

An Accord between Squaxin Island Tribe & City of Olympia



WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe's habitation of what is now Olympia spans thousands of years. The ancestral families who lived and thrived here named it Steh-Chass and occupied prosperous villages along the shores. Archeological findings of ancestral artifacts in the area suggest habitation by Squaxin ancestors since the retreat of the glaciers during the last Ice Age; and

WHEREAS today, the Squaxin people continue stewardship of these ancestral lands, from the Deschutes watershed and what is now Budd Inlet. The Steh-Chass (Squaxin) continue to call themselves "People of the Water" because of the bounty of the region's waterways and artesian waters, which have sustained the people for millennia; and

WHEREAS, both the Squaxin Island Tribe and City of Olympia honor the Medicine Creek Treaty and have established a strong government-to-government relationship between the two sovereigns; and

WHEREAS, the recovery of Budd Inlet and the Deschutes River are necessary to restore treaty-protected salmon populations, a mutual goal of Squaxin and Olympia as demonstrated by our support for the restoration of the Deschutes Estuary and our collaboration with the restoration of West Bay; and

Now therefore the Squaxin Island Tribe and the City of Olympia, in the spirit of understanding and mutual respect, commit to the following long-term actions:

- Coordinate and cooperate to support economic and infrastructure opportunities, protect natural resources, and respond to climate change.
- Create more opportunities for public art, education, and community service that will promote a healthy exchange of cultures.
- Establish an intergovernmental work group between the two Councils to advance these commitments and develop consultation protocol, a strategic plan, and enduring channels of communication.

- Conduct biannual meetings of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council and the Olympia City Council in the Spring and Fall to maintain a shared vision, address issues of mutual concern, develop strategies and agreements, and overcome obstacles.
- Renew this Accord every five years to celebrate our achievements, evaluate our processes, and update our priorities and actions.

This Accord is entered into by the Squaxin Island Tribe and the City of Olympia to better achieve mutual goals through an improved relationship between their sovereign governments.

We affirm these principles and resolve to move forward with positive and constructive tribal and city relations.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

Kristopher Peters, Chairman

Date



CITY OF OLYMPIA

Cheryl Selby, Mayor

Date

