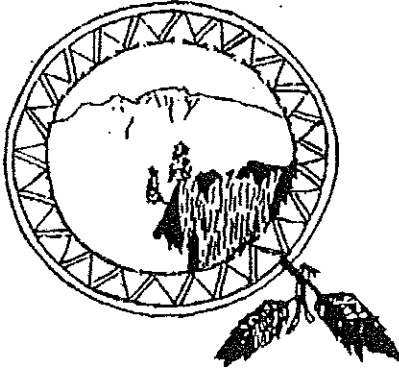
The Tribal Court considered all of these matters and issued a ruling in October 2009 that invalidated the May 9, 2009 election and further ruled that neither the Tribal Council nor the General Council had the authority to waive requirements in Tribal Laws, including the Tribal Election Law. The Tribal Court drew a line in the sand and asserted its authority as a branch of the Tribal Government established in the Tribal Constitution to review actions of the Tribal Council and the General Council in the context of a case or controversy and determine the Constitutionality of those actions. This is a defining moment in the history of Snoqualmie Tribal jurisprudence.

In November of 2009 the Tribal Council voted unanimously along with the concurrence of the lifetime Tribal Elder and the Tribal Chiefs to have an independent third party election administrator handle the redo of the May 9, 2009 election to ensure that it is run fairly and impartially and in compliance with the Tribal Election Law. The BIA offered to pay for this service. A contract and a scope of work was developed, True Ballot was recommended as a firm that has handled numerous Tribal Elections as an independent election administrator and the process of conducting the election was assigned to TruBallot, a reputable, independent, professional third party election administrator.

The Tribal Council provided the election administrator with a copy of the Constitution, as amended as of June 26, 2006, and the validly adopted Snoqualmie Tribal Election Law as well as the Tribal Council Resolution that adopted the policy that tribal member employees of the Snoqualmie Casino are not permitted to run for or hold elected office because of the difficult position that puts casino management in with respect maintaining a proper chain of command and authority within the casino operations. In addition, the Tribal Council unanimously approved a voter list to be provided to the third party election administrator and appointed Cheryl Mullen and Frances de los Angeles, via Tribal Council Resolution, to independently confer with the Election Administrator to confirm the eligibility of candidates to run for elected office.

All notices that TruBallot has sent to the membership in advance of the election have been in compliance with the Snoqualmie Tribal Election Law and the Tribal Council has been asked to provide a final voter list to the Third Party Election Administrator for election day. The Tribe will run an election and only an election for the identified seats on April 12, 2010. The seats up for election are the Tribal Chairmanship, one full Tribal Council seat and two alternate seats.





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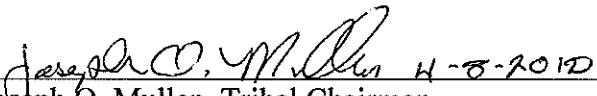
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There have been complaints about certain members of the Tribal Council and some of those complaints were articulated on May 9, 2009, but there has not been a Recall Petition with 1/3 of the eligible voters submitted to recall any currently seated Tribal Council member.

The Tribe will hold the annual meeting, where no seats are up for election, sometime in May after the seated Council sets a date and agenda to update the membership on the activities of the Tribal Government over the course of the past year. The Tribal Council has also directed the staff to develop a Snoqualmie Tribal Program and resource pamphlet that will be available for distribution at the May meeting and at the Tribal Center for any interested member that is unable to access information about tribal programs on the Tribal Web page.

Thank you for your patience and I hope this clarifies the events since May of 2009 and explains how and why the Tribe got to this juncture where there is a Third Party Election Administrator conducting the re-do of the May 9, 2009 election.

  
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Joseph O. Mullen, Tribal Chairman

