



# LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

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DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_ DIRECT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## \*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*

### **Lummi Nation stands with Yakama Nation in call for removal of dams**

Celilo Falls, Washington

October 14, 2019

Today, on Indigenous Peoples' Day, at the traditional fishing site of Celilo Falls on the Columbia River, the Lummi Nation stood with Yakama Nation as Yakama Chairman JoDe Goudy called for the removal of The Dalles, John Day, and Bonneville dams on the Columbia River.

“We stand with the Yakama Nation in asserting their sovereign right to make decisions and act in the best interest of their people, their homelands, and future generations,” said Jeremiah (Jay) Julius, Chairman of the Lummi Nation. “We are in a constant battle, whether defeating coal ports, opposing increased vessel traffic on the Salish Sea, repairing culverts, or removing invasive Atlantic Salmon, to leave to future generations a lifeway promised to our ancestors 164 years ago. Our people understand that the salmon, like the orca, are the miner’s canary for the health of the Salish Sea and for all its children.”

The Columbia River Basin once produced an estimated 10 to 16 million salmon per year; it is now down to about a million salmon per year. Dams impede salmon passage, and the changes dams cause to water quality and quantity threaten the salmon populations.

“We are salmon people,” said Lawrence Solomon, Secretary of Lummi Nation and supervisor of the Sovereignty and Treaty Protection Office. “Salmon connect our rivers and our waterways, salmon connect our peoples. The Salish Sea orcas, our *qwe'lhól'mechen* (“relations under the waves”) rely on salmon. Removing the dams, healing the river, will help heal the salmon runs, our *qwe'lhól'mechen*, and all of *Xw'ullemy* (the Salish Sea bioregion).”

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