

HOUSE OF TEARS CARVERS

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sul ka dub (Freddie Lane)
September 5, 2022 (360) 391-7560

[Lummi Totem Pole Journey Press Kit](#)

Lummi Delegation Embarks on Cross-Country Journey With Totem Pole to Pittsburgh for Global Clean Energy Ministerial

LUMMI NATION: As climate change-fueled wildfires rage in the western United States, Indigenous carvers from the Lummi Nation are embarking upon a 15-day cross-country journey with a 14' totem pole to call for an end to fossil fuels and other false solutions to the climate emergency, and to advocate for climate justice.

Led by the House of Tears Carvers, a delegation of 12 Indigenous youth and elders from the Pacific Northwest, Southwest, and Northeast will transport the totem pole on a flatbed trailer, driving from Washington State to Pittsburgh, PA for the Clean Energy Justice Convergence--a series of actions during the 13th Clean Energy Ministerial in Pittsburgh on September 21-23, 2022.

While the world's energy ministers convene with industry leaders at the Pittsburgh Convention Center, the Indigenous delegation will join grassroots leaders from Appalachia, the Gulf South, and other communities on the front lines of fossil fuel-based energy extraction and environmental devastation. Through 3 days of art and ceremony, rallies, round-tables, and "toxic tours" to regional petrochemical infrastructure, the convergence will shine a spotlight on the costs, health impacts and environmental devastation associated with extractive and fossil fuel-based energy initiatives.

"As governments prioritize private profits over public health, our Mother Earth and the future generations pay the price. This totem pole journey is dedicated to the growing movement of Earth, Sky and Water Protectors around the world who are saying enough is enough. No more fossil fuels or false solutions," says Se Sealth (Jewell Praying Wolf James), Lummi elder and head carver for the House of Tears Carvers.

The totem pole is an honoring pole for beloved Chief Tsilixw (Bill James), hereditary chief of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) people of the north Salish Sea. The totem features Chief Tsilixw (pronounced: tsee-lee-qwe') dressed in a red robe with his hand over his heart. Chief Bill has a raven mask over his head and eyes with a black top hat and a diving bald eagle signifying strength & power on top of the totem pole. Several symbols of the Chief's life adorn the sides of the totem including: a frog, a salmon, an orca, three

canoes, the Chief holding his power stick including a cedar forest where he and his mother spent so much time gathering in the forest. The “Chief Tsilixw” totem pole will have two protectors on each side of him as we make the journey over to Pittsburgh & Niagara Falls and then back home to the Pacific Northwest in late September.

“We stand with the Alliance of Earth, Sky & Water Protectors and our friends and allies on the front lines of these never ending battles to protect Mother Earth,” says Freddie Lane, Road Manager for the totem pole journey. “This is not just a Pittsburgh fight! This is not just a Lummi or Standing Rock or Gulf South fight -- it is for all the so-called 'sacrifice zones' around the world, and all of our children's children” added Lane, who goes by his traditional name, Sul ka dub. Lane has traveled with the House of Tears Carvers since 2002 when the original totem journeys began with healing, honor and protection totem poles starting with the '911' totem journeys honoring the surviving family members after the September 11th terrorist attacks.

The House of Tears Carvers are led by Lummi elder and head carver, Jewell Praying Wolf James (Se Sealth) and his elder brother Sit ki kadem (Doug James) of the Lummi Nation west of Bellingham WA. Jewell James, 68, is a modern day warrior specializing in the US Constitution, tribal sovereignty and treaty protection for Indian & First Nations across North America. James led efforts to protect Xwe'chi'eXen or Cherry Point from SSA Marine's proposed deep water coal port, which would have been the largest in North America.

“We are the first generation to recognize global climate change -- and we are the last generation that can do something about it,” James reminds us.

The schedule for the Totem Pole Journey to the Clean Energy Convergence is as follows:

Lummi Island WA | September 3 6:30 pm Legoe Bay
Orcas Island WA | September 8 10 am Swalex - Mt. Constitution
Moran State Park
Orcas Island WA | September 8 1–3 pm Madrona Point
112 Haven Road
East Sound, WA
Lopez Island WA | September 8 7:15 pm Odlin State Park
148 Odlin Park Road
Lopez Island, WA
Seattle WA | September 10 10 am Pike Place Market
2001 Western Avenue
Seattle WA | September 10 2–5 pm Westlake Center
400 Pine Street
Port Townsend | September 11 10 am Quimper Unitarian
Universalists Fellowship
2333 San Juan Avenue
Bellevue WA | September 12 4–7 pm East Shore Unitarian Church

12700 SE 32nd Street

Bellevue WA | September 14 3–6 pm Waterfront Park

1200 Bay Street

Spokane WA | September 15 8–10 am Healing Lodge of Seven Nations

5600 E 8th Avenue

White Earth MN | September 17 all day

Pittsburgh PA | September 22 10–5 pm Clean Energy Justice Rally & March Schenley Plaza, 4100 Forbes Ave

Pittsburgh PA | September 22 6:30 pm Clean Energy Justice Roundtable

Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, 1 Schenley Drive

Niagara Falls NY | September 24 tbd Niagara Falls State Park

332 Prospect Street

More information on the Lummi in Pittsburgh/ Clean Energy Justice Convergence: cleanenergyjustice.com

You can follow the totem pole journey on Facebook at:

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: A Totem Pole Journey

Contributions to the Pittsburgh Totem Journey and the House of Tears Carvers can be made at: Catskillmountainkeeper.org.

For more information please contact: Sul ka dub (pronounced: soll-kay-dub) 'Freddie Lane,' Road Manager at (360) 391-7560. Jewell Praying Wolf James can be reached at: (360) 441-7790.