



Noo-Kayet Investments Announces Acquisition of Minder Meats

Purchase made on behalf of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe creates opportunities for job growth and the creation of a tribally-operated fish market

In late April, Noo-Kayet Investments (NKI), on behalf of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe (PGST), finalized the purchase of Minder Meats, a meat distribution and retail company that has been a staple of the Kitsap County business community since 1943.

Minder Meats is one of only two USDA-approved meat processors in Western Washington and, up until its purchase by NKI, had been owned and operated by the Minder family. From its storefront and facility in Bremerton, Minder Meats serves families, restaurants, grocery stores, and other commercial operations from Tacoma to Port Angeles. They specialize in fresh, locally-sourced beef, pork, chicken, and seafood.

NKI, responsible for managing and sourcing business and acquisition opportunities for the Tribe, became interested in Minder Meats based on its stellar reputation as one of Kitsap’s longest running and continuously profitable small businesses.

In addition, Minder Meats, with its capacity for seafood processing, creates an opportunity to more robustly serve Tribal fishermen as a retail and wholesale buyer. PGST Natural Resources staff will serve as expert consultants to NKI and Minder Meats during the establishment of this line of business.

“The purchase of Minder Meats creates a tremendous opportunity for our Tribe,” said Port Gamble S’Klallam Chairwoman Amber Caldera. “It helps us directly support treaty rights and the livelihoods of our Tribal members who depend on fisheries. At the same time, we are proud to be able to continue the legacy of a such a storied and well-respected Kitsap community business.”

Eric Croft, Interim CEO at NKL, agreed, “Minder Meats is a strategic purchase for the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe. It is a financially successful business which aligns with the Tribe’s values, especially around supporting healthy fisheries and cultivating employment opportunities.”

Minder Meats was founded by George Minder and his brothers during World War II. Their first customer was the U.S. Government. After the war, George maintained ownership of the company, which has served the community through four subsequent generations, including the most recent owner/operator, Jim Carlson.

“For 83 years, my family have been the owners and caretakers of this company. We are so grateful to the hundreds of employees and countless customers who have contributed to its survival and success. None of this would be possible without them,” said Carlson.

He added: “I can’t imagine a better group of people to take over Minder Meats than Noo-Kayet and the Tribe. They understand the importance of tradition and respect the legacy my family helped to build. At the same time, they want to take the business to another level for the future, which is exciting.”

Under NKL’s management, initial operational direction for Minder Meats includes addressing any maintenance issues and performing overall site improvements. They are also looking to add positions to help grow the business.

NKL is also planning for a remodel of Minder Meats’ meat and seafood retail shop and the addition of an on-site commercial kitchen. In the future, they hope to offer a menu of lunch specials, potentially including sandwiches, burgers, and more, which will provide a new dining experience for those working at surrounding businesses.

NKL Board Chair and PGST Tribal Member, Alicia Fulton, is excited about the possibilities Minder Meats brings for NKL, the Tribe, and its community: “This is a landmark acquisition that enhances our Tribe’s food sovereignty and economic independence. We are committed to fostering a sustainable and thriving economy for our Tribe while ensuring our resources are utilized to maximum benefit for our community.”

ABOUT THE PORT GAMBLE S’KLALLAM TRIBE

The Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, originally known as the Strong People, are descendants of the Salish people who have been well-established in the Puget Sound and Salish Sea area since 2400 B.C. In the late 1930s, the Port Gamble S’Klallam reservation, located on the northern tip of the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington state, was established. Many of the Tribe’s members, who total approximately 1,400, still live there today. For more information about the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, visit www.pgst.nsn.us.

ABOUT NOO-KAYET INVESTMENTS

Noo-Kayet Investments serves as the economic advancement entity of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe. Its primary role is to offer strategic direction, manage business operations, provide analytics, support entrepreneurial initiatives, conduct feasibility studies, and secure financing for both new and existing businesses of the Tribe. Find out more at www.noo-kayet.com.

ABOUT MINDER MEATS

Minder Meats has been operating in Kitsap County since 1943. They specialize in fresh, locally-sourced beef, pork, chicken, and seafood, as well as related products, such as sausage and bacon. Many of the proteins they sell are harvested within 60 miles of their facility in Bremerton, Washington, and all their products are free of hormones and antibiotics. For more information, please visit www.mindermeats.com.

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