

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

# OUR HEALING JOURNEY

## FROM PAST TO PRESENT

OCTOBER 16, 2024

# POINT ELLIOTT TREATY 1855

- THIS TREATY WAS SIGNED BY OUR ANCESTORS TO PRESERVE WHAT THEY COULD FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. SOVEREIGNTY WAS NOT GRANTED TO US, THE SOVEREIGN DECISION WAS MADE BY OUR ANCESTORS AND PROVIDED US WITH HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION AND TO CONTINUE TO HUNT AND GATHER IN OUR USUAL AND ACCUSTOMED GROUNDS
- THIS IS WHAT WE STAND UPON TO ADVOCATE FOR OUR CHILDREN TO HAVE A HEALTHY FOUNDATION THAT INCLUDES OUR CULTURE AND OUR LANGUAGE

# WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES OF BEING “WARDS OF THE GOVERNMENT”

- LOSS OF TRADITIONAL PARENTING SKILLS
- LOSS OF LANGUAGE
- LOSS OF CULTURE AND OUR “WAYS OF BEING”
- LOSS OF LANDS
- LOSS OF TRADITIONAL FOOD GATHERING
- BROUGHT ALCOHOLISM, AS WELL AS PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SEXUAL ABUSE INTO FAMILIES

# TULALIP BOARDING SCHOOL

- CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT FROM ALL OVER THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
- STUDENTS WERE TAKEN AS YOUNG AS FOUR YEARS OLD
- THE ORIGINAL BOARDING SCHOOL WAS A JESUIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL THAT WAS REPLACED BY A GOVERNMENT BOARDING SCHOOL
- THE GOVERNMENT BOARDING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT WAS A MILITARY ONE. HAIR CUT OFF, KEROSENE

# BETTY J TAYLOR EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY TULALIP TRIBES

- WE PROVIDE SERVICES FOR 72 BIRTH TO THREE CHILDREN WITH OUR EARLY HEAD START GRANT
- THE TRIBE HAS FUNDED 80 SLOTS FOR MONTESSORI FOR 30 YEARS
- WE HAVE 80 ECEAP SLOTS
- WE HAVE THREE MENTAL HEALTH THERAPISTS THAT PROVIDE ON-SITE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WHICH INCLUDE ONE ON ONE SESSIONS, RAINBOW DANCE, AND MUSIC THERAPY
- WE PROVIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES REGULARLY

# TELA VISION STATEMENT

- OUR CHILDREN ARE CAPABLE AND CONFIDENT IN OUR LUSHOOTSEED LANGUAGE, OUR CULTURAL VALUES AND TEACHINGS, ACADEMICS AND IN LIFE BASED ON STRONG FAMILIES, COMMUNITY, TRADITIONAL LIFEWAYS AND A COORDINATED EARLY LEARNING EDUCATION SYSTEM. OUR CHILDREN ARE LIFE-LONG LEARNERS.



# TELA MISSION STATEMENT

- OUR ACADEMY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WILL BE ENGAGED IN THE CULTURALLY RICH LUSHOOTSEED LANGUAGE TO DEVELOP STRONG CULTURAL VALUES AND TRADITIONS THROUGH CLASSROOM AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES. ACADEMIC SUCCESS WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH HOME AND SCHOOL EXPERIENCES IN LUSHOOTSEED LANGUAGE, CULTURAL VALUES AND PARTICIPATION IN EVIDENCE BASED CURRICULUM RESULTING IN EVERY CHILD BEING HEALTHY, CAPABLE AND CONFIDENT IN SCHOOL, LIFE AND CULTURAL IDENTITY.





# OUR PAST

- OUR TRADITIONAL HOMES





# OUR WAY OF LIFE





# WE LOVE TO RUN, CLIMB AND PLAY





# OPPORTUNITIES

- WE WORK WITH DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (DCYF) TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO OUR EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR OUR TRIBAL CHILDREN THAT WERE NOT ELIGIBLE IN THE PAST. THE NEW ELIGIBILITY INCLUDES POINTS FOR BEING A DESCENDENT OF SOMEONE THAT WENT TO BOARDING SCHOOL. THIS ALLOWED US TO GO FROM ENROLLING 30 CHILDREN TO ABOUT 65 TRIBAL CHILDREN IN OUR PROGRAM.
- WE CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY INTO OUR BIRTH TO FIVE PROGRAMS AS OUR TREATY STATED THAT WE WOULD HAVE A FREE EDUCATION. THIS IS WHERE THE FOUNDATION IS LAID.
- CONTINUED EFFORTS WITH LOVIT PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND LUSHOOTSEED DEPARTMENT WILL HELP OUR CHILDREN TO GAIN MORE LANGUAGE AT TELA THAN THEY EVER HAVE BEFORE.



# CHALLENGES

- STAFFING CONTINUES TO BE A CHALLENGE AT THIS TIME DUE TO COVID. PROGRAMS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES STAFFING THEIR PROGRAMS. WE HAVE TWO CLASSROOMS ON THE BIRTH TO THREE WING THAT WE COULD NOT OPEN DUE TO STAFFING CHALLENGES. THE IMPROVED WAGES HAS HELPED, BUT WE STILL HAVE DIFFICULTY GAINING NEW STAFF.
- THE HIGHER INCIDENCE OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IS A CHALLENGE THAT WE STRUGGLE TO ADDRESS. WHEN YOU HAVE 2 TO 4 CHILDREN IN YOUR CLASSROOM THAT NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IT IS HARD TO FOCUS ON TEACHING THE WHOLE CLASSROOM. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BRING CHILDREN ON NATURE WALKS FOR SCIENCE AS WE HAVE RUNNERS AND NOT ENOUGH STAFF TO BRING THEM OUT SAFELY.
- THE SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN AS WELL AS THE ADULTS IS DIFFICULT RIGHT NOW. THERE INCIDENCE OF CHILD ABUSE IN EARLY LEARNING FACILITIES HAS RISEN BY 177% ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE ARE WORKING TO SUPPORT CLASSROOM TEACHERS AS MUCH AS WE CAN.





# TELA CELEBRATIONS

- WE HAVE BEEN DOING “GROW YOUR OWN TEACHERS” FOR A FEW YEARS. THIS YEAR WE HAVE 13 STAFF GETTING THEIR STACKABLES TO BE TEACHERS. WE HAVE 4 STAFF AND 2 COMMUNITY MEMBERS GOING ON TO THEIR BACHELOR’S DEGREES IN EARLY LEARNING.
- WE HAVE A GROWING PARTICIPATION OF OUR FAMILIES IN OUR ANNUAL EVENTS THIS YEAR.
- IT HAS BEEN A STRUGGLE TO GET PARENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARENT COMMITTEE AND POLICY COUNCIL, BUT WE ARE ROUNDING THEM UP.....
- OUR COLLABORATION WITH THE LUSHOOTSEED DEPARTMENT AND OUR LANGUAGE CONSULTANT HAS HELPED US TO DEVELOP CULTURALLY RELEVANT CURRICULUM.
- “LOVIT WAY” IS OUR NEW PROGRAM ASSESSMENT THAT IS CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FOR TRIBAL PROGRAMS. IT COMES FROM THE “ABORIGINAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION OF BC”. DCYF HAS APPROVED IT AND IS WORKING WITH INTERESTED TRIBES TO IMPLEMENT IT.

# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CLAM BAKE





# CLAM BAKE STORYTELLING, SINGING AND DANCING

