

Letter of Intent for Tribal Chairperson

My name is Matthew Ives. I take great pride in being a Port Gamble S'Klallam Member (#508). I live with my family Barb, Teylor, Charlotte, and our dog Krakken Rambo. I am honored to serve as one of your Tribal Councilmen for the past 5 ½ years. I have served on many committees as Liaison to the council including, but not limited to Natural Resource, Point No Point Treaty Council, Culture Committee, Utility Board, and Tribal Council Policy Manual.

Before serving on Tribal Council, I served on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes Fish Committee for 9 years. For the past 18 years I have and continue to be a treaty fisherman. The environment, and the survival of our natural resources are extremely important to me.

I received my AA Direct Transfer Degree from Northwest Indian College in 2010. I am proud to share that I practiced and participated in the Paddle to Seattle in 1989. Today we continue to paddle and strengthen our culture, we are the Strong People.

I enjoy practicing our culture and exercising my treaty rights by fishing, crabbing, harvesting clams and oysters either commercially or for my own personal needs.

I have been to many talks for our needs here at the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. I have represented at the North Falcon meetings where we must get our list of agreed fisheries, for all the Tribes and the State of Washington in place. I have also represented at Tribal Policy meetings for crabbing, salmon, and shellfish where I have voiced our concerns about fisheries issues. When I was a liaison for education, I was grateful to have met with the late Senator John McCoy several times to discuss our educational priorities and needs. I have lobbied with our Natural Resources manager, in Olympia and we were successful at getting funding for our land at the Old Mill site in Port Gamble. I have been to meetings with the Navy. At many of them the discussions may have been tough I will continue to have them and put our S'Klallam needs first.

Our education department needs more funding. We have two convenience stores, the Gliding Eagle and the Point Market. We currently tax on gas and cigarettes at the Gliding Eagle. Those taxes get filtered back to our Tribe in the general fund. At the Point Market, we taxed everything, and those taxes went back to Washington State because the land was and is not in trust. I would like to see a Tribal tax on sales at the Gliding Eagle. Those new Tribal taxes could and should be earmarked specifically for education and trade schools. Of course, like all Tribal stores on trust land, we shall not tax our tribal members. Our future generations of scholars and trade schoolers will be in a much better position to further their education with support of the tribe and Tribal Council.

With that being said, we as a Tribe need policies and procedures in place so we can start this work. I would like to see that our legal, tribal CFO, Noo-kayet CFO, and executive staff in a room to fast tract not only our store taxes, but taxes from any entities that will reside on the Port Gamble S'Klallam reservation. With Tribal Council approval, this can and will present more funds for our people and governmental infrastructural needs for now and into the future.

My goal as Chairperson is not to change and shake up the system we already have in place. We employ many great people, around 350, who all our work more straightforward. In the pasted 5 ½ years I have learned a lot and grown within our Tribe. I have always taken my Council position seriously. When I make decisions, it has always been the needs of the whole Tribe, not just certain factions. The Council and Executives that I get to work with today have grown, and we all strive for the betterment of our Tribe.

My Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Members, thank you for your time. Allow me to facilitate meetings and be a spokesperson for our Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, who will always speak and represent the best interest of our Tribe, and that will move us into a new era while protecting our Sovereignty and Treaty Rights. Pleas vote, Matthew Ives for Tribal Chairperson. I have always had an open door policy, feel free to contact me in person, by phone at 360-509-7524, or via email at matthewivesn8ive@yahoo.com.