



FOUR DIRECTIONS

HONORING OUR PAST  PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

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Honoring Our Past-Protecting Our Future is Theme of First Tribal Problem Gambling Awareness Conference

Counselors, Gaming Industry Members, Educators, Researchers, Community Members
Join in Dialogue October 1-3

Seattle - Many representatives of Tribal Nations in the Pacific Northwest have come together to plan the first **Four Directions** Conference on Tribal Problem Gambling Awareness. This unique conference will be held at the Muckleshoot Health & Wellness Center and the White River Amphitheatre Lodge in Auburn, WA, on October 1-3, 2009. The three-day **Four Directions** conference is the first of its kind in the nation, and will feature tribal, gaming, and problem gambling experts from across the country, including:

- Gayl Edmunds, Director of Indian Alcoholism Treatment Services, on **Culture as Prevention**

- Danielle Her Many Horses, Esq., Legislative Director for the National Indian Gaming Association, will provide an **Overview of Current Legislative Issues Affecting Indian Gaming and the Benefits of Tribal Casino Responsible Gaming Programs**
- Sheila Morago, Executive Director of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association, will address **Tribal Problem Gambling Prevention Programs**
- Theda New Breast, MPH, of the Native Wellness Institute, on **Healing for Loved Ones of Addicted Gamblers**
- Judge Teresa Pouley, Northwest Intertribal Court System, will talk about **Wellness Courts**
- Gene Thin Elk, the Founder of the Red Road to Recovery program, will share the **Red Road Approach to Healing**

A special Community Event Thursday evening, October 1, highlights the theme *Honoring Our Past - Protecting Our Future*, featuring Grandmother Agnes Baker-Pilgrim of the Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers; Coleen Clark, Domestic Violence Coordinator for STOP Violence Against Indian Women; and several Tribal youth, who will perform music they created around addiction awareness, prevention, and healthy choices during this summer's *New Directions* Tribal Youth Music Academy.

"Indian gaming has brought great growth and opportunities to build economic security and rebuild our communities," said Charlotte Williams, Chair of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and an Honorary Chair of the *Four Directions* Conference. "Just as we come together during the year with gaming industry leaders and experts to share knowledge and perspectives on current issues affecting Indian gaming, we hope to bring together our Tribal leaders, behavioral health directors and counselors, education experts, and families to support each other with knowledge on health issues, addictions, and financial and safety concerns that affect our communities."

The full list of presenters and topics is available on the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling Web site at www.evergreencpg.org. Limited scholarships are available for enrolled Tribal Elders interested in attending the *Four Directions* conference. For more information, call 360.352.6133.

Conference Coordinator:

The Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling (ECPG) is a non-profit corporation recognizing the importance of addressing problem gambling in Washington State and nationally. ECPG is dedicated to increasing public awareness of problem gambling, expanding the availability of services for problem gamblers and their families, and encouraging research and programs for prevention and education.

Conference Partner:

The **Muckleshoot Indian Tribe** is composed of the descendants of the areas' original Coast Salish peoples. Today's Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is one of Washington State's larger Tribes, with an on- or near-Reservation population of about 3,300. A healthy future is key for all members of the community. The Muckleshoot Health & Wellness Center offers myriad

services, including a strong Behavioral Health program. Muckleshoot Behavioral Health serves clients of all ages, providing services for individuals, couples, families, and groups.

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