



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suquamish Bring Millions To Kitsap

Study finds Tribe plays vital role in county economy

SUQUAMISH, May 21, 2007- There have been assumptions for years, even educated guesses, about how much the Suquamish Tribe and Tribal Government-owned businesses stimulate the local economy. Now, after commissioning the first ever independent study on the subject, the Suquamish have a much clearer vision of their economic importance in Kitsap County and the greater Pacific Northwest.

According to findings in the newly released study, the net impact of the Suquamish Tribe on the economy of Kitsap County totaled \$138.5 million in 2006. The Tribe also generated more than 1,531 jobs and \$10.8 million in federal, state and local tax payments.

"The Suquamish Tribe is impressed and slightly surprised over the results of the study. We knew that income from our enterprises has had a positive impact on the local economy, especially in light of the high level of reinvestment that PME and the Tribal Government has made with enterprise revenues and federal contracts," said Suquamish Tribal Chairman Leonard Forsman.

The study takes into account the net impact of all Suquamish endeavors including government operations and grant acquisition, seafood harvests and retail businesses managed by the tribe's corporate agency, Port Madison Enterprises.

According to the study, PME operations represent the largest revenue generator for the Suquamish Tribe and include Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, Kiana Lodge, Suquamish Village Shell and Subway, Masi Shop and the newly opened Longhouse Texaco.

"The federal government has significantly reduced its financial support of tribes, despite treaty obligations requiring them to do so. Failing to keep up with the growing health and social service needs of tribes has

compelled the Suquamish and other to seek new sources of financial support," said ECONorthwest Economist Bob Whelan.

In addition to stimulating the local economy with goods, services and jobs, the Suquamish also invested more than \$20 million in 2006 to construct cultural, educational and government facilities. Part of that effort includes the newly completed Marion Forsman-Boushie Early Learning Center.

"One of our prouder achievements is the construction of a new building to house our daycare and Head Start classrooms for our young ones. The new early center is by far our best investment of our enterprise revenues to date and an example of our tribal priorities," said Forsman.

The Suquamish also donated more than \$646,000 to area charities and non-profit organizations in 2006 with nearly two-thirds that funding allocated to non-tribal area charities including Kitsap School Districts, Literacy Council of Kitsap and many more.

The Port Madison Indian Reservation is located on the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington State. Situated on the waterfront across the Puget Sound from Seattle, the reservation is home to the Suquamish people, a fishing tribe whose leader was Chief Seattle, after whom the major west coast port city took its name.

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