



2026 Annual Convention Snoqualmie, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 036

“CELEBRATING OUR LANGUAGE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHILE INCLUDING WASHINGTON STATE TRIBES IN STATE GRANTS”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific Tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian Tribal governments in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, Tribal peoples have practiced, valued, and shared their Tribal languages across generations and geography; and

WHEREAS, Tribal language is specific and unique to the place and peoples who speak it, and as such, is culturally crucial to the identity and inter-generational well-being of the First Peoples; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the Washington State School Districts that have and continue to collaborate with local Tribes to implement instruction of local Tribal languages within their K-12 classrooms and through staff professional development; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) awarded two dual language grants used for Tribal language, \$19,000 each, to Quileute Tribal School and Wa He Lut Indian School, both of which are State-Tribal Education Compact schools (Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1134); and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the state legislation allocated \$ 400,000 to the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for Tribal language grants, which are only allocated to Washington State Public Schools, as Tribes are not eligible to apply for or directly receive these grant funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2024-25, using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief federal dollars, OSPI allocated \$1,000,000 for Tribal language grants, which are only allocated to Washington State Public Schools, as Tribes are not eligible to apply for or directly receive these grant funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2025-26, the state legislation allocated OSPI \$300,000 for Tribal language grants, which are only allocated to Washington State Public Schools, as Tribes were not eligible to apply for or directly receive these grant funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2026-27, the state legislation allocated OSPI \$500,000 for Tribal language grants, which are only allocated to Washington State Public School as Tribes were not eligible to apply for or directly receive these grant funds; and

WHEREAS, while Tribes have taken the lead in sustaining language work and cannot shoulder the responsibility alone, Tribal leaders have called for the state to act as a partner in preserving Tribal language and culture through program support, funding, and policy alignment; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has an obligation to be transparent with American Indian/Alaska Native students concerning funding earmarked for American Indian/Alaska Native students; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges Washington State legislators to develop, pass, and implement policy in consultation with Tribes, authorizing that Tribes be eligible to apply for and directly receive state Tribal language grant funding allocations; and

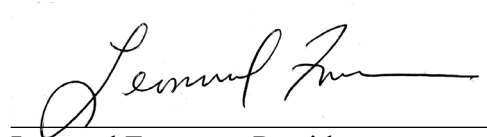
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that First Peoples' Language, Culture and Oral Traditions (FPLCOT) certifications or certificated Tribal experts be compensated at the same

level as their peers holding world language, bilingual, or multilingual endorsements in our Washington State public schools; and

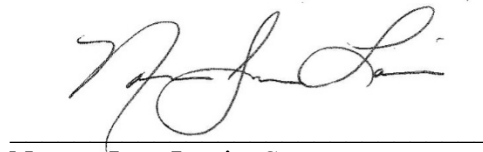
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2026 Annual Convention held at the Snoqualmie Casino and Hotel in Snoqualmie, Washington, on September 13-17, 2026, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary