



## Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

### 2007 WINTER CONFERENCE PORTLAND, OREGON

#### RESOLUTION #07 - 20

#### “RECOGNITION OF *KIKSHT* TO THE HISTORY OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OREGON”

### 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 representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Kiksht* language arises from the lands of the middle Columbia River, which was given to the Wasco, Wishram and Watlala peoples of Oregon and Washington, whose descendants are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama

Nation, and its related Chinookan languages are spoken by the peoples downstream who are members of the Chinook Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indian of Oregon; and

**WHEREAS**, since time immemorial, *Kiksht* was the language of this place and was spoken by many thousands of Native people along the Columbia River who named all of the places in this area, who sculpted the greatest rock arts in the Americas, as well as other works designed with marvelous, intricate and bold figures of humans, deer, sturgeon and condors, and who built the great canoes, both river and seafaring, and the large cedar plank houses suited to the region with a perfection unmatched even by today's standards; and

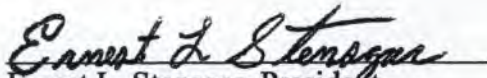
**WHEREAS**, the villages of the *Kiksht* speakers were among the longest inhabited in the region and their residents were the exclusive dwellers on the Columbia River in the Warm Springs and Yakama ceded areas at the time of formation of the Oregon Territory, and these residents greeted Lewis and Clark and the pioneer ancestors in *Kiksht*; and

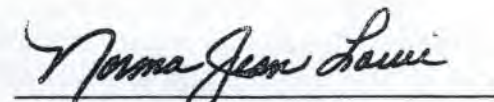
**WHEREAS**, in Oregon and Washington today only three living elders, Margo Boise, Nelson Moses and Gladys Thompson are fluent in *Kiksht*, and range in age from 73 to 93 years, making *Kiksht* the most endangered language in Oregon and Washington; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby supports the recognition of the importance of the *Kiksht* to the history of the Columbia River Basin and the necessary connection it forms between the Wasco people and the Columbia River, and desire that the language survive in perpetuity.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2007 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport Hotel Portland, Oregon on February 15, 2007, with a quorum present.

  
Ernest L. Stensgar, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary