



Joint Proclamation



WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County are committed to promoting harmony between people of all races, creeds and denominations; and

WHEREAS, cultural and religious diversity is one of our community's greatest endeavors; and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals and organizations in our community are joining together to raise awareness of the importance of reconciliation between people of different backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, September 4, 2007 is the 100-year anniversary of the anti-Sikh and anti-East Indian riots that took place in Bellingham; and

WHEREAS, the purpose for a Day of Healing and Reconciliation is to celebrate a positive, collective healing and reconciliation movement within our families, communities, churches and government and to educate ourselves and others about our collective history of government policies which impacted Native communities and other ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, a Day of Healing and Reconciliation can promote racial reconciliation and bring all community members together through the celebration of our common bond of freedom; and

WHEREAS, when we are judged by history and by our children, let it be said that we overcame our differences for the sake of our children and that we shared a common dream for the future; and

WHEREAS, our community continues to reaffirm our fundamental belief in human dignity and our unchanging reverence for human rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, Tim Douglas, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive, proclaim Tuesday, September 4, 2007 to be a

DAY OF HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County, Washington.

Signed this 14th day of August 2007

Tim Douglas, Mayor
City of Bellingham

Pete Kremen, County Executive
County of Whatcom