



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building  
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  
Eighty-Eighth Annual Tribal Assembly  
April 19-21, 2023  
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 23-07

Title: Memorial Totem Pole Dedicated to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People  
in Downtown Juneau

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 35,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is ranked fourth in the United States for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP), with the highest rate of unreported cases; and

WHEREAS, Washington State, with 7,400 Tlingit & Haida tribal citizens, is ranked second in the United States for the highest rates of MMIWP cases; and

WHEREAS, murder is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women and rates of violence on reservations and in villages can be up to ten times higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, missing and murdered Indigenous women and people continue to be targets for violence, abduction, and homicide, and many of these people become invisible; and

WHEREAS, in a study conducted by the Urban Indian Health Institute in 2017, more than 95% of MMIWP cases were never covered by national or international media and only one quarter of the cases were covered by local, regional, or national media which demonstrates a major lack of representation of this crisis and contributes to the erasure and invisibility of Native women and people, including survivors and their families; and

WHEREAS, Juneau is considered a top cultural arts destination in the world, with more than one million visitors during the summer season provides an opportunity to increase awareness of this epidemic and its impact on our community and Juneau has a prominent influence on visitors who come to Alaska to learn about and experience our rich culture and land which impacts the way our people and our state are understood by visitors, creating a responsibility for us to raise awareness about this crisis and educate visitors who come to learn and share with us; and

WHEREAS, Juneau is considered a top cultural arts destination in the world, with more than one million visitors during the summer season provides an opportunity to increase awareness of this epidemic and its impact on our community and Juneau has a prominent influence on visitors who come to Alaska to learn about and experience our rich culture and land which impacts the way our people and our state are understood by visitors, creating a responsibility for us to raise awareness about this crisis and educate visitors who come to learn and share with us; and

WHEREAS, a totem pole dedicated to honoring MMIWP will serve as a profound and meaningful way to acknowledge our missing sisters and relatives, symbolize our efforts of ending the violence and attaining justice, and create awareness for this epidemic worldwide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 19-21, 2023, hereby requests Tlingit & Haida consider the commission of a totem pole to be carved in dedication to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) and to be raised in Juneau on Tlingit & Haida land;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a plaque communicating the significance of the totem pole, including statistics of MMIWP in our communities, and educating visitors that violence is not part of our culture, would be placed at the base of the totem pole.

ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2023, by the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata