



Contact:  
Ginger Vaughan  
([ginger@vaughancomm.com](mailto:ginger@vaughancomm.com))  
360-620-9107

## **The Point Casino & Hotel Names New General Manager**

*Marc Papaj brings decades of experience in hospitality and gaming, looking forward to changes that will “reset the game” on the guest experience*

[Noo-Kayet Investments](#) (NKI) has announced Marc Papaj as the new General Manager of [The Point Casino & Hotel](#) in Kingston, WA. NKI is the economic advancement entity of the [Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe](#) (PGST).

Papaj joins The Point Casino & Hotel from Seneca Gaming Corporation in Buffalo, NY where he served in a variety of executive leadership roles, most recently as General Manager of the Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino. Over his 30-year career, Papaj has honed his talents in hospitality, casino gaming, and event management at major properties in Las Vegas, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles, among others.

Papaj—a member of the Seneca Nation—was immediately enthusiastic about taking the GM position at The Point Casino & Hotel. “For me, it comes down to culture. The more I learned about the (PGST) community and the sense of commitment they have to each other and their values, the authenticity really drew me in,” said Papaj.

He’s also been deeply impressed by the property itself: “The Point Hotel is pristine, a real diamond. I was actually surprised to learn that they were reinvigorating the rooms as they look fantastic now. I think this speaks to a commitment to a high level of service.”

“On the gaming side, I love that there’s a real atmosphere of fun,” Papaj continued. “(Noo-Kayet Investments) continues to push opportunities and look for new ways to expand The Point and the experience of our guests. Its leadership team is incredibly thoughtful and there are many service members with years—or decades—of experience who take great pride in this property. I’m excited to work with and learn from everyone.”

Papaj majored in Hospitality Administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), maintaining a focus on his bachelor’s degree while gaining practical experience working at the former Las Vegas Hilton (Westgate) and, later, The Mirage. His leadership includes roles at W Los Angeles in West Beverly Hills; Ritz Carlton in Washington, D.C.; and Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants in northern Virginia.

By the time he was named Vice President of Resort Operations for a New York property in 2011, his hospitality career had begun to merge with his interest in the Casino industry. A few years later, Papaj earned dual MBA degrees from the prestigious Cornell University's SC Johnson Graduate School of Management and Smith School of Business – Queens University. At Cornell, he was a Cobell scholar recipient and earned the Akwe:kon Indigenous Graduate Student Award, which recognizes Indigenous students who show exceptional leadership skills and commitment to community service.

Despite having only been on the job a short while, he's keyed in and excited about player enhancements coming to The Point Casino & Hotel, including the shift to Light & Wonder as the property's new management system, a rebranding of the Player's Club, and the return of the Summer Sounds Concert Series at The Point Hotel's outdoor Spindle Whorl Courtyard.

But, with all the big changes, Papaj is perhaps most excited to join NKL soon after the appointment of Anthony Jones as the company's CEO. Jones is the first PGST member to hold the position.

"I feel so honored to be working with Anthony. We're starting with fresh eyes and looking for new opportunities," said Papaj.

He added: "With experience running a tribal business as an enrolled member, I understand deeply the relationship between enterprise and tribal government. But it is not the corporate economic engine that powers a community like this; it's the other way around.

"The Point Casino & Hotel offers something unique. It isn't corporate, you can feel the spirit of the community here. *That* is truly special."

### **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 business of the Tribe. Find out more at [www.noo-kayet.com](http://www.noo-kayet.com).

### **ABOUT THE POINT CASINO & HOTEL**

Rooted in the rich heritage, culture, and values of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, The Point Casino & Hotel is an upscale gaming and hospitality destination in Kingston, Washington. The Point Casino offers an exciting array of the latest slots, live table games, sports betting, bingo, and dining options to satisfy all tastes, while The Point Hotel features a contemporary design rooted in Coast Salish culture with meticulously appointed rooms, an indoor/outdoor lounge area, and a 65-seat meeting space, among other amenities. Learn more about The Point Casino & Hotel at [www.thepointcasinoandhotel.com](http://www.thepointcasinoandhotel.com).

### **ABOUT THE PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE**

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, originally known as the Nux Sklai Yem or Strong People, are a sovereign Coast Salish nation whose homelands are in the Salish Sea region, where they have lived since time immemorial. The Tribe's reservation is located within the Tribe's historic territory on the northern tip of the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington State. Many of the Tribe's members, who total

around 1,500, still live there today. For more information about the S’Klallam Tribe, please visit [www.pgst.nsn.us](http://www.pgst.nsn.us).

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