

October 8, 2024

MEMO TO: David Raatz, Director
Office of Council Services

F R O M: Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst *EBM*

SUBJECT: **PRESENTATION: “INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY FOR COMBATTING CLIMATE CRISES AND CREATING A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION”** (PAF 23-021(31))

On Tuesday, October 1, 2024, I attended a presentation, entitled “Indigenous Participation in Public Policy for Combatting Climate Crises and Creating a Culture of Conservation,” by Chief Joe Alfonse of the T̓silhqot̓in Nation. The presentation was part of Mayor Bissen’s Sustainability Speaker Series.

Chief Joe spent his career fighting for indigenous rights. In 2017, the T̓silhqot̓in Nation lands were threatened by a fire that burned 1.9 million acres. Under his leadership, his people refused to evacuate because they were already executing an emergency plan based on their cultural ways of defending themselves from fire.

The T̓silhqot̓in National Government prepared a report, entitled *The Fires Awakened Us*, based on the 2017 wildfires. The report contains 33 calls to action and identifies the Nation’s community needs. <https://tinyurl.com/3djpnzma>

The presentation’s main takeaway was the importance of including indigenous peoples and their values in emergency planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this webinar. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me at ext. 7661.

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cc: Deputy Director of Council Services