



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE by *Bill Iyall*

Cowlitz Tribe Reservation – Moving Ahead

Klahowya,

I am asking for tribal member's assistance in preparation for the development of the Cowlitz Casino. We seek to interview as many elders as we can to integrate important aspects of Cowlitz tradition and values into a system of Core Values and a Customer Service Culture, under the name of "SPIRIT OF TALÍCN", Pronounced "Taleechn"—Cowlitz for "Helping". These Core Values and a Customer Service Culture will be important in the delivery of service at all tribal facilities, including the Cowlitz Casino. The "SPIRIT OF TALÍCN" will be integrated in all aspect of planning and development of the casino. We are asking elders in particular to have a voice in the preparation of this important work.

SPIRIT

OF

TALÍCN

Pronounced "Taleechn"—Cowlitz for "Helping"

We need to teach others what it means to be a part of the Cowlitz community. To do this, we would like to share information about how we grew up, the values we were taught, and what we want others to know about the Cowlitz People.

We would be honored if Cowlitz Elders could share some stories or memories that are a part of you and your Cowlitz Family.

Please contact Carolyn Medeiros at (253) 255-6012 to set up a personal discussion with one of our interviewers.

2012 brings many exciting and challenging opportunities. The Cowlitz Tribe has accomplished much in this past year by working together and we can continue to improve service and provide for our tribe for now and future generations. Our history of perseverance has served us well in overcoming adversity through the sheer force of determination of our ancestors.

Our past year's efforts have been productive toward our goal of securing a final approval of our reservation with the opportunity of economic prosperity and jobs for our members now and in the future. The pending reservation approval, under appeal in federal court, is moving forward and we expect a favorable decision after the court review. The remaining process will proceed now on a schedule set by the court, with a decision expected early next year. The Department of Interior, the BIA, and tribes across the country support the Cowlitz in our fight.

We are taking all of the steps that we can now to advance the preparation of infrastructure for the reservation and building of the Cowlitz Casino as we work through the courts. We now have agreement with the city of La Center for sewer service and we are beginning the planning to rebuild the freeway interchange to provide improved access to the reservation.

In 2012 we will continue to improve services for our whole tribal community. We are thankful for the pride and joy of our people in the renewal of our culture.