



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

WEST 81 HIGHWAY 108
SHELTON, WASHINGTON 98584
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RESOLUTION NO. 85- 44 **of the** **SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is the Governing Body of the Squaxin Island Tribe of Indians by the authority of the Constitution and By-laws of the Squaxin Island Tribe, as approved and adopted by the General Body and the Secretary of the Interior on July 81, 1965, and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing for overall health, education, and welfare of the Squaxin Island Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, legal authority for the Tribe to advoce on behalf of Indian Children and families is clearly stated in the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), through its role of trustee for Indian affairs and resources, has an obligation to support the Tribe in strengthening its ability to implement the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

WHEREAS, in order to insure that knowledgeable Indian people are working on Indian Child Welfare issues, within the BIA, the BIA has an obligation to insure that Indian preference employment goals, wilth the BIA are adhered to strictly; and

WHEREAS, the nature of Indian Child Welfare work requires that BIA personnel who work on Indian Child Welfare issues be knowledgeable and sensitive to the needs of Indian Children, families, governments, and Indian communities; and

WHEREAS, the BIA Acting Area Office Social Worker occupies a critical role in implementing and monitoring provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

WHEREAS, the BIA Area Office Social Worker has taken positions in past correspondence and reports that are opposed to the well being of Indian children and families, the role of Tribal govaernments in the protection and advocacy of Indian children and familes, and that are contrary to the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council views the Portland Area Offices' failure to rectify the above issues as an indication that, as a matter of policy, BIA, Portland Area Office, does not support the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act, or Indian Preference; and

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WHEREAS, such policy on the part of the Portland Area Office raises serious concerns about the future of the Indian Child Welfare Act and the ability of Tribal governments to utilize provisions of the Act to protect Indian families and children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Squaxin Island Tribal Council hereby requests that the Portland Area Office immediately reaffirms its' committment to Indian Preference in hiring and support for the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this renewed committment be demonstrated by immediately conducting a search to fill the position of Area Office Social Worker with qualified, experienced Indian candidate.

CERTIFICATION

The Squaxin Island Tribal Council does hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council held this 8th day of August, 1985 at which time a quorum was present and passed by a vote of 4 for, and 0 against, and 0 obstentions.


David W. Whitener, Chairman

Attested by: 
David Lopeman, Secretary


Evie Allen, Vice Chairman