



Board of Directors:

Teri Gobin	Chairwoman
Glen Gobin	Vice Chair
Marie Zackuse	Secretary
Pat Contraro	Treasurer
Hazen Shopbell	Council Member
Mel Sheldon Jr	Council Member
Misty Napeahi	Council Member

6406 Marine Dr
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694
360-716-4500
Fax 360-716-0628

The Tulalip Tribes are federally recognized successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott.

6/25/2021

As the history of boarding schools in North America is revealed, Tulalip stands in grief and solidarity. Our people know the terror that was inflicted on all tribal nations. The education guaranteed to us in the Treaty was twisted into a weapon designed to strip us of our dignity, our families, our lifeways. All of the things that made us unconquerable people.

Boarding schools were genocide. They were a state-sanctioned attempt to eradicate us from America. Throughout Canada and the United States, this unacknowledged history is finally coming to light.

Here, in our own homelands, a government boarding school stood. The stolen children of our people and many nations were sent to Tulalip. While masquerading as a way to help our people adapt to a changing world, these schools were a place to experiment on and abuse our children medically, physically, psychologically, and sexually. As a result, our people emerged from them broken, without those critical connections to their families.

We still suffer from the generational trauma of these places. We are still healing the addiction and abuse that our loved ones turned to cope with the harm inflicted upon them. As more and more of our lost babies are uncovered, we wrap our arms around our loved ones. We are holding tight to one another as we all grieve. We grieve, but we are also encouraged. The world can no longer ignore the crimes against our people.

Unfortunately, rebuilding trust between Indigenous People and the governments that tried to exterminate us may not happen in our lifetimes. The US government must acknowledge the atrocities perpetrated against us. When the Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland recently announced an initiative to review the legacy of federal boarding school policies, it was a step in the right direction.

We have a long road ahead of us. We ask our people and our allies to continue to push your legislators to uncover and acknowledge the true history of the stolen lands of America.

Teri Gobin, Chairwoman
Tulalip Tribes