



## Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

1827 NE 44<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 130 \* Portland, OR 97213-1443

Phone: 503/249-5770 \* Fax: 503/249-5773

Email: [atni@spiritone.com](mailto:atni@spiritone.com) \* Web page: [www.atnitribes.org](http://www.atnitribes.org)

### Executive Board

*President*  
**Brian Cladoosby**  
360-466-7205

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President*  
**Henry M. Cagney**  
360-384-1489

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President*  
**Harvey Moses**  
509-634-2218

*3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President*  
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360-716-4500

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208-686-5400

*Treasurer*  
**Sharon Goudy**  
509-865-7156

*Assistant Secretary*  
**Sonya Tetnowski**  
360-452-8471

### Executive ATNI Staff

*Executive Director*  
**Cleora Hill-Scott**  
503-249-5770

Dear ATNI Tribal Leader;

I am writing to urge you to consider sending a representative of your Tribal Nation to participate in a 2 day workshop regarding the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples scheduled to be conducted at the Lummi Indian Reservation on August 18-19, 2010. As President of the Affiliated Tribes I have agreed to co-sponsor the workshop with the Lummi Indian Nation. ***The workshop presents an opportunity for your tribal delegates to learn about President Obama's plans to adopt the Declaration and what this may mean for you Tribe.***

President Obama announced that he plans to "review the US position on the Declaration" and decide whether he should change the "NO" vote cast by Bush in September 2007 when the UN General Assembly debated the Declaration. The General Assembly voted 143 to 4 in favor of adoption with only the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia voting NO. Since then Australia and New Zealand have changed their position and announced their support for the Declaration. Canada is now considering such a change along with the US. ***I believe that if President Obama hears that a strong majority of US Tribal Leaders are in favor of this important step, he will take action later this Fall, probably shortly after the November 2<sup>nd</sup> elections.*** I am certain that once you have been briefed on the content and terms of the UN Declaration you will be ready to make a decision about whether President Obama should be asked to change the US position and embrace the Declaration.

I apologize for the short notice regarding this workshop but we decided to have ATNI join as a sponsor when we understood from Alan Parker and his colleague John Gates that they have prepared an educational program regarding the history of the Declaration and the potential benefits for US Tribes should the United States become a signatory to the UN Declaration. This workshop will provide your tribal delegates with valuable information that they can take to the ATNI annual meeting in Spokane. The Kalispell is hosting the annual meeting September 19<sup>th</sup> thru the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for your attention and I look forward to seeing you all in Spokane at the Northern Quest Casino Resort.

Brian Cladoosby, President