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Commitment to the Formation of a [Truth and Reconciliation](#) Commission, and Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Nature in the City of Bellingham and Washington State

[DATE _____]

Open Letter to All Federally Recognized Tribes of Washington State, City of Bellingham, and Washington State Legislature:

In the spirit of public participation, [ORGANIZATION NAME] recognizes the successful implementation by the State of Maine and Canada to implement the global consensus instrument of *Truth and Reconciliation* for the purpose of honor and healing to protect and acknowledge the rights of Indigenous peoples and Nature to thrive in their ancestral homelands.

1. We stand with the Tribes of Washington State, should these independent sovereign nations choose to implement this healing process;
2. We ask the legislature to redress the legacy of the root causes of trauma that have impacted our Indigenous peoples, and advance the actions proposed by Tribe;
3. We understand that harm to Indigenous peoples and their lands have been justified under the [Doctrines of Discovery](#), a papal decree of 1493 that continues to be used in establishing a legal precedent to this day;
4. We believe it is critical that the laws of Washington State align with principles set forth in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* that “constitutes the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous peoples around the globe” (Article 43, UNDRIP, 2007);
5. We ask federal and state government and NGOs to begin this process to acknowledge the past harm that has been inflicted, atonement for that harm, and action to change a system of oppressive behaviors into a constellation of healing and unity;
6. We believe it is critical to move swiftly to generate and enforce policy, education, and cultural knowledge that is in alignment with the global and international framework for reconciliation at all levels and sectors;
7. We believe the implementation of this process and instrument ultimately serves to mitigate the collective human and environmental disaster confronting us on a global level.

Therefore, be it resolved that the instrument of Truth and Reconciliation is a powerful precedent for healing among all ethnic groups. Outcomes include equity, inclusion, cultural safety, intercultural competency, and upholding welcoming spaces for all. Should the Tribes determine to move forward, we, the undersigned, support the immediate enactment of this process by our local and state governments.

Sincerely,